Greetings Fellow Kappans,

The purpose of Phi Delta Kappa as stated in its constitution is to promote quality education, with particular emphasis on publicly supporting education. According to PDK International, this purpose is to be accomplished by implementing the ideal of high-quality leadership through research, teaching, and other professional services. As I prepared to write my final President’s letter, I realized again that the West Georgia Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa is a chapter that is truly succeeding at achieving the purposes set forth in the PDK Constitution. Our members support education in every way and implement high quality leadership in the state of Georgia and nationally. In this year’s final newsletter, you will learn more about the amazing people who are members of the West Georgia Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. In April, we had our awards banquet and honored some of those PDK members as well as public school personnel and West Georgia faculty who are deeply dedicated to promoting quality education. Should you encounter an award recipient, please be sure to congratulate him or her and show your support for the contributions s/he has made to our chapter and the surrounding educational community.

As I end my term as president, I want to thank the 2003-2004 officers for their hard work and commitment to our chapter. Without their hard work, our chapter could not have accomplished what it did this year. Some of the highlights of the 2003-2004 year included: serving breakfast to the teachers at Bay Spring Middle School, donating $500.00 to the Pauline B. Gough Memorial Scholarship, winning a PDK International Chapter Foundation award, acquiring State Superintendent Kathy Cox for the State University of West Georgia’s College of Education Convocation, giving a $500.00 scholarship to a local high school senior majoring in education, and participating in the PDK and PAGE Day on Capitol Hill. Our chapter and our officers are promoting education in the state of Georgia. The 2003-2004 West Georgia Chapter officers included: David Hulsey, membership vice president; Anne Halsall, program vice president; Rosalind Duplechain and Gary Gregg, newsletter editors and website managers; Robert Morris, secretary; Donna Harkins, treasurer; Ron Reigner, foundation representative; and John Myers, chapter advisor, and District VII Area Coordinator. On behalf of all of the members of this chapter, I thank you all for service.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the President of the West Georgia Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. It has been a wonderful year and you can expect even bigger and bright accomplishments from our incoming president, David Hulsey. Thank you for your continued support of our chapter. I am look forward to contributing to the chapter in a different capacity next year.

Sincerely

Jill Mizell Reddish, President
A Visit from Ms. Cox

Ms. Kathy Cox, the Superintendent of Schools, joined our meeting. Ms. Cox shared some of her experiences and impressions of educators she has visited around Georgia. In sum, Ms. Cox stated that she was pleased by the efforts of educators across the state. Additionally, Ms. Cox was positive about the pending curriculum changes and the plan of providing these to educators in the coming school year.

Dr. Sethna, the President of the State University of West Georgia, and some 40 PDK members, also attended this meeting.

Phi Delta Kappa Awards for the 2003-04 School Year

On Monday, May 3, 2004, PDK held its annual Awards Banquet. Guests and PDK members gathered to honor this year’s recipients.

- Innovative Teacher of the Year: Dr. Myrna Gantner
- Induction into West Georgia Chapter’s Hall of Fame: Dr. Robert Hilliard
- Partner in Education: Ms. Cynthia Saxon
- Outstanding High School Student of the Year: Mr. Derrick McDaniel
- Past President’s Award: Dr. Leticia Reeves
- Teacher of the Year: Ms. Angela Hicks
- Excellence in Student Teaching: Ms. Sarah Fletcher
Salute to Dr. Robert Hilliard


Dr. Hilliard has contributed to PDK International as Area Representative for District Seven (Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) and Chapter Liaison for PDK International. Dr. Hilliard has been a Member of PDK International Speakers Bureau. Dr. Clete Bulloch, former Chapter President, wanted the chapter to serve as a host for a National Forum being sponsored by PDK International and supported by the Parent Teacher Association. Dr. Hilliard and Dr. Bulloch were to determine the views of the public and of professional educators on vital education issues. Dr. Hilliard also served as a Co-author of a PDK Fast Back. He and Dr. Myers conducted storytelling presentations and workshops for 7 PDK Chapters including chapters in Canada. Dr. Hilliard himself has conducted an additional 4 workshops for PDK chapters.

Dr. Hilliard received the Distinguished Service Award from Central Savannah River Area Chapter (1981) and West Georgia Chapter (2001), Service Key Award Phi Delta Kappa International (2003), and West Georgia PDK Hall of Fame Award (2004). Being selected to receive the first West Georgia Chapter PDK Hall of Frame Award, Dr. Hilliard said that this award recognized his 33 years membership in an organization that has played an instrumental role in his personal and professional development.

Honoring a Future Educator

The west Georgia chapter of Phi Delta Kappa was pleased to honor Derrick McDaniel, a senior at Mt. Zion High School who plans to major in education, with our Outstanding High School Student award and with a $500 college scholarship. Derrick has maintained an excellent academic record at his school and was highly recommended by several of his teachers and administrators. His extensive time spent in the school library and participation in high school clubs, athletics, and community activities were noted by many. Derrick intends on enrolling at the State University of West Georgia in the fall of 2004.

We were especially pleased that Derrick’s mother, Tammy McDaniel, and his grandparents were able to share this well-deserved award with him during the Annual Awards Banquet. Please keep an eye out for this outstanding young man as he works his way through the education program at West Georgia. In the not too distant future, we may be placing future educators in his classroom.

–Ron Reigner, Foundation Representative
Two new members were initiated into Phi Delta Kappa on May 3, 2004. We proudly welcome them and look forward to years of fellowship with them.

**Ms. Jan Rosson** – Ms. Rosson teaches at Villa Rica Elementary School. She is currently assigned to a 4/5th. Grade EIP class.

**Dr. Fenqjen Luo** – Dr. Luo teaches at the State University of West Georgia. Her area of expertise is mathematics education.