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Upcoming Meeting… Monday, February 3, 2003
6:30 pm—Executive Dining Room at Z6

Speaker: Sandra Nunez

Ms. Stone, a Dominican Republic native, is a teacher/supervisor in the DeKalb County Schools. At the International Learning Center, she prepares students to converse in English in order to participate in a regular classroom.

Future Meetings… March 4 and April 10, 2003
The President’s Letter

Dr. Letty Bridges

Can you believe it is the year 2003? It seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating the beginning of the new millennium. The Holiday Progressive Dinner was a memorable evening with great food, fellowship and caroling enjoyed by those attending. Special thanks go to John and Jan Myers and Ron Reigner for opening their lovely homes for the evening.

Spring 2003 holds many exciting events for the West Georgia Chapter of PDK. We are holding a New Member Initiation in the March and April meetings. It is the “right time” to begin to think of fellow educators that you would like to invite to become members. Cost to join is $65.00, which includes the international dues of $45.00, and $20.00 for chapter dues. Membership includes a yearly subscription to PHI DELTA KAPPAN, a leading professional educational journal. Look for the membership nomination form in this newsletter and contact Jill Mizell if you need a new member form, jmizell@westga.edu or 770-836-4454.

The Awards and Recognition Dinner will be April 10th. If you would like to assist in planning this eventful evening, contact David Hulsey, dhulsey@westga.edu or 770-838-3045. Look for the Awards Nomination form in this newsletter and return it to David Hulsey, 127 Education Annex or Letty Bridges, Room 248, Education Annex, SUWG, Carrollton, GA 30118 by March 15, 2003.

We are seeking nominations for the 2003-2004 Officers of the WG PDK Chapter. If you are interested in serving as an officer in this excellent professional association, contact one Letty Bridges, lbridges@westga.edu, or 770-836-4466. The officers plan meetings and events, and there is a great opportunity to get to know other professionals during this time.

I hope all of you will become actively involved in PDK and encourage others to do so. With the focus on Leadership, Research, and Service, there is an opportunity for everyone to be involved! See you at the Monday, February 3rd meeting.
Technology Corner
Crill’s Picks

I would like to suggest a couple of websites for teachers:

www.teachervision.com
TeacherVision is created by teachers for teachers. Their goal is to provide you with lesson plans, resources, and materials that make your professional life easier.

http://www.classroom.com/library/cybrariansCorner.jhtml

I would also suggest the "Library Hot 5" from Classroom Connect.

The Library Hot Five features the best sites the Web has to offer, brought to you weekly by Sharon the Cybrarian. Look for easy-to-use lesson plans, ask-an-expert lists, and curriculum connections. Check out our staff favorites, holiday highlights, science discoveries, special attractions, and ready references! You can also receive this list each week via email by signing up for the Library Hot Five mailing list!

Also, we do have a few courses that we will be teaching in addition to intech in the next few months:

Handheld Basics - Jan. 24 (9-3) in lab 248
Science Kit Training - Jan. 27 (9-3) in lab 248

Each class cost $25 and will give SDU credit. To register, contact our registrar 770-838-3149 or visit our website www.westga.edu/~ettc and look at the other courses link.

Editor’s Spot

Dear members, we continue our request for any activities or stories that you would like to share with us. Please send this to rduplech@westga.edu.

In addition, we are in the process of creating a website for our chapter and of gathering your email addresses. We plan to run an email test before the end of April. Look for us on your computer!

Sincerely,
Your newsletter staff
I can remember as a child watching the original game show “To Tell the Truth.” It was in fact as simple and straightforward as it was entertaining. The show’s four celebrity panelists – two men and two women – were introduced to trios of strangers, each claiming to have the same occupation, such as a professional window washer or a lion tamer.

Only one individual, however, was actually the true window washer or lion tamer. With a time limit on the panel for asking questions and each imposter being well-coached, the panel’s final choices of who really was telling the truth usually turned out to be guesses.

When I sit back and think about my career in education and what teaching means to me as an occupation, I invariably recall the show “To Tell the Truth.” That T.V. show’s format reminds me of many of my initial experiences in the field of education.

I remember that in those first few years of teaching when I sometimes felt that I was more of an impersonator than an actual teacher. I mimicked behaviors of outstanding educators I had come in contact with over the years. I watched my peers for insights and closely identified and followed what I thought were the best examples of the occupation in my school building. I learned by simply watching and picking up appropriate actions and behaviors and then applying them in my classroom – was I genuine or fake? True I had been trained in methods and collectively I had a number of field experiences, besides student teaching for a complete semester under my belt. But was I really a teacher, or just pretending at it and never getting caught?

Of course, years later I can reflect on that time in my teaching career and say that I was merely developing as a teacher and coming to grips with how an educator must think and act. If I were to sum up those
developmental years and some of the basic guidelines I have come to see as important in the profession, I would make four broad categories for consideration:

* The educational profession requires a commitment on the part of all its members, going far beyond a desire for pecuniary gain.
* The profession of teaching, no matter what the subject matter rests on, is an organized body of scholarly/scientific knowledge.
* Those involved in the profession will be, out of necessity, engaged in work that improves the human condition.
* Those involved in the profession will be required to meet rigorous standards of education and selection.

All in all I have come to see that these four conditions undergird what the broad spectrum of education is all about. The actual variety of careers and positions available in the field of education does not detract from these four basic criteria, but only enhances them as outcomes of the profession. Also, I’m well aware that teachers could earn more money outside of the educational arena. But money, of course, has never been the major consideration for most educators. Job satisfaction is again and again identified by educators as a major factor in their final career choice.

After each panelist on the “To Tell the Truth” show had made a guess as to which of the three guests were telling the truth, the show’s announcer would call upon the real Mr. or Ms. so-and-so to stand and be identified. I like to think that just as the “real” contestant in the game show would rise to the surprise and applause of the audience, so do those educators who have chosen to work with our youth rise to our community’s applause and gratitude. This is what the profession of teaching is all about.

Robert C. Morris  
Professor of Curriculum Studies  
Dept. of Ed. Leadership & Professional Studies  
University of West Georgia  
Email: rmorris@westga.edu
I. **Pyramid Award (Open to PDK members only)**
   1. Leadership ____________________________________________________________
      nominee school/system/institution
   2. Service ________________________________________________________________
      nominee school/system/institution
   3. Research ______________________________________________________________
      nominee school/system/institution

II. **Professional Awards (Open to anyone in public education)**
   1. Administrator of the Year ______________________________________________
      nominee school/system/institution
   2. Innovative Teacher of the Year __________________________________________
      nominee school/system/institution
   3. Teacher of the Year _____________________________________________________
      nominee school/system/institution

III. **Distinguished Service Award of PDK (Open to any lay person or professional educator who had made a significant contribution to education)**

      nominee school/system/institution

IV. **Student Pyramid Award (Open to any graduate student in education at the State University of West Georgia currently enrolled or graduated in the previous year)**
   1. Leadership ____________________________________________________________
      nominee school/system/institution
   2. Service ________________________________________________________________
      nominee school/system/institution
   3. Research ______________________________________________________________
      nominee school/system/institution

Please send a letter of nomination and other supporting documentation to assist the committee in determining the candidate’s worthiness/merit for the awards. Members of the Executive Board and Awards Committee are ineligible to receive awards.

I am a member in good standing in Phi Delta Kappa, West Georgia Chapter.

_________________________________________  ________________________________
Name (please print)  Signature

Return to Dr. David Hulsey, 127 Ed. Annex, UWG—COE, Carrollton, GA 30118, or Dr. Letty Bridges, 248 Ed. Annex, UWG—COE, Carrollton, GA 30118, by **March 10, 2003**. The awards will be given out at the meeting on April 10, 2003.