

# The PDK-USC KAPPAN

The Official Newsletter of the University of California Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International

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## PDK International Mission Statement

The purpose of Phi Delta Kappa shall be to promote quality education, in particular publicly supported education, as essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life. This purpose shall be accomplished through research, service and leadership in education.

## 2016-2017

### Executive Board

**President:** Joe Oliver  
**Membership:** Dr. Bonnie Garcia  
**Projects:** Todd Barnett  
**Programs:** Dr. Andrea Kittelson  
**Secretary:** Dr. Darius Frelix  
**Treasurer:** Dr. Ashley Selva  
**Newsletter:** Katie Alvarez  
**Foundation & Webmaster:** Sandra Garcia

### Advisors

Dan Basalone  
 Dr. Lisa DeRoss  
 Dr. Marian Fukuda  
 Dr. Nick Nichols  
 Adda Serenil

### Faculty Sponsor

Dr. John Pascarella III

### Newsletter Editor

[akatiea+pdk@gmail.com](mailto:akatiea+pdk@gmail.com)

### WEBSITE

<http://pdk-usc.net/>

## PDK-USC Annual Awards Ceremony

Please join us at the Friday, May 5 dinner meeting for the Annual Awards Ceremony! Phi Delta Kappa's mission is to promote quality education by providing innovative programs, relevant research, visionary leadership, and dedicated service. In support of the mission of PDK and what it stands for, our chapter will present the awards below to members who best demonstrate the qualities of research, leadership, and service.

- **The Research Award** will be awarded to a chapter member who has demonstrated an ability to conduct research and publish findings, opinions, and recommendations on significant issues in education during the last two or three years.
- **The Service Award** will be awarded to a chapter member who has demonstrated an extremely high level of service and dedication to Phi Delta Kappa and public education during the last two years.
- **The Leadership Award** will be awarded to a chapter member who has demonstrated an extremely high level of leadership and inspiration to others in Phi Delta Kappa and public education during the last two years.
- **The Ted Gordon Award** will be awarded to an educator who has excelled in all aspects of research, service, and leadership and has made significant contributions to Phi Delta Kappa and public education.

## President's Message – Joe Oliver

Greetings USC Kappans! Approaching the closing months of the 2016-17 academic year, I thought I would share a conversation a few of us had at the last PDK-USC Board meeting. Adjourning after some closing remarks regarding soliciting ideas for furthering educational progress and opportunities as an outreach for our Chapter, we prepared to depart when a few members became engaged in a discussion of what form this outreach might take. The idea of supporting a smaller school serving the under-served (continuation school?)

was suggested and resonated and we agreed we should discuss this further with others. I think this type of member discourse is extremely valuable for our Chapter to engage in, whether in small groups or large, virtually or face-to-face. What ideas for outreach and target recipients can we come up with and what vehicles for fundraising might we use? Lest you think these are rhetorical questions—think again! Log onto PDK-USC's Facebook page (Like us! Just search "PDK-USC"), Website ([www.pdk-usc.net](http://www.pdk-usc.net)) or send an email ([presidentuscchapterpdk@gmail.com](mailto:presidentuscchapterpdk@gmail.com)) and start the idea machine. We'll report on what we "hear" out there at the upcoming Awards meeting (don't forget to RSVP if you haven't already). *Continued on page 2.*



*Continued from page 1.* Speaking of the awards meeting, this will be the closing Chapter dinner meeting for the academic year. A slate of Board Members is up for election with some new and some returning for another year of service. I would like to personally thank each and every one of the 2016-17 PDK-USC Board members and advisors for their unrelenting efforts, many carried out while also writing dissertations, assuming new career roles at schools and universities and serving students across California. Each and every Board member and advisor is worthy of a thousand accolades for their dedication to both the education profession and the Chapter. I also offer a wish, for those elected and selected as members and advisors for 2017-18, an enjoyable and productive year serving the PDK-USC Chapter in whatever position they may individually hold.

## Trump and Sessions Rescind Transgender Protections, But Were We Prepared for These Protections?

*John Pascarella, Ph.D., Phi Delta Kappa, USC Chapter Faculty Advisor*

With the many news stories trailing Pres. Trump's first 100 days, you might have noticed the brief coverage of its decision to rescind federal protections of transgender students. The NY Times (22 Feb 2017) reported Education Secretary DeVos "initially resisted signing off and told Mr. Trump that she was uncomfortable because of the potential harm that rescinding protections could cause transgender students according to three Republicans with direct knowledge of the internal discussions." DeVos's resistance to Trump was a welcomed signal to LGBTQA supporters. While DeVos ultimately conceded to Trump's position on the matter "faced with the alternative of resigning or defying the president," she quickly released a statement indicating that we have a moral obligation to protect all students from harassment and that she had "directed the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights to investigate all claims of such treatment against those who are most vulnerable in our schools." Despite the administration's actions, many K12 schools and IHEs were unprepared or under-prepared to respond to Pres. Obama's federal order last year. Much more work is needed in reeducating and problematizing notions of gender identity and sexuality that fit the status quo. And while many might agree with the protections, few have experienced their implementation, such as sharing mixed-use restrooms in their own workplace or public spaces. As Phi Delta Kappans, I wonder how prepared are we to rethink our own gendered experiences, challenge our long-held comfort levels, and implement reeducation efforts with our colleagues for our students?



## Congratulations, Graduates!

The following PDK-USC Chapter members will be earning their doctorate degrees this year:

*Congrats!*

Todd Barnett  
Darius Felix  
Maria Parker  
Kristina Rigden  
Shannon Soto



## Member Spotlight: Alice Schmitt



Alice Schmitt is a new PDK-USC Chapter member and we're very excited to welcome her! She was previously a member of a PDK Chapter in Northern California - and we're glad that she's joining us in sunny SoCal!

She studied science, education and law at UC Berkeley, San Jose State, UCLA, UC Santa Cruz, and The Colleges of Law. She currently works as a physics and chemistry teacher at Inspire Charter Schools. She has worked in many levels of education from middle school to graduate school in various roles. Her latest research at Caltech includes the analysis of free energy solvation of noble gases on Titan, Saturn's largest moon, as part of the Miller Group, and the analysis of metallicities of stars in globular clusters and dwarf galaxies as part of the Kirby Group. Prior to that, her research experience at UC Berkeley included the exciting and controversial "ice-minus project" in biotechnology as part of the Lindow Group.

She is passionate about teaching and helping students achieve their personal best success. She is enthusiastically looking forward to being an active member of our PDK-USC Chapter - welcome, Alice!

## JOIN PDK TODAY!

Stay connected with today's most current research, practice, and leadership in education by joining USC's Phi Delta Kappa chapter.

This opportunity and experience will not only help you promote higher quality education for your students, but will also provide opportunities for networking, educational fellowships, doctoral dissertation awards, professional liability, as well as professional growth.

**Help us stay connected and make a difference. Join PDK today.**

**Professional** Application: <https://goo.gl/Up8RH4>

**Student** Application: <https://goo.gl/MbHpPT>

*Please e-mail completed applications to Bonnie Garcia, VP of Membership: [bdgarcia81@gmail.com](mailto:bdgarcia81@gmail.com)*

## 2017-2018 PDK-USC Chapter Board Election

As directed by the PDK USC Chapter Constitution, the Nomination Committee presents the following nominees for election by current PDK-USC members at the dinner meeting on Friday, May 5, 2017:

President	Joe Oliver
V.P. Membership	Bonnie Garcia
V.P. Programs	Ed Robillard
V.P. Projects	Todd Barnett
Secretary	Darius Frelix
Treasurer	Lisa DeRoss
Newsletter Editor	Maria Che Parker
Foundations	Sandra Garcia
Web Master	Sandra Garcia



The PDK-USC Kappan  
Phi Delta Kappa International  
Chapter #0029  
Rossier School of Education  
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Los Angeles, CA 90015

Address Correction  
Requested

TEAR OFF

**Final PDK-USC Dinner Meeting of the Academic Year – Friday, May 5, 2017  
USC University Club at King Stoops Hall  
Social Hour at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM**

**PDK-USC Dinner Meetings**

USC's University Club at King Stoops Hall is adjacent to  
Parking Structure D on Jefferson, west of Figueroa.

\* PLEASE NOTE: Parking is NOT included\*

Please complete this form to reserve your space and  
mail with your check to:

Todd Barnett, VP Projects  
3947 La Salle Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90062

Please make checks payable to PDK-USC Chapter

*Please send your RSVP and payment by 3pm on May 2  
so that we may confirm your attendance, payment and/or  
membership status. Payments are also accepted at the door.*

I wish to pay \$45 for the Friday, May 5 dinner meeting

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Sorry, all payments are non-refundable.*

**Please join us for our final board meeting of 2016-2017!  
The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26 at 6:30pm in the VKC Library.**