

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- Co-Presidents' Messages
- Outstanding Educator
- Buzz Around the Bee

Page 2

- Research Findings
- Outstanding Educator's Excerpts
- Chapter Executive

Page 3

- F.A.S.T. 2019 Award.
- Environics Survey
- 2019 Outstanding Educator Dinner Photos

Page 4

- Photos from Awards Dinner cont'd from P3
- Readathon
- In Memoriam: Derek Bate



**Buzz Around
The Bee**

**The Linkage between our
PDK Chapter and Spelling
Bee of Canada Continues.**

Carolyn's work with the Spelling Bee was emphasized at the U of T Faculty Club dinner. Interest in Spelling Bee Clubs has grown exponentially. What started as a GTA initiative now has Chapters across Canada. If you would be interested in bringing this educational jewel to your area, contact Carolyn at Carolyn.moras@gmail.com

Join PDK International
For News, Information
& Membership Renewal,
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or visit www.pdkint.org



John Myers

President's Message

Nginyanemukela (Zulu) fáilte (Irish) velkomið (Icelandic), She:kon (Mohawk) and Bienvenue: just five of the languages spoken that illustrate our ethnocultural diversity. If you drive through our commercial areas, you can see more than a hundred languages written in a dozen language scripts, from several versions of the alphabet to characters and other linguistic written systems. We are all aware of those spoken in our classrooms. How many languages are present at our events?

Public education has been and shall continue to be a training ground for living and participating in a pluralistic democracy. While we have come far as a society, recent events in our schools and beyond have shown that we have further to go. Phi Delta Kappa has been, and shall continue to be, supportive through its commitment to research, community, and leadership. The Toronto Chapter keeps this dream alive by supporting our research series, social and networking efforts, fine newsletter, and connections to Kappans throughout North America and beyond. Our chapter relies on fundraising through the PDK Readathon for our awards and the other initiative we support, THE Spelling Bee of Canada.

Our keynote speaker and Outstanding Educator award winner, Carolyn Moras, spoke powerfully of the importance of mentoring for all and by all.

Finally, to all of us here Shukran (Arabic), Toda (Hebrew), nandri (Tamil), Obrigado (Portuguese), grazie (Italian), Migwetch (Ojibwa). In other words, and there are many other words, thank you.

Nehal Patel's Introduction to Carolyn Moras, 2019 Outstanding Educator

I graduated from teachers' college, I was looking for a mentor to guide me professionally. PDK opened that door which led me to meeting Carolyn Moras.

It was at this very event six years ago where I met Carolyn, one of the most inspiring, hard-working, and influential leaders I know. Immediately, she took me under her wings, showed me how to network with educators and helped me get my foot into the door. It was her support and collaboration with PDK that helped me become a successful Special Education Teacher. Carolyn provided me with the opportunity to work in her schools and also guided me through the journey of a struggling teacher trying to land a job with a public school board.

Carolyn Moras has spent most of her educational career with the Toronto District School Board as a teacher, consultant, vice-principal and principal. She has given endless hours to the community through her love for literacy development helping students build their self-confidence with the Spelling Bee of Canada. She has also provided mentorship and a home for new PDK members as she has been an active member in roles such as Foundation representative, secretary, chapter president and advisor over the past 30 years. Not only have I been fortunate enough to benefit from Carolyn's mentorship, I have also watched her guide high school students to gain leadership opportunities in order for them to build an experience profile. Her support of new teachers has been paramount in helping them succeed.

Carolyn is calm, patient, and dedicated. These adjectives are just a few that describe this wonderful woman who is most deserving of the 2019 Educator of the Year Award. It is my pleasure to welcome my mentor, my friend, a respected role model - recipient of tonight's Outstanding Educator Award: Carolyn Moras.

Nehal Petal, Co-President

See page 2 for Excerpts from Carolyn's address



Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

Paul Favaro, Ph.D.
York University Faculty of Education,
Department of Administrative Studies

Teachers are consuming research, they just may not be digesting it

<https://marketbrief.edweek.org/marketplace-k-12/teachers-say-theyre-consuming-research-putting-use-another-story/>

The business case for civics education

https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/sites/default/files/The%20Business%20Case%20for%20Better%20Civics%20Knowledge.pdf?utm_content=buffer4454d&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

And our adults didn't fare so well either

https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/current_results.asp

Do charters help or hurt districts? Yes! <https://www.the74million.org/article/do-charter-schools-help-or-hurt-district-schools-both-sides-are-right-and-wrong-we-need-better-data-to-find-the-answer/>

Stop being dogmatic about charter schools!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/18/opinion/cory-booker-public-charter-schools.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage>

Computer literacy study <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2019164>

They followed students for 27 years. What beget ed opportunity? Follow the money.

<https://news.umich.edu/u-m-research-shows-how-wealth-begets-educational-disparity/>

What happens if you give teachers a raise?

<https://www.povertyactionlab.org/sites/default/files/publications/166%20Teacher%20Salary%20Increase%20Indonesia%20Jan2016.pdf>

Need for speed? Not in learning <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/ed/19/08/no-need-speed>

Interesting factoid: We have been tracking the decline of teen pregnancies over time. Little did we know it was a sign of the end of babies.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/opinion/sunday/capitalism-children.html>

Interesting factoid: When is the decade over?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/28/us/what-is-decade.html>

Excerpts from Outstanding Educator's Award Presentation

Mentorship is building a relationship built on trust. Understanding frustration and keeping anxiety at bay is another part of that, whether working with children, colleagues, or eldercare.

The Mentoring relationship should provide a safe environment where the mentee shares issues affecting his or her life-professional and personal.

Mentoring meetings are often informal, on an as need basis as required by the mentee; the agenda is set by the mentee.

Mentoring is also holistic and developmental so that the mentee is helped through guidance, support and feedback, to see the big picture and the details so he or she can come to a decision.

In working with volunteers or students, youth and adult, Carolyn stressed the importance of having a formula, deceptively simple on the surface but setting the stage for deeper thinking. These are the questions she used to get them reflecting. What are your career goals? What do you hope to get out of this experience? What can you give us? What can we give you so the experience benefits both?



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Chapter Executive
2019-20

CHAPTER NEWS

FAST Award, May 2019 - Fighting Anti-Semitism Together



It was with great surprise to be honoured by the organization Fighting Anti-Semitism Together (F.A.S.T.) as Champion Teacher for 2019. Using their free online resources with students has proven to be both relevant and impactful as the modules explore multiple issues involving discrimination and inequity.

I strongly recommend the use of their materials both for instruction and professional development. It is heartening that The Kappan explores the nebulous issue of social injustice and its impacts on schools to add to the growing body of research for educators and stakeholders. TIM RUDAN.

Race Relations - Highlights from Recent Environics Survey

Canada is an ethnically and racially diverse country and many of us are proud of this, perhaps to the extent of being smug and happy to rest on our laurels. I taught in diverse schools and my current singing and improv acting group reflects this diversity, as does the composition of the Toronto Chapter of PDK.

I attended the launch of the "state of race relations" in Canada based on a rigorous survey by Environics and sponsored by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. You can download the Executive Summary or the entire report at <https://www.environicsinstitute.org/projects/project-details/race-relations-in-canada-2019>. The report is the first nationwide study that offers empirical data on the state of race relations in Canada, attitudes towards other racial groups, the existence of racial discrimination, and the treatment participants saw of their own group. The terms of reference and rationales are clearly presented and referenced.

Canadian and American attitudes were also compared and while Canadians are optimistic as to our recent and future progress, we have a journey to continue.

In the question and answer session following the formal presentations, the question of the role of school curricula was raised with the view that we were not doing enough to teach students about the issues raised in the report. If the report sets a standard of our acceptance of and respect for diversity, what can schools and organizations like PDK do to raise a generation that will raise the bar? JOHN MYERS

2019 Outstanding Educator – Celebration at U of T Faculty Club



Carolyn Moras, 2019 PDK Outstanding Educator



Carolyn Moras receiving award from Moveta Nanton



Bill Velos and Zenobia Omarali recognizing Carolyn's achievements



Carolyn and Renata Racheva. ChalkWalk participants Michael, Jake and Jessica all grown up.



Carolyn's family enjoying the tribute evening.



Barbara Peters, Carolyn Moras, Julie Spence and Adam Shariff,

JOIN THE PDK CHAPTER EXECUTIVE

Contact: Nehal Patel nehal_patel_88@hotmail.com or John Myers at jicm1946@sympatico.ca



Dina and Joulie Gorgeopoulos and Irene Manahan



Hermione Shou and Joan Piliyoa



Tim Rudan, recipient of FAST champion teacher award, with Nicole Miller of FAST and Bev Freedman.



Co-Presidents Nehal Patel, John Myers and Tim Rudan.



Laura Armstrong and Liz Horley-McLeod



Linda Massey at the registration table with Nehal and Moveta.

Readathon

Our chapter is seeking your participation in the PDK Readathon challenge. The Readathon is the primary fundraiser for our chapter's awards and our service projects such as the Spelling Bee of Canada. This year's Readathon has already begun and will end on March 31, 2020.

We are calling all chapter members to read and to raise funds for our chapter. Pledge forms can be downloaded from our website www.pdk-ut.ca. Please send cheques made out to PDK-UT and mailed to Pauline Quan at 181 Olive Ave, North York, M2N 4P3

For further information contact the "Read-a-thon Challenge" Co-Chairs:
PaulineQuan - pauline.shou@gmail.com
Zenobia Omarali - zenomarali@gmail.com



In Memoriam Charles Derek Stewart BATE 1926-2020

The obituary in the Global and Mail, January 20th outlined the illustrious career Derek had as an educator in the University of Toronto Schools and the Peel District School Board as well as his successful naval experiences spanning over 20 years. Derek was an icon in PDK as a founding member of the U of T Chapter which began in 1955. He represented the Chapter at a ceremony to mark PDK's international status. He served on the executive from 1962 to 1967 as Vice-President and President. Derek was well deserving of his iconic stature with PDK, shown when he delivered the keynote speech at the 50th and 55th anniversaries at the Lieutenant-Governors' receptions.

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