



NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 16 years of Research, Service, & Leadership

President's Corner

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

by

Andre Elliot

Through the years, Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa has received numerous awards from PDK headquarters. Let's reflect on past accomplishments and continue our journey among the most outstanding PDK chapters in the world. We, the present officers and members of Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa, stand on the shoulders of giants whose dedication to research, service and leadership remains unforgettable.

Veronique Marmillot, a charter member who served as a site representative and later as vice-president of international affairs recalled the first initiation ceremony conducted by Dr. Scarlett Rehrig, our first president. Those members were filled with pride and contentment to join a kind and caring group of professional educators.

Past president Lillian Hiyama pronounced Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa as the "Pearl of the Pacific Rim" due to numerous achievements within its first decade. Lillian served in several committees and executive positions and continues to kindle a spirit of adventure.

Charter member, Don Moisen, described Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa as an organization that makes things happen. He introduced our chapter to Ronnie Alff, a librarian, who discovered that the joys of membership are for teachers at all levels in both DoDEA and international schools.

You should know that Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa has satellite clubs in both Misawa and Sasebo. Sylvia Saiki recalled how PDK made its way into her heart: white elephants to raise funds for scholarships, learning about excellence in teaching, and meeting Dr. Leo Buscaglia in person at the New Sanno hotel. Sylvia Saiki was among the movers and shakers who built a

PDK club in Sasebo. We continue to count teachers in Sasebo among our increasing numbers.

Carol Powell, a teacher in Misawa has been the voice of the Misawa club for as long as I can remember. The Misawa club has an executive board and offers professional development experiences for teachers and scholarships for deserving high school students. The Misawa satellite club continues to be a viable asset to our chapter.

I have served Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa in numerous capacities. I served twice as treasurer, once as research representative and now as president. I enter this position with pride, jubilation and a keen awareness of the shoulders on which I stand. Sylvia Saiki and Dr. Lowell Jacobson, a past president, were among the mentors who encouraged me to remain among the doers and thinkers. Cheryl Birt, our past president, demonstrated an unrelenting regard for leading by doing. Cheryl remains among our brightest stars.

I joined PDK in 1988 while teaching in Okinawa and immediately decided to become a life member. Through the years, I became confident enough to be the founding president of the first PDK chapter to operate in cyberspace, Walden University Phi Delta Kappa. Moreover, like many of the aforementioned PDK leaders, I received the distinguished PDK Service Key Award, an award approved by the board of directors of PDK International. You can say that I too have a heart for PDK. The mission of PDK, "to scientifically investigate education in the interest of humanity," says it all for me. Did you know that PDK's "Phi Delta Kappan" is the most cited journal in the field of education?
Cont'd on page 2

Cont'd from page 1

I had a quintessential PDK moment this past summer when the executive directive of Phi Delta Kappa International, Dr. George Kersey, Jr., invited my family to stay in his home in Bloomington, Indiana. I was in Bloomington to receive the doctor of philosophy degree in education from Walden University. While there, I enjoyed the company of our esteemed executive director, during several breakfast and dinner meetings. I took advantage of these opportunities to invite him to make a first time ever trip to Japan. The month of March is a possible timeframe to visit Tokyo.

This school year, Tokyo PDK will celebrate its past and continue to illuminate the tenets of research, service and leadership. Stay tuned. We have bold and exciting plans for all of you this school year.

FYI What lies ahead?

September 20th - PDK Open House

Mr. Dean Wiles, PDK Coordinator, Area 9B will speak at our 10:30 general meeting at Yokohama. Come discover the opportunities PDK offers. The meeting will be followed by a lunch buffet cruise around Tokyo Bay. Cost is \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members. Space is limited. Please RSVP by September 16th to Cheryl Birt. cherylbirt@hotmail.com

October 24th - PDK Annual Scholarship Fund-Raiser at Arnn Elementary School

Donations are needed for the raffle
Raffle tickets will be sold for 25 cents or five for a dollar. Please advertise the raffle at your school. All this takes place on Educator Day and PDK is sponsoring a speaker, too. Dr. Haldon, will speak about health and travel issues with which we are all concerned.

November/December - No actual meeting.

These months are set aside for our service project. The Africa Project. PDK is reaching out to three nations, which are establishing public school systems in new democracies. Each base will have a chance to get together and learn more about the project. The decision as to how to raise money is also a choice for each base. Through our efforts, students may receive the supplies our students take for granted. Our efforts may help fund a bus or be applied to the building itself. You may also become pen pals

with teachers working in these areas. For more information, go to pdkint.org>Educational Foundation>International Outreach.

January 17th - Teacher of the Year, Mr. Chauncy Veech, will be our speaker. Time and place TBD.

February 23rd-27th - On-line meetings with Hawaii and Walden University all week. Participate when you it fits your schedule.

March - Dr. Geaorge Kersey - Sanno Weekend of the 12th
New Members' Initiation

April 17th Voting meeting. Come help to elect our new executive board.
Executive Board Meets

Board Meeting Minutes

On August 30, 2003, the executive board of the Tokyo Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa met in the Emporium room at the New Sanno Hotel.

Members present:

Andre Elliot - President
Cheryl Birt - Past President
Debbie Ashton - VP Membership
Lillian Hiyama - VP Programs
Heather Bolwar - Treasurer
Randy Klein - International Rep.
Cathy Washington - Historian
Ron Scronce - Adult Education Rep.
Sylvia Saiki - PDK Member
Carrie Jackson - Newsletter Editor

The meeting was very productive. Several of the programs for the year were fleshed out. The budget for the year was approved. Cheryl reminded us that PDK funds district projects. Proposals must be submitted in February. More details and exact due date later. Collaboration with ASCD was discussed and it was decided to approach ASCD about a joint meeting at the New Sanno Hotel. Misawa and Sasebo Satellite Clubs were discussed. We are striving to collaborate and communicate more effectively. Scholarships will continue to be funded. Ron Scronce was appointed Adult Education Rep. Conference calls as alternatives to face to face meetings were discussed. Tabled for consideration next year. Dr. Elliot adjourned the meeting.

**October 2003 is National Indoor Air Quality Action & Awareness Month
Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa Radon Awareness Research (Part 1)**

Participant	Serial #	Radon Level pCi/L	Participant	Serial #	Radon Level pCi/L
<i>Stanton</i>	974851	1.4	<i>Groth</i>	974878	0.2
<i>Austin</i>	974853	0.2	<i>Warner</i>	974876	N/A
<i>Ailes</i>	974883	N/A	<i>Benson</i>	974870	0.2
<i>Saxon</i>	974861	N/A	<i>Krauter</i>	974879	0.3
<i>Kelley</i>	974869	1.4	<i>Scherr</i>	974882	1.0
<i>Fox</i>	974872	0.9	<i>Hunter</i>	974890	0.2
<i>Griffith</i>	974852	0.6	<i>Garreth</i>	974860	N/A
<i>Rzeznik</i>	974867	N/A	<i>Breeze</i>	974875	N/A
<i>Gilbert</i>	974857	0.9	<i>Okada</i>	974880	0.2
<i>Dawson</i>	974877	N/A	<i>Lanzelotte</i>	974889	0.6

The above table displays the family names of participants (italicized), radon kit serial numbers, and short term test results. Radon levels are reported in picoCuries per liter of air (pCi/L).

Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa engaged in an radon action/awareness project this past summer by inviting members and teachers throughout Japan and Okinawa to participate in our first indoor air quality research focus. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Surgeon General are promoting public awareness of radon as the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer, next to cigarette smoking. Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa purchased 40 radon test kits, comprising 30 short term and 10 long-term kits. The kits were distributed to PDK members and non-members throughout Japan and Okinawa on a first-come basis. All participants were required to live in off-base housing.

The EPA recommends every home be tested for radon levels. Nearly 1 out of every 15 homes in the United States is estimated to have an elevated radon level (4 pCi/L or more). The leadership of Tokyo Phi Delta Kappa supports this issue of national importance due to its potential impact on our members. Radon kits were distributed to teachers before school closed for the summer vacation in June 2003. All teachers lived in off-base housing and comprised two groups, short-term and long term users. Part 1 reports on the results of the short-term users.

As of today, September 2, 2003, the results of 20 short-term tests have been returned for our awareness. Teachers had to adhere to the following basic instructions before performing the radon gas tests. Doors and windows should remain closed approximately twelve hours prior to and during the testing period except for normal entry and exit. The test canisters should be placed approximately 30 to 48 inches from the floor in the center of the room at breathing height away from ventilation, air conditioning, doors and windows. All canisters were to be exposed no less and 48 hours and no more than 96 hours. Upon completion of the test in each home, the kits were sent to a radon laboratory in America (www.testproducts.com <<http://www.testproducts.com>>).