



# KAPPA TALK

Volume 11, Issue 3

[www.americanuniversitypdk0151.org](http://www.americanuniversitypdk0151.org)

April 2016

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear A.U. Kappans,

While there is so much enjoyment in what we AU Kappans do to support public education through our annual goals, as well as remaining true to the tenets of PDK – Research, Service, and Leadership, I'm sure if more of our total membership actually participated in some of the scheduled activities - at least one per year- you would come away with the encouraged feeling that AU Chapter is still as dedicated and committed to its charter as it was when it was started over **fifty years ago!!!**

There are three more events scheduled for this Kappan year, 2015-2016, and I want to encourage your participation. The events are

(1) **The Chalk Walk for Education** on Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. You will receive a separate mailing with information and directions soon. This is our outdoor activity, but you walk only as far as you care to, if at all! Please come out to enjoy the (usually) good weather, but we do meet and walk, rain or shine. Our base point is only a few steps from the parking lot, and

there are healthy items for your morning dining pleasure. Picnic tables and benches are there for sitting, eating, and using to fill out your ballot! Yes, this is also our ELECTION MEETING, at which time you will elect the officers for 2016-2017, who will begin their term as of July 1, 2016.

(2) **The Teacher Appreciation Reception** – This event will honor exemplary new teachers with 5 years or less service and is scheduled for May. Full Details will be forthcoming soon.

(3) **Our Awards/ Installation Ceremonies** will take place at the American University Campus on June 18. Full details of the building and room number will be sent to you in a timely manner.

In April we also begin looking for a new scholarship recipient—a high school senior who will major in education – who could be sponsored for up to 4 years @ \$500.00 per year; an Educator of the Year – 2016; and Service Key Recipient(s), requires 7 years or more of ACTIVE participation in the AU Chapter. Details of these awards are located in this Newsletter edition.



I have saved the best for last. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship Dinner-Dance was superb! I have received absolutely no complaints at all! The entrée was tasty and well-cooked and the soup was flavorful and delicious. The short program, included a segment honoring the three most active AU Kappans with 35 or more years. The honorees were

- Dr. Gwendolyn Means (35+ years), introduced by her daughter Wanda Means-Harris
- Dr. Katherine A. James(36+ years), introduced by Dr. Mildred L. Musgrove
- Dr. Thomas L. Penn (53+ years), introduced by Gloria C. Smith.

Gloria also paid tribute to Dr. Adelia H. Williams, who was in the first group of women to be initiated/inducted into PDK, the American University Chapter in 1974!

(Continued on p. 2)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*(Continued from p. 1)*

After serving in many offices, including president, she also served as Faculty Liaison for the Chapter (a position now known as "Advisor") in the late 1990's.

Mr. Green and his Music on the Move, our DJ for 17 of the 18 years of the Scholarship Dance, played tunes that brought many to the dance floor often (even with a walker!).

The Door Prize cubby was overflowing with gifts donated by members. I do believe every attendee received a gift. The 50/50 Raffle was very popular, and the photo area was

quite busy.

Mr. Joseph Jackson, photographer, joined us for a second year to help preserve wonderful memories that we shared that night.

The Dance Committee deserves mounds of credit for their tireless work in preparing countless items for the "Golden Anniversary Goodie Bags", the programs, tickets, etc. Kudos to Barbara and Theresa McClurkin (who had a previous family commitment but who prepared the above items before leaving); Mariana Zimmerman, who worked with them and who also worked tirelessly at the Dance in multiple capacities; Dr. Penn, our

Treasurer; Helena Jones, who had the brilliant idea of the "gold rose" for all attendees. Other members volunteered their services where they saw the need – Tom Jones, Gloria Smith, Vasser Baldwin, and others.

A special "thank you" to those who could not attend the event but sent donations for our scholarship fund.


I can't say enough about the spirit of our American University Chapter members, but THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!!

Sincerely,  
Adrienne Herriott

## AU CHAPTER ANNUAL AWARDS

The American University Chapter (#0151) annually presents two awards: the Service Key and the Educator of the Year. Both awards honors those who are dedicated to public education.

### THE SERVICE KEY



The Service Key is presented to a member who has contributed meritorious service, provided outstanding leadership or significant research to Phi Delta Kappa. To be selected for this award, the member must have been in good standing for the last seven years.

PDK International Mission—To support public education through leadership, service and research.

### EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The Educator of the Year Award recognizes an educator in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area (Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia) who has made noteworthy contributions in the field of education through leadership and service. Nominations for this award must be submitted by a member of the American University Chapter.

#### Nominating Process

- A statement, setting forth the rationale for the nomination, should accompany each submission for the Educator of the Year Award. It should not exceed 200 words.
- All nominations must be received by April 30, 2016. The awards will be presented at our June meeting.
- Forward nominations to one of the members of the member of the Awards Committee:

Adrienne Herriot

[abdjherr04@verizon.net](mailto:abdjherr04@verizon.net)

Dr. Thomas Penn

[pennams@verizon.net](mailto:pennams@verizon.net)

Mrs. Vasser Baldwin

[vasser4@verizon.net](mailto:vasser4@verizon.net)



## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Renewing your membership in PDK is a quick and simple way to keep your valuable membership benefits active.

You may renew online today or by mail, phone, or fax.

**Renew Online** Renew online by logging in. If your membership has already lapsed, you will be prompted to renew your membership when you log in. Update your information while you're online so we can keep you up-to-date on all the latest PDK news. PDK also offers the convenience of monthly billing on your credit card. Just call us at 800-766-1156 if you would like to take advantage of this service.

Credit card payments are processed the next business day and all online financial transactions are encrypted and handled through a secure site. A welcome e-mail containing your user information will be sent within one business day and you will have access to online *Kappan* articles within two business days.

**Renew by Mail, Phone, or Fax** If you have received your renewal statement, you may renew by:

**Mail** Send your application and payment to:

**PDK International**  
P . O . B o x 7 8 8 8  
Bloomington, IN 47407-7888

**Fax** Send your application with your credit card number to 812-339-0018.

**Phone** Call us at 800-766-1156 and we can process your renewal.

Once you have renewed your membership, join us at the American University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. Meeting dates, times, and locations are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

PDK provides opportunities and information for educators at all stages of their careers. Travel, publications, awards, and scholarships make PDK a valuable membership for all educators to have.

## A GREAT TEACHER

Almost anyone can become a teacher, but it takes a special person to be a great teacher. To inspire not just a great student, but a great person, a teacher must rise above the crowd and make a lasting impression. So what does a student remember for years to come? Which characteristics make a great teacher?

### Empathy

A great teacher is sensitive to their students' needs. On a child's first day of kindergarten, when they are crying for their parents and refusing to participate in class, a great teacher sits with them until they calm down. In middle school, when a child enters adolescence, overwhelmed by learning not just academics, but learning about themselves a great teacher is patient, understanding and available to talk. And in high school and college, when faced with the task of planning their future, a student looks for a teacher to provide insight and wisdom.

### Enthusiasm

Why should a student be excited about learning when their teacher is not excited about teaching? No teacher can be great without loving what they do. To excite and inspire a student requires excitement and a passion for the material itself. Enthusiasm is contagious. All it takes for a student to get excited about going to class is a teacher who is excited and whose positive energy fills the classroom.

### Creativity

Creativity is key to captivating a student. So often when someone reflects on their education, they remember a particular moment in the classroom that stayed with them. They remember when a teacher turned the table of elements into a rap or used an episode of *The Real World* to illustrate an invaluable life lesson. They remember the group projects that involved more painting than writing, the

role-plays and the fun games to test their knowledge. Showing a student something they haven't seen before even showing them something familiar but in a new way is the surest way to leave an impression that lasts for years.

### Dedication

A great teacher must be dedicated to their students, with an unwavering commitment to their education and well being. It's easy to be enthusiastic about teaching when things are going well but teaching isn't always easy. Like with any job, teachers occasionally have their bad days, but a dedicated teacher realizes the rewards of teaching are far more important. In the face of frustration, a dedicated teacher continues trying to reach each of their students, and they exercise the patience needed to ensure that a disinterested student still learns. This requires being flexible and adapting to each student. A great teacher never gives up.

# A GREAT TEACHER

(Continued from p. 3)

## Discipline

When it comes to teaching, many people associate strictness with unpopularity. On the other hand, some adults look back on their education and remember their strictest teachers as some of their best. How can this be? The truth is there are ways to enforce rules without being too strict. While it's important to establish trust and communication with students, it's also important to bring structure and organization to the classroom. Having fair expectations of students ensures they learn how to prioritize, manage their time and listen attentively. A great teacher imposes rules and makes demands of their students, but in a way that is not intimidating. Having structure in the classroom does not have to include being overly strict, and over time students appreciate the value of discipline.

One of the truest marks of a great teacher is the ability to bring out the best in students. A great teacher recognizes their students' potential to become great people, and they inspire them to be just that.

What other traits does a great teacher need? Continue to add to the list! (Source: <http://teach.com/who/great-teachers-have-personality>)

The following are a few of the inspirational quotations about the value of teaching.

The future of the world is in my classroom today, a future with the potential for good or bad... Several future presidents are learning from me today; so are the great writers of the next decades, and so are all the so-called ordinary people who will make the decisions in a democracy. I must never forget these same young people could be the thieves and murderers of the future. Only a teacher? Thank God I have a calling to the greatest profession of all! I must be vigilant every day, lest I lose one fragile opportunity to improve tomorrow." — **Ivan Welton Fitzwater**

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One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child. — **Carl Jung**

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This is the value of the teacher, who looks at a face and says there's something behind that and I want to reach that person, I want to influence that person, I want to encourage that person, I want to enrich, I want to call out that person who is behind that face, behind that color, behind that language, behind that tradition, behind that culture. I believe you can do it. I know what was done for me.—**Maya Angelou**

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I credit my education to Ms. Mabel Hefty just as much as I would any institution of higher learning.

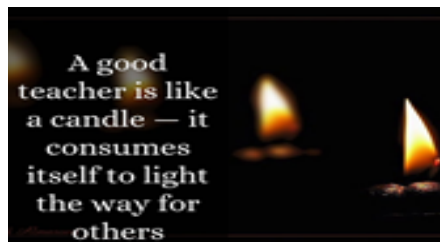
When I entered Ms. Hefty's fifth-grade class at Punahou School in the fall of 1971, I was just a kid with a funny name in a new school, feeling a little out of place, hoping to fit in like anyone else.

The first time she called on me, I wished she hadn't. In fact, I wished I were just about anywhere else but at that desk, in that room of children staring at me.

But over the course of that year, Ms. Hefty taught me that I had something to say -- not in spite of my differences, but because of them. She made every single student in that class feel special.

And she reinforced that essential value of empathy that my mother and my grandparents had taught me. That is something that I carry with me every day as President.

This is the simple and undeniable power of a good teacher. This is a story that every single kid in this country, regardless of background or station in life, should be able to tell. Sharing stories like these helps underline the vital importance of fighting for that reality.—  
**President Barak Obama**



Education sharpens one's curiosity about events. Members of the AU Chapter are curious about what fellow Kappans are doing. Let us know about your exciting events and careers.

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

*Kappa Talk* is published quarterly. If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, email your articles to [mil-dredlmusgrove@verizon.net](mailto:mil-dredlmusgrove@verizon.net). Send in items to let us know what you are

doing, articles on educational issues, or any other item you feel would be of interest to the members.

Articles for the next edition of the newsletter must be submitted by **March 31, 2016**.



# CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE

The following information is on the American University Chapter website:

[www.americanuniversitypdk0151.org](http://www.americanuniversitypdk0151.org)

Phi Delta Kappa International is a professional educators association that has existed for more than 100 years. Its focus as set forth by its constitution is:

- to promote the scientific study of education,
- to foster the profession of teaching,
- to advance the fields of knowledge and liberal culture and
- to uphold the ethical ideals of a life of service.

"PDK is the original member of the PDK International family of associations, which also includes Pi Lambda Theta (PLT) and the Future Educators Association®(FEA). Together, these three education associations support the full spectrum of the education profession, beginning with FEA for pre-collegiate prospective educators, continuing with PLT for collegiate pre-service and practicing teachers, and concluding with PDK, a prestigious professional association of educators." 1

The American University (AU) Chapter, Zeta Eta Campus Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, was initiated and installed on May 8, 1965. The induction was performed by International and District Officers from Minnesota, Utah, Mississippi, Nebraska and Indiana. The initiation team was from The Beta Gamma Chapter at The George Washington University. At that time it was a professional fraternity for men in education. Sixty-six men were initiated into PDK. Dr. Thomas L. Penn, currently serving as the AU Chapter treasurer, was a charter member. In 1974, the first class of women was initiated into the chapter.

"PDK is one of the largest education associations in the world and has

thousands of members dedicated to improving education, including teachers, principals, superintendents, and higher education faculty and administrators. PDK publishes the highly-regarded Phi Delta Kappan, the No. 1 education policy magazine, and sponsors the annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools.

Hundreds of local PDK chapters, most located on college campuses, give PDK members a unique opportunity to network with other like-minded educators. These are just some of the many benefits for PDK members.

PDK's mission is to support education, particularly public education, as the cornerstone of democracy. Its vision is to be the experts in cultivating great educators for tomorrow while continuing to ensure high-quality education for today. "2

Join us in this important work.

*Citation:*  
 "About PDK." *PDK International | Phi Delta Kappa Professional Education Association*. PDK International. Web. 25 Nov. 2011.  
<http://www.pdkintl.org/index.htm>

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This year, the members of the American University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, International have proudly celebrated the accomplishments of the Chapter over the past 50 years. As part of that celebration, the Chapter held its annual Scholarship/Education Dinner Dance, "Celebrating 50 Years of Service to Public Education."

The following pictures give a brief glimpse of the celebration. The pictures were taken by Joseph Jackson, Joseph Jackson Photography.

Contact: (240) 228-5564

[Joe\\_jacks@hotmail.com](mailto:Joe_jacks@hotmail.com)

[www.joe-jacks.com](http://www.joe-jacks.com)

## AWARDS FOR YEARS OF ACTIVE CHAPTER SERVICE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION



Wanda Means Harris presents award to Dr. Gwendolyn B. Means in recognition of her 35 years of service.



Mildred Musgrove (l.) presents award to Dr. Katherine A. James in recognition of her 36 years of service.



LaVerne P. Brown presents award to Dr. Thomas L. Penn in recognition of his 53 years of service.

# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Gloria C. Smith read the award certificate for Dr. Adelia H. Williams who could not be present to receive her award. Dr. Williams was among the first of group of women to be inducted into the American University Chapter in 1974.

## SOME OF THE DOOR PRIZED RECIPIENTS



## DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

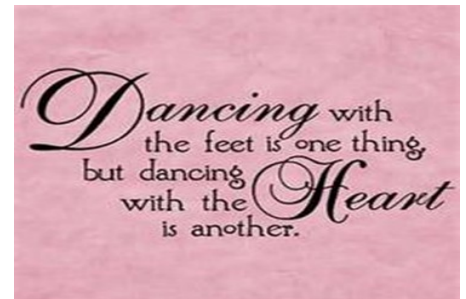


After the presentation of awards, we enjoyed dinner and then we danced. There dance was interrupted so that door prizes could be given out. Everyone received a door prize. Some, especially Dr. Mildred L. Musgrove, received three door prizes.



Vasser Baldwin, Mariana Zimmerman and Adrienne Herriott called the numbers and presented the door prizes.

In addition to the door prizes, the attendees participated in a 50/50 raffle. The winner received half of the proceeds from the raffle and the other half was placed in the American University Chapter Education/Scholarship Fund. The fund is used to support the AU scholarship to a student who will major in education in college.







*CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION*



A great deal has changed in public education over the past 50 years. Our mission of providing support to public education has remained a constant, but our ability to adapt and respond in a dynamic environment has ensured our continued success in leading the way toward a stronger, more vital educational organization.

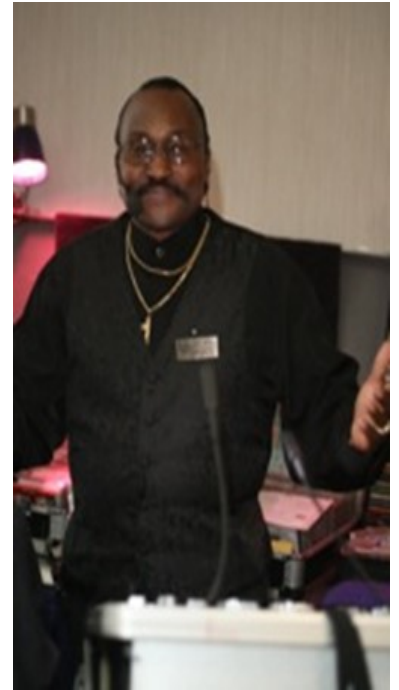
Thank you for joining us in our celebration of our 50 years of dedication to and support of public education.



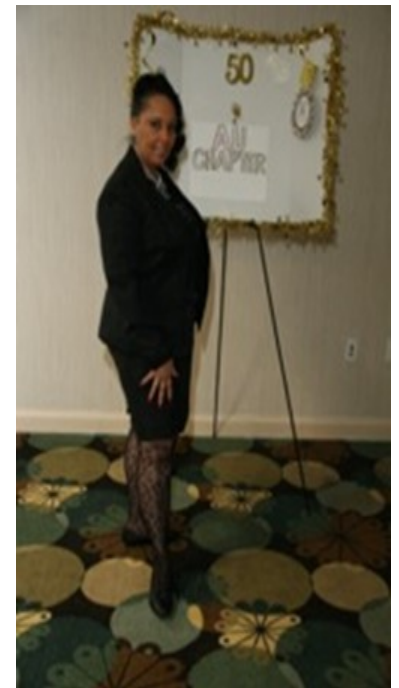




Adrienne Herriott, President, American University Chapter

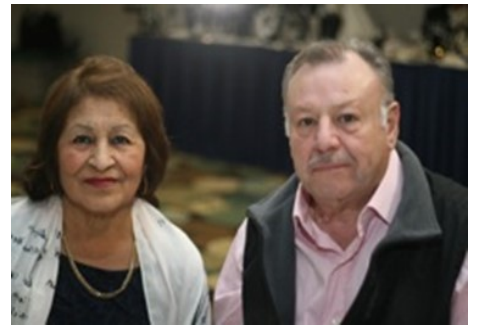


William E. Green, Jr. (DJ)- "Music on the Move"



**CELEBRATING 50  
YEARS OF  
SERVICE TO  
PUBLIC EDUCATION**





# IN THEIR OWN WORDS TEEN SUMMIT

BY Helen Ballard

#PaintingThePortrait2016 *"In Their Own Words"* Teen Summit

Friday, February 12, 2016

6-8 p.m.

Beltway Plaza Mall

Greenbelt, MD 20770

What a fantastic evening with our supporters, panelists, guest speakers and community. This was the launch for Making the Grade A+, LLC an academic enrichment program that focuses on students K-12, SAT, ACT and GED Preparation and Raipay Inc., a female gender STEM and STEAM program for scholars K-12.

This was an explosive evening with questions and responses for

the real concerns of our youth. We concentrated on the concerns of Social Media and recorded violence in our schools and communities. Next, the topic switched to focus on the increase of police acts of brutality and mortality rates that have plagued our states.

Finally we continued our discussion with the effects of Common Core on student performance. The panelists provided awesome insight into how to make a positive change for our youth. Law Enforcement members from Prince Georges County Police Department gave suggestions on how we can gain the trust from those who have promised to protect and serve.

The program was such a success that Making the Grade has been

asked to coordinate 2 additional summits. We are happy to announce that Mr. Davon Kelley CEO/Founder of The 13<sup>th</sup> Man Inc. will grace us with profound knowledge and true passion for mentoring youth with opening remarks at the next teen summit.

The next summit information:

**Friday, April 29, 2016 6-8 p.m.**

**Love the Gospel Church**

**Rev. Dr. James R. Love, Senior Pastor**

**5854 Allentown Way**

**Temple Hills, MD 20748**

**RSVP for free tickets on Eventbrite.com**

**(Community Service Hours are available for all volunteers.)**

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS TEEN SUMMIT

As the CEO/Founder of Making the Grade A+, LLC, I am continuing my passion for education and dedication to the youth of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia with the second Teen Summit. This fellow Kappan from American University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa has been dedicated to inspiring students and engaging parents and community leaders with the importance of education. The summit will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016, from 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. The summit will be hosted by Love the Gospel Church, located at 5854 Allentown Way, Temple Hills, MD 20748 where Rev. Dr. James R. Love, Senior Pastor, and the congregation have joined the forces of Painting the Portrait 2016 *"In their own words"* Teen summit.

The summit will address a few of the real issues for our youth

- Are you as successful as you would like to be?
- What will it take to keep you from feeling defeated?
- Is anyone listening!
- Does social media influence the way you react with your peers, family and parents?
- What changes would you like to see and give suggestions on how to get that?







*Congratulations*

*Phi Delta Kappa International*

*American University Chapter 0151*

Because of this amazing organization, we are the recipients of deep and lasting friendships, needed and welcome inspiration, and countless opportunities to grow through service. It has been and continues to be a key component of our lives, professionally and personally.

Many thanks to all the leaders and members, past and present, who have shared their passion and talent to further public education.

May the purpose of this outstanding organization remain strong and relevant for another 50+ years of excellence.

*With heartfelt gratitude and best wishes*

*Mariana Zimmerman*

*Barbara & Theresa McClurkin*



Mildred L. Musgrove  
 1010 Taylor Street, NE  
 Washington, DC 20017

[www.americanuniversitypdk0151.org](http://www.americanuniversitypdk0151.org)

## 2015—2016 CALENDAR

August 15, 2015	10:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting (Planning Meeting)	Greenbelt Marriott
September 19, 2015	11:00 a.m.	Membership Meeting—Continue Awards Presentations RECLAIM! RETAIN! RECRUIT!	Greenbelt Marriott
October 17, 2015	11:00 a.m.	Membership Meeting—Presentation: The 2015 Gallup, Dr. Gwendolyn Means	Greenbelt Marriott
October 21, 2015	11:00 a.m.	Stay-at-Home Tea—Each member will reach 10 People to share tea with AU Chapter.	
December 11, 2015	2:30 p.m.	Student Symposium	Dr. Charles Drew ES
November 21, 2015	10:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting	Greenbelt Marriott
December 19, 2015	11:00 a.m.	Membership Meeting (Holiday Meeting)- Perspective members invited to attend	Greenbelt Marriott
January 16, 2016	11:00 a.m.	Initiation Meeting	American University
February 20, 2016	11:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting	Greenbelt Marriott
March 19, 2016	TBD	American University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Dance Benefit for the American University Scholarship/Education Fund	TBD
April 16, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Chalk Walk/Election of Officers/Membership Meeting	National Arboretum
May 21, 2016	TBD	Teacher Appreciation Reception	TBD
June 18, 2016	11:00 a.m.	Awards Program/Installation of 2016-2017 Officers	American University