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**ChalkWalk**

**Sat morning  
Oct. 18  
at Wilket Creek  
(Leslie & Eglinton)**

We need your support. Attend and/or donate to ChalkWalk to support the Chapter Awards program.



**President's Message: Report on 2013-14 – Tim Rudan**

In my first year as Chapter President, I found it pertinent that the topic of focus in the April 2014 issue of the *Kappan* is "The expanding Roles for Teachers". How will educational leadership evolve in our schools and how will it impact student success? I have been reflecting on how our own chapter helps to model and motivate educators to lead others in growth and success. The past year has been busy and productive thanks to the dedication of our executive.

Our partnership with The Spelling Bee of Canada has continued successfully. CEO and Founder Julie Spence attended our AGM. The 2013 ChalkWalk in October was well attended thanks to both the leadership of the steering committee and the volunteer initiatives of the Georges Vanier students. It culminated in a lunch and educational component as a reciprocation for the students' fundraising efforts. We expect no less as we look forward to the 2014 ChalkWalk on October 18.

The Research series explored the topic of Teaching and Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Karen Gross engaged participants in the first session as OISE followed by a dynamic presentation by The Learning Partnerships at York University. The final session involved an interactive panel discussion including Rita Gravina, Stephen Hurley and Camille Rutherford. I personally thank the committee and look forward to next year's series which will deal with the topic of mental health, a major concern for educators and society alike.

Our treasurer has ensured we are in good financial health. According to Julia Morton-Marr of PDK International, our chapter is considered a model for our activities and for our quarterly newsletter. In conversation, I shared concerns about our ability to attract new members and it is her opinion that we are not immune to shifting demographics in North America.

In conclusion, I will again reference the April *Kappan*. I felt empowered by the words on the cover "Think Big, Create, Innovate and Share" which I feel embodies the accomplishments of our award winners. In particular, Dr. Carol Rolheiser, in her address to our chapter at the AGM, elaborated and shared her insights about how collaboration is a critical part of teaching.

**Dr. Carol Rolheiser - Outstanding Educator Honoured at 2014 AGM**



"From the stories and examples arose a fifth insight with collaboration being tied to positive relationships in families, workplaces, and the wider world."

Comments from Bev Freedman & John Myers who introduced Dr. Carol Rolheiser at the AGM.

Carol's speech was grounded in the benefits of collaborative relationships. She has supported education across a broad spectrum from K-12 and beyond.

Carol discussed various meanings for collaboration and its implications for learning – both personal and professional. Her passion for cooperative learning dates back from graduate studies. Her life has blended research and practice. She has come to see collaboration as a philosophical tapestry and not just an instructional strategy.

Carol's research currently includes peer assessment that can build and enhance community through connections by getting online feedback from others in the class, prior to the final draft. Learning is a social process.. Carol reminded us that it is about involving students in meaningful and engaged learning – that is authentic and collaborative. For Carol, collaboration is an imperative, not a platitude.

## PAUL'S HOT TOPIC RESEARCH FINDINGS



### Paul's Hot Topic Research Findings

Paul Favaro, Ph.D.  
Chief of Research & Evaluation,  
Peel District School Board,  
York University Faculty of Education

#### **American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference 2014**

Missed AERA? Here are some presidential sessions.

<http://www.aera.net/EventsMeetings/PreviousAnnualMeetings/2014AnnualMeeting/2014AnnualMeetingWebcasts/tabid/15464/Default.aspx>

#### **Educational Assessment and Testing**

NWEA report on making assessments matter.

<http://www.nwea.org/blog/2014/make-assessment-matter-new-report-nwea/>

How much time is spent off task? Way too much.

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2014/05/on\\_task\\_attention.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2014/05/on_task_attention.html)

Cheaters charged in Philly.

[http://articles.philly.com/2014-05-10/news/49745388\\_1\\_test-scores-test-answers-test-booklets](http://articles.philly.com/2014-05-10/news/49745388_1_test-scores-test-answers-test-booklets)

Eight districts talk about their use of Student Learning Objectives in 'non-tested' subjects.

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?projectID=326>

#### **Instruction and Learning**

Some links with background info on blended learning.

<http://digital.hechingerreport.org/content/learning-accelerator-blended-learning-future-well-just-call-learning-1462/> <http://educationnext.org/elucidating-blended-learning-khan-academy/>

Learning by thinking.

[http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/05/study-you-really-can-work-smarter-not-harder/370819/?utm\\_content=bufferbccfa&utm\\_source=twitter.com](http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/05/study-you-really-can-work-smarter-not-harder/370819/?utm_content=bufferbccfa&utm_source=twitter.com)

#### **Early Years Research**

Preschool attendance and later school success (or not).

<http://ccsr.uchicago.edu/publications/preschool-attendance-chicago-public-schools-relationships-learning-outcomes-and-reaso-0>

#### **Inequality**

NY Times highlights inequality.

<http://www.nytimes.com/indexes/2014/05/04/magazine/index.html>

#### **Educational Research and Program Evaluation**

Ed research has parallels to physics research, says a Nobel winner.

[http://www.realcleareducation.com/articles/2014/05/06/people\\_arent\\_stupid\\_science\\_is\\_just\\_hard\\_963.html](http://www.realcleareducation.com/articles/2014/05/06/people_arent_stupid_science_is_just_hard_963.html)

The difference between research and evaluation.

[http://betterevaluation.org/blog/framing\\_the\\_difference\\_between\\_research\\_and\\_evaluation](http://betterevaluation.org/blog/framing_the_difference_between_research_and_evaluation)

#### Jessica Pin

...I see my students in the hallways, squealing in delight and amazement, while showing their friends the "awesome" features of their newest mobile device. Yet, this pure elation quickly turns to sadness and fear when these very same students hear about how a classmate is facing serious repercussions, possibly even legally, as the result of an on-line video posted on Facebook. It is between these two pinnacles of emotion, amazement and fear, in which twenty-first century teaching and learning resides.

Modern consumerism has evolved into a new language of digitization and its target demographic has shifted from our adults, to their children. As a result, critical literacy has become the key to ensuring our students do not get consumed by debt, false promises and the harmful lure of digitization, but instead, get empowered with the knowledge and skills to effectively navigate this sea of texts that informs and defines us (Curriculum Service Canada, 2013)

# 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Collaboration: Platitude or Imperative? What Matters in all Classrooms

The following is taken from Dr. Carol Rolheiser's presentation. Carol shared 4 key insights that have emerged over time as she studied and practiced the science and art of collaboration.

### 1. Research and Practice in Hand

In my early years studying cooperative learning I viewed it as a powerful instructional model of teaching. Over time, however, I began to view it more as a **philosophical tapestry**, consisting of a range of orientations, as well as models, strategies and tactics.

As I worked with educators in their classrooms or schools or universities, new questions emerged as we responded to authentic educational challenges. Those problems then fueled subsequent research and spawned a fresh cycle of action. For example, the evolution of some of our research and practice related to how teachers assess cooperative learning in K-12 classrooms, especially through the use of peer and self assessment, is an example of this recursive cycle. And of course, that research was carried out in **teams** of university and school based partners. What a joy this was!

We tested this possibility across two experiments and found that students' sense of community is indeed enhanced by online peer-assessment. This kind of "convergence of positive outcomes" is extremely powerful.

### 2. Learning is a Social Process

One of my core beliefs is that **learning is really a social process**. It involves socialization within various communities through dialogue, support and inclusion. We used to think these social processes were random in terms of "some schools and classrooms have the magic combination of teachers, students and parents -- and some don't!". Now we know that by understanding the dynamics of small group learning and harnessing the potential of all group members, we can enhance learning, relationships, and community.

### 3. Collaboration is Essential

I now understand that deep change happens as a result of a shift in the broader culture; that collaborative cultures in classrooms are supported by collaborative school and university cultures. This orientation altered my approaches to the design of professional learning, from individual efforts to more team-based models and approaches. **Ultimately educators who, as a group, value the act of professional collaboration, naturally understand its power from more than one perspective, and they become more committed to its continuation.**

### 4. Engagement

"For me, collaboration is an educational imperative. **Our actions need to go beyond buzzwords, platitudes and lofty statements.** Ultimately, what matters in all classrooms is fostering **meaningful and engaged learning.**

Cooperative/collaborative approaches have an evidence-based track record in terms of student engagement. Ultimately, our goal is to create a synergistic relationship between student motivation and active learning"



David Booth, centre, PDK's Outstanding Educator honoured in 2011, is flanked by Jane Paterson and Joanne Paterson.



Elizabeth Manker, who comes from Niagara Falls to lead the Initiation ceremony, was also honoured with a 20 year longevity award. Anne Millar received her 35 year certificate. Nancy Nightingale, Membership Chair, applauded both.



Left to Right: Bob Harper, Colleen Stanton, and Moveta Nanton had a lively conversation about research and education. Colleen is a Ph.D student of Dr. Carol Rolheiser. She is accompanied by her husband, Bob, a retired superintendent.

**AGM photography by Pauline Quan.  
Thank you Pauline.**

For a full Listing of our Chapter's Executive Team, visit our website. [www.pdk-ut.ca](http://www.pdk-ut.ca)

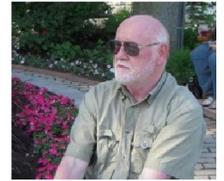
**PROGRAMME AND DUE DATES FOR AWARDS FOR 2014 -15** VISIT [WWW.PDK-UT.CA](http://WWW.PDK-UT.CA) FOR MORE DETAILS.

**NOTE:** OUR RESEARCH SERIES FOR 2014-2015 WILL FOCUS ON "MENTAL HEALTH.". EACH SESSION CAN STAND ALONE; ATTENDEES OF ALL THREE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE. QUESTIONS: JOHN MYERS [johnmyers.myers@utoronto.ca](mailto:johnmyers.myers@utoronto.ca) 416-978-0197 OR TIM RUDAN [TIMRUDAN@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:TIMRUDAN@HOTMAIL.COM) 416-736-2100

ChalkWalk at Wilket Creek (Leslie & Eglinton)	Oct. 18, 2014	Mark your calendars! Plan to support ChalkWalk at Wilket Creek (Leslie & Eglinton) See enclosed flyer.	9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Niagara Falls Get Togethers –enjoy concerts with our Niagara Falls members	Sept 26, Oct. 5, Dec 5, Feb 7, May 8	Niagara Falls PDK Coordinator - Elizabeth Manker 905-358-3825, <a href="mailto:SIDECAR09@aol.com">SIDECAR09@aol.com</a> Concert Details : <a href="http://www.niagaraconcerts.ca">www.niagaraconcerts.ca</a>	5:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Concert



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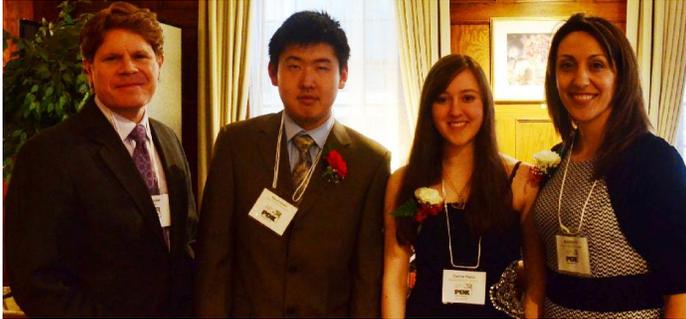


**Membership Chair**  
Nancy Nightingale



**Foundation Rep**  
Zenobia Omerali

### 2014 Award Winners



President Tim Rudan congratulating 2014 Award winners : Prospective Educator Kenneth Chen, Susan Seidman Excellence in Student Teaching, Celina Pucci and the Jackman Award winner, Jessica Pin.

A selection from Jessica's essay can be found on p. 2. For the complete essay, visit our chapter's website.



At the Ontario Championships of Spelling Bee of Canada, Kappans were prominent at the officials' table. L to R : Kappan Celina Pucci, Walter Bryne, Claudette Goddard, SBOC CEO & Founder, Julie Spence, Kappan Irene Manahan, Kappan Bill Velos, Shahzadi Sameera Sharif and Kappan Carolyn Moras. Photo courtesy of Lawrence Kerr. ([lawrencekerrphotography.com](http://lawrencekerrphotography.com))

Lis Horley-McLeod(left) and Marilyn Hahn(right) regaling their table companions Chapter Advisor Ron Benson and Past President Linda Goldspink with tales of fun from buzzing around from bee to bee.



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