

PHI DELTA KAPPA
IS THE PREMIER
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND
WAS FOUNDED IN 1906

Acanthus Leaves

Newsletter of Texas A&M-Commerce Chapter of
Phi Delta Kappa Chapter 101



Volume 53

April 20, 2011

• Chapter Officers

- Sam Roberson, President
- Wade Fish, Treasurer
- Joyce Miller, VP Projects
- Carol Rosales, VP Activities
- Stephanie Garrett, Secretary
- Krysten Estell, Newsletter Editor
- Casey Brown, Research Rep
- Caroline Vornberg, VP- Membership
- Mark Patton, Historian
- Jane MacDonald, Foundation Rep.
- Jim Vornberg, Adviser

Links: Chapter Website: <http://orgs.tamu-commerce.edu/pdk/>

International PDK:

www.pdkintl.org

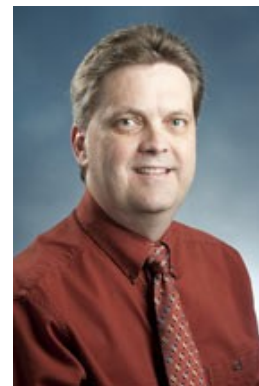
Chapter Annual Banquet set for May 12

This year Chapter 101 holds the annual event to bring our membership and friends together and to honor some individuals who deserve recognition for their contributions to education and to Phi Delta Kappa. Dr. Brent Donham, head of engineering at A&M-Commerce and a Kappan will be speaking on STEM programs and their relationship between public schools and universities. This year's banquet will be held at Luigi's restaurant in Rockwall, Texas, at 6 PM, on May 12. You are invited with your guests to attend. Although reservations are not required, they are recommended so we have the restaurant prepared for our event. Call 972-681-1195 and leave message of name and number attending. We order from the menu and members pay for themselves and their guests. The restaurant is located on the north side of I-30 at FM 205 in Rockwall in front of

Hobby Lobby.

Dr. Donham was named head of the Industrial Engineering Dept after a national search and took the reins in July 2009-10. He was most recently VP of Engineering at Richland Community College where he developed a working relationship with public schools in the offering of AP/Dual enrollment courses. He holds engineering degrees from New Mexico State and masters from Stanford University, and his doctorate in Ed Leadership is from Texas A&M-Commerce. He and his wife, have two daughters.

In addition to Dr. Donham addressing the membership the chapter will honor several educators with ties to A&M-Commerce that have made a difference in educational programs across the state. Scholarship awardees will be recognized, and officers installed for 2011-12.



Dr. Brent Donham will be speaking on the STEM programs and their educational impact on educational institutions.

You are our new potential leaders

If you are interested and willing to take a leadership role in A&M-Commerce Chapter, please contact Sam Roberson at Sam_Roberson@tamu-commerce.edu. These roles are not difficult and they are rewarding professionally. New ideas are the creative input to our activities and you can help supply them.

Chapter sponsors Job Workshop at Mesquite

Chapter 101 presented a job search workshop at the Metroplex Center on 12 April. About 50 soon- to-be education graduates were able to hear Mr. Jed Reed (former A&M-Commerce graduate), director of Personnel in Garland ISD, and Dr. Michael Copeland, direc-

tor of personnel in Rockwall ISD, discuss searching and obtaining a position in these difficult times. Dr. Chuck Holt, another Kappan and faculty member in educational leadership joined Reed and Copeland in a question and answer session fielding questions from the soon to

-be graduates. Each of the participants also were able to experience a mock interview session and also have their resumes critiqued. The 3 ½ hours event was a tremendous success for participants. Following the workshop 27 of the participants participated in the induction ceremony to join PDK.

Curtis Culwell honored by Chapter



Dr. Curtis Culwell, presently superintendent in Garland ISD, received the 2010 Distinguished Leadership Award for public education service from the Chapter. Originally scheduled to be presented in May 2010, due to conflicting schedules the presentation had to be delayed until recently. Dr. Culwell began his public school service in Garland in 1976 at Lakeview Centennial High School as a teacher and later as assistant principal. In 1983 he became principal at LaMarque HS, and later superintendent at

Pittsburg ISD, TX, and then as Deputy Supt and then as Superintendent at Lubbock ISD. In 1999 he returned to Garland as superintendent where he has been leading the district for the past 12 years. He received his EdD from A&M-Commerce, then ETSU, in 1991. Congratulations to Dr. Culwell for his outstanding leadership across the state in various numerous positions over his career. **Photo:** PDK President Sam Roberson and Jim Vornberg, chapter advisor, present Dr. Culwell the award at a district leadership meeting.

Drs. Chuck Holt and Michael Copeland work with soon to be grads in workshop at the Metroplex Center in April.



New Members Inducted April 12

Following the Job search workshop 27 new members were inducted into our chapter. These are student teaching interns that are about to complete their degrees and certificates for teaching.

Stephanie Adams
Holley Amaro
Shuntreciya
Anderson

Kelley Baker
Alisha Cowser
Rachel Esch
Jacqueline
Gutierrez
Angela Harrison
Yolanda Gomez
Angela Harrison
Sandra Holley
Valencia Johnson
Charonne King
Hilary Lydick
Sarah Melton

Dana Morris
Nancy Quinones
Shatavia Reeves
Kara Saldana
Ana Seraro
Lindsey Smith
Chantalle Steven-
son
Tiffany Strawn
Marie Studley
Sarah Twoney
Michelle Wright
Kathy Vu



December Meeting— Mavis Knight of State Board Speaks

Mrs. Mavis B. Knight, member of the State Board of Education, spoke on the work of the Texas State Board of Education at the December 7, 2010, PDK meeting. Mrs. Knight described the functions of the board and gave us a great view of how the political aspect of the board impacts the outcomes which emerge from their work. She gave many examples of how the policies of their work impact the curriculum of the public schools and how such changes develop with the composition of the board after each election. The viewpoints from the perspective of Mrs. Knight help us understanding the ultimate outcomes of the SBOE from the value perspectives of a political organization. We were both entertained and informed with her perspective.

Mavis B. Knight was elected to the State Board of Education in November 2002 and re-elected in 2004 and 2008. She has extensive experience in community support efforts, with more than 30 years of volunteer service working with civic and education organizations to provide mentoring and other services to youth, families, and senior citizens. She has served as secretary of the State Board of Education and presently serves as vice chair on the board's Committee on School Initiatives. Knight has won much recognition for her community service including the State of Texas Senate Certificate of Citation for Community Service; National and Texas PTA Life Membership; Texas PTA Extended Service Award; A. Maceo Smith Community Service Award; Maura Award; and Women of Spirit Award. As a member of the SBOE she represents parts of Dallas and Tarrant Counties.



Mrs. Knight gave us a great view of how the political aspect of the board impacts state policies.



Mrs. Mavis Knight with Dean of Education Brent Mangus and officers and some members of the PDK Chapter following her speaking at the meeting. Approximately 45 members and guests were in attendance in December.

**PHI DELTA KAPPA
IS THE PREMIER
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND WAS
FOUNDED IN 1906**



**Attend the 2011 PDK Dinner at Luigi's
Restaurant in Rockwall, May 12, 2011.**

See details inside.