



The Teachers College

Vol. 16 No. 2
Spring 2008



Schwenn leaves ESU

Dr. John O. Schwenn recently traded ESU's black and gold for the silver and blue of Dalton State College, Dalton, Ga. Schwenn, vice president for academic affairs at ESU since 1997, became president of Dalton State, assuming his new post March 1, 2008.

"I have had outstanding professional opportunities at ESU," said Schwenn. "Our faculty, staff, and students have special relationships and I will miss that."

"The ESU community applauds Dr. Schwenn's long and dedicated service in working with faculty and staff to provide quality programs and insure educational excellence for our students," said ESU President Michael Lane. "We are all very pleased for Dr. Schwenn and his family."

In 2006, Schwenn was tapped to serve as ESU's interim president for five months, during which time he advocated for repair and rehabilitation of academic buildings across the system and was actively involved in fund raising. Lane succeeded Schwenn as ESU's president in November 2006.

Lane has initiated a national search for Schwenn's replacement.

Schwenn has been associated with ESU since 1989, when he was hired as an associate professor and associate chair of the Division of Psychology and Special Education in The Teachers College. Within three years, he was appointed department chair, then in 1994 became associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies and research. Three years later, Schwenn was appointed to his current

see Schwenn, page 5

ESU recognized for pioneering education program

Calling attention to the crisis confronting teacher preparation in the United States, Edutopia has identified 10 schools of education blazing the trail to better practices. One of those schools is The Teachers College at Emporia State University.

Edutopia cites ESU's Teachers College for pioneering a system of professional development programs for local school districts in Kansas. Also singled out is the use of a universal student-assessment system to measure student success. Faculty in The Teachers College use the results to pinpoint the program's strengths and weaknesses and ensure that each graduate has appropriate teaching skills.

Tamara Cassidy, a 2006 ESU graduate, recalls when she started work, "it felt like I'd already taught for a year. I felt prepared for a lot of the basics, so I was able to focus on more nitty-



gritty things, like how to adapt my lessons to meet the needs of all my students."

A capstone of ESU's program is the Teacher Work Sample, a portfolio of assessments illustrating how well a student teacher delivers an entire unit of instruction.

Dr. Tes Mehring, dean of The Teachers College, says the teacher education program's success rests on three bases. "The involvement of Arts and Sciences faculty is a key ingredient,"

Mehring said. "It's rare to find the kind of participation and ownership in teacher education that we have here among our Arts and Sciences faculty."

Mehring said the second key component is the way Kansas teachers have embraced the system of professional development that ESU created in the 1990s.

"And of course the third ingredient is the quality of the faculty that we have in The Teachers College," Mehring concluded.

The payoff for this hard work and dedication comes in the form of surveys that show school principals consider ESU grads well prepared for their teaching responsibilities. More than 90 percent of the graduates are still teaching after three years; one in six Kansas teachers has earned a degree from Emporia State.

Each of the institutions and their education programs are

see Top 10, page 5

ESU collaboration wins national award

A collaboration turning placebound students into elementary school teachers with degrees from ESU has won national recognition.

The Teachers College at ESU received the Best Practice Award for Collaboration with Community Colleges at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education annual meeting in New Orleans in early February.

The award recognizes outstanding collaboration between teacher education programs and community colleges.

This year's award is for Emporia State's collaboration with Butler Community College in El Dorado to create the Butler and Emporia from Students to Teachers, or BEST, program. The program was

developed in early 2004, when representatives from Butler and ESU met to devise a way that students in and around El Dorado could earn their teaching degrees without leaving their home areas.

Through BEST, students complete a two-year associate of arts degree from Butler and then continue on the Butler campus to earn a bachelor of science in elementary education from ESU. Butler's faculty teach the general education courses required for admission to the ESU elementary teacher preparation program. Emporia State provides faculty from both the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and The Teachers College for classes, ad

see BEST, page 5

KANSAS MASTER TEACHERS ANNOUNCED

Emporia State University announces seven teachers as the 2008 Kansas Master Teachers. They are Alice Bertels, Auburn-Washburn; Deborah Nauerth, Manhattan-Ogden; Kenna Reeves, ESU; Lisa Colwell, Hays; Lori Atkins Goodson, Wamego; Ronda Hassig, Blue Valley (Overland Park); and Shannon Ralph, Dodge City.

The Kansas Master Teacher Award will celebrate its 55th anniversary this year with the induction of the teachers at the end of February.

Emporia State University has honored 401 teachers since the annual award was founded in 1954. According to awards committee chairman Lori Mann, Kansas Master Teachers are educators who have "served the profession long and well, and who also typify the good qualities of earnest and conscientious teachers."

The teachers will be honored on February 27 with a day of events at Emporia State. This will include a tour of the National Teachers Hall of Fame and the One Room Schoolhouse on campus, lunch with ESU President Michael Lane and the Master Teacher Award Dinner in the evening. Reservations for the dinner are required and must be received by 5 p.m. on February 15. The Master Teachers will give a seminar, "Teachers: Lighting the Way," from 2:30-3:45 p.m. on that day in Visser Hall's Walter and E.C. Jones Conference Center. A reception will be held from 5:15 to 6 p.m. in the Memorial Union's Kanza Room. Both the seminar and the reception are open to the public.

Nominations come from local teacher associations, educational organizations and colleagues. A committee representing educational organizations across Kansas selected the finalists in January. The seven chosen teachers will be honored with a day of tours, seminars and receptions on February 27 at Emporia State University.

Bank of America has underwritten the Kansas Master Teachers program for over 20 years.

2008 Kansas Master Teachers



Alice Bertels
Washburn Rural Middle School
Auburn-Washburn School District

Whether it's inspiring students to become educators, working with hearing impaired students, having a "WERC"ing (Wonder, Explore, Research, Create) lunch with gifted students or authoring a book, Mrs. Alice Bertels "is one of the true phenoms laboring within the field of education today. She is a team player, global investigator, bilingual,

compassionate, hilarious, modest, published workaholic," writes a colleague.

This award-winning teacher and author is an active community member who started her career over 20 years ago as a teacher of deaf/hard of hearing students. She writes that while teaching each skill is important "...it is the way these skills are conveyed that makes each teacher unique."

And her impact extends beyond the classroom. One colleague writes, "She does an excellent job of getting students to view things outside of their normal perspective, getting students out of the building and seeing things that they might not normally have an opportunity to experience."

Mrs. Bertels is in her fifth year as a gifted facilitator for grades 7-8 at Washburn Rural Middle School. Prior to 2003 she worked in elementary schools in Junction City, Haysville, Wichita, and Topeka. She earned her bachelor's degree from Kansas State University, a master's degree in deaf education from the University of Kansas, and a second master's in gifted education from Kansas State.

Lisa Colwell
Hays High School
Hays School District

"Believe it or not, some students are not excited to learn mathematics," states Mrs. Lisa Colwell. As one student writes, "How anyone can get excited about trig functions, I will never know – but Mrs. Colwell does. And something about that excitement always seemed to spread to her classes, because as long as she was eager to teach, students were eager to learn."



Her example has led others – including young women – to not only go into teaching, but to become math teachers. "(In college) my education and psychology classes told me that girls were typically better at English and boys were better at math and science," writes a former student. "I thought, 'Mrs. Colwell never let on that I wasn't supposed to be good at math.' It was then that I really understood what she had done for me and what it really took to be a great teacher."

An award-winning teacher with 26 years of experience and active member of her community, Mrs. Colwell became a national board certified teacher in 2002. Ms. Colwell is in her 13th year of teaching math at Hays High School. Previously she taught for 13 years in Victoria, Kansas. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Fort Hays State University.



Lori Goodson
Wamego High School
Wamego School District

"When I was a first-grader, my mom became a high school secretary in our small town. I spent afternoons in that building ...the high school became a comfortable place where I discussed books with the English teacher, shot baskets with the coach and principal and talked snakes and birds with the biology teacher. Because I grew up feeling so comfortable in the school, I want others to feel the same," writes Dr. Lori Goodson.

Now she has her own classroom which, according to several accounts, has enough books to rival the collections of some libraries and bookstores. She is an active professional; one of her most noteworthy projects was the Kansas Family Writing Project which draws families together to write and publish works relevant to their lives. As a colleague writes, "In the process, they benefit their communities while growing as writers. Through Dr. Goodson's leadership, the (project) has grown to over five different area schools and impacted hundreds of students and their families."

She successfully completed the extensive work to become a national board certified teacher in 2003 while also pursuing a Ph.D. Dr. Goodson has taught in the Wamego school district for eight years. She received her bachelor's degree from Northwest Missouri State University, a master's degree from the University of Kansas, and her doctorate from Kansas State University.



Ronda Hassig
Harmony Middle School
Blue Valley School District

“Education, for many of our students, is the crucial place for mapping the way to becoming an adult,” states Mrs. Ronda Hassig. “I try to role model the adult I hope they will become: an adult that is kind, compassionate, enthusiastic, free thinking, and ready to help save the world.”

This accomplished teacher and award-winning educator brings her abilities of “teaching research skills, persuasive techniques, technology tools, (and) sharing her travels and love of history impacts every student in our building,” writes a colleague. In 2003, she successfully completed the rigorous work to become a national board certified teacher.

A former student writes, “I remember her giving the most vivid presentations on a variety of topics, from the Holocaust to the Civil Rights Movement and much more. She was always traveling across the globe to gather more experiences and photographs so she could show us the world. Her presentations were by far the most dynamic, with slides, music, primary sources, and her own stories and experiences.”

Mrs. Hassig is in her 16th year as a library media specialist at Harmony Middle School in Overland Park. She has also worked in Gladstone, Missouri; Lawrence, and Kansas City, Kansas. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Kansas, and two master’s degrees from Kansas State University.

Deborah Nauerth
Amanda Arnold, Bluemont,
and Lee Elementary Schools
Manhattan-Ogden School District

“It is my goal to get students out of their comfort zones and challenge them to new learning that requires problem solving and perseverance. Our actions influence our destiny and my students will need these characteristics to successfully carry them through life,” writes Mrs. Deborah Nauerth.

From guiding students through a grant-writing project to fund new ADA approved playground equipment, to raising money to buy supplies for a school in Iraq, to blending gifted students with other students to work on advanced mathematics concepts to improve test scores, she challenges her students to be “everyday heroes.” Deciding to practice what she advised, she took on her own challenge in 2006 and successfully completed the arduous task of becoming a national board certified teacher.

“Touching the lives of others and using one’s talents to make the world better are character traits she instills in her students and strives for herself,” a colleague writes.

“She challenges her students to seek solutions and not accept perceived barriers, as well as to understand that there may be more than one way to solve a problem,” said the parents of a former student.

For the past eight years Mrs. Nauerth has worked as a gifted facilitator at elementary schools in the Manhattan area. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Kansas State University.



Shannon Ralph
Dodge City High School
Dodge City School District

Mrs. Shannon Ralph admits she works hard at creating the proper environment for her students to grow, both academically and as young adults. “(Teachers) have the awesome opportunity to provide stability, direction, and leadership to students; for some, this is their only chance to learn these lessons,” she

writes.

“Shannon’s expectations for each student are such that each will be challenged. The end result is that most of her students actually come out of her classes LIKING science,” writes a colleague.

“One of Mrs. Ralph’s greatest tools is her ability to relate the subject matter in a memorable and interesting way,” writes a student. “I know hand gestures that, incomprehensible to almost anyone else, will be recognized by fellow ‘Ralphites’ as the movements of a carrier protein embedded in the cellular membrane.”

As the parents of two former students said, “The message that Life and the study of it are beautiful can only be translated by a Master Teacher.”

Besides teaching, Mrs. Ralph is involved in numerous school activities and serves as an active member of her community. She has been a high school biology teacher at Dodge City High School since 2001 and has taught in Kansas schools for 13 years. She received her bachelor’s degree from Washburn University and a master’s degree from Fort Hays State University.

Kenna Reeves
Emporia State University

Studies have shown the fear of public speaking ranks up there with the fear of death. So you could say Mrs. Kenna Reeves has been helping people face their worst fears for over 30 years.

How does she do this? According to one colleague, “She encourages her students to think, to make connections, to practice, and to feel that if they make mistakes they will not be ridiculed or treated negatively. What a gift she possesses; the love for her students and the love for teaching.”

As a very active member in her profession, community, department, and university, Mrs. Reeves is a popular instructor and has received numerous awards. “What makes (this award) so special in her case is that she has been a successful high school and university teacher, and she has begun a legacy of training teachers to be successful teachers in the public schools,” writes a colleague.

But Mrs. Reeves believes the legacy comes from her students: “The best part of teaching is what I learn from my students every single time I step into my classroom.”

Mrs. Reeves has worked as an instructor in the communications department at ESU for over 20 years. Previously she taught at Emporia, Chase County, El Dorado and Wabaunsee High Schools. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from ESU.



Nationally known author and reading expert speaks at ESU

An award-winning children's author and illustrator and a nationally known reading expert spoke at Emporia State University in late February.

Known for her picture books and stories for young people, Lisa Campbell Ernst was the featured guest author. The keynote speaker was David Booth, an expert in all areas of language development. Both were among the featured presenters at the 10th annual Kansas Reading Recovery® and Early Literacy Conference on February 25.

Among Ernst's many honors are a Parent's Choice Award, Booklist's "Pick of the List," and a Horn Book Honor Book Award. She has written and illustrated over 20 picture books, including Stella Louella's Runaway Book, which won the Children's Choice Award in Kansas, and the ever-popular Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt. She lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

Booth is professor emeritus at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto where he teaches graduate courses in education and literacy education. For over 40 years, he has been involved in education as a classroom teacher, language arts consultant, professor, speaker and author. He has authored many teacher reference

books and textbooks in all areas of language development: early literacy, reading, writing, speaking and listening, drama, and media.

The Reading Recovery conference, held in ESU's Memorial Union, was sponsored by the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence. The conference offered educators the opportunity to network and attend sessions led by reading instruction experts from across the country, including:

- Janet Behrend, Reading Recovery trainer, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
- Connie Briggs, professor, Texas Woman's University
- Betsy Kaye, trainer, Texas Woman's University
- Lotta Larson, instructor, Kansas State University
- Allyson Matzuk, trainer/coordinator, Winnipeg, Canada
- Beth Swenson, literacy trainer, Brainerd, MN

For more information about registration for the conference, or about the Reading Recovery program at ESU, visit www.emporia.edu/reading-recovery or contact the Jones Institute at 620-341-5372, toll free 877-378-5433, or e-mail Toni Bowling at mbowling@emporia.edu.

Kansas schools gain highly qualified teachers

Over 86 percent of educators mentored through a program at Emporia State University in 2006-07 achieved the highest honor of the teaching profession. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards released results December 4, 2007 for teachers who worked for the national certification during the 2006-07 school year, with 34 Kansas educators achieving the certification.

"Teachers who pursue National Board Certification are committed to daily reflection about their effectiveness as teachers," said Dr. Tes Mehring, Dean of The Teachers College at ESU. "They strive to document student learning that occurs as a result of teaching. They are willing to provide evidence that they meet the highest standards in the profession. Emporia State University and The Teachers College congratulate the teachers who have met this benchmark of excellence!"

The process a teacher goes through to gain the certification is one of the main ways the teaching profession recognizes excellence among its ranks. Roger Caswell, director of Emporia State University's Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification in the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence (JIEE), guides teachers through the year-long process.

"Teachers who ultimately receive a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificate demonstrate they have met high and rigorous professional standards through peer review," said Caswell.

With the new national board certified teachers, Kansas now has a total of 268 national board certified teachers in the state's schools. In Kansas, 86% of the teachers who received assistance from the ESU program in 2005-06 attained the certification in their first year of attempting it. This 86% initial certification rate is 40 points above what is generally the initial certification rate nationally.

National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession. A voluntary process established by NBPTS, certification is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes between one and three years to complete and measures what accomplished teachers and school counselors should know and be able to do.

The program for providing professional support for the certification has been available at ESU since 1993.

Nationwide, 8,491 teachers attained their national board certification in 2007, bringing the total number of national board certified teachers to 63,821.

New Kansas 2007 National Board Certified Teachers:

Blue Valley (USD 229) – Janet Fansher Jennifer Gessley Debra Hotujac Teresa Lindberg Donna Szymkowski Alyson Young	Garnett – Garie Brownrigg Hays – Suzanne Leikam Jefferson West – Mary Naumann	Manhattan-Ogden – Kimberley Liotta Dawn Quintanar Tara Thomas Olathe – Angela Hedges Gayle Ross Michelle Thrower	Perry – Patricia Zimmerman Shawnee Heights – Kelly Deters Topeka – Kari Ritter Wamego – John Ritchie	Wichita – Tanya Belcher Karen Burrell Gaye Coburn Kelly Frederick Jefferey Freund Tennele Hankins Amber Jones Barbara Williams Rebekah Winter Shanna Zimmerman
Clay Center – Paula Lane	Lawrence – Terri Durgan	Parsons – Tiffany Hicks Michell Piva		
Emporia – Heather Caswell				

Schwenn, continued from page 1

position, in which he has provided leadership to ESU's faculty in all disciplines.

Schwenn and his wife, Judy, have three grown children, one granddaughter, and one grandson. Judy Schwenn teaches ninth and tenth grade English at Emporia High School.

"Judy and I have enjoyed our 18 years in Emporia and will leave with mixed feelings," said Schwenn. "We are excited about the future and the potential for what we can accomplish but our children were raised here. They attended our Emporia Public Schools and Emporia State University."

Top 10, continued from page 1

featured in the November/December 2007 issue of Edutopia and on Edutopia.org (www.edutopia.org/schools-of-education). "These 10 schools represent a cross-section of the most promising innovations in teacher preparation today," said James Daly, editor in chief of Edutopia.

Edutopia is published by The George Lucas Educational Foundation, founded in 1991 by filmmaker George Lucas as a nonprofit operating foundation that publishes media to document and disseminate the most innovative practices in K-12 education, including how technology offers many new opportunities for

teaching and learning. Through its Edutopia.org Web site, the award-winning Edutopia magazine, and Edutopia video, the Foundation is a leading resource for educators who want to improve schools for the twenty-first century.

For more information on The Teachers College at Emporia State University, call 620-341-5367 or visit www.emporia.edu/teach.

BEST, continued from page 1

vising, supervision and technology for the classroom and academic success lab.

"This award is tremendous recognition for the efforts our faculty and faculty and administrators at BCC to make the BEST program

a reality at Butler," said Tes Meh-ring, dean of The Teachers College at ESU.

Currently, 61 students are in the process of earning their elementary education degrees.

"Most of them upon graduation will seek employment at an elementary school within a 50-mile radius of El Dorado," said Mehring, demonstrating the program's significant contribution to the area's pool of elementary school teachers.

ESU officials credit the collaborative relationship with Butler Community College for the program's success.

"It provides access to students who otherwise would not be able to complete an education degree, and it helps meet the needs of school districts in that area of Kansas," notes Michael R. Lane, ESU president. "The faculty, staff and administration at BCC have been very supportive of the program's success."

Spring 2008 Volume 16, Number 2

Emporia State University's The Teachers College Newsletter is an occasional publication designed to inform its audience about activities of the college's departments and alumni published by the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence. To request additional copies of this newsletter, contact: Terri Weast, Editor, Campus Box 4036, Emporia State University, 1200 Commercial, Emporia, KS 66801-5087 or twest@emporia.edu. It is the policy of Emporia State University to guarantee equal employment opportunity, equal educational opportunity, and non-discrimination in the operation and administration of all of its programs and services.



Help us stay in touch

Do you have information to share with us and/or your classmates? If so, please return the completed form to The Teachers College Newsletter, Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, Campus Box 4036, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS 66801-5087 or fax to (620) 341-5785 Attn: JIEE. You may also use the online form at www.emporia.edu/jones/tnewsletter/alum-choice.htm.

First Name MI Maiden Name Last Name
(please indicate how you would prefer your name to appear in the newsletter)

ESU Degree(s), Graduation Year(s), Department(s)

Phone

E-mail Address

Mailing Address

City

Zip code (please indicate 9-digit zip code)

New Address

Promotions, Job Changes, Awards, Activities, Name Changes, Marriages, Births, Deaths
(Remember to include who, what, when, and where.)

Teachers College

Fund For Excellence

TTC Fund for Excellence is intended for scholarships, enrichment activities, and other critical needs. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please make your check payable to The Teachers College Fund for Excellence and mail to:

The Teachers College
Fund for Excellence
ESU Foundation--1500 Highland
Emporia, KS 66801-5018

\$ _____

My employer will match my gift. Enclosed is a matching gift form.

I would like information regarding planned giving.

I would like information on establishing an endowed fund.

Donor Recognition Clubs

Annual gifts to ESU in the following amounts qualify donors for special recognition.

\$1,000 & abovePresident's Club
\$500.....KSTC Club
\$250..... Black and Gold Club
\$100.....Century Club
Up to \$100ESU Loyalty Club