



The Teachers College



KFTA Turns 20

How did it all begin and where does it go from here? A look at the mission and vision of the academy.



See page 5

Master Teachers Announced

The 2009 Kansas Master Teachers will be honored Feb. 25. See page 3

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Jones Distinguished Lecture March 10

A world-renowned expert in the science and psychology of coaching, Dr. Rainer Martens will be the Jones Distinguished Lecturer this spring at Emporia State University.

An ESU graduate and a distinguished alumni, he is a former professor of kinesiology and a former sports psychologist for U.S. Olympic athletes. see page 8

Teaching is an instinctual art, mindful of potential, craving of realizations, a pausing, seamless process.

— A. Bartlett Giamati

ESU selects Bennett as Teachers College Dean



Dr. Phil Bennett

Maintaining and improving Emporia State University's nationally-recognized teacher preparation program is the goal of its new leader. Dr. J. Phillip Bennett has been selected as dean of The Teachers College. Bennett, associate dean of The Teachers College since 2001, takes over for Dr. Tes Mehring,

who became ESU's provost and vice-president for academic affairs in May 2008. A screening committee led by Dr. Kathy Ermler, chair of ESU's department of health, physical education and recreation, conducted a national search to fill the position. Dr. Ken Weaver served as interim dean while the search for Mehring's replacement was underway.

"My overall broad goal is to maintain the standard that Dr. Mehring has set over the last many years," said Bennett. "The Teachers College has been recognized nationally on more than one occasion, and my first goal is to maintain that reputa-

tion and quality."

"Dr. Bennett brings a wealth of experience to this role," noted Dr. Michael R. Lane, ESU president, adding that Bennett twice filled the role of interim dean during the fall semesters of 2004 and 2006.

Prior to his ESU service, Bennett was dean of the School of Education at Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., served as coordinator of teacher education for the Kansas State Department of Education, directed teacher education and served as a faculty member at MidAmerica Nazarene University, and has taught mathematics at the college and high school levels.

Bennett completed a sabbatical leave this fall, working at the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) headquarters in Washington, D.C. NCATE is the professional accrediting organization for schools, colleges, and departments of education in the United States.

One in every six classroom teachers in Kansas holds a degree or licensure endorsement from ESU.

Provost Receives National Education Award

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) selected Emporia State University Provost Tes Mehring to receive the 2009 Edward C. Pomeroy Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teacher Education. The award was presented on February 6, during the AACTE's annual meeting in Chicago, IL.

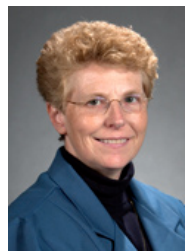
The Pomeroy Award recognizes contributions through either distinguished service to the teacher education community or the development and promotion of outstanding practices in teacher education at the collegiate, state, or national level. The award is given in honor of former AACTE Executive Director Edward C. Pomeroy.

Mehring is an accomplished educator and renowned leader of teacher educators and preparation programs. She has led one of the most highly regarded teacher preparation programs in the country and has supported a vision of professional excellence and standards in teaching.

After serving as dean of the Teachers College at ESU since 1995, Mehring was named ESU provost and vice president of academic affairs in May 2008 following a national search.

Thanks in part to her vision and leadership during her years as dean, ESU was named one of four model teacher preparation programs in the nation in Arthur Levine's report *Educating School Teachers*. The Teachers College also was identified in *Edutopia* magazine as one of 10 schools of education that are blazing the trail to better teaching practices, and the college received a number of other national awards under Mehring's leadership.

In addition to her extraordinary leadership at her own institution, Mehring has played an active part in state, national, and international education.



Dr. Tes Mehring

see AACTE Awards Mehring, page 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 25 - Kansas Master Teacher Award Day

The Kansas Master Teacher Award Day will be celebrated with an afternoon seminar, social and dinner which are open to the public and members of the media. Reservations are required for the Master Teacher Award Dinner and were due by Feb. 13. This is always a special event with great inspirational moments for all.

- 2:30-3:45 p.m. - SEMINAR - Emporia State University Campus, W.S.& E.C. Jones Conference Center (Visser Hall, Room 330)
- 5:15-6:00 p.m. - SOCIAL - Emporia State University Campus, Memorial Union, Kanza Room
- 6:30 p.m. - Master Teacher Award Dinner - Emporia State University Campus, Memorial Union, Webb Lecture Hall (reservations required)

To find out more, you may contact the Teachers College Dean's Office at ext. 5367 or go to the www.emporia.edu/teach/dean/master/.

Read more about the 2009 Kansas Master Teachers on page 3.

March 2 - Kansas Reading Recovery & Early Literacy Conference: Creating Classroom Cultures through Literacy

Location:
ESU's Memorial Union
Time:
8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Fees:
\$100 for individuals; \$85 per person for districts sending three or more participants

Keynote Address: **Debbie Miller** - "Creating Classroom Cultures of Thinking and Understanding: What Matters Most?"

Debbie is author of *Reading with Meaning: Teaching Comprehension in the Primary Grades* (2002) and *Teaching with Intention: Defining Beliefs, Aligning Practice, Taking Action* (2008). Debbie presents workshops across the country and works extensively with schools and districts on long-range planning and development of literacy initiatives.

Featured Guest Author: **Carmen Agra Deedy** is the award-winning author of several children's books, including *Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach*, *Agatha's Feather Bed* and *The Library Dragon*.

Read more about the conference and register at www.emporia.edu/readingrecovery.

March 10 - More than the X's and O's: A one-day coaching education workshop

Location:
ESU's Memorial Union
Time:
9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Fees:
\$65 for early registration; \$85 if registering the day of the conference

Featured Presenters: **Rainer Martens**, author of *Successful Coaching*; **Rob Miller**, commissioner of The Sun Conference; and **Daniel Gerdes**, leadership and coaching researcher.

There is a large need for coaching education which goes beyond focusing on just the X's and O's. This is an incredible opportunity for coaches to learn from some of the best coaching educators in the United States. Leading national experts in the coaching education field will present on character education, leadership, communication, motivation, sports psychology, team building, and team management.

(One hour of university credit is available for an additional fee. Enrollment information will be available at the registration desk.)

Read more about the conference at www.emporia.edu/jones/conferences/09spring-coaching.htm.

March 10 - Jones Distinguished Lecturer Rainer Martens

Location:
ESU's Memorial Union,
Kanza Room
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Fees: *FREE*

This is a free public lecture by a leading coach educator for parents, coaches, and youth sport administrators. This event is for coaches, parents, and youth sport administrators interested in and concerned about youth sports. The focus will be on children from the earliest ages of participation to about 14 years of age.

Read more about the Jones Distinguished Lecture on page 8.

April 23-24 -

Kansas Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (KATESOL) Annual Conference

Location:
ESU's Memorial Union
Time:
April 23, 7-9 p.m. and April 24,
8 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Fees:
\$85 through April 17; \$125 after April 17; \$35 for students (includes membership fee)

From the Language of Critique to the Language of Possibility - Advocating for ELL's Quality Education

Keynote Address: **Margo Gottlieb**

Gottlieb is Lead Developer for World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment, a multi-state consortium devoted to improving teaching and learning for English language learners, and Director of Assessment and Evaluation for the Illinois Resource Center. She is a nationally recognized specialist in the design of assessments for English language learners in pre-K-12 settings, the evaluation of language educational programs, and the development of English language proficiency standards.

Read more about the KATESOL/BE 2009 Conference at www.emporia.edu/jones/conferences/09spring-katesol.htm.

2009 KANSAS MASTER TEACHERS HONORED

Emporia State University is pleased to announce seven teachers as the 2009 class of Kansas Master Teachers. The recipients will be honored at ESU on Wednesday, Feb. 25. Recognition day activities include: a tour of the National Teachers Hall of Fame, a session in the One Room Schoolhouse, a luncheon with ESU President Michael Lane, a seminar, social, and an awards dinner in the evening.

The afternoon seminar and social are open to the public and members of the media. For more information, call the ESU Teachers College Dean's Office at (620) 341-5367 or visit www.emporia.edu/news/archives/2009/january/masterteachers.htm.

Emporia State University established the Kansas Master Teacher awards in 1953. The awards are presented annually to teachers who have served the profession long and well and who also typify the good qualities of earnest and conscientious teachers. The Kansas Master Teacher Program expresses appreciation for the generosity of Bank of America (formerly NationsBank and Bank IV - Emporia) which has underwritten this program for over 20 years.

2009 Kansas Master Teachers



Kenneth J. Bingman

Honors and AP Biology Instructor
Blue Valley West High School, USD 229
Started teaching in 1963

Bingman's central truth about instruction: the most important requirement is for the instructor to love teaching and to like students. "At this age they are the most dynamic, energetic, creative, and fun-loving people I know," he writes. "One of the challenges is to channel their limitless energy and positive attitudes toward learning. When this happens, students become perpetual learners."



Lynne "Christy" Boerner

Kindergarten Teacher
Central Elementary School, USD 320
Started teaching in 1978

A former student of Boerner's, who is now in her first year of teaching, wrote to Boerner about her memories of kindergarten. "She said when she was in my kindergarten classroom that her parents were going through a divorce and school was the safe and secure place for her to come each day," Boerner recalled. "She explained that because of my influence, she had decided that she too wanted to become a teacher. When I received this letter, I read it and cried. This is what teaching is all about!"



Barbara Duffer Cole

7th and 8th Grade Art and
English Language Learner Teacher
Shawnee Heights Middle School, USD 450
Started teaching in 1991

As Cole's principal states, she has a "deep, empathetic ability" to reach students across the spectrum, from English language learners to student council leaders. "Barb took over our Student Council when no one else wanted to and transformed it into a Student Leadership Academy," the principal writes. "In doing so, she quadrupled the number of student participants, changed the focus from social activities to leadership development, and provided multiple opportunities for our students to get involved and give back to the community in which they live."



Beverly Steele Furlong

Kindergarten Teacher
Sunflower Elementary School, USD 231
Started teaching in 1986

A parent whose three children passed through Furlong's classroom attests to her influence. "Her ability to challenge my kids according to their abilities and work with them in areas of need was very important to me," the parent wrote. "She is most definitely one of the most positive influences not only on my kids, but on my entire family. My kids' love for school can be attributed to the awesome start they had from Bev Furlong in kindergarten."



Jeline Harclerode

CONNECT Teacher
Emporia Middle School, USD 253
Started teaching in 1974

Harclerode has a key concept: "whatever it takes." "Whatever it takes" means meeting adolescents at their level of need; it means listening to their most recent accomplishments or the conditions of their probation – with unconditional acceptance," she writes. "They are not looking for advice; they are looking for someone to listen."



Barbara McCalla

Third Grade Teacher
Garfield Elementary School, USD 402
Started teaching in 1967

Caring and patience are the principals guiding McCalla. "The first thing you notice upon entering her classroom is her quiet demeanor as she speaks with calm, soothing assurance and acts as every child's personal cheerleader," her principal writes. "As you look at the children you notice the smiling faces, the bright, intelligent eyes, and the confidence they have in their learning."



Sarah Smith Meadows

K-5 Numeracy Coach
Scott Computer Technology Magnet School,
USD 501
Started teaching in 1974

A former student who entered Meadows' fourth-grade math class admittedly "loathed" math, and initially feared the class. Soon, though, she was fully engaged. "This obviously had very little to do with the subject and everything to do with the teacher," the former student writes. "I was so enamored with [Meadows] and her ability to get everyone in the classroom passionate about something. Everyone enjoyed being in this classroom, even if they didn't like math." page 3

Plan to attend

The afternoon seminar and social are open to the public and members of the media. (The dinner reservations deadline was Feb. 13.) For more information, call the ESU Teachers College Dean's Office at (620) 341-5367.

Kansas Schools Gain Highly Qualified Teachers

Over 70 percent of educators mentored through a program at ESU in 2007-08 achieved the highest honor of the teaching profession. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards released results in late 2008 for teachers who worked for the national certification during the 2007-08 school year, with 27 Kansas educators achieving the certification.

“Teachers who pursue National Board Certification are working to attain the highest level of professional recognition,” said Ken Weaver, former Interim Dean of The Teachers College at ESU. “They reflect daily on their teaching effectiveness as defined by how well their students learn. They submit evidence from student learning and other professional activities to demonstrate 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 ESU’s Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification in the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, guides teachers through the year-long process.

“Teachers who ultimately receive a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificate show they have met high and rigorous

Kansas 2008 New National Board Certified Teachers (school district – teacher’s name; * denotes they received assistance through the GPCNTC at ESU):

Anthony-Harper-Chaparral, USD 361 – Pamela Fallis*	Hays, USD 489 – Monica Dreilling*	Olathe, USD 233 – Lori Greeson*, Joell Ramsdell, Leigh Ann Rogers*, Gretchen Schmanke*, Christine Walker*
Blue Valley, USD 229 – Jennifer Johnson*, Abigail Neiburger*, Tyson Ostroski*	Maize, USD 266 – Jay Super*	Seaman, USD 345 – Stacy Colhouer*, Gena Mathes*
Central, USD 462 – Judith Powell	Manhattan-Ogden, USD 383 – Freelon Goodson, Richard Nelson, Debra Schapaugh*	Shawnee Mission, USD 512 – Andrea Smith
Clay County, USD 379 – Kristin Wright*	North Jackson County, USD 335 – Patricia McKinney*	Wichita, USD 259 – Claudia Griffith*, Donna Lujan*, Kathleen O’Keefe, Regina Schutt*, Jennifer Sissell*
Emporia, USD 253 – Sherry Nelson*, Charles Wells*		

professional standards through peer review,” said Caswell.

With the new national board certified teachers, Kansas now has a total of 297 national board certified teachers in the state’s schools. In Kansas, 72% percent of the teachers who received assistance from the ESU program in 2007-08 attained the certification in their first year of attempting it. This 72% initial certification rate is 30-40 points above 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 perfor-

mance-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, 9,600 teachers attained their national board certification in 2008, bringing the total number of national board certified teachers to nearly 74,000.

Contact JIEE for more information about the NBPTS program at ESU by visiting www.emporia.edu/jones/ or call 620-341-5372, 877-378-5433 toll free.

ESU Congratulates Five Graduates on Horizon Award Achievement

Five of the 32 winners of this year’s Kansas State Department of Education Horizon Awards earned their bachelor’s degrees from Emporia State University.

Horizon Award winners with degrees from ESU include:

- Molly Dykman, Delaware Ridge Elementary School, Bonner Springs USD 204
- Gena Langley, Riverside Elementary School, Emporia USD 253
- Dustin Murray, Andover Middle School, Andover USD 385
- Tiffany Shogren, Emporia Middle School, Emporia USD 253
- Jamie Wagner, Tecumseh North Elementary School, Tecumseh USD 450

An additional Horizon Award winner, Blake Vargas, has ESU ties. Vargas, a teacher at El Dorado (USD 390) Middle School, is completing his master’s degree from Emporia State.

The KSDE’s Horizon Award recognizes exemplary first-year educators in school districts around the state. To be eligible for a Horizon Award, teachers must have successfully completed their first year of teaching and have performed in such a way as to distinguish themselves as outstanding.

Horizon Award winners were recognized at a luncheon during the Kansas Exemplary Educator Network conference Feb. 20 in Topeka.

Save These Dates

May 8, 2009 - Teachers College Honors Banquet

Know a student who will be honored? Make your reservation. Contact Lucie Eusey, leusey@emporia.edu or 1-877-5433.

June 11-12, 2009 - Kansas Migrant & ELL Academy

Wheat Lands Hotel, Garden City, KS
See www.emporia.edu/kmeacademy for more information.

June 14-18, 2009 - Kansas Future Teacher Academy

Emporia State University hosts its 20th KFTA.
See story on page 5-6.

June 17-29, 2009 - National Teachers Hall of Fame Induction Events

For more information about who the 2009 inductees are and what the induction activities will be, visit www.nthf.org throughout the spring.

July 8-9, 2009 - Kansas Migrant & ELL Academy

Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka, KS
See www.emporia.edu/kmeacademy for more information.

Kansas Future Teacher Academy Turns 20



The 1989 academy attendees pose in front of the Dobbs School on the ESU campus.

Twenty years ago Jack Skillet, dean of Emporia State University's College of Education at the time, issued a challenge to faculty at a beginning of the year meeting: how could the best and brightest high school students in Kansas be recruited into, or at least consider, a teaching career?

With initial backing from Stu Ervay, then-executive director of the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, and \$10,000 "seed money" from ESU President Robert Glennen, the Summer Academy for Future Teachers was created to answer Skillet's challenge. The following year, the R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard Foundation gave generous financial support for the program, and began a 10-year relationship as underwriters for what became known as the Hubbard Future Teacher Academy. This was in honor of Joan Dale Hubbard, a graduate in elementary education of what was then Kansas State Teachers College.

Sharing the Vision

For five days each summer, approximately 50 students gather for an intense week of activities aimed

Did you attend KFTA?

Let the FTA know what you are doing now. Visit www.emporia.edu/jones/kfta/alumni-survey.htm.

at helping them better understand what teachers do and whether they have the potential for meeting this professional challenge. Over the years the academy has seen more than 900 high school students come to the ESU campus to meet, live, eat, learn, and teach – and hopefully go home with some insights about their possible future careers.

"I was 95 percent sure I was going to be a teacher," said Tiffany Nickel, a member of the first academy. Now a special education teacher at Jackson Elementary in Wichita, Nickel recalled what it was like to be

a teenager coming to a college campus. "It was a great opportunity to be on a college campus, to not be so afraid," she said. "The opportunity to meet with peers who were like-minded and interested in education, the power to be in charge – to see boys interested in becoming teachers! – to give a lesson and assignment and be realistic as to the stuff you would encounter as a teacher."

Willie Schmelzle, a 1994 attendee, was one of those rare boys interested in education. Although his interest was sparked by a teacher when he was in fourth grade, "The other KFTA participants, the speakers, presenters, leaders, etc. just cemented the fact that teaching was for me," Schmelzle said. "I know that teaching is one of those professions where it's a good idea to REALLY know whether or not it's for you.....if you don't love it, you shouldn't do it."

That drive and determination is the very thing Stephanie Gagnebin, a 1993 attendee, uses now that she is 10 years into her teaching career. She remembers a lunch she had with Dr. Tes Mehring during the academy, "She talked about teaching. She talked a lot about the drive to stick with it, through good times and bad, and staying true to the vision."

Gagnebin said Mehring – now ESU's provost and vice president of academic affairs and student life – advised her to make a poster of her first class of students, and to put it on her residence hall door, some place where she could see it often, "To remember why I'm here." Gagnebin said the poster served her well. "When things got tough in Phase One and Phase Two, it really helped." Gagnebin kept the poster, which now hangs in her current classroom at Shawnee Mission North High School.

The academy – now called the Kansas Future Teacher Academy – had its vision blocked in 2001 when the Hubbard Foundation stopped funding the academy. "It was a shock. I think everybody was pretty nervous," said Dr. Scott Waters, the current director of the academy. "We were so grateful the Kansas legislature saw the value of the program."

continued on page 6

Familiar Faces

While some faculty of the academy have come and gone, below are names and faces of long-serving academy faculty KFTA alumni may be familiar with.

Dr. Tara Azwell



Dr. Harvey Foyle



Dr. Larry Lyman



Dr. Jean Morrow



Dr. Scott Waters



Kansas Future Teacher Academy Turns 20

continued from page 5

Waters said KFTA is working on collecting data to determine how effective it has been in fulfilling the question Skillett asked all those years ago – is the academy getting the best and the brightest high school students interested in a career in education? And are they staying in Kansas?

“We’ve always done pre- and post-academy surveys to see how the students’ perceptions about college, education, and teaching have changed over the course of the week,” Waters said. “In more recent years, we’ve started gathering data on the KFTA alumni, but it is time-intensive work to track down two decades worth of students – especially when most of them were unmarried young women when they attended... For the most part, all we have is the address they were living at when they were in high school.”

“Of the limited amount of research we’ve done, we’ve found academy attendees who continued their education were pretty evenly divided among Kansas universities,” said Terri West, who is coordinating the data collection. “Most people who have responded are in education, and most are still living in Kansas. There are several who have taken time out of their careers to raise children and either returned to teaching, are home-schooling or running day cares, or have continued with a career in education, but they’re not in a classroom.”

Waters said over the years two constants among attendees have been identified: most are young women – only 20% of attendees have been male – and each class is evenly divided in their interest of going into primary or secondary education.

KFTA's 20th year

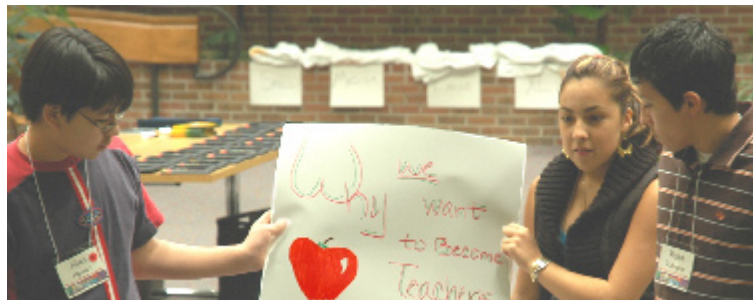
The 2009 KFTA will be held June 14-18 at Emporia State University and June 6-13 at Dodge City Community College. Applications are available online from www.emporia.edu/jones and from high school counselors. The application deadline is March 20.

In 2005, the KFTA was able to fulfill a long-time goal of hosting “mini” future teacher academies: one-day sessions for middle-school aged students. Due to the lack of representation of minority groups in the teaching profession, these target students in minority groups.

Students are selected from school districts and brought to the ESU campus for the day. School districts participating annually include Emporia, Topeka, and Wichita. Most of the summer academy faculty members participate in these one-day events.

“I think we could do four times as many with the number of districts contacting us that are interested in participating,” Waters said. But, due to the faculty’s regular teaching duties for the university, scheduling more would be difficult.

The mini-KFTA sessions focus on middle school-aged students, and the program began only four years ago. For those reasons, Waters said



Middle school students examine the idea of what it means to be a teacher at a mini academy.

no information has been collected on the college and career plans of students who have attended the mini-academies.

The KFTA is not just reaching into Kansas middle schools. This year, the academy is joining with the National Teachers Hall of Fame to take the mission on the road. With over a million teachers retiring, leading experts predict the U.S. will need more than two million new teachers within the next decade.

The U.S. Department of Education has provided funding for a joint effort by the KFTA and NTHF to offer one-day academies to high school students in three states outside of Kansas.

“For the last few years we’ve been able to have new Hall of Fame inductees meet with our (KFTA) students since the induction events have been during the KFTA week,” Waters said. “Now we’re able to send a couple of academy faculty to each of these venues. They, along with NTHF members from the area, will meet with 100-300 high school students to spread the word about the rewards of being a teacher and learn about other careers in education.”

These events will take place March 6 at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana; March 26 at Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Massachusetts; and April 17 at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota.

“Our objective is to showcase the teaching profession on the regional and national levels,” said Waters. Drawing on students from diverse populations and minority groups, and with the reputation of Hall of Fame members and faculty from the nationally acclaimed Teachers College at ESU, Waters is hoping the experience entices more students into teaching careers.

Looking Back

So, knowing what they know now, what would KFTA alumni tell a high school student who is either interested in education, or isn’t sure of which career path to pursue?

“If a student is unsure about whether or not to pursue a career in education, KFTA is for them because it gives an honest, heart-felt look at the world of education,” said Schmelzle. “Even if they decide that teaching is not their calling, they will still walk away with experiences that provide them with respect for the exciting journey that is teaching.”

“If I were a student today, I wouldn’t hesitate to apply,” said Nickel. “It is one of those rare diamonds that you find.”



THE NATIONAL TEACHERS
Hall of Fame
Preserving a Heritage . . . Building a Legacy

**Looking for
Alumni Notes?**

Alumni Notes will be in the next edition of The Teachers College Newsletter this summer. The print edition will be mailed to more than 18,000 alumni.

Education Faculty Honored

Members of The Teachers College at Emporia State University received awards for their work recently. Three education faculty members and a much-valued employee were honored for their achievements at a beginning of the spring semester meeting of the college held Jan. 12.



Dr. Janet Holland

Excellence in Instruction – Janet Holland, associate professor in instructional design and technology, received the award for her hard work at integrating current research-based best practices into a hands-on, authentic, learning environment. Colleagues reported Holland is always willing to share her techniques and newly created materials with her fellow pre-service technology instructors. As a result of her efforts, her student evaluations are frequently the highest in the department.



Dr. Jim Persinger

Excellence in Scholarly Activity – Jim Persinger, associate professor in psychology, art therapy, rehabilitation, and mental health counseling, was honored for placing a high value on work and research that has a direct impact on people's lives. He currently works with three major textbook publishers to assure their products reflect best practices, and has helped to standardize several widely used assessment tools. The extent of his academic research includes peer-reviewed journal articles, presentations at the national, state, and local levels, and external and internally funded grants.



Dr. Vicki Worrell

Excellence in Service – Vicki Worrell, associate professor in health and physical education, was recognized for her commitment to service, which is so well known that a state-level professional organization has named their own service award after her. She recently completed a term as the president of the central district of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and is executive director of the Kansas chapter of that organization. Her efforts extend from the university, to her students and the community, and only her extensive resume provides a true picture of her commitment to service on all levels.



Sarah McKernan

Darrell E. Wood Service Award – Sarah McKernan, administrative officer in dean's office of The Teachers College. For 12 years, McKernan has worked in the dean's office of The Teachers College and consistently conveyed a positive attitude and been a model for students and staff. A veteran of the U.S. Army who served in Desert Storm, McKernan graduated from ESU with a bachelor's in art and in 2007 graduated from the Leadership Emporia class. For always taking the time to listen, access information quickly, and serve the college, university and community, McKernan was awarded the Darrell E. Wood Service Award. The award is given annually to an individual who has supported the mission of the college in a unique or outstanding manner.

Recipients were nominated by their respective academic departments and selected by a university-wide committee. The awards were presented by Dr. Larry Clark, executive director of the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, and Dr. Matt Seimears, chair of The Teachers College Dean's Advisory Council.



Mehrhof Receives Award

An organization promoting the health and fitness of Kansas children recognized ESU professor Dr. Joella Mehrhof with its service award. Mehrhof received the 2008 Vicki J. Worrell Service Award from the Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (KAHPERD) during the organization's annual meeting Oct. 30, 2008.

Mehrhof is a professor in ESU's Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Her record of service to KAHPERD extends over 25 years, during which time she has served as the association's president, has been active on many committees, has edited the association's newsletter, and has been the manager of its annual convention.

In her role as convention manager, Mehrhof has secured over \$15,000 in sponsorship funding to support KAHPERD conventions.

As one of the oldest professional associations in Kansas, KAHPERD's goal is to advance research and education within the fields of health, physical education, recreation and dance.

AACTE Awards Mehring, continued from page 1

She has served on The Renaissance Group's Executive Board and as a leader in the development and growth of the National Teachers Hall of Fame. She served two terms on the AACTE Board of Directors, as president of the Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities, and as president of the Hall of Fame for several years. In Kansas, Mehring has played a pivotal role in policy and practice through her work in fostering the growth of Professional Development Schools (PDSs), and she has visited a number of schools in undeveloped countries in South America and Africa.

Mehring currently serves as a consultant to the United Arab Emirates as that nation develops teacher preparation programs. Mehring has received numerous personal and professional recognitions. Her individual awards include ESU Leadership in Diversity; Kansas Educator of the Year; The Teachers College, Outstanding Research; Distinguished Professional of the Year from the Council for Learning Disabilities; and the Roe R. Cross Distinguished Professor Award (ESU's highest award).

"Dr. Mehring's dedication to the profession has no limits," said Kay Schallenkamp, chair of AACTE's Board of Directors. "She has been at the forefront of change in teacher preparation and is a remarkable servant to students, faculty, and colleagues across the nation. She is highly deserving of this award for her career-long, outstanding contributions to the field."

Andy Tompkins, former Kansas commissioner of education and current dean of the School of Education at Pittsburg State University, said, "Her integrity and credibility within her profession coupled with her passion for education and continuous improvement have made her one of the most valued professional colleagues in Kansas." He continued, "Dr. Mehring has played such a pivotal role in policy and practice in Kansas, but none is more evident than her work in fostering the development of PDSs. Her vision and advocacy have resulted in the implementation of PDSs by many of the private and public colleges and universities in Kansas and in the organization of a PDS Standards Group that meets to advocate and continuously improve the clinical practice of prospective professional educators."

2009-10 Sabbatical Announcements

Fall 2009 - Dr. Kathy L. Ermler, Professor/Chair, Health and Physical Education

Spring 2010 - Dr. Ken Weaver, Professor and Associate Dean, Psychology, Art Therapy, Rehabilitation, and Mental Health Counseling

Spring 2010 - Dr. Elizabeth S. Dobler, Associate Professor, Elementary Teacher Education



Educators at the 2008 MTSS Conference. The majority of attendees were school psychologists.

KASP Conference Well Attended

Nearly 350 educators gathered in Junction City on October 16-18, 2008 to attend the 2008 MTSS Conference, *The Practice of Data Coaching: Response to Intervention for Every Educator*. The conference was coordinated by the Kansas Association of School Psychologists (KASP) and Kansas Federation of the Council of Exceptional Children.

This conference featured the first annual Kansas Response to Intervention (RTI) Showcase, in which dozens of Kansas school districts shared their status and trade ideas on implementation of RTI.

Jim Persinger, ESU associate professor in the Psychology, Art Therapy, Rehabilitation, and Mental Health Counseling department and now former president of the KASP, was pleased at the response KASP got from those attending the conference.

"(We) started arranging this in October 2006 in order to get the two most in-demand speak-

ers on Response to Intervention (RTI) in the country there: Dr. Matthew K. Burns and Dr. Amanda VanDerHeyden." Material provided by these presenters was in high demand, and information from their sessions is available from kasp.org/KASPCEC2008Conference.htm.

Persinger reported 343 people attending the conference set a new record, as in the past the conference has drawn on average 200 people a year. The majority of this year's attendees were school psychologists; also attending were special education administrators, adaptive educators, and general education teachers.

"Our partnership with the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators, and quality of the workshops, gave a tremendous boost to our usual numbers," Persinger said. Along with the key workshops, there were 27 other concurrent sessions for people to choose from.

Feedback from attendees indicated Drs. Burns and VanderHeyden gave phenomenal presentations, according to Persinger. Other sessions featured updates on the new BASC RTI screen, Social Skill Improvement System/Screening, new Battelle (early childhood instrument), Aimsweb, and related offerings from longtime publishers of products of interest to school psychologists. Others were from longstanding leaders in Kansas such as Jim Teagarden (on dealing with aggressive adolescents), Keith Reimer and Mike Miller (presenting on TenSigma's KansasStandard aligned rubrics for assessment and intervention), Robin Cabral (on the need for ESOL training), Jane Groff (on parent involvement), among many others.

The 2009 conference will be held October 29-30 in Overland Park. Visit kasp.org/KASP-CEC2008Conference.htm for more information.

Howell's Thai Sabbatical

Teaching K-12 students, high school seniors, and performing research requested by a queen – it's all in a semester's sabbatical for one ESU faculty member.

Read about Dusti Howell's Fall 2008 sabbatical this summer in the next edition of *The Teachers College Newsletter*.



Jones Distinguished Lecturer March 10

"Nothing is as practical as a well-developed philosophy about life and about coaching."

—Rainer Martens

A world-renowned expert in the science and psychology of coaching, Dr. Rainer Martens will be the Jones Distinguished Lecturer this spring at Emporia State University.

In an address for coaches, parents and youth sports administrators, Martens will address "Joy and Sadness in Children's Sports."

Martens should know a thing or two about the topic, as he has more than 30 years of experience in the field and is the founder and president of the world's largest publisher of information about the sport sciences, physical education, sports, and fitness.

Martens is best known as the author of *Successful Coaching*, the best-selling coaching text ever published, with more than one million copies sold.

The lecture will be held March 10 at 7 p.m. in Kanza Room of ESU's Memorial Union. The event is free and open to the public. No reservations are required.

"We are very pleased to bring Rainer Martens to ESU for this event," said Jones Institute special projects director Lucie Eusey. "He

understands the issues parents and coaches need to address when children start to expand their world through activities with other children."

During his lecture he will focus on aspects and expectations placed on children from the earliest ages of participation to about 14 years of age, including:

- What are the benefits and the risks of participation?
- At what age should children begin playing sports?
- Is intense competition psychologically healthy?
- Do sports develop character in our youth or create "characters"?
- Are coaches prepared?

In addition to the evening lecture, during the day Martens will be speaking during a coaching education workshop to be held at ESU.

More information about that workshop can be found at: www.emporia.edu/jones/conferences/09spring-coaching.htm or by calling the Jones Institute at 1-877-378-5433.



coaching.htm or by calling the Jones Institute at 1-877-378-5433.

Martens is an ESU graduate and a distinguished alumni. He is a former professor of kinesiology at the University of Illinois and a former sports psychologist for numerous U.S. Olympic athletes. He is also an avid athlete, having earned All-American status as a member of 15 National Senior Slow-Pitch Softball Championship teams.

This will be the 21st Annual Jones Distinguished Lecture. It is sponsored by The Teachers College and Jones Institute for Educational Excellence. More information about the lecture can be found at www.emporia.edu/jones/lecture/09spring-martens.htm or by calling the Jones Institute at 620-341-5372 or by e-mailing Lucie Eusey at leusey@emporia.edu.

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