The Teachers College Honors Graduating Students

Sixty-four Emporia State University students from The Teachers College received special recognition at the 29th Annual Teachers College Honors Banquet held the evening of May 10. Twenty-seven received outstanding student awards and 40 students were honored for achievement of a 3.8 grade point average or higher.

Undergraduate and graduate students were honored for excellence in their respective departments. Nine students received outstanding undergraduate student awards, 18 students received outstanding graduate student awards, and two were awarded graduate research awards.

As a way of encouraging student interest in searching for new information, The Teachers College annually offers awards to students at the undergraduate and graduate levels who demonstrate an interest and competence in conducting research. Two graduate research projects were awarded this year:

Jason Busche, Anthony, KS, a student Health, Physical Education and Recreation department, for his research project titled, “Comparison of Dynamic Warm-Up in Relation to Time Using the Vertical Jump Test.”

Amanda Martens, Shelby, Iowa, a psychology student, for her research project titled, “Women, Men, and Monsters: The Expression of Aggression in Video Games.”

Vision and Change in The Teachers College and ESU (Part II)

In Part I published in the fall newsletter, I described the process by which the college was identifying its new vision. The college’s vision for years had been “to prepare quality professionals who can positively impact the education profession and improve the learning of PK-12 students.” The affirmation from our successful reaccreditation by the Kansas State Board of Education and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education was clear evidence that the college had met this vision.

During the fall semester, a committee of seven accomplished faculty crafted a new vision that embraces the entire college, which includes 11 non-educator preparation academic programs. In mid-November the committee released the draft vision for discussion during November and December department faculty meetings. At the Spring 2013 Teachers College Faculty meeting in January, the faculty divided into seven working groups to identify goals and action steps for each of the seven elements of the vision, develop a set of assessments for measuring progress, and articulate benchmarks to determine the college’s progress on that element. The vision was presented to the Dean’s
Vision and Change  continued from page 1

Advisory Council and the Academic Leadership Council for review and approval shortly thereafter.

The culmination of these deliberations is a 2013-2020 long range plan to accomplish the new vision. The new vision is: To continue The Teachers College legacy through enhanced educational excellence and presence permeated with leadership, diversity, and technology. This vision recognizes the need to review and enhance efforts to provide an excellent teaching and learning environment for the development of future leaders and build on the rich history and reputation of The Teachers College.

Complementing the new vision is the college’s mission, affirmed this spring. The college’s mission is: To prepare professionals who provide service to society, apply interdisciplinary scholarly knowledge, engage in effective practice, respond to uncertainty and change, rely on self-reflection, and belong to professional community. With its vision, mission, and long range plan, The Teachers College has its compass to guide its curricular, scholarly, service, recruitment, and retention efforts for the next seven years while staying nimble in order to respond to uncertainty and change.

We will only be successful meeting our new vision with the assistance and support of our alumni. How can you help? Contact me at ttcden@emporia.edu with your suggestions for enhancing both the college’s educational excellence and its presence in the state, region, and nation.

In closing, ESU is celebrating two milestones. On February 15, Emporia State University began a yearlong celebration of its 150 birth day (www.emporia.edu/150/)! The new slogan “Changing Lives Since 1863” nicely captures the essence of the university. The university has also kicked off its most ambitious Capital Campaign “Now and Forever” (www.emporia.edu/foundation/now-and-forever/). I ask and encourage your support in both of these activities that honor ESU’s past, present, and future.

Thank you to each and every alum for your active participation in Hornet Nation and your continued support of The Teachers College! Your efforts and contributions provide vital support for students and the quality of their education.

Sincerely,
Ken Weaver

2013 Master Teachers Honored

In March, the members 60th class of Kansas Master Teachers were named. The seven teachers were:

Juliann Bliese, first-grade teacher at Ravenwood Elementary School in Olathe;
Michelle Lynn Bogner, first-grade teacher at Northwest Elementary School in Dodge City;
Kathleen Bowen, gifted education facilitator at Hillcrest and Sunset Hill elementary schools in Lawrence;
Kacie Evans, English language arts teacher at Prairie Heights Middle School and technology coordinator for Prairie Heights Elementary and Middle schools in Alta Vista;
Kelley Norman, math instructional coach at Chase and Robinson middle schools in Topeka;
Michele Ann Palmgren, family and consumer sciences teacher at Salina South High School in Salina; and
Tara Walrod, school counselor at Sunrise Point Elementary in Overland Park (Blue Valley school district).

Find out more about the Master Teachers at www.emporia.edu/teach/dean/master/.

U.S. News & World Report Recognizes Online Programs

The online graduate education program of Emporia State University has been ranked by U.S. News & World Reports in the Top 100 programs in the nation.


ESU’s online graduate education program was ranked No. 86. Programs from The Teachers College at ESU include online master’s degree programs in curriculum and instruction; early childhood education; educational administration; health, physical education, and recreation; instructional design and technology; master teacher; special education, teaching and TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages).

"Most of our graduate students work full-time and are place bound around the state, region, nation, and world,” said Dr. Ken Weaver, dean of The Teachers College. “To provide these students access to the quality graduate programs offered by Emporia State University, the online format accommodates students’ work schedules, and students can work on their courses at home in order to advance their careers.”

A total of 208 regionally accredited institutions that granted master’s degrees in education were surveyed for the report, according to information from U.S. News.

"Emporia State University has been teaching online since 1996,” said Dr. Kathy Ermler, dean of the Graduate School and Distance Education. "The first program to be fully accredited was the HPER graduate program. With a long history of quality education graduate programs, ESU will continue to prepare future generations of educators and education professionals with quality graduate education programs.”

ESU’s online program rankings can be found at www.usnews.com/education/online-education/emporia-state-university-155025.
STEM Grant Awarded to ESU

Teachers of science and mathematics in western Kansas will benefit from a quarter-million dollar grant awarded to Emporia State University. In April, the project, titled “Western Kansas – STEM Experiences for All,” was selected to receive an 18-month $264,112 grant from the Kansas Board of Regents. STEM is an education acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

“There has been a national outcry for highly-trained STEM teachers, yet our schools are still lacking,” said Matt Seimears, principle investigator for the grant. “This project’s solution is to target existing science and math teachers from schools with extremely low percentages of ‘Highly Qualified’ STEM teachers, and to help these teachers develop the content and pedagogy knowledge to become STEM-teaching experts, who can then train fellow teachers, turning the tide of STEM education in Kansas.”

Seimears is currently an associate professor and associate chair of ESU’s Elementary Education/Early Childhood/Special Education department. Prior to teaching at the college-level, he taught at the elementary, middle school and community college levels since starting his career in education in 1995.

Personnel Changes in TTC

Promotion and Tenure

- Zeni Colorado - Instructional Design & Technology, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor
- Jerry Liss - Elementary Education/Early Childhood/Special Education, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor
- Ann Miller - Counselor Education, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor
- Katrina Miller - Counselor Education, Tenure and Promotion to Professor
- George Yancey - Psychology, Tenure and Promotion to Professor

Promotion

- Joan Brewer - HPER, Promotion to Professor

Faculty Retiring

- Dr. Clif Clayburn - Associate Professor, School Leadership/Middle & Secondary Teacher Education, December 2012
- Dr. Cooper Holmes - Professor, Psychology, May 2013
- Merle Patterson - Advisor, Elementary Education/Early Childhood/Special Education, May 2013

Staff Retiring

- Connie Baumgardner, Administrative Specialist in the psychology, retired in April after 18 years of service.

Recognized for Service

The following employees of The Teachers College were honored for lengths of service:

- 10 years - Kristen Dean, Administrative Assistant, Jones Institute for Educational Excellence;
- 20 years - Cheryl Protheroe, Administrative Specialist, Office of Field Placement and Licensure
- 30 years - Libby Schmanke, Clinical Instructor, Counselor Education

Four faculty members are the inaugural recipients of the Ervay Family Award for Applied Scholarship. They are: Joan Brewer, Interim Associate Dean and Associate Professor, Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER); Kathy Ermle, Dean, Graduate Studies; Joella Mehrhof, Professor, HPER; Vicki Worrell Professor, HPER.

They will be recognized at an award ceremony to be held Tuesday, May 14, from 11:30 to noon in the Sauder Alumni Center.

“ar college extends a big thank you to the Ervay family for its generosity in making this award possible and, by so doing, elevating the visibility of applied scholarship, which a number of the faculty in the college do, and starting a new tradition for the college,” said Ken Weaver, Dean of The Teachers College.

The Ervay Family Award for Applied Scholarship is designed to recognize an individual faculty member or a team of faculty members whose body of research/scholarly activities have resulted in either improvement in or creation of an education program.

Examples of education programs include public school curricula and instructional processes; policy changes in schools, districts, regional service centers or states; preparation programs within the college; joint preparation programs between departments in the college and other university departments; and programs linking university preparation programs with public school projects.

Faculty are encouraged to apply for the award, available from the dean’s office.
**Science of Hope Subject of First Teachers College Lecture**

Hopeful thoughts and behavior are crucial for well-being and success, regardless of income level or IQ, according to Dr. Shane Lopez, a positive psychologist and the world’s preeminent expert on hope. Lopez, a Gallup senior scientist and business professor at the University of Kansas, shared the findings from his new book when he delivered the inaugural lecture in The Teachers College Lecture Series at Emporia State University held April 1.

*Making Hope Happen: Create the Future You Want for Yourself and Others* was published in early March as a blueprint for using the power of hope in every area of life and communicating that hope to others.

Nearly all students in Grades 5 through 12 — 95 percent — say it is likely they will have a better life than their parents. In a separate Gallup poll, however, half of U.S. adults age 18 and older say they doubt today’s youth will have a better life than their parents.

Lopez, the chief architect of the Gallup Student Poll, which measures the hope of hundreds of thousands of students each year to determine how hope drives well-being and achievement, has found that a group of typical high-hope students scores a letter grade better on a final exam than their low-hope peers. In another example, a group of high-hope salespeople sells as much product in six days as their low-hope colleagues do in seven days.

Representatives of nearly two dozen private and public Kansas schools attended the lecture and received complimentary copies of the books signed by Lopez. Dr. Michael D. Shonrock, president of Emporia State University, and Carol Strickland, executive director of the National Teachers Hall of Fame, assisted Lopez in handing books to the school representatives.

**Girls Can "Do" Chemistry**

A woman who heard from one of her high school teachers that girls could not "do chemistry" spoke as an expert on the topic as the Spring 2013 Jones Distinguished Lecturer.

MaryKay Orgill heard those words as a teenager - and now she holds degrees in chemistry, biochemistry, and chemical education. Orgill, an associate professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas discussed the importance of inquiry and discovery in laboratory activities. Her speech was titled "Sliding Toward Inquiry: Using the Essential Features of Inquiry to Improve Learning in the Laboratory Environment."

Orgill’s lecture at ESU on April 18, 2013 drew approximately 30 people, including current education majors, a few high school science teachers, and members of ESU’s science education faculty.

Her speech was interactive as she lead the audience through four historical laboratory instructional styles, their relationships to inquiry, variations of inquiry, and how instructors can use the "Five Essential Features of Inquiry" to make their laboratory activities more inquiry-oriented.

This was the 25th Annual Jones Distinguished Lecture. The address was sponsored by the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, ESU Departments of Physical Sciences, as well as the Flint Hills Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa.

**Little Hornet Ambassadors**

Children attending ESU’s Center for Early Childhood Education served as ambassadors for the university twice this spring.

With the help of President Shonrock and his staff, the children greeted the Kansas Board of Regents as they completed their annual visit to campus. The children went to the Memorial Union for this gathering and presented special artwork made for the visitors.

The second welcoming committee was a bit smaller as it was naptime when Governor Sam Brownback recently came to campus for a meeting. A smaller group of students who happened to be awake went to the union and presented a special welcome sign and were invited to sing a song.

"It is so awesome to be able to highlight our program and the connection with the ESU campus," said Keely Persinger, director of the CECE. "The Regents and Governor Brownback were all very interested in the services we provide and loved getting to meet the Little Hornets."

CECE serves as a practicum and observation site for ESU students training to be early childhood and early childhood special education teachers. CECE serves as a practicum and observation site for ESU students training to be early childhood and early childhood special education teachers. Priority enrollment is given to ESU students and/or faculty needing child care.
The Teachers College Honors Faculty

Four faculty members at Emporia State University received awards for their work at The Teachers College Faculty/Staff Spring Semester meeting.

Each year, recipients are nominated by their respective academic departments and selected by a university-wide committee. Each winner receives a plaque and a monetary award to be used by the recipient for professional development expenses.

The awards were presented January 14.

Marj Bock was presented the Excellence in Instruction Award. Bock teaches exclusively graduate online courses working hard to integrate class activities and instructional strategies with current brain research on memory, executive functioning, and motivation. The results of these efforts are organized and engaging courses. Her dedication was evidenced most recently by her role in the development of a new certificate program in Autism Spectrum Disorders. This new program at ESU aligns with a profound need in our state for current, research-based instruction for teachers who work with this special needs population. Bock is a professor in the Elementary Education/Early Childhood/Special Education department.

Janet Holland received the Excellence in Scholarly Activity Award. Holland involves identifying cutting edge technologies and curriculum pedagogies inspiring innovation and active engagement in instruction. In the past three years her research has been published in six books and four journals. In the same time frame, she has also made over 35 presentations, many with published proceedings, at the state, national and international level. Her goal is to disseminate the proper integration of new technologies and methodologies, and to develop new approaches for both synchronous and asynchronous courses. Holland is an associate professor in the Instructional Design and Technology Department.

Lori Mann was recognized with the Excellence in Service Award. In the area of professional service, Mann upholds the responsibility of every faculty member to serve the profession in ways leading to educational improvement and collegiality. To this end, she has worked to serve the ESU community, both on the departmental and university levels, including service on the Faculty Senate, several key committees, and as chair of the Kansas Master Teacher Committee. She has served in leadership positions in state and national professional organizations, including the International Reading Association and the Organization of Teacher Educators in Reading. She actively serves the Emporia community. Mann is an associate professor in the Elementary Education/Early Childhood/Special Education department.

Each year The Teachers College presents the Darrell E. Wood Service Award to an individual who has supported the mission of the college in a unique or outstanding manner. This year’s award went to:

Mark Stanbrough is regarded as “an outstanding role model for youngsters in the community as exemplified by his service to the Emporia area youth” according to the nomination letter written on his behalf. He serves on the Executive Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education, as well as various state organizations. He has served on the USATF National Youth Jr Olympic Cross Country Meet Board and the Executive Board for the KS Shrine Bowl Cross Country Board. In addition, he has been the Head Field Event Referee for the U.S. Association Track and Field National Club Championships. Stanbrough was also responsible for initiating the KS Shrine Bowl Cross Country All-Star Run. He is a professor in the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation department.

Long-Time Emporia State Educator and Athletic Trainer Honored

A tribute to former athletic trainer and educator John Baxter joined 12 others on the ESU Health, Physical Education, Recreation Building Wall of Tributes. A ceremony held on May 10 unveiled a plaque in tribute to his years of dedication.

Baxter was the Head Athletic Trainer at ESU and instructor from 1966-2012. He was named Director of Athletic Medicine at the start of the 2010-11 season, allowing him to step back from athletic training duties before retiring at the end of the 2011-12 academic year.

A University of New Mexico graduate, he was a high school teacher and coach and an assistant athletic trainer at the United States Military Academy at West Point prior to coming to ESU.

He is a member of the ESU Athletics Hall of Honor, the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) Hall of Fame, the NAIA Hall of Fame, and the Kansas Athletic Trainers’ Society (KATS) Hall of Fame.

He was a 2003 recipient of the University Service Citation Award for individuals moved to service by a deep concern for and loyalty to ESU and was named the 1995 Darrell E. Wood Service Award from The Teachers College for his total commitment to professionalism. He served as president of KATS and was instrumental in getting legislation passed to allow for registration of athletic trainers in Kansas. He has helped many student athletic trainers into careers in athletic training.

In Fall 2012, President Dr. Michael Shonrock formally announced the naming of the athletic training facility in the HPER Building the John Baxter Sports Medicine Center.
Health Marketing Students Coordinate Fundraiser

An event to raise money and awareness for cystic fibrosis and honor a local child with multiple ties to Emporia State University was held April 16.

The sixth annual Laps 4 Landon was held at Welch Stadium from 6 p.m. until dark. The free community event featured walking the track, children’s games, snacks, prizes, live entertainment and a silent auction.

All proceeds went to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The Laps 4 Landon event is a project every year for ESU health promotion majors as a final project in a health marketing class.

The event is named for 6-year-old Landon Dody, son of Emporians Aron and Blythe. Dad Aron is an ESU alum and is principal of Americus Elementary and North Lyon County Junior High schools. Mom Blythe, also an alum, works in ESU’s Center for Student Involvement; aunt Laura Eddy, another alum, is director of admissions and grandfather Tom Eddy is a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Landon was diagnosed with CF when he was 3 months old.

CF is a genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the United States and 70,000 worldwide, according to CFF. Approximately 1,000 new cases are diagnosed each year, and most - more than 70 percent - are diagnosed by age 2.

Shepherd Scholars Named

Eight of the 12 students recognized as 2013-14 Shepherd Scholars are students in The Teachers College.

They include:

- Allex Dysart, Maize, Elementary Education
- Rachel Hovey, Wichita, Secondary Education-Chemistry
- Christopher Krause, Colorado Springs, Colo., Secondary Education-Earth Science
- Kady Paul, Osage City, Elementary Education
- Adam Petz, Lawrence, Mathematics
- Nicole Reutzel, Topeka, Mathematics Education
- Brooke Schultz, Topeka, Elementary Education
- Michelle Wilk, Olathe, Secondary Education-English
- Hui Yang, Guangong, China, Elementary Education

The students will receive plaques and cash awards to recognize their achievements.

The Shepherd Scholars program began in 1994 to provide financial support for Emporia State’s most accomplished students as they approach their senior year in college.
Students Honored
continuing from page 1

Those receiving outstanding student in their respective departments included:

Undergraduate Awards
Athletic Training – Kaci Ludwig, Atchison
Elementary Teacher Education – Sarah Anderson, Overland Park
Health Education – Tiffany Orth, Wichita
Health Promotion – Annelise Adams, Emporia
Physical Education – Trevor Steinbacher, Erie
Psychology – Alexandria Lara, Wetmore
Recreation – Mitchell Martin, Mankato

Graduate Awards
Alternate Route Program – Elizabeth Ricke, Olathe
Art Therapy – Deborah Cotterman, Emporia
Clinical Psychology – Chelsey Bohr, Royal, Iowa
Curriculum and Instruction – Phyllis Clark, Olathe
Early Childhood Education – Christine Hipsher, Olathe
Educational Administration – Jaclyn Pfizenmaier, Clay Center
Experimental Psychology – Amanda Martens, Emporia
Industrial/Organizational Psychology – Breanna Morrison, Augusta
Instructional Design & Technology – Qing Zhang, Jiangsu Province, China
Master of Education in Teaching – Abbey Steinbrink, Clearwater
Master Teacher/Reading Specialist – Leslie Wolf, Prairie Village
Mental Health Counseling – Jennifer Krehbiel, Haven
Physical Education – Aubrey Kopepe, Emporia
Rehabilitation Counseling – Alicia Hiles, Raymore, MO
Adaptive Special Education – Mary Anderson, Franklin, TN
Gifted Special Education – Shelley Kirk, Overland Park
School Counseling – Luke Greene, Overland Park
School Psychology – Carly Horne, Fayetteville, AR

Honored Students
The following 40 undergraduate students were also recognized for a cumulative grade point average of 3.8 or higher. These students are due to graduate or have graduated in December 2012, May 2013 or Summer 2013:

Beattie – Landon Ross Wright
Berryton – Victoria Ann Crocker
Burlington – Dacey Jo West
Council Grove – Erica Sue Henning
Easton – Katherine V. Fox
El Dorado – Annamarie Lea Larue
Emporia – Liuhan Cai, Elizabeth J. Cunningham, Chase B. McIver, Hannah Sue Steimel, Chynna D. Prenzler, Brittany Redd, Stefanie Sprengkle, Michelle Thompson
Eureka – Brittanie McKenna
Galva – Sherlynn Goering
Garden Plain – Jaclyn Marie Hahn
Garnett – Amanda Jo Foltz
Kansas City – Alexander Latin
Lansing – Jeremy Ryan Farr
Lawrence – Hannah Lee Arndt Bain, Kaci L. Ludwig
Leavenworth – Elizabeth Edmonds
Louisburg – Cameron Schneider
Marysville – Shannon Leigh Mangnall
Mission – Viviana E. Merlos
Moran – Kaylan Brooke Colgin
Neodesha – Katie L. Ewert
Newton – Jamie Nicole Kientz
Norton – Kendall Yeoman Ficus
Olathe – Blake B. Ballinger, Laura Nordeen, John Spencer Weaver, Lindsey Renee Freund
Overland Park – Sarah Ashley Anderson
Saint Mary’s – Hannah Hutley
Spring Hill – Brittany Ann Thompson
Tecumseh – Therese Voegeli
Weskan – Raney Okeson
Wichita – Tiffany Orth

Elementary Education Student Receives Award
Lea Anderson was among the honorees during the Women’s History Month reception in late March at Emporia State University.

Anderson, an elementary education major from Circleville, received the Susan B. Anthony Award, a scholarship given to an ESU student who has demonstrated the greatest or most beneficial input to the growth and education of women on the campus as well as excellence in scholarship.

Pictured above: Seventeen of the 40 undergraduate students recognized for cumulative GPAs of 3.8 or higher. For pictures from the honors banquet, contact Terri Weast at tweast@emporia.edu.
WAW Book Awards to be held October 5

Dogs rule for readers in the 2013 William Allen White Children’s Book Awards. “Guinea Dog” by Patrick Jennings (EgmontUSA) and “Ghost Dog Secrets” by Peg Kehret (Penguin Group) have been judged the best by Kansas schoolchildren.

The William Allen White Children’s Book Award program was founded in 1952 by Ruth Garver Gagliardo, a specialist in children’s literature for Emporia State University. One of the few literary awards that asks young readers to choose the winners, the program is directed by Emporia State University and supported in part by the Trusler Foundation.

Both authors have been invited to the awards celebration, set for Saturday, Oct. 5 in Emporia.

“Guinea Dog,” selected by voters in Grades 3 through 5, tells the story of Rufus, who dreams of having a dog as a pet. But his dad objects, and his mom’s solution sounds crazy. Still, Mom brings home a guinea pig for Rufus, who discovers this pig thinks she’s a dog.

“Ghost Dog Secrets,” selected by voters in Grades 6 through 8, is the story of Rusty, a sixth-grade boy who feeds a dog left chained in frigid weather with no food, water or shelter. Eventually, Rusty and his friends take the dog to their hideout. As they face multiple challenges — a snoopy sister and threats from the dog’s owner — Rusty faces a new challenge when a ghost dog appears in his room and tries to lead him to an even deeper secret.

During the October awards celebration, schoolchildren from across the state of Kansas travel to Emporia for special events including lock-ins, author readings and book signings along with a parade through downtown Emporia to the awards ceremony itself. Many teachers use travel to the book awards as incentives in their school reading programs.

Avatars & Virtual Classrooms

May 31, 2013
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Visser Hall, Room 330
Emporia State University

This “Technology is the Future” presentation by Dr. Lisa Dieker will be held Friday, May 31, 2013 at Emporia State University.

Dieker will be presenting through Adobe Connect from her TeachLivE Lab at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Her presentation will show avatars being manipulated by trained “interactors” to simulate classroom management and pedagogy sessions for pre-service and in-service teachers.

People are asked to RSVP to the event to Dr. Kelly O’Neal-Hixson at koneal@emporia.edu or Dr. Jerry Liss at jliss@emporia.edu by May 24, 2013.

This presentation was made possible by an Academic Enhancement Grant from ESU.

Spring 2013 Education Career Day

Education majors looking for their first full-time job as educators visited with representatives from school districts during Education Career Day, March 6, 2013 at Emporia State University.

The night before the event, KNEA-SP hosted Clint Corby and Vince Evans (ESU alumni) to discuss Top Ten Rules of the Job Hunt (pictured left). Corby is the principal at Wineteer Elementary in Wichita and Evans is the principal at Cooper Elementary in Wichita.

Looking for Alumni Notes?

Notes and briefs from alumni will be in the next edition of The Teachers College Newsletter.
Distinguished Alumni to be Honored

The highest honor Emporia State University confers upon graduates, the Distinguished Alumni award, will be presented to four alumni during Homecoming Weekend in October.

Two are graduates of The Teachers College with notable careers in special education and physical education; Linda F. Bluth (MS ’66), Ellicott City, MD, and Anita G. Evans (BSE ’80), Mayetta, KS.

The honorees will be recognized during ESU’s homecoming celebration Oct. 11-12, 2013.

Linda F. Bluth, Ed.D., has 47 years of experience as a special educator, including 32 years in special needs transportation. Retiring in 2009 as director of the Office of Quality Assurance and Monitoring at the Maryland State Department of Education, she currently works part-time for that same agency as a quality assurance monitoring specialist in special education and early intervention services.

An expert in the field of special needs transportation policies, she joined the School Bus Safety company as a consultant and product trainer in 2011. Bluth is past president of the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), and received the organization’s Distinguished Service Award in 2000.

Anita G. Evans is a physical education teacher and Title VII Indian education director at Royal Valley USD 337, Mayetta. She develops and implements programs emphasizing Native American culture, language, art and academic assistance for students in the district, along with coaching the high school’s softball and volleyball teams.

Evans was named 1997 Kansas Native American Educator of the Year, and earned National Indian Teacher of the Year honors in 2002 from the National Indian Education Association. She is also a 2010 Port Jervis (N.Y.) High School Hall of Fame inductee. In 1998, she implemented a summer youth work program for Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and served as its director until 2005. She also sponsors the Royal Valley Native American Singers and Dancers, the only school-sponsored Native American dance group in Kansas.

The Distinguished Alumni award recognizing the outstanding professional accomplishments of ESU’s finest graduates. Since the inception of the award program in 1960, approximately 220 alumni have received the award.

Area Alumni Receive Hopkins Awards

Ten alumni of Emporia State University were among 21 Emporia-area teachers and support staff receiving WOW and Star Performer Awards from the Hopkins Foundation in early May.

Members of the Hopkins family made rounds to various schools in Emporia USD 253 and Southern Lyon County USD 252 on May 7-8 to present the awards.

According to a release from the foundation, Star Performer awards were presented to teachers who are innovative, put students ahead of themselves, are caring, inspirational, have a record of student achievement, and go above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference for children.

WOW awards were presented to school support staff members who the foundation determined “consistently go above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference for students.”

The ESU alumni receiving the awards were:

- Emporia High School - Stephanie Beardslee, Daniel Buller, and Dana Witten
- Logan Avenue Elementary School - Amanda Arevalo
- Timmerman Elementary School - Holli Hoelting and Sara Schwerdtfeger
- Hartford High School & Neosho Rapids Junior High - Lorraine Klumpe
- Olpe Elementary School - Marian Johnson and Nancy King
- Olpe High School - Chris Schmidt

This was the 11th annual presentation of the awards, established to recognize the outstanding performance of Emporia teachers and school support staff. The awards were a dream of E.L. Hopkins, the late Emporia businessman. A total of 154 individuals have now received the awards and a total of $318,000 in cash prizes.

Graduate Earns Horizon Award

One of the 2013 Kansas Cable Telecommunications Horizon Award recipients earned her degree in 2011 from The Teachers College at ESU. Kebra Claiborne was one of 32 Kansas teachers who received the award. Claiborne is a teacher at Americus Elementary School in USD 251 North Lyon County.

Technology in the classroom, armed security guards and more diverse student populations were topics on the table Jan. 28 when the Kansas Teacher of the Year delegation visited Emporia State University.

The eight teachers from Andover, Baxter Springs, Blue Valley, Buhler, Emporia, Eudora, Haysville and Leavenworth school districts spent their day with students training to become teachers. The group shared their experiences in the classroom and offered ways to help students connect curriculum with real-world experiences.

Technology is especially helpful, said Dyane Smokorowski, the 2013 Kansas Teacher of the Year. "We’re teaching children to connect with experts,” she said. “That’s fantastic.”

Students today also are interacting with different cultures as their classrooms become more diverse communities. "We’re a global community," said Smokorowski, noting that her students may become engineers who work on projects with engineers on the other side of the world.

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ESU recognized by US Senate

In February, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution congratulating Emporia State University on its 150th anniversary.

U.S. Sens. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) introduced the resolution. "Congratulations to Emporia State on their 150th Anniversary," said Roberts. "My mother attended Emporia State, studying education. She later went on to become a teacher educating Kansans’ children like so many other proud and accomplished Hornet Alumni."

"In true Kansas fashion, the University has faced challenges head on from its earliest days on the plains," Roberts said. "Adversity was not uncommon whether a drought or depression, but the outstanding faculty and staff persevered on behalf of their students to provide a quality education that continues today."

"On Emporia State’s historic anniversary, I want to recognize the significant impact the university has made on our state and country," Moran said. "Founded to train teachers, I’m proud that Emporia State remains committed to its original mission and is successful in equipping our future educators in a profession whose work impacts the lives of all Americans."

Today, 6,500 students from 45 states and 55 countries are enrolled at Emporia State University. Consistently ranked as a Tier 1 Regional University by U.S. News & World Report, ESU offers students a wide range of academic programs to choose from and the opportunity to participate in more than 130 student organizations.

Emporia State’s Teachers College holds the International Reading Association Certificate of Distinction for the Reading Preparation of Elementary and Secondary Teachers - one of only five programs honored internationally in 2009. In a national study of teacher-education programs, Emporia State was named one of only five post-secondary institutions in the nation to be identified as Exemplary Model Teacher Education.

Book Celebrates University’s History

Photos culled from archives as well as yearbooks were used to tell the 150-year history of the university in a book.

Steven Hanschu, reference and local history librarian in university libraries and archives, described the project as a labor of love. "Emporia State University: The Campus History Series," was published this year (Arcadia Publishing) and features a foreword by ESU President Michael D. Shonrock.

Hanschu’s tenure at Emporia State stretches back 40 years to his time as an undergraduate. He began working as a student library assistant in Spring 1972 and continued as a student employee until he was hired full-time in 1978.

Hanschu’s time as a student encompasses three of the university’s name changes. Hanschu earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology/anthropology from Kansas State Teachers College in 1974, a master of library science degree in 1976 from Emporia Kansas State College (the university’s name in 1974-77), and a master’s degree in history in 1978 from Emporia State University.

Commencement May 18

Spring commencement ceremonies for Emporia State University will be Saturday, May 18.

Baccalaureate commencement will begin at 9:30 a.m., at White Auditorium, 111 E. Sixth Ave., Emporia. More than 600 undergraduate students are candidates for baccalaureate degrees. Graduate commencement will be at 2 p.m., at Albert Taylor Hall in Plumb Hall on the ESU campus. Nearly 300 students are candidates for doctorate, specialist and master’s degrees.

Beginning in December 2012, the under-graduate and graduate ceremonies were separated and it was determined both the winter and spring commencements will be held indoors. The 2013 graduates have the distinction of earning their degrees during ESU’s 150th-anniversary year.

Commencement speakers include Dale Cushinberry, 2012 ESU Distinguished Alumni, and Tim Emert, chair of the Kansas Board of Regents.

Additional information is available online at www.emporia.edu/commencement/.

Normal Schools, Women’s Education Topic of Women’s History Month Speaker

The culture of higher education at the time Emporia State University was founded in 1863 as Kansas State Normal School was the subject for this year’s Women’s History Month keynote address.

Dr. Christine Ogren gave the presentation titled “State Normal Schools and the Expansion of Women’s Education: Emporia and Beyond” on March 14, 2013.

Ogren’s speech included information about Minnie Grinstead Johnson, a graduate of KSN who became the first woman elected to the Kansas Legislature in 1918 - before women nationally had the right to vote.

Ogren earned her Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies with an emphasis on the history of education at the University of Wisconsin. She is associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Iowa, where she teaches history of education in two programs: Higher Education and Student Affairs, and Schools, Culture and Society. She serves as chair of the latter program.


The presentation was free and open to all students and the community. It was sponsored by the Ethnic and Gender Studies Program, the 150th Anniversary Committee and the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies.
New Provost Named

Dr. David P. Cordle, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at University of North Carolina Wilmington, will assume his duties as provost and vice president for academic affairs by July 1, according to Dr. Michael D. Shonrock, president of Emporia State University, who offered the position to Cordle.

As provost, Cordle said, he will take on the traditional role of providing internal leadership for the university while also having an external focus, a part of the ESU position that was attractive.

"I enjoy fundraising; I enjoy external advocacy for academic programs and advocacy for students," Cordle said. "To me, that's a part of what a provost does."

Cordle visited the ESU campus April 3 through 5. During his visit, he met with the search committee, administrators and members of the campus and Emporia communities, including faculty, staff and students.

"Very early in my visit, I recognized Emporia State as the kind of university I want to be a part of. I'm thrilled to be joining an institution with a distinguished history and a bright future ahead under President Shonrock's leadership," Cordle said. "Pam and I were so impressed with the wonderful people we met at the university and in the city. We look forward to becoming a part of the Emporia community."

Cordle's academic background is in music. He earned a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Shorter College and both master's and doctorate degrees in piano performance from Florida State University.

Professionally, Cordle served as chair and assistant professor of the Department of Music at William Woods College, chair and associate professor of the Department of Music at Virginia Commonwealth University and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of music at Longwood University before moving to University of North Carolina Wilmington as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of music.

"David's extensive experience as an academic leader and his commitment to shared governance will be key to his success at Emporia State," said Shonrock. "We are excited that he is joining our team while we are celebrating our 150th anniversary and looking forward to our next milestone."

Cordle takes ESU's provost and vice president reins from Dr. Gwen Alexander, who began serving as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs in August 2012.

New Name for Technology Services on Campus

Technology & Computing Services, TCS, has officially changed their department name to Information Technology or, more simply, IT.

As part of this change, IT has created a new, simpler, single point-of-entry website. This new website (www.emporia.edu/IT) combines what were formerly two sites - the general TCS website and TCS Helpdesk website - into a single starting point for the campus community seeking information about IT services at ESU.

There's an (ESU) App for That

Emporia State University has launched ESU Mobile, a mobile app that enables students to access information about campus services right from their smartphones and web-enabled devices.

The ESU Mobile app provides students, faculty, staff and anyone interested in Emporia State University access to news and events, campus maps, faculty and staff directories, and the ability to provide feedback for future enhancements. Students can also use a secure login within the app to search course offerings, view their class schedule, check on their student account balances, and even view their grades.

“We all spend so much time on our mobile devices, texting, email, checking Facebook,” said Cory Falldine, associate chief information officer for Information Technology. “Giving students a quick and easy way to get to their student information from the devices that they use every day just makes sense.”

The app was developed by staff in ESU’s Office of Information Technology. In-house development provides a cost-savings to the university by avoiding significant up-front costs as well as annual support fees traditionally charged by outside vendors.

The ESU Mobile App is currently available for Android and iOS devices. ESU plans to continue updating the app with new features based on input from the students and the campus community.

Mike Erickson, associate vice president and chief information officer, says "this initial version provides access to key information that our students wanted access to in a convenient and immediate manner. We are already looking toward the next version based on suggestions we’ve received - this is just the beginning."
The group hopes that an increased emphasis on character education in curriculum will combat violence in schools.

"Having security guards with guns is not going to keep what happened (in Newtown) from happening," said Colleen Mitchell, who teaches at Walnut Elementary School in Emporia.

For three teachers, the visit was a homecoming. Judy Domke of Blue Valley, Scott Kettner of Eudora and Colleen Mitchell of Emporia earned their education degrees from ESU.

They all hoped their visit encouraged the education majors who attended their events. In June, they will visit with high school students attending the 2013 Kansas Future Teacher Academy hosted at ESU.

"This is the best profession in the world," said Sue Commons, who teaches at Baxter Spring High School. "We get to touch lives every day."

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Emporia State University's The Teachers College Newsletter is an occasional publication designed to inform its audience about activities of the college's departments, students, and alumni published by the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence. To request additional past editions of this newsletter, contact: Terri Weast, Editor, Campus Box 4036, Emporia State University, 1200 Commercial, Emporia, KS 66801-5087 or tweast@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.
A black granite monument inscribed with the names of teachers who lost their lives while working with students is being developed and will be placed on the Emporia State University campus.

Two corporate partners of the National Teachers Hall of Fame have donated $40,000 total to cover the initial funds necessary for the fallen educators project. Pearson Education Foundation is committing $25,000 to the project, while Security Benefit has promised $15,000.

The National Teachers Hall of Fame, located on ESU’s campus, is coordinating the effort to raise $200,000 for the 10 foot square monument. Once completed, the memorial will be placed near the one-room schoolhouse located on the north end of ESU’s campus. A walkway, benches, special lighting, and a donor wall are to be part of the display.

NTHF Director Carol Strickland said the idea for the memorial developed after six educators were murdered in Newtown, CT in December 2012 and an Alabama teacher was murdered in January 2013. It was then decided that many educators who had lost their lives in the line of duty needed to be remembered in a permanent way.

The NTHF Board said Emporia is the ideal location for this memorial to fallen educators.

"Emporia, located in the heart of America, is not only the home of the National Teachers Hall of Fame, but it also boasts that Emporia State University has one of the top five teacher preparation programs in the country, and USD 253 is an outstanding public school system. In fact, Teacher Magazine, after a visit in 2000, labeled Emporia as Teacher Town USA," said Lindy Whetzel, NTHF Board Chair.

The groundbreaking for the monument is planned as part of the NTHF induction ceremonies in June. The finished work and a dedication are scheduled for August.

The NTHF was founded in 1989 by Emporia State University, the ESU Alumni Association, the City of Emporia, USD 253, and the Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce as a tribute to the nation’s teachers. More information can be found at www.nthf.org or by calling the NTHF at 620-341-5660.