“Little Rock Nine” on campus

The largest gift in ESU history

Roe R. Cross professors

Greensburg survivors

Universities and war

Distinguished Alumni, 2007

On the cover
KSTC faced an influx of WWII veterans and erected trailers west of the football stadium. The complex became known as Vet City. Photo courtesy of the ESU Archives.
My first six months as the Alumni Association president have been energizing and insightful. To represent ESU in this capacity is a tremendous honor. It would not be possible without the remarkable talents of the board members and the dedicated alumni office.

During my years on the alumni board, we have taken steps to become a more active board. First, we updated our vision statement: “To facilitate positive relationships and sustained involvement between Emporia State University and alumni and friends.” Second, we’ve welcomed Dr. Michael Lane as the ESU president. We are also working diligently on four different goals.

**Implement activities/events to connect with alumni.** We need your help to recruit and develop volunteers to host events and coordinate ESU alumni chapters. While we cannot expect ESU representatives to be at every event, it is important that we stay in touch with alumni and increase participation. This is where you enter the picture.

**Increase awareness of ESU among community and state leaders.** This particular point is critical to ESU’s overall success. While President Lane is spending considerable time on the road between Emporia and Topeka to spread our message, each of you can play a major role from your hometown. This is especially true when we need comments on particular issues to reach our Kansas legislators.

**Support ESU fundraising.** The alumni board is exploring ways to support ESU. First, we are reviewing the recent surveys concerning a dues-based membership program, meant to enhance your experience with the association and to increase revenue. Thank you for taking the time to respond! Second, we hope you received the application for the new ESU credit card. The more we use this card the more it helps our alumni association. Third, we’re working with the Annual Fund to generate alumni support and increase the percentage of alumni who give.

**Build and foster positive student relationships and experiences.** We applaud the South Central Kansas Alumni Chapter and Mim Hiesterman for their tremendous effort in the START (Students Through Alumni Recruitment Teams) program. If you would like to work with schools in your area, please contact the alumni office. We are also focused on developing stronger relationships with current students and recent alumni. We understand that the needs of this younger group are different, and we want to serve you. Help us help you – please send us your ideas.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve as your board president. I hope each of you understand that we all play a part in ensuring the success of ESU, and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to become more involved with ESU.

Myrl Cobb (BSB 1965, MS 1966)
Alumni Association president
Adventures in advancement

The dragon’s eyes follow me, but he will not talk. He is silent. He will not share his story.

The dragon kept his vigil for many years in the upstairs conference room at the Sauder Alumni Center. He sat through countless meetings without uttering a peep, which I envy. Students interviewing for the Ambassadors were sometimes unsettled when a certain advisor would say, “We’d like you to direct your next answer to the dragon.”

This is how adventures begin in the field of university advancement: the dragon was an estate gift, and digging through our paperwork has revealed more on the mysterious 40-inch creature. Before I print the mystery, I want to hear your ideas. Send me your fictional or factual accounts of the dragon at jtuel@emporia.edu and I’ll post them online, and in the summer 2008 issue we’ll separate fact from fiction.

Another adventure involves the law of unintended consequences. The cover of your last Spotlight was an illustration based on a photograph of ESU President Michael Lane. As it turns out, the blueprint treatment rendered the president into a dead ringer for Roy Mann, the director of alumni relations. Roy’s daughter told co-workers her dad was on the magazine’s cover.

Perhaps the best adventures of all are those that reveal the unique purpose of a university as a center of intellectual inquiry. In times of war, the university becomes a vehicle that speaks to our country’s conscience, as you’ll read on page 14. And you’ll read on page 6 about ESU encouraging serious consideration of racism and discrimination in America today.

If the dragon could talk, this is what he would tell you about Emporia State University.

Jesse Tuel (BSB 2001) 
Editor

A chance encounter

No matter where I travel in the world, I always meet someone who reminds me of home. This past summer I was touring Central Europe with my nephew and my son. We had been eating and drinking and hiking our way across Berlin and Vienna, and we were now in Prague. On this particular morning, a familiar logo caught my eye. When I realized a young lady was wearing an ESU T-shirt, she told me there was a whole group from ESU there!*

I explained that I was an alum, and suddenly I was surrounded. We weren’t a large disparate group of travelers any more – we all had something in common. No matter how wonderful a trip, a friendly face is always welcome. And ESU faces are always friendly.

After a few minutes of reminiscing our group broke up, but this little meeting was one of the highlights of my trip. It reminded me of the bonds we can have over many miles and a couple of generations.

Mona Ehret Brown (BSE 1975)
Mount Vernon, Mo.

*ESU’s first Leadership Study Abroad class.

Not calling him ‘doctor’

Dear editor,

I was especially interested in your brief professional biography of Stuart Cram (summer 2007 edition). I’m honoring him by not calling him “Dr.,” and the following little story explains why. While I was working on my master’s degree with Dr. Winston Cram’s guidance, I needed to speak to him one day when he was out of his office. As I walked up to his door, “Stu” was in the yard, and I told him I was looking for Dr. Cram. In his response, he said that his dad was “a Dr. but not the kind that does anybody any good.” I trust that by now he realizes how much good his father did do for others, aided by his “Dr.” title, and can feel that the title of “Dr.” has opened the door to greater opportunities for doing “somebody some good” on his own part. Medical doctors have their Hippocratic oath. Emporia State certainly fosters, from the Cram legacy, among many others, an equivalent commitment to “do somebody some good” on the part of the holder of a doctor’s degree in any field.

Frances Louise Taylor (MS 1960)
Lincoln, Neb.

Read more of Mona Brown’s letter online, and see your own letters on the E-Wire! Send them to jtuel@emporia.edu or to Spotlight, 1500 Highland St., Emporia KS 66801-5018. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.
**Calendar of events**

**University Events**

**Spring classes begin**  
Jan. 16

**Spring General Assembly**  
Jan. 15, 1 p.m.  
Albert Taylor Hall, Plumb Hall

**Martin Luther King Banquet**  
Jan 21, Memorial Union

**Spring Career Fair**  
Feb. 5, Memorial Union

**Sonia Kovalevsky Day**  
Feb. 14, Memorial Union

**Founders’ Day events**  
Feb. 15, Memorial Union Ballroom

**Black History Month speaker**  
Feb. 21, Memorial Union Ballroom

**Spring Education Career Fair**  
March 5, Memorial Union

**Spring Break**  
March 17 – 21

**Senior Week**  
April 7 - 11

**Newberg Outstanding Senior & Recent Graduate Banquet**  
April 7, Memorial Union Ballroom

**Greek Week banquet**  
April 17, Memorial Union

**3rd annual John Blaufuss Scholarship Run/Walk**  
April 19, ESU campus

**International Day**  
April 23, Memorial Union

**Emporia Super Customs Car Show**  
April 27, Recreation Center parking lot

**Spring Commencement**  
May 17

**Especially for Alumni and Friends**

**Kansas City Area alumni reception**  
Jan 24, 810 Zone, Leawood

**White Glove Affair**  
March 1, Ballroom, Memorial Union

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**Rally around the round ball**  
The annual MIAA basketball tournament has a new twist and a new venue this year. A rally for all schools will be held in the “Live! Block,” on the afternoon of Friday, March 7, near the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. The glass-like structure will have multiple levels of alumni events, BBQ and more, as the league’s fans gather to cheer their teams to victory. For more information, contact the ESU alumni office at (620) 341-5440.

**Phoenix Area alumni reception**  
March 25, Phoenix

**Emporia Connection Reunion**  
April 5 – 6, Memorial Union

**School of Nursing Reunion**  
April 12, Memorial Union

**On Stage**

**Brass Day & Concert**  
Jan. 25, Albert Taylor Hall

**Woodwind Day & Concert**  
Feb. 8, Albert Taylor Hall

**Jazz Ensemble Concert**  
Feb. 21, Albert Taylor Hall

**Martin Cuellar & Friends Piano Concert**  
Feb. 24, Heath Recital Hall

**Wind Ensemble Concert**  
Feb. 26, Albert Taylor Hall

**“The Woman in Black” theatre production**  
Feb. 27 – March 1, Bruder Theater

**“Nickel and Dimed” Theatre Performance**  
March 5 – 9, Frederickson Theatre

**Orchestra Concert**  
March 6, Albert Taylor Hall

**Omaha Air Force Band**  
March 9, Albert Taylor Hall

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**Davis & Dow - Great Jazz Divas**  
March 28, Albert Taylor Hall

**Brass Choir Concert**  
April 1, Albert Taylor Hall

**Percussion Concert**  
April 3, Albert Taylor Hall

**Flute Choir Concert**  
April 5, Heath Recital Hall

**Opera & Orchestra Concert**  
April 18, 19, Albert Taylor Hall

**Amphion Concert**  
April 29, Heath Recital Hall

**“Shakespeare in Hollywood” theatre production**  
April 30 – May 3, Bruder Theatre

**A Cappella/Community Choirs Concert**  
May 4, Albert Taylor Hall

**Orchestra Concert**  
May 9, Albert Taylor Hall

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**Homecoming 2008**

Mark your calendars for Oct. 25, and we’ll see you at Homecoming 2008!

**Get your Hornet News!**

To get your Hornet info more often, sign up for the Hornet News Update, a biweekly e-mail newsletter from your Alumni Association. It’s simple — just go to www.emporia.edu/saf/hnu_archive.htm to read past newsletters and sign up!

**Correction**

In a story titled “Extra innings for the mini-Hornets” on page 22 of the summer 2007 edition, we misspelled the last name of Michael Gonzales, an ESU alumnus and coach of the youth team. We regret the error.

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**For more events:**

University Advancement News & Events – www.emporia.edu/saf/news

University Events – www.emporia.edu (click on Calendar of Events)

Athletics – www.emporia.edu/athletics
Three generations of the Edwards family accepted the Hornet Heritage Award at Family Day in September. The annual award is presented to a multigenerational family of ESU alumni. Nominated by Don Edwards, the family’s ESU affiliation is anchored by Don and his four siblings, Merle Joe Edwards, Helen (Edwards) Stubby, Pat (Edwards) Bryant and the late Lloyd Edwards. Go online to www.emporia.edu/spotlight to see the family tree.

An Eppink story

Charles Wilson (BSB 1964) certainly has an artistic connection to ESU. His mother took art classes from former professor Norman Eppink, and later bought a 40-acre farm from Norman and Helen Eppink. When Wilson’s mother and stepfather moved in, they found a sign (at right) indicating that the Eppinks let the biology department use their land for case studies. Now the sign is in Wilson’s home in Cedaredge, Colo., along with two works of art – a watercolor painting of the River Walk in San Antonio, by Helen Eppink (right); and an abstract oil painting of a tree by Norman Eppink. Go online to read Wilson’s recollections of growing up on the ESU campus.
KSN ladies of 1910

Florence Wilson (BSE 1964), Garden City, knows that her mother, Vella Maude (Yeiter) Wadsack (middle), finished at the Kansas State Normal School (now ESU) in 1910. She has heard that her mother was an accomplished musician – an organist, pianist and vocal soloist – but she doesn’t know much more; Vella died shortly after Florence was born. Florence, a 1988 Distinguished Alumna of ESU, sent in a 1910 picture taken in Emporia of her mother with two other students – Mary (Trull) Schreiber (left), who along with Vella was from Garden City, and Leslie Huffman (right).
Minnijean Brown Trickey, a precocious 16-year-old, danced into her house and told her mother, “Oh, I’m going to Central this year.” Then it took her two days to pick out the dress she would wear on her first day of school.

Fairly typical high school reaction, but this was no typical high school. On Sept. 25, 1957, the teenager was one of nine African-American students to begin classes at the segregated, all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Ark. Flanked by federal troops for protection from hostile mobs, the students entered the school against the Arkansas governor’s will, and the horrible spectacle of racist ideology was broadcast on televisions around the world. The public clash of state and federal powers was played out in the Central High School hallways, where each member of “Little Rock Nine” was escorted and guarded by a soldier.

Fifty years later, Brown Trickey appeared at Emporia State University to present the Bonner and Bonner Diversity Series Lecture on Sept. 12, days before heading back to her home in Little Rock to prepare for the nationally commemorated 50th anniversary.

“A steel rod came up through my back when I saw how stupid people were willing to be,” she said during a press conference at ESU. “I don’t think that we ever ceased to be horrified by what was happening, [but] it’s a beautiful story. We have all these ways we can be as people. We can be brave and courageous, we can be silent witnesses, we can be teenage terrorists incited by grown-ups.”

Brown Trickey still has the indomitable spirit and engaging smile that carried her through those turbulent times. As a teacher’s aide in Canada, she turned around a group of behaviorally challenged students by paying attention to them as people, but fellow teachers in their prejudice could not accept the students’ success. One might assume that experiences of Little Rock would leave someone cynical, but not Brown Trickey: her reaction to the teachers is telling. “It was hurtful to me,” she said. “I didn’t want to know that about the world.”

Her activist attitude led her into a variety of pursuits, from protesting the Vietnam War and moving to Canada, to becoming an advocate for the environment and accessibility issues. She was, in a way, defining herself as a person outside of the Little Rock Nine. In the last five years or so, she has fully embraced the role of speaking publicly about her experiences in Little Rock, and finds that there is much to do. She finds “a kind of satisfaction” in educating people about what happened there, and in spreading the message of non-violence.

“It’s the American amnesia about reality in our society,” Brown Trickey said of the Little Rock Nine. “It was pretty much not talked about until the 40th anniversary. There’s this great desire (in me) to help, to explain. There is an explanation for how we are. People say we are naturally violent, naturally racist. No, we aren’t.”

In the run-up to the 50th anniversary, Brown Trickey was glad to get away from Little Rock and visit Emporia. She was fielding about six media interview requests per day in September, and took another call as she rode from the Kansas City airport to Emporia. The hype was building, with the likes of Bill Clinton coming to Little Rock. Brown Trickey was ready to talk, and it is a treat to hear her own words.

Go online to read a number of quotes from the civil rights leader, and see our multimedia package for the Bonner event, including a poem written by a student for the event.
Dr. John O. Schwenn will be trading Emporia State University’s black and gold colors for the silver and blue of a Georgia institution of higher education. Schwenn, vice president for academic affairs at ESU since 1997, will become the president of Dalton State College, Dalton, Ga., this spring.

“I have had outstanding professional opportunities at ESU,” said Schwenn, who began teaching at ESU in 1989. “Our faculty, staff, and students have special relationships and I will miss that. Along with the wonderful colleagues, peers and friends from whom I have learned much, I am grateful to former president Dr. Kay Schallenkamp, who gave me the opportunity to advance my career, and to Dr. Michael Lane, whose global perspective on higher education has been instrumental in my decision to lead an institution of higher education.”

Schwenn will take a wealth of experience to Dalton State College, an institution of approximately 4,400 students in northwest Georgia. He came to ESU as an associate professor and associate chair of the division of psychology and special education in the Teachers College. He rose to department chair, then to associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies and research, and then to his current position. In 2006, he served as ESU’s interim president for five months, nimbly managing the transition in university leadership.

“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 President Michael Lane. “I personally appreciate his exceptional leadership as interim president and thank him for his continued guidance and support through the transition period. We are all very pleased for Dr. Schwenn and his family.”

Prior to his arrival at Emporia State, Schwenn taught at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss., from 1976 to 1989. His Ph.D. and master’s of science degrees, both in rehabilitation and special education, are from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His bachelor’s degree in psychology is from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, an institution that presented him with its Maurice O. Graff Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005.

Leading by the book

Dr. Gwen Alexander, the new dean of the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM), is relishing her role in a program with such rich history.

Founded in 1902, the school is the oldest school of library and information studies in the western half of the United States. Alexander, a fifth-generation Kansan whose mother attended KSTC in 1938, became the dean in June. “I’m extremely enthusiastic about the students here, the faculty here,” Alexander said. “Everyone’s been so supportive.”

Alexander came to ESU from Wichita State University, where as the associate dean of university libraries she employed a number of SLIM graduates and supported the school by giving her employees the time to attend SLIM classes. In the summer of 2006, she taught a SLIM course, and she was impressed enough to apply for the school’s top post.

“I love the continuity through all these years,” Alexander said. “It’s got such a wonderful history because it’s been established for over 100 years. We’ve got so many graduates in leadership positions in the profession.”

When she paused in November for an interview, Alexander was planning for an exciting new program made possible by the largest single gift in ESU history, from the late Martha Kruse Furbur. It’s an international service learning program, in which SLIM can lend its expertise to libraries in developing countries. One potential project is in children’s programming at a library in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico, meant to encourage lifelong information literacy.

“I think this is something that will put our program on the map,” Alexander said. “It’s something that no one else is doing.”

Alexander was born in Topeka and attended grade school in Bermuda, due to her father’s Air Force affiliation. She earned both a Ph.D. and master of arts in information resources and library science from the University of Arizona, where she minored in higher education. She received a bachelor of arts in business administration from Regis University in Denver.
Behind an amazing gift from the late Martha Kruse Furbur is a simple story of saving and frugal living, leading to the largest single gift in the history of Emporia State University. Furbur left $1.875 million to ESU to support student scholarships in the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM), honoring her alma mater and providing for students in perpetuity.

Furbur, who came to Kansas State Teachers College for post-graduate work, cataloged 6,000 volumes in the William Allen White library before finishing her library certificate from SLIM in 1938. She spent her career working in public libraries, ending at the Orange County Public Library in Santa Ana, Calif. She passed away in May 2006 at the age of 92.

The gift’s benefits will span the globe, said Dr. Gwen Alexander, dean of SLIM, at a September press conference. “I’m sure she [Furbur] would be pleased to know that her funds are going to go to support scholarships for SLIM students,” Alexander said. “One of our exciting new programs is service learning opportunities in foreign countries, and we’re going to dedicate some of this money every year to funding students to be able to enroll in those courses.”

The school offers ESU’s only doctoral program, along with master’s and bachelor’s programs. The gift will benefit all levels.

ESU President Michael Lane chimed in on the gift’s international flavor. “The program that Dr. Alexander was talking about with international opportunities not only helps our students, but they often go to countries where developing the library system is a critical focus for their economies and their governments, so we’re actually having a dual benefit out of those programs,” he said. “The really wonderful thing about this gift, there are not a large number of library science programs in this country but the ones that are out there are really good, including ours, and this is going to give us an opportunity to really compete for some of the very, very best students in this country in the area of library science.”

Furbur saved and invested, living frugally for her own needs while showing her generosity to numerous organizations, said Byron Groves, Furbur’s estate attorney. She was born in Minnesota in 1914, and graduated from high school in Kansas City in 1933. She earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis before coming to Emporia for her post-graduate work. Her library career included stops at the Emporia library, the Mercy Hospital Medical Library, the Des Moines Public Library, Drake University, Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery, and from 1962 to her retirement in 1973, the Orange County Public Library in California. Her husband, WWII veteran Roger Anson Furbur, died in 1972, and she had no close relatives.

The size of the gift came as a surprise to ESU officials, and even to Groves. She was recognized during the school’s centennial celebration in 2002, and ESU representatives did visit her at her home in California before she passed. Still, little was known about how strongly Furbur felt connected to ESU. Somewhere along the way – perhaps it was her favorite SLIM instructor, Elsie (Howard) Pine – her continued relationship with the people of Emporia State University led her to make the largest gift the university has ever seen.

“You just never know,” Groves said. “You plant these seeds, and you never know where they are going to grow. I think she just did it because she knew [ESU] really made a big difference in her life.”

Go online to see video from the Furbur press conference.

Give online

Online giving is now available! Go to www.emporia.edu/give, click on “Make a Gift,” and just follow the directions to support the area of your choice. If you have questions or comments, contact Carol Cooper at (620) 341-6463 or ccooper@emporia.edu.

What a week!

What a week the university had in late September, when the estate gift from Martha Kruse Furbur was announced. That same week, the Jones Foundation announced a program to provide $1,000 scholarships to high school graduates from Coffey, Lyon and Osage counties who attend Emporia State University or Flint Hills Technical College. The Walter S. and Evan C. Jones Foundation expects to reach 350 to 450 students every year with the generous scholarships. ESU President Michael R. Lane noted that approximately 43 percent of ESU’s freshman class comes from the Coffey-Lyon-Osage County region.
**A black and gold opportunity**

**A conversation with President Michael R. Lane**

**Q:** What is the Black and Gold Society?

**A:** The society is a membership organization designed to engage those who care deeply about ESU. It offers a unique level of interaction with the ESU leadership as we shape major initiatives on campus and support students. Membership comes through a $1,500 annual gift designated specifically to the society.

**Q:** Why has it been established?

**A:** We launched the society this fall as a more formal way to recognize the time, talents and treasures that our friends commit to ESU. A university’s leadership generally develops an informal network of close friends from the area, region and nation who play an integral role in the university’s success, and ESU is no different. I’ve been fortunate enough to meet many of ESU’s most committed friends, and I know we’re excited about this new opportunity.

**Q:** You’ve seen this model at other institutions?

**A:** That’s right. Our foundation staff carefully studied this idea by looking at other institutions, and developed a program that matches ESU’s needs. I’ve seen it work elsewhere, and I’ve talked with colleagues across the country, where similar programs continue to grow and provide critical resources for university decision-makers.

**Q:** Half of the funds will benefit the Black and Gold Scholars program. What does the program offer, and why is it important?

**A:** The Black and Gold Scholars program is designed to have a scholarship focus that recognizes exemplary student scholars. It’s a concept similar to presidential scholars programs at other institutions. This new program provides a unique opportunity for Black and Gold members to discuss scholarship criteria with the president. It’s exciting that members can help shape this program!

**Q:** Half of the giving will support special projects at ESU. What are some initial ideas?

**A:** Before getting too specific, it’s important to realize that so much of a university’s revenue is restricted to specific purposes. The society gives us financial flexibility to respond quickly to emerging opportunities and address critical needs. This flexibility is a benchmark of a great university. I’d compare it to a corporation setting aside money for research and development. Now, as for specific projects, I will be describing the university’s needs to society members, and I expect ideas to emerge from the group that will create funding focuses that will differ year by year.

**Q:** What are the society’s benefits for members?

**A:** Being in on the ground level of important programs, innovative research and groundbreaking initiatives is definitely a benefit. Members will also have a powerful impact on the lives of students, through special projects and through the scholars program. Beyond that, members will receive exclusive updates on ESU accomplishments and initiatives, invitations and special seating for selected events, recognition in the Honor Roll of Donors, and an invitation to a Black and Gold Society annual event.

**Q:** What are your hopes for this society?

**A:** We expect the group to become a powerful network of advocates for ESU. We know there’s a lot of passion out there, and the society can be a conduit for this passion. In five or ten years, we hope for 150 members or more. Our timing is good, as ESU approaches its sesquicentennial in 2013, to begin charting the future of ESU, and the society’s members will be providing valuable advice and counsel.

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*To learn more about the Black and Gold Society, contact the ESU Foundation at (620) 341-6488 or sacfound@emporia.edu.* To learn more about the Black and Gold Society, contact the ESU Foundation at (620) 341-6488 or sacfound@emporia.edu, or go online at www.emporia.edu/spotlight.
A prestigious group of professors is crafting its own contribution to ESU’s students as they learn from each other.

The current and former professors, honored with the Roe R. Cross Distinguished Professor Award, the highest faculty honor, are also looking forward to celebrating the award’s 30th year. Many recipients are still teaching at ESU, and an infusion of new energy has the group plotting to endow a scholarship for top-tier students and leave their legacy on campus.

Or rather, more of a legacy than they’ve already established in the young minds who enter their classrooms. Like many on campus, Roe Cross professors still get excited about new students arriving in the fall who are eager to learn. “There’s always a little bit of nervousness, a little bit of uncertainty. But I think that’s healthy,” said Dr. Betsy Yanik, a professor of mathematics and the 2007 Roe Cross recipient. “It makes you more engaged if you have those butterflies in your stomach. If you didn’t have that, maybe it’s become too ordinary. That’s one of the interesting things about this career — there are so many fresh beginnings.”

The award is named after the late Roe R. Cross, a banker and city official from Council Grove who left part of his estate to support ESU. Since 1979, the award has been given annually to a professor who exhibits a broad interest in excellent education, through teaching, professional activities, fostering an intellectual atmosphere, service to ESU outside the classroom, and mentoring students.

Now they’re finding new ways to enrich students outside of the classroom. At the presidential inauguration in March, the professors held a panel discussion on contemporary issues in higher education. The professors are also raising money to endow the Roe R. Cross Distinguished Professors Scholarship, hoping to appeal to current and former ESU professors — and particularly former students of the Roe Cross professors — to push the fund upward. Donations may be sent to the ESU Foundation, 1500 Highland St., Emporia, KS 66801, or give online at www.emporia.edu/give.

In the spirit of lifelong learning, the professors find themselves enriched from contact with the cross-disciplinary group. “It’s helped me gain greater understanding into the diversity and perspectives, seeing different backgrounds and different experiences,” said Dr. Don Miller, a business professor and 2005 Roe Cross honoree.

Dr. Yanik said the cross-disciplinary exposure is a result of ESU’s “ideal” size. It’s not too big — there aren’t 50 professors in the math department — but it’s big enough to offer a rich variety of expertise in its faculty. “You make connections with people outside your discipline, and you see the same thing in the Roe Cross professors. It takes place across campus,” Yanik said. “I really enjoy the atmosphere, when I can know an artist, I can know a historian, I can know an economist. It does make for some very interesting conversation.”

If ESU’s professors are so stimulated — if they have those butterflies in their stomach at the beginning of a new semester — it certainly bodes well for the education they deliver to young minds.

The Roe R. Cross professors

2007 Elizabeth Yanik, Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Economics
2006 Herbert Achleitner, School of Library and Information Management
2005 Donald S. Miller, Department of Business Administration & Education
2004 Larry Schwarm, Department of Art
2003 Ronald T. McCoy, Department of Social Sciences
2002 Harvey C. Foyle, Department of Instructional Design and Technology
2001 Marie Miller, Department of Music
2000 William Clamurro, Department of Foreign Languages
1999 Kenneth Weaver, Department of Psychology & Special Education
1998 Joella Mehrhof, Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation
1997 Ronald Q. Frederickson, Department of Communication & Theatre Arts
1996 Martha Hale, School of Library & Information Management
1995 Gaylen J. Neufeld, Department of Biological Sciences
1994 James Aber, Department of Physical Science
1993 Roger C. Greer, School of Library & Information Management
1992 Teresa A. Mehring, Department of Psychology & Special Education
1991 Philip L. Kelly, Department of Social Sciences
1990 Cooper B. Holmes, Department of Psychology & Special Education
1989 Dan R. Kirchefer, Department of Art
1988 Carl W. Prophet, Department of Biological Sciences
1987 Thomas D. Isern, Department of Social Sciences
1986 Elaine V. Edwards, Department of Music
1985 Melvin G. Storm, Department of English
1984 Stephen F. Davis, Department of Psychology & Special Education
1983 James F. Hoy, Department of English
1982 Helen McElree, Department of Biological Sciences
1981 DeWayne A. Backhus, Department of Physical Sciences
1980 Loren E. Pennington, Department of Social Sciences
1979 William R. Elkins, Department of English
GREENSBURG – Take your image of a small Kansas town and tear it down, piece by piece, until nothing is left, and you will have Greensburg, Kan.

The first thing a person notices driving into Greensburg in November, six months after a 1.7-mile wide F5 tornado went through the middle of the 2-mile wide town and obliterated 95 percent of it, is the trees. Residents have nicknames for these trees: Chia-Pet trees. Dr. Suess trees.

Shorn off at the tops, the mangled trees during the summer sprouted a few feet of new growth on every gnarled limb. The trees are reclaiming life, and so are the residents of Greensburg. About 20 ESU alumni lived in Greensburg before the May 4 tornado. Although fewer remain after the exodus, they are focused on recovery.

It is not an easy process. Outsiders see the initial loss on the national news, but they don’t see the drawn-out grieving process as each resident copes with a sense of loss – loss of neighbors, of community, of the psychic anchor that was the four walls of home. They are prone to “crying attacks,” as one puts it. In fits and starts, the community is moving forward.

“The grieving process is something that they’re going to be struggling with over time,” said Dr. Wes Jones (MS 1976), who as clinical director at the Mental Health Center of East Central Kansas led the first mental health disaster response team into Greensburg, arriving two days after the tornado. “It’s a loss of community. The city as it was will never be the same. You might have lost a neighbor or friend – not because they’re dead but because they’re never going to come back.”

Gone, too, is the home as an anchor that grounds the individual. “When people start losing their anchors, along with the loss, it’s a kind of disorientation that’s on top of the general loss,” said Dr. Jon Sward, an assistant professor of mental health counseling at ESU.

Still, what’s left of the community is coming together. About 1,500 resided in Greensburg before the tornado, and now around 500 live in FEMA trailers on the south end of town while others live in town. As one alum said, “The doom-and-gloom people have already left.” Those who have stayed are linked by a positive attitude, for what they have – their health, their gratitude for overwhelming support.
“I’ve been amazed really at the people of Greensburg,” said Elizabeth Pew (BSB 1946) who lost the home she built in 1962 and now lives in “FEMAville.” “I’ve heard very little complaining. Too many times you’ll hear, ‘Why me, why me?’ But I haven’t heard that.”

Money has poured into a Greensburg rebuilding fund. Rotarians from around the world have donated more than $200,000 to the Greensburg Rotary Club. Residents of Udall, Kan., whose town suffered a similarly devastating tornado in 1955, came to town and planted trees and flowers. Organizations such as the Salvation Army were so reliable for meals that residents joked that they’d rebuild homes without kitchens.

The question of rebuilding, for now, is for some a matter of waiting. Chris (BSN 2005) and her husband Peter Blanton (BSE 2004) returned on Monday morning, after the Friday night tornado, to find their home mostly standing, minus a roof. Chris remembers the lumberyard smell of the town. “That’s something I’ll never forget – it smelled like freshly cut lumber,” she said.

The Blantons and others might wait to smell more fresh construction. “We’re renting a house here in Pratt until we figure out what we’re going to do,” Chris said. “There’s a lot of optimism about rebuilding, but… what if it doesn’t happen? It’s either we build a $200,000 house and we have to live there for the rest of our lives and Greensburg doesn’t come back, or we stay here in Pratt and wait it out and see what happens. There’s a lot of talk [of businesses rebuilding], but until something actually happens….”

Grieving is a “highly individualistic” process, Sward said, “but the unifying factor is everyone is experiencing some kind of loss. Some are going to be more connected to the nostalgia – things they can’t replace, looking backward, and some are looking forward, wondering how they’re going to replace this house.”

Chris (BSE 1975) and Sheryl (BSE 1975) Christenson are refurbishing their salvageable home, and took a break from trim work in early November to join a group of ESU alumni at a city park with newly installed playground equipment. They’re excited to see the new town grow. “There’s going to be a neighborhood there in a year,” Sheryl said of their home. “(The town) just looks so much better than it did.”

Max and Joleen Seacat, 1957 graduates, returned to ESU in October for their 50-year reunion, and were presented with a 1957 yearbook – their yearbooks were destroyed in the tornado. Now living in FEMAville, the Seacats expect to rebuild. They’re reminded at least every 30 days, when a FEMA representative checks in to ensure residents are making plans to relocate. They have 18 months from the day of the storm to live in the trailers.

Scott (BSB 1984) and Susan Reinecke were both self-employed – Scott ran a body shop and Susan an antique store – and they found their livelihood running dry when the population base disappeared. A common problem for Greensburg residents was finding a place to live. In neighboring communities, rentals filled quickly and homes on the market grew pricier. The Reineckes managed to find an apartment in Haviland, east of Greensburg. “I’ve never been so excited about moving into an apartment since I moved out of the dorms in college,” Scott said. Things are looking up now, but it wasn’t easy in the first few months.

Recovery for Greensburg residents may hinge on “how long they try to hang on to their perceptions of the old town, or whether they shift [to saying], ‘It’s a town of the same name, but we’re not reclaiming the old town. We’re building a new town,’” Sward said. “It’s akin to a military family that gets uprooted and suddenly has to move to a new location – it’s smoother if everyone agrees that this is a new place.”

In that case, much progress has been made, but much work remains. At one intersection, best described as the “four corners of the apocalypse” by the Spotlight photographer, there are four variations of post-tornado activity. On one corner, a condemned home awaits demolition. At the second corner, a concrete slab stands exposed. At the third, a basement-sized hole in the ground grows purple flowers along the edges and in the basin. On the fourth corner, a newly built house stands alone.

The trees on all four corners sprout new growth, bearing the scars of 200-mph winds. This town will bear the physical and psychic scars of the tornado for decades to come, but those who remain – in their words and in the sounds of construction heard around town – signal a sense of hope. As the gathering of ESU alumni parted ways in November, Max Seacat collected hugs from the neighbors he’s known for decades.

“I’ve been hugged more since May 4 than I have the first 70 years!” Max said.

If you would like to support the city of Greensburg in its recovery, checks payable to the “Greensburg Rebuilding Fund” may be sent to the Greensburg State Bank, P.O. Box 787, Greensburg, KS 67054. The fund is controlled by city officials.

Photographer Larry Schwarm, an ESU professor who grew up in Greensburg, took photos the day after the tornado. See them online.
During the Vietnam era, a sentiment of protest arose at Kansas State Teachers College (left, photo courtesy of the Sunflower yearbook). A generation earlier, the university erected trailers in “Vet City” (below) on the west side of the football stadium to house married WWII veterans and their families. In December 1946, a one-bed unit rented for $26, two beds for $30.50, and three beds for $35. The trailers were equipped with an icebox, closet, a small bathroom, and Army beds (courtesy of the ESU Archives).
In times of war, the stateside dialogue is often centered in a university setting. As places designed to provoke intellectual inquiry, universities naturally assume a role of fostering this dialogue, whether it’s for or against the war. Emporia State University, too, has played its part, adding to the rich history of Emporia as the founding location of Veteran’s Day. Considering the present, there may not be a more timely topic.

Viewed as a whole, the perceptions of America at war have undergone various iterations. Take, for instance, the attitude at Kansas State Normal School in 1898 during the Spanish-American War – the “necessity for imperialism” was commonly accepted, said Dr. Chris Lovett, a professor of history at ESU. “It was the way to go, the thing to do,” Lovett said. In the two World Wars, the United States rose to challenge totalitarianism and won. By the time of the Vietnam War, disenchantment led to a massive backlash. Today, the war-time emotions of old are resurfacing, channeled through Iraq and Afghanistan.

Few students of KSTC in the post-WWII era will forget Vet City. A history pulled together by the ESU Archives tells the story: By January 1946, 288 veterans were enrolled on the GI Bill, including three women, according to an article in the *Bulletin*. The university, finding itself with a sizeable population of married students who needed family housing, secured 40 two-family trailers for temporary housing, placing them west of the football field. Later, ranch-style apartments were built west of Morse Hall.

The trailers were a bit on the primitive side. The late Dr. George Goebel (BSE 1947, MS 1949) wrote to the Alumni Association in 1994, in response to a 1993 *Spotlight* article on Vet City. He and his wife Maudene (Messmer) Goebel (BSE 1943) lived there from January 1946 to August 1947. “We were among the first returning couples who moved into the trailers with no sidewalks, no steps to enter, and no bathrooms,” Dr. Goebel wrote. “Our trailer had been used as a paint shack – so you can imagine the rather primitive conditions. Lighting the stoves in the trailers was quite an ordeal. One had to attach a match to a wire, try to maintain a flame as you reached for the fuel some two feet at the bottom of the stove. Capricious winds exhausted one’s patience in lighting the stove.”

A *Bulletin* article from 1955 reported that there were 35 children, none above 7 years old, among the 30 families in Vet City. That summer, the play areas were enclosed with wire fencing. “Mother, who previously spent most of her time chasing the little ones, now spends just half of her time at this chore,” reads the article. But it wasn’t all fun and games. Many wives worked or attended school, as a 1953 *Bulletin* article notes: “Many of the wives in Vet City could easily qualify for a P.T. (Putting Father Through) degree by reason of three or four years of constant struggle.”

Fast forward to the Vietnam War, when divisions arose. Lovett, the history professor, graduated from the College of Emporia in 1970 and entered graduate school at KSTC; he recalls protests on both campuses. “People were engaged,” Lovett said. “It was very difficult for anyone not to be engaged because there was a draft. In Vietnam, you had to take a stand. You couldn’t be neutral.”

As the Vietnam War was scaled back, the university had an influx of veterans, just like after WWII. Marilyn Buchele has tracked student-veteran statistics for ESU’s Office of Student Affairs for more than 30 years; her office is the on-campus agency that serves as a conduit for GI Bill benefits. In the fall of 1970, 575 veterans were students. By March 1973, there were 624. In recent times, the numbers are far less. Buchele recalls just five or six students who were called to active duty in the Persian Gulf War, and in the spring of 2007, 78 ESU students were receiving GI Bill benefits.
Apathy? Not exactly

As unpopular as the Iraq War appears to be in American perceptions today, there doesn’t seem to be an undercurrent of dissent that would lead to another Kent State. While labeling the young as apathetic doesn’t exactly fit, the declining percentage of servicemen may offer at least a partial explanation.

“What makes it so different today is there’s no draft,” said Lovett, who was drafted while in graduate school at KSTC, served in Vietnam, and retired from the National Guard in 2005 as a warrant officer. “They’re not apathetic. They don’t have a dog in the fight. There’s no draft.

“The burden of Iraq is falling to fewer and fewer people,” Lovett said. “(A draft) would create a citizen army. I think it’s the only way an American public will be made aware of (the consequences of) an assertive foreign policy. I know our students would be concerned if they had to worry about their draft numbers.”

Dr. Gregory Schneider, an associate professor of history, also sees the draft as the animist behind the anti-war movement on campuses in the 1960s. It grew out of an understanding of protesting from the civil rights struggle, and came to “ignite a predisposed culture of protest on campus,” Schneider said, and “it spread outside of that into the nation as a whole.” The debate became polarized in the Vietnam era, and it remains that way today. Vietnam shattered the post-WWII consensus in America that the nation should tend to the world’s ills. “We haven’t put that together again, if we ever will,” Schneider said.

Polarizing debates certainly make such a consensus difficult to achieve, particularly when the labels continue to change. Schneider writes on the history of conservatism, and notes the Bush administration’s divergence from traditional conservatism in its push to spread democracy. Problems arise when governments try to “change people against their will,” Schneider said. Which also calls into question the “fixing” of apathy. “That’s a humanitarian goal, to try to change people. Conservatives tend to be dismissive toward changing people against their will, against their nature.”

The dialogue may not be as loud today, but it is there. A draft today would cause “outrage,” said Rachel Reeves, a senior from Olathe and president of the ESU Young Democrats. However, she adds, “You hope people would be more active but you hope it doesn’t take something like a draft to make it happen. We need to be proactive rather than reactive.” As for the label of apathy, Reeves disagrees. “That’s a stereotype our generation has been given,” she said. “What are we called? ‘Generation Quiet.’ I don’t think we should be written off as the quiet generation. I think a lot of us do want to be involved in the policy and changes that are going on.”

In the fall of 2004, the “Iraq in Memory” art exhibit came to ESU. Strips of cloth held pictures and short biographies of each fallen American soldier to date. The display was developed by Chicago artist Jean Perkins (at lower right), who said the installation is a response to the distance she feels from the war.
Reeves and others organized an anti-war protest in the fall. Reeves said it was a chance for students to exercise First Amendment rights, whether they agree with the war or not. “In the end, it is our generation that is out there dying, and it is our generation that is going to have to deal with it if something isn’t done now,” she said. Reeves said she opposed the war because it places soldiers in “unnecessary danger,” because of the “terrible intelligence that led us into the war,” the poor execution of the war, and more. “You see polls that say 60 percent of Americans oppose the war, but there’s not enough push there to change,” Reeves said. “There’s not enough push on our political leaders.”

One study suggests young people aren’t sure how to affect societal change. A study of college student political engagement, as reported by the Chronicle of Higher Education, found today’s students turned off by polarized national debates, but eager to engage on the local level. “Students were passionately concerned about the genocide taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan or the war in Iraq, but they didn’t know what steps they could take to change what is happening,” the study says. “Instead, they considered volunteering in their community as more important.” The study called for “higher education to pay attention to its role in providing opportunities for students to become more civically engaged.”

Lovett said he and other faculty members held “teach-ins” during the run-up to the Iraq War, drawing together more than 100 people to debate the issues. At ESU, he says, “everyone talks about the war. The academic community talks about it. The activist students talk about it. It’s the students on the borderline that we have to be concerned about, the students who want to punch their tickets for a high-paying job” without stopping to consider other aspects of education such as social awareness and civic engagement, Lovett said.

“In the end, it is our generation that is out there dying, and it is our generation that is going to have to deal with it if something isn’t done now,” said student Rachel Reeves.

One such opportunity is the American Democracy Project, a national project coordinated on campus by Rob Catlett, director of ESU’s Center for Economic Education. A project the group is working toward now is called “deliberative polling” – gauging a person’s view on a topic before and after hearing from an expert. Catlett, who started college in the Vietnam era, learned very quickly to pay attention. Students today have a similar opportunity to show initiative and pay attention. “The idea is that our democracy gets reinvented every generation,” Catlett said. “Our society evolves. Our democracy evolves. As a faculty I think we are committed to (teaching) them critical and analytical thinking skills.”

Said Catlett, “I don’t think they’re apathetic. I think they’re extraordinarily busy.” Still, Catlett quotes an old adage of Henry Ford’s: “Whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you’re right.”
A personal education

For some, awareness is borne of an intensely personal experience with war. Just ask Phil and Suzie (Kronoshek) Stadler what Iraq did to the homefront of their marriage and their perceptions.

Phil, a captain in the Air Force Reserves and a 1999 graduate of the Newman Division of Nursing, has returned home from a three-month deployment last fall in Balad, Iraq, where he was assigned to the emergency and critical care unit as a registered nurse. At the Level 1 trauma center, he saw the “worst of the worst,” treating American and Iraqi soldiers, civilians and insurgents. Suzie (BSN 2002), meanwhile, was in Olathe, caring for their two sons, ages 3 and 1.

The deployment taught the Stadlers a great deal about family and society. Suzie said they weren’t “political” people, until the deployment raised the stakes: “I was naïve before Phil went, and that educated me. It improved my relationship with my family, it improved my spiritual relationship.” And Phil came to understand why a soldier fights, learning “that my wife and children are the heart and soul for why I do what I do,” he wrote in an e-mail. “This deployment further solidified my marriage and made me realize, even more, just how supportive and loving they really are.”
Thanks to fairly consistent phone calls and e-mail – along with her degree in nursing – Suzie had a partial feel for Phil’s routine. “He would call: ‘The red alarms went off today and I was laying on the floor when I should’ve been sleeping,’” she said. Phil also brought back pictures, surprising his wife, who works as a nurse part-time. “I was completely disgusted and mortified. Not your normal level 1 trauma center.” The comment that stuck with her the most was Phil’s amazement at the American and Iraqi soldiers: “They wanted to be patched and put back together so they could get back out there.”

Suzie got by with the support of her family, friends, and faith – well, she more than got by. “The support was overwhelming, a little uncomfortable actually,” she said. Meals were provided for the first month, and Phil’s employer, Cerner Corp., provided a lawn service. Meanwhile, her frustration came out when reacting to those who disagreed with the war. She was hearing directly from Phil about the reality of what he saw versus what the media portrayed, such as the “overwhelming gratitude” of Iraqis. “It softened him and his words were, ‘We should be nowhere else but there,’” Suzie said.

“Everyone’s entitled to free speech – I wouldn’t jump on my high horse – [but] I felt isolated and defensive... when people would start to bash the war. ‘Wait a second, my husband’s over there and he believes in this.’”

Henry, the Stadlers’ 3-year-old boy, surprised them before Phil left, when he saw his dad in uniform and promptly saluted. Suzie was grateful for the deployment and its reminder about civic engagement, particularly as a mother, and with a presidential election right around the corner. Fifteen or 20 years from now, her two boys as college students may well experience the next generation’s surge of national dialogue about war – for universities have been and always will be vehicles for the freedom of inquiry.

-Jesse Tuel
- Photos by J.R. Garvey

Special thanks to the ESU Archives.

Go online to read about the war from Phil Stadler’s perspective, see a “Postcard from Iraq” from Sgt. Nowicki, and see posters on Vet City from the ESU Archives, complete with photos and quotes.

Reaching Out

As the university reaches out to veterans, alumni are also assisting. Dr. David Corbett (BA 1973) and his wife, Karen, served in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps, respectively, and established the Corbett Family Military Veterans Scholarship to recognize the unique needs and contributions of student-veterans. “We’re both veterans ourselves, and we know that the veterans returning from war today have a big challenge ahead of them,” said Karen, noting that educational benefits for veterans aren’t what they once were. “And frankly, they deserve it – they’ve done so much for their country.”
Herb Kuhn  
(BSB 1979) is the acting administrator for the Centers for Medicine and Medicaid Services at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

What is your favorite student memory?  
“It was a cultural feel. It was a sense of family and the sense of belonging that you had in a place like this. Lots of good friends, a collegial atmosphere.”

What has been the most unexpected part of your career?  
“I think the unexpected part of it is it wasn’t planned. I got my degree in accounting and planned to move in that direction, but I moved in an entirely different direction. I found that the education and the preparation for moving beyond this university was excellent. A degree from this university stands up very well.”

Is there anything you wish you would’ve done as a student?  
“Other than just knowing what it takes to apply yourself fully to your work in the outside world... and to take advantage of service opportunities. Those things, I think, serve people well when they leave this place.”

Donna L. (Choice) Clopton  
(BSE 1961) recently retired from Gene Howe Elementary School in Canyon, Texas, where she served as principal for 22 years. In her career, she taught all levels, from preschool to collegiate.

What is your favorite student memory?  
“One of my favorite memories is working on the newspaper. I loved being in the heat of all the excitement of everything going on, being able to write stories and see them in print. I loved that. And I loved to walk down to the lake and visit with friends.”

What has been the most unexpected part of your career?  
“Well, this (award) is certainly unexpected! This is pretty amazing. One thing that was unexpected was that I enjoyed [teaching] all levels. I discovered all students are the same. They all want to be liked by the professor. They all want to be successful. They all want to feel capable. They all want to be appreciated.”

Is there anything you wish you would’ve done as a student?  
“I can’t think of anything. I pretty much enjoyed life as it came. I was pretty active and involved.”

Dr. Karen Kelly
(BS 1978), an internationally known lung cancer expert, became the deputy director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center in 2006.

What is your favorite student memory?
“Being someone interested in science, there were always challenges to that. In anatomy class we were dissecting a cat. I took the cat to the Chi Omega house to dissect it on the dining room table. That led me to taking the cat back to campus and never bringing it back [to the house]! Overall, I think the friendliness and camaraderie of the students – it was such a positive experience.”

What has been the most unexpected part of your career?
“I think the unexpected is coming home, coming back to Kansas, and being part of something great, to establish a cancer center.”

Is there anything you wish you would’ve done as a student?
“I studied too much! I studied all the time. I probably didn’t enjoy all the social activities.”

Victor Spinski
(BSE 1963) has been a professor of art at the University of Delaware since 1968, and a member of the prestigious International Academy of Ceramics.

What is your favorite student memory?
“I came from a high school that I didn’t like too much, and I had a dim view of education. When I came here it was very different. I sat in on some classes that were very interesting. I fell in love with education. This school had such nice diversity – the science was good, the arts were good, there was a balance between training and education.”

What has been the most unexpected part of your career?
“What bothered me is there were times when people weren’t very interested in learning, when you had to become an entertainer for them to learn. That was unexpected. That kind of bothered me. My dad used to say, ‘I buy the books, I send you to school, and you chew the covers off the books.’”

Is there anything you wish you would’ve done as a student?
“I went through a lot of hours here. I wish there was more time. I wish I could’ve stayed longer. I was a little leery of the real world. ESU was like the monastery of the dark world. There was all this darkness all around, and there was this place of sunshine in the middle.”

Go online to www.emporia.edu/saf to see a video of the Distinguished Alumni awards banquet.

Searching for the best
They are all around you, those brilliant people who make everything they touch turn to gold. Honor them with a nomination for an ESU award or board position. For more information, visit www.emporia.edu/saf. Nomination deadlines are:

- Aug. 10 – Hornet Heritage Award
- Feb. 15 – University Service Citation Award
- Dec. 1 – Alumni Association board
- Feb. 15 – Distinguished Alumni
- Aug. 1 – Foundation Board of Trustees

The 2007 Distinguished Alumni are, from left, Herb Kuhn, Donna Clopton, Karen Kelly and Victor Spinski.
Cross country

A two-time All-American and a greatly improved men’s team led the way for the ESU cross country team last fall. Jonel Rossbach of Omaha, Neb., won her second MIAA championship en route to capturing fourth place at the NCAA D-II championships and a second All-American honor. The men, meanwhile, were led by Skyler Delmott as they captured fourth place at the MIAA championships – after placing eighth a year ago and not even fielding a team in 2005.

ESU runners performed especially well on their home turf at Jones Park in Emporia. Rossbach, the women’s South Central Region runner of the year, set a 5K course record with a time of 16:55, finishing 1:16 in front of the second-place runner. The women’s team placed second as the men placed four runners in the top nine finishers to nab first place. Delmott of Emporia won the men’s race in 25:20 to pace the Hornets, followed by Brock Ternes of Emporia in fourth place and Marcus Summers of Fairview in fifth place.

Football

The ESU football team rattled off three straight wins to start the season but couldn’t hold on, finishing 3-7 and 1-7 in the MIAA in coach Garin Higgins’s first season at the helm.

The team’s valiant efforts were summed up in their final home game, when they fell to national powerhouse Northwest Missouri State by a score of 24-7. ESU held NWSU scoreless in the first quarter, the first time all season that the Bearcats didn’t score in the opening frame, and were within three points at halftime after intercepting a pass to snuff out a Bearcat scoring drive on the two-yard line. Likewise, ESU rushed for 305 yards versus Truman State – with two backs going for more than 100 yards – but fell 33-30 in overtime. Against rival Washburn, ESU outgained the Ichabods in total yards but lost 31-21 at home.

In MIAA honors, sophomore cornerback Travis Lee was named second-team All-MIAA to lead seven Hornets on the All-MIAA football team. Six other Hornets were named honorable mention.
**Soccer**

The 2007 season was rough on the ESU soccer team and second-year head coach Jim Schneiderhahn. The women played their opponents close, but wins just weren’t in the cards. Even a 1-0 lead in the final minute against the University of Central Missouri didn’t hold up, as UCM scored a goal and took ESU to overtime, beating the Hornets 2-1.

The women excelled in the classroom, as seven members of the team were named to the 2007 MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll. They were: Katherine DeWeese, Broken Arrow, Okla.; Marcie Fundi, Berryton; Jennifer Gurnsey, Wichita; Shelly Marsh, Olathe; Allison Maxwell, Topeka; Caitlin Riemer, Shawnee; and Alicia Smith, Salina.

**Volleyball**

The ESU volleyballers completed one of the most exciting seasons in recent memory, finishing with a 27-9 record and a ranking of 15th in the nation. The women reached the NCAA tournament and won their first match, before falling to #4 Truman State University in the South Central Region semi-finals in a hotly contested match with 45 ties and 17 lead changes. Earlier in the season, the largest crowd in ESU volleyball history – 1,024 fans – rocked White Auditorium as ESU trumped then-#4 Washburn with three straight come-from-behind wins.

Sophomore Arica Shepard of Rossville was named an honorable mention All-American by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, the first ESU player since 1991 to hold the honor. She was also named first-team All-Region after the South Central matches. Freshman Ting Liu of Beijing, was named the region’s freshman of the year. Shepard finished the season with 613 kills, the third-best ESU mark, while Liu set a new single season assist record for the Hornets, with 1,792 assists. In the classroom, five women were named to the MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll.

For more on Hornet athletics, go online!
Honors

1950s
Jane Reeble (FS ’53), Emporia, was mentioned in the Emporia Gazette, celebrating 124 years of Reeble’s grocery stores and the generosity of the Reeble Foundation. Dr. Don Cushenbery (MS ’54), Omaha, Neb., retired as regents professor emeritus at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is the author of 16 books including Coping With Life After Your Mate Dies.

Carl (BSB ’55) and Nancy (McGee) Hoffmans (FS ’57), Emporia, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 1, 2007. Marvin Nye (BSB ’57), Wichita, celebrated 50 years of both his marriage to wife Kaye Brewer and his career at Peterson, Peterson & Goss LC.

Marlow Ediger (BSE ’58, MSE ’60), North Newton, recently published articles in Edutracks, in Oklahoma Reader, in Iowa Educational Leadership, in College Student Journal, and in Experiments in Education. He co-authored the textbooks Issues in School Curriculum and Curriculum of School Subjects and is listed in the 2007 Empire Who’s Who Registry of Executives and Professionals. Ediger also celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife, Mary (Duerksen) Ediger (BSE ’58).


Keith Mueller (MS ’59), Versailles, Mo., received the 2007 Citizen of the Year award for his contributions to the people of Versailles.

1960s
Glen Lojka (BSE ’60, MS ’64), Manhattan, was commissioned by the city of Marysville to preserve an old oak tree in a city park by carving it into a bench. John Petersen (BSB ’60), Alva, Okla., is the new president, chief executive officer and director of Alva State Bank & Trust.

Janice Blakey (BSE ’62, MS ’63), Edmonton, Ala., recently earned the title of professor emerita from the University of Alberta. Bonnie (Baringer) Hatch (BSE ’62, MS ’67), Derby, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 2, 2007. Don (BSE ’62, MS ’65) and Betty (Shellenberger) Mason (BSE ’62), Kingman, retired after a combined 90 1/2 years of service for USD 331.

Arnold Graham (BSE ’63), Emporia, son-in-law of Barney & Jane Reeble and vice president of Reeble’s grocery stores, was mentioned in a 2007 Emporia Gazette article celebrating 124 years of the family-owned grocery stores. Gary Sherrer (BS ’63), Overland Park, was selected as senior vice president of economic development for the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, and appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Vincent Wetta (FS ’63), Wellington, was elected to represent District 80 of the Kansas House of Representatives.

Jan (Mahan) Allison (BS ’64, MS ’65, EDS ’86), Topeka, instructor at Cowley County Community College, recently published her book Abigail and became the literary coach at Eisenhower Middle School. Kerry Granger (BSE ’64), Hutchinson, was featured in the Hutchinson News for his work as a defense attorney.

Mary (Wendland) Clark (BSE ’65), Council Grove, was appointed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to the North-Central Kansas Regional Library System. Doug Glayshner (BSE ’65), Bentonville, Ark., was inducted into the Massapequa High School Hall of Fame for his achievements in college athletics and public administration. Bill Ratliff (BSE ’65, MS ’69), Ottawa, received the American Stars of Teaching Award in August 2006. Rose (Correa) Rooth (MS ’65), Prescott, Ariz., is the new Patagonia superintendent of schools.

Merle Vincent (MS ’65), Harrison, Ark., is the July 2007 NARMC Volunteer of the Month.

Edward Hammond (BSE ’66, MS ’67), Hays, celebrated the title of the longest-serving president in Fort Hays State University’s 105-year history.

Les Moore (BA ’66, MS ’67), Atchison, was honored by The Professional Clubmakers’ Society with the Elmore Just Award for his contributions to golf club-making.

Steve Clark (FS ’67), Hackett, Ark., former member of “The Rising Sun,” was inducted into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame.

Mary (Stout) Dawson (FS ’67), Quenemo, retired from Lyndon High School after 37 years of teaching.

Al Ferrell (BSE ’67), Topeka, as principal of Perry-Lecompton High School. Joyce (Gann) Rhodes (BSE ’67), Parsons, retired as a second-grade teacher at Meadow View after 37 years in education.

Catherine Rickbone (BA ’67, BS ’67, MA ’96), Ashland, Ore., is the new executive director of the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts.

Lyndabeth (Emch) Silcock (BSE ’67), Tabor, Iowa, retired in 2007 from Glenwood High School after teaching Spanish for 27 years and leading numerous student trips to Spain and Mexico.

Patricia (Johnston) Langston (BSE ’68, MA ’69), Wamego, was inducted in the Kansas State Teachers’ Hall of Fame in 2007.

Leah (Alfers) Murray (BSE ’68), Joplin, Mo., retired after 37 years in education as an elementary teacher and librarian and now works part-time for the Westview C-6 School District.

Reatha (Parks) Smith (BSE ’68), Grove, Okla., retired as a Spanish teacher from Dodge City High School in 2007.

Beth Bohnert (BSE ’69), Topeka, retired from Topeka High School after 38 years in education.

Donna (Kimble) Hadlock (BSE ’69, MS ’72), Inman, retired from teaching after 28 years of service in the Inman and Garden City school districts.

Daniel Hayes (BSE ’69, MA ’72), Canadigua, N.Y., earned the title of president emeritus and received the 2007 Finger Lakes Community College Foundation Award for his leadership, achievements and contributions as president of FLCC from 1992 to 2007.

Joyce Long (BSE ’69), Topeka, retired after 24 years as an instructor at Kaw Area Technical School.

Peggy (McFarland) Morford (BSE ’69), Topeka, retired as a first-grade teacher at Meadows Elementary School.

Linda Olmsted (BSE ’69), Topeka, retired after 38 years of teaching at Highland Park Central Elementary.

Kathy (Grothjan) Reddy (BSE ’69), Wellsville, was recently inducted into the National Honor Roll’s Outstanding American Teachers.

1970s
Susan (Jacobs) Braverman (MS ’70), Brooklyn, N.Y., celebrated her 40th wedding anniversary with her husband Alan Braverman on May 26, 2007.

Bruce Galle (BSE ’70), Tampa, Fla., retired from IBM Global Services as executive project manager.

Sheryl (Cole) Griffith (MA ’70), Fort Dodge, Iowa, was appointed to the Iowa State Board of Corrections by Gov. Thomas Vilsack.

Bruce Knapp (BSE ’70), Prairie Village, owner of Alpha & Omega, was named the Ambassador of the Quarter by the Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce.

Helen (Fox) Parker (MLS...
William Kloefkorn (BSE 1954, MS 1958), the state poet of Nebraska since 1982, says he was ignorant of higher education when he was growing up in Attica, Kan., a small town southwest of Wichita. He didn’t know what it meant to be intellectually challenged, and he sure didn’t know anything about Emporia.

A high school classmate of Kloefkorn’s had an uncle who was attending ESU, and one thing led to another. “We were sitting in my folks’ café and he said, ‘Why don’t you go there?’ and I said, ‘Why not?’ The first day I came there was the day I enrolled,” Kloefkorn said. “I learned that freedom — to move about, to think for myself — was pretty much a revelation for me. That was a refreshing feeling. It was as if I was breathing new air. To be challenged there in the classes was so new to me. I was astonished. To be on a campus that has academic freedom, I can’t imagine a more healthy environment than that.”

Kloefkorn, who taught at Nebraska Wesleyan University from 1962 to 2002, was named the Nebraska state poet 25 years ago. It’s a lifetime appointment with no strings attached, financial or otherwise. “You’re expected to do what you did when you were named — write as well as you can and serve writing as well as you can,” he said.

Kloefkorn, a 1999 ESU Distinguished Alumnus, speaks in schools frequently, to students of all ages. “I tell them to appreciate language in general, in terms of clarity and precision, and poetry can help them pay attention to language,” he said. “It can help them stay away from fuzziness.”

Kloefkorn also values the very act of writing, for the honesty it demands. “You’re squaring with yourself,” he said. “You’re trying to be honest with yourself, and you do that on the page [like] you don’t do any other way. That’s a healthy thing in terms of getting the mind out of whatever rut it might be in.” In a writer’s world, every blank page is a chance to escape that rut, Kloefkorn has learned. “I’ve learned that it never gets easier,” he said. “Every story or poem you attend is a brand new challenge. There’s no comfort zone.”

As a young man, the eventual state poet never intended to write poetry. He dabbled in fiction while earning his master’s degree at ESU and while teaching at Wichita State University; at WSU, he was encouraged to pursue a doctorate so he could direct a freshman writing program. “I didn’t want to do that,” said Kloefkorn. “Administration fits me like a sliver of bone up the nostril.”

It was the writing of poet Gary Gildner that inspired Kloefkorn to pursue poetry. Kloefkorn saw for the first time that poetry could tell stories quickly and succinctly, particularly in Gildner’s “First Practice,” a poem about a high school coach who tries to toughen up his athletes. “The coach is a genuine prick, but he’s genuine,” Kloefkorn said. “I thought, ‘I know that coach. I’ve had that coach. It was kind of an epiphany for me. I didn’t know that contemporaries were writing this kind of stuff. The material I’d felt free to use in fiction, I’d never felt free to use in poetry.”

And thus a career was launched. Kloefkorn has since published numerous books of poetry, along with fiction and personal memoirs, and he’s still at work, finding new ways to express humanity. “To hear something freshly said can be a good thing,” he said.

Go online to read a Kloefkorn poem, “My Love for All Things Warm and Breathing,” at www.emporia.edu/spotlight.
Title of Kingman. Roger Ward (BA ’76), El Dorado, exhibited artwork at the Coutts Museum of Art in 2007. Greg Fitch (MA ’77), Montgomery, Ala., executive director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, was featured in the Montgomery Advertiser for his determination to battle diploma mills. Richard Hedges (FS ’77), Fort Scott, was appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Karen (Krone) Wamser (BSE ’77), Henderson, Nev., received from the Boy Scouts of America the Silver Beaver Award, the highest national award. Stephen Workman (BFA ’77), Wamego, associate professor of art and chair of the art department at Benedictine College, judged the Dodge City Area Arts Council’s photography competition. Adam Collins (BSB ’78), Wellington, is the new city manager of Wellington. Cleo Gardner (BSE ’78), Topeka, was recently inducted into the Cloud County Community College Athletic Hall of Fame. Sandy (Miller) Meneley (MS ’78), Topeka, retired as a physical education teacher at Landon Middle School Emporia, received a research award at the Kansas Reading Association’s luncheon in 2007.

1980s
Mary (Probst) Fenlon (MLS ’80), Leavenworth, retired from the Kansas City Kansas Community College library after 18 years as a public services librarian. Georgene Haire (MS ’80, EDS ’96), Springfield, Ill., was promoted to sales representative for central and southern Illinois for S.R.A. McGraw-Hill. D.R. Leach (BSB ’80), Derby, manager of talent development for Koch Industries, sat on the Ethics and Social Responsibility panel during the presidential inauguration activities at ESU. Carl Ricketts (BSE ’80, MBA ’81), Lawrence, has been appointed first vice president and chief strategic planning officer for Capitol Federal Savings, Topeka. Joyce Thierer (MLS ’80, MS ’86), Admire, facilitated a discussion of Manhattan Public Library’s Talk About Literature in Kansas (TALK) book discussion series. Harlan Parker (BS ’81), Phoenix, Md., was appointed music director/conductor of the Peabody Preparatory Sinfonietta, and released a CD, Collogle: A Tribute to the 150th Anniversary of the Peabody Institute, 1857-2007. Marlin Berry (MS ’82), Olathe, is the new assistant superintendent of the Olathe School District. Lisa Brumbaugh (BSB ’82, MBA ’84), Emporia, regional director of ESU’s Small Business Development Center, received the 2007 State Star award from the Kansas Small Business Development Center. Julianne Couch (BFA ’82, BS ’82, MA ’84), recently released her first book, Jukeboxes & Jackalopes: A Wyoming Bar Journey. David Elsbury (MS ’82), Hiawatha, was recently promoted to chief executive officer for Kanza Mental Health and Guidance Center. Michael Grillot (BS ’83), Rogersville, Mo., is a partner of Orthopedic Specialists of Springfield and was elected president of the Missouri State Orthopedic Association. Steven Hawkins (BSE ’83, MS ’85), Newbury Park, Calif., is a new associate professor of exercise science and sports medicine at California Lutheran University. Carol Berfeldt (FS ’84), Olathe, served on the Kansas African American Affairs Commission. Jeffry Larson (BSB ’84), Emporia, was appointed district court judge in the 5th Judicial District by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Kathy McLellan (FS ’84), Overland Park, and alumna Tricia Suellentrop (MLS ’95) partnered to head the Read To Succeed program, a corrections, library and school collaboration to work with incarcerated teens at Johnson County’s Detention Center. Gary Poff (FS ’84), Emporia, was called to active duty in Iraq with his Army National Guard unit. Dave Robertson (BSB ’84), Wichita, Koch Industries’ president and COO, assumed the role of chairman of Georgia-Pacific’s board of directors. Mindy Salmans (BSE ’84), Hanston, is a new instructor for the department of educational administration and counseling at Fort Hays State University. Beth (Kalmar) Dobler (BSE ’85), Topeka, received a research award from the Kansas Reading Association’s luncheon in 2007. Diana Kuhlmann (BSB ’86), Olpe, associate vice president for fiscal affairs at ESU, was appointed chair of the audit committee of the Central Association of College and University Business Officers. Tim Wright (BSB ’86), shareholder of Pool & Wright Chartered CPA’s of
Emporia, sat on the Ethics and Social Responsibility panel during presidential inauguration activities at ESU. Jason Giffin (BSB '87), Valley Center, has joined the Kansas General Office of New York Life Insurance Co. as an agent. Chris Shelor (MS '87), Spring Hill, retired as a third-grade teacher from Spring Hill Elementary School. Craig Tomson (BFA '87), Wichita, is the new vice president of Gretaman Group. Lisa Wagner (BSE '87), Chicago, Ill., starred in the one-woman play, Haunted by God: the Life of Dorothy Day, at Bethany College in 2007. Kelli (Watts) Harpel (BS '89), Menomonie Falls, Wis., is the new director of planning and allocation - home décor at Kohl’s Department Stores. Steve Gegen (BS '89), Wichita, is the new vice president and manager of the commercial loan department at Legacy Bank. Shelley Mann (BS '89), Longmont, Colo., a children’s advocate at Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley, was recognized by the Survivor’s Task Force with the 2007 Community Impact Award. Gary Stapp (BS '89), Garnett, a real estate appraiser and founding member of The Chamber Players Community Theatre, received a Kansas Artist Fellowship from the Kansas Arts Commission.

Cliff Wright (FS '89), Paola, recently published Kansas Folklore in Rural Life, a collection focusing on his childhood on a Kansas farm.

1990s
Lorraine Cannistra (BS '90, MS '94), Lawrence, was crowned 2007 Ms. Wheelchair Kansas and organized a fundraiser to raise funds to compete in the Ms. Wheelchair America competition. Abby DeShane (MLS '90), Pacific, Mo., is the new manager of instructional and career resources at the Wildwood campus of St. Louis Community College. Russ Everhart (BSB '90, BSB '90, MS '96), Overland Park, manages a sales team at Sunflower Group, a retail marketing company. Shawn Honea (BFA '90), Emporia, and his business partner Scott Bolley (BFA '95) were featured in the Emporia Gazette for their business IM Design and its expansion into the global marketplace. Liz (Speck-Befort) Martell (FS '90), Emporia, retired as Emporia Convention & Visitors Bureau director to pursue a master's degree in English at ESU. Lisa (Marcellus) Riley (BSE '90), Pocatello, Idaho, is the new special education director for The Academy at Roosevelt Center. Rich Trease (BSB '90), Derby, of GE Capital Public Finance, Inc., was featured in Wichita Business Journal’s “40 under 40.” Janis (Gray) DeBoer (BSB '91), Topeka, is the new senior manager of the Advisory Council for the Kansas Health Policy Authority. Roni Edwards (BSB '92), Wichita, was promoted to accounting manager of Mid-Continent Instruments. Donald Gilstap (BA '92, BA '92, MLS '94, MA '95), Norman, Okla., is the new director of technical services for the University of Oklahoma Libraries. Jodi (Clay) Grover (BSE '92, MS '95), Iola, is the new director of Crossroads Alternative School in Gas, Kan. Mark Schmidt (MS '92), Lawrence, was promoted to human resource director for De Soto USD 232. Anita (Dreiling) Walters (MS '92), Hays, is a new instructor in the department of health and human performance at Fort Hays State University. Amber (Ely) Casement (BSB '93), Wichita, controller at J. Enterprises, Inc., was selected for the 2007 Wichita Business Journal’s “40 under 40.” Terri Hodge (BSE '93), Topeka, received the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year award in 2007. Jean Ney (FS '93), Bonner Springs, coordinator of fine arts and physical education for the Kansas City Kansas Public School District, received the 2007 Governor’s Arts Award from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and the Kansas Arts Commission. David Shrum (BGS '93), Garnett, is the new human services coordinator of the Anderson County office of the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation. John Tucker (BSE '93), Hutchinson, was awarded the Army Commendation medal at Camp Shelby, Miss. Gina (Schloemer) Zimmerman (BSE '93), Edgerton, received an master's degree in educational technology from Mid-America Nazarene and is now the instructional technology support specialist for USD 231. John Allison (MS '94), Grapevine, Texas, is the new superintendent for the Mt. Lebanon School District. Elizabeth (Wolfe) Bornman (BSB '94), Shawnee, is the second vice president of the Kansas State Federation of the National Association for Retired Federal Employees. Beverley (Olson) Buller (FS '94), Newton, who earned her librarian certification from SLIM, read from her new youth biography about William Allen White, From Emporia: The Story of William Allen White, at the 2007 Readings on the Porch Series in Emporia. Diane (Taylor) Dickerson (BS '94), Wichita, was profiled in the Wichita Business Journal for her accomplishments as Bank of America’s senior vice president and consumer market executive for Kansas. Andy Edwardson (BSB '94), McPherson, was promoted to vice president, information technology for Farmers Alliance Companies. Tania (O'Shel) Harrington (BS '94), Emporia, was promoted to director of quality assurance with Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. Steve Ludwig (MS '94), Lenexa, is the new Lexington Trails Middle School principal. Michael Morris (BA '94), Overland Park, released a children’s book titled Charlie's Crocodile Smile. Crystal (Bell) O’Brien (BS '94), Lawrence, was appointed by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to serve a four-year term on the Advisory Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs. Maj. Vanessa Ragsdale (BS '94), Kansas City, Mo., signal officer and deputy GG for the 4th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, returned from Baghdad in 2006, and now attends the Army’s Command and General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth. Scott Snively (BS '94, BSE '92), Spring Hill, was elected to the city council of Spring Hill in 2007. Daniel Spees (MA '94), Hutchinson, judged the poetry entries in the 2007 Kansas Voices Contest. Charles Steffies (BSB '93), Olpe, sales representative for ABZ Manufacturing, was a panelist at the International Business: Educational Needs panel during the presidential inauguration at ESU. Scott Bolley (BFA '95), Emporia, and his business partner Shawn Honea (BFA '90) were featured in the Emporia Gazette for their business IM Design and its expansion into the global marketplace. Michelle Deatrick Cannon (BFA '95), Columbia, S.C., was promoted to director of Webster University’s Shaw Air Force Base Campus in Sumter, S.C. Rashmi DePaep (BME '95), Spring Hill, was featured in the Kansas City Star for her Sri Lankan heritage and cooking. Heather (Ranger) Kobel (BS '95, MS '98), Glencoe, Okla., is a psychologist at the Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center in Muskogee. Susan Reid (MLS '95), Florence, is the new library.
media specialist at El Dorado High School. **Tricia Suellentrop** (MLS ’95), Shawnee Mission, and alumna **Kathy McEllan** (FS ’84) partnered to head the Read To Succeed program, a corrections, library and school collaboration to work with incarcerated teens at Johnson County’s Detention Center. **Eric Swanson** (BSE ’95, MS ’04), Scott City, is the new principal for Riley County High School. **Tristen (Scheve) Wendland** (BS ’95, MS ’00), Colorado Springs, Colo., received the national Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor of the Year Award from the Department of Foreign Affairs. **Shane Windmeyer** (BFA ’95), Charlotte, N.C., received the Sue Kraft Russell Distinguished Service Award and Perspectives Award from the Association of Fraternity Advisors in 2006. **Michael Burbach** (BBB ’96), Germantown, Md., received his LL.M. degree from Georgetown University Law Center and accepted a position with Bingham, McCutchen, LLP. **Ryan Entz** (BSB ’96), Newton, of the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce, and **Sandra Gasca** (MS ’96), Wichita, employed at Youthville, were both featured in *Wichita Business Journal*’s “40 under 40.” **Brad Harzman** (FS ’96), Emporia, music teacher at Reading and Northern Heights High Schools, was chosen to mentor the Afghan National Army Band. **James Lewis** (BSE ’96), Wichita, is the new assistant principal at Valley Center High School. **Curtis Becker** (BA ’97), Linon, Colo., is a 7-12 grade language arts teacher at Liberty School. **Seth Breyner** (MS ’97), McPherson, is a new licensed clinical professional counselor for Prairie View of Marion. **Thomas Farrow** (BS ’97), Charlotte, N.C., was promoted to corporate trainer in the commercial underwriting department of The Hartford. **Dennis Fike** (MBA ’97), Westmoreland, was promoted to vice president of credit at Frontier Farm Credit, Manhattan. **JoLynn (Morgan) Noe** (BA ’97), Lexington, Ky., is the new assistant dean for enrollment management at the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Kentucky. **Liz (Skolaut) Schmidt** (BSE ’97, MS ’01), Lubbock, Texas, starred in a training video for Kansas Reading teachers. **Robert Toedman** (MS ’97), Sabetha, is the new education program consultant for the Kansas State Department of Education. **Kevin Burton** (BFA ’98), Berryton, is the new night editor at *The Aspen Times* in Colorado. **Eric Kessler** (MS ’98), Kansas City, Mo., a biology and zoology teacher from Blue Valley North High School in Overland Park, and **Jamelle McConnell-Brown** (BSE ’98), Kansas City, Mo., a forensics coach and speech teacher at Sumner Academy in Kansas City, Kan., both received the 2007 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, an award regarded as the Oscar of the teaching profession. **David Kobel** (BA ’98), Glencoe, Okla., is an English instructor at the University of Tulsa. **Shelby (Langdon) McBride** (BSE ’98), Shawnee, is the new accounting manager at Martin Logan LTD in Lawrence. **Ethan Schmidt** (BA ’98, BA ’98, MA ’01), Lubbock, Texas, is an assistant professor of history at Texas Tech University after earning his Ph.D in history from KU. **Thomas Stewart** (BBB ’98), Wichita, is a new store manager for Sherwin Williams. **Tim Tabor** (BA ’98), Nevada, Mo., received the 2006-07 Teacher of the Year Award for Northeast Vernon County High School in Walker, Mo. **Jill (Beck) Hammond** (BBB ’99, MBA ’01), Kansas City, Mo., was promoted to supervisor at BKD, LLP. **Shawn (Fittro) Roberts** (BSE ’99), Topeka, is the new principal of Scott City Elementary School. **Phillip Stadler** (BSN ’99), Olathe, served his first deployment in Balad, Iraq, where he was assigned to the emergency and critical care unit as a registered nurse. **Shana (Holthaus) Steinlaga** (BSE ’99), Adel, Iowa, is the new principal and director of special education services for Adel-DeSoto-Minburn Schools. **Kim (Mehuron) Storer** (BSB ’99, MBA ’00), Wichita, is a new accountant for Via Christi Health System.

### 2000s

**Benjamin Coltrane** (BSE ’00), Emporia, is the new principal of Walnut Elementary School. **David Grover** (MS ’00), Iola, is the new principal of Iola High School. **Melissa (Suchy) Herrman** (BS ’00), Council Grove, is the new physician at the Family Health Center of Morris County. **Joseph Hutcheson** (BSE ’00), Chicago, Ill., is a new English teacher at Prospect HighSchool in Mount Prospect, Ill. **Katherine Nichols** (BIS ’00), Emporia, has taken on a Church of Brethren Volunteer Service assignment with Camp Harmony in Hooversville, Pa. **Chet Pobolish** (BSE ’00), Oskaloosa, Iowa, is the new quarterback coach at William Penn University. **Debora (Neitzke) Robertson** (MLS ’00), Blountville, Tenn., is the new director of library and information services at Virginia Highlands Community College. **Douglas Robinson** (MS ’00), Storm Lake, Iowa, is a new faculty member at Buena Vista University. **Bree (Johnston) Sievers** (BS ’00), Seattle, Wash., is a new realtor for Windermere Real Estate. **Eric Curts** (BSB ’01), Littleton, Colo., was promoted to licensed broker for Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. **Scott Durham** (BSB ’01), Kansas City, Mo., recently joined PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. **Jimmie Manning** (BFA ’01, BA ’01), Cold Spring, Ky., is an assistant professor for the communication graduate program at Northern Kentucky University. **Veronica McAsey** (BA ’01, MA ’03, MLS ’04), Winfield, is the new director of Memorial Library at Southwestern College. **Cathy Perley** (Ph.D. ’01), Sioux City, Iowa, is the new ArtSplash Festival of the Arts coordinator and was featured on SiouxCityJournal.com for coordinating the festival. **Clint Young** (FS ’01), Greensburg, head football coach at Greensburg High School, was featured on the ABC special *Road to the Library Mutual Coach of the Year.* **Adrienne Foltz** (MS ’02), Syracuse, is the new elementary principal for Jackson Heights USD 335. **David Gillette** (MS ’02), Sherman, Texas, is a new visiting assistant professor of biology at Austin College. **Rick Horton** (BSE ’02, BSE ’02), Topeka, is the new head football coach for Iola High School. **Trevor Quint** (BS ’02), Emporia, was promoted to manager of Sherwin Williams. **2nd Lt. Jason Ragsdale** (BSN ’02), Liberty, Mo., field artillery officer for the 130th Field Artillery Brigade of the U.S. Army, returned from Iraq in 2007. **Kirk Schottler** (BS ’02, MS ’05), Mayetta, passed the National Licensed Professional Counselor exam. **Estephen Decker** (FS ’03), Newton, a sergeant in the Army National Guard, is attending surgical technician school at Wichita Area Technical College. **Joshua DeHoux** (BS ’03), Overland Park, was promoted to police officer 2 for the Johnson County Park Police and selected to speak at the National Recreation and Parks Association Conference. **Rosanne (Walcher) Farmer** (BA ’03), Buckner, Mo., graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and was promoted to police officer for the Johnson County Park Police.
City with a MFA in scene design and is now a self-employed designer and painter. Shelley (Ayers) Finley (BFA ’03), Emporia, sales director at Glendo Corporation, was a panelist at the International Business: Educational Needs discussion during presidential inauguration activities at ESU. Jeremy Luby (BSB ’03, MBA ’04), Overland Park, web interface developer at American Century Investments, was named to the Company Circle of Honor. Liz (Barnum) Majors (BFA ’03), Shawnee Mission, is the new assistant director at the ESU Metro Learning Center. Andrew Myers (BFA ’03), Stillwater, Okla., is a new employer outreach coordinator at Oklahoma State University’s Career Services. Erin (Langston) Myers (BFA ’03), Stillwater, Okla., is a new admissions counselor at Oklahoma State University. Amy Simon (BSB ’03, MBA ’04), Wichita, is the new workforce development coordinator for Key Construction. Lyndee (Jensen) DeHoux (BS ’04), Overland Park, family resource specialist for Spofford, coordinates the student assistance program, S.A.F.E, for an elementary school in Kansas City, Mo. Fawna Fancher (BA ’04), Hutchinson, is a new Spanish and French teacher at Inman High School. Heather (Howard) Keilwitz (MS ’04), McDonough, Ga., is a new dance teacher at Rex Middle School. Natalie Moreau (BS ’04, BSB ’04), Lawrence, international distribution planner for Payless ShoeSource, was a panelist at the International Business: Educational Needs discussion during presidential inauguration activities at ESU. Michael Walker (BS ’04, MS ’06), Derby, is a new instructional designer for ADR Bookprint and Multimedia in Wichita. Susie Aber (Ph.D. ’05, CF), Emporia, was featured in the Emporia Gazette for her study of Kansas plays and kite aerial photography, which she does with her husband Jim Aber (FS, CF). Theresa Holderbach (BSE ’05), formerly Sarah (Bishop) Rice, Kansas City, Mo., passed the Missouri State Insurance Exam and is now a licensed insurance agent for Bankers Life and Casualty Company. Laura (Nitcher) Phelps (BSB ’05), Raytown, Mo., was promoted to account manager for State Street Corporation. Erica Rindt (BS ’05), Garden City, received her white coat and completed the convocation ceremony of the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis. Kendra (Brooks) Shaw (BSN ’05), McPherson, is a registered nurse for Salina Regional Health. Kevin Smiley (BSE ’05), Bonner Springs, teacher at Monticello Trails Middle School, is a recipient of the 2007 Horizon Award for first-year teachers. Jessica (James) Stinson (BFA ’05), Cedar Falls, Iowa, is a new dance teacher at Rex High School (MS ’04), McDonough, Ga., is a new dance teacher at Rex Middle School. 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Iowa, received her master’s degree from the University of Central Missouri and is the new program coordinator of Greek life at the University of Northern Iowa. Sara (Turner) Reeves (BSE ‘05), McKinney, Texas, and Matthew Lafko (MS ‘06), Greensboro, N.C., were featured on the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education website for providing testimonials about ESU’s teacher preparation program. Nick Gronseth (MA ‘06), Emporia, is the new site administrator for the William Allen White house. Penny Hargrove (FS ‘06), Valley Center, is the new principal at Valley Center Middle School. Amanda (Pearce) Lyman (BSE ‘06), Gardner, is a new physical science and chemistry teacher at Gardner-Edgerton High School. Dru Rutledge (BA ‘06, BM ‘06), Emporia, performed in Graz, Austria through the American Institute of Musical Studies in 2007. Hilari Smith (BFA ‘06), Denver, Colo., is a new celebrity consultant for Kim Tumey Entertainment. Larissa (Book) Welch (BSE ‘06), Lebo, is a new kindergarten teacher for Lincoln Elementary in Ottawa. Mandy Davis (BFA ‘07), Kansas City, Mo., is a new residence hall director at Rockhurst University. Missy Davis (BS ‘07), Wichita, is a new accounting assistant for Flint Hills Resources at Koch Industries. Nicole (Smith) Decker (BS ‘07), Newton, is a new microbiologist for Hospira Pharmaceuticals. Jenny Elkins (BSE ‘07), Emporia, is a new first-grade teacher for Logan Avenue Elementary, USD 253. Katie Hensley (BSE ‘07), Topeka, is a new seventh-grade language arts teacher and pep club sponsor for the Seaman School District. Brandon Meuten (BSE ‘07), Emporia, is a new third-grade teacher at Wichita Seltzer Elementary School. Adam Rice (BSE ‘07), Topeka, joined Jostens as a management trainee. Erin Schmidt (BA ‘07), Horse Cave, Ky., recently joined the Kentucky Repertory Theatre. Katy Scott (BSE ’07), Shawnee, is a new seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at Trailridge Middle School. Susan Spohn (BSB ‘07), Emporia, is a new management trainee for Jostens. Katie Stauffer (BSE ‘07), Wichita, is a new fourth-grade teacher for USD 394 Rose Hill. Helen Woolsey (BSE ‘07), Paola, is a new kindergarten teacher at Swenson Early Education Center in Osawatomie.

**Former Students**

John Culver, Wichita, is the owner of Parks Motors of Augusta, recognized as the nation’s No. 2 Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealer at Chrysler’s National Dealer of the Year awards. Darlene (Spohn) Curts, Littleton, Colo., was promoted to account manager for Assurant Employee Benefits, Inc. Janice DeBauge, Emporia, completed her term as a member of the Kansas Board of Regents. Harry Groh, Emporia, retired and sold his business, Groh Printing. Stephanie (Allton) Kavlick, Stillwell, received her Accredited Residential Manager (ARM) designation from the Institute of Real Estate Management. Hank Koehn, Overland Park, directed the 2007 Theatre in the Park series in Shawnee Mission Park. *no year available*

**Nuptials**


**Births**

Shayla Elizabeth Alpers, daughter, born to Aaron Alpers (BSB ’93) and Jill Alpers, Aug. 24, 2007. Cianna Leigh Barger, daughter, born to Joe Barger (FS ’02) and Logan Bonebrake-Barger (BS ’04), Aug. 21, 2007. Avery Delayne Beyer, daughter, born to Alex Beyer (BFA ’96) and Mandi (Belt) Beyer (BA ’00), Oct. 18, 2006. Thatchter Charles Botkin, son, born to Troy Botkin and Lisa (Ward) Botkin (BSE ’99), July 27, 2006. Jacob Paul Carney, son, born to John Carney and Jennifer (Borchert)
In Memory

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s
Record attendance at 50-year reunion

ESU rolled out the red carpet for class of 1957’s 50-year reunion at Homecoming in late October, and what a long carpet it was! The turnout, at more than 100 alumni, was roughly a third of the graduating class, and a record for 50-year reunion attendance at ESU. President Michael Lane said he’d been at seven universities, not one of which had more than 50 people at a 50-year reunion. The class from KSTC also became the first class to endow a scholarship — their generosity equaled a $10,000 gift for education major scholarships. The night ended with dance and performance by the “Kings of Swing” dance band.

Go online to see video of the 1957 reunion dinner and a gallery of Homecoming photos.

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2008 on Oct. 25!