$2.5 million gift commitment for School of Education

A University of Kansas alumnus and his wife have made a $2.5 million commitment to establish an endowed scholarship program for KU’s School of Education.

The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, have had strong ties to KU’s School of Education through both graduate teaching and the supervision of elementary student teachers.

The gift will include funding for specialized work in acquiring leadership skills connected to the organizational change disciplines first outlined in Peter Senge’s book, “The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization.” This book provides guidelines to lead organizations in transforming rigid hierarchies into more fluid and responsive systems.

The donors established the fund through KU Endowment to benefit KU students majoring in education.

Rick Ginsberg, dean of KU’s School of Education, expressed appreciation for the gift, which is the largest in the school’s history.

continued on page 3

Eva Horn Budig Lecture
Evidence based practice as a verb: Supporting teacher candidates’ understanding
April 5 • 4:30 pm
150 JRP

Special Ed Tops the Rankings!
See more on page 3

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From the Dean: Excitement Central

Spring is always an exciting time of year on KU’s campus. March madness is underway, and for all Jayhawks this is a time to hold our breath, cheer, and hope for the best. It is also the time when key rankings of programs are released. As reported on page 3 in this Jayhawk e-Educator, the School of Education’s programs continue to do well in the 2013 rankings by U.S. News and World Report. While rankings have their limits, these particular ranks, among other things, utilize ratings by faculty and leaders at universities across the country to determine their scores. So along with student quality, superintendent ratings, grant dollars and the like, our ranks are based on what our colleagues across the nation think about our programs and graduates.

We are lucky in the School of Education. We have great faculty and students and supportive staff who work hard to ensure our success, and friends and alumni like you who support us in ways that few institutions experience. What we all realize, however, is that our incoming students and the world around us are presenting challenges never considered in the past. It is an exciting time, but faculty need to be on their toes to keep up with new technologies, plugged-in students, and innovations that are pushing all of higher education to change. In the years ahead you’ll be hearing from us about the many innovations we are considering and implementing. The university will launch its next capital campaign this coming April 28th, and all KU alumni will be asked to assist in moving our great university forward.

Please enjoy this copy of the e-Educator and catch up with the many exciting things going on around JRP and Robinson Center. And do stay in touch…like your former grade school teachers, our greatest joy comes from learning about your success in your lifetime pursuits.

Rick Ginsberg
Dean
“We thank the donors for this generous gift,” said Ginsberg. “The intent is to provide undergraduate students the opportunity to be supported in their quest to become leaders with organizational understanding and appreciation of the larger system in which their work is embedded. Once the scholarship program is in place, it will attract the best students for professional studies in education at KU.”

This gift will count toward Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas, the comprehensive fundraising campaign scheduled for public kickoff April 28.

KU Endowment is the independent, nonprofit organization serving as the official fundraising and fund-management organization for KU. Founded in 1891, KU Endowment was the first foundation of its kind at a U.S. public university.

The 2013 U.S. News & World Report rankings of graduate programs were released. Almost 50 KU programs are included in the report released on March 13. The School of Education’s special education program, long ranked first among public institutions, moved from second among both public and private institutions to a tie with Vanderbilt University as the top overall program. The education administration program moved up in rankings and is now ninth among public institutions, fourteenth overall. The School of Education maintained its ranking of ninth among publics and 18th overall.

“The university and the state can take pride in this recognition for our outstanding graduate programs,” Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little said. “When we compare ourselves to our peers among the nation’s public international research universities, it demonstrates our strengths while also indicating areas where our strategic plan will guide our progress toward even greater success.”

“Recognition from our peers is a testament to our outstanding faculty and staff and to our students who go on to successful careers,” said Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education. “The success of the program is the result of hard work both in the classroom and out in the field.”

Please join us at
The 8th Annual KUPD & School of Education Graduate Student Research Conference
Friday • April 6, 2012 • 9:30-3:30
Joseph R. Pearson Hall
Keynote speaker Dr. Michael Faggella-Luby will speak at 10:30am in 150 JRP.
Call for Nominations
University of Kansas School of Education
Distinguished Alumni Award & Friend of Education Award

Distinguished Alumni Award
The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor the School of Education bestows upon its alumni. The award recognizes a particular achievement of noteworthy value, a series of such achievements, or a career of noteworthy accomplishments.

Nominations for the awards may be submitted by members of the University and the wider community; a graduate of the School of Education; a School of Education faculty member; a former Distinguished Alumni Award winner; an employer; a member of the community.

Permission must be obtained from an alumnus before proceeding with a nomination.

Friend of Education Award
This award honors an individual, organization, foundation, corporation or publication that has exemplified strong leadership and distinguished service to the field of education and whose service and support has helped to advance education locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally. The award is not restricted to a graduate of the KU School of Education, but rather is intended to recognize those who, regardless of educational background, have helped support and sustain elementary, secondary, or post-secondary public education.

Nomination Documentation for Distinguished Alumni Award and Friend of Education Awards must contain:
• A letter of recommendation signed by the nominator. Not to exceed two pages, this letter should describe the breadth of contributions made by the candidate.
• No more than two (2) additional letters of reference supporting the nomination signed by individuals from an institution other than the nominator’s.
• A resumé, curriculum vitae, or chronological listing of the nominee’s positions, titles, institutional affiliations, and accomplishments.

Additional information about the awards will be available at www.soe.ku.edu.

Nomination materials should be sent to:
Distinguished Alumni/Friend of Education Award, c/o Chris Barritt, Office of the Dean, School of Education, University of Kansas, 1122 W. Campus Rd., Lawrence, KS 66047. Deadline for receipt of materials is April 6, 2012.

The awards will be presented at the School of Education Spring Convocation

Dean Rick Ginsberg (r) presents the award to 2011’s Distinguished Alumni, James Kauffman.
KU program puts technology, expert training, new teaching in classrooms

It’s becoming more common with every semester for a school to hand out new electronics such as iPads or laptop computers to give students a new tool in their educational kit. For years now, a University of Kansas program has been going several steps beyond, knowing it’s not enough to just give a classroom new gadgets, it’s vital to provide teachers with the training on how to use the technology to enhance curriculum and help change how students learn.

Since 2003, Technology Rich Classrooms, a project of Advance Learning Technologies in Education in KU’s Center for Research on Learning, has been managing a Kansas State Department of Education program that provides funding to school districts across the state to purchase new technology and fund a facilitator in the school who coaches teachers on how to make the new devices part of higher order curriculum. Nearly 90 Kansas schools have received the two-year, Title IID grants, and the program is spreading beyond Kansas’ borders.

“When it comes down to it, we don’t talk about iPads or Macbooks, we talk about using any technology the school has that engages students and empowers critical thinking,” said Amber Rowland, project leader.

Facilitators and teachers who take part in the program gather several times a year for professional learning on higher order instruction, student-centered approaches and technology integration, while meeting with their peers to discuss strategies and how they’ve put technology to use in their respective classrooms. The facilitators are not consultants, but primarily people within the district, who the teachers know and can work with directly every day.

“Those facilitators are like coaches in the classrooms,” Rowland said. “When the funding goes away, we want that person to still be there.”

Teachers and school districts also are welcomed to an online home to learn more about the program and talk with their fellow technology-rich educators. Facilitators, teachers, the Kansas State Department of Education and KU personnel alike discuss new apps, funding opportunities, and they post videos, blogs and discussions about their schools and use of technology at kansasstrc.org.

“Isolation is a problem that often follows teachers, especially in rural areas,” Rowland said. “TRC helps tear that barrier down.”

The State Education Technology Director’s Association and the state of Kansas have both promoted TRC as a school improvement model, facilitating similar programs in states such as Oregon and New Hampshire. Technology Rich Classrooms is in its last year of funding, but ALTEC and the Kansas State Department of

The big hit was the iPads and it was cute to see the grandparents acting as children, wanting to touch, hold, and play with the iPads!

— Staci Hanson

Hesston 5th grader teaching grandparents with iPad.

continued on next page
Technology in classrooms, continued

Education are seeking new sources of funding. The need to support teachers as they prepare their students for the future will only continue, and the partners hope to find additional ways to facilitate professional learning for teachers in Kansas.

Technology invariably evolves quickly, often making today’s hot gadget nearly obsolete in short order. Technology Rich Classrooms strives to show both educators and students that technology is just a means to thinking critically and taking a new approach to education.

“Our mantra is ‘technology can enhance learning,’” Rowland said. “Just like a pen or a pencil, it’s a tool. We need people who can teach, collaborate, evaluate and come up with solutions to new problems. Teachers often tell us, ‘TRC wasn’t about the technology, it was about changing the way we teach and our students learn.’”

--- Mike Krings, KU News

Here’s a blog post from a district facilitator:

I can’t believe we are more than halfway through our TRC year! I am so proud of my teachers and the amazing projects they have created thus far. One of our best projects was in our 5th grade class using our new iPads. Every year since I can remember (I did it when I attended 5th grade in Hesston over 20 years ago!) we celebrate “Grandparent’s Day”. It is associated with our colonial unit for 5th grade studies and has always included a major project (usually a 3-D model as well as a poster), and presentations to an audience of grandparents.

This year we had about 100 grandparents in attendance, the furthest coming from California! We decided we needed to enhance the project by including technology as well as relating back to the students’ world. The students each completed a 3-D display of various topics including food, housing, clothing, toys, etc. and a keynote presentation made in teams comparing colonial times to the present. For example, a team built a log cabin and then a modern house and others built a Walmart and then an old time grocery store. We had all of the displays in the gym and our grandparents were our authentic audience, walking around and learning from our students. I captured the excitement not only on the students’ faces, but the grandparents when they were shown things of then and now.

The big hit was the iPads and it was cute to see the grandparents acting as children, wanting to touch, hold, and play with the iPads! Some of the grandparents spoke about how things were different when they were kids and what school was like for them compared to how it is now. We even recorded several student presentations for grandparents that were unable to make it to the day (including a grandparent in the final stages of cancer) and posted them on the Internet for them to view. What a fantastic day it was and it was interesting to see the students’ take on how things have changed from colonial times, to their grandparents’ time, and now to their own.

--- Staci Hanson
TRC Facilitator, Hesston USD

For more ideas, go to the TRC blog:
http://www.kansastrc.org/profile/Whirl

Left: A Hesston student teaches grandparents with an iPad--related story.
KUDOS

Presidential Award for Excellence Goes to Science Teacher Overstake

Claire Overstake, who currently teaches 6th grade science at Stucky Middle School in Wichita, Kansas, was one of only 85 teachers across the nation who received the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. It is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.

The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following a rigorous initial selection process done at the state level. Winners of this Presidential honor receive a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion.

As part of the award, Overstake traveled to Washington in May 2011. She relates, “The trip was amazing. We met with policy makers, including senators and representatives, scientists, the head of EPA, NASA, Dr. Jill Biden, and then the President.”

For more information go to the PAEMST website, http://www.paemst.org/

Below: Overstake holding her Presidential citation with Associate Director for Science of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Dr. Carl Wieman (left) and Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Cora Marrett (right).

ING honors KU professor

Financial services leader ING honored Bruce Frey (associate professor, PRE) with the ING Professor of Excellence Award for his outstanding performance in the classroom and commitment to the profession. The award was presented Saturday, Nov. 12, at Memorial Stadium during the Kansas vs. Baylor football game.

The ING Professor of Excellence Award is presented to a member of the university faculty or staff for his or her achievements or dedication to excellence at the university and in the community. The recognition includes a $1,000 grant.

Frey teaches graduate-level courses in statistics and research methodology, and is the author of the recently published and well-reviewed statistics book “Statistics Hacks,” meant for a general audience.

“Students often describe his sense of humor and ability to make difficult material understandable,” said department colleague and professor Thomas Krieshok. “He is able to teach in a way that the most advanced and least advanced student in the class learn at a level that stretches each particular student. This is one of his strengths and a characteristic of an expert teacher.”

KU News Service
KUDOS

Ed Admin Doctoral Students Honored

Two doctoral students in the department of educational leadership and policy studies received honors recently.

The Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators (KAMSA) named Chris Kase as the 2011-2012 Assistant Principal of the Year. The award will be presented at the KAMSA Spring conference in May. Kase is working towards his EdD degree in educational administration. He is vice principal at Atchison Middle School.

Lucas Shivers, who is also working for his EdD degree in educational administration, was recognized as the 2012 Teacher of the Year Award (Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom 2012) for the many ways he incorporates agriculture in his classroom. Gov. Sam Brownback and Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale A. Rodman will honor Shivers in March.

As part of the honor, Shivers was awarded funds to travel to the National Agriculture in the Classroom Convention this June and will be honored in November at the KFAC annual meeting.

In addition, Shivers, and his wife, Rachel, were recognized as the 2011 Foster Parents of the Year by the Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association. They have been foster parents since 2008 for six full-time placements and several short-term respite. His doctoral dissertation examines School-to-Home Connections in Foster Families.

Shivers is currently teaching at Bluejacket-Flint Elementary in the Shawnee Mission School District. He is pictured below with two of his foster sons.

N gondi Kamatuka (director of the Educational Opportunity Programs of the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service) was elected as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), the National TRIO Organization. As Chair of the Board of Directors, Kamatuka will travel to regional TRIO conferences across the country, oversee a board of over thirty individuals from the ten member associations within the United States as well as Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, work closely with the President of the Council, and will be the voice for both TRIO professionals and students throughout the United States as well as Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Dr. Kamatuka will serve as Board Chair until September 2012.

Lisa Wolf-Wendel will begin a term as president-elect of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) in November 2012. This is the beginning of a three-year commitment on the Board of Directors – the first year she will serve as president-elect, the next as president, the final as the past president.

The Association for the Study of Higher Education is a scholarly society with about 2,000 members dedicated to higher education as a field of study.
Two School of Education alumni were honored as Horizon Award Winners on February 24 in Topeka.

Andrew Addington (BSE, 2009) who teaches social studies at Bonner Springs High School and Katlin Sullins (BSE, 2008) who is a third grade teacher at Garnett Elementary School were recognized as “exemplary first-year teachers who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding.”

The Kansas Horizon Award program, sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education and by the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association, identifies and recognizes representatives of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms of the state.

Novice teachers who have successfully completed their first year of teaching are eligible to be recognized. Addington and Sullins were two of only 31 teachers honored this year. The program is a regional competition with four regions corresponding to the state’s U.S. Congressional districts. Four elementary and four secondary classroom teachers may be selected for the award from each region.

“It is a pleasure to offer my congratulations to the recipients of the Kansas Horizon Award,” said Dr. Diane DeBacker, Kansas Commissioner of Education. “Hearing about the passion, commitment and dedication demonstrated by these early-career educators is truly inspiring. I am excited about the future for Kansas education knowing we continue to bring individuals of this caliber to the teaching profession.”
KUDOS

Athletic Training Students Receive Academic Awards

Fifteen athletic training students were recognized by the Kansas Athletic Trainers’ Society for their outstanding academic achievement in accredited Athletic Training Education Programs in the state of Kansas. Congratulations!

1st Team All-Academic
Ashley Frankian, Overland Park, KS
Amy Garrison, Johnson, KS
Ethan Gechter, Scott City, KS

2nd Team All-Academic
Anita Miller, Hutchinson, KS
Rachel Word, Eau Claire, WI
Lindsey Heft, Greensburg, KS

Honorable Mention All-Academic
Luke Spitz, Champaign, IL
Audrey Victor, Delia, KS
Myles Wilcox, Topeka, KS
Jacob Brownback, Kansas City, KS
Matthew Pahls, Salina, KS
Christopher Burch, Kansas City, KS
Matthias Reiber, Olathe, KS
Rebecca Timmins, Lambertville, NJ
Katie Wheeler, Lawrence, KS

Athletic Training Month in Kansas

Above: Governor Sam Brownback recently declared March as National Athletic Training Month. A group of educators and students recently attended the ceremonial signing. Included from KU were AT students (beginning fourth from left: Amy Garrison, Caroline Nelson, & Emily Gerstner. W. David Carr (assistant professor, HSES) is at far right.

KU education researcher named CADRE Fellow

Jana Craig Hare, project coordinator with the Center for Research on Learning at the University of Kansas, has been named a 2011-2012 CADRE Fellow by the Community for Advancing Discovery Research in Education. She is one of 10 individuals representing diverse interests and experiences within science, technology, engineering, math and education research selected for the program.

As part of the CADRE Fellowship program, Craig Hare will have the opportunity to explore topics essential to building her capacity as a researcher and developer and to engage in the discovery research K-12 community. The fellowship program, with support from the National Science Foundation, provides professional development experience for early career researchers and developers working on discovery research K-12 projects. Craig Hare is project coordinator for a KU Center for Research on Learning project called the Evidence Games: Collaborative Games Engaging Middle School Students in the Evaluation of Scientific Evidence. The center is one of the university’s officially designated research centers. She is also the external evaluator for Fort Leavenworth USD 207’s CyberTEAMS project, a Department of Defense Education Activity-funded science technology engineering and mathematics initiative.
Researchers aim to improve lives of military families with special needs

Raising a child with a mental or a physical disability is tough work for any parent. But just imagine the added stresses for a parent on active duty in the U.S. armed forces: Possible deployments to war zones, base reassignments and recurrent training pose even more challenges to securing quality care and therapy for a special-needs child. Similar hurdles face military personnel who give care to disabled spouses or parents.

Now, researchers at the Beach Center on Disability at the University of Kansas are analyzing military policy and developing recommendations to be enacted across all branches of the U.S. military, with the goal of strengthening military families facing these exceptional circumstances.

“Our work focuses first on analysis of policy within the Department of Defense and the four branches of the military — the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy,” said Rud Turnbull, the Ross and Marianna Beach Distinguished Professor of Special Education, who leads the research team. “Secondly, our work involves conducting a literature review and interviews with service members to determine what constitutes best practices in supporting families. We’ll bring this research together to make recommendations to the Department of Defense.”

The work by the KU group, funded by a $260,000 grant from the DOD’s Office of Community Support, will benefit special-needs families of armed services personnel around the world, across all branches of the military and up and down the chain of command.

“The rank of the military person is irrelevant,” said Turnbull, who is a veteran of the active and reserve Army. “We’ve been dealing with a retired four-star general in the Army, and we’ve been dealing with shaved-head recruits. Likewise, the duty station is irrelevant. While we’ve conducted our interviews exclusively within the continental United States, our work also applies to personnel outside the U.S. For example, a military base in Korea or Germany would benefit from our work because those installations abroad have responsibility to the families of their military personnel.”

Each military branch has a program called the Exceptional Family Member Program that supports special-needs families by providing information, referral to services, advocacy training and outreach. The KU research will enhance the EFMP’s delivery of these services and promote its consistency across Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force installations worldwide.

“If you don’t have policy informed by the literature

continued on next page
Military families, continued

and research, you are apt to be floating around, without sufficient direction,” Turnbull said. “There most likely will be standardization of policy and practice as a result of our work, and that result becomes very important given the amount of intra-service and intra-base work in the military. Military personnel need some certainty in their lives. But there’s a tremendous amount of uncertainty in their lives because they deploy often and they’re frequently in harm’s way. When we can provide certain standardized policies and services that are available at every branch and at every installation, then we can assist the military family support programs to address the special-needs issues that military families have.”

Turnbull said that standardization and improvement of policies designed to help families with special-needs members would likely boost the overall effectiveness of the armed services, while improving the lives of those who serve their country. To this end, research at KU’s Beach Center aims to achieve four goals: enhance mission readiness, ease the burdens of redeployment, advance retention in the services and aid recruitment efforts.

“Part of the motivation here is our sense of responsibility to armed forces personnel,” said Turnbull. “We recognized the great need that they have. This is more a matter of patriotism than practically any other work we’ve done, because it deals with the armed forces when they are involved in combat in the Middle East or in stressful duties elsewhere. I’ve respected the military ever since I served, and, personally, this is my payback to the military for what it did for me while I served on active duty for nearly two years.”

— Brendan Lynch, KU News Service

School of Education Convocation Saturday, May 12, 10:30 am Allen Field House

★ There will not be a limit on the number of guests and tickets will not be required.
★ More information will be on the School of Education website in mid-March as well as an online registration form for participation in the ceremony.

State of the University Video

Have you checked out KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little’s State of the University Video? http://chancellor.ku.edu/sotu2012/

JRP is the first location on the video!
AGENDA

7:30-8:30 am  Registration & Continental Breakfast
Budig Hall

8:30-9:00 am  Welcome/Introduction
110 Budig Hall
Jeffrey Vitter, Provost  Rick Ginsberg, Dean
University of Kansas  KU School of Education

9:00-9:45 a.m.  Infusing iPad Technology Into Instruction
Jerri Kemble
Superintendent, Centre, Kansas

9:45-10:00 am  Break

10:00-10:45 am  State of Education
Diane DeBacker, Commissioner
Kansas State Department of Education

10:45-11:45  Race to Self-destruction: Why the Reformers are Wrong and What We Can Do to Save American Education
Yong Zhao, Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education
College of Education, University of Oregon

Yong Zhao speaks around the world on educational issues, particularly on issues related to globalization and education, creativity, global competitiveness, educational reforms, and educational technology.

11:45-1:00  Transition to Joseph R. Pearson Hall and Lunch (provided)
1st Floor Commons

1:00-3:45 p.m.  Small Group Sessions
We are currently accepting proposals and will provide details soon!
If you would like to submit a proposal, please do so on our website . . .
www.soe.ku.edu/strategies

Certificates of participation will be available at the end of the day as you exit the building.
Alumni Spotlight ★ Kelly Janowski Bowers

Kelly Janowski Bowers (PhD, 2006, PRE) lives in Michigan with her husband, Mark (PhD, CLAS, 2006), and children Charlie and Addy. In fact, Kelly and Mark met at KU as doctoral students – in a marriage and family counseling class. They continue to be good Jayhawks – Charlie’s middle name is Lawrence, after you know what town.

Kelly Bowers was named one of the University of Kansas’s Women of Distinction for her work at the University and in the community while completing her doctorate in counseling psychology. She previously served as the director of counseling at Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas before beginning her role as a consultant for the Gallup Organization where she helps schools conduct research on how students capitalize on their strengths. She also serves on the Board of the Michigan Autism Partnership, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide scholarship money to families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Mark and Kelly are the developers of a mobile application for youth and young adults with Asperger’s Syndrome. The application works on smart phones and tablets. It is called Sōsh™ and, as Kelly says, “Can be used in real life social situations when questions arise.”

Sōsh™ is especially targeted towards tweens, teens, and young adults. Kelly notes, “There are a lot of great apps out there for younger kids who struggle with autism but there’s not really anything for the nine and up age range which we focus on.” Although Mark began developing the application, Kelly’s input has been critical. “We didn’t want the app to look too kiddie… these are older kids so they have more sophisticated taste.”

The Sōsh™ framework divides social functioning into five areas: Relate (Connect with Others), Relax (Reduce Stress), Regulate (Manage Behaviors), Reason (Think it Through) and Recognize (Understand Feelings). For example, in the Relax mode, the user can deal with a negative thought using The Shredder. Or as the Bowers explain on their website, “Sometimes you just have to destroy some unpleasant thoughts or ideas and move on. The shredder is a fun way of accomplishing this. Simply type something into the text box and drag it in to the shredder and let the app do the rest. This can be especially helpful for thoughts that you just can’t seem to get out of your mind.”

Sōsh™ and the Bowers have been getting a lot of good press – on local television, in a number of newspapers throughout the Midwest, on NPR Michigan, and on PBS’s A Wider World.

More information can be found on www.mysosh.com.

Keep in touch! Receive electronic newsletters like this + copies of our Jayhawk Educator! Find out about upcoming events! Just update your contact information and give us news of your recent activities here.
The Center for Research on Learning offers several classes for those interested in learning more about the Strategic Instruction Model, a research-validated literacy program that helps adolescents learn how to learn, providing a means for them to achieve independence and success. For registration forms and complete descriptions of these classes, visit the Center’s website, http://kucrl.org/classes.

For more information about the Strategic Instruction Model, visit http://kucrl.org/sim.

SIM Reading and Writing Strategies and the Common Core State Standards
$675 • April 16-19, 2012
This class will introduce middle school and high school teachers to the Strategic Instruction Model and discuss how SIM Learning Strategies support instruction and progress monitoring in relation to the Common Core State Standards recently adopted by most states. Participants will return to their classrooms with four powerful tools that promote deeper reading and more complex writing across all subject areas.

SIM Content Enhancement Routines and the Common Core State Standards
$675 • April 16-19, 2012
This class will introduce teachers to the foundations of the SIM Content Enhancement Routines, an instructional method that relies on using powerful teaching devices to organize and present core curriculum content in an understandable and easy-to-learn manner. Teachers who use the routines taught in this course will better prepare their students to meet the literacy and higher-order thinking demands required with the adoption of the Common Core State Standards.

SIM Learning Strategies for Preservice Educators
$975 • May 29-June 1, 2012
This class for higher education faculty in teacher education programs will focus on strategies in the SIM Learning Strategies Curriculum.

SIM Content Enhancement Routines for Preservice Educators
$975 • May 29-June 1, 2012
This class for higher education faculty in teacher education programs will focus on the SIM Content Enhancement Series, inclusive course planning, and the use of a variety of routines to ensure content-area mastery of critical ideas and concepts by all students.

All classes will be held on the University of Kansas Lawrence campus. Class fees do not include transportation, meals, or housing. Additional tuition fees payable to the University of Kansas apply for those taking these classes for graduate credit.
Gather Together at the AERA Conference!
Please join us at a reception . . .

Saturday, April 14 • 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Fairmont Waterfront • MacKenzie Room 1
Vancouver, British Columbia

Complimentary hors d’oeuvres • Cash Bar

According to legend, the publication of an article in the Harvard University paper that ranked KU’s yell as the best college cheer in the country thwarted an attempt to replace “Rock Chalk” in the mid-1890s. Since KU’s conceit at the time was that it was the “Harvard of the West,” the cheer could hardly have gained a more fortunate endorsement. But then a son of Harvard trumped his alma mater one better. Theodore Roosevelt was reputed to have declared KU’s yell “the greatest college cheer ever devised.” And so the notion grew among those affiliated with the institution that KU had the greatest college cheer in the world.

KU dean named to two organizations dedicated to producing better teachers

Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education, has been appointed to the National Commission on Standards and Performance Reporting for the new accrediting body, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, that unifies two current accreditors (NCATE & TEAC). He also was recently elected chairman of the board of directors of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education. Ginsberg is currently chairman of the Professional Teaching Standards Advisory Board in Kansas...Read more: http://www.news.ku.edu/2012/february/28/ginsberg.shtml

Study: Less-privileged women more likely to succeed in STEM fields

Researchers and educators have long tried to encourage young women to consider science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, as career fields in an effort to address the shortage of females in those areas. Two University of Kansas professors have published a study showing that ability alone simply isn’t enough for women to excel in the STEM fields, and that how far women are from privilege makes a much bigger difference.

Barbara Kerr, Williamson Family Distinguished Professor of Counseling Psychology and Research in Education; and Karen Multon, professor and chair of psychology and research in education, published the study in the Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment. The study examines “distance from privilege,” or the idea that how far young women perceive themselves from ideal socioeconomic, geographic, educational and various other variables can determine how likely they can be to persist in education and careers in the STEM fields.

“We’re trying to understand how to keep young women in college in STEM,” Kerr said. “Once they are in the field, how do we keep them there? We find over and over that women who do persist have had to overcome many barriers....Read more: http://www.news.ku.edu/2012/march/5/stem.shtml

KU professors’ book examines fight for African-American secondary schooling

Brown v. Board of Education is recognized and remembered as the landmark Supreme Court case that ended racial segregation in American schools. Two University of Kansas professors have written a book that argues that the equalization movement and activism of black parents and communities that preceded it was perhaps more important in closing the educational gap.

John Rury, professor of educational leadership and policy studies, and Shirley Hill, professor of sociology, have authored “The African American Struggle for Secondary Schooling 1940 -1980: Closing the Graduation Gap,” published by Teachers College Press. Their collaboration began with a Keeler Intra-University Professorship Rury held in the sociology department and was supported by a grant from the Spencer Foundation...Read more: http://www.news.ku.edu/2012/february/14/schooling.shtml

KU-developed coaching helps educators improve

Any good teacher can attest that an educator needs to keep learning, just like the students in his or her classroom. The Center for Research on Learning at the University of Kansas has developed an instructional coaching project that is helping teachers worldwide learn on the job and improve how they educate students....Read more: http://www.news.ku.edu/2012/january/6/kansascoaching.shtml

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SOE in the news...

Professor finds team unity can detract from students’ social networks

It has long been assumed that a university’s athletic teams help bring students together, form new bonds and make them feel a part of the community. A new study by a University of Kansas professor shows, however, that students’ team identity can actually detract from the quality of their social networks.

Aaron Clopton, associate professor of health, sport and exercise science at KU, has published “Social Capital and College Sport: In Search of the Bridging Potential of Intercollegiate Athletics” in the Journal of Intercollegiate Sport. In the article he examines how college students’ team identity affects their social capital, or feelings of trust, identity, cohesion and sense of community among societal connections.

“The impact of athletics is maybe not in line with what we’ve imagined,” Clopton said. “The ramifications can be very interesting.” Read more: http://www.news.ku.edu/2012/february/13/unity.shtml

KU develops national partnership to test students for career readiness

The Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation at the University of Kansas has announced a partnership with educational experts from Kansas and Mississippi to develop the Career Pathways Assessment System, a new, innovative assessment for determining students’ career readiness. The tool will use computer-based tests with innovative item types and performance assessments to benefit students and states looking to compete in an ever-changing global economy and will help ensure a capable and effective workforce....Read more: http://www.news.ku.edu/2011/november/22/cpass.shtml

Dynamic maps key to improving assessments for students with disabilities

The University of Kansas has made progress in developing a new generation of assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. A $22 million grant, the largest in KU history, was given to the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Training Programs... Read more: http://www.news.ku.edu/2012/january/12/milestones.shtml

KU lands grant to produce more English as second language teachers

The University of Kansas has earned a grant to improve education for students learning English by producing more Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, or TESOL, endorsed teachers. The grant will benefit teachers currently working in Topeka Public Schools, paraeducators with Topeka Public Schools and KU students seeking to add an ESOL endorsement to their teaching license upon graduating...Read more: http://www.news.ku.edu/2011/november/30/projectelk.shtml
In Memory

Joseph T. Collins, a staunch supporter of the School of Education and husband of longtime licensure officer Suzanne Collins, passed away in January of a massive coronary at his vacation home on St. George Island, Florida.

Joe was a herpetologist in all parts of his life - there was no dividing line between career and personal time. He wrote his first scientific paper in 1959 and his first book in 1974. Since then, he has written over 300 scientific or semi-popular articles and 28 books. Joe joined the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History as a collections manager in 1967. He ultimately became the Editor of the Museum’s publications until his retirement. Joe founded the Kansas Herpetological Society in 1974 which grew to be the largest and most active academically based regional herpetology organization.

Joe and Suzanne co-founded The Center for North American Herpetology in 1994 to benefit the amphibians, crocodilians, reptiles, and turtles of North America and the scientists that study them.

Recently Joe enjoyed his research positions at the Kansas Biological Survey and the Sternberg Museum of Natural History. Although his primary interest was in herpetology, he also published on mammalogy, ichthyology, systematics, and taxonomy. Joe is the state’s most prolific author about Kansas’s wildlife. The Governor of Kansas proclaimed him the Kansas Wildlife Author Laureate in 1996. His titles include Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas (three editions), Fishes in Kansas, and Turtles in Kansas. He also co-authored the Peterson Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America.

Contributions in memory of Joe may be given to the charity of the donor’s choice or to the Collins Award through The Center for North American Herpetology (cnah.org).

We will miss Joe’s presence at SOE events.

Marjorie Austin Smith, 99, Lawrence, Kansas, died February 10, 2012. Mrs. Smith married George Baxter Smith, former dean of the School of Education, and was an active partner in her husband’s civilian, educational and military careers during their 69 years of marriage. Mrs. Smith faithfully attended home KU basketball games, sitting court-side until the age of 96.

Mrs. Smith also regularly attended School of Education scholarship recognition ceremonies where she met recipients of the George Baxter and Marjorie Austin Smith Scholarship in Education.

The family suggests contributions to the University of Kansas Endowment Association in support of the performing arts, or to Plymouth Congregational Church, Lawrence, Kansas.

Below: Marjorie Smith poses with Laura Wolowicz who received her scholarship in 2006.
Mark Your Calendars

April 5  Budig Teaching Professor in Special Education Lecture • Eva Horn
April 6  SOE & KUPD Graduate Student Research Conference
April 12 You Can Go Back info session • Edwards Campus • 6pm
May 12  SOE Convocation • Allen Field House • 10:30 am
June 8  Strategies for Educational Improvement Conference: Preparing for the Future
September 14 Gale Sayers Golf Tourney
September 15 Party on the Patio
October 6  Dr. Bob Run

Rock Chalk Baby Hawk!

Kiersyn Reynolds carries on the proud Jayhawk tradition started by mom Jeannette, who earned a BSE from the SOE in middle science education and is currently working on her master’s degree. Evidently not everyone in the family understands which school to root for but Kiersyn is following the right path.

Join us for the Gale Sayers Golf Tournament September 14