Remembering Bob Frederick (Page 4) ... Introducing the Centennial Reading Plaza (Page 7)
Kansas Asia Scholars Learn to Teach Chinese Culture (Page 12)
Celebrating Our First 100 Years (Pages 6-11)
ON THE COVER: The School of Education at the University of Kansas celebrates a heritage of rich history and bright hope for the future. Here, Nicole Schmidt, graduate student in science education and recipient of the William S. LaShier Jr. Scholarship, thanks her donor, Pat LaShier, now of Sioux Falls, S.D. Pat’s husband, William “Bill” LaShier, was a KU School of Education professor for 37 years. Pat worked in the Department of Special Education for 23 years, and they both became avid Jayhawks. A few years after Bill’s retirement in 2002, the couple moved to South Dakota to be near family. Bill passed away in 2007.
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ANNUAL ROLL
2008-2009 Report and Roll of Honor
The School of Education’s centennial celebration this year is a major milestone for the University of Kansas. The state formally approved the School of Education in 1909, although KU had been granting education degrees since 1876.

A hundred years is a long time to prepare educators and other professionals who impact our state, nation and world through their teaching, research and service. I was contemplating the enormity of being around for 100 years while talking to my young children. They wondered if students in 1909 were able to take their state assessment examinations on computers like they do today. I had to explain that in 1909 there was no such thing as state assessment exams, and certainly there weren’t any computers. After telling my kids that in my day (a bit after 1909), we all had to walk to campus five miles each way up hill in the snow — with no shoes — they responded with their usual, “Oh, Daddy,” and ran off to listen to their iPods, play on the Wii or text someone on their cell phones. As the old Virginia Slims commercial exhorted, we’ve come a long way, baby!

Celebrating our past is important. No matter who we are or what we have become, our standing today is built on the shoulders of those who came before us. Of the many things I have come to admire about our great University, the rich traditions we all cherish are particularly notable. Whether it be walking down the hill after years of toiling in the classroom or creating that capstone project for a graduate degree, waving the wheat after a touchdown or singing the haunting “Rock Chalk” chant when we fans sense that another basketball opponent is about to fall, KU’s traditions match those of any great university in the land.

But we in the School of Education have established some lofty traditions ourselves over the course of 100 years. Our Department of Special Education sits atop national rankings every year; our faculty distinguish themselves with great teaching and state-of-the-art research; our research centers continue to excel — for instance, the Center of Educational Testing and Evaluation is the only university-related organization in the nation that administers a state K-12 assessment program; our Department of Health, Sport and Exercise Sciences was founded by the inventor of the game of basketball; our graduates make their mark on fields in education, health and wellness all over the world; our current students are among the strongest of any university in the nation. We indeed are a School of lofty traditions.

To honor a great 100 years, we will be hosting a variety of events throughout this academic year. A calendar of these events, along with a history of major milestones is included in this issue of The Jayhawk Educator (see pages 6-11). We are especially excited about our spring conference next June, when we will dedicate our Centennial Reading Plaza, located outside the second floor on the east side of Joseph R. Pearson Hall. The plaza will be a convenient and comfortable place for students to read, study, meet with friends or just take a breather. You will have an opportunity to help us mark this first 100 years by contributing to the Centennial Plaza, with choices such as dedicating an engraved brick that will become a permanent piece of our future.

You, our alumni and many friends, play a significant role in our history. We cherish our continued relationship with you, and hope you will be able to join us at an event this coming year. We have come a long way in the 100 years of the School of Education, and with your continued advice and support, we expect to grow even stronger in the next 100!
Italy Study Abroad program recognized for innovation

A University of Kansas Study Abroad program that immerses education majors in Italian classrooms and culture has been honored as an outstanding international initiative. The Institute for International Education recently awarded KU an Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education. Six universities and colleges were honored. KU shares the award with Clemson University for the Maymester Study Abroad in Carpi, Italy. Barbara A. Bradley, Ph.D., assistant professor, curriculum and instruction, plans and coordinates the program.

The four-week program for education majors involves 70 to 80 hours in an Italian classroom. Participants prepare lessons to assist Italian children in learning English and about American culture. Each student lives with a host family, further immersing them in Italian culture. In 2008, 39 students participated in the program. There have been 165 participants since its inception in 2000.

"By studying in a non-English speaking country, participants experience many of the same challenges that English-language learners face living, working and attending school in the United States," Carpi program officials wrote in award nomination documents. "We have data suggesting that prior to our arrival, participants often believe that they will learn enough Italian during the study abroad to engage in conversations … but quickly realize that learning another language is difficult."

KU ranks 11th in the nation for participation in study abroad programs among public research universities, according to Open Doors 2008. In short-term study abroad offerings, KU ranks 16th.

Wehmeyer receives national disabilities training program grant

Michael L. Wehmeyer, Ph.D., professor, special education and director of the KU Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD), will serve as co-principal investigator of a newly awarded $4 million grant to create a national training program to assist people with disabilities. The grant was awarded to a consortium headed by KUCDD and the Institute for Human Development at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Carl F. Calkins, director of UMKC’s Institute for Human Development, is the other co-principal investigator.

The collaborative five-year project will promote training to help people with intellectual and other disabilities practice self-determination, the concept that people with disabilities can and should determine how they live their own lives. The grant also will be used to demonstrate how advanced technology can be utilized in training and to create a national Web portal that allows users to download training to a portable media player, such as an iPod.

Wehmeyer was one of the earliest proponents of self-determination and his research has documented how the concept can work, especially in schools. He also is noted for his research in teaching children with multiple severe disabilities and in the use of technology by people with intellectual disabilities.

The consortium also includes the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois-Chicago, the Center on Human Development at the University of Oregon and the Westchester Institute for Human Development at New York Medical College.

Transition Coalition honored for Short Course Series

The Short Course Series from the Transition Coalition has won two awards from the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). The series received both the 2009 Outstanding Program Award for Credit Programs, the highest award given by the UCEA and the Distance Learning Community of Practice 2009 Program of Excellence Award. The Distance Learning Community of Practice is a group within UCEA that promotes the exchange and dissemination of information, ideas and best practices related to distance learning. The courses were also named as a Great Plains Regional winner by the Association.

The awards were presented at the national UCEA conference in Boston in April. Amy Gaumer Erickson, Ph.D. (program coordinator, CRL, special education) represented the Transition Coalition team, which includes Mary Morningstar, Ph.D. (associate professor, special education) and Pattie Noonan, Ph.D. (assistant research professor, CRL, special education), at the presentation ceremony.

Editor’s Note: Learn more about the Transition Coalition at transitioncoalition.org. Information about the short courses may be found at http://transitioncoalition.org/transition/section.php?pageId=49.
Robert “Bob” Frederick died Friday, June 12 of injuries suffered June 11 in a bicycle accident. He was 69. Bob taught in the Department of Health, Sport and Exercise Sciences since 2001; he also served as chair of the department for two years.

Bob was KU’s athletics director from 1987 until 2001. A Jayhawk for most of his career, Bob earned all three of his degrees from KU — a bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 1962, a master’s degree in secondary school administration in 1964, and a doctorate in educational administration in 1984.

Bob played basketball at Kansas in 1958-1962 under head coach Dick Harp. He was an assistant basketball coach under Harp in 1962-1964 and then under Ted Owens in 1971-1972. He served as director of the Williams Educational Fund at KU in 1981-1985. He is the only person in the University’s history to play, coach and serve as its athletics director.

His wife Margey; four sons Brian, Brad and his wife Jocelyn, Mark and Chris; and a beloved grandson Benjamin survive him. Bob donated his internal organs, and his family would like to encourage others to become organ donors, too.

The family has established two awards in Bob’s memory — the Bob Frederick Award for an Outstanding Student in Sports Management, and the Bob Frederick Award for an Outstanding Educator, open to anyone in the School of Education. The family suggests memorials to fund the awards through KU Endowment Association, 1891 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS, 66047.

Hundreds of remembrances appeared after Bob’s passing. Among them were expressions of sympathy from politicians, athletes, coaches, sportswriters, former students, colleagues and friends. We have excerpted just a few.

Rick Ginsberg, dean, School of Education

Bob Frederick was one of the finest gentlemen I have ever known. ... The university will be a different place without him.

Leonard Krishtalka, director, Biodiversity Institute; professor, ecology and evolutionary biology

Two weeks ago I caught up with Bob on the first leg of the Cottonwood 200 in the middle of the Flint Hills. ... As usual, he was cycling like a fiend, leading the ride, a ceaseless, tireless motor. He told me he wanted to be first into Council Grove to ensure a good spot in the gym, and smiled the smile of the veteran, the one that speaks of quiet, determined competition matured by humility. We rode together for the next 30 miles, alternating pulls, stopping only briefly at the last sag stop on Route 177. We talked about the subtle beauty of the Flint Hills and the whispering of the bikes across the still terrain. ... He talked of his love for the students, that every year we got to transform their lives — and the responsibility that warranted. ... He was first into Council Grove, got his spot in the gym, parked his bike beside the big yellow truck at the high school, opened the rear door, climbed into the furnace of bags and began unloading the riders’ luggage. Quiet. Selfless.

Bobby Cashman, head coach, men’s tennis, University of Central Florida

Bob had such a huge impact on so many young coaches in their overall development at KU, including myself. I saved some old letters that he wrote to me as I took my first coaching job ... because he had such a positive influence on how I should represent college athletics.

Candace (Mason) Dunback, curator, Booth Family Hall of Athletics; former student-athlete and coach, KU Track and Field

As a former student-athlete and coach of Bob’s, I would like to thank you for sharing his time with us. His integrity was a standard for many. Our hearts are heavy but full of great memories. He was a great man.
Amy Fortney, former graduate student  I will never forget one particular class. ... Dr. Bob’s story this day was one he never wanted us to experience, however ... he told us how he would always regret missing one of his son’s championship basketball games to fulfill one of his duties as AD. ... He told us that no job was worth missing out on your family’s lives and important moments because a job was just a job, and they can come and they can go. He wanted us to be successful at whatever we chose to do, and we could feel that. But he also wanted us to be successful in our private lives, too.

Michael F. Alden, director of athletics, University of Missouri  I was the new AD at Missouri and at my first public meeting Bob came directly to me, introduced himself, welcomed me to the Big 12 and told me he would do anything he could to help me. Over the past 11 years, Bob was a mentor, a tutor, an advisor, a confidante, a colleague ... but most of all a friend. He was a man of great integrity, humility, compassion and had a terrific sense of humor. ...

Tom Butters, former athletics director, Duke University  ... Thoughtful, true, thorough, intelligent, fair — what more can be said about a man. I valued his life as did the entire athletic community and I stumble at the sobering thought of his death.

Hayward Lafferty, former student  ... He treated me with warmth, dignity and respect. ... I learned much from him about character and the kind of man I want to be. I went to visit Dr. Bob many times in his office. He would always greet me and sit in one of the other empty chairs in his office. I finally asked him why he did that. He said it was to “show respect and put people at ease.” He was right. Because of his example I have followed his lead and do the same thing. I know it is small but that is how I will pass on what I learned from Dr. Bob.

John Burch, former basketball player, Coffeyville Community College; former assistant coach under Bob, Lawrence High School  Bob was instrumental in my early decision-making as a young adult. Could a person ask for a better role model? Most of what I learned in basketball came from Bob, but more important is that he taught me how to conduct myself as a coach and person.

Bob Chamberlain, childhood friend  ... It was great fun for us to share the joys and frustrations of parenthood. But through it all, Bob was a pillar of guidance and friendship for us and for our kids. ... (Bob) had an immense impact on a great number of people and for that the world is a much better place. ... We all have benefited from knowing and being loved by him and we will not forget how our lives were influenced by the way he conducted his life.

Elizabeth Askren Tate, former graduate student  ... He was the reason I ended up staying in school and not going back home. ... I just want you all to know that of anyone I’ll ever meet in my life, no one will ever compare to Bob. Not even close. ... I will never forget Bob or you as his family. I got many updates in our weekly discussions in the office about his wonderful family and how much he adored his wife and sons.

Rachel Luptak, former graduate student  The first time I met Dr. Bob, we were on a tour of Memorial Stadium for Dr. Bernie Kish’s facilities course. It took about five minutes to sense the appreciation and dedication he had for the University of Kansas. I believe he had a story for everything — from the locker rooms to the light poles — and told them with such vibrancy that one couldn’t help but be enthralled by the history. Leaving that evening, I was inspired by his passion for athletics, and moreover, a University he had a great connection to over so many years.

Dennis du Pont, former basketball player, Lawrence High School  Coach Frederick was a man who lived fully. Please know that he made a real impact in the lives of all of his players. With you, we grieve.

Byron McConnaughey, safety/security officer, Department of Health, Sport and Exercise Sciences  I liked and respected Bob so much. He made it a joy coming to work because he treated everyone as an equal. With Bob, you always knew your position and station in life was secondary to who you were as a person.

Editor’s note: Bob also worked as a consultant with Donna Lopiano and her firm Sport Management Resources to develop the Aspire Academy in Qatar. This was at the request of the country’s leaders, including Prince Jassim, who dreamed of an athletics program in Qatar good enough to give the country a significant presence in future Olympics. Lopiano wrote: Bob was the subject of a wonderful conversation in Qatar (recently). ... During dinner with Qatar’s director general and all the new directors of sport, sport science and education as they reflected on the new structure that has been put in place. ... The new directors pledged to realize that dream ... a total focus on the well-being of student-athletes, the highest educational standards, and the full involvement and support of coaches to achieve excellence in academics, sport and leadership ... all of Bob’s vision. His dream lives on.

Photos, from left: The Frederick family, 1998; Bob and Margey’s wedding day, 1972; at son Brad and daughter-in-law Jocelyn’s wedding, 2005; on a hike in Utah, 1974; being named NIT Man of the Year, 1996; with graduating seniors at KU, 2009; with grandson, Benjamin Robert, 2008; with loyal friend, Jake, after a long bike ride, 2009.
This is the beginning of the School of Education’s centennial year. We are dedicated to shaping the future of the School of Education so that it continues to be an ever-improving, vital force within the University, state, nation and world. To be sure that our future does promise all of that, we know it is important to reflect on where we’ve been, what’s happening right now and, especially, what we’d like to see in the future.

This is the first of what we hope will be a collection of reflections on our past, present and future. Read the following thoughts from some of our faculty and staff. And please do add your voice. Send an e-mail to pnaught@ku.edu with your “Then, Now and the Future ...” contribution for inclusion on the School of Education Web site.

Sherrie Saathoff, administrative professional, Department of Special Education

Then ... Before PL 94-142 (now called IDEA), many children were denied access to education and opportunities to learn. When my daughter Becky was identified as being mildly mentally retarded (now we say intellectually disabled), she was placed in a classroom with children who all had special needs.

Now ... Children with disabilities are now being educated in their neighborhood schools in regular classrooms with their non-disabled peers.

Future ... All children will have the right to participate and contribute meaningfully to society. There will be inclusion of all citizens with support from our leaders.

Linda Faust, graduate records and scheduling officer, Department of Heath, Sport and Exercise Sciences

Then ... We had very strict dress standards (for staff members) — women wore dresses and skirts with nice blouses or sweaters, no slacks or jeans. It was a big day when we were permitted to wear denim blue jeans to the office. (One of the young ladies Linda trained was Sherrie Saathoff, above.)

Now ... Now it’s so relaxed and casual. There’s no dress-down Friday, you dress according to what your job duties are. If you’re going to be filling all day standing on your head, you wear a T-shirt and jeans.

Future ... Your best guess!

Willie Amison, project coordinator, Institute of Educational Research and Public Service

Then ... In the late ’60s I was a young student-athlete trying to make the move to become a teacher. I was successful only because a wonderful School of Education professor, Dr. Evelyn Swartz, provided much-needed guidance toward making my decision. She was truly my guiding light, one that has become a beacon over the years. I had no idea of the impact this nurturing person had on my life and the good I have experienced as an educator.

Now ... Working now within the School of Education, I still see that nurturing quality in some faculty/student relationships. One caring person leads to another caring person — the same nurturing mindset that helped me become a more responsive and caring administrator.

Future ... Educating students will always change due to our society in general but having a good, positive relationship with students will continue to be a common thread.

Nancy Peterson, professor, Department of Special Education

Then ... When I finished my Ph.D., I was the only female in a group of more than 200 graduates being awarded doctoral degrees at the graduation ceremonies. As I walked across the stage at graduation, the president of the University gave me a big hug and smooch on the cheek, simultaneously knocking my cap off. I was quite a spectacle in the middle of the otherwise all-male group. When I came to KU, there was still a dearth of women, although there were some. Most of my colleagues were males.

Now ... There has been quite a shift here at KU, not only in the School of Education but across the University in general with many more women on the faculty and in key administrative positions.

Future ... The challenge is still one of achieving greater ethnic diversity in all our academic settings. While in Kansas we aspire to achieve that, we are still only at the beginning of having real diversity in the state and at KU. After a two-year leave of absence from KU to take a visiting
distinguished professorship at California State University in Los Angeles (where, being Caucasian, I was in the minority), I truly came to appreciate the richness of working with faculty, students and staff from very diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Arlene Barry, associate professor, Department of Curriculum and Teaching

Then ... A reading series called Kansas Readers was used to teach reading in Kansas schools during the early 1900s. They contained a “choice collection of approved child literature” and used the “story method” as a vehicle for teaching reading.

Now ... Many different basal readers and trade books employing multiple text types and methods are currently used. Diverse characters that better reflect society are visible throughout the pages.

Future ... Digital and critical literacy will be widely implemented as we all become familiar with Kindle Books, twitterature and moodles.

LOOKING FORWARD: Centennial Reading Plaza

Have you ever wanted to really “leave your mark” on the School of Education? This is your chance. The School of Education is planning something special to mark the occasion of 100 amazing years of making a difference. To that end, we will construct the Centennial Reading Plaza on the east side of Joseph R. Pearson Hall (where the current upper patio deck is located). The sketch below is an artist’s rendering of the project. Of course we can’t do this without your help, so here’s an opportunity for our alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends to “leave their mark.” There are several ways to do this:

$100 for 100 Honor Roll | Individuals donating $100 in honor of our centennial will have their names included on an honor roll plaque that will be displayed in Joseph R. Pearson Hall. These funds will be used for landscaping materials.

Engraved Bricks | Individuals donating $250 or $450 can have an engraved 4”x8” or 8”x8” brick placed into the surface of the patio. Inscriptions can be a maximum of three lines, each line containing 15 characters including spaces.

Benches and Tables | Individuals donating $3,000 will have a bench placed on the patio. Individuals donating $5,000 will have a table and chairs placed on the patio. A plaque acknowledging the donor will be attached to the bench or table.

Benefactor | Individuals donating $10,000 will contribute toward a sculpture honoring the centennial and support all building costs. Their name will be placed on the main plaque in the plaza acknowledging their generosity.

To place your order by credit card order by email or phone, or if you have questions, please contact Chris Barritt at cbarritt@ku.edu or 785-864-4297. All donors will be invited to attend the dedication of the Centennial Reading Plaza on June 12, 2010.
Cokethea Hill is a doctoral student in the policy studies program in the department of educational leadership and policy studies, is one of the newest members of the Kansas City, Mo. School Board. She was selected from 20 applicants by the current board to fill one of two vacancies. Current board members interviewed the applicants and then, through a series of votes, selected their new colleagues. Hill was the first to receive a majority vote. She and the other new member, Derek Richey, will serve out the terms of two board members who resigned. The new board members will remain in their positions until 2010.

The Kansas City Star, in its story about the selections, says Hill is, “...a doctoral student fresh off the thrill of the Barack Obama presidential campaign...” and noted that the board called the field of applicants “notably strong.”

Jennifer Ng (assistant professor, ELPS) says, “Cokethea is an incredibly committed and dynamic individual. She was very active campaigning for Obama in Kansas City just before this, and I think her desire to get involved in the school board is an extension of the inspiration she felt as a result of that effort.”

Please check the School of Education’s Web site for up-to-the-minute details on these events: http://soe.ku.edu/
Don Deshler, Ph.D., professor of special education and director of the Center for Research on Learning, became the first Williamson Family Distinguished Professor of Special Education at the University of Kansas in January.

The professorship was endowed by Delbert L. “Del” and Barbara Ossian Williamson, of Wellington, Fla. Del studied engineering at KU in the 1950s and graduated from Finlay College in Kansas City, Mo., in 1959. Barbara received a bachelor’s degree in education from KU in 1963.

Chriiss Walther-Thomas, chair of the Department of Special Education, said Deshler was the natural choice for the professorship.

“Don Deshler is one of the most highly respected researchers in special education,” she says. “Over the past 30 years, his work has changed the way in which schools address many literacy challenges low-achieving adolescents face.”

Walther-Thomas says that by working closely with school partners across the country, Deshler and his colleagues have developed academic interventions and classroom enhancements that facilitate effective learning for students with learning disabilities and other academic problems. His national leadership and advocacy efforts on behalf of these students and their families have improved school outcomes for millions of struggling students.

Del Williamson says he and his wife had met Deshler on several occasions. “We have the utmost respect for his career of teaching and leadership in the field of Special Education,” he says. “Dr. Deshler has gained national prominence for his work and we are extremely pleased and honored that he will be the inaugural recipient.”

Thomas O. Erb, Ph.D., professor emeritus of curriculum and teaching, received the National Middle School Association’s (NMSA) highest honor, the John H. Lounsbury Award, for distinguished service to middle grades education at the association’s 2008 annual conference in Denver. Tom will retire as editor of the Middle School Journal in June 2009, after 15 years in the position. In 2005-2006, he served as the Elizabeth P. Allen Distinguished University Professor of Education Studies at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. He will return to DePauw as the Hampton and Esther Boswell Distinguished University Professor of Education Studies in 2009-2010.

The John H. Lounsbury Award for Distinguished Service is given only when an individual has demonstrated a level of service, integrity and leadership in middle level education that warrants special recognition.

Jim LaPoint, Ph.D., associate professor in health, sport and exercise sciences, was the invited keynote speaker for the opening ceremonies of the National Intercollegiate Athletic Games held in Taiwan in May 2008. More than 200 universities and colleges sent 6,000 athletes to participate in the games.

LaPoint was invited by two of his former doctoral students, Barbie Hsiung and Ray Lin, who both earned their doctorates in sport administration at KU. Both are currently professors of sport management in Taiwan.

Matthew Reynolds, Ph.D., joined the School of Education in August 2008 as an assistant professor of psychology and research in education. Reynolds comes to KU from the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his doctorate in school psychology and quantitative methods. His research interests include the measurement and structure of intelligence and the longitudinal modeling of developmental psychopathology. In December, Reynolds received the John B. Carroll Award for Research Methodology in December at the International Society
for Intelligence Research annual conference in Decatur, Ga. His paper, given at the conference, examined Spearman’s law of diminishing returns.

Alejandra (Alex) Hernández-Castro, recruitment coordinator for the Harvest of Hope Leadership Academy, was named the University of Kansas Unclassified Employee of the Year. Hernández-Castro puts in many hours and miles across Kansas to make personal connections with migrant high school students and their families. This honor is University-wide affirmation of the important work that she does on behalf of some of our state’s most vulnerable students and reflects positively on the important advocacy work of all of the School’s Educational Opportunity Programs.

Joe O’Brien, Ed.D., associate professor of curriculum and teaching, is a recipient of the Ned Fleming Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award is financed by a fund established in 1990 from the estate of the late Ned N. Fleming, chief executive officer and honorary chair of the board of Fleming Cos. of Topeka. The awards honor outstanding faculty members with distinguished records of teaching, scholarship and service.

Excellence recognized

The Wolfe Teaching Excellence Awards were established by the Wolfe Family Foundation to recognize excellence in secondary school teaching through nominations by KU undergraduate seniors. The School of Education honored the recipients of the awards at the School of Education Convocation on May 16.

Brad Peck teaches social studies at Park Hill South High School in Riverside, Mo. His former student, Anthony Knipp, nominated him. Anthony received a bachelor of science in business finance in May 2009.

In the nomination, Knipp wrote, “Not only was Mr. Peck my teacher, but he was also my golf coach and dear friend. He had a incredible impact on my life, as well as on every other student that came in contact with him. … His incredible methods of teaching led me on the path of where I am today. … At the end of the year Mr. Peck was awarded the title of Teacher of the Year for our district. At the same time, he was voted by the entire senior class to give a speech at our graduation. At the ceremony, he got up in front of all of us and gave the best speech I have heard. Half of the students were in tears and all of the parents were as well. His speech was about life lessons. He told all of us that we could do anything that we wanted to do, be anything that we wanted to be. That is currently what I am working on now. I just got accepted to law school and I am looking forward to what lies ahead. I can honestly say that without Mr. Peck/Coach Peck/my dear friend Brad Peck, I don’t know where I would be today. I do know that my life would not be as fruitful as it is if it wasn’t for knowing him.”

Peggy Souder, a KU master’s degree recipient, is an English as Second Language teacher in Valley Center, Kan. She taught ESL in the Newton school district when her nominator, Dawn Ho, was a student. Dawn is a senior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Ho wrote, “I remember when I first moved to Newton from China, I could not speak any English except very basic words and phrases such as ‘excuse me,’ ‘hello,’ ‘thank you.’ Souder effectively taught students how to communicate by using body language and facial expressions for better understanding. She also encouraged students to write, such as keeping daily journals. … She spent her leisure time to help her students organize learning environments by inviting us to her house or planning social activities, such as skating and going out to eat to practice conversations with American people. After high school I joined the military and the communication skills Souder taught me helped immensely with understanding my drill sergeants. I remember there was one instance when I had a very hard time passing my weapon marksmanship. I tried so many times, and I almost wanted to give up. I thought of Souder, and how she taught me a new language and wondered, ‘What if she gave up on me?’ With Souder’s help and determination, I went from knowing no English to being an English speaker. Souder is someone who will never let you down or let you fall behind.”
How do you teach K-12 students in Kansas about Chinese culture? That’s the question the Kansas Asia Scholars kept in mind for three weeks as we traveled through China, studying the language, culture and beauty. We began our journey in Wuhan, China at Huazhong Normal University. Our first sight: a message on the marquee that said, “Welcome students from the University of Kansas.” This friendly gesture was the first of many to come from the university. Faculty and students from the English department showed us around the city, helped translate conversations, and even took us to the post office when we needed to mail postcards! The generous hospitality of strangers would prove to be a common theme on our trip.

During our time in Wuhan, we lived like college students of the city. We went to two classes each day and then explored the city at night. This structure facilitated an incredibly effective language immersion. During our classes we would practice dialogue on a certain topic, such as asking for directions or ordering at a restaurant. Instead of packing that information away, we were able to try out our new-found knowledge as we went on exciting adventures at night markets, to beautiful temples and on shopping excursions. Even our history class lent itself to the same type of learning.

—by Amy Rousselo
We would listen to a lecture about places established in a certain dynasty, and then have the opportunity to visit!

Our classes also provided us with a rich Chinese Language Learner experience. This was my first time being in a place where I did not know the dominant language. Many times I would struggle to understand our teachers or the conversation going on around me. At times it was mesmerizing, followed by frustrating, and then exhausting.

After our exciting two-week stay in Wuhan, we took our classroom learning on the road. We traveled to beautiful cities such as Beijing and Wuzhen. We did some shopping, took scenic walks around lakes and enjoyed other fun activities, but our teacher reels never stopped rolling. We saved Chinese labels, we took pictures of everything, and we combed bookstores for material to show our students with Chinese and English texts.

Although our experience was only three weeks long, it is safe to say that we all have a better idea of what our English Language Learners go through every day in the public school system. It provided us with a sense of empathy and understanding that will serve us well in the classroom.

This experience was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We are grateful to Sheree Willis, our fearless leader, as well as the Confucius Institute for making it possible!

Editor’s note: Amy Rousselo was one of 15 students in the School of Education who were selected as the 2009 Kansas Asia Scholars. The program is funded by the Freeman Foundation of New York and Stowe, Vt., and is designed for students who intend to become elementary or secondary school teachers through the undergraduate teacher education program in KU’s School of Education. While in China, the scholars completed two three-credit-hour undergraduate courses in elementary conversational Chinese and East Asian history taught at Huazhong Normal University. Now that they have returned to Kansas, the KU students are creating service-learning projects to share their experiences in China with students in elementary and secondary schools.

The following students participated: Ashley Biondo, Alexandra Chebuhar, Christina Eoannou, Jamie George, Megan Gerwick, Nicholas Martinez, Jennifer Mayer, Hannah McMacken, Ashley Million, Thomas Myers, Torre Norton, Ashlea Orrell, Amanda Riss, Amy Rousselo and Jenna Sutter. Paul Markham, associate professor, curriculum and teaching, accompanied the group.
CONGRATULATIONS TO these School of Education graduates on their recent achievements:

Mark Dominik is general manager of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the National Football League. Dominik completed his bachelor’s degree in sport management from the department of health, sport, and exercise sciences. Jim LaPoint (associate professor, HSES) served as his advisor.

Dominik was the first intern placed by the department with the Kansas City Chiefs; the team hired him following the completion of his internship. He joined the Tampa Bay team 12 years ago as an area scout and worked his way up to become the director of professional scouting before being named general manager in 2004.

Currently six graduates of the sport management program in the Department of Health, Sport and Exercise Sciences at KU work in the National Football League.

Allison J. McFarland was named the first recipient of the Walter C. and Helen E. Claassen Endowed Chair in Business Administration at Bethel College in October 2008.

McFarland earned her master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Kansas. She joined the Bethel College faculty in 2006 as professor of business and economics and currently chairs the department.

Suzanne Blair received the 2008 American Star of Teaching Award in October 2008 at Gardner-Edgerton High School in Kansas. Nearly 4,000 teachers nationwide were nominated for the award; only one teacher was chosen from each state.

Blair has been teaching in the Gardner-Edgerton district for 11 years. Blair holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Kansas.

“While Dr. Blair has many strengths and outstanding qualities as both a person and a secondary level math teacher, her No. 1 strength is her passion for teaching math,” says Dave Webb, assistant principal at Pioneer Ridge Middle School, who nominated Blair for the award.

“She teaches math with the passion, compassion and desire that students of all ages, talents, abilities and personal circumstances will realize success.”

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Greg R. Weisenstein, formerly provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of North Dakota, became president of West Chester University of Pennsylvania in March 2009. Weisenstein received his doctoral degree in administration and special education from the University of Kansas.

In addition to academic appointments at Montana State University and other institutions, Weisenstein has held a number of leadership and advisory positions, including serving on presidential advisory committees.

Working for the U.S. Department of State, Weisenstein was responsible for restructuring higher education in the Republic of Moldova. He also serves as chairperson of the World Bank Education Task Force for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

Weisenstein has been the recipient of numerous awards, including State Educator of the Year, Best Program of the Year, and the Teaching and Advising Excellence Award.

That culinary icon of the holiday season — the ever-present rum cake — has special significance for faculty, staff, trustees and special friends of Upper Iowa University. They’re the lucky recipients for the homemade delicacy made by President Alan G. Walker from a secret family recipe.
Alan Walker

In Memory

Novy Bowman died on June 10, 2009 at the age of 90. He was an assistant professor in the department of educational policy and leadership, retiring in 1983. Professor Bowman received his master’s and doctoral degrees from the School of Education. He also retired as a Lieutenant Commander of the US Navy after serving 20 years, including duty in the Pacific Fleet during World War II.

Doug Guess, KU Professor Emeritus, died unexpectedly from a pulmonary embolism, on October 31, 2008. Doug was a highly-respected member of the University of Kansas Department of Special Education faculty from 1961 to 2001. He was an extraordinary scholar, teacher, mentor, and colleague. During a pivotal time in the development of special education rights and services, Doug was a leading voice for children and young adults with significant disabilities. Over a 40-year period, his scholarship and teaching influenced the evolution of public thinking and special education policy development. His work led to a more comprehensive understanding about the learning abilities of individuals with significant disabilities when effective instruction and appropriate support were provided. His work stressed the importance of quality field research, well-prepared teachers, effective educational interventions, data-based decision making and, most of all, human dignity and quality of life. On the personal side, Doug was a true Renaissance man; his love for his family and for the Kansas prairie was reflected in his work as a painter, poet and environmentalist. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Doug and his wife Ruth Ann had previously established a scholarship fund for KU students preparing to work with children with disabilities and youth with low-incidence disabilities. Contributions in his memory may be made to the scholarship fund through the KU Endowment Association. —Chris Walther-Thomson, Professor and Chair, Department of Special Education

Anna Janavie Fink Sheldon (B.A., 1938) died March 20, 2008 in Forrest Grove, Ore. She taught kindergarten for more than 30 years, winning numerous awards including Teacher of the Year in 1962. When she retired in 1982, she traveled with education groups to Russia, China and Europe. She was an accomplished musician performing on manual pipe organs, piano, violin, and hand bells. She was a historical writer of short stories about famous family members and humorous events. Her book, Kindergarten: A Child’s View, was recently published by Lulu.com. She was an avid Jayhawk fan and never missed a televised game.

Pat Grinnell Thompson died October 20, 2007. Pat taught in the Raytown, Mo., school district until 1956, when she became a stay-at-home mom. Her husband writes “she remained a true Jayhawk in a home full of Tigers.”

Jay Turnbull passed away unexpectedly on January 7, 2009. He was a staff worker at the Beach Center on Disability for more than 20 years. Jay’s father and mother are Rud and Ann Turnbull, co-founders and co-directors of the Beach Center on Disability. He was their inspiration for the Beach Center. The staff of the Beach Center sent the following after Jay’s death: “Jay quickly befriended all of us at the Beach Center and many, many friends in the Lawrence community with his endearing smile, special handshake and infectious laughter. While Jay was widely known and welcomed in the Lawrence community, he also touched so many lives worldwide through the stories Ann and Rud shared about him and their life together. In so many ways, Jay changed the world. Without Jay, there would be no Beach Center on Disability. He was our greatest teacher and our biggest inspiration. Jay was and continues to be the heart and soul of our work. It is in his name that we renew our dedication to making life better for all people with disabilities and their families.” The family suggests memorial contributions through the KU Endowment Association to the Jay Turnbull Fellowship at the Beach Center on Disability. The fellowship was established in 2008 by Rud and Ann Turnbull to honor their son.
revamped an old, vacant ‘typewriter’ lab that hadn’t been used for years and with donations of used computers put together a funky, but operational, writing lab. The students were totally enthralled and within months the class became enormously popular. ... The district finally realized the success and officially adopted my new curriculum. ... Soon thereafter, the lab was updated with all new computers. The (program was) so successful that the state adopted the new curriculum. All students in California now take Tech Writing in their sophomore year. It is one of the most popular courses being offered.”

Judith Sturgell (B.S.E., 1967) earned a master’s degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1972. She then earned a doctorate in curriculum and supervision at Northern Illinois University in 1992. Sturgell is now retired.

Jim Doepke (B.M.E., 1974) visited with KU music education majors as well as performed in the KU Alumni Band during Homecoming 2008. Doepke retired in 2007 after 33 years as a band director in Wisconsin. Now, as director of educational outreach for the Conn-Selmer Company, he travels throughout America visiting colleges and universities, representing the Conn-Selmer Institute, an annual four day seminar for college music education majors and young music teachers held on the campus of Notre Dame University. Doepke also has set his sights on performing (on trumpet) the National Anthem at every major league ballpark in America. His “Anthem Across America” project has already reached Boston’s Fenway Park, Phoenix’ Chase Field, and Milwaukee’s Miller Park as well as seven Arizona spring training sites.

Phyllis Farrar (B.S.E., 1975, M.S.E., 2000) taught German, English and geography at Eudora, Kan., High School in 1975-1982, and German, various language arts and social studies at West Junior High in Lawrence, Kan., 1985-2006. Since 2007, she has served as program consultant for world languages and ESOL, at the Kansas Department of Education with the Standards and Assessments team.

Katherine Sheppard Huskey (B.S.E., 1971) earned a master’s degree from Emporia State University in 1985. She retired after 28 years of teaching at Ft. Leavenworth and Lecompton, Kan. After two years of retirement, she is back teaching part-time in remedial math and one accelerated reading class.

Herbert N. Simmons (Ed.D., 1973) is a professor emeritus of curriculum and instruction at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ken.

Becky Gilmore (M.S.E., 1996) has been the director of career development at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., since November 2002. Before that, she served as assistant director in the career development office at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo., for six years.

Ranelle Woolrich (B.S.E., 1995) is a middle school counselor at Second Baptist School in Houston, Texas.

Michelle Balletto-Wooten (M.S.E., 1996) currently teaches 6th-12th grade math to students at a secondary alternative discipline campus in Houston, Texas (Cypress Fairbanks ISD, ALC, SAC program).

Anne K. Coenen (B.S.E., 2005) teaches 2nd grade at Sunrise Point Elementary in Overland Park, Kan.

Angela C. Brown Craven (B.S.E., 2006) recently married and is living in Minnesota. She currently works for a continuity marketing company, and is considering going back to school to become a teacher.

Blair J. Danner (B.S.E., 2005) earned a graduate degree in sports administration from the University of Akron. Danner currently works at the University of Akron as assistant director of athletic development.

Megan Hill (M.S.E., 2007) reports that she is currently serving as the associate director of Career Networks at the University Career Center here at KU.

Christine A. McEchron-Hills (B.S.E., 2004) works as a physical therapist for SERC Physical and Hand Therapy in Belton, Mo.

Tricia L. McNamee (B.S.E., 2001) teaches 6th grade math at Chase Middle School in Topeka, Kan. She also coaches tennis and basketball.

Diane M. Stephanich (B.S.E., 2002) is the technology coordinator for a small charter elementary school in Arlington, Texas.

Anne Winter (B.S.E., 2003) reports: “My husband, Bart, and I are volunteers in Honduras with CFCA (www.cfcausa.org). We run a home for neglected children and elderly. We have a blog at www.volunteersforayear.com.”

What have you been doing since you left KU? We want to know! Please complete the white sheet included with this issue and mail it back to us. Or, you may e-mail your information to us at pnaught@ku.edu. Many thanks to these graduates for writing.
Remembering the teachers who touched our lives
—by Mason Heilman

"You made my heart dance.” When we heard those words after a choir rehearsal, we knew we had done something right.

Pam Bushouse was my high school choir teacher at Lawrence Free State High School for three years. From sophomore men’s choir to chamber choir to Encore, our annual choral variety show, Mrs. Bushouse was a constant part of my high school experience. Where English and social studies teachers changed from year to year, Mrs. Bushouse was a constant friendly face for three years of my life.

Although she was our choir teacher first, she also doubled as a life coach, advocate, mentor and friend. I distinctly remember the first time it snowed heavily my sophomore year (we in Lawrence are one of the last 9th-grade-in-junior-high holdouts in the state). After listening to the announcements in routine silence (something I would come to miss in the next two years), she gave us a tutorial on what to do if you are having a hard time braking in the snow. She also made it a point of molding us into what she affectionately termed “Renaissance gentlemen,” training our sophomore men’s choir for when we left her classroom and were out in the “real world.”

Almost all of what Mrs. Bushouse taught us translated into our lives outside of the choir room. Whether it was discipline, focus, patience or dedication, the skills we learned throughout our time in her classroom transferred flawlessly into the swimming pool, to our places of work and to our “academic” classes. Looking back, it is clear that she was intentional with her life lessons, always trying to prepare us to be cultured and respectable young adults.

My senior year, Mrs. Bushouse decided that it was her time to retire, having taught in the Lawrence Public Schools for almost all of her adult life. In the months that remained after she announced her decision to the choir, we got to see her in rare form. She was leaving a program that she had started and meant so much to her. The amount of passion and care for the program and her students she showed us in her last months at Free State was incredible. The bond between teacher and all of her students was something I will never forget.

It may seem strange that a choir program would elicit such sentimental feelings. When I refer to Mrs. Bushouse’s choirs, I am referring to almost a fourth of the high school student population of two thousand. Athletes, art students, thespians, debaters — you name the club, group or organization, there was at least one member in a choir. Mrs. Bushouse influenced the entire school. Coaches bowed to her every scheduling whim, principals rescheduled events, and “Mrs. Bushouse said I could” worked on almost every teacher. She earned and deserved the respect of the entire Firebird community.

This respect was earned not only through her dedication to her students, but to her dedication to perfection. Year after year, she trained students to earn the highest ratings at contest. Every three years, her chamber choirs came back from Disney World having swept the awards categories. More students made state choir from Free State each year than any other high school in Kansas. Not only was she a great people-molder, she was phenomenal at what she did.

When I look back at teachers who have affected my life throughout my time in school, there are too many to name. But when I think closely about it, it’s been Mrs. Bushouse who left the most lasting impression. She treated us as adults, earned our respect and truly cared about us. With her life lessons and obvious affection for her job and students, Pam Bushouse is someone whom I will strive to emulate throughout my teaching endeavors.

Mason Heilman is a senior in secondary history and government education. He currently is president of the KU student body.
Alumni updates and requests for more information may be sent to:

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