

## 2008 CEC Highlights

*The following were provided by Department students, faculty, and staff.*

The Special Education booth at the CEC conference was a success! We met and visited with many prospective students and shared lots of department information with all. We were visited by many alums, students, and faculty. Many came by to see what was happening in our department, some to check on staff and faculty, and others to congratulate us on our #1 rating! We feel that the booth gets better every year. Of course, having our #1 rating and the KU basketball team in the Final 4 was a huge topic for all. We had great faculty and student participation at the booth. Prospective students really enjoy coming to our booth and meeting our faculty (very famous faculty :) We have the best students ever—their assistance is so appreciated and valued by all. Sandra (Gautt) and I feel that the booth is a great way to share information about our department with other professionals and educators in the field.

The KU reception was a wonderful event. Fun was had by all. We had a great turnout and awarding Dr. Whelan was the highlight of the evening. We had about 125 in attendance—students, faculty, alums and professionals in the field. We were very pleased with the evening. It was a great way to end the conference.

*Sherrie Saathoff, Recruitment and Admissions Coordinator*

Among the highlights of my CEC experience:

1. The KU booth — it is a hub of constant activity and excitement! It's a choice experience to spend time there.
2. The KU reception — I was especially struck by the number of people who showed up even though we were competing with a presentation being given by Senator Edward Kennedy.
3. The honoring of Dick Whelan — we were all reminded about the magnitude of his contributions to our field and how fortunate we were to have him on our faculty.

*Don Deshler, director of Center for Research on Learning and  
Gene A. Budig Professor of Special Education*

I thought the keynote speaker, Henry Winkler, was excellent! A wide variety of session topics were provided and the sessions I attended were highly informative. Boston was an exciting location for the conference...what a fun place to explore!

*Cheryl Snyder, special education doctoral student*

This was my first national CEC and I really enjoyed the poster sessions; I found it very beneficial to be able to speak with other students and faculty in small group and one-on-one settings. I also enjoyed the TED, DLD, and KU receptions; great networking opportunities!

*Daniel Pollitt, special education doctoral student*

Jean Schumaker, who retired from KU in January, was feted by her former doctoral students at a dinner in Boston on Wednesday evening, April 2. The dinner, which was a surprise, was attended by about a dozen former docs. Jean was presented with a book of

letters and pictures from her former docs. The letters thanked and honored her for her guidance and model. Jean was touched and pleased to be able to take the book with her to her parents' home in Rutgers, NJ. As her mother said, "You could go to the moon on those messages!"

*Patty Graner, director of professional development for Center for Research on Learning*



Front Row (Lt to Rt): Yvonne Bui, Don Deshler, Jean Schumaker, Monica Harris, Nanette Fritschmann  
Middle Row: Cathy Kea, Belinda Schuman, Patty Graner  
Back Row: David Scanlon, Ernie Simon, Mary Brownell, Sean Lancaster  
Also in attendance were Michael Faggella-Luby and Chriss Walther-Thomas.