Molly Hamm, secondary education English major, earns a mentorship with new K-State President Kirk Schulz.
Look for special features about our scholarship initiative in this issue of Connections.
In past years, Connections, our annual message to alumni and friends, has focused on reporting the many achievements of College of Education students, faculty, alumni and programs. Just recently, U.S. News and World Report rated the College fourth in quality in the Big 12 (up from eighth last year) and sixth among all land-grant universities without medical schools (up from eighth). This year, however, we are faced with a special situation. Global economic challenges are seriously impacting our institution, and especially our students.

This issue focuses on the financial needs of the College, with a special emphasis on those of our students. We are beginning a $1 million initiative to increase our ability to attract, retain and prepare the highest quality teachers for our nation’s children.

Nearly 90 percent of our Education students work to support their desire to become teachers. Competition for jobs is seriously impacting the ability of our students to afford the constantly increasing costs of attending K-State. We ask you to make a special effort to contribute to teacher education scholarships.

Our seniors face perhaps the most difficult set of circumstances. In an effort to increase student opportunities for classroom experience, student teaching — the capstone of the program — now extends the full semester. During this period, preservice teachers are not able to maintain outside employment. The need for scholarship support for these students, many of whom formerly depended on working to pay their bills, is dramatic and growing. Please think of the difficult financial times you encountered as a student and multiply them by today’s vastly increased costs.

As the state’s resources decrease, the College’s ability to respond to special professional development and enrichment opportunities for both students and faculty has seriously eroded. The generosity of our donors through the Dean’s Excellence Fund allows me to provide an extra edge of support to fund innovative enhancements to our already excellent program.

I do not intend for Connections to become primarily a vehicle for fund raising. However, the needs in these economically challenging times are evident and dramatic. I ask you to consider the many opportunities described here to help K-State’s College of Education in educating exceptionally talented new teachers and other school personnel. Please use the enclosed mailer to make a commitment to the future of your College and the children of our great nation.

ALL SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE, TELEFUND, OR INDIVIDUAL DONORS OF $100 OR MORE WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY DONATION CATEGORY IN THE 2010 CONNECTIONS.
One reading was all it took. When she was just a third grader, Marjorie Hancock, EdD, listened to her teacher read “The Boxcar Children” aloud, and she was forever changed.

“I not only fell in love with the book, but I fell in love with her as a teacher,” said Hancock, recently retired professor of elementary education. “I knew from that moment on I was going to be a teacher.”

And become a teacher she did. Hancock, who retired in May 2009, has had an illustrious career in education: three degrees, 10 years teaching elementary school, and 18 years guiding K-State undergraduate and graduate students in reading and language arts.

Even more than finding her career in that inspired reading, though, Hancock discovered the power of children’s literature — and reading it aloud. First with her elementary students and then with her own children, Hancock honed her skills as a reader, passing on her love of language and literature.

“I often call it interactive storybook reading, because I don’t just read it to the children. I take the children’s spontaneous responses, I ask the children questions, I ask the children to predict what’s going to happen in the story.”

Her passion for teaching has paid off in a big way, even influencing the paths of her three children. “They’ve all grown up and they’re all teachers now,” she said with a laugh.

Teaching Teachers
After 10 years of teaching at the elementary level and eight years raising her kids full-time, Hancock was ready to take the next step.

“If you move on and teach preservice teachers, you can teach them to be the kind of teacher you were. So it was very important to me to go into teacher education,” she said.

With her newly earned doctorate in hand, Hancock did just that. In 1991, she left her home state of Illinois to join the elementary education faculty at K-State. She later became coordinator of graduate programs in curriculum and instruction, then director of graduate studies.

“The fit was just right. Kansas was still the Midwest. My husband and I always liked land-grant institutions,” she said. “It was a privilege to be able to come to Kansas State.”
Laurie Curtis, PhD ’07, assistant professor, elementary education, worked with Hancock first as a colleague — Curtis taught reading methods while Hancock taught language arts — then as a doctoral student. With her focus on early literacy and love of reading to children, Curtis found a kindred spirit in her major professor.

“She’s an incredible mentor. She has very high expectations, but she believes in you until you can believe in yourself. I think that’s probably the most important thing about her: She’s an encourager,” Curtis said.

“She truly believes in building relationships with people. And that’s something that I will be able to take on to my career working with students.”

Hancock shepherded 20 students through the doctoral program. An impressive 15 of them are now in higher education herself. This, according to Hancock, is her proudest career accomplishment.

“It’s like your legacy is moving on. I’ve got doctoral students in Kansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa. My voice, my books, my philosophy — it’s just channeling through them.”

Hancock’s philosophy is being shared in other ways as well. She authored two college-level textbooks on language arts and literature, one of which is in its third edition.

Hancock also served on two committees for national book awards — the Orbis Pictus Award and Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts. Before long, this decision opened up a whole new avenue for inspiring children to become readers. Soon after joining the committees, publishers began sending her 800 to 1,000 books each year.

With so many colorful new books lining her shelves, Hancock made an unusual choice for a literature lover such as herself. She began giving the books away.

New Books, New Readers
“The privilege of having the books from publishers really gave me the opportunity to share these books not only with teachers, but, through the teachers, with children,” Hancock said.

“Books should not be sitting on shelves. Books should be turning children into readers.”

Hancock began handing out books through every outlet she could think of. She delivered them to teachers and school libraries. She donated 1,500 to Chapman, Kan., following the devastating tornado that hit in June 2008. She even organized giveaways at her home.

Hancock didn’t stop there; she found a way to further stretch her skills and resources at K-State. From 2001 to 2009, she served as an adviser for Reading is Leading, a program through K-State’s chapter of Mortar Board national college senior honor society. At a training session every September,
Giving Where It Counts

Faculty — past and present — invest in student scholarships

Charles Rankin, Faculty
Charles I. Rankin, PhD ’73, arrived on the K-State campus in 1971 as a graduate student and director of a new federal project. Two years later, after earning his doctorate, he left for the University of Missouri, returning to K-State in 1978. Now, 31 years later, he serves as a tenured, full professor in the College of Education specializing in educational opportunity and equity. Rankin has secured and administered over $35 million in competitive grants to assist local and state educational entities in providing quality learning environments for their students.

Rankin has always been a student advocate and mentor in the College. His interest in students’ academic and personal development inspired a colleague to establish a scholarship in Rankin’s honor. Since its inception, Rankin has personally added over $30,000 in contributions to provide additional and larger awards to our students. He contends that providing financial assistance is key to students reaching their personal and professional potential.

Kathy Holen, Retiring Faculty
The end of the spring 2009 semester marked retirement for Kathy Holen, EdD, after 34 years as a faculty member in the Department of Elementary Education. She helped prepare literally thousands of teachers of reading and, more recently, teachers working with dual language learners. Relatively early in her career, Holen realized she wanted to impact students well beyond her working years, so she purchased a whole life insurance policy with a face value of $50,000. This money will provide scholarships to teacher education candidates from underrepresented segments of the population. For this contribution, she was named a charter member of the K-State Land Grant Legacy Society.

Holen has donated to 28 separate initiatives through the KSU Foundation. She and her husband are long-term members of the K-State Presidents Club. Holen believes loyalty to an institution can be demonstrated in many ways, including sharing your resources to benefit its students and programs.

David Laurie, Retired Faculty
After starting his career as a popular high school teacher and coach, David Laurie, Jr., EdD, eventually served 31 years as a member of the K-State faculty. When Laurie, BS ’63, MS ’66, retired in 1999, his wife and three sons established a scholarship fund in his name to support College of Education students. The fund honored his decades of service to the teaching profession; it also recognized the importance of the scholarship awards he received when he was a student.

Laurie attributes the seeds of his success to the encouragement and financial assistance of scholarship donors who cared enough to invest their dollars in his future. Their generosity was far-reaching, having a positive effect on Laurie, his family, and the thousands of students he would teach. In return, Laurie’s family and friends have consistently added donations to his scholarship fund. Already 10 future teachers have been supported through their thoughtfulness.
When Maria O’Halloran, Jaimie Borntrager, Jessica Spare and Cassie Morrow walked across the stage at spring 2009 commencement, they were honored as *summa cum laude* graduates, scholarship winners, and campus leaders. Beyond that list of achievements, they had one extra distinction. They each completed the College of Education Honors Program, including honors courses and a research project under a faculty member’s guidance.

**Maria O’Halloran**

Maria O’Halloran, secondary education/mathematics and business education, served as president and secretary/treasurer of Pi Omega Pi national business education honor society at K-State. She was an active member of the Business Education Club and KNEA-SP, the student affiliate of the Kansas National Education Association. She also volunteered as choir pianist at St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center. O’Halloran was a K-State Putnam Scholar, an Elvon G. and Lydia E. Skeen Scholar, a Morrow Family Education Merit Scholar, and a Paul Blackwood Memorial Scholar (for future math and science teachers).

Assistant Professor David Allen, EdD, served as adviser for her honors research project, “Connections Between Differentiated Instruction and Mathematics Through Professional Development.” O’Halloran is now teaching middle school mathematics and computers at St. Jude Catholic School in Wichita, Kan.

**Jaimie Borntrager**

Jaimie Borntrager, elementary education, served as president and historian of KNEA-SP, secretary of College of Education Ambassadors, and member of Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. She also volunteered with the local Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Borntrager was a Crosby Family Education Scholar (for transfer students), an F. Floyd Herr Memorial Scholar, and a Skeen Scholar.

Assistant Professor David Allen, EdD, served as adviser for her honors research project, “Follow-Up Study: Connections Between Differentiated Instruction and Mathematics Through Professional Development.” Borntrager is now a graduate teaching assistant in the College, where she is pursuing a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction.

**Jessica Spare**

Jessica Spare, secondary education/mathematics, was active in Christian Challenge ministry, and volunteered as a tutor in the K-State Community Service Program. She was a member of Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. During her senior year, she also studied abroad at the University of Canberra in Australia. Spare was a Tomorrow’s Teacher Scholar, a Skeen Scholar, a Judith Cain Scholar, and a K-State Putnam Scholar.

Assistant Professor Laurie Curtis, PhD ’07, served as adviser for her honors research project, “Journey Toward Full-Day Kindergarten: Transitions, Time and Teaching.”

**Cassie Morrow**

During her time as an undergraduate, Cassie Morrow, secondary education/mathematics, was secretary of the College of Education Ambassadors and a member of the College of Education Council. She served as scholarship chair and alumnae relations chair for her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, and as student vice president of Phi Kappa Phi honor society. She also was a member of Mortar Board national college senior honor society. Morrow was chosen for the Mabel P. Severtson Scholarship for education majors who exhibit campus leadership.

Assistant Professor David Allen, EdD, served as adviser for her honors research project, “Connections Between Differentiated Instruction and Mathematics Through Professional Development.” Morrow is now teaching mathematics at Meade High School in Meade, Kan.
Bobby Gomez is an unassuming young man. He does his best to stay on top of his coursework, just like any other student. And he studies for exams, but unlike other students, he doesn’t bother to cram right beforehand.

“That’s the time for freaking myself out and telling myself I’m going to do terribly,” he joked.

Gomez’s self-deprecation and modesty belie the dedicated, intelligent elementary education major — and servant leader — underneath.

“He is passionate yet humble, and he never ceases to amaze me. Our world would be a better place if everyone shared Bobby’s vision, values and activism,” said Kay Ann Taylor, associate professor for the College of Education.

Gomez, a native of Shawnee, Kan., was initially interested in majoring in a science program. He came to K-State on a campus visit, during which he became acquainted with K-State’s Developing Scholars program and its director, Anita Cortez. That’s when Gomez made the choice to become a Wildcat.

“Anita sat down and told me what K-State has to offer, and it blew me away. Until then, I felt as though I was looking for schools instead of schools looking for me,” Gomez said.

Gomez spent his first year at K-State in the animal science and industry program, but he felt as though something was missing. A meeting with Cortez, where he confessed his love of learning and interacting with children, prompted him to check out the College of Education. As soon as he walked into the dean’s office in Bluemont Hall, Gomez knew he was home.

“From the minute I walked into that office, I felt welcome. Everyone there is so professional, but also caring,” Gomez enthused.

Once he became a student in education, Gomez found a kindred spirit in Taylor; the two shared a
mutual interest in social transformation and social justice. After completing Taylor’s undergraduate Foundations of Education class, he continued to voluntarily attend one section every semester.

“Occasionally, he would consult with me and teach part or sometimes all of a class. It takes considerable courage and leadership to tackle some of the highly emotionally charged and controversial issues Bobby took on with his peers,” Taylor said.

Gomez volunteers his time with Little Apple Soccer Club, and Wonder Workshop (a nonprofit after-school program in Manhattan). For the 2008 to 2009 school year, he also served as president of K-State’s chapter of Mortar Board, a national honor society for college seniors who lead through service and scholarship.

His dedication hasn’t gone unnoticed. Gomez was honored with the 2009 Inspire by Example Outstanding Student Award by the K-State Volunteer Center of Manhattan and Community 1st National Bank, in recognition of his community service on campus and in the community. And in spring 2009, he received the KSU Foundation’s K-State Hero Award, which celebrates student commitment to community service and campus leadership.

Gomez is also involved with the K-State Proud Campaign, about which he is particularly passionate.

“K-State Proud provides the opportunity to give awards to students who deserve an education, but may not have the financial means for one,” Gomez said. “If you have the passion, the brains, and the work ethic, I think you should have the opportunity to receive an education.”

Gomez speaks from firsthand experience, having earned both national and university scholarships. The College of Education selected him for the Skeen Scholarship. He was also chosen for a McKelvie Scholarship, a national award given by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to students committed to careers in public service. And he has received the Wallace Family Memorial Scholarship and the Joey Lee Garman Undergraduate Multicultural Student Scholarship.

Gomez even has the distinction of being a national Truman Scholarship finalist. He began the application process in summer 2008 and endured the grueling process of mock interviews, studying countless articles, and other preparations. Though he wasn’t awarded the scholarship in the end, he recognizes that the experience was invaluable.

“It has really helped me lay a foundation for where I want to go. I learned how I can use my interests and my passions to create goals,” Gomez said.

He has essentially planned a lifetime of work for himself, starting with some real-world, inner-city teaching experience. After time in the classroom, Gomez would like to go back to school and pursue graduate studies in social justice education, or sociology and education policy, with the eventual goals of working for a nonprofit education organization and then returning to higher education as either a professor of education or director of diversity.

“I never imagined that you could change the rules, but you can. You can question what we’re doing for children, whether it’s working, whether it’s good for them, and whether it can be better,” Gomez said.

“If you have the passion, the brains, and the work ethic, I think you should have the opportunity to receive an education.”

— Bobby Gomez

If you are interested in supporting scholarships for College of Education students, please contact Marty Kramer, director of development, at martyk@found.ksu.edu or 800-432-1578.
It started out as a simple problem. The long, white walls of Bluemont Hall were noticeably bare, calling for something colorful and meaningful to enliven them. Associate Dean Jan Wissman wanted these halls — home to bright students, dedicated faculty and award-winning research programs — to reflect the spirit, creativity and talent of the College.

It was a tall order, to be sure. In spring 2008, Wissman reached out to Sue Atchison, MS ’08, art education coordinator, for possible solutions. The search was on for affordable, inspiring artwork that would remind faculty and students about the College’s mission.

Just a few months later, Atchison couldn’t believe her luck when she was invited to be a juror for an art exhibition sponsored by the Manhattan-Ogden Public Schools Foundation. The exhibition, a part of the Foundation’s Early Expressions program, featured 100 impressive works of art by K-12 students in the USD 383 school district.

The pieces were to be sold at a silent auction at K-State’s Beach Museum of Art in February 2009. Better still, all proceeds would benefit the schools. Atchison knew this was the answer to their blank-wall woes — they would buy the student art for the College.

“It just clicked with me. Sometimes you just know you have the right idea,” Atchison said. “It tied in with our community, and we try to teach our preservice teachers to use their community resources. This was a perfect example of what we should be doing.”

The idea was championed by Wissman as well, and Dean Michael Holen needed little persuasion to allocate $1,000 from the Dean’s Excellence Fund to the cause. For Atchison, seeing the artists at the celebratory gala reinforced the power of art education.

“They were so excited, and you could just see how proud they were,” Atchison said.

Atchison procured 32 pieces at the auction, though one of the works she’d set her sights on went home with another, very deserving bidder.

“One of the pieces was a picture of Barack Obama, with a flag behind him. A little boy had been watching...
me bid on it, and he walked over to me,” Atchison recalled. “I asked him if that was his drawing, and he said it was. I asked him ‘Are you excited that someone wants to buy it?’ And he said, ‘Well... I just want to take it home.’ After I saw his mom bid another five dollars on it, I decided there was no way I was going to bid against her.”

The already-matted pieces needed only to be framed before they were hung in the hallways of Bluemont. Atchison, Wissman and her assistant, Kathy Brown, personally sought out the perfect locations for them. With the help of Division of Facilities workers, they were able to get every piece on display before the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) visit in March 2009.

The art has certainly given a boost to the building’s atmosphere, and students and faculty alike have expressed admiration for the project. However, there’s still a lot of white space left over. So it’s a good thing the Manhattan-Ogden Public Schools Foundation has plans to continue with the Early Expressions program. With continued reliance on the Dean’s Excellence Fund, the College of Education hopes to add more color to the walls in the future. Atchison makes it clear that this isn’t just about improving the atmosphere.

“It’s a form of advocacy,” she said. “When there’s a money crunch, art goes. As educators, we need to make people aware that it’s not a frill. It’s a basic need.”

“If you are interested in investing in the Dean’s Excellence Fund, or would like more information on supporting art in education, please contact Marty Kramer, director of development, at martyk@found.ksu.edu or 800-432-1578.
Scholarships at Work

“As a transfer student, I struggled with the cost of living in Manhattan, as well as meeting new people. Thanks to the scholarships I received, I was able to overcome my financial problems and branch out into some of the programs that are offered in the College, such as College of Education Ambassadors. As a result, I’ve met a good group of friends who have the same education goals and values.”

Benjamin Cook, Senior, Abilene, Kan.
Secondary Education/Science
Kenneth and Maxine Burkhard Science Teaching Scholarship

“When I was a freshman, I received a scholarship for $2,500. This was such a blessing for me because I didn’t know how I was going to afford to pay for the rest of my college expenses, and this scholarship made it possible for me to purchase books for both semesters, cover the costs of some of my housing bill, with some left to use for groceries. This scholarship along with several others have kept me from having to take out loans. These scholarships do make a difference, no doubt about it!”

Kristel Williams, Senior, Wichita, Kan.
Elementary Education/Modern Languages
Sylvia L. and Roy L. Robinson Diversity Scholarship

A member of the K-State track team, Williams is also a Developing Scholar, which pairs underrepresented students with faculty mentors.
“Our alumni and friends are significant players in the College of Education’s continuing quest for excellence. Faced with a faltering economy and state support at an all-time low, students need financial help now more than ever. We are once again seeking private support to help build our scholarship programs. Thank you for investing in our students — you help turn their dreams into reality.”

*Marty Kramer,*
director of development, College of Education

To find out how you can invest in scholarships for students in the College of Education, please contact Marty Kramer, director of development, at martyk@found.ksu.edu or 800-432-1578.

---

“I’m so grateful to have been a recipient of the Tomorrow’s Teacher Scholarship throughout college. I’ve invested this past semester in student teaching, and with this full-time commitment, working a job wasn’t feasible. This scholarship provided me with the opportunities financially to be able to interview for teaching jobs throughout the semester!”

**Gentry Sauder,** May ’09 Graduate, Great Bend, Kan.
Secondary Education/English
Tomorrow’s Teacher Scholarship

Sauder spent three years as an assistant cheerleading coach at Manhattan High School, and volunteered with Boys and Girls Club.

---

“Receiving a scholarship from the K-State College of Education has definitely helped me. In today’s tough economic times, students are in need of more help than ever. As I look into my final year, I know that scholarships will be even more important. Since I will be student teaching this coming spring semester, I will not be able to be an R.A. (resident assistant) for this year. It is because of the support of alumni that students, such as me, have the opportunity to pursue being an educator of the future leaders of this world.”

**Chris Miller,** Senior, Shawnee, Kan.
Elementary Education/Special Education,
Minor in Leadership Studies
College of Education Alumni Scholarship

Miller has served as a K-State Student Alumni Board member and a resident assistant in Moore Hall.
Alumnae Honored as 2009 KANSAS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

College alumna Cindy Slavik Couchman, BS '90, MS '93, high school math teacher at Buhler USD 313, gets to know her students first, so she can teach in a way that truly reaches them. This approach has served her well — and people outside her classroom are taking notice. The Kansas State Department of Education named Couchman the 2009 Kansas Teacher of the Year from a field of eight regional finalists.

Couchman is spending much of 2009 advocating for education statewide with the other Kansas finalists. She has also traveled nationally with her fellow state teachers of the year, even meeting President Barack Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in Washington, D.C.

“It’s a big opportunity to connect with other teachers across the United States, and for me, it really opened my eyes outside my own classroom and outside my own state,” said Couchman, who is now in her twentieth year of teaching.

Among the eight Regional Teachers of the Year, Couchman is joined by two other K-State alumnae: Marilyn Broadie Fox and Jennifer Donovan.

Fox, BS ’78, BS ’84, MS ’85, teaches eighth grade science at Susan B. Anthony Middle School, Manhattan-Ogden USD 383. Not only does Fox bring a sense of humor into the classroom, but she favors hands-on activities over lecturing. A Manhattan resident, this educator of 27 years is still deeply connected to K-State.

“My parents went to K-State, my sisters went to K-State, my kids went to K-State — we just bleed purple,” Fox said. “I’ve done well because of my affiliation with K-State and the Manhattan school district.”

Donovan, BS ’94, MS ’99, teaches K-5 music at Clear Creek Elementary School, De Soto USD 232. A teacher for 15 years, Donovan helps her students incorporate sound with movement, resulting in an active and creative learning process. Like Fox, she is also quick to tout her K-State education — and the scholarships that made it possible.

“Having scholarships enabled me to really focus on studying and being active on campus. It enabled me to not have to work quite so much,” Donovan said. “I think that those scholarships are vital to allow our students study.”

Couchman echoes Donovan’s sentiments.

“I am very grateful for the alumni scholarships. Without those, I don’t know if I would have ended up at K-State; I might have been somewhere else because of my financial situation,” Couchman said. “I was very blessed to have received those scholarships.”
For Tom Vontz, PhD, education is all about big ideas. Vontz, associate professor of elementary education, has thought long and hard about the most complicated concepts in civics: the rule of law, constitutionalism and what it means to be a citizen of the world.

Now he’s exploring those big ideas in even bigger ways, with programs through K-State’s Center for Social Studies Education, housed in the College of Education.

“The overall mission of the Center is to improve social studies education in Kansas, the United States, and throughout the world,” said Vontz, the Center’s director.

Vontz and Brad Burenheide, assistant director, have secured grant funding for state, national and international programs that accomplish exactly that. Vontz’s work has resulted in nearly $400,000 of nationally competitive grants awarded to K-State. Projects include civics research and professional development for K-12 social studies teachers. Vontz brought several programs with him when he arrived at K-State in 2005 from Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo.

Among these is Civics Mosaic, an international exchange program in comparative civics. Civics Mosaic brings together U.S. universities and Eurasian nonprofits and universities. These partners select K-12 teachers to travel between the United States and Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia. The K-State–Kazakhstan pairing is one of six regional partnerships.

“We’ve been able to peer into the lives and the work of a completely different country and culture a half a world away. They’ve also been able to get a firsthand look at how we teach civics here,” Vontz said.

Made possible by a U.S. Department of Education grant administered through Russell Sage College in Troy, N.Y., the program opens up a completely fresh perspective for its fellows.

“We host two Kazakh teachers every year who come and visit schools in Kansas, give lessons, and come to K-State and visit with students,” Vontz said. “We exchange information and ideas about how to improve civics instruction both in Kazakhstan and in the States.”

Two Kansas teachers are chosen annually to make the trek to Kazakhstan, where they teach classes and conduct civics workshops. The fellows, along with administrators such as Vontz, also meet with education officials to promote Civics Mosaics and its benefits.

The exchanges have been eye-opening, to say the least.

“They don’t have the resources we do, their class sizes are huge by American standards, and they face many challenges that American teachers do not face,” Vontz said.

“However, teachers face many similar challenges in teaching, regardless of the context. They still struggle with teaching big ideas like constitutionalism or equal justice, or any of the other ideas that are at the core of what it means to be a citizen.”

The two-week exchanges are transformative for the fellows — and, by extension, for their students.

“While the exchange focuses on civics, it also allows these teachers, and their students, to get a taste for American culture and education, and vice versa,” Vontz said. “Teachers gain an experience they can draw upon for the rest of their career.”

To learn how you can support professional development for faculty such as Vontz, please contact Marty Kramer, director of development, at martyk@found.ksu.edu or 800-432-1578.
1940s
Lawrence Strouts, BS ’49, MS ’65, Wilsey, Kan., attended the 2009 K-State Alumni Class Reunions in April on campus.

1950s
M. Maxine Straw, BS ’50, MS ’67, Salina, Kan., retired after 35 years of teaching in USD 305 Salina. She now volunteers as a tutor.

Martha Morgan Sanders, BS ’58, MS ’84, PhD ’93, Hutchinson, Kan., is president of the Kansas Nurses Foundation and a member of the Editorial Board of the Kansas Nurse.

Judy Horn Anderson, BS ’59, Wichita, Kan.: Jean Low Overstone, BS ’59, Amarillo, Texas; and Bruce Quantic, BS ’59, Derby, Kan., attended the College of Education luncheon during the K-State Alumni Class Reunions on campus, April 2009.

1960s
Millie Heiken Sanderson, BS ’60, Bushton, Kan., retired after 45 years in education, teaching in four different states.

Gary Marriott, BS ’63, MS ’67, San Antonio, Texas, is a golf coach at McCallum High School in San Antonio.

William Lintner, BS ’64, Katy, Texas, is retired and teaches line dancing to senior citizens and defensive driving classes.

John L. Christensen, BS ’65, Clarkdale, Ariz., is a counselor in a local K-8 school district and coaches junior high girls basketball.

1970s
Larry Dixon, BS ’70, MS ’74, PhD ’81, Junction City, Kan., was presented with K-State’s College of Education Dan and Cheryl Yunk Excellence in Educational Administration award. He is employed as the Innovation in Schools and Community liaison/consultant with USD 475 Geary County.

Claudia Strouse McVicker, BS ’73, PhD ’02, Bonner Springs, Kan., is coordinator of graduate literacy programs at Park University and continues to be the principal investigator of the Liverpool Project, a comparison of literacy practices in the United States and United Kingdom.

Lawrence E. Wilson, BS ’75, Swansea, Ill., is senior database engineer for the Computer Sciences Corporation and senior adjunct professor of mathematics at McKendree University, Lebanon, Ill.

James W. Dodge, BS ’76, MS ’87, retired from Topeka, Kan., public schools in May 2009. He taught high school social studies for 10 years and was a high school administrator for 23 years.

Donna Gerstberger Fletcher, BS ’76, Aliso Viejo, Calif., recently returned to California after spending two years in Muelheim, Germany.

Ron Ballard, MS ’79, PhD ’84, superintendent of Arkansas City USD 470, reports that Arkansas City High School has been named a 2009 National Breakthrough High School. Nationwide, only 10 secondary schools receive this prestigious award. Selection criteria are based on a school’s success in implementing strategies; collaborative leadership; personalization; and curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

1980s
Robert William Barrick, MS ’82, Lincoln, Neb., is interim pastor of Sacred Words Community Church.

Virginia Holmes Cook, MS ’84, Kansas City, Kan., completed her doctorate in special education at the University of Kansas.

Jo Newton Pralle, BS ’85, MS ’89, Sun City West, Ariz., retired from teaching. She has been a reading coach with the National Reading First Grant, and has mentored 18 K-3 teachers in reading strategies.

1990s
James F. Hill, MS ’94, Manhattan, Kan., is a part-time affiliate faculty member for Southwestern College at Fort Riley, Kan.

Tammi Kippes Sauer, BS ’95, Edmond, Okla., has published two new picture books for children: “No Baloney!” and “Chicken Dance.”

2000s
Victoria Kelley Hollwell, MS ’01, Lee’s Summit, Mo., completed her EdD from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2008.

Jeff Pierce, BS ’03, Topeka, Kan., received the 2008 Auburn-Washburn USD 437 Teacher of Excellence Award.

David Lemire, PhD ’05, Klamath Falls, Ore., is employed as a school psychologist/behavior specialist for the Klamath County School District and teaches for the online Insight School of Nevada.

Jolene Goodheart Peterson, BS ’05, teaches mathematics at Wamego High School, USD 320.

Ashley Arndt, BS ’07, MS ’09, Glenwood Springs, Colo., is teaching math at Carbondale Middle School.

Lanee Young, PhD ’07, was awarded first place in the 2009 Outstanding Dissertation Competition sponsored by the Kansas Association of Teacher Educators. Her dissertation was titled “Determining Teachers’ Behaviors Concerning the NCTM Standards in Low and High Performing Rural High Schools of Kansas.” She is an assistant professor of mathematics and computer science at Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kan.

STAY CONNECTED

College of Education alumni are encouraged to use the attached envelope or e-mail (edcoll@ksu.edu) to share important events, honors or activities.
PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WINNERS
Two College alumnae, Sherry Kralik Helus, BS ’89, MS ’04, and Deann Leshovsky Swofford, BS ’79, were chosen for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, administered by the National Science Foundation.

Helus teaches third grade at Wamego West Elementary School, and Swofford teaches sixth grade science at Pioneer Ridge Middle School near Gardner. They will each receive a $10,000 cash award with this honor. Helus and Swofford, along with 85 other winners from all over the country, will be recognized at a White House ceremony this fall.

KANSAS HORIZON AWARD WINNERS
The Kansas Horizon Award program, sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, identifies and recognizes exemplary first-year teachers in the state. Eight of the 32 award winners recognized at the February 2009 Kansas Exemplary Educators Network (KEEN) banquet in Topeka, Kan., are K-State graduates.

Janie Anthony, BS ’07, Riley County USD 378
Audrey Baker, BS ’07, Gardner-Edgerton USD 231
Jessica Brenn Bloyd, BS ’06, Haysville USD 261
David Davis, BS ’06, Blue Valley USD 229
Daniel Dinkel, BS ’06, Geary County USD 475
Jacy Kile, BS ’07, Augusta USD 402
Branchi Francis Lundgren, BS ’06, Geary County USD 475
Amanda Provorse, BS ’07, Auburn-Washburn USD 437

STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES
According to Sue Peterson, PhD ’05, assistant to the K-State president and director of governmental relations, two of eleven K-State alumni serving in the Kansas Senate and four of the sixteen K-State alumni serving in the Kansas House of Representatives are College of Education graduates.

State Senators:
Anthony Hensley, MS ’88, Topeka, Kan.
Janis Ferguson Lee, BS ’70, Kensington, Kan.

State Representatives:
Barbara Williams Ballard, MS ’76, PhD ’80, Lawrence, Kan.
Tom Hawk, BS ’68, MS ’70, PhD ’83, Manhattan, Kan.
Deena Horst, EdD ’09, Salina, Kan.
Jo Ann McCloggange Potoff, BS ’57, Wichita, Kan.

Kansas State University
College of Education Development Council

The mission of the College of Education Development Council is to promote excellence within the College through involving alumni and friends in support of the College’s programs and future development.

At the spring ’09 meeting, council members launched a $1 million scholarship initiative to attract quality high school and transfer students to the College, and retain teachers of promise. The Council established a scholarship for student teachers, and encourages alumni and friends to join in giving.

Council Members
Ashley Arndt, BS ’07
Ron Ballard, MS ’79, PhD ’84
David Bond, PhD ’87
Mary Ann Bond, MS ’84, PhD ’97
Kathleen Borck, BS ’81, Vice Chair
LeAnn Clark, BS ’69
Stan Clark, BS ’67, MS ’71
Nancy Coulter, BS ’61
Nancy Craig, BS ’67
Gordon Crosby, BS ’91
Pat Crosby
Roger Diekmann, BS ’66, MS ’72
Nancy Farrar, BS ’71
Tony Frieze, MS ’80
Ed Gorsky, PhD ’85
Barbara Harris
Lee Harris, BS ’75, Chair
Nancy Hause, MS ’82
Mary Ann Lageman, MS ’90
Kathryn Martin, BS ’67, MS ’84
Eveanna Marie Mosier, BS ’58
Sue Regan, Secretary
Joe Rei, MS ’73, PhD ’78
Nancy Ryan, BS ’65, MS ’88
Francis Sanders, MS ’72
Phyllis Sanders
John Snyder, BS ’64
Tyler Stubenhofer, BS ’08
Bob Thompson, MS ’90
Mary Sue Whitney, BS ’63
Phyllis Wilbur, BS ’59
Doris Wright-Carroll, MS ’76
Dan Yunk, BS ’71, MS ’75, PhD ’87

Faculty & Staff
Dean Michael Holen
Associate Dean Janice Wissman, BS ’63, MS ’68
Marty Kramer, Director of Development
There’s something to be said for taking chances. Just ask Dan Yunk, BS ’71, MS ’75, PhD ’87, 2009 K-State College of Education Alumni Fellow. His career in Kansas schools spanned 29 years — from teacher to principal to superintendent. And much of his success has been the result of not getting too comfortable… of taking a leap of faith now and then.

Yunk began his career at the secondary level as a high school teacher and principal at Riley County USD 378 and Manhattan-Ogden USD 383. In 1983, he took on a role he never anticipated, given his secondary education background: elementary school principal.

The unexpected step was one of the smartest moves he ever made. Northview Elementary School in Manhattan thrived under Yunk’s leadership, eventually being honored as a National Exemplary School and featured on a 1990 national television documentary — Learning in America: Schools That Work — hosted by commentator Roger Mudd.

“I’ve enjoyed my whole educational career, but if I had to pick a period of time, those nine years were probably the most delightful,” Yunk said. “I learned so much from the teachers there. We really got the parents engaged, and the students were just marvelous.”

After becoming Manhattan’s superintendent in 1993, Yunk provided leadership in partnering the Manhattan-Ogden school district with the College and the National Education Association to launch the nationally acclaimed professional development school (PDS) program that is K-State’s signature model for the preparation of teachers.

“What we ended up doing was getting students from the College of Education into our schools earlier,” Yunk said. “By exposing them to that experience earlier, they really have the opportunity to find out more about education and whether they are suited for it. It has paid huge dividends for both K-State and (USD) 383.”

Yunk once again found himself at a crossroads in 2000.

“After 29 years, I was very comfortable in my job. I loved my job,” Yunk said. Still, he couldn’t ignore the pull of a new challenge. “I thought I was at the stage of life where I should try something else.”

Yunk decided to forge another new path, this time joining Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB). Within two years, he became executive director and CEO. It’s easy to see the passion he has for this new career, advocating for farmers and ranchers, and for agriculture. And while he’s not in the classroom, he’s still finding ways to educate in his position at KFB. Yunk is authoring an award-winning series of children’s books that educate the public about agriculture.

“I think the university did a wonderful job of preparing me for a career in education.”

— Dan Yunk

The university did a wonderful job of preparing me for a career in education.

The university did a wonderful job of preparing me for a career in education. It was rewarding when I moved into this job that was really foreign to what I had done for 30 years, and my skills were transferrable. To me, that’s a real credit to the university.”
Deb Andres, BS ’88, MS ’97, instructor, secondary education, was recognized with the Kansas Leader Award by the Kansas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences at the 2009 annual meeting in Wichita, Kan.

Laurie Curtis, PhD ’07, assistant professor, elementary education, and Judy Hughey, associate professor, special education, counseling and student affairs, received the 2009 K-State Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi “Honor an Educator Award” for their excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Susan Dillinger, MS ’77, MS ’86, instructor of special education, counseling and student affairs, received a Lucile Cornetet Individual Award for professional development from the Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation.

David L. Griffin Sr., EdD ’94, associate professor of secondary education and assistant dean for diversity, was recognized at the May 2009 commencement ceremony with the College of Education Faculty Excellence in Service Award.

Ken Hughey, professor and department chair of special education, counseling and student affairs, was named the Kansas Counseling Association Counselor of the Year for 2009.

Jeong-Hee Kim, assistant professor, secondary education, received an award from the American Educational Research Association (AERA) for an outstanding narrative research theory article, “A Romance with Narrative Inquiry: Toward an Act of Narrative Theorizing,” published in 2008 Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue. She received the award April 29, 2009, in San Diego at AERA’s annual meeting.

Larry Scharmann, professor and department chair of secondary education was recognized for his work with students when he was presented with the Making a Difference Award by the K-State Women in Engineering and Science Program in January 2009.

Gail Shroyer, MS ’84, PhD ’87, professor, elementary education, was the recipient of the College of Education’s Faculty Excellence in Research/Creative Activities Award at the May 2009 commencement ceremony.

Marcia Stockham, BS ’70, associate professor and education librarian, is the recipient of the fifth annual Brice G. Hobrock Distinguished Library Faculty Award for outstanding service, scholarship and leadership at K-State Libraries.

Kay Ann Taylor, associate professor, secondary education, was honored with the 2009 Commerce Bank Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for the College of Education. She teaches Foundations of American Education, which involves the philosophy, history, politics, sociology and law of education.

IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth B. Hoyt, PhD, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology, passed away on Aug. 27, 2008. Prior to his work at K-State where he directed Counseling for High Skills, a $3.5 million grant from the DeWitt Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund, he served as the only director of the Office of Career Education in the U.S. Office of Education. Hoyt also taught at the University of Iowa, the University of Maryland and the University of Minnesota.

Hoyt served as president of the American Personnel and Guidance Association, president of the National Career Development Association, and founding editor of “Counselor Education and Supervision.” Hoyt’s professional publications were extensive, including “Career Education: History and Future,” his last book. He received numerous national awards for his leadership in career education.

Hoyt is survived by his wife, Phyllis, three children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.
Gifts from alumni and friends through endowed gifts, bequests and Telefund support the education of future teachers at K-State.

The Donor Honor Roll is compiled as accurately as possible from university records. If there are any discrepancies, please contact Marty Kramer, director of development for the College of Education, at martyk@found.ksu.edu or 800-432-1578.

Bluemont Legacy Society
Lifetime Gifts
Johnny and Carol Haines
Lawrence and Margaret Lee
Randy and Eileen Saltz
Patricia and Dean Singleton
Becky and Bill Sylvester
Sue and Tom Pursinger
George and Carol Miller
Mary and Michael Luecke
Judy and Don Harper
Russell and Sue Beyer
Robert and Gail Roesler
Betsy and William Beach
Donna and Paul Branstetter
John and Marcia Biggs
Michael and Kathryn Holen
Lee and Barbara Harris
John and Charlotte Morrow
Charles and Sandra Rankin
Nancy Ryan
Francis and Phyllis Sanders
Dale* and Mary Schindler
Bruce and Peggy Schrott
Charles* and Doris Serttquist
Alice Show
John and Renda Snyder
Vere* and Rosemary Sneider
Mary Lynn and Warren Staley
Sharon and Alan Sylvestor
Patrick and Lorraine Thiesen
Bob Thompson
Keith and Diane Turner
Mary Vanier and Bob Kruse
Rich and Martha Wenger

$100,000 and above
Judith Cain*
Lee and Barbara Harris
Elvira and Lydia Sklen*
Marilyn and Bill Taylor
Phyllis Willard
Nancy and Tex Winter

$50,000–$99,999
Paul Blackwood*
Ernest Braun
Levin Braun
Gordon and Patricia Crosby
Bob and Tracey DeBruin
Sue and Timothy Regan
Sylvia and Roy Robinson

$10,000–$49,999
Mike and Dixie Aarstad
Russell and Carl Alford
Donna and Charles Bright
Dwayne Brodolle
Randy and Rachel Collett
Nancy and Charles Craig
Marlette and Rich Donaldson
Yelton Faulkner*
Nancy and Charles Cole
Randy and Rachel Collett
Dwayne Brodolle
Donna and Charles Bright
Randy and Rachel Collett

2009 TELEFUND
During five nights of calling by more than 200 volunteer students, Telefund 2009 raised $108,545 for College of Education Scholarships.

This was the seventh year in a row in which Telefund contributions exceeded $100,000. Thank you to all who participated in another successful year!

Telefund 2010 is scheduled for February 21–25.

Bluemont Legacy Society
Deferred Gifts
$100,000 and above
Kara Below
Phyllis and Bill Binford
Alice Cain*
Gib and Brenda Compton
Nancy and Roger Coulter
Roger and Carol Diekmann
Marlie and Rich Donaldson
Lee and Barbara Harris
Kay* and Kenneth Martin
Alfred and Ladonna Mayer
Karen and Jim McMillen
Carl and Janet Nozman
David and Ellen Simmons
Bob Thompson

$50,000–$99,999
Alan and Karen Bell
Carolyn and Gary Haden
Michael and Kathryn Holen
Galen Nosby
Charles* and Doris Serttquist

$10,000–49,999
Norman Cooper
Donna and Larry Espelting
Cathy and Mitchell Footh
Ed and Deanne Gorsky
Christi and Joe Gortzschak
Mary and Dan Hebert
Cheryl and Richard Lewis
Phyllis and William Moore
Karen and Don Norton
Joyce and Thomas Parsh
Donna and George Pierson
George and Nancy Powell
George and Beverly Rutkowski
Dale* and Mary Schindler
John and Renda Snyder
Vere* and Rosemary Sneider
Judy and Terry Turner
Nancy and Tex Winter

Annual Gifts:
The following categories of gifts reflect contributions to the College of Education for fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009).

Dean's Club Ambassadors
$10,000–$49,999
Mike and Dixie Aarstad
Donnie and Donald Wertz
Donis Wright Carroll and Greg Carroll
Dan and Cheryl Yunk
Ann Zimmerman and Dexter Egers

Bluemont Legacy Society
Bequests or Deferred Gifts
$100,000 and above
Kara Below
Phyllis and Bill Binford
Alice Cain*
Gib and Brenda Compton
Nancy and Roger Coulter
Roger and Carol Diekmann
Marlie and Rich Donaldson
Karen and James Coen
Nancy and Charles Cole
Nancy and Roger Coulter
Gordon and Patricia Crosby
Karen and James Day
Roger and Carol Diekmann
Bey and Ms. Greenwood
Patricia and Steve Hanson
Allan and Carolyn Harms
Nancy Hauske
Janet Hauke-Waverling and David Waverling
Mike and Gloria Konold
Gary and Carol Lazarus
Mel and Don Matuszek
Richard Michaelis
Eveanna and Bill* Mosier
Joseph and Paula Rei
Sylvia and Roy Robinson
Nancy Ryan
Francis and Phyllis Sanders
John and Renda Snyder
Marie and Michael Groves
Karen and Don Norton
Joyce and Thomas Parsh
Donna and George Pierson
George and Nancy Powell
George and Beverly Rutkowski
Dale* and Mary Schindler
John and Renda Snyder
Vere* and Rosemary Sneider
Judy and Terry Turner
Nancy and Tex Winter

Bluemont Legacy Society
Deferred Gifts
Donor Honor Roll
THE VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

“Ten years ago, Barbara and I started the Tomorrow’s Teacher Scholarship Program. We are not teachers, but we share a personal mission to positively influence the lives of as many people as possible. We realized supporting talented individuals to become excellent teachers was a perfect avenue to our wishes. Just think: a teacher in a 25-year career may guide thousands of children. To date, 32 Tomorrow’s Teacher Scholarship students have graduated from K-State; across their careers they will significantly impact over 15,000 children. What a great way to make a difference!”

– Lee Harris

Barbara and Lee Harris (center) with Lydia Peele, 2008-2009 student body president (left); Allison Morton, president, College of Education Ambassadors (second from right); and Becky Thiessen, president, Education Council (right)
KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHERS OF PROMISE

Fall 2008 K-State Teachers of Promise recognized at the Kansas Teacher of the Year banquet in Wichita, Kan.

Sarah Bradstreet, elementary education

Spring 2009 K-State Teachers of Promise recognized at the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network (KEEN) Banquet in Topeka, Kan.

Erin Mortimer, secondary education/social studies

Abby Anderes, elementary education

Tara Heimbach, secondary education/English

STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

Fall 2008 — Magan Harrell, elementary education

Spring 2009 — Jose Uriel Estrada, secondary education/biological science

FACULTY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

Fall 2008 — Marjorie Hancock, professor, elementary education

Spring 2009 — Janice Wissman, associate dean
OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN EDUCATION AWARDS

The following undergraduate and graduate students were recognized by the College of Education at Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 Commencement exercises.

FALL 2008
Outstanding Undergraduate Student Awards
Joshua Cowan, secondary education
Magan Harrell, elementary education
Ryan Jacobs, secondary education
Erin Schroeder, elementary education
Kelly Williams, Jr., secondary education

Outstanding Future Teacher Awards
Nicole Hanel, elementary education
Kirsten McManus, secondary education

Outstanding Graduate Students in Education Awards
Sue Atchison, curriculum and instruction
Leah McKeeman, curriculum and instruction
John Persyn, adult, occupational and continuing education

SPRING 2009
Outstanding Undergraduate Student Awards
Jaimie Borntrager, elementary education
Sara Christie, secondary education
Natalie Knight, elementary education
Chelsey Skoch, elementary education
Andrew Trent, secondary education

Outstanding Future Teacher Awards
Lisa Davis, elementary education
Gentry Sauder, secondary education

Outstanding Graduate Students in Education Awards
Viktoriya Pottroff, curriculum and instruction
Jan Middendorf, curriculum and instruction

KAPPA DELTA PI INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP

Michele Murphy, senior in elementary education with a concentration in special education and a minor in leadership studies, was one of 10 undergraduate students chosen nationwide for a summer travel scholarship sponsored by Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education. The scholarship intends for recipients to consider how seeing the world can influence their work as future teachers. Michele traveled to Washington, D.C.; Berlin; Prague; and Lucerne in June 2009.

K-STATE HERO AWARDS

Each year, the KSU Foundation honors 10 exemplary student leaders, five in the fall and five in the spring, with the K-State Hero Award. These students are chosen for their dedication to serving the university through campus leadership and community service. Two of the 2008-2009 Hero awardees are students in the College of Education.

Fall 2008 — Lydia Peele, secondary education
Spring 2009 — Bobby Gomez, elementary education
Senior Molly Hamm, secondary education/English and English literature, earned an inside look at the highest office on campus.

Hamm, Shawnee, Kan., was named K-State's first-ever recipient of the Frank Newman Leadership Award from Campus Compact for 2009-2010. The $5,000 award covers Hamm's educational expenses, enabling her to focus on a mentorship with K-State President Kirk Schulz.

Hamm is one of only two national recipients of the honor.

Over the 2009 to 2010 academic year, Hamm is partnering with Schulz to create civic engagement across campus, complete a service-learning project to connect K-State and the local community, and conduct policy research.

An active member of the campus community and frequent community volunteer, Hamm has been a leader in student government, Mortar Board Senior Honor Society, and environmental groups such as the K-State Student Sustainability Coalition. Following graduation in May 2010, Hamm plans to teach high school English, and then pursue graduate work in international and comparative education.

Courtesy K-State Media Relations