

SCHOLAR

FROM EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE. FROM KNOWLEDGE, SERVICE.



Outstanding Teacher Educator for State of Kansas 2004

So who wants to be a teacher!?

With these enthusiastic words, PSU instructor Julie Samuels greets each semester's newest group of teacher candidates to her Explorations in Education classroom—inviting them to reflect upon the career in education they have chosen and the exciting challenges that lie ahead. Since spring 1999, when she became part of the faculty of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, her passion for teaching has provided inspiration and guidance for many potential teachers-to-be. Now her dedication to the teaching profession has been recognized by fellow educators with the award of Outstanding Teacher Educator for the State of Kansas 2004. Previously, in 1992, she had been regional runner-up for Kansas Teacher of the Year.

The statewide honor is bestowed yearly upon a teacher at any level—K-12 through higher education. The process begins with a nomination from one of the area councils of the Kansas Reading Association (KRA). Mrs. Samuels was nominated by the Southeast Council of KRA. Following nomination, the nominee is notified and asked to submit a dossier of credentials and activities, which is accompanied by letters of support from colleagues. One letter of support for Mrs. Samuels detailed her ever-present exuberance for learning and her belief in the power of reading.

Mrs. Samuels explained: "If a child can read, then a child can do anything."

As an example, she referred to the book "Rocket Boys," made into the movie "October Sky," in which a young man in a small coal mining town changed his own coal miner destiny by reading and educating himself about his passion—rockets.

"Reading is what opens these doors and creates such

(see Educator, pg. 4)

College of Education receives funds for alternative teacher education

The Kansas Legislature's action this past spring sends a clear message that alternative routes to the teaching profession are here to stay. After allocating \$150,000 for FY04, the Legislature allocated \$300,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. Those funds have been directed to the College of Education to support the college's alternative route programs, both in Kansas City, Kan., and in the southeastern part of the state.

Alternative routes to a teaching license were first permitted in Kansas as a result of new teacher education regulations that were enacted in July of 2002. Referred to as a 'Restricted License,' this license allows an individual who holds a bachelor's degree in a content area (mathematics, music, English, etc.) to teach at the high school level, even though that individual has not completed a teacher education program. This regulation was adopted in large part to address the teacher shortage being experienced by Kansas high schools. In addition to having a degree and a job offer in hand, the individual must arrange with an accredited teacher education institution a plan of study that would include the courses required by that institution in order to be recommended for a conditional license.

The Pittsburg State alternative route program that operates in the Kansas City, Kan., school district has received much attention and acclaim since its inception in the summer of 2002. It was the first program of its kind in the state, serving as a model for how alternative programs could be linked to traditional programs. More than 50 teachers have earned a teaching license by completing the program and are now teaching in Kansas City, Kan., classrooms. The fourth cohort of beginning teachers has been recruited and began the alternative teacher education program in the summer of 2004.

The funding provided by the Legislature is being used primarily to add new staff and to cover the added costs associated with operating the program in the Kansas City area. Lindsey Cegelis has been employed as the Coordinator of the Kansas City Area Restricted License Programs. Cegelis previously served as the director of secondary school personnel for the Kansas City, Kan., district.

According to Dr. June Taylor, chairperson of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, "Lindsey has brought a strong sense of the community and district to this new position, and is now serving as a guiding force for Pitt State's efforts. We are fortunate to have funding for her position and to have recruited her for this critical assignment."

Currently the College of Education is seeking to identify and

(see Funds, pg. 6)

PSU honors teachers, administrators

The Pittsburg State University College of Education honored a teacher and an administrator for distinguished service at the annual Clyde U. Phillips Awards ceremony April 28. Additionally, the college recognized two teachers for their achievements in the first years of their careers. These and many student awards were part of the annual awards ceremony.

Vickie O'Neal, a second grade teacher in Lincoln Elementary School in Baxter Springs, Kan., received the 2004 Clyde U. Phillips Distinguished Service Award for teaching.

O'Neal received a bachelor of science degree in education from Missouri Southern State University and a master's degree in education from PSU. She was a 2003 Kansas Teacher of the Year Region II finalist and a 2003 Disney Teacher of the Year nominee. O'Neal is a winner of the 2002 Abernathy Science Scholarship and was the 2001 Wal-Mart teacher of the year.

O'Neal facilitated the summer Spanish/Japanese experience on the distance learning system. She worked at the Greenbush summer camp and has taught summer school for more than 20 years.

O'Neal participated in the 2000 NASA workshop in Huntsville, Ala.; completed a 21-day Fulbright study in Japan in 1998 and was part of a one-week study trip to the Peruvian rainforest in 1996.

Buddy Bualle, the superintendent of schools for the Northeast Unified School District 246 in Arma, received the 2004 Clyde U. Phillips Distinguished Service Award for administration.

Bualle has served the same school district for 28 years. He began as a junior high school teacher, spent 11 years as the high school principal and eight years as the elementary/junior high school principal before being named superintendent four years ago.

Bualle earned a bachelor of science degree in education, a master of science degree in counselor education and an education specialist degree, all from Pittsburg State University.

Bualle led a successful drive to pass a bond issue in 2001. The result is \$4 million in renovations and expansion for the district facilities. In 2003, a pre-school program was initiated in the district and this spring, an extended, all-day kindergarten program was begun to serve at-risk children. Bualle was also instrumental in the effort to establish a foundation to provide funds to enhance the educational environment and



Clyde U. Phillips Award winners (l to r): Deborah Noakes, Vickie O'Neal, Brandy Stanley, and Buddy Bualle.

experience in the district's schools.

The Clyde U. Phillips awards for teachers at the beginning of their careers went to Brandy Stanley, a counselor at Frank Layden Elementary School in Frontenac; and Deborah Noakes, the family and consumer sciences teacher at Chanute High School.

Stanley earned a bachelor of science degree in elementary education and a master of science degree in school counseling from PSU. At Frank Layden Elementary, she is not only the school counselor but also serves as the district's test coordinator. Previous to joining the Frank Layden Elementary School faculty, Stanley served one year as a language arts teacher and one year as an elementary school counselor in the Liberal (Mo.) school district.

Noakes earned a bachelor of science degree in family and consumer sciences from PSU and returned to the university to complete the requirements for a teaching certificate in 1997. Noakes joined the Chanute High School faculty in 2002. Previous to that, she taught family and consumer sciences in the Altoona-Midway High School in Buffalo, Kan. In 2003, the PSU Family and Consumer Sciences Department honored Noakes as an outstanding alumna. She is the 2003-2004 president of the Kansas Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences.

In addition to these awards, the College of Education also award nearly 80 scholarships to students.

The Clyde U. Phillips awards were established in memory of Clyde U. Phillips, a graduate of Pittsburg State University and a well-known Kansas educator. Phillips, who met his wife, Fern Field Phillips when they were both students at Pittsburg State University, known then as Kansas State College of Pittsburg, completed his career in education as the superintendent of schools in Hays. In their will, the Phillips bequeathed a sum of money to support the awards.



Major gift officer raises funds for Arts & Sciences

The Office of Development has announced the addition of a major gift officer who will help raise funds to benefit the College of Education. Brad Hodson, PSU Director of Development, announced that Johnna Schremmer was chosen to represent the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences as the university seeks to expand support for academic fundraising. Schremmer is one of two major gift officers added to the Development staff. The second, Scott Roberts, represents the College of Technology and the College of Business.

Schremmer was a sales associate and realtor with Coldwell Banker Jim Bishop and Associates of Pittsburg prior to joining the PSU staff. She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from PSU. She was very active in campus activities at PSU, including being involved in the Presidential Emerging Leaders and the Senior Gift Council. More recently, Schremmer has been active in Pittsburg community activities. She currently serves as president of the Pittsburg Little Balkans Festival Board.

Accreditation visit planned for fall 2004

Since 1954, the Pittsburg State University teacher education program has been accredited by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The most recent accreditation was completed in October of 1998, following an onsite visit by representatives of both KSDE and NCATE. On November 6-10, 2004, the university will once again undergo this rigorous review process by hosting a nine-member onsite accreditation team. Since this past fall, preparations for the visit have been underway. Those efforts are now accelerating and intensifying as the visit date nears.

To lead the preparation activities, Dr. Steve Scott named Dr. Rozanne Sparks as the KSDE/NCATE accreditation coordinator. Assisting Dr. Sparks is an executive committee comprised of Dr. Hazel Coltharp, Dr. Susan Knell, and Dr. Becky Brannock.

According to Dr. Scott, "This group is providing exceptional leadership in a process that is both laborious and exhaustive. They have adopted the perspective that this process serves to strengthen the overall teacher education program." Scott added that, "Their positive and can-do spirit is influencing those around them to join this effort and make it a successful experience for Pittsburg State."

Other faculty and staff are also assisting in the preparations by serving on the Accreditation Steering Committee. These individuals (shown below in the accompanying table) have specific responsibilities related to the six standards around which the KSDE/NCATE visit will occur.

Standard I: Professional Knowledge Base

Dr. June Taylor, Elementary Education
Dr. Susan Knell, Elementary Education/Reading
Dr. Matthew Montague, Music
Dr. Dixie Smith, Biology

Standard II: Assessment

Dr. Rozanne Sparks, Accreditation Coordinator
Dr. David Hurford, Psychology
Dr. Kent Runyon, Student Teacher Supervisor
Dr. Sue Stidham, Library Media

Standard III: Field Experience

Dr. Becky Brannock, School Counseling
Dr. Rozanne Sparks, Accreditation Coordinator
Dr. Kenny McDougle, Student Teacher Supervisor

Standard IV: Diversity

Dr. Alice Sagehorn, Elementary Education/ESoL
Dr. Jamie Wood, Psychology and Counseling
Dr. Edmee Fernandez, Modern Languages & Literature

Standard V: Faculty

Dr. Brenda Roberts, Educational Leadership
Dr. Howard R. Smith, Student Teacher Supervisor
Dr. Lyle Morgan, English
Dr. John Oppliger, Physical Education

Standard VI: Governance and Resources

Dr. Hazel Coltharp, Mathematics
Dr. Charlene Lingo, Special Education
Dr. Chris Christman, Educational Leadership

The composition of the committees reflects the fact that the teacher education program extends throughout the campus. During the spring semester and the early part of the summer,

(see Accreditation, pg. 4)

As can be seen in a feature article in this issue of the Scholar, the university is in the midst of preparing for a continuing accreditation visit by members of the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher

DEAN'S COMMENTS:

Education (NCATE). Those efforts have involved just about everyone on campus who is even remotely associated with the teacher education program. I'm happy to report that the response from the university community to the challenge of preparing for this visit has been overwhelmingly positive. Custodians, secretaries, carpenters, electricians, information systems specialists, faculty, administrators and other staff members across the campus have quickly and ably assisted us as our needs have surfaced.



Besides all of the work to update programs, collect and analyze data, develop current faculty vitas, and assemble virtually every document on campus that is related to teacher education, we have been very busy updating and enhancing our physical space. The Department of Psychology and Counseling has moved to Whitesitt; Curriculum and Instruction has moved its department office to the first floor of Hughes Hall; and Special Services and Leadership Studies has moved to the second floor. The dream of having a state-of-the-art conference room has been fulfilled with the completion of the Hughes Hall Collaboratorium. The final renovation in this process is nearing completion. That effort will establish an 'Office of Teacher Education' located in the former offices of Special Services and Leadership Studies.

I know the faculty and staff appreciate their newly renovated and more suitable spaces, and I'm sure the KSDE/NCATE reviewers will recognize that the renovations represent a very real and visible commitment to teacher education and to the College of Education. I would invite all of our friends, supporters, and graduates to visit us soon to see how we have maximized the use of space and created wonderful learning and working environments that will serve Pittsburg State University students, faculty and staff for years to come.

One of the most interesting stories that surfaced during one of our many renovation projects was that of the Darrell Barr family. Darrell is a carpenter who works for the physical plant, and over the past few months he's spent a lot of time working in Hughes Hall. As I visited with him one day, we began to talk about his family and how many of them were Pittsburg State graduates. The most recent, his son Wayne, just completed the requirements for teaching physics at the high school level and will begin teaching this fall in the Galena, Kan., district. In addition to Wayne, Darrell's daughter, son-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, and a variety of aunts, sisters-in-law and cousins also have degrees in education from Pittsburg State University. It is an extraordinary family of educators, whose time on campus goes as far

(see Comments, pg. 6)

Accreditation *(from pg. 3)*

these individuals have met regularly to develop the basis for the accreditation written report that will be submitted in September. That document, referred to as the Institutional Report, provides an in-depth examination of the status of teacher education at Pittsburg State University, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. It will demonstrate how the teacher education program is meeting the appropriate standards and indicators and that in doing so will verify that the quality of graduates continues to be high.

As is the case with nearly all contemporary accreditation processes in higher education and K-12 schools, the focus is on the acquisition, analysis, and use of data related to student performance and growth. Over the years, the Pittsburg State teacher education staff has developed a very sophisticated assessment system that is providing strong evidence that the work of Pittsburg State University teacher educators is meeting with unqualified success.

Scott noted that undergoing an accreditation visit can be

stressful and the preparation process difficult at times. But he captured the sentiment of the faculty and staff when he said, “We are looking forward to having state and national representatives scrutinize our programs and provide us with feedback on their condition. While we know there is always room for improvement, we believe that we have excellent programs, and we are confident that the reviewers will agree with us.”

The on-campus visit by the accreditation teams will focus on documenting the information provided earlier in the Institutional Report. In the four-and-one-half-day visit, team members will interview faculty, students, administrators, graduates, and area educators. They will review the data systems that are in place as well as literally hundreds of documents that will be assembled in an evidence room. On the morning of the final day of the visit, an exit report will be provided to members of the university’s leadership team and the accreditation executive committee. The final and formal word on the accreditation visit will not be available until spring 2005.

Educator *(from pg. 1)*

opportunities,” she said.

Mrs. Samuels, who has a bachelor of science degree in education from Ottawa University, began her teaching career in the elementary classroom and has taught all grades between first and eighth except sixth. She came to PSU to earn a master’s degree in reading and served as a graduate assistant for the C&I department, while she completed her studies. Since then, she has continued as a part of the department by supervising student teachers; teaching reading, math, and science math methods courses, and for the past two years teaching the “gateway” course to the teacher education program—Explorations in Education. This fall, she will begin her first year in a tenure-track position with the rank of assistant professor.

In the college classroom, Mrs. Samuels takes every opportunity to share her belief in the important role of reading aloud—to all ages.

“When I ask my college students what one thing they remember from their own schooling, they invariably mention a book that a particular teacher read aloud to them. I truly believe that, even as adults, if we don’t discuss the joy of listening to someone read, we won’t read aloud to our own children and students.”

She has modeled this practice of reading aloud in every class she has ever taught—from first grade through higher education.

Mrs. Samuels’ influences are felt far beyond the confines of her classroom, however. The award she received recognized her as a caring advocate for students—supporting them in course challenges, family dilemmas, and career questions. Her PSU office holds an array of books, posters, and quotes reflecting her positive spirit. She is also a frequently requested inspirational speaker, who has her audience laughing and crying with the classroom stories she relates and the emotional moments she shares.

This past year, Mrs. Samuels completed the coursework for her doctorate degree from Kansas State University and is spending much of her time this summer researching and writing her dissertation. She lives in Girard, Kan., with her husband Dale and her two children, Preston (age 11) and Kendra (age 8). When asked if her love of reading has influenced her own family, she talked about the vacation at the lake they had just spent, with all four spending wonderful leisure time—reading!

Julie Samuels, as a community member, teacher, and family member, has provided PSU colleagues and students an outstanding example of the “power of one!”



Curriculum and Instruction’s Practicum for English Language Learners participant Stacie Qualls helps Jose Montelongo clean up after a craft activity in Mrs. Victoria Silva’s summer enrichment class. Nearly 60 Pittsburg students who speak a native language other than English are enrolled in the summer enrichment program at Westside Elementary School. Teacher candidates enrolled in PSU’s first undergraduate ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) practicum class are completing requirements for an ESOL certification to be added to their teacher licensure. Dr. Tatiana Sildus, course instructor, says the purpose of the program is to provide training in special methods, strategies, and techniques to serve the needs of English language learners. In addition to the undergraduate ESOL minor, the C&I Department offers a master’s level license program.

Psychology & Counseling moves into new space

Now that the Department of Psychology and Counseling has moved into more generous space in Whitesitt Hall, it is clear how badly they needed the extra room.

"I didn't realize how badly we needed more space until we got over here," said Psychology and Counseling Chairman David Hurford.

Hurford is obviously pleased as he shows visitors through the offices and labs, some still under construction.

"We don't have to take a back seat to anyone," Hurford said of the department now that the new labs are in.

The department now has office space for each of the faculty members as well as office space for graduate assistants. There are new counseling rooms, observation laboratories and modern classrooms in a building that is the second oldest on campus.

The counseling labs are state-of-the-art, according to Hurford. In addition to two-way mirrors, the rooms have video and audio tape technology so students receive feedback and supervision. Students involved in counseling sessions can wear tiny receivers in their ears, allowing supervisors to give them instant direction during the sessions.

One of the big advantages of having the additional space in Whitesitt Hall, Hurford said, is the ability for the department to bring together all of the service-oriented programs that it offers to PSU students, the community and other organizations. The programs comprise the new Center for Human Services, which includes the Center for the Assessment and Remediation of Reading Difficulties (CARRD), Adult Assessment, the Learning Center, Psycho-Educational Assessment, the University Testing Center, SART/MVP, the Truancy Diversion Program, and Family Counseling.

Hurford said the planning for additional space for Psychology and Counseling has been going on for several years. Although waiting can be difficult, it is clear that patience has paid off for the Department of Psychology and Counseling.



Faculty see benefits to professional involvement

Being involved in professional and community organizations not only benefits faculty, but also the students they teach, the department and the university, according to faculty in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

For many years, HPER faculty at PSU have served as leaders in state, regional and national professional organizations. Chuck Killingsworth, for example, is the immediate past president of the American Association for Leisure and Recreation, a branch of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. He is a member of these other professional organizations and at the same time, serves as president of the faculty senate, is a member of the board of directors for Horses of Hope, helps coordinate the local Special Olympics, serves on the board of the Homer Cole Senior Citizens Center and is an active member of the Lions Club.

Killingsworth said his leadership in professional organizations helps him be a better teacher.

"Discussions with other members of professional organizations helps faculty members stay on top of things in their field," Killingsworth said.

Killingsworth said it was discussion with other faculty members in a professional organization that led him to develop a course on "Play Games and Activities" that seeks to engage children through alternatives to common team sports.

"These kinds of contacts help me as a faculty member do a better job for students," Killingsworth said.

Those professional contacts are also important when it comes time to help students find internships and jobs.

"At times I get e-mail from someone I've worked with in an organization looking for a good candidate for an internship or a job," Killingsworth said.

Department Chairman John Oppliger said that the leadership HPER faculty provide in national organizations also gives the department and the university a level of visibility they would not have otherwise.

"That helps our graduates get jobs, because so many people have heard of us," Oppliger said.

Killingsworth and Oppliger acknowledged that taking on a leadership role in a professional organization requires faculty to do extra work outside the classroom and to develop their balancing skills. Still, both agree that the costs are well worth the benefits.

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Pittsburg State University
1701 S. Broadway
Pittsburg, KS 66762



Funds (from pg. 1)

recruit a new staff member who could play a similar role to Cegelis' role, but do so in the Southeast Kansas region.

"We want to extend the same opportunities to individuals and school districts in this area that we've been providing in Kansas City," observed Dr. Steve Scott, dean of the College of Education. "It is clear that alternative routes to the teaching profession will be a part of our future. We want to make sure that Pittsburg State University is engaged in these efforts. We are committed to bringing the same level of quality for which our traditional programs have been long been known. The Legislature, through its action, has ensured our participation. We are very appreciative of their efforts."

Comments (from pg. 3)

back as 1938 and extends to today. In fact, Darrell has enrolled in course work this summer, hoping to fulfill his dream of earning a college degree.

Visiting with Darrell provided me with a vivid reminder of the impact this institution continues to have in the region and on the families who live here. The pride with which Darrell talked about the many educators in his family and the fact that they were all Pitt State alums, was very inspirational to me. It served to remind me once again of the awesome responsibility we have to provide quality programs. As much as we think about our responsibility to the children whose

lives our graduates touch, we must also remember that the students and graduates who we daily serve, have their lives transformed by our efforts. People like Darrell's family offer a wonderful illustration of the opportunities that we create for others, and they should provide us with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to provide our students with the best experience possible. As we face another accreditation visit this fall, I can assure you that we'll be mindful of the many lives we have touched and that the measure of our efforts is not in an evidence room full of pieces of paper, but in the lives that are enriched by our work.

The SCHOLAR

Editors... Steve Scott, June Taylor, Ron Womble. The Scholar is published by the Dean's Office with assistance from University Communications and PSU Printing Services. Graphic Design: Paulina O'Malley. Photography: Malcolm Turner. For additional copies or to contribute information, contact the Dean's Office, College of Education, 115 Hughes Hall, Pittsburg State University, 1701 S. Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762. phone: 620/235-4517