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Dean’s Message

We are happy to announce the recent award of a Teacher Quality Partnership grant from the U.S. Department of Education that will transform our elementary and secondary teacher preparation and offer a teacher residency program for early childhood special education. The partners in this endeavor will be WSU, Wichita Public Schools, The Opportunity Project and Rainbows United.

This grant will provide about one million dollars in funding each year for a total of 6.2 million dollars over a five year period. The main effect the grant will have on students is that field experiences will expand. The college will be moving to a Professional Development School model. WSU students/teacher candidates will have their pre-student teaching and student teaching in the same location, and much of their field experiences in one school or a group of three schools.

Recent research has revealed that this design is the most effective way to educate future teachers because it allows for long-term participation of the teacher-candidate with students in a school over a two-year period. Thus, candidates receive a fuller experience and more opportunities to interact with school faculty and participate in school-based professional development. In addition to COEd faculty, faculty from Liberal Arts and Sciences and Fine Arts will participate by helping our candidates with on-site professional development of content knowledge. Additional funding for Cooperative Education will also be offered through the grant. For individuals with a bachelor’s degree who want to become early childhood teachers, the grant will provide a residency program. To learn more about the grant opportunities go to

Sport Management Recognition Night

Dr. Lori Miller, professor emeritus, (third from left) received a special award for her sustained excellence in and support of the sport management programs at WSU at the Sport Management Recognition Night Nov. 12 in the Heskett Center.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Stephen Dittmore of the University of Arkansas, who presented “Communicating with Sports Fans in the Era of Information Crash.” Dr. Dittmore is an Assistant Professor of Recreation in the Health Science, Kinesiology, Recreation and Dance. He was a staff member for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games and 1996 Olympic Games, and he has worked at sports events in 10 different countries.
Teachers of Promise

Chelsea Eck, an elementary education major and Hai Le, a middle school mathematics major, were recognized as this fall’s Teachers of Promise at the Kansas Teacher of the Year Banquet on November 21.

Teacher Ed Candidates Create Living History

Core IIA candidates, under the direction of Dr. Gwendolyn Mukes, created a living history museum by dressing as historical figures such as Betsy Ross, President Garfield and Amelia Earhart. They interpreted their lives and roles in history to each other and to passersby at Corbin Education Center.

The candidates “approached the necessary historical research on a much more personal and immediate level than they would have, had the assignment been to simply write a report, create a display or worse, given a worksheet or test to fill out and complete,” said Dr. Mukes.

“As adults, if they had fun learning, then think how much more children would enjoy and learn from this type of inquiry project!”
Master’s of Exercise Science Poster Session

This year’s poster session for the Master’s of Exercise Science Research Methods course will be held on December 9 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Posters will be set up in the Human Performance Laboratory and Heskett 210 across the hall.

There are 20 posters this year, which means there were 20 studies completed in the lab over the past six weeks. This is the first semester of graduate studies for most of these students and their first introduction to the research process, so the poster session is an important learning experience for those who will eventually have the opportunity to present research at a regional or national conference. All COEd students and faculty are invited to check it out, this is a great chance visit the laboratory and to see the great work being done at the graduate level.

WSU P.E. students attend KAHPERD conference

The Physical Education program won the award for having the most students at the KAHPERD (Kansas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance) Convention held October 29 and 30 at Pittsburg State University. This is the second time in three years that they have won this award, based on the number of pre-registered students outside of the host school who attend the convention. Twenty-seven students attended from WSU. The WSU Department of Human Performance Studies will be hosting the KAHPERD Convention on October 21 and 22, 2010.

This was received from a participant in the Celebration of Teaching event held October 26, 2009:

Thank you for providing our students with such an enriching experience. We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, especially having the opportunity to hear from such quality educators.

Charlotte Sauerwein
Future Educators of America Sponsor
Newton Public Schools
Publications and Presentations

♦ Drs. Johnnie Thompson, Linda Bakken and Joseph Mau recently published “Equity education: A longitudinal study comparing multicultural knowledge, dispositions of field-based and campus-based teacher candidates” in the peer-reviewed international journal, Policy Futures in Education.

♦ Dr. Daniel Bergman, assistant professor in Curriculum & Instruction and his sister Cathlina Bergman, an Honors/AP English teacher at Newton High School will have an article published in the December issue of Phi Delta Kappan magazine. “Elements of stylish teaching: Lessons from Strunk and White’s compositional classic” was written in honor of the 50th anniversary of the publication of The Elements of Style by William Strunk and E.B. White. Dr. Bergman said the article features several of Strunk & White’s “rules” on writing and discusses how these same principles are essential for effective teaching as well.

♦ Dr. Ruth Bohlken, Director of the Center for Physical Activity and Aging presented “Exercise Programming for Diabetes” at the 35th annual Diabetes Fair at the Wichita Marriott on November 14. The Diabetes Fair is a learning opportunity for health care professionals and individuals with diabetes as well as family members and care givers.

♦ Dr. Michael Rogers, Department of Human Performance Studies, was quoted by ABC News in a story on December 1 about how exercise may keep your cells biologically young. You can find the article by searching "Rogers exercise aging" at abcnews.go.com.

♦ Dr. Kimberly McDowell has a journal article in press titled “Relations between lexical access and decoding in young readers,” to be published in Global Education Journal. This study examined the potential impact age has on the relationship between lexical access and decoding in young readers.