I just returned from my annual trek to the American Educational Research Association’s meeting just held in Denver. The trip is always intellectually stimulating as I have a chance to hear scholars from all over the world present their research and ideas. It is also exhausting as I see old friends and try to pack too many activities into four short days. As you will read in this issue of the newsletter, Educational Leadership faculty, students, and graduates were not only attending sessions, but presenting their field study and dissertation research. When I talk with professors at other universities about our innovative programs and introduce our students, who are superintendents and principals, many are amazed that we have been able to bridge the research-practice divide; that our students and graduates epitomize the scholar-practitioner that is idealized but seldom realized. I speak with pride about how our students and graduates collaborate with faculty to research and write about educational issues that affect public education in the U.S.

This issue of the newsletter also reflects that we have much to celebrate, as another academic year comes to a close and our students matriculate with master’s and doctoral degrees. Doctoral students Gina Marx and Mark Watkins were given the Herbert & Lavina Hannam Endowed Fellowship and Natalie Grant received the Art & Gladys Anderson Fellowship. Two of our program graduates have been named recipients of prestigious awards.

Congratulations to all Ed Leadership graduates, students, alumni, and faculty for another great year. I look forward to more great things happening in Fall 2010.
— Jean Patterson

Proposed meeting for Newly Employed Building and District-level Leaders

In an attempt to reach out and provide service to educational leaders in south central Kansas we would appreciate your help in identifying those new to the profession and/or area. One of the goals from our department for next year is to provide opportunities for these leaders to get together and share their experiences with candidates currently enrolled in the building, district and doctoral leadership programs. If you know of leaders new to our area, please email their name contact Craig Elliott at craig.elliott@wichita.edu or 316 253 8530.
15th Annual Graduate Research Showcase Successful

As can be evidenced by the photos, the 15th Annual Graduate Research Showcase was successful. Nearly 130 candidates participated this year by presenting their research to a larger audience than in previous years. As you may know, this event is an opportunity for graduate students from one of the five departments in the College of Education to present their research. The candidates’ research is provided to others in the form of oral presentations, posters or electronic portfolios. The format of this event also provides a forum whereby potential students, prospective employers, community members and family have opportunities to create dialogue with the candidates who are the resident experts.

Graduate Research Showcase was created by Dr. Dennis Kear, now the Dean of Education at Missouri State University. Dr. Kear wrote and received grant monies in which a major part of receiving those funds required candidates to develop and emphasize district relevant action research projects. Dr. Randy Turk, recently retired assistant professor for Educational Leadership at Wichita State, had the insight earlier this decade to include aspiring building level leaders in this research presentation activity. Today, candidates in all three Educational Leadership programs – building, district and doctoral participate by “Showcasing” their research.

For those of you who mentor novice leaders and were unable to attend this year’s event please take the time to visit with your intern about their experience. Also, please plan to attend next year’s Showcase which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning, May 7, 2011 as we would appreciate your support as a spectator. Finally, we would ask that you encourage aspiring masters, district-level or doctoral candidates to attend this event so that they might be able to experience the research of aspiring school leaders. If you need more information about the Showcase event contact Craig Elliott at craig.elliott@wichita.edu or call his cell, 316 253 8530.

Dr. Donald Beggs, WSU President, delivered the opening remarks

Student presentations included posters, electronic portfolios, and oral presentations. Several rooms were used throughout the facility as a record number of attendees participated.
Featuring: Cameron Carlson

Shocker to Saluki

When Dean Sharon Iorio welcomed the new doctoral graduates to the Guild of Scholars, her words struck me in a profound way. While I continue to ponder the gravity of her words, they represent a base that very few of us have experienced. In a somewhat unique way, I am a product of Wichita State University’s College of Education, earning every degree and every endorsement through this great college. While I have been proud to know no other mascot than a WuShock, I now have the opportunity to join another university with another unique mascot. Reflecting upon what it means to be a Shocker, I am humbled by my experiences as I have been continually guided by an outstanding and caring faculty, and I hope to take some of what I have experienced to my new position as a Southern Illinois University Saluki next fall.

One does not enter “The Guild” on their own accord. After graduating with my BA in 1994, I began the building-level principal courses in the Fall of 1999. Throughout the past decade, I have been impressed by the tremendous mentoring by the various faculty members in the Wichita State’s Department of Educational Leadership. To many, I owe a debt of gratitude, many have moved into other facets of their careers after leaving an indelible mark upon the WSU’s Educational Leadership program. Along the way, they have encouraged each of us to discover our career path and have encouraged me to pursue a career in higher education. Each faculty member has offered me different tools or phrases that continue to guide my thinking and action.

In the master’s program, two people stand out for me. Dr. Randy Turk has a tremendous way to validate people’s contributions. His passion toward making others feel valued is inherent in the processes he leads to form teams and to help team members discuss what they value and how they process together. Dr. Ian Gibson’s abilities to analyze and break complex thoughts into deliberate action continue to amaze me. Two phrases continually guide my thinking: “Keep your head above the wheat fields” and “Change is accomplished through one intentional conversation at a time.”

The district program helped me tremendously, helping me embed a systems philosophy on the various district-wide committees I have served. For me, Dr. Craig Elliott’s facilities class was more about leadership than facilities. As a highly successful superintendent, he had initial credibility. From him, I take the phrase GOAL: “Go Out And Look,” and I used this daily to guide my approach to responding to people at Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School for the past nine years. Dr. Elliott’s many years at Maize continue to form a unique experience for each superintendent candidate. Also in the district leadership program, I credit Dr. Ray Calabrese for helping me identify my career plan and for helping me find more formalized structures to reflect upon my developing scholarship and practice.

In the doctoral program, my dissertation chair, Dr. Jean Patterson, helped me to ground my thinking and to understand how to communicate the various intricacies of the way I see organizations. Moreover, Jean has ignited a passion in me to serve marginalized populations, helping me understand others’ perspectives and how systems’ structures and processes preserve culture and sometimes exclude people who seek to find help within the system.

For the past two years, Dr. Pat Terry has allowed me the opportunity to teach as an adjunct in the masters program. His experiences as a successful principal and district leader are evident in the ways in which he imparts his experiences and mentors new principals into the profession. As a colleague, I have deepened professional relationships with three dear friends and colleagues, Dr. Glyn Rimmington, Dr. Sherry Goodvin, and Dr. Nancy Bolz. I’ve also had the privilege to serve with Nancy on the State Council for North Central Association for six years. Through these experiences, I have seen several excellent examples of quality leadership in schools.

Reflecting upon the past two decades, through my experiences at WSU, I have become a practitioner-scholar. As is hopefully evident, Wichita State University’s Educational Leadership faculty have shaped my thinking, practice, and scholarship, as it has for several students serving schools and districts across Kansas, the United States, and private industry. I am honored to take what I have learned and apply it in the Department of Educational Administration and Higher Education department at SIU. As a tenure-track faculty at a research university, I hope to create scholarship and help transition dedicated teachers to building level leaders assuming formal roles. These leaders will develop the skills necessary to pursue their passions to serve others and make needed changes one intentional conversation and one deliberate action at a time.

While my path is taking me to high education, the dedicated faculty at Wichita State University continues to deliver the absolute best program to prepare building leaders to assume leadership roles. The two-year practicum is second to none, and I hope to understand how to guide the formation of secondary principals in my new role as Assistant Professor. With pride, I am now a Wu-Saluki, and I wish everyone with whom I have had the privilege to work “the best” in your current and future successes as you strengthen education for all who benefit from your connection as a product of Wichita State.
Faculty/Alumni/Student Publications and Presentations:

The following professors and graduate students from the College of Education and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences will be presenting papers at the annual American Educational Research Association (AERA) meeting in Denver, Colorado, April 30-May 3.

Craig Elliott, Gina Marx, JK Campbell, and Mara Alagic: Attitudes and Communication: Implementation Cornerstones

Jean A. Patterson, Heather Eubank, Shelia E. Rathbun, and Steve Noble: Making Sense of the Complexities of Urban District Reform in a Changed World

Jennifer Pearson: The Impact of School Religiosity on Women’s Same-Sex Attraction and Well-Being in Adulthood

Jo Bennett is a participant in this session with other authors: The Surprising History of Education Policy Since 1950

Jo Bennett: Advocates as Linkages in Urban School Services: Implications for Leadership Development

Jo Bennett, Natalie Grant and Lance Stout: Study of Parental Involvement in a Rural School District: Implications for Urban Schools and Leadership Development Programs

Jodie Hertzog: A Pilot Study of Simulations as Effective Teaching Tools

Marlene A. Schommer-Aikins and Orpha K. Duel: Adjusting Study Time Based on Course Difficulty: The Role of Epistemological Beliefs

Sabina M. Low: Differences Between Student and Staff Perspectives on School Bullying: Findings from a 33-School Study

Jo Bennett was elected Secretary for the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Special Interest Group.

At the International Roundtable on School, Family, and Community Partnerships (INET) held in conjunction with the AERA conference:

Jo Bennett: Surrogate Grandparents in an Urban School: Research, Policy Implication, and Next Steps

Educational Leadership students presented “Leadership Characteristics” during the 15th Annual Graduate Showcase at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex on April 24

Dr. J. David McDonald, Dean of the Graduate School, presented closing remarks at the Graduate Showcase and assisted in the memorabilia give-away that followed.
Dr. Robert Morton, Superintendent of Coffeyville USD 445 was one of four individuals selected by the Kansas Head Start Association Board to receive the State Champion Award for Kansas at their Region VII Head Start Association conference, which will be held May 23-25, 2010 in Kansas City. Each of the four state associations in the region nominates an individual(s) who has been a leader and champion in early education. Past Kansas nominees are Kathleen Sebelius, Senator Pat Roberts, State Senator Dwayne Umbarger and Barry Downing, the Wichita businessman who has built two state-of-the-art early learning centers.

Dr. Mary Jo Taylor, Superintendent of Stafford USD 349, was named the 2010 recipient of the Kansas High School Athletic Association’s (KHSAA) annual Governor’s Award. The award is presented to an individual in recognition for their outstanding contributions in the field of secondary education in the state of Kansas. KHSAA’s news release noted “Widely known and respected by her peers throughout the state, Dr. Taylor is a member of the Kansas Association of School Administrators and has been nominated by that organization for Superintendent of the Year honors. She serves on numerous boards and advisory committees for KASA, the United School Administrators of Kansas, and the Kansas Association of School Boards. Dr. Taylor is a past member of the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals as well.”

Robert Morton and Mary Jo Taylor are graduates of all three Educational Leadership programs – Master’s, District Leadership, and Doctorate. We are proud of our alumni who are making a difference in Kansas schools and communities.

Congratulations Spring 2010 Ed Leadership Graduates!

Four doctoral students successfully defended their dissertations this spring. They were honored by faculty, graduates, and students at the annual Doctoral Celebration luncheon on May 12 and were hooded by their advisors during commencement on May 15, 2010. Their names and dissertation titles are listed below:

Lisa Lutz, Getting to know you: Using music to gain intercultural awareness through technology.

John Wyrick, A narrative inquiry of rural, low-income, single mothers’ aspirations for their children.

Diane Nickelson, A qualitative case study of a co-teaching relationship at a rural high school.

Robin Surland, Student voices: Self-efficacy and graduating high school.

The Master’s program will graduate these 16 students:

Jill Beuttgenbach, Trinity Academy, Wichita
Michael Church, Wichita USD 259
Stanley Cox, Wichita USD 259
Kirby Daetwiler, Wichita USD 259
Daniel Dickinson, Derby USD 260
Joshua Ghram, Wichita USD 259
Jason Halling, Wichita USD 259
Shannon Hansen, Shawnee Heights USD 450
Reva Hood, Wichita USD 259
Aaron Jackson, Pratt USD 382
Debra Kellogg, Wichita USD 259
Amanda Lowrance, Wichita USD 259
John Montford, Goddard USD 265
Amy Snodgrass, Wichita USD 259
Ann Wilcoxson, Maize USD 266
Susan Wright, Collegiate, Wichita
Capitol Graduate Research Summit

On March 25, I represented our EdD field study team at the 7th annual Capitol Graduate Research Summit (CGRS) in Topeka to present the poster *Ecological Perspectives of Latino/Hispanic Families in a Rural School Community*. Graduate students from WSU, KU, K-State, and KU Med Center were selected to share their research with the State government, educational officials, and the general public. The event is designed to showcase the research conducted by graduate students throughout the state of Kansas. Our study was selected along with nine other WSU graduate students' work from disciplines such as engineering, biology, and communication. CGRS is a poster session that provided an opportunity to discuss the field study in a professional setting. Other team members were Larry Callis, Doug Siemens, and Lance Stout. The field study was advised by Jo Bennett, PhD.

CGRS was a wonderful opportunity to interact with others who are engaged in the research process in other disciplines. WSU is conducting excellent research across the campus and I felt privileged to participate in such an event and represent WSU and the Educational Leadership program. I thoroughly enjoyed the discussions on our research with professionals from around the state.

Submitted by Natalie Grant, doctoral student

GRASP and COE Showcase April 2010

Doctoral students Larry Callis, Natalie Grant, Doug Siemens, and Lance Stout presented *Ecological perspectives of Latino/Hispanic families in a rural community*, at both GRASP and the COE Showcase. Dr. Jo Bennett was their faculty facilitator. Mark Watkins, Shelia Rathbun, Heather Eubank, Janis Stucky, Mohammad Mustafa, and Maram Jaradat also presented their research, *A study of external stakeholders’ perspectives of a Midwestern community college*, at both GRASP and Showcase, under the guidance of Dr. Sherry Goodvin and Dr. Linda Bakken. Doctoral, District Leadership and Master’s students all presented their research at the College of Education Showcase. Doctoral students JK Campbell, Gina Marx, Mark Whitener, Dale Herl, and Dawn Johnson presented, *America’s Choice: Perceptions of year two implementation in two urban middle schools*, a field study facilitated by Dr. Jean Patterson and Dr. Pat Terry. Doctoral program graduates Dalia Hale and Robert Morton presented their dissertation research, *A case study of immigrant Latino parents who use a newcomer placement center in an urban district and School closure: Through the eyes of teachers*, respectively. District Leadership students Patricia DePriest and Joyce von Ehrehkrook presented their projects, *Evolution of literacy tiers in high school* and *The Wichita Public Schools special education forgivable loan program*.

Six teams of master’s students also presented their action research projects at COE Showcase: Debra Kellogg, Stanley Cox, Kim O’Reilly, Sandra Peters, and Cody Rierson presented, *Leadership characteristics*. Dr. Craig Elliott was their faculty advisor. John Montford, Amy Snodgrass, Kurt Brundage, Reva Hood, and Ann Wilcoxson presented, *Behavior and its influence on the learning environment*. Their faculty advisor was Dr. Sherry Goodvin. Joshua Ghram, Jason Halling, Zachary Lawrence, Amanda Lowrance, and Claudia Sims-Cooper presented, *Parent and student perceptions of parent involvement*. They were advised by Dr. Rachel Norwood. Mike Church, Jill Buettgenbach, Kirsten Wondra, and Rachel Eastman presented, *Support structures for novice teachers*. Dr. Pat Terry was their faculty advisor. Daniel Dickinson, Toni Haight, Shannon Hansen, and Aaron Jackson presented *School culture and student success*. Their faculty advisor was Dr. Nancy Bolz. Susan Wright, Kirby Daetwiler, Wendi Dozier, and Travis Stockam presented, *Teachers’ professional identities in changing school contexts*. They were advised by Dr. Cameron Carlson.
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