From the Chair:

The early Spring has been a time of Scholarships, Grants and Prizes that recognize excellence in our research activities. Dr. Bennett was successful in winning and URCA grant to the value $4,500 to support her research agenda. Lisa Lutz won a Heskett Scholarship worth $3,000 from a very competitive field of applicants across the university. She intends using these funds to travel to Granada – Spain, Klagenfurt – Austria and Kyoto – Japan in the Summer, to set up global learning collaboration based on sharing music around the world in the school classroom. This will be a topic for her dissertation study. If that was not enough good news, Lisa’s poster won a $500 BioKansas prize at the Capital Graduate Research Summit in Topeka again from among a competitive field. Preparing graduates for the 21st century is a hot topic! Congratulations Jo and Lisa!

Work on the College of Education’s Graduate Research Showcase is progressing. Don’t forget to put this in you calendar (Saturday, May 2nd).

Also coming up on Thursday/Friday, April 30th / May 1st is the Annual KSDE Conference, where Craig and Pat are contributing to the COE display for potential students and candidates. On May 1st, some of our students are contributing to the Graduate Research And Scholarly Projects (GRASP).

On the following week, we have our Annual Doctoral Luncheon, where we will welcome members of cohort 18, congratulate Cohort 16 on their successful Comprehensive, and celebrate Dr. Kathy Mickelson, the only candidate to complete the doctorate this year. Put that in your calendar for May 6th in the Fred Suderman Commons of the Eugene Hughes Metropolitan Complex.

Glyn Rimmington

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Inquiry Cohort Continue

High Scores

Educational Leadership Master’s degree candidates in the Inquiry Cohort recently completed their Praxis Test – The School Leader’s Licensure Assessment.

The Inquiry Cohort master’s program differs from most building leader licensure programs in that students no longer attend a set of loosely-related classes which may not seem to be pertinent to what is done daily as an administrator in "the real world". In this program, students begin work "in the real world" from the very first meeting. Students work with mentors (usually the building principal) in assessing strengths and weaknesses, and identifying strengths and weaknesses in their school.

The median score for the state is 178 and average range for Kansas is from 172-184. The cutoff score is 165. The mean and median scores of the current Inquiry Cohort were both 181. The high score was 193 out of a possible 200. The current Inquiry Cohort’s performance continued a tradition of 100% of WSU student’s passing the licensure exam.

This outcome is due in no small part to the team who have dedicated their time during the last 2 years to running the program, namely Drs. Randy Turk, Jean Patterson and Marilyn Herr seminar instructors; and Drs. Nancy Bolz, Cameron Carlson, Sherry Goodvin, and Rachel Norwood, action research instructors and practica coordinators.

Congratulations to all!

Pat Terry – Program Coordinator

KSDE Conference

The Annual Kansas State Dept. of Education conference [http://conference.ksde.org/] will be held in Wichita at Century II and the Hyatt regency on Thursday and Friday, April 30th and May 1st. The conference will include an Exhibition and COE will have a booth. Drs. Craig Elliott and Pat Terry will be preparing a display for the College comprising an information desk with program brochures and a rolling video display.

GRASP Conference

The WSU Graduate Research And Scholarly Projects (GRASP) conference will be held on Friday, May 2nd at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex to display the array of world-class graduate research and scholarly projects from across the campus. GRASP serves to raise awareness in the community and within WSU of the broad range of topics being pursued. Throughout the day, there will be oral presentations and poster displays. Teams of judges will choose up to 5 winners in the Oral and Non-Oral divisions. Graduate students from COE will again be participating. In past years COE students have taken prizes including the 1st Place. Please put this in your calendar and make a point of seeing examples of research and scholarly projects at WSU and within COE.

Graduate Showcase

For the past couple months, work has been proceeding on preparations for the College of Education’s 14th Annual Graduate Showcase to be held on Saturday morning, May 2nd at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex. President Don Beggs will launch the Showcase at 9 AM. The program will feature presentations, posters and portfolios along with online posters from the online Masters of C&I Cohorts. Doctoral and Masters candidates in Educational Leadership will give presentations on preliminary results for their field studies. At 11:30 Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Professor Abu Masud will recognize the many prizes, awards, grants and honors received by COE graduate students.

Provost Gary Miller will close the conference. Please invite your Principals, Superintendents, colleagues and prospective students to attend and appreciate the range of research activities in the College.
Doctoral Celebration Lunch

Our annual doctoral luncheon at 11:00 AM at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex on Wednesday, May 6th will be a time to celebrate recent graduates, Cohort 16’s transition to preparing their Dissertation proposals, to welcome members of Cohort 18 and to recognize our candidates’ achievements for AY09. Winners of the Herbert & Lavina Hannam Endowed and Art & Gladys Anderson Fellowships, worth a combined $2,040, will be announced.

Educational Leadership at AERA

Educational Leadership faculty and students were well represented at the prestigious American Educational Research Association’s annual meeting recently held April 13-17, 2009 in San Diego. The program offered 2000 peer-reviewed sessions and more than 14,000 researchers were in attendance, making it the largest educational research conference in the U.S. The peer-review process is rigorous and only about 35% of proposals submitted are accepted.

Dr. Jo Bennett presented the paper, *Creating Connections in an Urban School With “Grandparents”* from her dissertation research. In collaboration with former faculty member Dr. Ray Calabrese, doctoral candidates Michael Hester and Scott Friesen presented a paper from their 2007-08 field study research, *The Transformative Journey of a Rural School District Engaged in the Appreciative Inquiry 4-D Cycle*. Dr. Jean Patterson also collaborated with Dr. Calabrese to present the paper, *A School-University Appreciative Inquiry Partnership to Examine Benefits of Social Inclusion for Students with Disabilities*. The paper was from a research study on the efficacy of the Circle of Friends Program that a team of Educational Leadership faculty and graduates conducted in January 2008 at the request of Senator Donald Betts.

Faculty/Student Publications

Dr. Jean Patterson, in collaboration with doctoral program graduates Kathy Mickelson, Jan Petersen, and Diane Gross, published the article, *Educating for Success: The Legacy of an All-Black School in Southeast Kansas*, in the latest issue of the Journal of Negro Education. The article uses oral history narratives to tell the story of Douglass School, a small, racially segregated school that existed in Parsons, Kansas from 1908-1958. The school was closed in 1958 in the wake of Brown v. Topeka BOE. During its 50-year history, the school produced an incredible number of accomplished alumni, many of whom attained Master’s and Doctoral degrees and went on to become physicians, educators, administrators, businessmen, as well as professional musicians and athletes.

Social Networking on Ning

Last month’s newsletter reported on Educational Leadership exploring social and professional networking in order to strengthen connections between faculty, graduates, and students. At that time we were looking at LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook. Dr. Russell Miller (Cohort 12, Ed.D. 2006) took the initiative to set up a social networking site for Ed.D. program faculty, graduates, and students using Ning, a free, web-based program that allows users to create and customize their own social networking site. The response has been tremendous as we now have over 70 members. If you have already joined the network, please encourage your fellow cohort members or other graduates to join. We hope this site will provide opportunities for networking, sharing ideas, and simply keeping in touch with each other. The idea is to customize it to meet your needs, so please share with Russ Miller or Jean Patterson your ideas for the site to suit your interests.

http://wsueldocs.ning.com/
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