

YOUR EDUCATION RESOURCE

NEWS FROM THE LAWRENCE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION & LAWRENCE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERS

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TOGETHER WE BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

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2008 Foundation Follies

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2008 marked another record-setting year for the Foundation Follies! In its 18th year the Follies raised over \$21,000 to help provide funds for the Foundation's Teacher Innovation Grant program. The 35 sponsors and almost 525 guests enjoyed a variety of performances by district staff at Liberty Hall. Energetic performances such as an American Idol spoof, "American Teacher" performed by Langston Hughes staff, and a colorful 60's-themed performance of "The Age of Assessment" by the Cordley staff, were just a couple of the amazing numbers that night.

During intermission, the Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (LEAP) and the Lawrence Schools Foundation recognized their annual award winners. LEAP Board of

Directors Chair Karen Schuyler of ICL Performance Products, presented LEAP Luminary Awards to the outstanding business/organization volunteer and a school volunteer for 2007-2008. This year's honorees were: Donna Griffin, Gould Evans Associates, for her many volunteer hours at Pinckney Elementary; and Penny Kramer, South Junior High biology teacher, for coordinating her school's LEAP partner activities. LEAP's Five-Star Achievement Award recognized Tim and Sherry Emerson of Pet World for its unique partnership with Broken Arrow Elementary. Pet World brings animals to support classrooms and support units of study and hosts student field trips to enrich curriculum, among other activities. Each LEAP award recipient received a framed piece of student art work.

Kathy Davis, Lawrence Schools Foundation Trustee presented two \$1,000 Educator of the Year awards, one each for an elementary and a secondary teacher nominated by their colleagues, students, and school families. Lois Orth-Lopes, Cordley Elementary music and autism-resource teacher, was surprised with the announcement as was Betty Norwood, South Junior High language arts and social studies teacher. Congratulations to all of the LEAP and Lawrence Schools Foundation annual award winners!

ABOVE (L TO R):
EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR,
BETTY NORWOOD & LOIS
ORTH-LOPES AND LEAP
AWARD RECIPIENTS, PENNY
KRAMER, DONNA GRIFFIN
AND SHERRY & TIM EMERSON
WITH LEAP CHAIR KAREN
SCHUYLER.

\$10,000 Teaching Award



DEB ENGSTROM WITH LHS PRINCIPAL, STEVE NILHAS, AT THE SURPRISE ASSEMBLY IN HER HONOR.

Lawrence High special education teacher, Deb Engstrom, was presented with the Bobs Award and \$10,000 from the Lawrence Schools Foundation on Thursday, May 1. Lawrence High Principal Steve Nilhas, Foundation Board President Paige Hofer and Foundation Executive Director Susan Esau took part in the surprise school assembly on Thursday morning. Deb is in her 19th year at LHS after teaching in Manhattan schools for eight years. She earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Iowa. "Deb is resourceful, innovative and positive each day she comes to work, and she is a strong voice in the building," said Lawrence High Principal, Dr. Steve Nilhas. "Many students know her not just as a teacher but as someone who is truly interested in their

lives and activities. Her influence reaches well beyond the halls of LHS as she is likely to be in attendance whenever there is an athletic event, concert or play," Nilhas also said. One mother of a former LHS student said, "Deb has been my son's teacher and mentor for five years. He came to LHS with significant aggressive behavior and multiple other challenges. She accepted him, supported him, cared about him, and worked tirelessly for his success at school, at home and in the community. Although my son has been out of school for almost a year, he continues to see Deb weekly and call her at least once a week. She will remain a friend and strong ally throughout his life." Dirk Wedd, LHS physical education teacher and football/golf coach stated, "Very few

people have the ability to make everyone around them feel special, and Deb does. She brings a glow to the room as she walks in and makes everyone feel welcome. She has made Lawrence High a better place."

The Bobs Award is a teaching honor created through the Foundation by a group of civic leaders who share the same first name, Bob. The benefactors choose to remain anonymous to focus attention on the outstanding educators selected annually to receive the award. The Bobs Award recognizes an outstanding teacher who exemplifies extraordinary instruction skills, reflects dedication to teaching, focuses on individual student achievement, and guides each student to achieve his full potential.

2008 Teacher Innovation Grants

Thanks to \$23,000 in Teacher Innovation Grants from the Lawrence Schools Foundation, 43 Lawrence teachers will be implementing new projects to enhance the curriculum when they return to school in the fall for the 2008-09 school year. Without the Foundation's support, many teachers wanting to try creative and challenging projects to help students learn particular skills or information often pay for supplies and materials out of their own pockets. "The Foundation wants to support our dedicated teach-

ers in any way we can," said Paige Hofer, President of the Lawrence Schools Foundation Board of Trustees. "One way is to provide them with resources for their innovative ideas for improving teaching and learning in the classroom." The Foundation approved funding for a total of 17 innovative projects and technology at 12 different schools in the district. Joyce Collins, Southwest Junior High, will use her \$700 Foundation grant to purchase culinary novels to integrate into the FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences) curriculum. Other grants will support

an LHS public sculpture project, employment training for students in the community transition (C-Tran) program, a healthy cooking unit for preschoolers at the East Heights Early Childhood Center, a summer library and math program at Broken Arrow Elementary, visual reading aids for Cordley Elementary kindergartners, state-of-the-art technology tools for many classrooms, and more. The Lawrence Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was established in 1985. The Teacher Innovations Grant Program began in 2003 and has provided nearly \$93,000, to date.

SAVE THE DATE!

2008 Community
Education Breakfast

Friday, September 5

7:30am

Lawrence Holidome

Sponsorship opportunities still available. Please contact Susan Esau at sesau@usd497.org or 330-1941 for more info.

Adventures In Imagination

One of LEAP's long-standing partnerships, which contributes approximately \$5,500 And approximately \$33,500 of in-kind support every school year. Adventures in Imagination was formed in the fall of 1994 as a three-way LEAP partnership between U.S. Bank, Lawrence Public Schools, and the Lied Center. The partnership creates opportunities through the arts that enhance reading, writing, critical thinking and creative

expression for students and teachers in our community. The partnership supports the Lied Center School Performance series which brings in performances specially designed for children and supports classroom curriculum and arts in education. This upcoming season, the partnership will be working on two new programs: the "Summer Teacher's Workshop" and "3rd Grade Arts Day." The Summer Teacher's Workshop will give teachers an opportunity to par-

ticipate in workshops that will address integrating the arts into the classroom and tie to upcoming performing arts experience at the Lied Center, KU Theater and the Lawrence Arts Center. The workshop will take place on July 30 at various locations downtown. The 3rd Grade Arts Day will expose local third graders to the various elements that make up theater by rotating through various stations to experience theater art.



STUDENTS VISIT THE LIED CENTER TO SEE A PERFORMANCE.

Grants Galore!

We love this time of year at the Foundation! Making grants, presenting educator awards, and handing out student scholarships are at the heart of our mission. In addition to our more-familiar Teacher Innovation Grants program, which will fund \$23,000 in new projects in 2008-2009, the Foundation recently selected three music teachers to receive funding for next school year. The Music Grants Program is in its second year. Peter Gipson is receiving \$285 for a field trip for his sixth graders at Kennedy Elementary School to the American Jazz Museum in

Kansas City. Peter has been the music teacher at Kennedy for three years. Lois Orth-Lopes, Cordley Elementary School, is receiving \$2,030 to purchase "djembes" drums and fund African Drumming workshops for her students. Lois was also recently selected as the Foundation's 2008 Elementary Educator of the Year. The third music grant is being awarded to Elaine Williams in the amount of \$2,185 for her "West String Friends" mentorship program at West Junior High. She intends to hire experienced musicians to help coach 7th-9th grade orchestra students. These music grants are possible because of

the Music Endowment established with the Foundation by MusicWorks! The Foundation is also making new grant money available for 2008-2009 to all the Lawrence Public Schools through its Funds for Excellence program. Building administrators have been encouraged to apply for funding for a purchase, project, or program for which other funds are not available. Available money will be divided up as equitably as possible from the Academics Fund, Athletics Fund, Technology Fund, and Greatest Needs Fund. A total of \$14,250 is being made available for this first round of grants from these funds.

LEAP SHINING STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS:

WINTER AWARD
CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK

SPRING AWARD
THE CHIROPRACTIC EXPERIENCE

CONGRATULATIONS!



School Scoops!

❖U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings recently announced the selection of Kate M. Falkenstien, who attends Lawrence Free State High School, as a 2008 Presidential Scholar. Falkenstien is one of 139 outstanding American high school seniors who demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship and service at school and in their community. The Presidential Scholars will be honored for their accomplish-

ments in Washington, D.C., from June 21 to 24. ❖Lawrence Public Schools announced the launch of its SchoolMessenger parent notification program on April 23, 2008. The district will use its new communications capabilities to reinforce its strong commitment to maintaining positive relationships between school and home and to reach parents quickly in the event of an emergency. ❖A community Coordinated School Health Council initiated the first

districtwide wellness event to promote health and life-long wellness practices for students and staff in the Lawrence Public Schools. Each school and support service location engaged in 20 minutes of continuous physical activity during the week of April 28-May 2. The Coordinated School Health Council helps facilitate the District's wellness goals which emphasize healthier guidelines in three essential areas affecting wellness: school nutrition, nutrition education and physical activity. Get moving!



LOCAL CELEBRITIES BABY JAY AND DON "RED DOG" GARDNER JOIN QUAIL RUN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND STAFF FOR A WORK-OUT.

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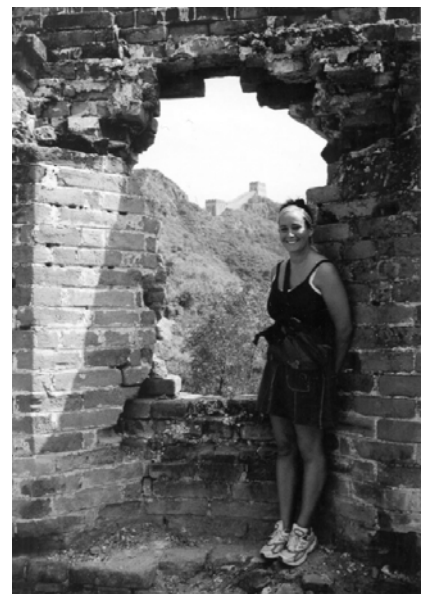
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Amazing Alumni: Our FSHS First!

Katy Belot, FSHS Class of 2000, currently works in the office of Governor Kathleen Sebelius. As the Governor's Legislative Liaison, she is part of the Policy and Governmental Affairs Team. Belot attended Hillcrest Elementary, West Junior High and Free State High School. At each stage of her academic career, she was involved in extra-curricular activities. She was elected Student Body President during her senior year, was co-captain of the Pom Squad, on the diving team and part of the National Honor Society. After becoming a part of the nationally ranked dance team at the University of Minnesota, a knee injury resulted in her transfer to Texas Christian University. Belot graduated from TCU in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. While at TCU, Belot enrolled in a year studying overseas at the University of Melbourne in Australia. Belot completed the Masters of International Politics program at Melbourne in August 2007. While living in

Australia, Belot had the opportunity to work for the United Nations Development Program in Dili, East Timor, and explored Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands. During this time, Belot was hired as a teaching assistant in Melbourne which she said "was the most rewarding" part of her experience in Melbourne. After graduation, she traveled through China before returning to Kansas. "I am a firm believer that the best way to get to know yourself is by being in unfamiliar situations," states Belot. "When you are forced to rely on yourself, inspiring and motivating things can happen. I am happy to be living in Kansas again and enjoy observing and participating in the political process." She is looking forward to enrolling in a PhD program in the next few years and hopes that one day she will be able to return to teaching.

Correction to last issue: Brandon McAnderson's brother is Devin McAnderson.



KATY CLIMBING THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA IN SEPTEMBER OF 2007.