



# community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

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## From the Chairman

It is my pleasure to serve as the chairman of the Salina Education Foundation for the 2007-2008 school year.



This past year, our 21st Century Advantage Grant program, which we view as the cornerstone program of the Foundation, awarded \$33,000 to Salina classrooms. The grants provide many unique classroom experiences to prepare our students for an ever-changing world. Since its inception in 1993, the SEF has awarded \$325,000 to USD 305 staff.

Our other major program, LIFT, which stands for Loan Initiative for Future Teachers, inducted two more future teachers into the program this past year: Andrew Book and Darcy Bartz. LIFT is a "Grow Your Own Teacher" program developed by the SEF in response to a community Priority Action Team recommendation that identified the critical need for teachers. If you follow news related to the nationwide teacher shortage, you know that any program aimed at recruiting talented teachers who know Salina and are committed to the community is a good thing.

As a product of Salina Public Schools, I know the value of the excellent education I received. Now, my wife Cathy and I continue supporting our schools because we believe that a strong public school system makes a healthy and vibrant community for us all. Please join us in supporting the work of the Salina Education Foundation.

—Jason Graves



Cody and Tammy Garner stand with Jenivee Sterling in front of the flags at Schilling Elementary School.

## *Home from Afghanistan*

The SEF is proud to help Schilling Elementary School provide a frame for a special award that came home from Afghanistan. Jenivee Sterling, whose father works as a civilian rebuilding houses in Afghanistan, received a flag that was flown over a military compound at Bagram Air Field. The flag was given to Kenneth Sterling as a reward for "a good deed he performed," and he named Jenivee and Schilling Elementary as the recipients of the award.

Eleven students at Schilling Elementary School have had parents serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cody Garner recently welcomed his mother Tammy home after she served 18 months in Iraq. Tammy presented Schilling with a flag and battalion coin, which was added to the wall. This special wall honors our children's mothers and fathers who serve in the war—a very visible display that the children see every day. Kathy Isaacson, Schilling counselor, requested the Sudden Opportunity Grant to purchase a frame for the flag and coordinated a schoolwide effort to collect supplies for students' parents serving overseas.

**SUDDEN  
OPPORTUNITY**

# SEF Briefs

## Growing Our Own Teachers

Do you know a talented person who would make a great teacher? Tell them about the LIFT program (Loan Initiative for Future Teachers) and direct them to our web site: [www.salinaeducationfoundation.com](http://www.salinaeducationfoundation.com) where they will find information and an application form for this grow-your-own teacher program. The LIFT program provides forgivable loans of \$5,000 per year to qualified Saline County residents who seek to become teachers. Applications are due January 31, 2008.

## Creativity Abounds

The generosity of three talented people made the SEF's Back-to-School Breakfast a success. Justin Baird, a Cottonwood teacher, donated his skills in creating the video of students using materials provided by the SEF's grants programs, Susie Reitz, past principal of Heusner, donated all of the colorful table decorations, and Eve Boyle, trustee, created the invitation and programs for the "Breakfast of Champions."

## Poetry Scholarship

The family of Ralph C. Long has established a one-time scholarship for a graduating senior who loves poetry. Mr. Long began writing poetry in 1991. He said of his writings, "I just try to tell a story in rhyme with an optimistic view, a unique title, some wit and humor with perhaps a lesson or moral." The Ralph C. Long Poetry Scholarship application can be found at: [www.salinaeducationfoundation.com](http://www.salinaeducationfoundation.com).



SHS leaders learn the importance of giving

Two years ago, South High's Student Council initiated a scholarship program. The students donate \$1,000 yearly to the SEF to fund two \$500 scholarships for graduating seniors. The students developed the criteria for the applicants, the application form, and the process for selecting the recipients.

This past year, students in Loren Banninger's Leadership Class at South High were given hands-on experience in coordinating a service project. Students were divided into groups of five and were given \$20. Each group then had to create a service project and double the money they were given. The projects were highly successful, with individual groups raising between \$60 and \$450 to donate to local organizations. This experience has given students the opportunity to get involved in their school as well as the community. One group used the money they raised to provide an additional \$500 scholarship to a SHS student through the Salina Education Foundation.

## 2007 Scholarship Recipients

The SEF awarded \$20,350 in scholarships to graduating seniors from Central and South High Schools and to one Lakewood teacher. All scholarship information is available at: [www.salinaeducationfoundation.com](http://www.salinaeducationfoundation.com) or from school guidance counselors.

- David H. Jett Memorial Scholarship**  
Tucker Allred
- OnTech!Pro Scholarship**  
Joel Pruett
- James Maupin Memorial Scholarship**  
Shane Gooden
- Ron F. Feitel, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**  
Thomas Yockey
- Destry Allen Memorial Scholarship**  
Melissa Williams Meyer
- Maynard E. Nelson Trust Scholarship**  
Kristi Mendenhall  
Landon Vinson
- Class of 1959 Scholarship**  
Kristi Mendenhall
- South High Student Council Scholarship**  
Gretchen Holthaus  
Andrew Ross  
Whitney Vaughn
- Justin Cosco Memorial Scholarship**  
Anna Allen
- Math and Technical Scholarship**  
Chelsey Cox  
Adam Young
- Nancy Whitehair Ribble Memorial Scholarship**  
Debbie Thompson

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*“The SEF breakfast was delightful. It was so interesting hearing about the many accomplishments and goals of SEF. Keep up the good work” – Pam Rasmussen*



Above: LIFT Recipients Darcy Bartz, Andrew Book, and Kaysie Rowson were among the attendees  
 Top Right: South High *Guys and Dolls* performed  
 Bottom Right: Betty Amos, Janice Ostrom, Maxine Strawn and Harold Eagleton enjoyed the breakfast



# Back-to-School, literally!

On August 30, Margy Hogarty and Curtis Stevens, USD 305 Teachers of the Year for 2006-2007, challenged two teams at the SEF's Back-to-School Breakfast to transport marbles into a bucket using rulers or tubes. It quickly became apparent to the team using the rulers that they were handicapped because of the tool that they had to use. The point of this team-building exercise? Good, appropriate tools are needed to achieve the best results. Margy and Curtis told the audience that the Salina Education Foundation's 21st Century Advantage Grant program is critical in helping teachers to create the best learning experiences in their classrooms.

Attendees were treated to a delicious

*Committed to Excellence in the Classroom*

breakfast, a video showing the importance of the SEF grants for our students, and a performance by students from South High's award-winning production of *Guys and Dolls*, who displayed the hands-free microphones provided by a grant from the SEF.

The breakfast is an annual event to thank donors and to let them see the ways in which their support helps our schools. If you would like to learn more about the SEF by attending the breakfast, we would love to have you! Please e-mail Pam McIntyre, Executive Director at: [pam.mcintyre@usd305.com](mailto:pam.mcintyre@usd305.com) or call 785-309-4729.

Mark your calendars: the 2008 Back-to-School Breakfast will be Tuesday, August 26.

## Breakfast of Champions Supporters

- Arrow Printing, in kind donation
- Bank VI
- Clark, Mize and Linville, Chtd.
- Coldwell Banker Antrim-Piper-Wenger
- Koshgarian Contracting
- Sunflower Insurance Group, Inc.
- Woods and Durham, Chtd.

*The mission of the Salina Education Foundation is to encourage educational excellence by providing resources to enhance opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.*



## Looking for the perfect gift?

### Give a donation to the Salina Education Foundation!

Honor someone special in your life — your child's teacher, a family member, a neighbor — and help your school at the same time.

Give a meaningful gift this Christmas, or for any occasion! Birthdays, Valentine's Day, National Education Week — Salina Education Foundation donations are always a perfect fit!

It's easy! Simply fill out the form below and drop it in the mail.

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SCHOOL

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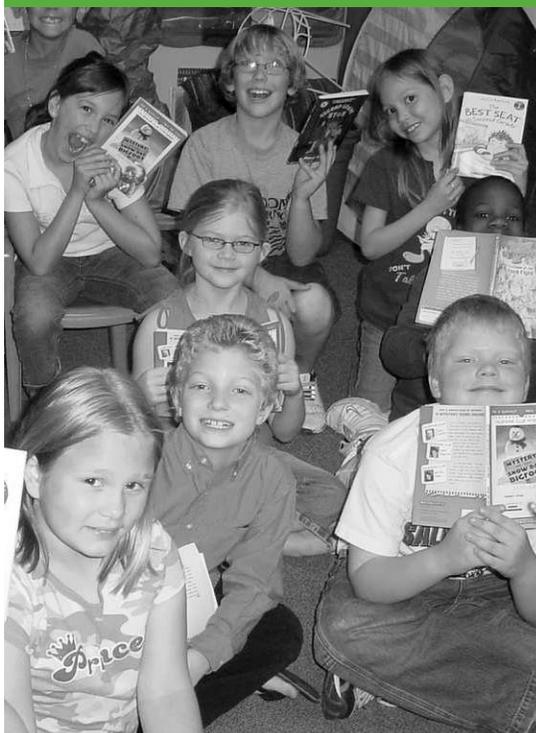
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## Help make a difference. JOIN SEF TODAY!



**YES!** I want the BEST for all students in the Salina School District! All donations will be used in the Salina School District. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- \$3000 or more **21st Century Club**
- \$1000-2999 **SEF Benefactor**
- \$500-999 **SEF Patron**
- \$100-499 **SEF Supporter**
- \$10-99 **SEF Friend**
- Please send more information

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Make checks payable to:  
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*The Salina Education Foundation is a separate non-profit organization whose purpose is to assure continuing excellence in the Salina School District.*