



Classroom grants to enhance student learning • Exceptional teachers to staff our classrooms

From the Director

It's been a busy year so far for the Salina Education Foundation. The Fall Breakfast honored our donors by highlighting several grants that their donations made possible, teachers have requested and received over \$4,000 in Sudden Opportunity Grants, and the second 305 LIVE was a resounding success.



305 LIVE is exactly the type of project-based learning that the SEF supports: collaborative, creative and innovative problem-solving. Students were involved in every aspect of the production. Nathan Tysen, Ryan McCall, Jason Hammond, Lance Gilchrist and John Hobson (Joe's Pet Project) stirred up a passion for songwriting, production and performing that was contagious. During tear-down after Saturday's performance, South High's Marisa Mitchell, who was the official photographer and chronicler of 305 LIVE, looked at me and asked, "What am I going to do now?" I understood what she meant. We would miss the energy, passion, and the music! I invited Marisa to share her "student perspective" about 305 LIVE, which you will find inside. Thank you to all the teachers, administrators, students, and donors for helping to create this special event. As for me, I will take away an indelible image from the week of 305 LIVE: the pure joy on our students' faces.

Pam McIntyre
Executive Director

Kaitlyn Paul, LIFT Recipient

The SEF is proud to introduce LIFT Recipient Kaitlyn Paul.

Kaitlyn is a senior at Ft. Hays State University, majoring in mathematics education. A 2010 graduate of Salina South High, Kaitlyn has been involved with teaching in a number of ways, including coaching through the Salina Aquatics Club and the Hays Hurricanes. She has been active in programs at United Methodist Campus Ministry where she was the lead student at Primary Language Arts, a weekly program where she worked with second-language learners. The Executive Director of the campus program calls Kaitlyn "kind, honest, caring, and open to the great diversity of students we work with."



Kaitlyn Paul

Kaitlyn would like to teach high school or middle school math and says, "I

have always enjoyed math and have felt confident in my ability to explain it to my peers who have had trouble with the concepts. It is the subject I feel I could do the best job teaching, and it is the subject I am most passionate about." Passion, dedication, and the love of teaching will help to make the SEF's newest LIFT recipient, Kaitlyn Paul, an excellent teacher in USD 305.

Kaitlyn joins current LIFT recipients Lauren Meis (Kansas State), Samantha McCary (University of Kansas), Jessica Steele (Kansas State), Taylor Harner (Kansas State), and Lydia Newquist (Kansas State). LIFT recipients currently teaching include Kaysie Chrisman (South Middle), Andrew Book and Darcy Leach (Central High), Molly Campbell (Heusner), Nora Rindt (Schilling), Corey Wheeler (Lakewood) and Cindy Carter (South High). Know a great candidate for the LIFT program? Encourage them to apply by the deadline: January 31, 2014.

SEF Coming Attractions

- January 31: LIFT application deadline
- February-April: Spring Business Partners—businesses support education!
- March 1: 21st Century Advantage and Outside-the-Box Grant applications deadline
- March 28, 29: Bicentennial Center, Toughest Monster Truck Tour, 7:30 PM (Give code SEFD when purchasing tickets to have part of the sale go to the SEF)
- April 8: Recognition of new LIFT and grant recipients, 4:30 PM, Board of Education

Fall Breakfast

SEF donors were treated to breakfast and entertainment on August 26 at the Salina Country Club. Guests were cautioned to “Look Out for Robots Underfoot” as Lyric Cairns and her South High Robotics students showcased their robot in the entryway. Chair Gary Denning introduced a brief video of 2012’s 305 LIVE and encouraged everyone to attend this year’s 305 LIVE on November 9, 2013 at Central High.

Barbara Livengood, Vicki Price, and Paula Fried introduced their very successful program, Power of One: Standing Together, which is funded by the Salina Regional Health Foundation through an annual SEF Grant. The program is a healthy lifestyles and leadership seminar offered to 7th grade girls. Now in its 5th year, the program brings together 50 girls from both South and Lakewood middle



South High Robotics Team Members

schools that have been identified as either positive or negative leaders. The girls spend a full day in the program in November and April learning about healthy habits and respecting one another. At the girls’ request, a half-day session during their 8th grade year has been added.

Keeping in touch with the girls is an important part of the program. In between sessions, the girls meet monthly at their schools with staff.

Guests were also treated

to students from Sunset Elementary exercising with large balls and sticks in a program called Drums Alive. Physical education teacher Deb Christie and

her students displayed coordination skills while energetically exercising to music, and even gave a nod to Christmas by performing in Santa hats. Drums Alive is a workout for the mind, body and spirit rolled into one. Kids love it, and as Mrs. Christie told the group, “If you don’t think this is aerobic exercise, you should come feel my heart beat!”

The SEF is proud to be able to help teachers and staff through our three grant programs. The Power of One Grant is an example of the 21st Century Advantage Grant, South High’s Robotics is an example of an Outside-the-Box Grant, and Drums Alive is an example of the Sudden Opportunity Grant.



Vickie Price, Barbara Livengood, Paula Fried and Jeanne Byquist



Teacher Deb Christie and Sunset Students

Sudden Opportunity Grants

The SEF has three grant programs for teachers and staff of USD 305. The 21st Century Advantage Grant and the Outside-the-Box Grant have annual deadlines of March 1. The grants are awarded for the next school year. The Sudden Opportunity Grant is unique because teachers and staff have the ability to fund a great project that comes up unexpectedly now. Grants are limited to \$200 in order to provide as many grants as possible throughout the district. Examples of Sudden Opportunity Grants that the SEF has funded this year

include: Drums Alive program at Heusser for physical education; the Washburn Leadership Challenge at South High that allows students to participate in a competition that challenges them to execute leadership decisions and apply their shared knowledge; a Family Fun, Food and Fitness Event at Lakewood Middle where students research, plan, prepare and host an event that promotes healthy living; and Reading and Writing Time at Central High that encourages silent sustained reading in Sophomore English classes.



March 28, 29
Bicentennial Center

Use code SEFD when purchasing or ordering tickets, and the SEF will receive \$5 for every ticket sold. *Additional fees apply to online and phone orders.

305 LIVE

Can past and present USD 305 students write original songs, learn new music from artists like The Beatles and Led Zeppelin, and present a full-out rock concert in one week? Yes! That is exactly what happened the week of November 2-9, 2013. Two hundred middle and high school students worked with Joe's Pet Project band members (Nathan Tysen, Ryan McCall, Lance Gilchrist, Jason Hammond and John Hobson) in classrooms, after school, and all day Saturday to prepare for the concert. Add in the talents of Lovewell Institute's Carrie Gilchrist and Nils Petter-Ankarblom, and the enthusiastic choreography of Jess Ryan and 305 LIVE rocked the near-capacity house Saturday night, November 9.

The concert was an endowment fund-raising event for the SEF. The collaboration



opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.

Our goal was to have students involved at every level of production. So, not



only did students perform, and help construct the set, they acted as stage managers and lighting and sound directors. Students also captured the event through video and still photography. Marisa Mitchell, South High Senior (and official 305 LIVE photographer) captured many remarkable moments on cam-

among students, teachers, band members, donors and our community created an event that speaks to the mission of the Salina Education Foundation: to enhance

era, which she shares here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/marisamiss/sets/>

Please enjoy the insert which shares her perspective on the week that culminated in 305 LIVE.



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Our Mission

To promote and support educational excellence by providing resources to enhance opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.

As part of this mission, the trustees of the Foundation

Manage and grow endowment funds, grants, and gifts for specific schools, programs, and scholarships

Award grants to teachers seeking to enhance instruction

Identify and support, through forgivable loans, outstanding Saline County residents seeking to become teachers in USD 305

Build community awareness and support of the Salina Education Foundation

Our Vision

Uniting the community to support excellent public schools

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Student Reflection

By: Marisa Mitchell

Throughout the week building up to 305 LIVE, I recognized an additional vehicle which music travels through other than the literal substance of a chord, a verse, a key change or even an arpeggio. Music: "An art of sound in time that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the element of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color." Or, what we connect with on a track from a classic LP or a new hit on the radio that chases us until repetition takes the emotional tie, which glued us to the song in the first place, away. Traveling from rehearsal to rehearsal, I witnessed music from the sole interactions between the visiting musicians and the eager students - the music even more powerful when there were no instruments in hands.

Having missed the majority of the production last year due to my tennis season, I knew that I had to take advantage this year. Most high school and middle school students do not have the opportunity to work with such an energetic crew, let alone a Swedish composer and a university music director. Between rehearsals, during run-



throughs and lunch breaks, and even a few minutes before show time, I sat down with the musicians to hear their fascinating stories and perspectives on music mechanics. From learning about Lance Gilchrist's current career in Chicago to John Hobson's tales of working on crew for B.B. King, I distinguished a spark in everyone's eyes. These "interviews" ended up equalating more to conversations lasting up to forty-minutes, limited by rehearsal schedules. I asked each a few staple questions, but once they started unloading these remarkable recollections and "a-ha moments," I put my notebook aside and simply listened to their stories: Ryan McCall learning to play piano at his grandmother's farm, Nills-Peter Ankarblom recalling his childhood music adventures with his brother in Europe, Nathan Tysen hearing people sing something he wrote for the first time, Carrie Gilchrist contrasting the music culture between Russia and Sweden, and Jessica Ryan growing up listening and singing to musical theatre vinyl on her grandparent's living room floor. The artists vividly remembered the specific life-altering moment that led them to where they are today.

Now that 305 LIVE is over, the interview recordings play as music – each its own song. I discovered how unbelievably easy it is to speak with people who are following their passion. The recordings do not show the smiles or the hands clasping face in astonishment, but they do convey the laughter and exhilaration. These talented, busy, impassioned artists love working through music and have an even stronger fervor for the education and interaction with students.

Being part of 305 LIVE opened my eyes to the importance of an energetic education and the courage to follow one's passion. The work of the Salina Education Foundation and the astounding support from the District and school staff made this production run flawlessly. From antsy middle school students collaborating to compose a song in two hours to students and musicians exchanging hugs and conversation during lunch breaks, strangers became family.

