

ALUMNI magazine



A NEW MISSION

NLU takes on the challenge of preparing veterans returning home

**EDUCATION REFORM &
ELECTION 2012** P.3



**BUILDING THE
NEW TV AGE** P.4

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message from the president



Dear Friends,

The new academic year is off to a great start at National Louis University, and I'm delighted to introduce this refreshed magazine to you, our valued community of alumni and friends. Among the many aspects of our University that make us proud is the leadership our alumni demonstrate in their professions and communities. Thank you for all you do.

In keeping with the heritage of access and belief in the transformative impact of education that has defined our institution since its birth, we continue to innovate to meet the changing needs of learners today. In this issue of the magazine, you'll learn about NLU's Education to Employment (E2) initiative, launched to serve veterans and others as they strive to fulfill their goals of obtaining college degrees and new professional opportunities.

I have been privileged in the past months to meet many outstanding men and women dedicated to military service and to helping veterans transition to civilian life with all the support they deserve. I'm heartened by the growing recognition among institutions of higher learning that these outstanding Americans have distinctive educational needs that we must be prepared to meet.

In September I was honored to chair the host committee for an event that brought together almost 20 university presidents from across metro Chicago to sign a collective pledge of commitment to student veterans. This event was sponsored by the Student Veterans of America, the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Joining Forces, the Council for Adult and Experiential Education, and the McCormick Foundation, a leading funding organization in veterans' affairs. In fact, earlier in 2012 the McCormick Foundation awarded NLU \$750,000 in support of our E2 Initiative.

This philanthropic support, the opportunity to lead conversations among education leaders, and the talent and commitment of our NLU colleagues led by Brigadier General and Senior Advisor to the President for Military Education Stephen Curda, all reinforce my conviction that NLU is right where it should be in meeting the most vital educational issues of our day.

Please continue to keep in touch with NLU, letting us learn about your own important work.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nivine Megahed".

Nivine Megahed, Ph.D.



NATIONAL
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ELECTION 2012: CAN EDUCATION REFORM WIN?

by Todd Price



Obama and Romney also both speak of parental school choice. Differences arise when the Romney campaign speaks of parental choice by calling for an expansion of vouchers, public funds for private school tuition, and making programs like the popular Washington, D.C., Opportunity Scholarship Program a national model. The Obama campaign is opposed to such programs.

Believe it or not, President Barack Obama and Republican candidate Mitt Romney actually agree on quite a bit related to school reform — although they would probably disagree with that statement. Each party believes that theirs is the true party of education reform and that the other party supports the status quo.

However, both candidates have a track record with education and clearly state that the most important factor for improving student achievement is the teacher. Both candidates also agree with the idea that reforming education will ultimately improve the economy, and both use the slogan “globally competitive” as a standard refrain.

The Romney campaign believes that the idea of the highly qualified teacher, made famous during the Bush administration, “only serves to reinforce hurdles that prevent talented individuals” from moving into the profession. Therefore, they endorse increasing alternative certification. This line of thought is consistent with the Obama administration, when Secretary of Education Arne Duncan famously espoused that the “effective” label is more important than the “qualified” label.

The Romney campaign aims to “provide special financial bonuses to math and science teachers, Advanced Placement teachers, and teachers with a proven record of results.” Likewise, the Obama campaign is already on record with Blueprint for Reform, which calls for merit pay, salary ladders for emerging teacher leaders, and aims to “provide formula aid to states that commit to establish rigorous systems for teacher certification and licensure and teacher preparation program accountability.”

What neither Romney’s nor Obama’s campaign is addressing is that the biggest challenge for school reform is bringing all the interested stakeholders to the table. This is a tall order when public education plays such a major role in all facets of life in a pluralistic society such as the United States. Despite the heated rhetoric in a political campaign season, no one credible suggests that we can do without public education; the debate rages simply because there are strong ideas and opinions regarding where the institution should go to next.

Look for the post-election year to be one when the common themes of academic success related to STEM (Science, Teaching, Engineering and Mathematics) and Common Core State Standards evolve. Teaching tools based around Universal Design for Learning principles and technology-enhanced curriculum will also continue to grow, as prospective education solutions come to the forefront of conversation. Teacher recruitment, the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), teacher education, teacher and student evaluation (value-added and growth models), and compensatory schemes will be on the table for discussion in education policy circles and Congress in the next legislative session.

For Obama and Romney, regardless of who is elected in November, debate is necessary over the proper role of the government, the markets and the local citizen in education. These issues will shape the creation of federal legislation around school reform for good or bad in the years to come.

Todd Price, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the National College of Education and Director of Leadership and Specialized Roles.

LEADING THE PAC NCE grad starts a digital media powerhouse

by Robert Schroeder



National Louis University's athletics programs ended in the early 1990s. But at exactly 6pm Pacific time on August 15, 2012, the collegiate sports spotlight was back on one NLU alumna.

That evening, Lydia Murphy-Stephans watched from a control room in San Francisco as the television behemoth she had built, the PAC-12 Network, flickered to life. Murphy-Stephans, a 1982 graduate of NLU with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, is the executive vice president and general manager of a media company comprising one national and six regional networks designed to provide round-the-clock coverage of athletics programs in the Division I Pacific-12 Conference.

"It brings everything together: my interest in education, my interest in sports both as a fan and an athlete, and my interest and love of television," Murphy-Stephans said. "I knew this would redefine collegiate sports, and the titans in the media industry would be watching us very closely."

Her brainchild follows in the footsteps of the Big Ten Network and the Longhorn Network, which covers University of Texas athletics. The PAC-12 Network features regional affiliates in Arizona, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Colorado and Utah, Washington state, and Oregon, along with the national network. The organization represents a powerful tool to penetrate the second-largest media market in the nation, Los Angeles, and provides a launching pad of branding, student recruitment and community-building for the member schools of the PAC-12.

Though trained as an educator, Murphy-Stephans never formally taught past her student-teaching. Immediately after college, the Northbrook, IL., native began training for a new pursuit: speedskating. She qualified for the 1984 U.S. Olympic team and placed 13th in the 1000-meter race at the Sarajevo Games. Her Olympic experience led to a job with ABC Sports' Olympics coverage unit, and she rose to become the first female vice president at ABC Sports in 1993. In 1999, she led the launch of the Oxygen sports channel before becoming an executive vice president with the MSG Network in 2006.

"I enjoy the creative side of the business; I love to write and appreciate storytelling," Murphy-Stephans said. "It's the variety of being able to apply my creative interests, my curiosity and business acumen into one type of career."

Nineteen Emmy awards later, Murphy-Stephans moved on to launch her own media strategy company. When the opportunity arose to join the PAC-12 Network in December 2011, the educator inside her leapt at the opportunity.

"I naturally am a very curious person, and I believe that learning philosophically is nonstop," Murphy-Stephans said. "I enjoy the environment where people can exchange ideas and an environment that fosters education. This allows me to work in an environment that is highly innovative and ties me back to education."

Practically every facet of the network features Murphy-Stephans' fingerprints. She planned the network's facility in San Francisco, selected equipment, built a staff model, designed the day-to-day workflow, hired on-air talent, and designed the programming and production schedule.

"By the end of the [first] night I was invigorated and downright relieved."

That schedule is both ambitious and innovative. The network will broadcast 850 live sporting events annually, with hundreds of studio shows and post-produced shows filling out the schedule. While the network will showcase popular collegiate sports such as football and men's basketball, Murphy-Stephans is leading programming to provide equal exposure for

women's athletics, as well as increased screen time for non-revenue sports that typically receive little promotion.



Revenue, however, is the bottom line for the network itself: the member schools of the PAC-12 know the success of the network means financial success for each university.

That reality brings power, prestige and more than a little pressure. Murphy-Stephans told the PAC-12 Network blog she “wanted to vomit” when the network’s first program delayed hitting the airwaves for a tantalizing few seconds.

“By the end of the [first] night I was invigorated and downright relieved,” she said. “The day of the launch was big because it was a milestone, but for my staff, that was only the beginning. [They are] inheriting a workload that puts us in a position of being one of the largest production companies in the country.”

There will not be any national championships coming to NLU anytime soon, but the story told of the next national title for a PAC-12 school will have an NLU imprint. ❖

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#3: KEEP IN TOUCH

We value accomplishments in your personal and professional life — send us an email with your “Class Notes.” Maybe you can help plan our next event. Perhaps we could run a scholarship fundraising drive together.

Let’s talk. I’d love to hear from you.

Kimberly Michaelson, Director of Alumni Relations
kimberly.michaelson@nl.edu

institutional advancement

It has been just over a year now since I started working at NLU, just in time to take part in National Louis’s 125th anniversary activities. It has been a great experience so far. I have been inspired by the stories of our alumni and supporters and encouraged by their very positive feelings toward the university. I was particularly honored to have been involved with aspects of our E2 Initiative for Veterans and to have had the chance to meet NLU alumni veterans who immediately offered to serve in some capacity. I am looking forward to meeting and communicating with as many of you as I can in the coming months well as your support of our initiatives for NLU’s next 125 years.

John Bergholz, Vice President of Institutional Advancement
john.bergholz@nl.edu

THE NEXT STEP FOR VETS

NLU's E2 Initiative is Boosting Vets' Return to Civilian Life

by Kaitlin Weiss



Twenty years ago, Stephen Curda, Ph.D., left active military service to pursue his college degree.

Fast-forward to 2012: after an 14-month tour of duty in Afghanistan as a Reservist recalled to active duty and served as primary staff on the US Forces-Afghanistan, now-Brigadier General Curda is making

a familiar transition back to higher education — but with a new purpose in mind. His goal now is to advise and support NLU's new veterans initiative as the Senior Advisor to the President for Military Education.

"It was tough," Curda said of his original transition from service to studies. "From that experience, as well as my current military experience, I think NLU's veterans initiative is going to be very helpful."

On January 23, 2012, National Louis University announced the Education to Employment (E2) Initiative, made possible by a generous grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. Beginning in fall 2012 and running through 2014, the initiative will help the University target students who are traditionally underserved and provide education and employment opportunities both before and after graduation. The program will assist active duty and veteran students as well as Harrison Fellowship students, with the aim of increasing the percentage of students within at-risk groups at NLU.

Specifically for active duty and veteran populations, the E2 initiative will provide a comprehensive online support system to those looking to understand the variety of resources available to student veterans.

John Dill, Bachelor of Arts in Applied Behavioral Sciences '03 and Director of Armed Services Relations, understands the difficulties that service personnel face when looking to move into higher education. As a veteran, having used the GI Bill tuition assistance to earn his degree from NLU,

he said that he "was in same boat as student veterans" at NLU.

"I understand the pitfalls and successes that student veterans face," Dill said. "I am here to help them in their programs from start to finish. Whatever a veteran's plan of action is to achieve their goals, I'm there to help."

Paul Millbrandt, Bachelor of Science in Management candidate and president of the newly formed Student Veterans Association, said NLU's online veterans portal will provide critical resources to ease the transition to higher education.

"This is a great information tool for student veterans to raise awareness and to be educated about vets' issues," said Millbrandt, a former Illinois Army National Guardsman. "It will outline opportunities and employment, answer questions, give students benefits, and help them to be put in contact with the right people at the right time."

As a Yellow Ribbon School, NLU's active duty and veteran students receive tuition assistance through the Department of Veterans Affairs Yellow Ribbon Program for any costs exceeding the post-9/11 GI Bill. NLU also offers a 10-percent tuition discount to military students.

NLU has always been a military-helpful school, Dill said. The goal now is to become a military-friendly institution. The University is adding an employee services analyst to assist in obtaining work-study, internships, part-time and full-time work for veterans. Financial aid counselors will assist with the student finance process, and the University is expanding online class offerings for active duty soldiers and those based outside of Chicagoland. The University is also building a veterans lounge at the Chicago campus to create space for active duty and veteran students to connect and network.

In January 2012, a task force of alumni and faculty with military connections (see box right) was formed to advise the University. John Bergholz, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, worked extensively with the task force to provide initial direction for the initiative.

“Whatever a veteran’s plan of action is to achieve their goals, I’m there to help.”

—John Dill
Director of Armed Service Relations

“I think these alumni and faculty exemplify a lot of terrific qualities,” Bergholz said. “These are people who have represented their university and their country well. They served their country and have stepped up to serve and give back to NLU with honest feedback, great advice and generosity with their time.

As for his part, Curda is heading NLU’s new Veterans Advisory Board, forming a national team to advise and lead NLU’s veterans efforts.

“By combining efforts both from individuals and groups, we can make a bigger impact,” Curda says. “What we are trying to do is to provide an opportunity.” ❖

E2 Initiative for Veterans Task Force

While Brigadier General Curda was stationed in Afghanistan, a Task Force was formed to provide input to the program to augment what was being crafted by NLU faculty and staff. The Task Force provided valuable external advice from representatives of various branches of the service. Alumni and former faculty with military backgrounds reconnected with NLU as Task Force members, along with Jim Swanson and Carol O’Meara.

ALUMNI

Nick Turner, M.S. in Management ‘91

Mike Chandler, B.S. in Management ‘06

Timothy Graves, B.S. in Management Information Systems ‘07

Felipe Romo, B.S. in Management ‘06 and Master of Business Administration ‘08

FACULTY

Sue Shumate, Executive Director of NLU’s former McLean campus

Jack James, Faculty of NLU’s former McLean campus

CAS News & Notes

Assistant Professor **CHRISTINA NOLAN** was named the School Counselor Educator of the Year for 2011-12 by the Illinois School Counselor Association.

NLU and community partner El Valor, an organization devoted to developing Latino community leadership, have announced the start of a El Valor cohort pursuing a Ph.D. in Community Psychology.

Assistant Professor **BRAD OLSON**, Ph.D., collaborated with professors Harry Ross, Ph.D., and Carlos Azcoitia, Ph.D., from the National College of Education on a project at Social Justice High School in Chicago, researching how school leaders can build models to better connect high schools to their communities.

CAS alumni in the news

ARNOLDO RESENDEZ, Bachelor of Arts in Applied Behavioral Sciences ‘90, has been named the new executive director of the Community Settlement Association of Riverside, IL.

SHANNON BROWN, Bachelor of Arts in Applied Behavioral Sciences ‘91, has been named to the board of directors of Buckeye Technologies, Inc.

MICHAEL CLATCH, Master of Arts in Psychology ‘04, has opened the Courage to Connect therapeutic center, counseling youth with Asperger’s syndrome.

SGT. RHOMERAY GOZUN, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science ‘10, has moved from working at the Wounded Warrior Project to a position in the U.S. Department of State.

CIUINAL J. LEWIS, Ph.D., in Community Psychology ‘11, is the director of Connect to Protect, an organization seeking to reduce HIV/AIDS rates among young adults, and was recently featured in the publication Adolescent Medicine.

DRAFTING WRITERS, EDITING STEREOTYPES

Alumna is changing perspectives with a youth writing workshop

by Robert Schroeder

Tonika Johnson had earned her ticket out of Chicago's troubled Englewood neighborhood.

She punched her ticket by gaining a seat at Chicago magnet school Lane Tech, following up with an undergraduate degree in journalism and a Master of Business Administration from NLU's College of Management and Business in 2005.

Johnson's ticket would be left unused.

The adult who had a chance to leave remembered the young girl living in Englewood who just wanted to write.

Now a professional photographer, Johnson is ensuring Englewood youth can pursue their own creative passions close to home through Media-N-Motion, a community workshop she co-founded in 2010 that features an eight-week after-school newswriting program targeting youth ages 9-15. The program builds skills in creative writing, interviewing and reporting, and publishing while exposing youngsters to the broader city. It culminates in the printing of a two-page broadsheet, Englewood Youth Times.

As a youngster, Johnson nurtured a passion for writing, but no outlets existed in Englewood to engage that passion, forcing her to travel alone to Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood and enroll in youth creative writing programs there.

"A lot of kids aren't comfortable at that age traveling that far outside their neighborhood, so that means they aren't exposed to a lot and therefore don't have access to a lot of the resources of the outside community," Johnson said. "I just remember being



a kid, kind of like the ones here, who was interested in writing."

The program, based at the West Englewood Public Library, builds the basic skills of journalism and running a newspaper: brainstorming story ideas, writing an effective story lead, creating catchy headlines, proofreading and editing, and laying out the final product. From start to finish, the newspaper is entirely student-produced.

"A lot of times [kids] don't like to write, not because they don't want to, but they don't realize that writing is essentially talking on paper," Johnson said. "If they have the chance, they'll talk all day, so we wanted to create a program that helped build their confidence in writing."

The writing in Englewood Youth Times seems a bit whimsical at first — what other outlet reports on why Flamin' Hot Cheetos are so tasty yet so harmful to health? Put another way, the article provides a glimpse into the daily lives of children



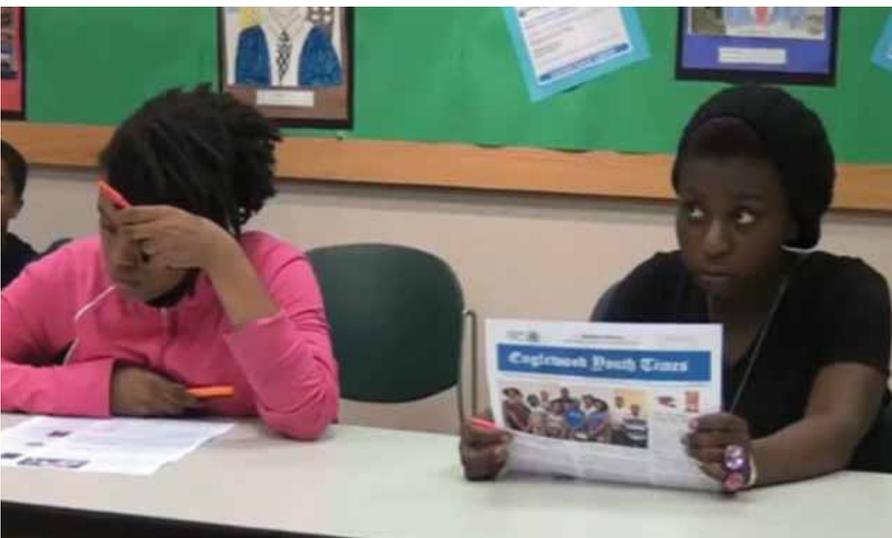


in a neighborhood where corner stores proliferate and grocery options are few.

In many ways, the goal of Media-N-Motion is to enlarge the insular world of neighborhood life. Realizing that the program's participants were hyper-local, Johnson has brought the rest of the city to Media-N-Motion, including organized field trips to media outlets like Chicago Public Radio and hosting community leaders to be interviewed by the youth writers.

"A lot of the programs here in the community deal with violence prevention for kids that may be further gone, but there's really nothing for a lot of the good kids that don't hang out on the corner, who are actually at home doing homework," Johnson said. "Those are kids people don't think exist in this community because they don't see them hanging out on the streets."

Next up on the ticket, Johnson envisions a future partnership with a local high school or college, creating local writing institutes to continue Media-N-Motion's work as part of organized education. ❖



Associate Professor **MICHAEL FONTAINE**, Ph.D., presented on his paper "Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability: The New Bottom Line?" at the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education Conference in Kansas City.

Fontaine has also published a book exploring the ethics and efficacy of stem cell research.

Associate Professor **DOUG SCHREDER**, Ph.D., presented his research on competitive challenges in business education at the World Association for Case Method Research and Application International Conference in Stockholm, Sweden.

CMB alumni in the news

KATRINA RICHARDSON, Bachelor of Arts in Management '93, has been named the new principal at Gordon-Barbour Elementary School in Orange, VA.

KAYNE GRAU, Bachelor of Science in Management '09, has been named the new chief technology officer at Cars.com.

STEMMING THE GAP

ESL Stem Success Grant effort makes headway in first year

by Mark Donahue

Schools in Illinois' massively multicultural Niles Township face some unique challenges.

In an area that includes Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove and Niles, more than 50 languages are spoken. And many students come from homes where English is not the primary spoken language.

"There might be a bilingual program for one of the languages, and then there's scattershot programs for the smaller languages, so things might not be translated as much for the families of, say, the Mongolian students or the Bosnian students," said Kristin Lems, Ph.D. (below, left), professor in the National College of Education (NCE) at National Louis University.

Lems is the co-director of an NLU initiative — funded by a \$1.765 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition — aimed at helping educators better instruct the township's many English language learners (ELLs) in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

Since kicking off in September 2011, Lems said the grant effort is moving along well in its second year, as her team gets "the lay of the land" in Niles Township. She's joined by co-director Jason Stegemoller, Ph.D., assistant professor in the NCE, and project coordinator Annie Noorts (all pictured below).

One of the top priorities, Lems said, is to train teachers so they can get English as a Second Language (ESL) approval. Additionally, the grant is being used to instruct NLU ESL adjuncts in the language of the STEM subjects and train NLU teacher education faculty in the basics of ELLs and their needs.



The grant covers a five-year span, with teachers and paraprofessionals coming from three school districts — Skokie 68 and 73.5 and Niles Township 219 — and two other partners — the Niles Township Schools' ELL Parent Center and the Illinois Resource Center.

"I'm hearing from the faculty who are in these endorsement programs now that they wish everybody could have this opportunity, that they're learning so much about the development of language and literacy, and that the program is challenging and rigorous and really interesting," said Frances McTague, Ed.D., superintendent of Skokie School District 68.

The multilingual nature of NLU's effort sets it apart, and Lems believes that is the reason NLU's proposal was so highly ranked — 13th out of the 42 institutions receiving funds. She sees the many languages in Niles Township not only as a challenge for educators but also as an opportunity to experience a bit of the whole world right in the classroom.

Corrie Wallace (above, left), director of the Niles Township Schools' ELL Parents Center, knows this very well from the language groups coming through the center's door every day.

News & Notes

Assistant Professor **DANIEL NEWMAN**, Ph.D., will have his book “Demystifying the School Psychology Internship” published in December.

NLU’s grant-funded Reading Recovery program was cited by the Department of Education as one of the most successful partners in a nationwide reading scale-up program.

Professor **KATIE MCKNIGHT**, Ph.D., is the co-founder of Project CERCA, an online set of Common Core tools for teachers that was accepted by the Chicago accelerator Impact Engine to support the project’s growth and implementation.

Professor **KRISTIN LEMS**, Ph.D., published research establishing the first connection between English language learners’ native writing systems and ease of learning English.

NCE alumni in the news

NAN WODARZ, Master of Education in Technology ‘88, has been named head of school at the Sage School in Foxborough, MA.

DEMETRA DISOTUAR, Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction ‘96 and Certificate of Advanced Study in Reading Studies ‘99, has been named the new literacy coordinator at Evanston/Skokie School District 65 in Evanston, IL.

PHILIP GATTONE, Master of Education ‘00, was named the new CEO of the Epilepsy Foundation.

TAMARA ANDERSON, Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction ‘04, has launched The Voice Project, a program using theater to address the issue of school dropouts.

PETER DECRAENE, C.A.S. in Administration and Supervision ‘06, was named one of 97 recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, as chosen by President Barack Obama.



“It’s like the United Nations: Korean, Hindi, Urdu, Assyrian, Spanish, Polish, Russian. We have everything,” she said.

Wallace and Stegemoller recently held a meeting at the center with parents who had been teachers or math and science professionals in their home countries. They were recruited by the grant to learn about becoming paraprofessionals — teacher aides or assistant teachers — to help children with different language needs.

Stegemoller said the goal for year two will be to increase the number of ESL-trained paraprofessionals and help them get jobs in schools.

The second year will be a busy one in general for NLU’s grant team. They have already presented at four conferences and have proposals out for more. Lems said they plan to offer Perfect Match training for administrators through the Illinois Resource Center to team up administrators and teachers to

***“It’s like the United Nations:
Korean, Hindi, Urdu, Assyrian,
Spanish, Polish, Russian.
We have everything.”***

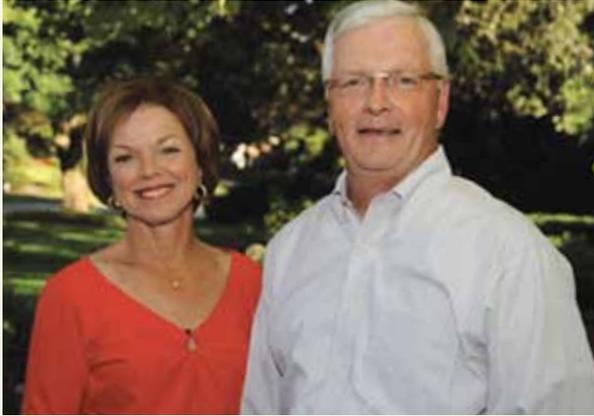
—Corrie Wallace
ELL Parents Center Director

better serve ELLs. And there are plans to build a circulating resource center of learning materials to help improve the teaching of ESL and STEM subjects.

The big-picture hope, Lems added, is to affect a system-wide change in the schools to better serve ELLs.

“What happens,” she said, “is when it’s approached from many different points of entry, the whole culture in the district changes.” ❖

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— Kathryn Bettis '07, co-founder of the Kathryn and Lloyd Bettis Scholarship

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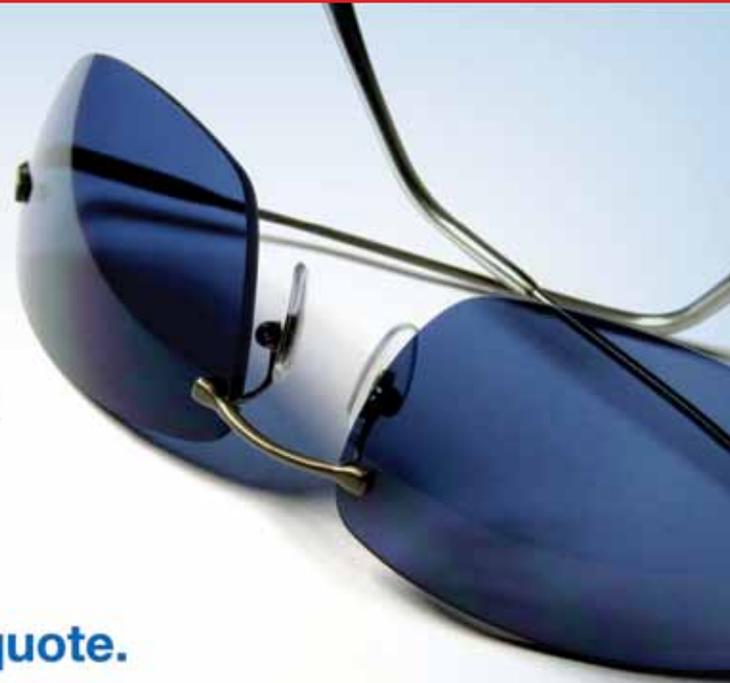
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