

# KU MADISON & LILA SELF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

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## The University of Kansas

WINTER 2011

## A Message from Howard: Remember That It's a 100-Year Plan

One thing that has long held my interest is the state of our national economy and how that is reflected in the U.S. stock and bond market. As we reflect on a class of Self Fellows, I often look at what was happening on campus during that time. This group of Self Fellows was selected as we approached the end of the 1990s. So I, of course, wondered what the market did during the 1990s and beyond. This is important not only for you, as national retirement policy shifts to 401K or 403B plans, but especially for the KU Endowment Association fund that allows us to support Self Graduate Fellows.



I took a look at the year 1990: the Dow (Jones Industrial Average) had a whopping high of 3,000 and a low of 2,365. It wasn't until 1995 that the Dow cracked 4,000. In 1998, the year this class of fellows was selected, the high mark was 9,374 and the low was 7,539. Those were some good years and the income allowed us to take in some of our largest classes of Self

Fellows. In fact, if the Dow had kept the same pace that it did in the 1990s, it would be somewhere around 17,000 now – which we all know is not true. That same straight-line analogy can also lead to some interesting conclusions. My favorite one predicts that the mouth of the Mississippi River will be in St. Louis sometime in your lifetime.

Why is this discussion important to the Self Graduate Fellowship and the Society?

A few years ago, we started the Society of Self Fellows fund at the KU Endowment Association. The goal was to create an opportunity for the members of the Society of Self Fellows to support future Self Fellows. (Remember that I view this as a 100-year plan.) I believe that all Society members – regardless of the twists and turns of their careers (and loss of the above straight-line theory) – will find a way to support the Self Graduate Fellowship. Mr. and Mrs. Self's gift is the beginning. In the end, your contributions will sustain their powerful idea for supporting graduate education at the University of Kansas.

— Howard Mossberg



**Nancy Holcroft**  
1998 – 2002 Self Fellow  
*Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

### Where are you now (professionally)?

I am an Associate Professor of Biology and Zoology at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas.

At JCCC, I have the opportunity to share my enthusiasm for all things biology with a diverse undergraduate population. Most of my students are not science majors, and many of them arrive under-prepared and afraid of biology. Because of this, many professors avoid teaching non-majors courses, but I find the challenge involved engaging and incredibly rewarding.

In addition to my full-time teaching responsibilities at JCCC – I am in the classroom 17 hours each week – I still maintain

an active research program on fish diversity and evolution as an Adjunct Research Associate at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute.

In recognition of my efforts in both the classroom and the laboratory, I was named a JCCC College Scholar in 2008 – 09 and in 2010 I received a Burlington Northern Santa Fe Faculty Achievement Award. In addition, I was a coauthor on a paper named Best Paper of the Year in 2010 by the Ichthyological Society of Japan. Finally, I was awarded sabbatical leave for the Spring 2011 semester, and I am currently using this time to pursue both research- and teaching-related projects.

### Where are you now (personally)?

My husband Ben and I celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary last July. Ben enjoys his work as a network engineer for 1&1 Internet, Inc. In our free time, we travel together as often

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as time and money will allow. In recent years, we've enjoyed trips to Japan and Germany.

In addition to traveling, I am engaged in a number of different hobbies. (I have hobby ADD!) I have studied in the Sogetsu School of Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) for several years now. I have also been learning sewing, quilting (I am a member of the Kansas City Modern Quilt Guild), knitting, and numerous forms of needlework. Reading, gardening, photography, and games (table top/board, PC, and console) also keep me busy. In general, my hobbies are simply a nice creative change of pace from my logic-oriented work. However, my crafting skills came in handy a few semesters ago when I had a totally blind student enroll in my intro bio course. To accommodate her, I used aluminum tooling foil to dry emboss a large series of tactile diagrams, allowing her to not just complete but succeed in both lecture and lab portions of the course.

### **What long-term professional or personal goals and projects are you working on?**

I recently led the overhaul of JCCC's mixed-majors biology course to a dedicated introductory biology for non-majors course (we already had a dedicated majors' course in place). Approximately 700 students enroll in this course per semester to fulfill a science elective requirement. The newly-redesigned course, written primarily by me, recognizes that this may be the last science course these students ever take (indeed, for some it is the only science course they have ever taken or will take). Thus, the new course emphasizes relevance to students' daily lives and focuses on understanding science and biology as processes, helping students develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. Implementation of the new course occurred in Fall 2010, and we are now in the process of assessing its effectiveness, particularly the new labs.

I am also a Co-PI (with PI E. O. Wiley, KU, and Co-PI G. David Johnson, Smithsonian Institution) on an NSF-funded Assembling the Tree of Life grant, "Collaborative Research: Assembling the Euteleost Tree of Life – Addressing the Major Unresolved Problem in Vertebrate Phylogeny." In particular, my work on this grant focuses on comparative anatomy of the bones that make up the support structure for the pectoral fins in the euteleost fishes.

### **What are your reflections on your experience as a Self Fellow?**

The interdisciplinary aspect of the Self Fellowship definitely had the greatest impact on me. Having the opportunity to interact with other fellows outside my discipline and engage with speakers whose expertise was very different from my own encouraged me to think broadly about the intersection of my field, systematics and evolutionary biology, with other fields. The experience greatly expanded my intellectual toolbox, which has allowed me to experiment with different approaches when thinking about research problems, teaching, and communication in general. \*



**Nathan C. Berg**  
1998 – 2002 Self Fellow  
Economics

### **Where are you now (professionally)?**

I'm an Associate Professor of Economics in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences (EPPS) at University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). Since joining UTD in 2001, I've published numerous articles and chapters in the field of behavioral economics, appearing in outlets such as *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Psychological Review*, *Social Choice and Welfare* and *Contemporary Economic Policy*. I was a Fulbright Scholar in 2003 and Visiting Research Scientist at the Max Planck Institute-Berlin in 2005. My research has been cited in *Financial Times*, *Business Week*, Canada's *National Post*, *The Village Voice*, *The Advocate* and *the Atlantic Monthly*.

My recent research focuses on behavioral economics, judgment and decision making, economic demography and urban economics. This work has attracted repeated coverage by television and print news media, including MSNBC, Fox News, *Science News*, and the *Financial Times* in recent weeks. Since 2006, I have served as an elected board member of the Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics. In 2008, I began as Associate Editor and editorial board member of *International Journal of Economics and Business Research*. I currently sit on the editorial boards of *Journal of Socio-Economics and Global Business Economics Review* and am a reviewer for the National Science Foundation and the European Science Foundation. I receive numerous requests each year for speaking engagements – as an invited speaker, consultant, and short course instructor at leading universities and business schools in Europe and Asia.

Before I was an economist, I recorded and toured internationally with jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson. I performed with a number of jazz greats, including Clark Terry, J.J. Johnson, Tommy Turrentine, Clarence "C" Sharp, Jimmy Lovelace, Carl Fontana, Joe Morello, Jiggs Wigham, Kei Akagi, Bob Shephard, Alan Broadbent, Peter Bernstein, Bill Stewart, Larry Goldings, Steve Kahn, Don Grolnick, Christy Moore, and John Scofield. I wrote music for and acted in the feature film *Patisserie Coin de Rue*, which was released nationally in theaters throughout Japan on February 11, 2011.

### **Where are you now (personally)?**

Hmmm. Mostly miserable, but still smiling lots. It's not the down economy. The down economy is paradoxically good business for economists, whose bad ideas aided and abetted in leading us into this mess. (Read William Black's *The Best Way to Rob a Bank is To Own One*, if you're interested in the role that fraud played in the S&L crisis and the recent crises – only difference with the current crisis is that, whereas more than 250 top bank executives went to prison following investigation of the S&L, zero people have been prosecuted for the frauds leading to high unemployment and macroeconomic problems that only became apparent in 2008). The main part of my personal story

is that I'm finding that being a good dad for my 16-year-old son is more challenging than I thought. Yes, I naively thought that, thanks to my winning communication skills [wink wink, nod nod] and broad interests in popular culture and beyond, I'd have so much in common with my teenager that my experience would be free from the parent-teen frictions that parents frequently remark upon. My son is a very warm and empathetic person with formidable communication skills of his own. He uses those to tell me that, when he reflects on most personal matters of concern to him, he prefers communicating those things with other people: "No offense. But that's not something I wish to discuss with you, dad." Deep breath in, deep breath out... So I just keep trying in different ways, and sometimes with inspiring successes when I least expect it – when he comes to me and wants to let me into parts of his life that I've rarely heard about before.

Then there's a feature film that I made in Japan last year. I saw a Japanese movie I loved, *Swallowtail Butterfly*, which is a futuristic account of an underclass living in urban-feudal-serf-like conditions, tending on the rich Japanese. I sent the producer of that film some songs of mine. She invited me to Tokyo for an interview. She introduced me to the director of her next movie. I played them a song with my guitar. We talked for a few hours. Then the director offered me an acting role in their film about a musician from New York who followed his Japanese wife to run a fancy sweet-shop. I haven't seen a cut of it yet. It opened in theaters everywhere on Valentine's Day. If they ever get it subtitled into English, then I think they'll try bringing it to the New York, Toronto and Berlin film fests. My acting and singing are featured there. Who'd of thought?

### **What long-term professional or personal goals and projects are you working on?**

I'm focused on writing research papers together with my Ph.D. students and coauthors in Germany, Switzerland, Korea, Australia and Japan. My subfield of economics is behavioral economics. I think that most of us in behavioral economics, which has become influential in the Obama administration (and UK's David Cameron government), are making a big mistake. We all agree that economic predictions often go wrong because they are based on unrealistic assumptions about the way consumers, firms and governments actually make decisions. Borrowing from psychology should help add more observational substance to check how good our assumptions are. The mistake, however, is that many behavioral economists see psychology as a synonym for "irrationality." Thus, they hang onto narrow norms of what it means to be rational from standard mainstream economics.

The behavioral economists are "open to psychology" only in describing how we allegedly go wrong, supposedly by NOT following the prescriptions of standard economic theory. My point of view draws on lots of data I've collected showing that people who violate the axioms of economic rationality frequently walk out of the experimental lab with more money in their pockets than those who are labeled rational. For example, in the well-known Prisoner's Dilemma, players who irrationally cooperate wind up winning the game, earning more individually

and collectively than if they play "rationally." To me, that means we need a new notion of rationality! I'm collecting data that helps us understand the process by which decisions are actually made, and also helps us make normative judgments – but not by the old axiomatic way, but by intuitively appealing normative criteria: wealth, health, happiness, lifespan, and accuracy of judgment. You might think that these are already normative values in economics, but as the prisoner's dilemma example shows, economists are often more obsessed about failing to maximize in prisoner's dilemma than predicting which kinds of people walk out with more and less money. (If my partner is cooperating, then I can do slightly better by defecting from cooperation. So two people cooperating are failing to maximize. But when they both try to maximize, both of them cheat on each other and everyone loses. This leads economists to interpret cheat-cheat as the only rational way to play the game.)

Another example is the game of chess. It was proved nearly 100 years ago that there exists a best or maximizing way to play chess. But because of the large number of combinatorial possible paths of play, there is no computer that could ever compute it. The number of paths of play is greater than the number of atoms in the universe. My perspective is that as empirical decision scientists, we should be interested in the repertoire of shortcuts that chess grandmasters use to win the game. The dominant view in much of behavioral economics, however, is that the only interesting observations about chess grandmasters is that they fail to maximize – they do not play the mathematically optimal strategy, therefore they are irrational. Never mind that they win the game! I will write a book whose working title is Bounded Rationality 101 in the next three years.

### **What are your reflections on your experience as a Self Fellow?**

Those were terrific years of my life. The support of the program, from skills training to the tremendous financial and time resources (having lots of time to work on research papers), set me on a path I never could have imagined when entering graduate school. The camaraderie of the Self Fellows I met at KU and at the Self Symposia in Lawrence have brought enduring, genuinely inspiring personal connections to my life. The skills sessions and experts that the Self Program brought us in contact with added substantively to the ideas and perspectives that constitute me. For example, I can recall firsthand that Paul Krugman told us that inequality is hugely important and a vastly under-researched area in economics. And I know, thanks to meeting Oscar Arias Sanchez, Noble Peace Prize Winner and former leader of Costa Rica, that some countries have been able to save on the costs of military--by not having one--and instead invest it to directly benefit citizens. And thanks to the Self Program and the affections for Kansas that were nurtured by those excellent years in Lawrence, I know that Dwight Eisenhower first warned us about the danger to our liberty and economic well-being of the buildup of the military industrial complex. He warned in his farewell address when leaving office that every munition is a theft from the American taxpayer who could have benefited from an expenditure on something productive rather than destructive. Rock Chalk Jayhawk, Go KU! \*



**Nathan A. Goodman**  
**1998 – 2002 Self Fellow**  
*Electrical Engineering*

**Where are you now (professionally)?**

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Arizona (UA). I continue to focus my research on new concepts and processing methods applied to radar systems, but sometimes branch out to other system types such as wireless communication systems and optical systems. I was on sabbatical last year, most of which was spent at the Georgia Tech Research Institute in Atlanta. I currently serve as Deputy Editor-in-Chief for *Elsevier Digital Signal Processing* and am technical program co-chair for the 2011 IEEE Radar Conference to be held in Kansas City. I also do some consulting through an LLC called “Arizona Sensors” that I co-founded with a colleague at UA.

**Where are you now (personally)?**

I live in Oro Valley, Arizona (a suburb of Tucson), with my wife, Abby, and my two sons Drew (8) and Jake (6). In the last couple of years, Drew and Jake have started playing soccer, flag football, and baseball. I really enjoy playing catch with the boys or taking them to the batting cages. Drew also shares my enthusiasm for golf, so the whole family hits the driving range and/or golf course whenever we can. While Jake enjoys sports, he also enjoys Legos and Playmobil just as much.

In 2007, Abby and I became licensed foster parents. Over the last four years, we’ve been a temporary family for several babies and toddlers. In particular, we were a temporary family for twin girls who were in our home from birth through 17 months. These girls are now with their birth parents, but we see them every few weeks and Abby still mentors the birth mother. While fostering can be emotionally painful, for the most part we’ve found the experience to be rewarding and joyful.

**What long-term professional or personal goals and projects are you working on?**

One project that I’ve been working on recently is the formation of a research center in the general area of sensing. The center would encompass the work in my research group, but would also draw together the research done by four to six other faculty members in our department. The ECE department at UA has a historical culture of individually managed research labs and small one- or two-investigator research projects. A colleague and I are really trying to break that culture (at least along the sensing research theme) to move toward larger collaborative projects that are more technically stimulating, more fruitful, and more fun to work on. Our goal is for the research center to provide the physical and administrative infrastructure necessary for making a successful transition to a more collaborative model...but we are finding out just how resistant some faculty can be to change.

**What are your reflections on your experience as a Self Fellow?**

Without the fellowship, I never would have explored theories of creativity or decision-making, monetary policy, leadership styles, bio-ethics, or so many other topics that enriched my time as a Ph.D. student. Without the structure of the fellowship, I would rarely have taken time to pursue anything other than my research or personal interests. Thus, my experiences as a Self Fellow have provided a stronger, broader foundation from which I now interact with students, colleagues, and friends. For example, participating in discussions with fellows from different backgrounds strengthened the way that I value collaboration and input from different perspectives, which now influences my desire to work in a collaborative research environment. The fellowship helped me to develop many of the non-technical skills that are important for being a well-rounded researcher, instructor, advisor, and co-worker. \*



**Christy M. McCain**  
**1998 – 2002 Self Fellow**  
*Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

**Where are you now (professionally)?**

I am currently an Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Curator of Vertebrates in the Museum of Natural History at the University of Colorado at Boulder. I have been in this position since January 2008 after three years of postdoctoral study at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a short stint at the University of New Mexico working with biologists Jim Brown and Felisa Smith. My research continues to focus on large-scale patterns of species richness, abundance, and distribution patterns along montane gradients in an attempt to improve our understanding of the mechanisms of biodiversity and how biodiversity can best be conserved in the face of unprecedented rates of global habitat destruction and climate change. My current research program has two primary foci: (1) Using extensive field work to test various theories of biodiversity—factors thought to be strongly linked to the number of species—along montane gradients in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado for mammals; (2) testing whether and how current montane distributions of species around the world have or may shift with climate change and other anthropogenic changes. Currently, the National Science Foundation has funded my work on “Diversity and Climate Change: using elevational gradients to uncover processes underlying mammalian species distributions,” which involves trapping mammals at sites all over the Front Range and San Juan Mountains in Colorado.

**Where are you now (personally)?**

I am happily living in one of the most wonderful parts of the world—Boulder, Colorado, on the edge of the spectacular Rocky Mountains—and am taking full advantage of its beauties and opportunities. My friends and I enjoy skiing through the bumps and trees of our snow-covered slopes in the winter, and

mountain biking the single-track trails in the Boulder foothills and western arid lands the rest of the year. This is punctuated throughout by hiking and backpacking trips to our beautiful alpine environments. There just isn't enough time to enjoy all the region has to offer an outdoor enthusiast. I also continue traveling and collaborating for work in Latin America and Europe, and hope to visit more of the world's mountains for research and thrills over the coming years.

**What long-term professional or personal goals and projects are you working on?**

I hope to continue assessing the relative importance of climate, evolutionary history, and biological interactions in determining species distributions and global biodiversity to aid our understanding of how populations have responded, and will continue to respond, to anthropogenic global change. My hope is that this research will influence conservation efforts and public policy to enhance our long-term protection of biodiversity and montane ecosystems. On a personal level, I plan to continue enjoying the company of my family and friends, and the beauties that our world has to offer.

**What are your reflections on your experience as a Self Fellow?**

I look back on my time in Lawrence as a Self Fellow and KU graduate student as a time abounding with opportunities. The educational, research, social, and collaborative opportunities that the Self Fellowship opened up for me, and the group of fellows that I had the pleasure of overlapping with, seems to be unprecedented in graduate education. I will never forget a lively dinner at Amy Blackmarr's cabin discussing art, writing, conservation, and mammals. Ideas presented in some of the workshops still hold traction in my life like the strategic ways to write grant applications and the benefits of win-win negotiation. And without the funding of the fellowship, I would not have had the opportunities to expand my research in the tropics to the longer time scales necessary to detect interesting patterns. For these opportunities, ideas, experiences, and friends, I am forever grateful to the Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship. \*



**Charles R. Svoboda, Jr.**  
1998 – 2002 Self Fellow  
*Aerospace Engineering*

**Where are you now (professionally)?**

I am at a crossroads. I spent five years working configuration design after completing my Ph.D. For the next two years I worked continuous improvement projects. Three years ago I began participating in a leadership development program (it never ends). My ability to lead virtual teams and solve problems increased as a result. I am also getting involved more in developing relationships with our customer community and looking to do more in business development. I am in the process of starting another leadership development program with a team of nine

others. I am now considering how to best prepare myself for work as an executive. But no executive position is guaranteed to me. I expect that I will take on some assignments that will help me to become more rounded and learn to handle more varied situations. Our family (wife and five kids) is considering whether and when to pursue an international assignment as a part of that preparation.

**Where are you now (personally)?**

My wife and I have been married since 1987. Our oldest son will be deployed to Afghanistan later this year. Our oldest daughter, a junior in college, is considering counseling immigrant kids who have experienced trauma. We have a son who is a junior in high school. Our youngest son is in seventh grade and lived in Congo until 2002 when he was 10. Our youngest daughter is in sixth grade. My wife teaches second grade in a school that focuses on the urban poor and immigrant communities. Our family is very involved in our church which also focuses on these communities. My wife and I are continuing to try to build our relationship – while helping our children navigate their various challenges – and serving people who are dealing with financial and other challenges. Adopting any child who did not grow up in your home is almost always a challenge, not just for the parents, but for the adopted child and the other children as well.

**What long-term professional or personal goals and projects are you working on?**

My longest term goal is to know Christ and to make him known. In my high school, college undergraduate, and single years, a lot of my focus was on my personal relationship with God. Since getting married, more and more of my focus has been on learning how to love other people, understanding that I can't love God without loving the people he made. I am enjoying getting more involved with some of the immigrant communities at our church, especially the Congolese. Last summer I took my adopted son back to Congo to visit his grandma. This was also a mission trip. Our St. Louis, MO, church is supporting 150 orphans, involved in medical outreach, microloans and teaching pastors and deacons how to get their congregations involved in practically caring for the needy in their midst. Playing soccer with the Congolese on Sundays is fun, too.

**What are your reflections on your experience as a Self Fellow?**

Learning how to lead more effectively is a lifelong journey. I was involved in leadership and leadership training programs before and after the fellowship. But the fellowship was a great experience for me and important in my development. I learned about how to lead in an academic setting through the fellowship which was a good stepping stone before beginning to lead in a technology-driven company like The Boeing Company. Learning to communicate across disciplines in the fellowship had some similarities to communicating across functions at Boeing. One of the bigger leadership revelations I have had at Boeing is that you need to be able to see a situation from many points of view

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to find the best solutions and to get them implemented. My learning in this area started more than 20 years ago with a story my wife liked to tell about a school administrator she worked for, continued with the experience in the fellowship, and is continuing with my work at Boeing. \*



**Noel M. Rasor**  
1998 – 2002 Self Fellow  
*American Studies*

**Where are you now (professionally)?**

I serve as the Assistant Director of the KU Public Management Center, the arm of the Public Administration Department that provides professional development training and education for public sector staff throughout the state of Kansas. Our mission is to prepare leaders, develop professionalism in the public workforce, and link KU resources to the challenges of public management. So we work to translate academic research for audiences outside of the academic setting, offering training to improve management, service, and employee engagement.

**Where are you now (personally)?**

I'm a relatively new mom, with my 19-month old son Galen occupying much of my time. I really had no idea how much fun it would be to watch him explore the world and learn new ideas and skills. Galen is a very social, charming and easygoing guy, and we truly have a blast watching him interact with the world.

**What long-term professional or personal goals and projects are you working on?**

My biggest project is managing our Emerging Leaders Academy – which is something I love. Participants in the program are promising, mostly non-managerial staff from local, state and federal government agencies as well as nonprofits. They meet for 10 classes over four to five months to develop skills in leadership and organizational dynamics. We want to offer them tools to apply immediately to improve their performance at work while also helping them identify and achieve career goals at their organization. The program is meant to help address the need for succession planning in the public sector where few agencies have the resources for long-term staff development. We need to make sure talented folks see a path for themselves in the public sector as the services provided are so critical for all of us.

Ultimately this reflects my interest in and current contribution to an issue that I keep coming back to and have realized will remain a professional focus: employee motivation and engagement. Most of us spend more waking hours in our workplaces with our colleagues than we do with our families, so how we're valued and treated during that time and what that teaches us about the world is profoundly important to our attitudes and actions toward ourselves and others. Those of us who are energized by our work and workplaces are so fortunate, and I love helping to create the conditions for more people to experience that.

**What are your reflections on your experience as a Self Fellow?**

My time as a Self Fellow complemented my natural tendency to think interdisciplinarily – it's why I was attracted to American Studies as a field, and I'm glad the fellowship afforded me the chance to connect with scientists and others who I never would have otherwise crossed paths with. Our programs at the Public Management Center bring together everyone from fish biologists to lawyers to property appraisers, and my experiences as a fellow inform my belief that bringing people together from their various corners of the world is a very powerful way to provide education. \*



**Karen Beckman Pace**  
1998 – 2002 Self Fellow  
*Nursing*

**Where are you now (professionally)?**

After receiving my Ph.D. in nursing, I took a position at the Delmarva Foundation in Maryland as Senior Scientist for the national Medicare quality improvement initiative for home healthcare. Since 2006, I have been a Senior Director at the National Quality Forum (NQF) in Washington DC. The NQF is a private non-profit organization focused on healthcare quality. It has a three-part mission to improve the quality of American healthcare by:

- Building consensus on national priorities and goals for performance improvement and working in partnership to achieve them;
- Endorsing national consensus standards for measuring and publicly reporting on performance; and
- Promoting the attainment of national goals through education and outreach programs.

With an emphasis on quality in the recent healthcare legislation, NQF is at the forefront of the agenda for quality performance measurement. I lead national consensus projects on endorsing quality performance measures and also serve in the capacity of senior methodologist regarding performance measurement. I have authored book chapters on quality measurement and research in home healthcare.

**Where are you now (personally)?**

My husband and I live on Kent Island on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, approximately 40 miles from Washington DC and Baltimore. We enjoy being near the Bay with proximity to large metropolitan areas, as well as access to the beaches in Maryland and Delaware. With employment in Washington DC, I have joined the ranks of commuters using public transportation.

**What long-term professional or personal goals and projects are you working on?**

My current position is focused on policy and I miss having direct involvement in research. I strive to find a balance between policy work and research through consulting or partnering with university researchers. My research interests continue to be quality in healthcare.

## What are your reflections on your experience as a Self Fellow?

The Self Fellowship enabled me to receive an excellent education from KU. The KU School of Nursing program, with a strong emphasis on research methods and measurement, prepared me

well for my roles as senior scientist and methodologist. My experience with the Self Fellowship also provided valuable insights into leadership and perspectives on research from other disciplines, which have proven to be useful in my positions since leaving KU. \*

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## From the President's Corner – Lisa Castle

Every time I read about, or meet with, a group of Self Fellows, I have the same predictable series of reactions.



First: personal inadequacy. Why haven't I done something this impressive? I haven't been a major player in the wind industry, founded a corporation or non-profit, written a prize-winning story collection, curated an art exhibit or introduced long-lasting cosmetics to the world. My research

is not directly keeping the waters of Kansas cleaner, helping veterans receive the care they need or shaking up the locations of grocery stores in the inner-city.

Second: pride. I am associated with people who are doing all of these things (and, for a brief moment, I'm the president of the group of them). These are my friends and cohorts, striving to make the world a better place. I take some smug delight in merely sharing a newsletter with such accomplishments, but the true gratification comes from placing my efforts in context. The little things I do do: the natural world that is better understood as a result of my research, the pieces of understanding students gain as a result of my teaching, the kindness and beauty enhanced in my personal life, are not happening in isolation. My work contributes to something much greater.

Third: a desire for more. Why don't I spend more time with these accomplished fellows? Like many of the fellows from 1998-2002, my fondest memories of my time in the fellowship development program are of the personal connections made. Every time I hear what other fellows are currently up to, I wish we had more chances to keep in touch and learn from each other.

Those three stages – of dismay, pride, and longing, occur predictably at every event. This year, however, my thoughts about Self Fellows then took a less predictable turn. While I was wishing for increased interactions with other former fellows, it struck me that this is exactly what the Society of Self Fellows is about. As a member of the Board of Governors, I can do something about how we keep in touch. The Society exists to facilitate the maintenance of personal and profes-

sional ties and the forging of new connections.

As an alumni group, the Society of Self Fellows is still in its infancy, the vast majority of us have held our doctorates for five or fewer years, but we're growing and as we grow, we're working on new ways to facilitate connection-building.

At events around the March 28 Spring Symposium we'll have opportunities for face-to-face interactions. At the Monday luncheon we'll be inspired by the updates from society members and those of us who have been away from the luncheon scene for a while reminisce about buffet items and best desserts. In the evening, we'll hear from Kristine Frank and wonder at how very young the fourth-year class is. On Sunday and at various points in between, we'll chat, eat, and drink - three of my favorite activities.

Our interactions, however, do not need to stop there. Twenty-three of us are participating in the first SSF Book Club. We're discussing Daniel Gilbert's *Stumbling on Happiness*. Before the first virtual discussion, I've already reaped rewards of being involved with the book club; the intimidating factor of discussion with such a smart group of people forced me to read much more closely. I'm already panicking about selecting the next book as a major act of my presidency; suggestions are most welcome.

The Board of Governors will meet and once again discuss how to increase connections (if it seems that seeking ways to increase connections is all that the Board of Governors does, well, keeping former fellows in touch is a primary mission). On the table this year are regional meetings away from Lawrence, the use of social networks, virtual mentoring of current fellows, and reunions of particular classes of fellows at the annual meetings. Please contact me with your ideas of how to make these plans really work and alternative suggestions.

I learned too much from *Stumbling on Happiness* to claim accurate foresight of my emotions, but I honestly believe that hearing from you at one of these forums will make me happy. In the meantime, enjoy the coming spring and keep doing those things that impress me, both large and small.

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## Board of Governors, Society of Self Fellows

The Society of Self Fellows is governed by four individuals who serve as members of the Board of Governors. We extend our congratulations to Lon Mitchell, who was just elected to a four-year term.



Lon, a native of Saginaw, Michigan, holds degrees in both mathematics and music from Central Michigan University. After completing his Ph.D. in math from KU in 2007, Lon was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto. He is currently an Assistant Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. His mathematical interests include functional analysis and linear algebra. Other pursuits include editing and publishing a series of free textbooks and working with open-source typesetting and educational software. Music is also a hobby, and Lon says he is “able to annoy a large portion of Richmond” with occasional concerts on the WWI Memorial Carillon. Lon and his wife Lisa are expecting their first child in May.

Welcome to the Board, Lon. We are delighted to have you.

The other members of the Board of Governors are:

**Adam Powell, Past President, Term: 2007-2010.** Adam is a Core Researcher Investigator for the US Department of

Veterans Affairs and an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Lisa Castle, President, Term: 2008-2011.** Lisa is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Southwest Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma.

**Karyl Leggio, Term: 2009-2012.** Karyl is Dean of the Sellinger School of Business and Management at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland, and also a professor of finance.

**Jennifer Golden, Term: 2010-2013.** Jennifer is the Assistant Director of the KU Specialized Chemistry Center in Lawrence, Kansas.

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### Join Us!

On March 27 Society members and current Self Fellows are invited to a reception at Free State Brewery from 4-6 p.m. March 28 will include a Society of Self Fellows luncheon and meeting. Society member Kristine E. Frank will be the featured evening speaker for the Spring Symposium. Kristine will speak on “Medicinal Chemistry: The First Steps in the Life of a Drug.” A presentation after dinner by fourth-year fellows will conclude the evening.

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### Contact:

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