

A Look Back, A Look Forward

Greetings and welcome to our first newsletter of 2009. In this issue we take a look back. And the truth is, the more we look back, the more we end up looking forward. With critical mass and an endowed fund, the future is bright for the Society of Self Fellows.

We contacted the first six classes of Self Graduate Fellows and asked them to let us know what they were doing. In 1991 the first two Self Fellows were selected. In 1992 two more were added. Today, we can proudly say that we have 82 members of the Society of Self Fellows. We asked these first Self Fellows to respond to four questions which are included in the responses. Some, as you can see, chose alternative ways to respond. We are pleased that we heard from nearly everyone and hope you enjoy reading the responses as much as we did.

— Sharon Graham

Out of Retirement – Again

After being away for four years, and having stepped out of retirement for the umpteenth time, I am pleased to be back as Director and Managing Trustee. The staff continues to do a good job – and that makes my job an easy one.



The vision of Al and Lila Self was and is an extraordinary one and a generous one. They have contributed to graduate education at the University of Kansas, and to developing future leaders, in a remarkable way. The contribution of Al and Lila for the Society of Self Fellows Fund has been one of the significant achievements for the past year. In these times of tumultuous financial markets, this generous gift has insured that the Society of Self Fellows has a solid funding base for its various activities. I look forward to working with the Board of Governors as they provide leadership and plan for the future of the Society of Self Fellows.

— Howard Mossberg

The Fellow Development Program

I was asked to comment on the growth of the SGF Fellow

Development Program. I reflect on modified versions, below, of the questions asked of Society of Self Fellows members.

Where is the development program now?

The program has grown to include week-long skill sessions held during the summer and winter breaks, biweekly luncheons during the fall and spring semesters, communication coaching sessions, lectures on public policy issues, and a public policy seminar held in Washington, D.C. Development program topics include oral, written, and media communication, as well as negotiation, teamwork, advocacy, consensus building, ethics, leadership, business planning and development, financial management, human resources management, and project management and support. The time commitment is now approximately 80 hours each year; initially it was ten hours.

What long-term development program goals and projects are we working on?

The program goal is to provide general education and training in communication, management, and leadership to assist Self Fellows in preparation for future leadership roles, complementing the specialized education and training provided in Ph.D. programs.

What are some reflections on development program activities in the first ten years?

One of the challenges in creating the development program is choosing topics and speakers that are interesting and relevant to the Self Fellows participating AND useful and relevant for Self Fellows long after they complete their doctoral study. During the past 18 years, we have had successes and failures, and many learning opportunities. The framework for the program is now in place, but the effort to build and sustain an effective program for current Self Fellows is ongoing. We ask current Self Fellows for comments at the end of each event. The comments from those who were Self Fellows in the first years of the program, elsewhere in this newsletter, reflect on our early efforts to meet the challenge to offer a development program that is useful and relevant in the long term.

— Cathy Dwigans

Summary of development program activities, 1991-2000

The first SGF development program events were symposia, which began in 1991-1992. Topics addressed, 1991-2000, were research and graduate education (3), preparing yourself to make a difference (2), creativity (2), ethics (2). Speakers included KU faculty members: Richard Schowen, chemistry; Ruben Bunag, pharmacology, KUMC; James Muyskens, CLAS; Victor Frost, electrical engineering and computer science; Daryle Busch, chemistry; James Roberts, electrical engineering and computer science; Amy Devitt, English; Richard De George, philosophy. Other speakers were: Ralph Christoffersen, Ribozyme Pharmaceuticals; Jules LaPidus, Council of Graduate Schools; Arthur Caplan, University of Pennsylvania; Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Claremont Graduate University.

The first SGF retreat was in 1994 in Council Grove, Kansas. Other sites were Chicago (1995 and 1999), Lake of the Ozarks (1996), and Kansas City (1998). Speakers on "leadership" were Robert W. Galvin, Motorola, Inc.; Leon Lederman, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; Thomas J. Perun, Abbott Laboratories; Gerald Bell, Bell Leadership; Robert Pritzker, Marmon Group; R. Craig Pace, Covey Leadership; and David Messick, Northwestern University. Other topics and speakers were "information technology," Robert J. Robbins, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; "negotiation," Leigh Thompson, Northwestern University; and a discussion of Daniel Goleman's book, *Emotional Intelligence*, led by Howard Mossberg. In 1997, the Self Fellows traveled to Washington, D.C., for a public policy seminar. The retreat is now the Fall Skill Session, offered in August.

The spring skill sessions began in 1998 and are offered in January. Topics, 1998-2000, were communications, strategies for project planning and funding, and teaching and learning.

Regular luncheon meetings of the Self Fellows began in 1997-1998 and continue today. Selected speakers: Robert Sternberg, Yale University, "Successful Intelligence," 1999; Oscar Arias Sanchez, 1987 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and President of Costa Rica, 1986-1990, 1999; Delbert Shankel, Chancellor Emeritus, KU, 2000.



Cory C. Beard
1995-1999 Self Fellow
Electrical Engineering

Where are you now (professionally)?

I am currently an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. My research interests lie in disaster response. For several years I have dealt with emergency communications issues in Internet, wireless, and cellular communications. Recently I have started also working on using teams of flying robots to find survivors after disasters.

Where are you now (personally)?

My wife Michelle and I have two boys, Ryan who is 11 and Jonathan who is 7. We homeschool the boys, and Michelle, Ryan, and Jonathan are all active in music and theater. We are also active in our church, where I teach, lead a men's group, and recently had the privilege to preach for the first time.

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

Currently my main goals are to be a good husband, father, professor, and follower of Christ, all of which are ambitious and challenging goals. Professionally, I may eventually have a chance to move into university administration as a department chair or dean, but that would be a few years down the road.

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

The Self Fellowship gave me a great opportunity to see myself as having a broader role to play in society, especially in research, than in just a few specialized areas of expertise. I continually am drawn to research topics that would have a broader human impact, and I believe the development activities of the Self Fellowship program had a big part in compelling me in those directions.



Karl B. Brooks
1996-2000 Self Fellow
History

Where are you now (professionally)?

I'm an associate professor of history and environmental studies at the University of Kansas, where I've been employed since 2000. I teach an array of graduate and undergraduate courses reflecting my interests and expertise in U.S. history of the 20th century, U.S. environmental history, U.S. legal history, and U.S. environmental law and politics. My first book, about hydropower law and policy in the U.S. after World War II, *Public Power, Private Dams: The Hells Canyon High Dam Controversy* (University of Washington Press), was published in 2006. My next book, about the invention of American environmental law after World War II, *Before Earth Day: The Origins of American Environmental Law, 1945-1970*, will be published by University Press of Kansas in January 2009. I'm anticipating a third book project, to be published in 2011, assessing the Bush administration's record in environmental law and policy. I speak frequently to non-governmental and governmental audiences about current environmental topics. And I have been consulting for some time with the Idaho Attorney General about water management in the Snake River Basin.

Where are you now (personally)?

I've been lucky enough to be married to Mary since summer 2005. We have three kids: Jenni is a sophomore at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, majoring in history and psychology; Jud is a sophomore at the University of Kansas, majoring in history; and Dylan is a junior in high school, majoring in fun and games. We live in Lawrence and love life here. As I no longer live near my beloved Rocky Mountains (I'm an Idaho native), I've adapted well to Plains life by taking up running. I completed my 7th marathon by running the Boston in 2008 in a commendable time for an old duffer, and look forward to continuing my quest to run a marathon in the states surrounding Kansas, moving outward in concentric circles until, "I don't run no more."

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

I'll be active in helping advise public-policy makers and the public about environmental history's influence on American environmental quality. That's the least we can do to help make our part of the world a better place.

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

It's no lie: without a Self Fellowship and the generosity of Al and Lila Self, I would not be anywhere near where I am now, and would be unable to attain any of the goals I have set for myself over the next 5-10 years. The Fellowship made it possible for me, beginning at age 40, to earn a Ph.D. in four years and to publish my dissertation promptly after my doctorate. It enabled me to qualify for a Supreme Court Fellowship in Washington, D.C., where I began writing my second book. And it made me appreciate what a distinctive, invaluable institution is KU. While I have not maintained much contact with my Self "class" (1996-2000), while we were all together at KU, their talents, energies, and enthusiasms inspired me for life.



Amy C. Blackmarr
1996-2000 Self Fellow
English

I couldn't find any way to answer the questions individually, so here is my answer to all four. Amy

Because by nature my work – writing the loose memoir of the personal essay – is self-reflective, my professional life, my personal development, my geographical center, and even my whole history are always culminating in the books I'm wringing out of my experience at any given moment. I'm not a conventional nature writer, even though my inward-looking is grounded in the out-of-doors: a cabin beside a Georgia pond, a trail into the Appalachians, even a sidewalk in Connecticut where a robin's egg has fallen. I want to tell the story truly, of my sense of wonder over the way in which the natural world is bound up in my everyday life. This is my personal ecology. As a Self Fellow, I carry a deepened and expanded perception of the interrelationship between the work – my writing – and my sense of social responsibility.

Where are you now (personally)?

My husband, Joe Bellman, and I are raising our sons Jack (11) and Tim (8) here in Lafayette and trying to teach them to be involved and curious citizens of the world. We take advantage of the beauty of Colorado when we can by getting out to the mountains or biking around town.

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

I would like to combine my expertise in psychology with my growing experience in public policy to advocate on mental health or education issues. A giant step forward occurred with passage of the Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act (part of the 700B bailout) but there is still much to be done to improve diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, to decrease stigma towards those with mental illness, and to train health care providers and to educate the public on the impact of mental health on physical health and quality of life (which has further, even greater, impact on matters like housing, employment and the overall economy).

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

Being selected as a Self Fellow is one of the biggest honors of my life. I have only made baby steps toward fulfilling the challenge that was bestowed upon me. Something I reflect upon frequently is the incredible value that the Self Fellowship has in its interdisciplinary membership. For example, I think about Kyle Wetzel's work with wind turbines as I make decisions about how my city is going to participate in the new energy economy. A current pressing issue is how to engage citizens to behave in ways that promote environmental sustainability. I haven't been able to attend a symposium in many years but I imagine that the mental power in the room is remarkable. I remember feeling invigorated by the discussions and amazed by how many people from disparate fields could find common ground and create new connections.



Christine L. Cameron
1991-1995 Self Fellow
Psychology

Where are you now (professionally)?

My professional work has taken a turn toward public policy as I am now serving as the Mayor of my city of 25,000 residents, Lafayette, Colo. I was elected to City Council in 2005 and elected Mayor in 2007. I am on the board of directors of the Denver Regional Council of Governments, a member of the Metro Mayors Caucus, and the vice-chair of the Northwest Parkway Highway Authority. I also chair the Knight Foundation Community Advisory Committee for Boulder County. My Ph.D. in Psychology provides a unique perspective in these roles. In addition to official duties, my passion is around building community and improving livability.



Michael J. Handley
1991-1995 Self Fellow
Geography

Where are you now (professionally)?

I have been working for eight years in a program that integrates newly-arrived refugees into the American economy. For the last year and a half, I have worked specifically with refugees who have physical or psychological disabilities. These include victims of various totalitarian regimes as well as Iraqis who have been tortured or wounded because of their ties to the American military. It is challenging but always interesting work. On a much different note, I also provide some office support for my wife's architectural practice.

Where are you now (personally)?

My wife Sue and I live in the "Inner Southeast" district of Portland, Ore. When people ask that question about "where

would you live if you could be anywhere in the world,” we have to admit we are already there. We are both serious amateur artists and involved in our local arts communities. I am on the board of the Friends of the Multnomah County Public Library, a grassroots organization that supports and advocates for one of the finest public library systems in the world.

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

I am an increasingly avid and constant writer, and although I haven't quite had the courage to try to earn my keep through writing, I have developed a number of ongoing internet-based writing projects over the last two years. I've been fortunate enough that a few of these have attracted modest communities of regular readers. Whether and when I may try to forge some of my material into actual books is a question for the future; for now, I'm just enjoying the creative and intellectual process of writing regularly.

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

I am one of the first two Self Fellows, and so had the privilege of watching the program develop its purpose and identity. I felt awed and, to be honest, sometimes a bit intimidated by the talents, intellect, and ambition of the other Fellows as they arrived. Every year I have more respect and admiration for the ideals of leadership and innovation that the Fellowship represents, even as I've come to realize that my own gifts do not lend themselves to realizing these ideals. I'm very grateful for the opportunities that the Self Fellowship gave me, and I am very proud to be one of the Self Fellows, but I'm afraid I will not be making the sorts of contribution to society that I thought I might when I accepted the Fellowship 17 years ago.



Kristine E. Frank
1994-1998 Self Fellow
Medicinal Chemistry

Where are you now (professionally)?

I am working as a medicinal chemist in immunoscience for Abbott Laboratories in Worcester, Mass. My most recent projects have been focused on treatments for rheumatoid arthritis.

Where are you now (personally)?

I am still single with no pets and enjoying doing what I want when I want.

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

Professionally, I am working to continue to make a scientific impact “leading from the bench” instead of just managing from a desk. A compound I designed was one toxicology study away from making it into human clinical trials this year. Of course the goal is to be involved with a project that gets a drug on the market. Personally, I just wrapped up another successful gardening season leading to a stocked pantry and freezer. This winter, I plan to improve my play on Guitar Hero and Rock Band with a

little Wii Fit time to avoid being too sedentary. I have also been taking glass blowing and frameworking classes at a local craft center.

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

I have thought back to my Self Fellowship experience a number of times over the last year as I have been participating in two different leadership programs within Abbott. It is obvious a number of my colleagues have never had any formal leadership training and have not considered a number of the fundamentals that I was exposed to through the Fellowship. The development program within the Self Fellowship is a unique opportunity that is easily underestimated but is more valuable than any financial support.



Jennifer E. Golden
1996-2000 Self Fellow
Medicinal Chemistry

Where are you now (professionally)?

After earning a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Kansas in 2002, I moved onto a post-doctoral appointment at Stanford University and worked on the development of kinase inhibitors as potential cancer treatments. In 2004, I joined Amgen in Thousand Oaks, Calif. and contributed to the small molecule drug development program in the areas of inflammation, hematology, and central nervous system disorders. Most recently, I have joined Jeff Aube and the Specialized Chemistry Center at the University of Kansas as Assistant Director and contribute medicinal chemistry expertise in the development of molecular probes as investigative biological tools to target a broad range of diseases.

Where are you now (personally)?

To that end, my husband, Pete, and I have just moved to Olathe with our dog, Bailey, and are readjusting to cold winters.

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

Professionally, I would like to continue to publish in scientific journals, bridge collaboration and scientific discovery between industrial and academic teams, and mentor younger scientists in my field.

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

The Self Fellowship program broadened my exposure to strong examples of leadership and entrepreneurial spirit. I was inspired by my colleagues' diverse interests, their aptitude to accomplish great things and strength of optimism to directly impact the world. My education and success has been shaped by these individuals and the many Self Fellowship meetings that addressed leadership, preparedness, ethics, and politics during my sponsorship. I continue to draw on these experiences to this day.



Timothy J. Hubin

1995-1999 Self Fellow

Chemistry

Where are you now (professionally)?

I am currently an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla. I have been a professor since 2000, starting at McPherson College in Kansas and moving to SWOSU in 2005. I am applying for promotion this year. I have been on a pretty successful run with grant funding recently, and am currently well-funded by the NIH. My main research project is a collaboration with a professor in England. He was a post-doc in Daryle Busch's lab while I was a graduate student at KU. Our collaboration has produced several papers, including one recently submitted to the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. My biggest teaching success has been implementing a multi-disciplinary research-project-based Inorganic Lab for chemistry majors at SWOSU, which has resulted in one publication with several more on the way.

Where are you now (personally)?

I'm still married to Becki and now have two boys David (9) and Daniel (7). Becki is a pre-K teacher at the local elementary school. As ever, she is the real talent in our marriage – I'll never be as good at my job as she is at hers. David is showing an early interest in science, with a current career aspiration to be what I could best describe as a "molecular paleoentomologist." Daniel is the more athletic of the two, recently mastering the back handspring in his gymnastics class. Both boys are on the swim team at the local YMCA and are dedicated Cub Scouts. I've actually been roped into being the local Pack Committee Chair in Weatherford. I also serve on our church council.

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

One of the things that was probably frustrating about me as a Self Fellow is that I am not real big on setting goals. I try to live my life day-to-day, taking advantage of the opportunities that present themselves for me and my family to be successful and comfortable. Of course as an academic, I aspire toward tenure, promotion, publications, successful grant applications, patents, etc..., but I don't think in terms of specific goals by specific dates.

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

I am very grateful for the opportunities given to me by the Self Fellowship Program. There is a real likelihood that I never would have attended graduate school without the financial support that the Fellowship provided my wife and me. The retreats to Chicago and Washington, D.C. provided us with some of our first opportunities to travel and experience a wider world. Being treated as a member of a special group where everything was done in a first-class manner is a strong memory from my days at KU. I also enjoyed the multi-disciplinary approach to the Fellowship, where students with vastly different backgrounds and interests could get together on a regular basis and reconnect with the world outside of our narrow research specialties.



Karyl B. Leggio

1995-1998 Self Fellow

Business

Where are you now (professionally)?

I am the Dean of the Sellinger School of Business and Management at Loyola College in Maryland and am a professor of finance. There are 1,000 undergraduate students, and 1,200 graduate students in the Sellinger School. Loyola is the leader in graduate education in the Baltimore area; our undergraduate business program is a Top 50 ranked program.

Where are you now (personally)?

Sal and I moved to Baltimore five months ago. All of our children have graduated from college, and our youngest son is in graduate school (in KU's MS Accounting program) and has accepted a position at an accounting firm in Kansas City upon completing his graduate degree. Our daughter is married and living in Boston while her husband completes Harvard's MBA program; she is an investment banker specializing in health care. Our older son works in the corporate offices for Circuit City in Richmond, Va. We are enjoying living closer to two of our children as well as to most of our family.

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

Working as dean is great fun; I am enjoying the challenge of leading and collaborating on the strategic direction for the school. We have tremendous opportunities, and I am enjoying the variety of experiences and stakeholders with whom I work. I do, however, believe in preparing for the future. I plan to be a university president at some point in my career and have been accepted into the ACE Fellows program, a development program for university presidents. I continue to do research, although the nature of my research has shifted given the time commitments with this position. I am very interested in seeing us get the SSF program launched. Finally, personally, I'm looking forward to being a grandmother (although, my children tell me that's a long run personal goal!)

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

I don't know if I truly realized the benefit of the development program while I was in the midst of my Ph.D. program, but I sincerely believe the program helped launch the direction for my career. I have attended a series of development and leadership programs since completing the Self Fellowship, and I'm not sure I would have sought these opportunities if the fellowship had not set the foundation. I work with an executive coach on a regular basis, and truly believe the opportunities we were given in the Self program have been instrumental in my career. I am a believer in life long learning; studying in the area of leadership is, I believe, a life long learning pursuit for all of us that will benefit us in every aspect of our lives.

I wish I had stayed in closer touch with some of you and hope we can reconnect with SSF.



Julie R. Mach
1995-1999 Self Fellow
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Where are you now (professionally)?

I am an assistant professor of chemistry at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. I also am serving as the Director of Neuroscience, a new interdisciplinary program offered at Concordia. The courses I teach are Survey of General, Organic and Biological Chemistry, Pharmacology, Biochemistry II and Neurochemistry.

Where are you now (personally)?

My husband Jamie and I are really enjoying life these days as our three kids are out of the infant/toddler stage and growing up before our eyes! Reilly is in third grade, Andy in first grade and Eli will go to Kindergarten next fall. We love it in Fargo where we are only an hour and a half drive to our hometown where both sets of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins live. We are busy in the summer spending time at a lake cabin nearby, and in the winter snowmobiling and taking part in cross country racing. We are a very busy family, but are having lots of fun!

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

Professionally, I am hoping to keep our newly established neuroscience program going in the right direction and possibly grow it into a major. My longer-term projects also include development of innovative teaching strategies in chemistry, which is where I have focused my attention for professional growth. I've also recently become very interested in the role of technology in our society and its effects on brain development and learning. I would enjoy the opportunity to develop a research project on the subject or collaborate with those working in this area.

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

Being a Self Fellow was wonderful – because of the experiences it provided. I think social networking and leadership training sessions are important to success and in that regard, the Fellowship has provided us an advantage. It is hard to quantify what in my career has benefited as a direct result from the Fellowship, but I think the key word would be 'experience'. While I may not stay in touch with many fellows, I know that I could drop a message or note to anyone I have come to know and we would have a connection. I have nothing but positives to say about my experiences in the Self Fellowship and feel full of gratitude for being part of such a program.



Brian L. Miller
1992-1996 Self Fellow
Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Where are you now (professionally)?

I'm a Senior Quality Control Manager at CIMA LABS, a pharmaceutical manufacturer located in Eden Prairie, Minn. We make fast-dissolve tablets that melt in your mouth without the medicine

taste. In management, I've had to learn to balance many competing interests, ensuring the job gets done correctly and on time while building relationships and developing employees. Additionally, I've pursued certifications as a Quality Manager and Quality Engineer.

Where are you now (personally)?

I've been married for 16 years to Maria. I have two children, Rebecka and Caleb. Raising children has been rewarding, and it is a great feeling to see them succeed, and heartbreaking when they stumble.

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

Professionally, my career in Quality has been satisfying, and I'd like to advance in the field. I'm also interested in getting into research and development, teaching, and earning an MBA. Personally, I run recreationally. I ran the Twin Cities Marathon in 2007, and with my next marathon, I'd like to do well enough to qualify for the Boston Marathon.

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

Being a Self Fellow meant that I could go to Graduate School at Kansas. But it also exposed me to high achievers – people with big dreams, great attitudes, and success stories. I appreciate advice that I got from Al Self about the only certainty being uncertainty, from Howard Mossberg about being future leaders, from Ron Borchardt about reducing stress through running, from Christian Schoeneich about having a solid foundation, and from Bob Galvin about placing trust in others. Each piece of advice has been worthwhile, together invaluable.



Dana M. Price
1993-1997 Self Fellow
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Where are you now (professionally)?

I'm in Albuquerque, N.M. working as a botanist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Having been here just over a year, I'm still adjusting.

Where are you now (personally)?

I'm living closer to my family than ever in my adult life. My son Liam is a fifth-grader, becoming very capable and responsible, and learning lots of handy skills from my dad.

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

Mostly I'm raising my son. I am working on becoming an authority on botany and plant conservation here. I am also learning as much as I can about Pueblo culture and working with Tribal partners.

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

The personal development activities that were part of the Fellowship Program have had lasting benefits. I appreciate self-knowledge as a lifelong task and skill. When I was faced with

an unacceptable change in a job I'd been in and loved for seven years, knowing my priorities and what would make me happy really helped with the transition.



Elizabeth F. Smith

1995-1999 Self Fellow
Entomology

I'm still here in Lawrence, but I have shifted gears from terrestrial insects (wasps, remember?) to aquatic entomology. Three years ago, Kansas Department of Health and Environment hired me to help develop a new statewide stream monitoring program. I have great colleagues and rewarding work; I divide my time about equally among field, lab, and office. Over the next few years, I'll continue refining our methodologies and developing my own skills. Happily, I still live in the same antique house, despite the fact that my marriage ended rather suddenly in 2007. It's been a big adjustment, but I'm moving forward. I'm running more these days and just did my first half-marathon. I am excited about the future, and I thank the Self Fellowship program for helping me learn to think on my feet, embrace unexpected change, communicate ideas with clarity, and find common ground with nearly anyone. Onward and upward!



Andrew L. Vance

1992-1996 Self Fellow
Chemistry

Where are you now (professionally)?

I'm now a Senior Member of the Technical Staff at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, Calif. My work as a chemist is diverse and ranges from basic science such as developing new types of nanoscale devices to applied research in blast mitigation and composite materials.

Where are you now (personally)?

My wife, Yolanda Fintschenko (KU Ph.D., 1997), and I have a 9-year-old son, Peter, and a 5-year-old daughter, Lydia, who keep us busy. We've been in Livermore, Calif., for the past ten years and enjoy the proximity to San Francisco as well as Livermore's many wineries and outdoor activities.

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

Over the last few years, I've been able to branch out into new areas of research. My long-term professional goal is to be able to continue to grow as a scientist while making contributions to national security.

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

The Self Fellowship was still very new when I came to KU so I remember the excitement of being part of something that was growing and changing to meet the needs of the students and the university. It was a valuable experience that definitely helped prepare me for life after graduate school.



Kyle K. Wetzel

1994-1995 Self Fellow
Aerospace Engineering

Where are you now (professionally)?

Wind energy has exploded in the past five years – both commercially and in the public consciousness – and the demand for my company's services has soared with it. Wetzel Engineering, Inc., has garnered a reputation as one of the – on an immodest day I would say THE – leading utility-scale wind turbine blade design houses in the world, and our services are now being sought internationally. In addition to the OEM design work we are doing, we have also developed a curious niche business in what I am now calling blade forensics. There have sadly been a number of high-profile blade failures in the industry recently – somewhat related to the need to move high volumes of inventory – and we have become the Go-To experts to identify the cause and find a solution. These types of failures can cost companies millions – in one case hundreds of millions – of dollars in a period of only a few months to bring down blades for repairs and pay the owners of the turbines for lost production during downtime, and so just one such failure can wipe out a company's entire profits for the year. So our services have proved to be critical to our clients in these situations. But the work that is the most fun is in developing brand new blade designs from a blank sheet of paper and taking them all the way through to manufacturing. WEI is investing in a new small blade manufacturing company here in the US for which we will provide all the engineering support, and we are also in discussions to provide most of the engineering support for a European venture to design and build utility-scale blades. We are in our 8th year, I've added 7 M.S. and Ph.D. engineers as associate consultants, and I recently added the 50th client to whom we've provided engineering services during this time – 11 new ones in just the past year.

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

I like to think I am nearing my long-held professional goal of developing a design-build operation for the wind turbine industry – both for small turbines and for large turbine blades. I originally thought that I would do this on my own, but I've learned the value of joint ventures and cooperating with others. Different people bring different skills and expertise to cooperative ventures, and you quickly learn to respect what you do and do not know. It is a case where $1 + 1$ is often greater than 2, because not only do you add people's skills in a joint venture, you also spread the risk around to more players.

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

The Self Fellowship program was an invaluable opportunity to interact with people outside my area of expertise. The general graduate school experience can be a little insular as you slave away in your lab on your dissertation, interacting mostly with other students and faculty in your own field. But once you leave that environment, the wider world is far more interdisciplinary, as I have found in the joint ventures that I've developed.

From the President's Corner – Dan Hoyt

I write this with the full knowledge that I very well might start to sound like a cheesy president of a cheesy alumni group, so



I'm going to offer a disclaimer: I don't own a crimson and blue tie. I don't really root for KU basketball. I think the Rock, Chalk chant gets a little boring. Don't even get me started on Kansas and evolution.

I'm not a true believer in anything, but I love Lawrence and the Bottleneck and the back porch of The Replay, and the Self Fellowship meant a great deal to me.

The best part of the Fellowship was, of course, the fellowship. I'm not making some strange "it is what it is" statement. Instead, I'm thinking about the broader and more emotional definitions of fellowship: the ideas of friendship and comradeship. As Self Fellows, we were able to make rich and unexpected personal, intellectual, and professional connections. Some of my strongest and fondest memories from that time include talking about psychological studies with Adam Powell, learning about bats from Heather York, and digging into PBS with Robin Rowland.

Of course, it's hard to keep those bonds as we move on to new homes and new opportunities. Society members are now spread across 25 states and 3 countries.

We hope, however, that this newsletter will pull us together a bit in spirit.

As I enter my last year on the Society of Self Fellows Board of Governors, I urge more Society members to stay plugged in. You could come to Lawrence for this year's annual spring meeting, which will feature a Society member — Karyl Leggio — in the expert speaking role for the very first time. You could contribute to the new Society endowment. At the very least, you could take a peek at this newsletter and find out what Karl Brooks or Julie Mach or Dana Price is up to these days. It wouldn't hurt to send an old friend from the Fellowship an e-mail now and again either. Ideally, we're trying to sustain the connections that made the Fellowship such a vibrant and interesting community.

For those of you in the Lawrence area, we'll be meeting from 4-6 p.m. March 29, a Sunday, the night before Karyl's speech, upstairs at the Free State Brewery. I hope to see many of you there. Crimson and blue ties are decidedly optional.

Board of Governors, Society of Self Fellows

We extend our congratulations to Karyl Leggio, who was just elected to the Board of Governors. The Society of Self Fellows is governed by four individuals who serve four-year terms. Karyl (featured elsewhere in this newsletter) will join:

Dan Hoyt, President, Term: 2006-2009. Dan is an assistant professor in the Department of English at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

Adam Powell, Term: 2007-2010. Adam is an Implementation Research Investigator with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minn.

Lisa Castle, Term: 2008-2011. Lisa is an assistant professor of biology at Glenville State College in Glenville, W.Va.

Society members are encouraged to send agenda items to Dan Hoyt or to Sharon Graham prior to the Society's annual meeting on March 30. And, we hope you have already marked that date to attend the SGF Spring event. On March 29 Society members are invited to a reception at Free State Brewing. March 30 will include a Society of Self Fellows meeting and luncheon, Society member Karyl Leggio as the featured evening speaker, and a presentation by fourth-year fellows after dinner.

A block of sleeping rooms has again been reserved at the Marriott SpringHill Suites. Rooms are available for \$89 March 28-31. You can reserve your room by calling the hotel at 785-841-2700.

Contact:

Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship

The University of Kansas, Strong Hall,
1450 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 222
Lawrence, KS 66045-7535

Telephone: (785) 864-7249 • Fax: (785) 864-0394
Email: self@ku.edu • www.ku.edu/~selfpro