

# KAY sponsor named for Area 4

Becky Jones, KAY Sponsor at Logan High School, is serving her second year as the Area 4 KAY Area Sponsor. Becky presided over the sponsor's session at the Nov. 13, 2013 Regional Conference hosted by the Hill City High School KAY Club.

The Kansas Association for Youth (KAY) is a character-building, leadership training, service organization directed by the Kansas State High School Activities Association. This nationally acclaimed organization provides students an opportunity to learn to assume their citizenship responsibilities and to enrich their personalities through well-organized programs. These programs emphasize four areas of service: school, community,

and world.

The KAY program is available to any KSHSAA member school students. The local organization is under the direction of the school principal who, in turn, appoints a sponsor(s) to lead and guide the club program.

Becky has served as a KAY sponsor for eight years. This former KAY member was selected for her dedication and years of experience with the KAY program. She will serve on a state advisory committee as a representative of the Area 4 KAY Clubs, which are located in northwestern Kansas. This committee, along with the KSHSAA staff, plans and makes recommendations for the improve-

ment of the KAY program.

"We are honored to have Becky Jones serve as a KAY Area Sponsor," said Cheryl Gleason, KSHSAA Assistant Executive Director and KAY State Director. "Her strong background in the KAY program, her experience in attending KAY conferences and the numerous awards the Logan High School KAY Club has received during her years as sponsor will be of great value to this committee and the KAY program state-wide."

The KSHSAA proudly offers the KAY program to Kansas students, through its member schools, as a means to "make a world of difference" for current and future generations.

# Taking architecture to new heights

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

Let's visit the tallest building in the world. It's located in the city of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The building is named the Burj Khalifa - sometimes called the Dubai Tower. When this incredibly impressive structure was built, who do you suppose was one of the lead architects? Would you believe, a man from rural Kansas?

Ed Thompson is a long-time architect who played a leading role in managing the design team for this amazing building. He grew up halfway around the globe from Dubai, in the middle of rural Kansas.

Ed is from the south central Kansas community of Pratt, although his family moved around because his father worked in the oilfield. They also lived at the rural communities of Ellis, population 1,852, and Wilson, population 791 people. Now, that's rural.

From an early age, Ed knew he wanted to be an architect. While in the school of architecture at K-State, Ed visited several architectural firms. One of them caught his eye, a Chicago-based firm known as Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill which did international commercial work. After graduation from K-State, Ed had the opportunity to join that very firm and spent a 40-year career there.

Ed married Susan who also came from Pratt. In fact, the same doctor delivered them. Ed and Susan would follow his career with Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill around the world. The company developed a specialty in fast-tracking large projects so that construction could begin while design continued. Ed's career would take him around the globe.

"You go where the opportunities are, following the economy," Ed said. His first big assignment was in Wichita where he worked on the design and construction of the Fourth Financial Center. After that, he helped open the

company's office in Tehran. "It was fascinating," he said. "We wanted to immerse ourselves in the local culture. Susan even learned Farsi from going to the marketplace."

His career next took them to Texas - which, after all, is also a whole other country. Ed worked on large banks and other buildings in Houston and Dallas.

Then they moved to London where he worked on the Liverpool Train Station and Canary Wharf. The train station was fascinating because it had to be built over the existing railroad tracks. Canary Wharf was a part of the London docklands which had been heavily bombed during World War II.

The Thompsons moved back to Chicago where he worked on the Trump Tower there.

Another fascinating project was the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa.

"Dubai wisely saw that the oil economy would eventually run out, so they wanted to convert their economy from oil to finance and tourism," Ed said. Construction of the tower became a centerpiece of that transformation.

The technical challenges were immense. "We were literally going where no one had gone before," Ed said. For example, no one had done wind readings

at the height which the company was to be building or had pumped concrete to that level. "We drew upon the world's intellectual resources to help accomplish the project."

Each challenge was surmounted and the building was finished in 2009. Standing 2,722 feet tall, it is based on huge piers which were drilled deep in the sandstone, topped by a 12-foot-thick layer of concrete. The exterior of the building is constructed in a spiral design to counter the wind.

"There were lots of firsts in designing this building," Ed said. According to one website, the building set 16 different world records. Ed's role was in managing the process. "It's like being the leader of a symphony," he said.

After retirement, Ed continues to consult with the firm. Eventually he and Susan moved back to Manhattan, Kan., where their daughter lives with her husband and five children. "I like Kansas," he said. "I like the people."

It's time to leave Dubai where we've been visiting the world's tallest building. We commend architect Ed Thompson who is making a difference by giving leadership to these remarkable projects around the world. He has definitely taken his architectural career to new heights.

# Spirit of the season!



The sixteen member Polly Anna Club had a special treat for Joe Ballinger of the Norton County Museum last week. A memorial for the former club president, Beverly Posson, raised \$800 which she wanted donated to the museum. Beverly's son, club members and museum board members are seen gathered at the museum on the day the donation was made. Pictured in the back row are Carl Kohfeld, Mike Posson, Joe Ballinger, and Kay Hawks. The middle features Donna Bantam, Iris Jackson and Lois Krauss and lastly, in the front row is Leota Goss, Marie Wendel, Barbara McKie and Ruth Lofgreen.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# Technical college honored for third time

Northwest Tech announced that it has been named an Apple Distinguished Program for its iPad Mobile Learning Initiative for the third consecutive year.

For the last three years, Northwest Tech has been among a small and select group of educational institutions recognized nationally, as well as the first two-year college to receive this prestigious award for innovation, leadership and education excellence.

Now, Northwest Tech is being acknowledged again for 2013-2015, a two-year designation. College President Dr. Ed Mills said, "We are incredibly honored by this recognition from Apple. Our Board and I couldn't be more proud of the outstanding faculty and extraordinary students here at the college. They've paved a new path in the use of mobile technology to advance the effectiveness of teaching and learning in one

of the State's finest 2-year colleges. At Northwest Tech, we work together to find new ways to make great things happen, such as this important initiative, and we are always looking ahead. Our goal is to prepare exceptional graduates from this 'world-class' college to ensure a brighter future for Northwest Kansas, as well as for the Great State of Kansas."

Every program at Northwest Tech emphasizes hands-on learning and real-world experience in the field, supported by complete iPad integration in the classroom. Instructors work hard to help students connect mind, hand and heart, and the iPad Mobile Learning Initiative is helping faculty make that a reality.

The selection of Northwest Tech as an Apple Distinguished Program highlights its successes in enhancing and extending teaching and learning

with thoughtful and innovative implementations of technology. iPad and Apple TV are bringing Northwest Tech students closer to their learning materials than they have ever been before and increasing collaboration between both students and faculty.

Northwest Tech is a progressive technical college in Goodland, Kansas. It is one of the fastest growing higher education institutions in the state of Kansas, and for good reason. Northwest Tech is in the process of creating the Technical College of the Future...now. The college is not only transforming technical education, but it is serving the U.S. Workforce by providing its students with an innovative education from the implementation of the latest technologies; expanding and embracing diversity; developing future industry and community leaders; and by celebrating a vibrant campus life.

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