

Katherine Bird Receives Acorn Award

by Kathy Robinson

At the Annual Banquet on April 1, 2005, HMA presented the Acorn Award to **KATHERINE BIRD**, which is given each year to a Heartland member who makes significant contributions to the mediation field.



*Incoming President Rhonda
Harris with Acorn Award
Recipient Kathleen Bird*

As we all know, an acorn is the seed of the oak tree, about which we get the adage, "Big things from little acorns grow." This certainly holds true for this year's honoree.

Katherine plants little mediation seeds that turn into worthwhile projects for clients, mediators and our field. She has been personally involved in a number of mediation projects often as either the founder or ringleader. She has previously served on the board of Heartland Mediators Association, and was previously an HMA liaison for the regional mediation conference. She is the past president of the MoBar ADR

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HMA Presents Two President's Award

by Evan Ash

The "President's Award" was introduced when ElGene Ver Dught was HMA president. It is presented to individuals who are not practitioners but who have significantly contributed to the understanding and utilization of conflict resolution in our communities. Past recipients have included media celebrities and public officials who have effectively given conflict resolution a priority, and successfully established resources that bring conflict resolution into everyday lives.

The presentations were made during the banquet at the Regional Conference on April 1.

This year, we were pleased to present this award to two worthy recipients. The first recipient was **PETER KINDER**, Lt. Governor of the great state of Missouri.

Lt. Governor Kinder began his advocacy for conflict resolution as a state senator by writing a number of new sections for Chapter 452



of the Missouri statutes, regarding the use of mediation in domestic relations cases. As these sections became law, conflict resolution became an important component for the settling of disputes concerning the dissolution of marriage and its impact on children.

During his last three legislative sessions as senator, he sponsored Senate Bill 1081 which would require mediation in home construction and remodeling disputes. These disputes - after divorce - represent one of the most common forms of dispute individuals bring to the courts. This bill would establish conciliation and mediation as required steps before the litigation and adjudication of a case, thereby potentially reducing the burden on the parties to resolve these matters.

Lt. Gov. Kinder's advocacy and leadership for conflict resolution has helped to firmly establish the use of mediation in Missouri statutes, thereby fostering the greater use of these methods throughout the state.

The President's Award was also presented this year to the **HONORABLE JAMES BEASLEY**, who is classified as an "active retired" judge by the Kansas Supreme Court.

During the 15 years Judge Beasley served as Presiding Judge of the Family Law Department of the 18th Judicial District in Wichita, he

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President's Award

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advocated for the development of mediation and other conflict resolution resources in his district and the state of Kansas.



At the state level he was joined by Judge Herbert Walton of Olathe and Judge James Buchele of Topeka as leaders in the promotion of conflict resolution in domestic relations cases in the state of Kansas.

He brought input from resources around the country through his long affiliation with the Association of Family and Conciliatory Courts, where he has been a consistent presence and resource.

Working with local professionals in the therapy field such as Jeanne Erikson, he developed a comprehensive ADR policy for the family law court of Sedgwick County. From this grew a range of services to families including case management, which eventually resulted in legislation defining this resource for Kansas courts.

Judge Beasley also advocated for the successful development of divorce resources for children, including the "Children of Divorce Workshop" for parents — one of the first in the

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Peer Mediation Awards

by Don Hampton

Early each year the Heartland Mediators Association seeks nominations from Kansas and Missouri schools to receive the organization's Peer Mediation Awards. The nominees may be schools in grades Kindergarten through grade 12 that have active peer mediation programs.

Heartland is interested in identifying schools that have implemented peer mediation as a means of resolving conflicts between its students. More fundamentally we are interested in schools providing a practical educational mediation experience for their students. These programs provide hands on opportunities for student mediators and students in conflict as well as others in the student body to experience or learn of the benefits of alternative dispute resolution. Heartland Mediators Association is also interested in helping schools establish and maintain mediation programs.

This year one of the winning schools was nominated by a peer mediator and the other school was nominated by a sponsoring faculty member. The winners were announced at the Annual Banquet on April 1, 2005. They are:

NORTH-EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI and the

COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS MIDDLE SCHOOL FROM

COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS.

The nomination of Northeast Middle School was made by student mediator Sabrina Lees. The faculty sponsors were Iris Porter and Bill Bing. In her nominating statement Sabrina Lees said their school has had a peer mediation program for 10 years. The program includes from 15 to 25 students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Their experience has shown that the peer mediation program helps build self esteem, confidence, leadership skills and helping skills. They find that their mediation services helps resolve problems, develop trust, build friendships, and provides positive role models for others. More specifically peer mediation helps prevent fights and suspension of those involved. According to Sabrina Lees the program also helps relieve peer pressure.

Trainers for Northeast Middle School have included Dr. Russ Thompson from University of Missouri, Kansas City; Michael Patterson, a student mediator from Southeast High School; and members of the Young Lawyers Association. This year the mediation team was trained by Elicia

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Award recipients with outgoing president Evan Ash

Enclosed in This Newsletter. . .

✓ **BALLOT and information on board candidates**

Please return as soon as possible by mail or fax.

✓ **ROSTER ACCESS INFORMATION**

With our new web site, the roster is now posted on the web site under a "Members Only" page. A letter is enclosed which provides you with your USERNAME and PASSCODE.

If your information needs to be changed, please provide that information through the contact form found on the web site.

✓ **DUES NOTICE**

As with all organizations and businesses, costs continue to rise. Dues have not been raised for more than 5 years, and accordingly, you will see a nominal increase in the enclosed statement. We have also created several membership categories to reach a more diverse audience. The new dues structure is as follows:

Individual Membership - \$60

Someone involved in alternative dispute resolution or interested in pursuing a career in the field.

Corporate Membership - \$150 for 3 people. Additional members - \$45 each.

Nonprofit or businesses.

College Student Membership - \$25

An individual pursuing an alternative dispute resolution field of study, enrolled in a college or univer-

sity or continuing education program.(web access and newsletter only)

High School Membership - \$15

A student involved in a peer mediation program. (web access and newsletter only)

Web Listing on Referral List - \$10

per individual or corporate member.

**Check Out Our
New Web Site!
www.heartlandmediators.org**

Employment

Possibility of full time mediation position with Johnson County Domestic Court Services. If interested, call Gary Kretchmer at 913.324.6937.

Acorn Award

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committee, has served as founder and treasurer of the Association of Missouri Mediators, is an advisor to the MARCH program, founded a RESPECT restorative justice project and consistently leads the way developing new programs and concepts to improve the lives of clients through the use of mediation.

Her untiring efforts to further the field of mediation have led to this year's Acorn award going to Kathleen Bird.

2004-2005 Heartland Mediators Association Board of Directors

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- DISCLAIMER**
The opinions expressed in the HMA Newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the Heartland Mediators Association.

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FIRST CLASS

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United States — and the “My Changing Family” program of the Wichita Girl Scouts. As a result of his efforts for children, he was awarded the “Justice Warren Burger ‘Healer’ Award” by the National Association for Children’s Rights.

He continues to serve as an advocate, educator, and board member for community programs addressing the needs of families. Thanks to Judge Beasley’s efforts, conflict resolution approaches are firmly established in family law in Wichita as well as the state of Kansas.

And in his “retired” status, he has “crossed over, and become one of us!” as he now provides a wide range of conflict resolution services to his community.

Peer Awards

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Redmond from the Kansas City Human Relations Department, who began her mediation career while in high school.

The nomination from the Council Grove Middle School was submitted by faculty sponsor Rodney Hollis. In his letter of nomination Mr. Hollis told us the Council Grove Middle School has operated a peer mediation program for 12 years. In that time the peer mediators have helped resolve student conflicts in over 415 cases with no clients repeating. The sponsor’s initial training was provided by Dr. Joan Belamy from Hutchinson, Kansas High School. The student training is provided by the sponsor, Mr. Hollis. It includes training in listening skills, responding skills, and mediation role play. The Council Grove student mediators are trusted students chosen

individually by the student body and therefore are very representative of the student population. The student mediators must meet the same standards as student athletes to retain their eligibility.

Referral to the Council Grove Middle School mediation program may be made by other students, teachers, teacher aids, administrators or mediators. The school counselor coordinates the timing and the location for the mediation. All sessions are conducted as co-mediations with only the students present and follows a prescribed printed format. Each student, the counselor and the administrator receives a copy of the mediated agreement. The mediators are offered a debriefing after the mediation is completed.

Congratulations to both programs!

HMA BALLOT FOR 2005-2006

Please vote on the candidates below or feel free to write in a candidate.

Biographical information on each candidate can be found on the reverse side of this page. Please return your ballot by **June 17, 2005**. Ballot may be mailed in the enclosed envelope or faxed to 913.381.9308.

PRESIDENT	RHONDA HARRIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECRETARY	LILLIAN KEYES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

TREASURER	BARRY CARROLL	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

DIRECTORS AT LARGE (vote for 4)

MICKI ARMSTRONG	<input type="checkbox"/>
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RONNIE BEACH	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DON HAMPTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
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JANET LHUILLER	<input type="checkbox"/>
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_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**They will be joined on the Board by Evan Ash
as Immediate Past President**

Rhonda Harris, President
Kansas City, Missouri

Rhonda Harris serves as the Program Director of the City of Kansas City Missouri's Community Relations and Dispute Resolution Division for the Human Relations Department. She began her career with the City of Kansas City Missouri in June 1979. She is a certified practitioner, educator, and trainer in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution. Her other certifications include arbitration, cultural diversity, race relations, verbal judo, anger and conflict management, leadership development, and civil rights investigation. She has assisted in developing Student Peer Mediation Programs for the Kansas City Missouri School District and is a former instructor for the University of Missouri Kansas City Inter-Agency Multi-Disciplinary Mediation Course. She serves as a mediation coach for the Johnson County Community College Core Mediation Training and the Environmental Protection Agency's Shared Neutral Program. Ms. Harris has been a Practitioner member of the Association of Conflict Resolution, since 1990 and also holds membership in the National Association of Human Rights Workers.

Lillian Keyes, Secretary
Kansas City, Missouri

Lillian works for the Human Relations Department of the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Prior to that she worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Labor, and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She also has experience as a teacher with the Arabian American Oil Company and the Kansas City Missouri School District. She holds a degree in Education from Park College, has done graduate work at Avila College, and is a Kansas certified mediator.

Barry Carroll, Treasurer
Wichita, Kansas

Barry joined the Wichita State University Self-Help Network in July 2002 as a Project Facilitator working with mental health consumer-run organizations across Kansas to help leaders of those organizations effectively manage the day-to-day activities and address the challenging issues that confront so many nonprofit organizations. Prior to the Self-Help Network, Barry served as the Case

Management Director for Sedgwick County's COMCARE Community Support Services Program. Early in his career, Barry worked as a protective services social worker in rural Kentucky. He later accepted a position with Western Kentucky University as the state Social Services Coordinator for Project Head Start before moving to Wichita in 1982. After working for Big Brothers/Sisters and in the drug/alcohol field, Barry worked with the City of Wichita's Citizen Participation Organization, a group of citizen councils that addressed neighborhood concerns and made recommendations to the City Council. Barry has mediated disputes in both the public and private sectors. He is currently a Kansas State Approved Mediator. Barry holds a Masters of Social Work Degree [MSW] with an emphasis in administration and planning from the University of Kansas.

Micki Armstrong, Director-at-large
Hays, Kansas

Micki Armstrong is the coordinator of the Fort Hays State University Family Development Services, which provides mediation services to families. She is a state-approved mediator/trainer and specializes in family mediation. Micki is also a part-time instructor in Department of Sociology and Social Work at FHSU. She has a master's degree in counseling from Fort Hays State University and instructs courses in family, multiculturalism, mediation and sociology. Micki has been a consultant to USD 489's peer mediation programs, and has provided parenting education training for PACT (Parents and Children Together), a local organization in Hays, KS.

Ronnie Beach, Director-at-Large
Olathe, Kansas

Ronnie brings a background in business, education, public service and non-profits to his mediation work. He served 20 years in elected office in such roles as mayor, city council member, and school board member of Pittsburg, Kansas. His educational background includes two advanced degrees in psychology. He is an approved mediator in Kansas and Missouri with training in civil, domestic and victim/offender areas with more than 170 hours of dispute resolution training. He is a volunteer for the Johnson County Small Claims Court and the Community Mediation Center where he received his transformative training. He is a member of Heartland Mediators, Association of

Missouri Mediators and Victim Offender Mediation Association.

Don Hampton, Director-at-large
Wichita, Kansas

Don Hampton's career of dealing with conflict on a daily basis began as a Revenue Officer for the Internal Revenue Service. Don retired in 1993 after more than 36 years of aiding in the settlement of thousands of delinquent tax and bankruptcy matters. Don worked through his church as a volunteer in Divorce Support Workshops and Support Groups for more than 10 years. He became a trained mediator in 1995 and is Supreme Court Approved in Core, Civil, Domestic and Parent-Adolescent. He has also qualified to do farmer-lender mediations and has mediated church and troubled marriage cases. Don's primary practice is in Family Law as a Mediator, Dispute Resolution Counselor, and Domestic Case Manager. He has taught Conflict Management for the IRS, Core for the Mediation Center of Wichita and Core and Domestic for the Wichita Bar Association.

Janet Lhuillier, Director-at-Large
Lenexa, Kansas

Janet has a degree from Pittsburg State University. Her mediation practice includes work place, community, small claims, and business mediation. She has been co-coordinator of the Small Claims Mediation Program, Kansas 10th Judicial District since 2004. She is also a mediation coach. Her previous work history includes Trans World Airlines where she was a member of the management and employee advisory committee, as well as a change team advisor/mediator.

Evan Ash, Past President
Olathe, Kansas

Evan has been a mediator in Ks 10th Judicial District since 1995, and is the supervisor for its clinical mediation education programs. He teaches mediation courses at Johnson County Community College and Missouri Western State College. He holds masters degrees from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary and the University of Nebraska. As an Episcopal Priest, Evan served parishes in Nebraska, Oregon, and Kansas. He is an Advanced Practitioner of the Association for Conflict Resolution and serves on the Standards/Ethics Sub-Committee of the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration's Dispute Resolution Advisory Council.
