Kansas grad shows how dreams are designed

BY ERIC WESLAN DER
LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD

LAWRENCE—University of Kansas graduate Brian McClendon is an executive at one of the world's hottest companies. But even better than that, he owns a spacious home in the California hills — and he drew applause by giving people a virtual glimpse of it during a recent speech at the Lied Center.

"That guy's got a sweet pad!" one young man in the audience said when McClendon zoomed in on a 3-D model of his home using the software program Google Earth, which gives users a clickable, satellite's-eye view of the world and allows users to add 3-D versions of buildings.

McClendon, who grew up in Lawrence and graduated from Kansas in 1986, is the director of engineering for Google Earth. He spoke to a crowd of close to 1,000 people who came to campus for the University of Kansas Engineering Expo, an event that's been held on campus since 1911 to show young people what's possible in the world of engineering.

"Engineers dream and then bring those dreams to life," Kansas engineering dean Stuart Bell told the crowd.

A popular part of the expo each year is the contests, in which high school, junior high and elementary students compete to design bridges with pasta, make chemical-reaction volcanoes, or design a structure that will protect an egg when it's dropped, to name a few.

Students also get an opportunity to see what Kansas engineering students are working on, whether it's video games or technology to monitor ice sheets.

A jet engine sitting on the Learned Hall lawn got some use during the expo, University of Kansas School of Engineering spokeswoman Jill Hummels said.

"Over the lunch hour, I heard that they were roasting hot dogs on that, which I understand cooked up pretty fast," she said.

McClendon took the audience through his career path and gave them a glimpse of some of the things that can be done with Google Earth, such as viewing a 3-D model of the Eiffel Tower and watching real-time data about airplanes taking off from the Amsterdam airport.

So far, Google Earth has been installed by 200 million people worldwide, he said, and more and more people are mapping 3-D images of their own buildings.

"Over time, we'll have, hopefully, a completely modeled Earth," he said. "It will take a while, but there are a lot of people and there's a lot of interest in doing it."
Ten graduate students from K-State will display their research at the annual Capitol Graduate Research Summit today at the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka. The summit also features work by graduate students from the University of Kansas, KU Medical Center and Wichita State University.
Students in KU’s Global Awareness Program to travel to Washington

LAWRENCE — Ten undergraduates at the University of Kansas are going to Washington, D.C., to meet policy makers and learn about international organizations.

Diana Carlin, dean of the Graduate School and International Programs, and Jane Irungu, director of KU’s Global Awareness Program, will accompany the students on the trip, which takes place March 18-21.

The students, who are all Global Awareness Program participants, applied for the spring break trip and were selected by a group of faculty members. The goal of the trip is to expose students to a variety of organizations that work internationally so they have a clear understanding of the preparation needed and opportunities available for international careers.

The students will visit the U.S. Agency for International Development, Embassy of Poland, Organization of American States, Brookings Institution, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and U.S. Department of State. They are scheduled to meet with Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and KU alumni at a reception and attend a musical performance at the Kennedy Center.

Ambassador Kenton Keith, a KU alumnus and KU Alumni Association Distinguished Service Citation recipient, arranged the group’s itinerary and will host a KU alumni reception during the group’s visit. Two other KU alumni assisted Keith with arrangements. Leslie Schweitzer with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a former KU study abroad student and Thomas Moore with the Senate Foreign Relations staff will host the students for briefings.

Nathan Ladd, of Effingham and a senior in international studies and management was among the students selected. He is the son of Ray and Cindy Ladd.
KU to honor top seniors in Atchison County

Students from three Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, March 28, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 24 seniors from high schools in Atchison County will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program in the Atchison Heritage Conference Center, 710 S. Ninth St.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and honored its 100,000th student this year. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher education goals. Honorees’ names are listed online at www.news.ku.edu/2007/march12/khpatchison.shtml.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Jennifer Sanner, senior vice president for communications for the KU Alumni Association.

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere will speak to the students, parents and guests.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $12 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Chad and Carri Ball, Atchison, will be the site coordinators and county coordinators.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk License Plate program.

Atchison County Community High School: Jeni Bodenhausen, Jill Corpstein, Angela Eylar, Darren Snyder, Lana Swendson, Alisha Wallisch.

Atchison High School: Taylor Allen, Samantha Compton, Paul Elser, Ashley Gill, Stash Holmes, Cameron Killip, Hillary Nicholas, Joshua Ralston, Brittany Thornton, Stephanie Tipton, Taylor Zimmerman.

Maur Hill - Mount Academy Jessica Hundley, Joseph Klebba, Mary Kuckelman, Danielle Moccia, Clare Prohaska, Hillary Rice, Kallie Woodward.
KU honors local high school students

Special to the Globe

The University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment will honor students from Atchison County Community High School, Atchison High School and Maur Hill-Mount Academy on Wednesday, March 28.

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Students honored are:

ACCHS — Jeni Bodenhausen, Jill Corpstein, Angela Eylar, Darren Snyder, Lana Swendson and Alisha Wallisch.

Atchison High School — Taylor Allen, Samantha Compton, Paul Elser, Ashley Gill, Stash Holmes, Cameron Killip, Hillary Nicholas, Joshua Ralston, Brittany Thornton and Stephanie Tipton and Taylor Zimmerman.

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