College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners from Wichita include six students, which will receive funding to attend their designated college. From Wichita Collegiate School, Samuel J. Chandler attending SMU. From Wichita East High School, Amelia L. Furrow, for Macalester College; Donbee E. Lee, for Northwestern University; Maeve O. Pickus, for Truman State University; and Carl A. Smith for Carleton College. From Kapaun Mount Carmel, the merit scholarship went to Sara E. Rolfes, for the Kansas University W. Harold Otto scholarship.
LAWRENCE — Twenty-eight undergraduates at The University of Kansas are working on research projects this summer funded with grants of about $1,200 from the University Honors Program. Among those was Emily Ratzlaff, junior in aerospace engineering, daughter of Don and Gayla Ratzlaff; Hillsboro High School; “Finding Heavy Electrons in the Large Hadron Collider” with Michael Murray, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, as her faculty adviser.
Prairie projects reflect tradition, produce new findings at Bethel

By Melanie Zuercher
Special to the Kansan

Bethel College professor of biology Jon Piper's interest in prairie preservation and restoration puts him solidly within tradition.

Piper recently learned his second grant proposal to the Kingsbury Family Foundation, for the prairie restoration project he began on campus a year ago, has been funded. To date, the project has received more than $36,000 from the foundation.

Kingsbury is a private foundation, run by two sisters in memory of their father, with particular interest in projects aimed at protecting the natural resources of the Great Plains, especially plant and animal habitat.

"Ecological restoration is an important part of 21st-century conservation," Piper said. "There probably isn't enough (native) prairie left to protect many endangered native species, so it's going to require restoration of original or indigenous habitat."

In addition to the prairie restoration project, Bethel is in possession of two tracts of virgin (never plowed) prairie. One of them, the Sand Prairie Preserve in western Harvey County, came into the college's possession in February 1965. It has the distinction of being the first project in Kansas to be supported by the Nature Conservancy.

Sand Prairie is an 80-acre tract within a 40-mile strip of land between the Arkansas and Little Arkansas Rivers covered with sand dunes and marshes. The sandy soil and the dunes give it topography, flora and fauna distinct from the surrounding flat loam areas.

Bethel professor emeritus of biology Dwight Platt was instrumental in establishing the Sand Prairie Preserve. He was co-chair of a statewide committee that raised one-third of the cost of the land, with the Nature Conservancy providing a third and Bethel College's development staff raising the other third.

At the time Bethel acquired Sand Prairie, Platt was quick to credit the late J.H. Doell, head of the college's biology department for more than 40 years beginning in 1911, with pioneer studies of the sandhills area, including building a collection of sandhills plants.

Platt himself served as research assistant for a field study of snake populations begun in the sandhills in 1959 under the auspices of a National Science Foundation grant to the University of Kansas zoology department. Bethel students have continued tracking those populations to the present day.

South and east in Cowley County, Bethel owns a section of tallgrass prairie called the Brodie Prairie Preserve, named in honor of Wilber and Rhoda Pennington Brodie by their two surviving children, who gave the area to Bethel College in May 1993.

Brodie Prairie is also an 80-acre tract that includes typical tallgrass vegetation and bird and animal life. About half the land has been in the Conservation Reserve Program, which provides an interesting contrast to the unplowed acres. A local farmer manages Brodie Prairie and cuts prairie hay with some proceeds going to the college.

In the late 1980s when Wanda Broadie Alexander wanted to donate her 80 acres, several potential recipients, such as Southwestern College and the Audubon Society, turned her down. However, since the establishment of the National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Chase County in 1996, there has been far more interest at the university research level in prairie study and preservation.

Over the last decade or so, Piper, along with several students, has conducted comparative studies of the effects of some environmental change on the vegetation composition on both prairies. In 2005, he and Bethel biology students Danielle Billings and Vanessa Leite published an article in Community Ecology documenting how changes in nitrogen deposits can significantly affect the species composition of sand prairie vegetation.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to have two 'old-growth' prairies available for research," Piper said. "Changes in the makeup of these areas can signal how natural areas may respond to changes in the global environment."

Piper's prairie restoration work is also receiving attention in the scientific press. Last month, Piper's articles "Does the Number of Species in a Seed Mix Affect the Establishment of Your Tallgrass Prairie Species? A Seven-Year Study in Kansas" appeared in Ecological Restoration and "Effects of species richness on resident and target species components in a prairie restoration," co-authored with Bethel students Angela Janzen and Emily Schmidt, appeared in Restoration Ecology.

Earlier this summer, Bethel president Barry Bartel made his first visit to Brodie Prairie (Sand Prairie was on the day's agenda but was inaccessible due to high water in the Little Arkansas River.)
The prairie research projects bring together two important components of a Bethel education,” Bartel said, “a concern for ecology expressed through environmental studies, and the value of undergraduate research. Professor Piper does a good job of incorporating this distinctive aspect of our geographical context in our curriculum.”

ABOVE: From left, Bethel College biology professor Jon Piper, Ray Regier, Bethel president Barry Bartel, Bethel professor emeritus of biology Dwight Platt and Bethel chemistry professor Richard Zerger at the college’s Broadie Prairie Preserve in Cowley County.

Photos by Melanie Zuercher/Special to the Kansan

From left, Bethel College biology professor Jon Piper, Ray Regier, Bethel president Barry Bartel, Bethel chemistry professor Richard Zerger and Beth Piper examine the contrast in foliage between an old buffalo wallow, which turns into a miniature wetland in spring, and the surrounding tallgrass prairie at Bethel’s Broadie Prairie Preserve in Cowley County.
Training center to undergo expansion

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The center providing basic training for more than two-thirds of the state's law enforcement officers plans to start a $16 million expansion by the end of the year.

The Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center expects to open two new buildings in May 2009, including a new dormitory for 126 officers-in-training. The University of Kansas operates the center on a former naval air station about five miles south of Hutchinson.

The center has a dormitory for 107 officers, but it has been squeezing in 143 by having many of them sleep three to a room. The center also has had to rent space on the State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson for graduation ceremonies.

The second new building will house classes and have a meeting room for 800 people.

"It's going to create more of a campus environment," Ed Pavey, the training center's director, told the Lawrence Journal-World. "It will tie everything all together to enhance the facilities."

The center trains about 400 officers each year, or 70 percent of those in Kansas law enforcement. Its 14-week sessions involve classes of up to 60 people.
KU Spring Honor Roll

More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas, represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 44 others states, the District of Columbia and 37 other countries.

Here are the names of students from Coffeyville and Independence.

From Coffeyville:
- Mark E. Bowman, son of Geary Bowman, Senior, Journalism; Christopher W. Carr, son of Ivan and Teri Carr, Junior, Liberal Arts;
- Christopher L. DelaCruz, son of Juan and Donna De La Cruz, Senior, Liberal Arts;
- Jennifer R. Hutchins, daughter of Russ and Joyce Hutchins, Senior, Liberal Arts;
- Stephanie Diane Irwin, daughter of Dennis and Joyce Irwin, Sophomore, Liberal Arts.

From Independence:
- Emily C. Bannwarth, daughter of David and Marlene Bannwarth, Senior, Business;
- Nathan A. Berg, son of Tresa and Rusty Baker, Senior, Engineering;
- Shannon M. Beurskens, daughter of Terry and Chris Beurskens, Liberal Arts;
- Echo M. Dunn, daughter of Toni Myers, Senior, Liberal Arts; Stephanie S. Gettler, daughter of Kenny and Gayla Wilson, Prof I, Pharmacy Professional;
- Joseph E. Hall, son of Jim and Lisa Hall, Senior, Business; Dean A. Hayse, Jr., son of Dean Hayse, Sophomore, Liberal Arts;
- Aubrey K. Heckman, daughter of John and Marge Heckman, Junior, Liberal Arts; Rachel S. James, daughter of George James, Senior, Fine Arts; Matthew E. Kadel, son of Mike and Mary Kadel, Senior, Business; Rebecca M. Knox, daughter of Gary and Karen Knox, Sophomore, Fine Arts Undergraduate;
Andover Library looks ahead

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ANDOVER - Groundbreaking ceremonies have already taken place for the new Andover Public Library. So when will construction begin?

Construction began on Saturday, July 21. APL Director Carol Wohlford said that the city had dismantled the existing building in the park, holes were being dug and debris was being removed.

The new library should be completed early fall of 2009. The building will take up 15,000 square feet, which is six times as much as the library has now.

When the building is finished it should include video conferencing capabilities; bathrooms; employee offices; coffee shop; reading rooms with University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University themes; genealogy room; a Federal Emergency Management Agency storm shelter; and an art gallery. Wohlford would like to feature exhibits by local artists in the gallery.

None of the rooms or services was taken out of the library plan when the Library Building Committee worked to get the building within the city’s budget. Library officials were able to cut costs through details on the outside of the building. For example, changes were made to the parking lot, landscaping and roofing materials to make them less expensive.

The green element will remain part of the new library. A few of the green elements are as follows. The Green Element will help to maximize open space. It also has a plan

See LIBRARY. 3
for parking capacity to be limited to the number of spaces required by zoning, which will also help maximize green space. The library will have a shower and changing area and bicycle rack to help with bicycle transportation. Storm water design will be another part of the Green Element. The storm water design controls the amount of water runoff with two storm water detention basins (information obtained from Doug Allison, architect with Wilson, Darnell and Mann).

“(We hope to) make people realize we have a gorgeous, pastoral park in our city,” Wohlford said. The start of the library is just beginning, but Wohlford said she has high hopes for the new library. She said retirees would come for coffee in the mornings and read the periodicals. Mothers will come with their children and hang out and gather parenting tips from each other.

While the mothers visit, kids can visit the children’s area that a customer can spot right as he walks in the doors of the library. The children’s area entrance, Wohlford said, has a wow factor. The children’s area will also feature state-of-the-art computers.

“(We) expect the library to play the part of a community center,” Wohlford said.
At its July board meeting, the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City (HCF) approved five Safety Net grants totaling $828,000 to benefit residents of Wyandotte County.

HCF received 56 grant applications totaling approximately $10.8 million. All grant applications were reviewed by staff and outside reviewers. In total, HCF approved about $5.7 million in Safety Net grants to 39 organizations that provide services to improve access to quality health care for the uninsured and underserved, including the following five grants to organizations in Wyandotte County:

- $83,000 to the Kansas University Endowment Association for its JayDoc Free Clinic to fund general operating expenses and allow expansion to a third night of operation;
- $100,000 to KU Health Partners, Inc., for operating expenses for the Silver City Health Center;
- $150,000 to Riverview Health Services, Inc., to connect clients with health care services and provide health literacy services for the uninsured and underserved;
- $315,000 to Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care Services of Greater Kansas City, the Duschene-Clinic and the Turner House Children's Clinic to enhance the collective capacity to deliver medical care for the underserved poor in the urban core of Wyandotte County;
- $180,000 to the Unified Government Public Health Department and the Kansas Children's Service League for Healthy Families Wyandotte and Healthy Families Johnson, which provide intensive in-home services to pregnant women and new parents of at-risk infants.

"HCF is committed to making health care services available to everyone in our community," Gurnie Gunter, HCF board chair, said. "These agencies fulfill a critical role in providing health care to some of our most vulnerable citizens and we are proud to support their efforts with these Safety Net grants."

For more information, visit the HCF website at www.healthcare4kc.org.
Piper graduate receives grant award from KU

Hannah Marie Nusz, sophomore in African and African-American studies at the University of Kansas, was one of 28 undergraduate students awarded a grant of about $1,200 from the university’s honors program for work on a research project.

The Piper High School graduate’s research project is titled “Evaluation of Case Study AIDS Clinic and AIDS Awareness Strategies in Uganda.” Her advisor for the project is Alice Lieberman, professor of social welfare.

Nusz is currently in Uganda working at an AIDS clinic teaching children afflicted with the disease. She is scheduled to return to Kansas City, Kansas, in early August.

“The Undergraduate Research Award competition is a testimony to KU’s longstanding commitment to provide undergraduates with a first-rate education. The one-on-one collaboration between these students and their mentors embodies learning in its purest form,” said Mark Nesbitt-Daly, associate director of the honors program and co-chair of the University Honors Council Research Committee.

The awards program, now in its 50th year, supports original research by undergraduates from the Lawrence campus and are provided by special funds made available by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Office of the Vice Provost for Research and the Office of the Provost.

The University Honors Program provides enriched educational opportunities to KU’s most academically talented, motivated and promising students through honors courses, programs and tutorials. Stanley Lombardo, professor of classics, directs the program.

Members of the University Honors Council selected the students using criteria such as the quality of the proposal, the student’s academic record and ability to complete the proposed research project, the project’s potential contribution to knowledge and the educational value of the research to the student.
Five Sumner graduates named Dole Scholars

The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas recently announced 128 new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year.

The recipients, all 2007 Kansas high school graduates, represent the largest class of Dole scholars since the program began in 2005. Funded by NASA, the scholars are distributed among the state’s four congressional districts to ensure the broadest statewide participation.

The scholarship program began with a federal grant that funded 40 scholarships each in 2005 and in 2006. With the addition of the 128 scholarships awarded this year, the total number of Dole scholars comes to 208.

The new scholars will enroll this fall at one of the six Kansas Board of Regents universities or Washburn University in Topeka. Regents universities are KU, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University and Wichita State University.

Aligned with the primary mission of the Dole Institute, the scholarship program encourages young Kansans to get involved in politics, government and community service.

"Dole scholars represent the best among Kansas high school graduates," said Barbara Ballard, director of the scholarship program and associate director of the Dole Institute. "Dole scholars are required to engage in 100 hours of civic activities annually. We hope that their experiences will influence them throughout their lives to become involved citizens."

Recipients receive a $1,000 scholarship, renewable for three years, and commit to completing 100 hours of civic activities annually. Kansas high school seniors who have volunteered in community and public service in their communities and who have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale are eligible.

The following Kansas City, Kansas, students were named Dole Scholars: Jose Leal, Sumner Academy of Arts and Sciences, who will attend Kansas State University as an undecided major; Ashley Riley, Sumner Academy, who will attend the University of Kansas as a nursing major; LeAndrea Wilson, Sumner Academy, a pre-medicine major who will attend the University of Kansas; Laura Hochman, Sumner Academy, an education major who will attend the University of Kansas; and Javier Jones, Sumner Academy, who will attend Kansas State University as an engineering major.
More than 380 junior high and high school students from Kansas and 16 other states arrived at the University of Kansas this summer to attend one of four Midwestern Music Camps.

Those attending from the Kansas City, Kansas, area were Anthony Oden, Harmon High School, Marching Band Leadership Camp; and Erika Jackson, Piper Middle School, Marching Band Leadership Camp.

KU’s School of Fine Arts and Department of Music and Dance offer the camps. David Clemmer, director of athletic bands and assistant band director at KU, leads the camps.

The camps provide instrumental, vocal and keyboard students a variety of musical experiences, including opportunities to participate in full symphony orchestras, choirs, bands, jazz ensembles and music classes.

This year’s camps and dates were: Junior High Band and Orchestra Camp, June 10-16; Senior High Band, Orchestra and Choir Institute, June 17-23; Marching Band Leadership Camp, July 8-12; and Jazz Workshop, July 8-13.

KU’s Midwestern Music Camp was created in 1935 by former band director Russell L. Wiley. Under Wiley’s direction, the camp became the second largest and second oldest music camp in the United States. The camp was often visited by some of the world’s most well-known conductors and artists, such as Andre Previn, Percy Grainger, Sir Vivian Dunn and Carmen Dragon.