TOPEKA (HNS) — Congressional efforts to overhaul student aid programs sound like a good idea to Chelsey Gillogly at Fort Hays State University.

Gillogly, the school’s student body president, said she was happy to hear about legislation moving through Congress that could ease the expense of college for students and their families.

The U.S. House voted 273-149 Wednesday to halve interest rates on some student loans over five years by cutting $19 billion in subsidies that help guarantee profits for banks that issue government-backed student loans.

House members also endorsed a plan to increase Pell grants for poor students from $4,310 per year to $5,200 per year by 2011.

Set to be a fifth-year senior this fall, Gillogly, 22, said such changes could help her and other students avoid astronomical loan bills after graduation.

“I think that it’s kind of good news for students everywhere,” said Gillogly, a Hays native who carries about $16,000 in loans herself. “I just don’t see how, when you are lowering interest rates for students and increasing the amount of government aid you give in grants, that you can hurt any student, anywhere.”

Yet student loan companies are just the opposite, claiming that the legislation would cost borrowers more in interest charges, forcing lenders to scrap special discounts and hurting competition by forcing smaller lenders to stop providing loans.

Under the bill that cleared the House, the interest rate on federally subsidized loans for low-income and middle-class students would drop from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over five years.

It also provides scholarships for students who agree to teach in subject areas that lack enough teachers, such as math, offers loan forgiveness for college graduates who go into public service careers and ties loan repayments to a student’s income.

Larry Moeder, director of student financial aid at Kansas State University, said the additional grants for lower-income students could help 20 to 25 percent of KSU students.

The loan breaks could benefit 40 to 45 percent of K-State’s students, he said.

“Basically it’s a very student friendly bill because it proposes in aid to make it possible for students to attend college,” Moeder said.

Before the proposals can become law, however, they must still clear the Senate, where lawmakers are planning to debate a similar bill that doesn’t include the loan rate reductions. The Senate’s plan also pumps more money into aid for poor students.

The House’s bill also faces opposition from the president, who threatened to veto the proposal, saying not enough of benefits go to needy students. The Bush administration also criticized the creation of “poorly designed” mandatory programs with “significant long-term costs to the taxpayer,” in a written statement.

Supporters of the legislation, including 2nd District U.S. Rep. Nancy Boyda, said the bill represents the single largest federal investment in college aid since the GI Bill in 1944.

Boyda joined all four of the state’s representatives, including 1st District Congressman Jerry Moran, R-Hays, in voting in favor of the bill.

“These days, a college diploma is the ticket to higher earnings and better economic security,” Boyda said. “As tuition costs continue to skyrocket, that ticket is rising out of the reach of too many Kansans.

The College Cost Reduction Act will help to reverse that trend by opening the doors of American colleges to millions
of low- and moderate-income students.”

The debate over financial aid comes at the same time that student loan companies have been under fire nationally for providing perks to higher education officials.

In addition, tuition rates have jumped significantly at the state's four-year universities, more than doubling at the University of Kansas and KSU.

The amount of debt carried by undergraduate students at state universities also has increased. The average borrower has more than $17,000 in student loans.

More than half of all 2006 graduates at state universities left with loan debt, except at KU, where only 43 percent were borrowers.

Gillongly said she understands funding the aid changes might result in someone paying more. But the added spending would be worth it, she said.

“You may have to pay a price but if it's furthering the education of our future generation, you can't go wrong.”

The Associated Press contributed to this story.
Dan A Jucan, Sublette, was one of more than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas who earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester. He is the son of Florentin and Anca Jucan, and is a junior in the Liberal Arts program.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the 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, represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and 37 other countries.

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Athol: Chase Wilson Rice, son of Michael and Dianna Rice, graduate of Smith Center Jr-Sr High School in Smith Center.

Kensington: Melissa N Luiso, daughter of Nick and Margaret Luiso, graduate of West Smith County High School in Kensington.

Smith Center: Steven Brent Weltmer, son of Michael and Ladonna Weltmer, graduate of Smith Center Jr-Sr High School in Smith Center.

Jill Dene Windscheffel, daughter of John and Tamara Windscheffel, graduate of Smith Center Jr-Sr High School in Smith Center.
Johnson and Shipley
On KU Honor Roll

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

Among the students were Luke Johnson of Deerfield and Trey Shipley of Lakin.

Luke, a senior, is a fine arts major. A graduate of Deerfield High School, he is the son of Fred and Jane Johnson.

Trey M. Shipley, a sophomore, is an education major. A Lakin High School graduate, he is the son of Sue Shipley.
KU announces Spring honor roll

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The students achieving this honor from the area are: Lance Cheney, son of Darrel and Bonnie Cheney, Hunter, KS; Chelsea Nitsch, daughter of Bradley and Tracy Nitsch, Hunter, KS; George deMoura, son of Lena Davis, Lucas, KS; and Alisha Ridgley, daughter of Brad and Beth Zweifel, Waldo, KS.
KU lists Spring honor roll

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

They included Renee J. Henke, daughter of Ronald and Jean Henke, Education Undergraduate Senior, Downs; Bailor Lee Hardman, son of Philip and Debra Hardman, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Osborne; and Kaylene A. Mick, daughter of Gregory and Sheridene Mick, Pharmacy Professional Prof I, Osborne.

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

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Listed are: Jordan Michael Robertson, son of Jerry Robertson, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Holyrood; Courtney Leigh Pekar, daughter of Angie Hill and Jerry Macek, Nursing Undergraduate, Wilson; Jantzen Winter Ward, son of Cherilee Ward, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Wilson; Danielle Marie Rowley, daughter of Lynette Herrman, Social Welfare Undergraduate, Gorham; George Raymond DeMoura, son of Lena Davis, Fine Arts Undergraduate, Lucas; Miles L. Detrixhe, son of Gene and Mary Detrixhe, Engineering Undergraduate, Russell; Amanda Kay Steinle, daughter of Debra Wehling, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Russell; Rachel Lea Trible, daughter of Ronnie and Karen Trible, Nursing Undergraduate, Russell; Alisha Ann Ridgley, daughter of Brad and Beth Zweifel, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Waldo.
Coffey County businesses receive business achievement awards

Thirty-six southeast Kansas businesses were recognized at the Kansas Department of Commerce's annual Kansas Business Appreciation Month Southeast Regional Awards ceremony held in Chanute on June 20.

The Kansas Department of Commerce annually recognizes nominated businesses in the areas of manufacturing/distribution, service, and retail categories.

Polly Epting, owner of Coffey County Land Title Co., Inc., of Burlington, received a Business Achievement Award in the Service category. Coffey County Land Title issues title insurance for property purchased, insures banks for mortgages, closes mortgage transactions and real estate sales and provides a variety of other related services. The company was established in 1988 and has since grown from two employees to four.

Coffey County Land Title Co. supports county school activities; employees have served as forensics and FBLA event judges and have provided guest lectures on real estate-related topics. Polly has served the University of Kansas as a county coordinator for the Kansas Honors program for 32 years.

Lisa I. Garrett, CPA of The Accounting Place received a Business Merit Award in the Service Category. Lisa offers financial and accounting services for personal and business needs.

Please join the Chamber in congratulating these Chamber-member businesses on their achievements and awards.
Honor roll students named at KU

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Following are the students from Jefferson County or graduated from a county high school:

McLouth — Katrina Cook, Audrey Deeken, Alyssae Doane, Lisa Smelser.

Meriden — Stephen Ferrell, Travis Morstorf, Miranda Mullins.

Nortonville — Stephanie Nichols.

Oskaloosa — Tiffany Cook, Patricia Gaines, Tammy Gonzales, Clayton Milner, Stephanie Newell, Emma Willis.

Perry — Alphild Rees.

Valley Falls — Jennifer Brevitz, Laïna Burdiek, Benjamin Davidson, Charles Erhart, Philip Rich, Emily Shannon.

Winchester — Judee Herring.

Lawrence — Rachel Creek, Laura Crowe.

Lenexa — Brian Henry.
U.S. Army leaders turn to anthropologists to help solve war

BY JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press Writer

FORT LEAVENWORTH (AP) — With American troops mired in Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. Army leaders are turning to cultural anthropologists to help mold counterinsurgency policy, rekindling a relationship that sputtered after the Vietnam War.

The military’s new counterinsurgency doctrine, produced last year at Kansas’ Fort Leavenworth, hinges on the government getting the consent of the people. By understanding the culture, the military can neutralize insurgents, the doctrine says.

“You have to look at things through the lens of the people on the ground to effectively know where you are going,” said Robert Kurz, an analyst with Fort Leavenworth’s Foreign Military Studies Office, as part of a round-table discussion Thursday among anthropologists and military veterans.

Kurz said the goal of working with anthropologists and other social scientists is to develop a climate in which cultural awareness is taught at all levels of training.

“This is one of those things that will make it down to the guy in basic training, those in officer training,” Kurz said.

Two anthropologists from the University of Kansas, Felix Moos and Bart Dean, acknowledged they are in the minority among their peers because they are working with the military.

I’d love to have that opportunity. It’s in everybody’s interest,” Dean said.

Officers noted Thursday that the tactics used by insurgents are similar to those of Mafia families, using extortion against civilians to keep from being identified. Not until the coalition and Iraqi forces can show that they can provide reliable security will civilians stand up to insurgents and support the government, officers said.

Lt. Charles Bartles, an Army Reservist who conducted civil affairs in Iraq, said it is a challenge to try to convince Iraqis that working with the military and police to root out insurgents is in the community’s best interest, not just that of their immediate family.

Bartles’ paper for the project examines efforts to reduce the threat of roadside bombs along the routes near a key base, dubbed “Operation Turkey Stomp.” Soldiers met with each shopkeeper to explain that if a bomb went off in front of their store, the stores would be closed until they found out who planted the bomb or sold the components.

Each shopkeeper and store was photographed and published in a directory. Soldiers then gathered intelligence about each store, such as what goods were sold and how quickly. Bartles said noticing how dusty some items were or were not — such as batteries — provided useful information.

“It explains that you need to have a long-term presence for this stuff to be effective,” Dean said.