Sabetha High School seniors attend Dole Institute’s civic leadership program

The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas last week was host to 48 high school seniors from across Kansas chosen to participate in the Youth Civic Leadership Institute.

Sabetha High School seniors Brandon Lackey of Sabetha and Ambei Teske of Fairview participated.

The youth program, held Wednesday, July 11, through Friday, July 13, is designed to foster appreciation and involvement in public service. Students stay overnight on the KU campus in a residence hall.

"Within their high schools and communities, these seniors have demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement and an interest in public service. Their high school administrators selected these students to participate in the leadership institute," said Bill Lacy, director of the Dole Institute.

The program focuses on civic engagement and practicing civic skills.

The students work in groups to discuss a range of issues that affect them in their schools and communities and present solutions.

They also attended a special Dole Institute public program called "Teddy Roosevelt: Mind, Body and Spirit" with Ted Zalewski, a historical interpreter.

On Thursday, July 12, Chuck Berg, professor of theatre and film, led the students in a discussion of the 1939 Frank Capra movie "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

On Friday, speakers included retired U.S. Navy Capt. Buck Newsom, a civic leader in Lawrence, and Brett Ballard, a former KU basketball player from Hutchinson who graduated with a degree in secondary education in 2003 and is now on the men’s basketball team staff.

Newsom shared his view on “Civic Participation from the Greatest Generation.” Ballard addressed “Teamwork and the KU Basketball Team’s Civic Involvement.”

A highlight was Thursday’s visit to the state Capitol to meet with Kansas government leaders, said Barbara Ballard, director of the Youth Civic Leadership Institute and a state representative from Lawrence’s 44th district.

The high school students began the afternoon in the statehouse visiting the Senate chamber and the Kansas Supreme Court Room, then broke into small groups to meet with legislators.

Ballard notes the Youth Civic Leadership program is offered with the understanding that “it is in our nation’s best interest that our youth not only become familiar with our system of government, but also explore the variety of opportunities for public service and the potential for developing their leadership.”

The Dole Institute began the Youth Civic Leadership Institute in 2006 and provides the program at no charge.
University of Kansas offers Four-Year Tuition Compact for freshmen

A new University of Kansas plan offers no tuition increases for four years to freshmen and sets fees four years in advance for all students.

KU’s Four-Year Tuition Compact, approved in late June by the Kansas Board of Regents, enables first-time freshmen and their families to plan financially for the true cost of tuition and fees for the time it takes to complete a bachelor’s degree program.

Approximately 80 percent of college costs for Kansas residents and almost 90 percent for non-residents will be known and certain from the first day of class, said Marlesa Roney, vice provost for Student Success.

The tuition compact fixes the per-credit-hour tuition rate for first-time freshmen for four calendar years, the time it takes for a student taking 16 credit hours a semester to graduate with a bachelor’s degree. All but four KU bachelor degree programs can be completed in that time.

The compact, developed in collaboration with KU student leaders, also sets course fees for the next four years. Course fees are levied on a per-credit-hour basis in all of KU’s schools except social welfare and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The university is also working to establish a four-year schedule of required campus fees, an annual charge students pay to support services such as the student health center, fitness and recreation center and the bus system.

The compact also includes an optional two-year fixed rate for student housing.

For more information about the Four-Year Tuition Compact and all tuition rates and fees, visit www.tuition.ku.edu.
Merit Scholars named

By LaKase Perry
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Paying for college just became easier for two Topekans who recently learned they had won college-funded National Merit Scholarships.

Topeka High School graduate Stephanie Atwood and Cair Paravel-Latin School graduate Anna Waldy dedicated their high school careers to achievement and are now recipients of $2,500 National Merit Scholarships.

Waldy, the daughter of James and Tami Waldy, was Cair Paravel’s valedictorian but said she didn’t anticipate being chosen as a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

"I was surprised when I found out I was a finalist, but I was happy," she said.

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Waldy’s scholarship is funded by Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich., where she plans to study English. She said she decided on Hillsdale because it reminded her of the close-knit feeling Cair Paravel produced.

“In December I started looking at all of their programs and I liked it,” she said. “It’s classical like my school, and they have a lot of similar programs.”

At Cair Paravel, Waldy said, her course load was difficult but didn’t differ much from what her classmates undertook.

Atwood, daughter of Michael and Jennie Atwood, also kept busy in school with a course load that included AP statistics, Spanish 5, AP literature and composition, and AP calculus. She was a member of the debate and forensics teams and earned a spot on The Topeka Capital-Journal’s 2007 All-State Academic team with a 4.66 weighted grade-point average.

Learning she had won the National Merit W. Harold Otto Scholarship, funded by The University of Kansas, will give Atwood a much-needed moment to relax until she begins school at KU.

“I was excited and relieved because I knew I would get more money for college and it would make getting into college much easier,” she said.

Now that she no longer has books to dive into for the time being, Atwood has been giving swimming lessons to children at her family’s pool and serves as a nanny.

“This is the first summer I haven’t taken a college class, so I feel kind of lazy,” she said.

Atwood said she plans a career in law.

The National Merit Scholarship Corp. on Monday released the names of students who had earned university-sponsored scholarships.

The semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship were announced in September 2006 with 16,000 students named. Semifinalists had to submit a detailed scholarship application, have an outstanding academic record, be recommended by a school official, earn SAT scores confirming the qualifying test performance, and write an essay describing activities, interests and goals. Of the 15,000 semifinalists that earned finalist standing, more than half were chosen as award winners.

LaKase Perry can be reached at (785) 295-1280 or lakase.perry@cjonline.com.
LAWRENCE — To assist students from 10 Kansas counties hit by natural disasters this spring and summer, The University of Kansas announced Tuesday it will offer those students the option to defer tuition and fee payments.

Under the offer, the university will waive late payment penalties and work out individual deferred payment plans, said provost and executive vice chancellor Richard Lariviere.

KU students will begin receiving bills for fall semester tuition and fees late next week, with the first payment due Aug. 15. Ordinarily, an initial $100 penalty is assessed after that deadline and additional penalties are applied each month the bill is overdue.
KU sports medicine director charged

By Tully Corcoran
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

LAWRENCE — University of Kansas director of sports medicine William Dent is facing six criminal charges, including two counts of felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, in connection with a domestic incident April 12, according to records in Douglas County District Court.

The charges, filed April 18, also include domestic battery, violation of a protective order and making a criminal threat.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Aug. 9 in Douglas County District Court.

"We are aware of it, and we have no other comment at all," Kansas associate Athletics Director Jim Marchiony told The Capital-Journal on Wednesday.

Full details weren't available.

The incident involved Dent, Marissa E. Dent and John Clark. A vehicle was the deadly weapon, which Douglas County District Court files indicate William Dent used to cause "reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm" on both Marissa Dent and Clark. The aggravated assault charges are felonies, as is the criminal threat with intent to terrorize.

Phone messages left by The Capital-Journal for William Dent weren't immediately returned, and attempts to reach Marissa Dent by phone and in person were unsuccessful.

KU hired Dent on Aug. 24, 2004. Dent's previous position was as rehabilitation coordinator and athletic trainer for the California men's basketball team.

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University:

University of Kansas engineering students finishing in the Top 10 at the 2007 Society of Automotive Engineers Formula Car Challenge include Jared Anderson and Tanner Rinke, both of Derby, and Colin Snyder of Wichita.
Bee swarm's relocation has KU campus abuzz

Associated Press

LAWRENCE — A swarm of about 3,000 bees left the University of Kansas Natural History Museum this week and found a new home on campus.

The last time such a large group of bees left the exhibit at the museum through a tube, designed to allow the bees exit, was 14 months ago, said Jen Humphrey, communications director for the museum.

Humphrey said there were about 1,000 bees left in the museum's artificial tree after the others followed the queen bee to a new home.

When a hive reaches a certain size, the queen bee will leave with other bees in search of a new location. Meanwhile, the bees left behind will produce a new queen bee, said Danny Najera, a University of Kansas graduate who studies bee cognition.

The swarm temporarily went to a small tree in front of the museum along Jayhawk Boulevard, where they were at eye level to students walking past.

A few graduate students tried to lure the bees to the university's West Campus, where there are an estimated 17 hives, but the bees moved to the top northeastern corner of the seven-story museum.

Najera said the bees are harmless to the building and humans, unless they are bothered, because they are unmotivated to sting when in their swarm.

The swarm temporarily went to a small tree in front of the museum, but moved to the top of the seven-story museum.
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.

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.

Cawker City: Shawna Marie Doane, daughter of Lee and Denelle Mick, graduate of Waconda East High School, in Cawker City.

Glen Elder: Keah M. Cunningham, daughter of David Cunningham, graduate of Lakeside High School, Downs. Dorothy J Schmidt, daughter of Mary Trudeau, graduate of Salina High School Central, Salina.

Downs: Renee J. Henke, daughter of Ronald and Jean Henke, graduate of Lakeside High School, Downs.
LAWRENCE — More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

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Among those named are:

- **Ellinwood:** Andrea Nicole Macy, daughter of Marla Macy; Christopher Robl, son of Craig Robl.

- **Hoisington:** Jordan M. Bates, daughter of Gary and Donna Bates; Brianne Lynn Koester, daughter of Richard and Pamela Koester; Lacey Rachelle Koester, daughter of Richard and Pamela Koester; Tanner T. Poizin, son of Patricia and Duane Poizin; Sara Jerree Ritter, daughter of Steven and Sonja Ritter.
Two southwest Kansas students were honored last month for completing the University Honors Program at the University of Kansas.

Elizabeth Ann Crotty, a graduate of Garden City High School, earned a bachelor's degree in biology. She is the daughter of Douglas and Rebecca Crotty of Garden City.

Kelsey Lynn Gerbei, an Ingalls High School graduate, received a bachelor's degree in English. She is the daughter of Brent and Marla Gerber of Ingalls.

As part of the program, students must complete a freshman tutorial and a combination of honors courses and out-of-classroom experiences, such as study abroad, internships, community service or undergraduate research. Students must also maintain a grade-point average of at least 3.25.