Hammond takes 'Dream' on the road with FHSU

Special to the Times

HAYS — The state's fastest growing university will not rest on its laurels, choosing instead to launch ambitious goals for the year 2020.

Fort Hays State University, recognized recently in the Council for Aid to Education's Collegiate Learning Assessment for performing better than 90 percent of four-year institutions across the nation in improving its students' writing, reasoning, thinking and argumentation skills, continues to set enrollment records year after year. "Our estimate of your value-added placed you in decile group 10," Roger Benjamin, president of the Council for Aid to Education, wrote in his report to FHSU. "You performed better than 90 percent of four-year institutions."

FHSU's 20th-day headcount for the fall 2007 semester was 9,588 students, a new all-time record. Annual statistics from the Kansas Board of Regents show that FHSU has been the growth leader over the latest five-year reporting period. From fall 2001 to fall 2006, FHSU had an enrollment growth of 62.1 percent. During that same five-year period, Emporia State University saw an increase of 3.2 percent, the University of Kansas increased by 3.7 percent, Pittsburg State University grew by 2.0 percent, and Wichita State University actually saw an enrollment decrease of 3.7 percent.

Even with the remarkable growth that includes Virtual College students in nearly every state and more than 2,200 students in China, the majority of the FHSU student body continues to be Kansas residents.

Speaking at a news conference this morning in Hays, Dr. Edward H. Hammond, FHSU president, announced that he would carry the message of success across the state of Kansas next week on his annual media tour, visiting at newspapers, radio and TV stations, and with alumni and friends of the university in 15 cities.

Dr. Hammond has spent more than 20 years at the helm of Fort Hays State, and in August he became the longest serving president in the university's 105-year history.

During the General Faculty Meeting at the beginning of the fall semester, he continued his practice of announcing an annual theme by declaring "Dare to Dream" as the theme for the 2007-2008 academic year.

The centerpiece of the "Dream" is the development of a strategic plan to carry the university to its goals for the year 2020, and the president will present that dream as he travels the length and breadth of the state next week.
One of Fort Hays State University's campus building located in Hays. FHSU is the fastest growing University in Kansas. As part of this, FHSU president Dr. Edward H. Hammond has implemented a growth plan to push the school even further by the year 2020.
KU defends blocking flight information

Plane can't be tracked in flight for 'security' reasons

SCOTT ROTHSCCHILD

Tracking flights live on the Internet has become a popular passtime for many for both professional and personal reasons.

But don't try to track Kansas University's business jet as it transports staff around the country, sends coaches on recruiting visits, ferries people for events on campus or dispatches doctors across the state to help in small communities.

In January, KU started blocking information about flights taken by its Cessna Citation Bravo based at Lawrence Municipal Airport.

Todd Cohen, a spokesman for KU, said the move was made for security reasons.

"It is fairly common, for security, to not let the whole world know where your plane is going," Cohen said.

But Gov. Kathleen Sebelius doesn't block her flight information.

"Our schedulers or security get on the flight tracking system and track the state plane regularly when needed," said Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran.

Before a jet takes off, the pilot files a flight plan with the Federal Aviation Administration. A number of Web sites track these flights as they are occurring.

But federal law allows entities to block this information by making what is called a Block Aircraft Registration Request or BARR through the National Business Aviation Association.

"In the business community, some of the flights carry competitive and/or security concerns," said Dan Hubbard, a spokesman for the NBAA, which does this blocking service.

"There may be a reason why the party making the flight feels the flight should not be understood in real time."

Universities sometimes use this service because they don't want other schools to know about trips they take to recruit athletes or faculty, or for security reasons, if they are transporting a controversial speaker.

Sometimes the flight is for government-funded research that the government would like to keep under wraps.

KU's Cessna Citation Bravo, which seats about eight, is used by officials at both the Lawrence campus and the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan. That jet's flight information is blocked.

KU also has a fractional ownership of a King Air C-90B, which seats about six passengers. That plane is based in Kansas City, Mo., and is used primarily for medical outreach reasons, such as providing continuing education programs for medical professionals throughout the state. That plane is part of a fleet which has not filed a request to block flight information, according to Cohen.

Kansas State University also blocks its flight information from the tracking networks for the two aircraft used for university business travel.

Dennis Kuhlman, dean of K-
Going. That helps protect the university and the people who are on those planes,” Kuhlman said.

K-State also has 40 additional aircraft that it uses to teach piloting, maintenance and engineering. But these planes are not blocked since they are usually used only for training, he said.

**Jayhawk fliers**

Although KU blocks the Citation’s flight information as it is flying, information about who has flown and where is available later and can be received by filing a request under the Kansas Open Records Act. The university charges a retrieval fee of $31.50 per hour to gather the records.

The most frequent fliers on KU’s Cessna Citation Bravo include top executives at KU, such as Chancellor Robert Hemenway and Provost Richard Lariviere, and Athletic Director Lew Perkins and men’s basketball Coach Bill Self.

For example, in October, Hemenway and Perkins flew on an Executive Air Shares flight from Lawrence to Manhattan on the day of KU-K-State football game, according to KU’s records.

Self used the Citation Oct. 5-6 to go to Colorado Springs. Lariviere and his assistant Liliana Merubia flew to Wichita and back on Oct. 4. Lariviere spoke at a trade conference on India, and Merubia made a recruitment visit to a high school.

According to records provided by KU, on Oct. 11, the Citation picked up former KU football player John Riggins in Washington, D.C., to bring him back to Lawrence for his induction to the Ring of Honor. It then took Riggins and his family back to Teterboro Airport in New Jersey on Oct. 14.

On Oct. 20, the day the KU football team was playing Colorado in Boulder, Colo., the jet was used to pick up Perkins, associate athletic directors Sean Lester and Brandon MacNeil and Jerry Bailey, who is KU’s faculty representative to Kansas Athletics Inc.

Officials from the KU Alumni Association also use the KU jet on occasion for the Kansas Honors Program, which recognizes high school students who are in the top 10 percent of their class.

On Oct. 3, a group of alumni association leaders, KU officials and some KU students hit Salina and Hutchinson to honor top-level students in those towns.

According to KU, the school spends nearly $700,000 per year to keep its aircraft going. This includes salary and benefits for three pilots and a scheduler ($320,436); jet maintenance ($154,575); the fixed cost of the fractional ownership ($151,597); pilot training ($34,000) and insurance ($25,000).
A KANSAS UNIVERSITY aircraft rests in its hangar at Lawrence Municipal Airport. KU blocks “real-time” information about flights on the plane, a practice allowed by federal law.
Topeka Capital-Journal, on rising cost of college:

The cost of moving up is going up, rapidly.

A report released this week by the College Board showed the cost of obtaining a college education had jumped more than the inflation rate for the second year in a row.

The board certainly isn’t suggesting costs have risen so high that at least a bachelor’s degree isn’t a wise purchase. But the trend of increasing costs suggests higher education and government officials need to pay attention lest they place a college degree beyond the reach of those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder.

The College Board reported the price of tuition and fees at four-year public universities rose to an average of $6,185 this year, up 6.6 percent from 2006, when tuition and fees at public universities increased by 5.7 percent.

To bring the numbers closer to home, tuition at Kansas State University rose from $2,587 per semester for full-time resident undergraduate students last year to $2,812.50 a semester this year. At University of Kansas, tuition rose from $2,756.25 a semester for the 2006-07 school year to $2,922 a semester for the 2007-08 school year.

Standing alone, those numbers seem like a bargain, but they don’t begin to address the cost of obtaining a degree. Anyone, student or parent, who is paying for a college education or has paid for one recently knows tuition and fees are only part of the picture. Those numbers don’t include books and accessories, and rare is the class that doesn’t have some other fee attached that isn’t included in the base sticker price. Then, there is transportation and room and board for students who move away from home to go to college. ...

Slowing rising admission prices at our public universities in Kansas — where the Board of Regents last spring asked the Legislature for more than $500 million for delayed building maintenance and more recently approved salary increases for top administrators — may not be easy or politically popular just now.

But education and government officials need to beware of the upward trend and do what is necessary to ensure our public universities remain accessible to all.
High demand for prime tickets to the Kansas-Missouri football game and the absence of a policy limiting how many tickets a student can pick up at one time have some Jayhawks fans fuming over their school's distribution system.

Student tickets for the Nov. 24 game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., between the 10-0 Jayhawks and 9-1 Tigers were made available Monday to Kansas students. An hour before the Kansas ticket office opened at 9 a.m., the line wrapped around Allen Fieldhouse and out to the street.

Some people camped out all night to get to the front of the line — many of them holding dozens of identification cards from fellow students to pick up their tickets for them. Those in the front were able to gobble up all of the available lower-deck seats, which angered students who had waited several hours to pick up their tickets.

"People in the back of the line were calling friends that were up near the front and just walking up to the front of the line and giving them their IDs," said junior Zach Getz. "I waited three and a half hours, and I am in row 37 of the upper deck. I've never sat more than 15 rows from the field for a KU home game."

Kansas is ranked fourth in the Associated Press Poll and third in the BCS. Missouri is sixth in the AP poll and fifth in the BCS. The winner likely will be the Big 12 North champion and play Oklahoma on Dec. 1 in the Big 12 title game, where a possible trip to the national championship game could be on the line.

Because there's so much at stake, some students criticized the university for not limiting the number of tickets one person could pick up so that everyone had a fair chance at getting a prime seat if they were willing to stand in line.

"I just found it interesting that when no rules were set up by the students, instead of setting some up and enforcing them, they basically resorted to chaos," said Matt Willems, a senior who waited more than six hours for tickets before leaving for work and having a friend get his ticket — for a seat in the upper deck. "There were a lot of opportunities for athletics to step in and make a system work, and they chose not to."

The Kansas athletics department said here's never been a limit on the number of tickets a student can pick up with the proper ID, the department said, and there haven't been any problems.

"That's not for us to decide," associate athletic director Jim Marchiony said. "It's up for the students to decide whether that's good or bad, not the administration."
Verdon Parham, M.D., a Chanute family physician, is hosting Alhambra Frarey, a medical student from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, for four weeks, through Nov. 17, as part of a community-based educational experience.

Parham is a volunteer mentor with KU School of Medicine’s Kansas Rural Preceptor Program. Since 1951, the program places all fourth-year medical students, around 175 each year, in communities across Kansas. The program helps introduce students to the practice of primary care in non-urban areas, to increase their awareness of professional opportunities in rural areas, and to give them the opportunity to use their diagnostic skills in real-life scenarios under the guidance of their preceptor mentors.

“These students gain valuable knowledge and skill in the field that they wouldn’t receive without this program — a program made possible by partnerships with doctors across Kansas,” said Barbara Atkinson, M.D., executive vice chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center and executive dean of the KU School of Medicine.
English Alternative Theatre has announced 24 finalists in its “How My Parents Met” writing competition. Finalists for three $100 cash prizes include Lawrence residents and students, faculty and staff at the University of Kansas.

The finalists have been divided into three groups of eight. They will read their entries at the upcoming performances of two new one-act plays by KU students November 9-11 at the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire St. The cash prize will be awarded to a winner after each of the three performances.

Featured at 7:30 p.m. Friday will be Elisabeth Anne Dropek of Houston, Tex., junior; Robert Elliott, administrative assistant in the Department of English; Robert Nolan Knapp of Spring, Tex., junior; Dan McCarthy, academic adviser at the University Advising Center; Katherine Jo Oberthaler of Wichita, sophomore; Maria Polonchek, Lawrence graduate student; Adam Suelter of Great Bend, senior; and Kimberly Westphall of Andover, junior.

Featured at 7:30 p.m. Saturday will be Robert J. Baumann of Lawrence resident; Jena Borel of Lenexa, freshman; Benjamin D. Cartwright, Lawrence graduate student; Rachel Haskins, research assistant at the Life Span Institute; Elizabeth Rain King, information specialist at the School of Education; Sara Langford, Lawrence resident; Karen Ledom, administrative director of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ Student Academic Services; and Michael Whitten, Eudora freshman.

Featured at 2 p.m. Sunday will be Elizabeth Anne “Andy” Anderregg of Alexandria, Va., graduate student; Briana Arensberg of Leawood, freshman; Samantha J. Bell, Lawrence graduate student; Jacob Allen Henshaw of Kansas City, freshman; Tahir Hussain Khan, Lawrence resident; Betty A. Laird, Lawrence resident; Young Han Lester of Roeland Park, freshman; and Rebecca Ralstin of Shawnee, junior.

The writing competition was held to help promote the double-bill of prize-winning plays by KU students.

Jeremy Wayne Auman, KU theatre and film alumnus, directs Lott’s play, and Paul Stephen Lim directs Rowland’s play. Lim is the Chancellors Club Teaching Professor of English and artistic director for English Alternative Theatre.

Jeremy Wayne Auman, KU graduate in theatre and film is the son of Tandy and Debbie Auman. He is a graduate and director of “Please Take … Seriously!”
Crumrine is KU Honors Scholar

Jamie Crumrine a senior from Hamilton High School was selected to participate in the KU Honors Program, held in El Dorado on Monday, October 22nd. The event is sponsored by the Kansas Alumni Association; the students participating are named as Kansas Honor Scholars. To be eligible the students must be ranked in the top 10 percent of their class their senior year.
Students Attend KU Gameday
By: T.J. Cox

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes members attended a trip to the University of Kansas Game day on September 22nd in Lawrence, Kansas. The event included a rally at the First Christian Church in Lawrence.

Cost for the event was forty dollars for each student to attend. MHS students who went were: Curtis Vineyard, Jessica Beck, Brad Muleski, Angela Sutton, Leah Oehm, Whitney Milner, and Kelsey Claeys.

Before the game Former All-Conference player and current radio Broadcaster for the Jayhawks, David Lawrence spoke at the rally, so did current KU athletes.

After the rally students watched the Jayhawks win 55-3 against Florida International. They broke the record of the longest interception for a touchdown with a 100 yd interception.

Brad Muleski said, “The rally was cool!”
School aims to reverse rural drain

By SARAH KESSINGER
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TOPEKA (HNS) — There’s satisfaction in the voice of Salina pharmacist Jeff Denton when he tells of a former pharmacy student who once trained at his business.

After graduation from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy, she moved to Osborne with plans to purchase the local drug store.

“That community’s going to be well served,” Denton said.

But such situations are rare, says the long-time owner of B&K Prescription Shop.

“Our biggest problem is finding people to come out to rural Kansas and work.”

While Salina’s got an adequate supply of pharmacists, Denton said, there are communities within a 50-mile radius without one.

Much of rural Kansas today faces the challenge of looking for physicians, dentists and, increasingly pharmacists.

Seven counties across the state have no drug stores and 32 have just one. With retirement age approaching for many rural pharmacists, that shortage will be compounded unless things change, said the dean of KU’s pharmacy school, Ken Audus.

Seeking to get a handle on the decline, the school is seeking nearly $50 million in new state funds to expand its facilities in Lawrence and add a satellite location in Wichita.

Right now, KU’s six-year program graduates 105 students each year. It isn’t enough to fill the rural void, Audus said, hoping to add some 45 more slots in Lawrence and 40 more at the medical school’s teaching site in Wichita.

With additional space, the school could perhaps start to marshal the forces needed to keep small-town pharmacies going and help maintain communities as attractive places to live.

“If people have to not only drive to get medicine, but to get advice and recommendations on how to use it safely, it’s a real inconvenience,” Denton notes.

People do use pharmacists for health information as much as doctors sometimes.”

“It’s a very real dilemma,” agreed Rep. Don Hill, R-Emporia, a pharmacist and owner of two local Medicine

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Pharmacists: School aims to reverse drain

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Shoppe franchises.
Neighboring Chase and Wabaunsee counties have no pharmacy, Hill said. Nearby Greenwood County just watched one close, leaving only one left.

Even in Emporia, Hill knows of at least three vacancies at local drug stores and the hospital. The state Board of Regents, which oversees state universities, soon will consider whether to send a request to the 2008 Legislature, which convenes in January, for state funds to expand the state’s only pharmacy school.

Advocates hope to combine private fund-raising, tuition and state tax revenues for the project. Along with the expansion, they hope to sell small-town living to more students, who nowadays often tend toward urban jobs.

Both Denton and Audus say there is something special about owners of small-town drug stores.

“They have a certain standing in the community,” Audus said.

“A lot of pharmacists out here are in towns where you’re not dealing with customers, you’re dealing with your neighbors and that’s a different type of situation,” Denton said. “That takes a special type of person to do that.”

Audus said the school takes students on tours of the state’s various regions, including rural towns. They also promote a program that places students with professional pharmacists during two summers of their studies. Those who go to rural communities “have their eyes opened,” said Audus, a former “drug store rat” himself, who spent his high school years stocking shelves for his hometown pharmacist.

“They get a little different view of what goes on in small towns, the very nice living conditions, a good place to raise a family. That gives them a little different feeling rather than just reading about it or hearing about it.”
Oberthaler among finalists of KU writing contest

English Alternative Theatre has announced 24 finalists in its “How My Parents Met” writing competition. Finalists for three $100 cash prizes include Lawrence residents and students, faculty and staff at the University of Kansas.

Maize graduate Katherine Jo Oberthaler, sophomore in English and daughter of Peter and Diane Oberthaler, is among the finalists.

The finalists have been divided into three groups of eight. They will read their entries at the upcoming performances of two new one-act plays by KU students Nov. 9-11 at the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire St. The cash prize will be awarded to a winner after each of the three performances.

Oberthaler will read her entry at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9.

The writing competition was held to help promote the double-bill of prize-winning plays by KU students.