Lt. Gen. Caldwell answers student queries

By ANTON MENNING
Times Staff Writer

Lt. Gen. William Caldwell capped off a spate of speeches at the University of Kansas with a question-and-answer session with students on Thursday.

The session took place at the Kansas Union, which was partially destroyed by arson in 1970, in the wake of civil unrest directed at the Vietnam War.

However, as the commander of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Caldwell was greeted with respect and enthusiasm.

"They threw some tough questions — very big geospherical-type questions," Caldwell said.

Many of the roughly 70 students in attendance thanked Caldwell for his service before they asked their questions, addressing the General as "sir."

Questions ranged from the situation in Turkey to sending more troops to Iraq, among many others.

When asked about oversight concerning contractors in Iraq, Caldwell told a vivid story in which American troops manning a roadblock in the middle of the night were confronted with a truck that would not slow down. They debated whether to stop the truck by force.

"The driver had fallen asleep. There was absolutely no intent to bring harm to us at all in this one instance," he said.

The story illustrated the dilemmas faced by soldiers and contractors in an uncertain operating environment. Caldwell ended the response with a call for more oversight for contractors operating in Iraq.

When queried about Iran, Caldwell said military intervention was a last resort and reminded the students of the moderate nature of the majority of Iranians.

"Once you've seen one American casualty, you realize the cost is huge," he said.

The general emphasized the need for the military to engage with the media. For him, negative stories came from frustrated journalists who were not provided with the access or context needed for a story.

The media need access to even sensitive information for perspective, Caldwell said.

One of the lighter questions involved Caldwell's favorite places abroad. He said Singapore was extremely interesting, adding that he enjoyed Australia as well.

Continued from page A1

"You don't go to Australia and not have fun," Caldwell said.

For freshman Joseph Shannon, the experience was positive.

"The man was willing to answer any question — whether it was purely personal or purely professional," Shannon said.

He added that he would attend another session because of the relevance of the general's answers and engaging personality.

Other students said they felt the same as Shannon and even asked Caldwell to return to KU to speak about other topics.

"I think it was a great first step," Caldwell said of the session. "I'm encouraged enough by it that I would actually like to come back and do it again."

Caldwell also spoke at the Dole Institute of Politics and a military roundtable while at KU. His visit was part of a larger initiative at the university to engage the military and share resources and expertise with Fort Leavenworth.

KU recently announced a plan to allow wounded veterans to attend the school while they recuperate from their injuries, staying on active duty. Upon finishing their degrees, the veterans will be eligible for employment in the Army educational system.
Lt. Gen. William Caldwell visits with University of Kansas sophomore Julia Groeblacher after a question-and-answer session. Professor Paul D'Anieri, associate dean and part of the effort to bring Caldwell to KU, is pictured in the background.
3-star Army general holds fireside chat with KU students

By John Milburn
Associated Press Writer

LAWRENCE — At the height of an unpopular war, student protesters at the University of Kansas burned their student union. The National Guard was called out.

Now, at the height of the latest unpopular war, about 150 students sat down Thursday with a three-star general in that same building, asking him about Iraq, the military and U.S. foreign policy.

Taking questions from students on a variety of topics for more than an hour, Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, commander of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, seemed at ease as he discussed the challenges facing the United States and the military in Iraq, Africa and other regions.

“I would love to come back again, if KU would allow me,” Caldwell said.

He said he was impressed with the questions the students asked.

“They asked tough, intellectual questions. I really thought they would ask me more about life in the military,” Caldwell said. “But they had some tough political questions. I mean, they were well-prepared, thought-out, tough questions that you would take and talk about for hours in a classroom environment.”

Caldwell assumed command at Fort Leavenworth during the summer, after spending 13 months as the spokesman for the U.S. military in Iraq. His presence on campus Thursday was part of his initiative to improve the cooperation between the university and post, where

the Army trains and educates its future crop of leaders.

Asked about the morale of the soldiers and why they do what they do, Caldwell said: “We serve others. That’s what we do. We don’t join the Army to die.”

But he appeared stumped when asked which country was his favorite to visit. Answer: Australia.

“They’re just a partying type of people. You don’t go to Australia and not have fun,” he said, getting laughs from students.

On his way to the union, Caldwell and his staff zipped down Jayhawk Boulevard in a not-so-inconspicuous government van. Its plain gray exterior stood out, except for the Jayhawk flag waving from the front right side.

Rhea Woods, a junior from Topeka, brought her 5-month-old son, Jackson. Her two sisters are in the Air Force but seldom talk about their lives, she said. She asked the general about the tension level of troops on the ground.

“It was nice to hear, though, troops have a lot of resiliency, that people who are signing up to go over there and to fight have it innately, that they are able to bounce back from anything,” Woods said.

She was affected by Caldwell’s story about a truck barreling through a military checkpoint in Iraq after the driver fell asleep. Soldiers fired shots in the air, then shot at the truck to disable it, then it stopped. Caldwell said the soldiers weren’t trying to kill the driver, realizing that he might not be trying to harm them. The driver woke up and wasn’t hurt.
Woods said that scenario isn’t something people in the United States think about.

Nick Adams of Manhattan arrived as the discussion ended. The freshman had hoped to hear Caldwell and perhaps ask a question. The general asked Adams to walk down two flights of stairs to the awaiting van and chat.

Adams alluded to the Vietnam War, during which student protesters had set the University of Kansas union on fire, causing extensive damage. He asked Caldwell how important public opinion is and whether the U.S. can win in Iraq when the latest polls put support for the war at about 35 percent.

“The Vietnam War was lost on the homefront,” Adams noted.

Summarizing Caldwell’s response, Adams explained: “He said the military needs to inform people, because a lot aren’t informed. Even then, a lot of people can support the military, while not liking what’s going on politically.”

When they finished talking, Caldwell pulled a commemorative coin from his pocket and gave it to Adams, explaining the symbols and their meaning. Such coins are frequently handed out by officers as a recognition of excellence or appreciation to soldiers, though on occasion to civilians.

Adams was impressed with the gesture and Caldwell overall. He never expected such access.

“He’s really down-to-earth,” Adams said. “Not only will I think more of him, I’ll always have feelings toward other military types I see on TV, wondering what they are really like just walking with them.”
The Chabad Student Center at KU recently led a group of 11 students from KU on a trip to Jewish New York. The students had the opportunity to join the international Chabad on Campus Shabbaton, and meet over 700 students from 90 universities from across the globe. The group experienced inspiring lectures, lots of Jewish fun and returned energized in being more Jewishly involved at college. Pictured are (back row, from left) Andrea Rosenfeld, Daniel Goldshmidt, Rabbi Zalman Tiechtel, Charles Goldberg, Ben Sokolsky; (front row) Melanie Kohn, Stephanie Brooks, Marni Green, Nechama Tiechtel and Lindsay Major.
The Kansas Bioscience Authority has invested in three Kansas companies.

Lenexa-based Innovia Medical will receive a $650,000 equity investment to help bring its FDA-approved product, EarCheck, to market so physicians, parents and others have access to new technology that helps rapidly detect ear infections in young children.

KC BioMediX of De Soto will receive $150,000 to commercialize technologies developed at the University of Kansas for the care of infants born prematurely. The company's device treats preemies who have difficulty feeding so they can quickly gain strength and grow.

OsteoGeneX, Lawrence, will receive a $130,000 research and development voucher to collaborate with the University of Kansas on medical trials for treatment to stop the advance of osteoporosis and related disorders.

KBA President Tom Thornton said the investments will accelerate the development of technologies that will make a difference in people's lives.

"Kansas bioscience companies and researchers are making incredible discoveries, and their work truly improves the health of our communities," Thornton said. "Our goal is to provide the resources and expertise these companies need to thrive on a larger scale."
KU head speaker at Rotary luncheon

By Kristen Roderick
The Hutchinson News
kroderick@hutchnews.com

Hutchinson, said University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway, reminds him of home.

It’s similar in size to his hometown of Hastings, Neb., and the two locations both enjoy the small-town values that drive people to work hard and succeed.

“I wouldn’t be where I am today if I didn’t grow up in a place like Hastings,” he said during Monday’s Rotary Club luncheon.

Of the 600 KU graduates last May, about 60 came from Reno County, Hemenway said.

Currently, 498 students at KU previously attended Hutchinson Community College and those students have earned $779,000 in scholarships and grants.

Hemenway said KU continues to expand and make improvements in the medical field, including creating a cancer center so patients don’t have to travel to Houston or Rochester, Minn., for treatment.

“Right now we’re creating a Midwest Health Alliance that will enable an absolute cutting edge research on cancer to be available throughout the state of Kansas,” he said.

The university also recently opened a center to help survivors of breast cancer, with opening ceremonies on Friday. The center incorporates clinical, research and psychological programs for breast cancer survivors.

It offers individualized services for breast cancer survivors including genetic counseling and testing, fertility preservation, endocrine imbalance, menopausal symptom management, diet and exercise strategies and long-term cardiac monitoring, according to a press release.
Lori Torres of the Flint Hills Community Center and Lyon County Health Department was one on 10 nurses statewide honored Nov. 2 at an awards dinner in Kansas City.

She is the daughter of Marvin and Janice Hornbostel of Junction City.

The 17th annual Nursing: The Heart of Healthcare Awards banquet held at the Westin Crown Center Hotels is coordinated by the University of Kansas School of Nursing and recognizes outstanding registered nurses in Kansas and the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area for their contributions to their communities, patients and professions.

TORRES, Page 4A
By JAN BILES
The Topeka Capital-Journal

LAWRENCE (AP) — University of Kansas graduate student Jake Esselstyn was collecting bat species in 2006 with a research team in the forests of the Philippines when a guide told him about an unusual fruit bat he’d seen.

The man described a bat with orange fur, white stripes on its face and a black beard on its throat. Its facial features resembled that of a fox, and its wing span was about two feet.

“I didn’t believe his description. I thought he was a prankster,” Esselstyn, 33, said. “And then a few days later we caught one.”

Although the “flying fox” bat had been known to Filipinos and bat hunters for a long time, he said, a specimen had never been captured.

Esselstyn said the Filipino government announced the discovery of the bat and “word spread.” Since then, he has been interviewed by National Geographic and other media.

“It’s a nice example of how little we know about the animals in the world,” he said.

Esselstyn, who grew up in Oregon, moved to Lawrence in the fall of 2004 to work on his Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology. His dissertation, he said, explores “genetic variations across geography.”

In the past three years, Esselstyn has made six trips to the Philippines to collect specimens. The island country already was familiar to him because he had served as a Peace Corps volunteer there from 1998 to 2001, doing biodiversity and inventory.

He said little is known about the flora and fauna on the island, so finding a new mammal species is “not as uncommon as you might believe.”

Esselstyn said the researchers set up nets on farms, in forests and over streams to catch the bats while they were flying. Sometimes, they sought out the bats in caves.

“They get tangled up in the nets and getting them out is time-consuming,” he said.

The researchers have caught as many as a thousand bats in one night, he said.

“There are 75 to 80 (known) species of bats in the Philippines,” he said. “Some are common and then there’s others that are rare.”

The researchers determine which bats they want to euthanize and export to KU to study. Once the animals are at KU, he cleans some of the skulls and skeletons and preserves some of the bat bodies in jars filled with a preservative. The specimens are then catalogued in order to secure the data.

“I’m interested in how animals diversify, colonize a new area and evolve into a new species,” he said.

When the KU researchers are done studying the specimens, one-half is sent to the Philippine National Museum in Manila; the other half remains in the collection at KU’s Natural History Museum.

Esselstyn said the “flying fox” fruit bat is “the flagship species for conservation in the Philippines” because its appearance is so appealing it has the potential to change the way people think about bats.

On the island, many legends about bats flourish, he said. A popular legend involves a half-man who has wings and enters people’s homes to drink their blood and steal their bodies.

“It’s difficult for one species to overcome that legend,” he said, “but if we give the government a reason to protect a patch of forest it’s found in, that’s great.”

Esselstyn’s research is supported by small grants from the KU Natural History Museum Endowment Fund, American Philosophical Society, Society of Systematic Biologists, American Society of Mammalogists and National Science Foundation.

Esselstyn and a herpetology student from KU returned to the Philippines earlier this month. At some point, he hopes to collect samples from Malaysia.

Eventually, Esselstyn would like to work as a curator at a university-based museum.
This unusual species of flying fox was recently discovered in the Philippines not long after it was deemed not to exist.
Dukakis to speak at Dole Institute

LAWRENCE — The Dole Institute of Politics at The University of Kansas will host “An Evening with Michael Dukakis” at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29. The event is free and open to the public.

Dukakis was the 1988 Democratic presidential candidate. A former governor of Massachusetts, he was the first Greek-American to be nominated for the presidency. He lost in the general election to George H.W. Bush.

Today, he spends his time teaching, one semester at Northeastern University in Massachusetts and the other at the University of California-Los Angeles.
Giving thanks with international flair

Pass the turkey and the kimchi, please.

Several international students from The University of Kansas are spending at least part of this holiday weekend with area host families, courtesy of the Betty Grimwood Thanksgiving Homestay Program.

Two Topeka families who hosted students in the past talked about the experience and how it benefited their families. Sally Kahle hosted a Korean couple and a French man, and Mike and Audrey McKinley hosted students from Thailand, China and Japan.

Why did you decide to host a student for Thanksgiving?

SK: When I was a little girl, we were a host family for a foreign exchange student. The experience was life-altering. There are so many different opinions about the United States other than those here in the U.S., and I had no perspective of how other countries viewed us. We live in a truly global world now, and we can’t continue to believe the United States is the biggest and baddest.

AM: The thought of these kids being alone at holiday times I thought that was just really sad. This is a great opportunity for them to learn about American traditions and for us to learn about other countries.

What did you do while the students were at your house?

AM: We picked the kids up the night before Thanksgiving and took them back that Sunday night. If they didn’t know the history of Thanksgiving, we would explain it. If we went to someone’s house, they went with us. It was just the traditional Thanksgiving in an American home.

SK: We get them in the morning and have a meal sometime midday. I just fix a traditional turkey dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, and that has been just fine. Nothing weird, just pretty standard stuff.

Later, we do a little tour in our car of Topeka and the surrounding areas — usually Lake Perry and a smaller rural town. They love that. Then we get a chance to sit down and relax and talk.

What did you and your family get out of the experience?

SK: One student asked a lot of political questions, and we had to do a lot of justifying. I think The war in Iraq was very unpopular, and the student was anti-president. We had to explain to him how we could disagree with the president while still being an American. In a lot of countries, you can’t speak out like that.

It was a good learning experience for my son — like a civics lesson. We have the freedom to have our own opinions in this country without political repercussions. A lot of Americans don’t get how many people in other countries can’t do that.

AM: For me, it was learning more about other countries. I have American friends in Thailand, and they taught me a lot. But this girl (we hosted) was born and raised in Bangkok. It was interesting to me to get her take on that lifestyle.

And my family got to see how these kids looked at America. All of them said American teens and young adults are fat and abuse alcohol too much. That is a comment I got from each one of them. Also, they all loved the American meal, but they all complained that they felt overfull when they finished. I told them, “So do we.”

Would you be willing to host another student for Thanksgiving?

SK: We are doing it this year. I won’t know until (the last minute) what country we will get. The people at KU do the matching up. They ask if you want a smoker or nonsmoker and if you have any pets. They also ask if you prepare any meats and what kind. Then they decide who goes where.

Story by Kasha Stoll: (785) 295-1270, kasha.stoll@cjonline.com.
The cat got in on the act when Matthew, center, from France, posed with his Thanksgiving host, Sally Kahle, and her son, Robert Adams, in 2005. Matthew was a student at The University of Kansas who spent time with Kahle as part of the Betty Grimwood Thanksgiving Homestay Program.

Kahle and Adams, center, also shared Thanksgiving 2003 with a Korean couple, Jik Sung Bae, foreground, and Nam Sun Kwon, behind, and Richard Maim, left, of Valley Falls. Jik received a Ph.D. in special education from KU in May 2007.
TOPEKA RIVERFRONT DESIGN COMPETITION

THE WINNERS ARE

Entries numerous and ‘quality in architects’ design contest

By Mike Hall
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

When the Topeka chapter of the American Institute of Architects sought ideas for riverfront development — and offered monetary prizes — the group heard from students from all over the country.

Not only did they get quantity, they also got quality.

“Many of them were of really good quality, much better than I expected,” said Bryan Falk, architectural intern with Treanor Architects.

The AIA 150 Topeka Riverfront design competition asked students to come up with a “big idea” for Topeka’s riverfront. The entries were judged by a group of 30 local architects and city leaders.

Images of many of the winning designs are available on the project’s Web site — www.reclaimourriver-topeka.org.

Funding for the project came from a grant from the national American Institute of Architects organization, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. The local project has involved not only the student design competition, but also community brainstorming sessions and talks with area school classes.

Falk said members of his group also are preparing an

Please see CONTEST, Page 2B

Topeka Silo Park by Larabeth Thompson and Eleanor Burke, of The University of Kansas, earned first place in the college division for the American Institute of Architects 150 Topeka Riverfront design competition. The contest yielded numerous ideas for riverfront development in Topeka.

RIVERFRONT THINKING

Winners of AIA 150 Topeka Riverfront design competition, sponsored by the Topeka chapter of the American Institute of Architects, are:

College:
$1,500 first place: “Topeka Silo Park” by Larabeth Thompson and Eleanor Burke, The University of Kansas
$1,000 second place: “Reflections on the Sunflower State” by Jason Keese, Krista Williams, David Stuart and Michael Barnett, Purdue University

Grades 7-12:
$750 first place: “Topeka Visitor Center” by Amanda Provorse’s eighth-grade class, Washburn Rural Middle School
$500 second place: “Topeka, Kansas” by Taylor Martin, of Rural Hall, N.C.
$500 third place (tied): “Riverfront, Courtyard, Museum and Hotel” by Joey Sodergren, of Topeka
$250 first place: “All About Topeka” by Quentin Harrington, of Lawrence
$250 second place: “Riverfront, Courtyard and Museum” by The University of Kansas

Kindergarten-grade 6:
$250 first place: “Topeka Turnaround” by Tim Lowke’s sixth-grade art class, Round Rock, Texas, and “Monster Truck and Riverpark” by Aiden and Katrin Renyer, of Topeka
Continued from Page 1B

exhibit of the winning ideas to be displayed at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. A second exhibit to be displayed at city hall also is being considered. Falk said further announcements will be made when those exhibits are ready for viewing.

Students, or groups of students, at every age level showed creativity in their proposals. The first-place winner in the kindergarten to grade six category was Quentin Harrington, of Lawrence. To illustrate his proposal, called "About Topeka," he placed colorful forms apparently made of Play-Doh on an aerial map of Topeka. He showed a pedestrian bridge across the river and several buildings.

"All About Topeka" exemplifies the creative energies of a child," one of the contest judges wrote. "As a kid, the things I enjoyed most about vacations were looking up at the city and the buildings that engulfed me. This project looks through the eyes of a child at the city and to what it could become."

Many of the proposals included some kind of pedestrian bridge across the river. The winning college-level entry submitted by Larabeth Thompson and Eleanor Burke, of The University of Kansas, shows a curving in and out among the support pillars of the Kansas Avenue Bridge, below the traffic deck.

Another feature is colored lighting shining up the sides of the grain elevator on the north side of the river to give the impression that each silo is a different color.

The plan also calls for a stepped approach to the river on the north side leading down to a boat dock. It also shows an amphitheater on the north side, with a water fountain at the bottom that can be shut down and covered over to make a stage.

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