WELLINGTON — The Kansas Biological Survey at the University of Kansas is scheduled to perform bathymetric surveys to map lake depth and sediment accumulation at both Wellington City Lake and Winfield City Lake. The task began Thursday and continues today (Friday).

Funded by the Kansas Water Office, the Kansas Biological Survey’s Applied Science and Technology for Reservoir Assessment team employs state-of-the-art bathymetric mapping sonar that creates 3-D color-coded depth maps of reservoirs and highly detailed maps of lake bottom contours and sediment thickness.

Recognizing the critical need for information on Kansas reservoir conditions, the Kansas Biological Survey in 2006 created the ASTRA Initiative, with major investments in infrastructure and equipment to address the need.
The Kansas City, Mo.,-based Fountain City Brass Band, whose ranks include a Washburn University faculty member, won the 2007 United States Open Brass Band Championship, an event that took place Nov. 10 in suburban Chicago. Raquel H. Rodríguez, instructor of trumpet and coordinator of brass studies at Washburn, plays cornet in the brass band, which is directed by Dr. Joseph Parisi.

Fountain City is the reigning North American Brass Band Association champions, having won that title in April in New Albany, Ind., with a record-setting score. The most recent contest featured bands from across the United States, as well as from the United Kingdom.

Other local players in the Fountain City Brass Band, which played a Nov. 4 concert at White Concert Hall, are Scott Watson, University of Kansas professor of tuba-euphonium, and Michael Davidson, KU assistant professor of trombone. Travis Hendra, a KU doctoral degree candidate in tuba performance, also is a band member.
(L to R) Audrey Peterson, Mindy Hodges, Regan Baker, Derek Fike and Dennis Post. Not pictured is Taylor Balewood.

Dennis Post - On November 5, 2007, 5 Rock Creek High School students were honored at the KU honors banquet in Manhattan. The KU Honors program recognizes the top 10% of the graduating class at each high school. During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blancy, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education, will speak to the students, parents and guests. The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.
Retreat designed for suicide survivors

Two-day program is at Light Center west of Baldwin City Saturday, Sunday

BY RONDA MILLER
SPECIAL TO THE SIGNAL

Rose Fiseland Foster attended her first Light Center healing retreat four years ago after being diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer.

"I was a little scared. I didn't want to spend my weekend at this retreat eating dirt and howling at the moon," said Foster, who lives in Lawrence and is executive director of the Strategic Education Center, a non-profit tutoring center.

In actuality, she said, what she experienced was "transforming." "I listened and learned. And more importantly, I began to heal," emotionally and physically, she said.

Foster returned to the Light Center, 1542 Woodson Road, Baldwin City, just a few months after the suicide of her husband, Gordon.

Now, she has decided to share her Light Center experiences and help others by organizing the group's first suicide retreat in Douglas County.

Foster and Marcia Epstein, director of Headquarters Counseling Center, 211 E. Eighth St., Lawrence, who is also a survivor of her mother's suicide, hope to help people who have experienced their same loss.

The retreat, to be held at the Light Center on Saturday and Sunday, will host 30 participants of all ages.

Robin Goff, founder of the Light Center, has arranged for a grant from The Menorah Legacy Foundation in Kansas City to pay for services for participants that will include nature walks, massage, healing touch massage, and writing, art and music therapy, as well as dedication and remembrance to the survivor's loved one.

Art will be overseen by Cathy Ledecker, resident artist at Van Go Mobile Arts, 715 N.J., Lawrence, and will focus on art as a vehicle of self discovery and healing. Massage and healing touch massage will help participants learn how to release stress and pain that the body carries.

There will be a memorial ceremony where each participant may place a photo of the deceased by a lit candle, along with a dedication of a memorial piece they make that will be left at the Light Center. Saturday's activities will end with a bonfire as a symbolic ceremony to release guilt, anger and shame, organizers say.

Goff lost her mother to suicide when she was 26 years old and two years out of nursing school. Her mother had cancer and was in a great deal of pain when she died, Goff said. She said at the time of her mother's death, hospice did not exist as it does now and medical practitioners' attitude about pain management was different from what it is today.

"Feelings of shame make it hard for survivors to talk to the general public and our society's attitude in general about death makes it especially hard," Goff said. "When a suicide is involved there is enormous trauma - it is an assault on everything you know and believe."

Foster hopes the outcome of this year's retreat will bring open discussion that can lead to dispelling the myths about suicide. For example, she said, "the misconception that people who commit suicide are selfish or cowards. I can say with 100-percent certainty that none of the people in our group, and I have to say I feel as though I know everyone's loved one who has died in a strange way, none of them would be described as selfish or cowards."

"And, the stupid question of did they leave a note. If I had a nickel for every time someone asks that question. I guess the notion is that a note would hold the answers."

Claire Beier, who lost her brother, Peter, to suicide in 2006, and will be attending this year's retreat with her 7-year-old son Christopher, says, "People think (suicide) is contagious, people are afraid to talk about it for fear it will happen to someone else. And everyone wants to know why or wants to blame it on someone."

For Emily McCave, who is attending the retreat and whose mother committed suicide when Emily was 3, said, "It hasn't been the myths but as much as the statements or gestures made that really hurt that people are oblivious to such as, 'God, just shoot me in the head if that happens,' or, 'I might as well kill myself.' The media also use suicide to make a dramatic scene or to show just how 'crazy' someone is."

One myth that all members say they want to dispel is that people who have lost someone to suicide need to just get over it.

"Unless a person has had experience with suicide, it's hard to know what to say to be supportive, saying, 'It is time to get over it' is far from helpful," Foster said. "That is hurtful, but, I honestly don't think that people intend to be hurtful. It is useful, as survivors, to educate them."

Foster, who has a compelling sense of humor and is quick to laugh at herself, will be attending the retreat with her 18-year-old son Sam and 13-year-old daughter Georgia. She hopes that this year's retreat will be the beginning of a different type of awareness about suicide.
Rose Eiesland-Foster, a breast-cancer survivor who also lost her husband a few years ago to suicide, now has a weekend retreat called “Healing After Suicide — Freedom of Expression.” The retreat, the first of its kind in Douglas County, is Saturday and Sunday at the Light Center west of Baldwin City.

For more information about the retreat contact Marcia Epstein at me@hqclawrence.ks.us.

(Editor’s note: Ronda Miller is fellow of the Citizen Journalism Academy, sponsored by the World Company and Kansas University’s School of Journalism and Mass Communications.)
STAR bond decision expected next month

JACK WEINSTEIN

An answer to whether Olathe will receive sales tax and revenue bond financing for an entertainment and retail district won't come until next month.

The city had 90 days in late July to submit a plan for a STAR bond mixed-use development at the corner of 119th Street and Renner Road. The city received a 60-day extension Oct. 22, said Karan Johnson, the city's neighborhood and human services director.

Johnson said the city and the developer, Mæefield Development of Indianapolis, weren't in a position after the initial 90-day period to send their proposal to the state.

STAR bonds are state-approved tax incentives paid for by revenue generated from sales taxes at an entertainment and tourism district that is expected to draw visitors to the area.

The proposal includes extensions of the University of Kansas' Natural History and Spencer Art museums at the site vacated by Benchmark Express. Moving Wichita's Museum of World Treasures to the site also was part of the proposal.

In addition, the original plan included a more-than-680,000-square-foot retail district and a 225-room hotel.

John Petersen, an attorney for the developer, said the plan has been modified. Instead of one hotel, the plan now includes three hotels with about 450 rooms. One hotel includes a city conference center, Petersen said.

David Kerr, Kansas secretary of commerce, sent a letter to the city in July indicating that the site was an "eligible area" for STAR bonds but that he was concerned about the inclusion of the Wichita museum.

Lon Smith, the museum's director, said he hasn't received any new information about his museum's role in the proposal.

"It's challenging for us to develop long-term partnerships in either community when it's unclear where we're going to be," he said.

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STAR bond decision should come next month

From Page 1

Bob North, chief attorney for the secretary of commerce, said the state statute doesn’t allow STAR bond funding to pay for relocating an existing business.

“The issue is not a lack of interest on our part at all,” Petersen said of including the Museum of World Treasures. “We were introduced to them originally by the city... I know the city has great interest in it. You’ve got to make sure you dot all the I’s and cross all the T’s with the STAR bond act, and that’s what we’re continuing to look at.”

On Oct. 31, Kerr authorized nearly $15 million in STAR bond financing to Wichita for its downtown river improvement projects.

In a statement, Kerr said Wichita’s river district had the “potential to become a major commercial entertainment and tourist area and the catalyst for future economic development in the region.”

City officials believe their STAR bond district could be a similar destination-type draw for Olathe. The city seeks about $140 million in STAR bond funding for the project, which will be more than $347 million.

A STAR bond district never has been approved in Johnson County. The city tried to secure STAR bond funding at the same site for an arena and retail district, but the plan ultimately wasn’t a viable option for Olathe, said Tim Danneberg, a city spokesman.

STAR bonds were used to finance the development of the Legends at Village West retail and entertainment district that includes the Kansas Speedway in Wyandotte County.

Olathe should find out whether its proposal will be the first approved in the county when the 60-day extension ends Dec. 20.

“Hopefully we’ll have some things formalized, have a better understanding and be in a better position with the developer to move forward,” Johnson said.

— Contact Jack Weinstein at 764-2211, extl 130, or jweinstein@theolathenews.com.
Smith in Miss Teen Kansas

Erin Smith, 14, Gardner, recently was selected as Miss Gardner Teen USA and will be a contestant in the Miss Kansas Teen USA Pageant Dec. 14-16 at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

She currently is trying to raise $1,000 to help her continue in the competition. She will conduct a fund-raising event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 11 at Gardner Price Chopper. She will be selling walking tacos, chili, chocolate chip cookies and drinks that have been donated by Price Chopper.

There has been an account set up in her name at First Kansas Bank and Trust Co. Donations can be sent to Erin Smith, Miss Gardner Teen USA, First Kansas Bank, 900 E. Main, Gardner, KS 66030.

State winners compete in Miss USA, with the winner from that competition continuing to the Miss Universe Pageant.
Ellison sworn in as newest KCKCC trustee

by Alan Hoskins

For the second time in a 45-year career in education, Nolen Ellison was sworn in as a member of the Board of Trustees at Kansas City, Kansas, Community College Tuesday.

Ellison was elected to the College's first board in 1967 at 26 years of age, one of the youngest in the nation and the first African-American to serve on the board. The first trustee to serve separate terms, his second term started Tuesday after being appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late Nancy Carry.

In assuming his new position, Ellison pledged his support of elected board officers and the elected leadership; to build on the existing College plans as currently constituted while fulfilling the expectations and hopes for the College as expressed by local citizens; and to work with board leadership and the executive team to establish and operationalize a Board Ad-Hoc Planning and Evaluation Committee through June of 2008.

Ellison also announced three priorities of focus through his term that runs through 2008-09:

• Focus on the welfare of KCKCC students and taxpayers by working to keep tuition low, planning for education-service growth and expanding college programs throughout Wyandotte and Leavenworth counties.

• Focus on trustee accountability to the public by instilling public confidence with the scope of the Kansas Open Meeting Law, the KCKCC/Association of Community College Trustees Handbook
Ellison

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and the Board of Trustees Code of Ethics.

- Focus on institutional quality and teaching consistent with the expectations of the North Central Association-KCKCC Strategic Plan and Institutional Effectiveness Monitoring by providing leadership at the Board level in addressing Trustee policies that support enhancement of institutional and education quality, implementation of effective teaching-learning strategies, expansion of career programs and expansion of workforce development.

Ellison brings a wealth of educational experience to the board. The president of Seattle Central Community College from 1972-74, he served as president and CEO of the Cuyahoga Community College District in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1974-91. In 2004, Cuyahoga opened a new high-tech building in Ellison’s name.

Ellison has also served in administrative and teaching positions at Michigan State University and mostly recently UMKC. Since retiring from UMKC, Ellison has worked with KCKCC, holding workshops with board members on trustee development and with administrators on strategic planning.

Born and raised in Wyandotte County, Ellison was an athlete at Wyandotte High School where he helped Walt Shublom-coached teams win three consecutive state basketball champions from 1957-59. Heavily recruited out of high school, he played three years at the University of Kansas, where he was the highest scoring guard in KU history and team captain his senior year.

Ellison taught World History and American Government and coached boys basketball at Sumner High School from 1963-67, when he was elected to the Board of Trustees. He left teaching to join the KCK Model Cities Program planning in 1967, only to be recruited by Michigan State University to pursue a Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Institutional Management. While at Michigan State, he served as Associate Director for the Center for Urban Affairs and as Executive Assistant to the President.
3-star Army general holds 'fireside chat'

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

(See: General, page10)
General (Continued from page 1)

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."
Brown Performs with University Dance Company

Kendra Brown, a sophomore at the University of Kansas, has been selected as a member of the University Dance Company. To become a part of the UDC, performing members must pass an audition open to all KU students at the beginning of each semester. UDC provides opportunities for audiences to see high-quality performances of ballet, modern, Baroque and Renaissance dance each semester. Performing members also are seen in KU musicals, orchestra, and opera performances in addition to a variety of cultural events on campus. UDC dancers also participate annually in the Kansas Dance Festival in Wichita, the American College Dance Midwest Region Festival, and in communities throughout the state. Kendra will be performing with the University Dance Company, November 15th and 16th at 7:30pm in the Lied Center on the University campus.

Kendra, the daughter of Bob and Rebecca Brown, Belleville, is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. She was admitted into the program following an audition and interview process this past May. Majors in the B.F.A. program focus on technique, performance, and choreography. They also are required to take classes in Renaissance and Baroque Dance, Classical East Indian Dance, Musical Theatre Dance, and Conditioning and Injury Prevention for Dancers. The goal of the B.F.A. degree is to prepare students for a professional career in dance along with further academic studies.
Three-star general meets with KU students

By JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press Writer

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