Eric Iheme, a junior human biology and biochemistry major at the University of Kansas, won the Anthony Brown scholarship awarded by the National Pan-Hellenic Council at the school.
KU announces
spring honor roll

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

Students from Conway Springs include Carl Joe Amerine, senior, and Earl James Amerine, senior, sons of Clyde and Janet Amerine, engineering undergraduates; Laura C. Ternes, senior, daughter of Anne and Anthony Ternes, business undergraduate.

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.
Soldiers, scholars team for social science roundtable

by Jeff Crawley
Staff Writer

In a rare gathering between academia and the military, Soldiers from recent military operations and scholars collaborated on academic articles and presented their works at an informal discussion.

Heated agreement dominated the military and social science roundtable titled, “How Do I Come to Know What I Didn’t Know I Needed to Know?” as teams presented their papers June 21 in a classroom at Bell Hall.

“It’s like oil and water to some extent, bringing together scholars and military folks,” said Dr. Bart Dean, an associate professor in the Anthropology Department at the University of Kansas. “It’s nice to see how we can work together ... and all mutually learn from one another.”

Five Soldiers, including a retired colonel, were paired with social scientists several weeks ago to prepare

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their articles, said Rob Kurz, an analyst at the Foreign Military Studies Office. The FMSO co-sponsored the project with the Command and General Staff College’s Center for Army Tactics.

The Soldier was responsible for writing a paper about his or his unit’s experience while deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. The paper was then e-mailed to the teammate and went through the Delphi Method, an investigative questioning process where the scholar and Soldier asked each other clarifying questions. The scholar extracted the social science perspectives from the events and they were assimilated into the paper, Kurz said.

Retired Col. Jack Kem, an associate professor in the Department of Joint and Multinational Operations at the CGSC, paired with Aaron Kirby, a KU anthropology graduate student.

Kem’s paper, “The Changing Army: the Iraqi Center for Military Values, Principals and Leadership,” was an observation of cultural differences between coalition forces and Iraqis at the center during a three-week trip he made there in July 2006.

As an anthropologist, Kirby approached the paper with a different theoretical construct and literature than Kem.

“If you can deconstruct your sense of terminology and value, you can be more free to understand what is going on in the culture,” Kirby said. He noted that when people studying others, they also get to study themselves.

The team presentations covered instilling values and ethics into a foreign culture, civil affairs, engineering projects and business in Iraq, fire and maneuver, and special operations in Afghanistan. The final papers will appear as chapters in a booklet that will show the need for cooperation between the social science disciplines and the U.S. military, Kurz said.

Karl Prinslow, acting director of the FMSO and Joint Intelligence Reserve Center, noted in his welcome that the discussion also drew participants from the Air Force and Marine Corps.

“This is not an Army-unique activity or interest or requirement or problem, but one that transcends all the services,” Prinslow said.

Army Reserve 1st Lt. Charles Bartles, of the 418th Civil Affairs Battalion in Belton, Mo., wrote about non-lethal approaches to counter improvised explosive devices in Iraq. He said he has always been aware of the legality of Soldiers’ actions, but working with Dean also got him to take into account ethical considerations.

The discussion was open to the approximately 40 members of the audience. Team panelists fielded questions and welcomed accounts of Soldiers’ experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Master Sgt. Richard Howard, of the Human Terrain System Program at the FMSO, attended the roundtable for his professional edification.

“We (HTSP members) wanted to get the perspective from the social scientists and learn anything about the cultures — we’re sponges right now,” Howard said.

Dr. Felix Moos, anthropology professor at KU, said the academic setting and the military are very different cultures, but attract people of similar ages.

“The differences in the world today between thinking about war and actually fighting a war are smaller than they used to be,” Moos said.

Not so long ago, when military planners looked at a situational map, all they saw were red layers (adversaries) and blue layers (friendlies), but not green layers (populations), Kurz said.

“If can know and understand the green layer, the civilian population, then we can see behind it and who among them is actually working against the U.S. coalition,” he said.

Kurz emphasized that cultural understanding and social sciences are not the answers to all the military problems.

“But we do feel that they have something to lend to the challenge we face today, and that’s why we’re doing this,” Kurz said.

The Soldiers and scholars plan to meet again for another discussion in three months at the University of Kansas.
Retired Col. Jack Kern, associate professor in the Department of Joint and Multinational Operations, relates his observations in Iraq for the military perspective of Team A's briefing while teammate Aaron Kirby, University of Kansas anthropology graduate student, and Team B members Army Reserve 1st Lt. Charles Bartles, Foreign Military Studies Office employee, and Bart Dean, anthropology associate professor at KU, listen during the military-social science roundtable June 21 in Bell Hall.
Aaron J. Kadavy is pictured with Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh following the reception honoring the 2007 Dole Scholars. Thornburg was the special guest speaker at the event. Kadavy is one of 128 Kansas high school graduates named a Dole Scholar by the Dole Institute of Politics. The program recognizes students who have demonstrated leadership and community involvement as well as outstanding academic performance. Students attending a Board of Regents university or Washburn University are eligible.

The Dole Scholars were recognized at a luncheon June 20 at the Dole Institute of Politics on the campus of The University of Kansas. The Dole Institute emphasizes public service by helping students to understand the challenges and rewards of public life. As a Dole Scholar Kadavy will be attending lectures, symposiums and receptions at the Dole Institute. The renewable scholarship requires 100 hours of community service or public service each year.

Kadavy, a 2007 graduate of Republic County High School, is the son of David and Marcia Kadavy of Munden. He will be majoring in Ag. Communications at Kansas State University.
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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.
With every hike comes a risk

From The Wichita Eagle

Just in time for the tuition hikes to be approved for fall, the Kansas Board of Regents released a study indicating that a state university education usually costs less in Kansas than it does in five neighboring states.

That's good to know, though of limited comfort to price-sensitive wannabe students.

With the notable exception of research institutions in Colorado and Oklahoma, which charge less than comparable University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University, resident undergraduates in states next door could end up paying from 3 percent to 68 percent more for comparable college degrees, the study said.

Such comparisons remain valid and reassuring, as they were when Kansas' universities got aggressive about tuition increases early in the decade.

But they won't ease the sting many families will feel this fall from the latest proposed increases, which range from 4.9 percent at Fort Hays State University to 6.5 percent at WSU to 9.7 percent at Emporia State University.

"Regents chairman Nelson Galle clearly is right that "rates at our state's universities continue to provide Kansans with an exceptional educational value.""

However, the regents and the institutions they govern cannot afford to be cavalier about tuition, one of the biggest investments a family can make.

Seeing that tuition has gone up again, many potential students may decide the barrier to enrollment is impenetrable and not bother to explore the many aid options...

Of course, perhaps the most important factor in the tuition issue is the Legislature, which arguably has forced higher tuition on higher education by scaling back state funding of university budgets — from 49 percent in 1985 to 29 percent in 2005.

That has put more pressure on institutions to cover costs through tuition, research money and grants....

Even if there are good reasons for tuition increases — and there are — every hike carries the risk of pricing taxpayers out of their own universities.
Student debt rising at state universities

By CHRIS GREEN
cgreen@dailynews.net

TOPEKA (HNS) — As tuition rates rise in Kansas, so do the burdens taken on by undergraduate students attending state universities.

More and more students find themselves borrowing money to pay for their four-year, public educations in Kansas and graduate with higher student-loan debts than their predecessors.

Data obtained from five state public universities showed 2006 graduating seniors who borrowed for college took on debt levels 5 to 21 percent higher than their 2004 counterparts.

As a result, the average borrower at a state university owed more than $17,000 in student loans upon graduating in 2006.

Regent Donna Shank of Liberal said it’s not surprising to see student-debt levels rising along with state university tuition charges, which have jumped significantly in recent years.

Board members approved another round of tuition increases Thursday. Shank said she’s becoming particularly concerned about how the hikes will affect middle-income families, who don’t tend to qualify for need-based aid.

“It’s those students in the middle,” Shank said. “Those are the ones who end up having to borrow and those are the ones you worry about.”

However, university financial aid officials counter that, in many cases, the rate of increase in student-loan debt appears modest and the state’s institutions continue to be widely affordable compared to elsewhere.

A recent Board of Regents survey found the state’s universities to be a bargain compared to those in neighboring states, averaging a discount of 15 to 23 percent cheaper than those in neighboring states.

“Oh yes, we’re a cheap institution,” said Marilyn Haverly, director of student financial assistance at Pittsburg State University.

The average debt levels for undergraduate borrowers in the 2006 class ranged from $16,005 at Emporia State University to $21,988 at Wichita State University, according to financial aid data compiled by the institutions.

At Fort Hays State it was $17,155. The figures for Kansas State University and the University of Kansas reached $19,000 and $19,203, respectively.

Such averages, which include students from both inside and outside Kansas, give a picture of the burden being taken on by students but aren’t comprehensive, either, university officials said. Loans taken out by parents and the credit-card debt of students would not be included.

Specific information for Pittsburg State was not available because the university does not compile the data that other universities do, spokesman Ron Womble said.

Haverly said borrowers tend to leave her institution with $11,000 to $12,000 in student-loan debt upon graduation.

The Project on Student Debt, a consumer advocacy group, released a survey last year ranking Kansas 25th in average student debt at public, four-year universities. Students in the 2005 graduating class left with an average debt of $18,448, the report said.

Dramatic increase?

Since 2002, tuition and fee charges at state universities have more than doubled at KU and K-State. Increases at the state’s other schools have averaged at least 8 percent a year.

The hikes come at the same time that the Kansas Legislature has been supplying an ever-shrinking portion of university operating budgets. While state funding has increased overall, university officials argue it hasn’t increased enough to cover their rising costs.

Shank said she’s concerned tuition increases could already be difficult for some families to afford.

“I think you’re beginning to see the effects of tuition increases on resident enrollment,” Shank said, citing a recent enrollment decline at K-State. “I think we have to watch that and I think we have to have the institutions watch that.”

Yet this spring’s graduates at K-State who borrowed money left school with an average loan-debt of $18,306, said Larry Moeder, director of student financial assistance.

He said that’s only a small increase from the $18,000 in loan debt graduates left school with in 2004 and lower than the $19,000 school officials recorded for the 2005 and 2006 graduating classes.

“I don’t think it’s a dramatic increase but an increase is still an increase,” Moeder said.

Moeder said KSU officials have been able to blunt the effects of the increases by devoting nearly a quarter of new tuition revenues to need-based grant assistance for students. But he acknowledged the general trend of increasing debt loads for students in Kansas and across the country.

“I think that we probably see that there’s more of a shift away from taxpayer assistance to help pay for a college education and more to the student and the student’s family paying for it,” Moeder said.
Cole Engel, 24, student body vice president at Fort Hays State, said the average debt-load of $17,155 for 2006 graduates of his institution sounded about right.

But unlike some of his counterparts, he’s been able to reduce the cost of his education by receiving a scholarship and by living with his parents in Hays. It’s an advantage that many of his self-supporting counterparts at Fort Hays State don’t have, he said.

“I’m one of the fortunate ones to be able to do that,” Engel said.

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In debt

Average borrower debt for the 2006 graduating class compared to 2004:

University of Kansas: $19,203, up from $16,945
Kansas State University: $19,000, up from $18,000
Wichita State University: $21,368, up from $18,510
Emporia State University: $16,005, up from $13,217
Fort Hays State University: $17,155, up from $15,111
Pittsburg State: No data available.
Root causes of TB focus of new research group

LAWRENCE (AP) — Experts in diverse fields such as genetics, anthropology and epidemiology have formed a consortium dedicated to bringing new strategies to the fight against tuberculosis.

It's a grand goal, and the effort is in its early stages, but members of the group say its approach is different enough from typical medical research that it could someday provide customized treatments for TB sufferers.

They say that's necessary to treat a complex bacterial disease that kills about 2 million people a year and has nine or 10 different strains, some of which are causing widespread alarm because they are resistant to currently available antibiotics.

"We are clearly in a very crucial stage of tuberculosis control," said Phil Griffin, director of tuberculosis control for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. "With the emergence of new strains, our tools for fighting it are getting very old."

The consortium involves about 30 researchers from the University of Kansas; the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research; the University of Arizona; the University of Texas-El Paso; the Texas Department of State Health Services; the state of Kansas, and Chihuahua University Medical School and Public Health Service in Mexico.

The International Consortium for the Study of Tuberculosis will focus on the DNA of populations with high rates of the disease, the genetics of the various strains of tuberculosis and environmental factors affecting high-risk populations.

While the disease has been largely eradicated in the U.S., the recent case of Andrew Speaker, who flew to several countries before being hospitalized in Colorado with extremely drug-resistant TB, has brought the disease back into the national consciousness.

But members of the consortium say their main concern is an influx of immigrants from countries where the disease has not been eradicated, such as Mexico, China and Somalia. The problem is especially acute along the U.S.-Mexico border; and in states like Kansas that have growing immigrant populations.

"People are very, very concerned that our whole medical system is being threatened," said Michael Crawford, an anthropological geneticist at the University of Kansas who is directing the consortium. "The real fear is that we could have a pandemic at some point."

While some consortium members will study populations with high rates of tuberculosis — including their genetic makeup, family structure and environmental factors such as malnutrition or smoking — others will be working in laboratories to unlock the genome of the disease itself.

They want to know why only about 10 percent of those who are infected with TB get the disease.

"The central question is 'Why?'" Crawford said. "Why do some people handle the disease and some die from it very very quickly?"
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Students from Tribune on the 2007 Spring Honor Roll include:

Bradford Lee Cardonell, son of Randy and Tracey Cardonell, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Senior.

Ryan Thomas Dittmer, son of Loren and Beverly Dittmer, Education Undergraduate Dittmer.

Trenton A Peter, son of Alan and Sherry Peter, Business Undergraduate Senior.
University of Kansas

More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester. Locals listed are as follows:

Jenna Bleecker, daughter of John and Jeanne Bleecker, Mankato, senior, liberal arts undergraduate; Sasha Roe, daughter of Keith and Bethany Roe, Mankato, junior, liberal arts undergraduate; Shawna Doane, daughter of Lee and Denelle Mick, Cawker City, Prof. 1, pharmacy professional; Keah Cunningham, daughter of David Cunningham, Glen Elder, senior, business undergraduate; Dorothy Schmidt, daughter of Mary Trudeau, Glen Elder, Prof. 1, pharmacy professional; and Lesley Latham, daughter of Jesse and Joni Latham, sophomore, liberal arts undergraduate.