KU honors Durant

LAWRENCE — Ryan Durant, the son of Cathleen Durant of Parsons, was among more than 40 University of Kansas undergraduate and graduate students recognized for outstanding academic and teaching achievements at the math department's 50th annual spring honors banquet.

The department announced recipients of more than $77,000 in awards and scholarships. Funds for the awards and scholarships are administered through KU Endowment.

Durant received the Clack-Babcock Mathematics Scholarship and the Rollin S. Wade New Student Memorial Scholarship.
Maggie Jones awarded KU Nelson Scholarship

The University of Kansas is proud to announce that Maggie R. Jones has been selected by the Latin American Studies department as a recipient of a Nelson Scholarship for 2007-08. This scholarship is awarded solely on the basis of academic excellence to outstanding undergraduates majoring in one or more of the college departments in the humanities and social sciences.

According to Joseph E. Steinmetz, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Jones was chosen by the faculty in her department because of her academic accomplishments and their high expectations for her future.

Maggie is the daughter of Shelton and Pat Jones and a graduate of Nemaha Valley High School.
Volunteer work earns Topekan Kidd award

By all reports, Topekan Emlin "Pete" North isn't a smiler.
North is a doer — a volunteer, fundraiser and motivator, intent on improving the lives of elderly Kansans. His family and co-workers claim he has a sense of humor but say he likes to hide it behind a straight face.

Earlier this month, though, when North received the 2007 Donna J. Kidd award for his work with The University of Kansas Audio-Reader Network, he flashed a grin. Make that several grins.
"My work at the Audio-Reader is especially great," North said. "I think I would pay to be a volunteer."

North started reading for the KU program six years ago. He said he was motivated, in part, because his mother lost her ability to read and relied upon the service to stay abreast of the news.

Audio-Reader history

- Early 1970s: Peter Cerf, of Lawrence, asked for and received funding from The University of Kansas for a radio reading service designed to make printed materials available to the visually impaired.
- Oct. 11, 1971: Audio-Reader went live, becoming the second reading service of its kind in the country. It offered 80 hours of programming a week and served about 250 customers.
- 1985: KU began broadcasting the program 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- 1988: The program recording facilities moved from a converted storage area at the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity house to the Baehr Audio-Reader Center, 1120 S.W. 11th St., in Lawrence.
- September 2001: KU provided news service to visually impaired residents of New York City after that city's reader program was knocked off the airway in the terrorist attacks.
- 2007: The program serves about 6,000 listeners. In addition to the Audio-Reader radio broadcasts, KU offers a dial-in newspaper service, which allows readers to call up articles; special request readings, such as a maintenance manual for a new appliance; and live audio descriptions of theater performances in Topeka, Kansas City and Lawrence.
With a special kind of eyes — the eyes of a scientist, of a dreamer — Bob Krause looks out at the stretch of scenic hill-dense highway connecting Olathe and Lawrence and sees the future.

The future of global biosciences. The future of the Midwest economy.

"Once that corridor begins to develop," Krause says, "I can't think of a place that's better positioned."

Ah, positioning. That essential real estate cliché. For Krause, the vice president of institutional advancement at Kansas State University, this stretch of road isn't only the best real estate in Kansas. It's the best and most promising in the world.

Krause knows the types of companies that will find a home along the corridor — a logical extension of what he calls the "animal health corridor."

While places like Boston and San Diego have a stranglehold on human bioscience development, Krause imagines a region centered on the development of animal- and plant-based technology. He can envision a future where those technologies may keep humans safe.

Is the world threatened by a nasty animal-born pathogen, something like the bird flu? The companies here could develop vaccines, antibodies — the kind of medicines that protect humans and animals.

Did someone with ill intentions just release a nasty virus to infect crops? When an environmental disaster switches from accident to crime scene, Krause says, companies along the corridor may be able to step in with the kind of bioinformatics technology to hunt down the perp — a CSI unit for the next generation of savvy criminals.

One day soon, this stretch of road could become home to all of this — not to mention a ton of jobs and a viable economic future for the region.

The Kansas Highway 10 corridor may one day become a bastion of bioscience labs and companies. But it will take boatloads of money — and the successful rehabilitation of one of the region's most maligned stretches of acreage — to get there.

On either end of the K-10 corridor, the prospects for bioscience industry development reek of reality.

In the parking lot-riddled sector of Lawrence that is the East Hills Business Park, right before K-10 transforms into 23rd Street, an unused industrial warehouse soon will be reborn as a home for research and, hopefully, a ready-for-success bioscience startup.

The 67,000-square-foot building is now in line for a $7.5 million high-tech overhaul, including new plumbing and electrical systems, in preparation for scientists ready to test new ideas and products in the line of work developers and academics believe may be the lifeblood of the area for generations.

"This is a bricks-and-mortar achievement in the area of economic devel-
development,” former Lawrence Mayor Mike Amyx said when the project was announced in December. “Having this resource in the Lawrence community will help us capture talent and success from our universities …”

The Kansas Bioscience Authority, in part, funded the project, and suffice it to say everyone involved expects an influx of jobs as soon as the building is ready. Officials already have eyed a tenant — Deciphera Pharmaceuticals, which runs a lab and offices in Lawrence — but even if that doesn’t work out, officials say the new building offers the city a selling point and a possible home for the talent graduating every year from the University of Kansas.

But is the whole thing realistic? Do these projected jobs have a chance at becoming reality?

The early results are in, and bioscience supporters say: Yes.

In the brief history of the Kansas Bioscience Authority, its dollars have helped contribute to more than 2,000 new jobs in places like Prescription Solutions and Quintiles, Inc. The majority of those have landed in the K-10 corridor, Krause says, if you extend the corridor into Overland Park and Lawrence.

With those jobs already a reality, the projected numbers could balloon to 50,000, maybe more. But they will, of course, require a place to work. Within the month, Krause and Kansas State University will be on their way to helping that become a reality for Olathe.

Krause will meet with Olathe officials in early June to solidify the transfer of about 100 acres between K-10 and College Boulevard to create a K-State satellite campus specializing in the kind of animal- and plant-based biosciences Krause envisions for the area. No real details have emerged yet, but he says the K-State affiliation will anchor the research side of any successful bioscience venture.

Krause says he’s also heard from two bioscience startups that often work with K-State who’ve expressed interest in moving their operations to Olathe. “They’re excited about it,” Krause says. “And they’re in a growth mode.”

But all of it takes money, Krause admits. The authority can’t pay for everything — it’s going to take some direct investments to get any new wet labs or offices off the ground.

“You always have to have that reality test,” he says. “Who’s going to come out there?”

Rich Caplan, spokesman for the K-10 Association, Inc., says the people already are filling in the margins of the corridor in the form of homes and retail businesses. With the growth of the animal bioscience industry on the edges of the corridor, it only makes sense that the industry will continue to fill in, to connect the already-established cores in Lenexa, Olathe and Lawrence.

“It’s positioning K-10 at the forefront
Continued from Page 4

of the biosciences field,” Caplan says.

And at the center of the corridor — at
the center of all of this, really — sits
the former home of the region’s largest
army ammunition plant and the future
home of KU and K-State labs luring in a
projected 23,000 bioscience jobs.

But right now, the development hangs
in limbo between viable greenspace and
environmental nightmare.

* * * *

Development typically flows like a
faucet, not a river. At the former home
of the Sunflower Army Ammunition
Plant, no one’s even twisted the handle.

Not with an estimated $200 million in
heavy-duty environmental cleanup to
go through. Out there, along the near-
ly 10,000-acre swath of Kansas prairie
along K-10, the Army spent decades
turning weapons-grade explosives into
the tools of death. All that work left an
environmental footprint like T-Rex.

For Sunflower Redevelopment, the
process will take time.

“We’re looking at about seven years,”
says Fred Molloy, Superfund unit chief
for the Kansas Department of Health
and Environment.

Molloy says the cleanup will encom-
pass three phases: clearing the land,
remediating the soil and evaluating
options for purifying the contaminated
ground water. Right now, developers say
they’ve only started the first phase.

To clear the land, developers are burn-
ing buildings.

They’re not all three-story behemoths.
But even so, developers need to set fire
to more than 100 former military struc-
tures on a highly contaminated stretch
of ground that will, at some point,
become yards and playgrounds for its
own self-contained community.

In the last five years, several commu-
nity groups around the country have
moved to stop developers and others
from burning former ammunition plant
buildings.

In some cases, levels of contaminants
found in the buildings far exceeded
what the government allows to enter the
atmosphere.

To this day, the Sunflower site is one
of the only former Army ammunitions
plants in the country to allow the burn-
ing of old installations. Let’s just say the
neighbors are pensive.

Earlier this year, a group of environ-
mentalists and homeowners on the projec-
t’s citizen-run Restoration Advisory
Board penned a letter to the state asking
for clear, detailed answers about how
harmful the burning could be. Short of
that, the letter requested KDHE stop
the burns altogether.

After some months with no formal
response, the board voted unanimously
to bring the issue up in its next meeting
with KDHE, the federal Environmental
Protection Agency and developers.

State officials promised a response at
the board’s meeting earlier this month.
A few weeks later, a letter from a KDHE
official said, in so many words: The
safety of construction workers is more
important than the environmental
damage the burning buildings might
trigger.

“I’m frankly appalled that KDHE
would take that position,” said
Micheline Burger, an Olathe attorney
and member of the advisory board.

Burger, a longtime opponent of devel-
opment on the site, says the state should
have provided the details the board
asked for — including data to show the
burning buildings aren’t harmful, and
that burning truly was the only option.

Molloy from the KDHE says that each
building undergoes a separate permitting
process, and that the state and feds
take every possible step to ensure the
buildings are burned safely when they’re
too unstable for regular demolition.

“It’s a real concern,” he says.

Records show it wouldn’t be the first
time a company may have polluted the
area.

In 1997, Kansas Waste Water Treat-
ment, Inc. took over the industrial
water treatment facility at Sunflower.
The company signed a 25-year lease and
began discharging into the Kansas River
— the area’s central source for drinking
water — a few months later.

KDHE oversaw the company’s oper-
ations. But the wastewater treatment
company had an extensive history of
environmental degradation, violations
and illegal treatment of toxic waste. By
December 1998, the EPA had launched
a criminal investigation into the com-
pany’s treatment methods, and KDHE
revoked its discharging permit a year
and half later.

Although tests never proved the com-
pany dumped toxic waste into the river,
a 2002 EPA report lends credence to the
theory.

“The community concern regarding
the discharge from (the company) into
the Kansas River appears to have merit,”
the report says. In late 2001, the company canceled its lease at Sunflower.

But burning buildings is a different matter. The same EPA report says burning the buildings on the Sunflower site poses little threat to neighbors. Ashes the EPA tested from burned buildings showed no signs of asbestos, and the government says any asbestos-lined shingles or siding must be burned with the use of safeguards such as water curtains and extensive weather monitoring.

Asbestos and other contaminants still pose a real threat. On parts of the site, the soil is soaked with the stuff, and groundwater underneath the site still isn’t ready for consumption.

Kise Randall, executive director of Sunflower Redevelopment, says the remediation is a work in progress. She doesn’t expect the area to be safe to live on for at least a few more years.

But the landscape there is changing, she says.

Tracts of land are being torn apart and treated to clear the way for what might come next.

That is anybody’s guess. Maybe Sunflower will be another subdivision. Or maybe it will become the final piece in the corridor’s biosciences puzzle — a self-contained, science-fueled city in the heart of the Midwest’s own Silicon Valley.

Micheline Burger, member of the Restoration Advisory Board, is a longtime opponent of development at the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant. Opposite page: The K-10 corridor is poised for a bioscience development boom. On the cover: The former Sunflower plant awaits cleanup and remediation.
The effort to secure state sales tax and revenue bonds for a University of Kansas museum project in Olathe moved forward Tuesday night.

The Olathe City Council approved a public hearing for the creation of a STAR bond district for extensions of the university's Spencer Museum of Art and Natural History Museum at 119th Street and Renner Road.

STAR bonds are state-approved tax incentives paid for by revenue generated from sales taxes at the development. Typically, STAR bonds are granted for entertainment and tourism districts that expect to draw visitors to the area.

The last time Olathe tried to secure STAR bonds it was for an arena at the same location.

"As a community amenity, it was attractive," city spokesman Tim Danneberg said of the arena. "However, the economic realities of it caused the council to go in a different direction because of the financial risk to taxpayers."

In fact, no city in Johnson County has been able to secure STAR bonds. The nearest STAR bond development is the Kansas Speedway and Legends at Village West shopping center in Wyandotte County.

In an amendment to the STAR bond legislation this year, a museum project is eligible for the bonds if it is owned and managed by the
state, a city, a county or a nonprofit and is not in a retail or commercial building. The new law takes effect July 1.

The museums would occupy the former Benchmark site across the street from Bass Pro Shops. They would allow the university to show artifacts that aren't already on display at its Lawrence campus because of space limitations.

"The potential warrants exploration," Danneberg said, "because it's one more mechanism to bring in tax dollars to the community that otherwise wouldn't be spent here."

To secure a STAR bond district, a city must have a public hearing, which it has scheduled for 7 p.m. July 17. If Olathe establishes that district, the city has 30 days to veto the project.

"It's a protest period," said Ben Hart, the city's director of strategic financial management. "We have to publish it in the newspaper."

If the district isn't vetoed, a second public hearing would be scheduled to consider approving the project's plan 30 to 70 days after the second hearing. The city then would file a formal application with the Department of Commerce for approval.

Sen. Karin Brownlee, an Olathe Republican, said she didn't like the museum component of the STAR bond legislation.

"I don't think we should finance them with STAR bonds," she said of museums.

Brownlee said that while museums would be a great addition to the community, they need a considerable amount of private financing.

"A museum's just not a money maker," she said."

The city would need to find a lot of sales tax revenue from other projects within the district, she said, or it would need as much private financing as possible.

She added that if the university came to Olathe with funding from a foundation or endowment, it would be great for the city.

— Contact Jack Weinstein at 764-2211, Ext. 130.
LAWRENCE (AP) — Police searched buildings at The University of Kansas on Friday morning after receiving a report of a man with a rifle near the center of campus, but called off the search when no gunman was found. University spokesman Todd Cohen said the caller reported seeing the man near Wescoe Hall, which houses the school's English Department.

The university announced the all-clear on its Web site shortly before 11 a.m. The search involved the university's public safety department as well as officers from Lawrence and Douglas County, Cohen said. The university was not placed on lockdown, he said.
LAWRENCE - The names of more than 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring — representing 97 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and 52 countries — have been announced by the KU registrar.

KU's Class of 2007 numbers more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these candidates for degrees returned Sunday, May 20, for the university's 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2007 are expected to participate.

Faculty and candidates for degrees assembled around 2 p.m. along Memorial Drive for the procession, which began at 2:30 p.m. The program began around 3:30 p.m.

Candidates are listed online by home county, state or country, degree, major, level in school, gender, parents' names and high school (when available) at www.news.ku.edu/2007/may/10/grad07.shtml. Of 105 Kansas counties, 97 are represented.

Those graduating from Sumner County include:

**Wellington**
- Sarah Nicole Abang, Doctor of Medicine
- Amanda Jeanette McQuin, daughter of Robert and Lorene McQuinn, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting and Bachelor of Science in Business/Marketing
- Garrett Michael Shaddix, son of Carl and Virginia Shaddix, Bachelor of General Studies/History
- Michelle M. Tehel, daughter of William and Annette Tehel, Bachelor of Arts/Human Biology

**Clearwater**
- Jeremy Patrick Brady, son of Stan and Sharon Brady, Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering
- Mitchell Allan Papish, son of David and Laura Papish, Bachelor of Arts/English
- Ashlee N Widler, daughter of Todd Widler, Bachelor of Arts/Speech-Language-Hearing

**Mulvane**
- Caleb Gregory Alexander, son of Greg and Debra Alexander, Bachelor of General Studies/Communication Studies
- Jonathan Daniel Coleman, son of Jack Coleman, Bachelor of General Studies/Geography and Bachelor of General Studies/Psychology
- Cara Lynn Comfort, daughter of Mike and Jackie Comfort, Senior Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Marni Kay Erb daughter of Rick and Bobbi Erb, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting
- Debra Kay Lacy-Sisco, Graduate Master of Social Work

**Milton**
- Lisa Marie Coulter, daughter of Maurice and Carol Coulter, Graduate Master of Accounting and Information Systems

**Oxford**
- Hyriam James Fleming, son of Mary Fleming, Doctor of Pharmacy
- Andrew Charles Short, son of Don and Sharon Short, Bachelor of General Studies/Geography
Nothing found after KU search for reported gunman

LAWRENCE (AP) — Police searched buildings at the University of Kansas on Friday morning after receiving a report of a man with a rifle near the center of campus, but called off the search when no gunman was found.

The university announced the all-clear on its Web site shortly before 11 a.m.

University spokesman Todd Cohen said the caller reported seeing the man near Wescoe Hall, which houses the school's English Department.

The search involved the university's public safety department as well as officers from Lawrence and Douglas County, Cohen said.

The university was not placed on lockdown, he said, but faculty, staff and students were sent an e-mail shortly after 10 a.m. advising them to stay indoors.
Coble named to Phi Beta Kappa

LAWRENCE — Zachary S. Coble, Winfield, is one of 103 new members of the University of Kansas’ Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society. The members were inducted into the society on May 19 at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Coble, a May graduate of KU, graduated from Winfield High School. He is a son of Van and Jeannette Coble of Winfield. He received a bachelor of arts degree in applied behavior science from KU.

Prakash Shenoy, the Ronald G. Harper Distinguished Professor of Business and newly elected honorary Phi Beta Kappa member, spoke on “Achieving Excellence in Everything You Do.”

Election to Phi Beta Kappa recognizes a student’s high academic achievement while pursuing a broad and substantive liberal arts curriculum.

To be eligible for consideration for membership, students must have senior status and a minimum grade-point average of 3.65 on a 4.0 scale.

Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest national academic honorary society, was founded Dec. 5, 1776, at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. KU’s Alpha chapter, founded in 1890, was the first chapter west of the Mississippi and is one of 276 Phi Beta Kappa chapters nationwide. About 10 percent of institutions of higher learning in the United States have Phi Beta Kappa chapters. Janet Riley, associate director of Budget Management and Fiscal Services, is KU’s chapter adviser.
Derby students receive KU honors

Derby News Report
janderson@derbyreporter.com

The University Honors Program at the University of Kansas will commend more than 150 graduating students, including two Derby students at a ceremony May 19.

The ceremony recognized KU seniors who have completed the University Honors Program and the University Scholars Program, a mentorship program students participate in during their sophomore years.

During the ceremony, students received gold cords to wear during commencement activities.

Christine Knudsen of Geneva, Switzerland, a 1991 honors alumna who is receiving KU’s Distinguished Service Citation on May 18, addressed the students. Knudsen is an adviser in the Displacement and Protection Support Section of the United Nations.

Tanner Rinke received the University Honors Program Cord & University Scholar award. He was majoring in mechanical engineering and is the son of Tracy Henseler.

Michelle Tran also received the University Honors Program Cord & University Scholar award. She majored in Slavic languages and literatures, with a minor in Russian and East European studies and is the daughter of Chinh and Lan Tran.

University Honors 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 to graduate from the program. Students must also maintain a minimum 3.25 grade-point average.

Honors students may enroll in honors courses, which are small, discussion-based and emphasize writing and research. Honors students are encouraged to participate in cultural and social activities as well as community service.

Honors students also are encouraged to work on research projects and to apply for scholarships, internships or fellowships. Each year, undergraduate awards are available through the University Honors Program, providing funds for research projects conducted with a faculty mentor. Students compete twice a year for these.