The 10th annual Wheat State Whirlwind Tour will take University of Kansas faculty and staff on a five-day, 1,200-mile trek through the heart of Kansas. The tour takes place May 21-25.

The tour, started in 1997 by Chancellor Robert Hemenway, is a way for faculty and staff, many new to Kansas, to experience the state and learn more about its history, economy and landscape. This year, nearly 50 participants will visit 26 communities in 25 counties throughout the wheat state.

“The tour is an outstanding opportunity for the faculty and staff of KU to experience firsthand the many treasures this great state has to offer,” Hemenway said. “Participants learn more about Kansas’ storied history and its beautiful landscapes and gain an understanding of where their students come from. At the same time, it is a chance for Kansas residents to meet some of the new faces at KU.”

Participants this year include professors, deans and staff members from the Lawrence campus and the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan.

“Not only do those on the tour get to see Kansas and all its natural beauty, but they get a chance to discuss timely, important issues with local residents, many of whom are KU alumni and supporters who count on the university to provide their sons and daughters with an education that will prepare them for careers in Kansas and our global economy,” Frederick said.

Monday, May 21 the tour will stop at Wamego. To view daily itineraries, maps of this year’s route and photos of past tours, visit the Wheat State Whirlwind Tour Web site.
The University of Kansas Department of Political Science recently honored top students at its annual Pi Sigma Alpha initiation and awards banquet held April 19 at the Kansas Union.

Thirty-four students were inducted to the Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, a national political science honor society. Inductees must have at least junior standing in political science and a 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale in all political science courses. Cumulative grade-point averages for undergraduates must be at least 3.4, for graduate students at least 3.5. Neither may have a course grade lower than a 3.0.

Inductees included Tyra Blew, daughter of Kenneth and Cynthia Blew, Wamego, senior in economics.
LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas Department of Political Science recently honored top students at its annual Pi Sigma Alpha initiation and awards banquet held April 19 at the Kansas Union.

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Special award and scholarship recipients were recognized during the program. Awards provide cash prizes with no restrictions. Scholarships provide funds for tuition. The awards and scholarships offered were:

- Two Ethan Allen Awards of $300 each to outstanding graduating seniors majoring in political science
- An Emmett L. Bennett Scholarship of $3,000 to an outstanding junior majoring in political science
- An Eldon Fields Award of $300 to an outstanding senior majoring in political science
- Four Gustafson Scholarships of $2,000 each to outstanding political science undergraduates
- Joseph Harris Fellowship of $6,000 to an outstanding doctoral student
University repairs planned at last

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Now that the Legislature has approved funds to repair universities, Kansas University Medical Center officials say they can get to work on some major projects.

“We are certainly going to make good use of the resources provided to us,” said Edward Phillips, vice chancellor for administration at KUMC.

Phillips said the top priority project at the Kansas City, Kan., campus is upgrading the Applegate Energy Center, which provides utility services to health care and research laboratory areas throughout the campus.

The cost is expected to be in the $10 million range.

In wrapping up the 2007 legislative session, lawmakers approved a five-year plan to increase funds for repairs and deferred maintenance at higher education institutions.

The plan includes $90 million for state universities; $100 million in state-issued loans for projects at community colleges, technical schools and Washburn University; and $62.5 million in tax credits to lure $120 million in private donations that would be available to all state higher education institutions.

The proposal doesn’t get close to resolving what universities said was a $663 million backlog of “mission critical” projects. That backlog includes $181 million worth of repairs at KU and $72 million at KUMC.

Higher education officials say the repair costs have grown because the state hasn’t provided enough funding for maintenance, and infrastructure is aging. The average age of a building at KU-Lawrence is 47; at Kansas State, it’s 57.

Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, said he wasn’t satisfied with the new funding package, but called it a start.

“The plan we passed will probably get them by the next couple of years, but long-term we can’t allow this to happen again,” Morris said. “We would never tolerate the conditions that we find at the universities in our K through 12 system.”

Phillips, however, said just having a plan in place helps.

“Now we have some level of confidence and a revenue stream that gives us the ability to address most serious deferred maintenance problems,” he said.

Phillips said the school will soon start the search for an architectural and engineering firm to handle the project.

At KU-Lawrence, the top priority is repairing utility tunnels that route steam and condensate piping to approximately 50 buildings, in addition to electrical and communication cable systems.

“We have these 100-year-old hand-dug utility tunnels. If one of those were to collapse, that would be a major catastrophe for us,” said Lynn Bretz, director of university communications.

The cost will be about $9 million.

“Regardless of our allocation from this new bill, we will be proceeding with utility tunnel replacement,” she said. “The more funds available, the sooner we will be able to get that done.”

With passage of the five-year plan, the staffs at the higher education institutions will submit to the Kansas Board of Regents their priority projects. The board will formally adopt a project list at its June meeting.
THAD ALLENDER/STAFF

DECAYING TUNNEL WALLS underneath the Kansas University campus concern James Modig, director of KU's Facilities Planning & Management. The tunnels underneath KU house everything from sewage lines, power, water, heat and more for many of the buildings on campus. Because of deferred maintenance, the much-needed repairs have been postponed for years.
A team of power players in the state’s bioscience industry now has a captain for its road trip to Boston.

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., announced Tuesday that he would lead the Kansas delegation during the BIO 2007 convention, which ran Friday through Monday in Boston.

The international event was billed as the world’s largest bioscience convention, intended to educate the public and policymakers about biotechnology, showcase the latest in bioscience innovations and provide states with an opportunity to promote their bioscience strengths.

“Kansans have a rich history of embracing and leading innovation, and our work at BIO 2007 will demonstrate to the world that we are committed to aggressively moving this industry forward,” Roberts said.

KansasBio, a bioscience booster organization, announced last week that it would field a team of seven “Big Thinkers” for the conference. The group includes Val Stella, a distinguished professor of pharmaceutical chemistry at Kansas University.

“In keeping with Kansas’ theme for this year — “Big League Bio” — Roberts threw out the ceremonial “first pitch” as the delegation opened its pavilion at the convention.

Tom Thornton, president and chief executive officer of the Kansas Bioscience Authority, praised Roberts’ leadership — including his work on a potential $451 million federal laboratory that could be in Leavenworth or Manhattan.

“Through his leadership of Kansas’ efforts to secure the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, Sen. Roberts continues to demonstrate unwavering support of the biosciences in Kansas,” Thornton said.

Angela Kreps, president of KansasBio, said the delegation also focused on Kansas’ strengths in specific bioscience sectors, including biofuels, pharmaceuticals and animal health.
University repairs planned at last

Energy center, tunnels top priorities thanks to agreement

SCOTT ROTHSCHILD
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Steve Morris
Kansas Senate President
money for chapter projects.

**Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority**

Bobbi McClellan presided and she and Florence Babcock were hostess to five members and two guests of Nu Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority on Sunday May 6th at Grace Fellowship Church for a scholarship tea.

Alexis Liddell, the scholarship recipient, and her mother, Lora Liddell were guests. Alexis plans to attend CCC next fall.

Ginny Barrett read “Keep a Dream in the Making” for the thought of the day.

Continued on Page 7

Florence Babcock, treasurer, reported a balance of $199.45.

For Fraternal Education, Ginny Barrett presented Kansas Alpha Delta Kappa. She stated that Kansas has 24 chapters, two are in Coffeyville. Kansas is in the South Central Region and has had three members serve as Regional Vice Presidents: Lois Jacobs, Greta Sauer, and Florence Babcock. Florence also served as Grand Historian and was Kansas Woman of Distinction in 1988.

Kansas has scholarships at Kansas University, Emporia University, and Pittsburg University.

Widyasari Listyowulan of Indonesia is studying education at KU on a Alpha Delta Kappa scholarship.

A $100 donation was made to the Grace Fellowship Relay For Life team.

Delicious refreshments were served by the Relay Team. The next meeting will be an 8:30 breakfast on September 8th at the Sirloin Stockade in Coffeyville.
Coffeyville Community College and Independence Community College are set to hold spring commencement ceremonies Saturday at 10 a.m.

Coffeyville Community College will graduate 263 students, while ICC will graduate 80.

Reginald L. Robinson is scheduled to provide the keynote address at Coffeyville’s commencement ceremony, which will occur at the Neffis Hall west gymnasium.

Robinson has served as President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents since October 2002. The Board of Regents governs the state’s six universities, and coordinates those institutions, along with the state’s 19 community colleges, 10 technical colleges and schools, and a municipal university.

For the four years prior to his appointment as CEO, Robinson served jointly as Chief of Staff to University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway and as a Visiting Associate Professor in the KU School of Law.

Judge Russell Canaday will be the keynote speaker at the ICC ceremony.

Canaday graduated from ICC in 1972, transferred to Washburn University, and received both his bachelor’s degree and juris doctorate.

Canaday was elected as a Montgomery County judge in 1988.

The following students are candidates to receive either an associate’s degree or a technical certificate at Saturday’s commencement ceremony from CCC.

Candidates for an associate of arts degree include:

- Wyman Alexander II
- Mohammed Alkethbi
- Matthias Amberg
- Windy Amberg
- Krystal Anderson
- Mehmet Armay
- Harold Ayodele
- Amanda Barg
- Clinton Barley
- Jonathan Barnes
- Dustin Bartlett
- Matthew Bastian
- Justin Bates
- Janell Beckerman
- Nicholas Bishop
- Troy Briggans
- Jessica Bringle
- Taylor Brinker
- CharWel Brown
- Darrin Brown
- Ronald Browning
- Katie Clough
- Tondrell Colbert
- Bradley Cook
- Cory Cox
- Julia Cuellar
- Christopher Davis
- Nicholas Davis
- Ronald Davis
- Nancy Delmas
- Kimberlee Dobson
- Craig Durfee
- Eric Dye
- Ashley Easley
- Kevin Edwards
- Angelia Garza
- Crystal Gibbs
- Devin Giles
- Alyssa Golden
- Lindsay Goodbar
- Chanty Graham
- Amanda Gray
- Joshua Gray
- Danny Greenland
- Divinity Gross
- Phillip Hagebusch
- Clinton Hanf
- Scotty Harman
- Brent Harshman
- Suraelf Hassen
- Scott Hewlett
- Daniel Hickman
- Matthew Hickman
- Baker
- Philip Horn
- Robby Hull
- Miwa Ishii
- Lennisha Johnson
- Stephanie Killins
- Natsuha Kitayama
- Megan Klingler
- Kimberly Knoll
- Tysen Lofland
- Stacy Loftin
- Whitney Long
- Iesha Marshall
- Raeanne Martin
- Valerie Mason
- Jaryd McCullough
- Aaron Meier
- Starla Miller
- Jessie Moore
- Rebecca Muller
- Erika Murata
- Heather Murray
- Brett Myatt
- Nicholas Nelson
- Zachary Newman
- Caymen Nolin
- Cody Nunally
- Patrick O’Neill
- Tessa Odette
- Ryan Page
- Derek Patton
- Christopher Peterman
- Joseph Pilington
- Dewey Pounds
- Marnette Randolph
- Joshua Rexwinkle
- Matthew Rikoff
- Luke Robinson
- Brittany Rochelle
- Edson Rojas
- Kelly Ross
- Tarod Sanders
- Leveda Sisney
- Rachael Slagle
- Cody Sloun
- Amanda Smith
- Shyvon Spears
- Jennifer Sprague
- Shea Stevens
- Ronald Stidham
- Steven Stockebrand
- Johnathan Stohs
- Tyler Thompson
- Benjamin Tipton
- Bradley Tucker
- Sharon Hayashikawa

Sisney, Rachael Slagle, Cody Sloun, Amanda Smith, Shyvon Spears, Jennifer Sprague, Shea Stevens, Ronald Stidham, Steven Stockebrand, Johnathan Stohs, Tyler Thompson, Benjamin Tipton, Bradley Tucker, Sharon Hayashikawa
Candidates for an associate of applied science degree include:


Candidates for an associate of general studies degree include:

Tommie Duhart III, Barry Eberhardt, Romandre Gibbs, Felicia Herring, Aaron Jackson, Brandon Kennedy, Daryl Murphy, Marcus Oyefeso, Dustin Shields, Ja’Mal Stewart, Matthew Swigart, Joshua Waller, Tyrone Wilson, and Kenny York.

Candidates for an associate of science degree include:

Alexandra Alcox, Ashley Alloway, Lindsay Beason, Sade Bowen, Stephanie Bozman, Brook Bradbury, Logan Bustos, Katherine Caulkins, Amy Childers, Judson Clemens, Kelly Dougan, Kimberly Evans, Ashley Golden, Trace Goodwin, Krista Hanna, Elizabeth Hathcoat, T’mika Holland, Eledria Jackson, Jessica Linville, Rodrigo Luczenksy, David Marten, Linsy McConnell, Rhonda Miller, Andrew Moore, Chelsea Muller, Thomas Osborn, Amber Parker, Tasha Parker, Keely Patrick, Dickie Pollett, Jr., John Porter, Brooke-Ann Pray, Sarah Presley, Christina Remington, Kelly Rexwinkle, Laura Rexwinkle, John Roberts, Jr., Cari Shaw, Gylnna Shippy, Erica Taylor, and Adam Wright.

Candidates for a technical certificate include:

TOPEKA, Kan. — The State Board of Education voted Wednesday to hire Alexa Posny to be the next commissioner of education, ending a months-long search.

Posny has long been a favorite of moderates on the board, dating to her previous tenure with the state Department of Education. She is a former deputy education commissioner overseeing curriculum and accreditation programs, leaving that post in 2006 to work for the U.S. Department of Education.

Posny will start July 1 at a salary of $165,000 a year. The vote was 7-1, with conservative John Bacon of Olathe voting no. Two other conservatives were absent.

Experience was a factor as the board searched for a replacement for former education commissioner Bob Corkins, who resigned late last year. Educators across the state objected when he was appointed to the state's top education post despite having no experience as a school administrator. He was executive director of two conservative think tanks and supported school vouchers and lobbied against large increases in education funding.

Corkins replaced Andy Tompkins, a former school superintendent and university administrator, who resigned in 2005 to take a post at the University of Kansas. Recently he became dean of education school at Pittsburg State University.

Corkins, appointed by a conservative-leaning board, stepped down in December after the 2006 general elections shifted the board's political makeup to become more moderate. Deputy education commissioner Dale Dennis served as interim commissioner.

The hiring was viewed by board officials as one of the last actions to undo decisions made by conservatives who previously held majority control of the board. In recent months, the new moderate majority has reversed course on science and sex education standards that had drawn criticism for being out of mainstream thought.
Sixteen Independence students will be among more than 4,280 candidates for degrees in a May 20 ceremony at the University of Kansas.

The KU Class of 2007 numbers more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. More than 4,000 class members are expected to participate.

Independence degree candidates include Nathan A. Berg, bachelor of science in petroleum engineering; Nicholas Brown, bachelor of general studies/American studies; Aubree Caston, bachelor of arts/psychology; Elizabeth Gregory, bachelor of science in aerospace engineering; Rachel James, bachelor of fine arts/art; Jennifer Lawrence, bachelor of science in chemical engineering; Alice Lo, Doctor of Medicine; Kelly Ross, bachelor of social work; Kara Thompson, bachelor of science in business and accounting; Amanda Torbett, master of science in education; Jacob Viets, bachelor of general studies/history; Zachary Viets, bachelor of arts/anthropology and bachelor of arts, human biology, and Samuel Carnes, Melinda Magathan, Tonja McCollam and Yehoshua Othniel, master of social work.

Coffeyville degree candidates include Adelaide Allen, bachelor of general studies/human biology; Jonathan Allison, Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering; Catherine Bell, juris doctor; Bethany Bunch, bachelor of science in journalism; Kathryn Davenport, bachelor of science in nursing, and Justin Logan, bachelor of science in aerospace engineering.

Lance Gillett of Fredonia will receive a juris doctor and Jordan Johnson of Fredonia will receive a bachelor of science in biology. Alexander Thompson of Neodesha will receive a bachelor of science in computer science. Britt Nasmith of Cedar Vale will receive a master of social work and Jeffrey Sizemore of Sedan will receive a master of business administration.