Southwestern Heights recently announced its valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class of 2006-2007.

Dan Frisby, principal, has announced Jose Angel Del Real, son of Jose and Silvia Del Real, as valedictorian and Kyle Turner, son of Bruce and Denise Turner, as salutatorian. These selections have been based on the students’ cumulative grade point averages throughout high school.

Del Real has been an active student at Southwestern Heights. He is a member of National Honor Society and has been listed on the A honor roll throughout high school. As a junior, he received the Bausch and Lomb Science Award for outstanding science student and was named Kansas Honors Scholar by the University of Kansas his senior year. He plans to attend Seward County Community College in Liberal to study sports medicine.

Turner has also been active in high school as a member of National Honor Society, FCCLA, Scholars’ Bowl and the video production class. He has been listed on the A honor roll throughout high school and has received awards for excellence in math and reading. Turner was also named as a Kansas Honors Scholar by the University of Kansas. Turner plans to attend Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kan., to study accounting.
Ward banner carrier for 2007
KU commencement ceremony

Grace L. Ward, of Erie, daughter of Mark and Tina Ward, a graduate of Erie High School has been chosen as one of the banner carriers for the 2007 commencement ceremony at KU. She is receiving her bachelor’s degree in health information management, at School of Allied Health.

University of Kansas students who have excelled academically have been selected to carry banners for KU’s 13 schools and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences during commencement.

As banner carriers, the students will lead their fellow graduates in the traditional march down Mount Oread into Memorial Stadium at 2:30 P.M., Sunday, May 20, for KU’s 135th commencement.

Banner bearers also will join university officials on a platform in the stadium for the ceremonial conferring of degrees.

Banner carriers first became a part of KU commencement activities in spring 1908, according to the late Robert Taft, a KU chemistry professor from 1922 to 1955 and author of “Across the Years on Mount Oread,” published in 1941.
KU grad students offer help with riverfront project

BY MICHAEL GLOVER
Herald-Tribune

FORT SCOTT, Kan. — A group of graduate students from the University of Kansas offered suggestions on Friday to a committee that has initiated a plan to build a riverfront project on the Marmaton River.

Since February, 10 students from KU’s Urban Planning Environmental graduate class have studied a plan devised by the Develop The River As An Asset committee.

For more than a year, the committee has been working on the project. Dean Mann, co-convenor for the committee, first proposed the idea to the public in February 2006.

The project aims to turn the Marmaton River and surrounding areas between U.S. Highway 69 and National Avenue — possibly even further west and south to Gunn Park — into a flourishing wildlife and recreational park. Components will include a lake, picnic and fishing areas, miles of trail, a pedestrian bridge, a botanical garden, a campground, wildlife viewing areas, and historical panels reflecting the history of the area. It will include equestrian, hiking and biking trails that will run along the river east to 240th St., past U.S. 69.

In the weeks following a visit to the river in February, the students identified research areas they wanted to study. There were 10 students in the graduate class, so each student chose to study a single area.

The 10 areas were clean-up, weir (small dam) proposal, bank stabilization, land access, trails, campground area, lake area, botanic garden, maintenance and funding. The study areas were plucked from a conceptual design created by the committee.

Christy Lake, one of the students who presented the study, discussed each of the areas.

She said the Marmaton River has steep grades down to the river, mainly because of erosion. “That’s not normal for a healthy river,” Lake said.

The banks should be stabilized, she said. That can be achieved by concepts called “soft or hard” engineering.

Hard engineering means using concrete and rip-rap rock to level up the shore. It’s not environmentally friendly.

See RIVERFRONT, Page 3A
Soft engineering uses vegetation to naturally stabilize the banks. Many times, using soft engineering can be cheaper and more aesthetically pleasing. The students recommend soft engineering.

The study suggested the project not include a campground area. Lake said there are access concerns to the site for bigger recreational vehicles. Also, soil testing in the area is not conducive to support the larger vehicles.

Lake recommended a dog park, public gathering area, or a native demonstration garden could be built instead of the campground.

The students did give the go ahead to build a 15-acre lake. They suggested the committee get a site survey for the land to determine what type of lake should be constructed.

All of the research areas will require two important criteria: maintenance and funding.

Lake said maintenance is important for the project "to survive," which can be accomplished through volunteers. "We believe volunteers are the key to this," Lake said. "They are the ones who have to make it work."

At some point in the process, project leaders have to look at securing federal grants for funding. Lake said the key is learning about the grants. She advised they look into using the Internet and getting a grant writer.

They set up three goals for their study: to protect and restore the environmental integrity of the riverfront, educate residents on the cultural and natural history of the area and provide multiple outdoor recreation opportunities related to the river.

"You have to really get people to become educated and interested in the project," graduate student Wes Sterneegner said. To accomplish that, the emphasis should be on history of the area. In fact, panels explaining key historical facts about the area have been included in the conceptual design.

Another goal is to provide multiple outdoor recreation opportunities related to the river.

"You don't want it just to be a place where people will go and walk," he said. "You want to be a place where they can walk, bike, fish, boat and maybe swim. You want this project to be a place for people. We're not trying to create a wilderness area."

The study recommended that the project be specifically tailored to Fort Scott. He said you can't copy another city's riverwalk project. It must fit with Fort Scott.

Sterneegner concluded the presentation by discussing three overall recommendations to the committee.

- Priorities for different aspects need to be set.
- You really need to have a clear idea of what you want to have happen first," he said.
- A timeline needs to be devised. The project can be
phased in one area at a time to show the community the project is for real. Most of the successful riverwalks in cities have used the phased-in approach.

“Small victories in the beginning can help convert skeptics to be on your side,” Sterneergner said.

- The final recommendation urged the committee to include the project in the City of Fort Scott’s comprehensive plan, which is currently being updated.

“Yes, today we have shown you the limitations of your plan,” he said. “I’d like to think we’ve also shown you the possibly your plan holds.”

Mann said the study has hit on many of the topics the committee has been discussing.

“The good part of this is that you’ve given us a framework that we can go ahead and develop,” Mann said.

The students will be sending the committee a final report on their study in the next couple of weeks. Mann said the group will use it to further enhance the plan.
TOPEKA — Millions of Americans could cast ballots in a presidential primary next February but Kansans won’t be among them. State lawmakers ended their wrap-up session last week without setting aside $1.6 million for an election, leaving the decisions up to party caucuses for the fourth-straight election cycle. The move came as at least a dozen other states have scheduled early 2008 elections to boost their influence.

Some Kansas officials initially hoped that a Feb. 5 or Feb. 12 primary date would provide their small state enough sway to warrant a vote. Already, a few individuals have contacted Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh’s office upset that there won’t be a presidential primary in Kansas next year, spokesman Jesse Borjon said. However, Borjon said he didn’t know how widespread the discontent would be. Kansans haven’t voted in such a primary since 1992 because of non-competitive races and budget reasons.

“Frankly, I’m not sure it’s on a lot of people’s radar screens,” Borjon said. “I think once it gets going, Kansans will start wondering why they’re not allowed a voice in the process.”

The sheer number of states wanting early votes ultimately made the election’s expense difficult to justify, University of Kansas political science professor Allan Cigler said. As more states pushed up their elections, the prospect that Kansas would play a meaningful role appeared to diminish.

“I think it made it look more fruitless,” Cigler said. Already, around 12 states — including California and New York — have scheduled primaries for Feb. 5, with at least seven others looking to move up their contests, according to the Associated Press.

Last week, Florida lawmakers voted to move up their primary to Jan. 29, ahead of all but four states, risking penalties from the national Democratic and Republican parties. Borjon said the final proposed primary discussed and ultimately discarded by Kansas lawmakers — Saturday, Feb. 2 — would have run afoul of rules limiting early votes in most states to Feb. 5 and later.

Ellis County Democratic Party Chairman Glenn Staab, Hays, said it’s probably a bad thing for democracy that the state’s primary was canceled. A state vote could have brought both excitement and contenders from both parties to the state, he said.

“Now, I’m fairly certain that we’ll be ignored by most candidates,” Staab said.

However, 1st District GOP Chairman Randy Duncan, Brookville, said the state’s primary wouldn’t have been able to compete for attention with those in more populous states, such as California.

“It wouldn’t have made any difference,” Duncan said. “(The candidates) would not have come to Kansas due to our small delegate allotment.”

While he likes the idea of public participation in the process, Duncan said lawmakers had a number of areas they need to fund besides a primary.

“I think the Legislature made the proper and right decision,” Duncan said.
TOPEKA — Millions of Americans could cast ballots in a presidential primary next February but Kansans won't be among them. State lawmakers ended their wrap-up session last week without setting aside $1.6 million for an election, leaving the decisions up to party caucuses for the fourth-straight election cycle.

The move came as at least a dozen other states have scheduled early 2008 elections to boost their influence. Already, a few individuals have contacted Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh's office upset that there won't be a presidential primary in Kansas next year, spokesman Jesse Borjon said.

However, Borjon said he didn't know how widespread the discontent would be. Kansans haven't voted in such a primary since 1992 because of non-competitive races and budget reasons.

"Frankly, I'm not sure it's on a lot of people's radar screens," Borjon said. "I think once it gets going, Kansans will start wondering why they're not allowed a voice in the process."

The sheer number of states wanting early votes ultimately made the election's expense difficult to justify, University of Kansas political science professor Allan Cigler said.

As more states pushed up their elections, the prospect that Kansas would play a meaningful role appeared to diminish. "I think it made it look more fruitless," Cigler said.

Already, around 12 states — including California and New York — have scheduled primaries for Feb. 5, with at least seven others looking to move up their contests, according to the Associated Press.

Last week, Florida lawmakers voted to move up their primary to Jan. 29, ahead of all but four states, risking penalties from the national Democratic and Republican parties.

Borjon said the final proposed primary discussed and ultimately discarded by Kansas lawmakers — Saturday, Feb. 2 — would have ran afoul of rules limiting early votes in most states to Feb. 5 and later.
KU students present RiverFront findings

BY KATIE STOCKSTILL
THE MORNING SUN

With Senate Bill 321 officially signed into law and six area residents appointed to the Fort Scott/Bourbon County RiverFront Authority, members of the authority are looking to the future.

To help the organization begin their planning process, students in the University of Kansas Urban Planning Graduate Degree Program presented the findings of their semester-long project focusing on the river, surrounding areas and the organization’s proposed for the river front.

Stacy White, associate professor for the University of Kansas and professor of the Environmental Planning and Implementation class, which worked on the project, said the group took on the project as a real-life learning experience.

Dean Mann, co-convener for the Develop the River As An Asset Visioning Committee, said he found the program on the University of Kansas Web site.

"I approached them with the hopes of learning from them and working with them on plans for our river," Mann said. "I think this project could be a win-win situation for everyone."

The group presented suggestions, findings and information they had gathered on multiple aspects of the RiverFront Authority’s tentative plans.

The students also provided overall recommendations for the group which included the necessity of prioritization, volunteer effort and developing a plan that included small phases.

White said that her students found no part of the project that seemed too complex or out of reach for the Authority but did warn that the group would face soil limitations in a few areas surrounding the area.

"The residents of Fort Scott have taken a step most communities haven't," White said. "They have a great project on their hands and great people working on the project. There is nothing in their plans that is insurmountable. I think it is going to develop into a great asset for the community."

After the class presents their final finding to the authority, Mann said the group will closely look at all recommendations and findings and begin designing a plan, including phases, for the river project.

"We need to look at all the options and possibilities," Mann said. "I don't want to cancel anything out yet. Right now we need to sit down and begin looking at our options and laying out a written framework for our project. I think this presentation got everyone really excited about the possibilities."

Mann said the authority has not set a meeting date but will begin meeting on a regular basis to begin the grant writing process and continue acquiring land from landowners around the river.
More than 4,000 members of The University of Kansas' class of 2007 are expected to make the traditional walk down Mount Oread during KU's 135th commencement May 20.

Graduates will assemble along Memorial Drive at 2 p.m., then march into Memorial Stadium at 2:30 p.m., the university announced Friday. KU chancellor Robert E. Hemenway will offer remarks and confer degrees beginning at about 3:30 p.m.

About 6,400 students are candidates for degrees — about 4,280 spring graduates, more than 1,320 who completed coursework during the fall 2006 semester and more than 800 who completed coursework over the summer of 2006.

In case of rain, this year's ceremony will be postponed until May 21, when graduates will line up at 8:30 a.m. for a 9 a.m. procession.

The Capital-Journal
Investigators say blaze was set intentionally

By Steve Fry
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

LAWRENCE — During hours of police questioning about the deadly blaze at Boardwalk Apartments, Jason A. Rose first said he lit a fire outside a unit at 516 Fireside, but changed to 518 Fireside when investigators said the fire started at 516, a Lawrence police detective said Friday.

But Special Agent Doug Moore, a certified fire investigator for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, on Friday pinpointed the start of the fire that killed three of Rose's neighbors as 516 Fireside outside Apartment 6.

Moore, who has investigated 600 fires, including the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City and the Centennial Olympic Park bombing on July 27, 1996, in Atlanta, concluded 516 Fireside was the area of fire origin based on statements from witnesses in the 516 and 518 Fireside units and witnesses in 513 Fireside, across the street from 516.

The cause of the fire was "incendiary," meaning someone intentionally set the fire, Moore said. Thirty-one ATFE investigators probed the Boardwalk fire.

Asked about 518 Fireside as the start of the fire, Moore firmly excluded that as the site.

Rose, 21, is charged with three counts of felony first-degree murder for the deaths of Nicole Bingham, 21, a University of Kansas student; Helen "Yolanda" Riddle, 33, a social worker; and Jose Gonzalez, 50, an electrician. Rose also faces a count of aggravated arson of Boardwalk Apartments while occupied by people on Oct. 7, 2005, and seven counts of aggravated battery.

Please see FIRE, Page 9A
Fire: New witness slated to testify on Monday

Continued from Page 6A

The flames spread upward, then hit the wooden ceiling to mushroom out, Moore said.

"It's like a cascading event," Moore said. "The development of the fire was very rapid."

On Friday, jurors also finished viewing 10 hours of videotaped statements Rose made on Oct. 10 and 11, 2005, to investigators.

Earlier Rose had admitted setting the fire at the 516 unit, then denied it. In his last version, Rose said he placed a small box of birthday cards and photographs next to a second floor railing of the 516 unit, lit it with his lighter, watched it ignite the railing, tried to put it out and called 911 from his apartment.

However, Rose's father didn't mail the box to Rose, Detective Troy Squire said.

Witness Emily Ruth Robinson, who surfaced in February as a witness, is expected to testify on Monday. Prosecutors called Robinson as a witness after anonymous remarks appeared in the online version of the Lawrence Journal-World on Feb. 9 in which the writer said Rose allegedly said he would set his own apartment on fire once he had one.

Steve Fry can be reached at (785) 295-1206 or steve.fry@cjonline.com.
Wheat State tour to cruise 1,200 miles

The Capital-Journal

LAWRENCE — 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 later this month.

Started in 1997 by Chancellor Robert Hemenway, the tour 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 May 21 to May 25.

"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."

Highlights of this year's tour include stops at the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, the historic black pioneer community of Nicodemus, a wind farm in Montezuma and the Gypsum Hills in south-central Kansas.

Other stops on the tour include lunch at Our Daily Bread Shop in Barnes and a tour of the Underground Salt Museum in Hutchinson.

Alumni dinners are scheduled in Concordia on May 21 and Colby on May 22. Hemenway will join the tour in Colby on May 22 and return to Lawrence from Dodge City on May 23.

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

The tour will visit the following communities.

- May 21: Topeka, Wamego, Barnes, Marysville and Concordia.
- May 23: Oakley, Scott City, Cimarron, Montezuma and Dodge City.
- May 24: Mullinville, Medicine Lodge, Arlington, Inman and Hutchinson.
- May 25: Yoder, Lyon County, Cottonwood Falls and Council Grove.
Neosho

Chanute Tribune
Chanute, KS
Circ. 3835
From Page: 3
5/11/2007
32084

KU has more than 4,000 graduation candidates

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 will return 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 will assemble about 2 p.m. along Memorial Drive for the procession, which begins at 2:30 p.m. The program begins about 3:30 p.m. In case of inclement weather, participants should call KU Info, (785) 864-3506, or listen to local radio and television stations to learn the exact time of the commencement ceremony. Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available online at www.commencement.ku.edu.

Grayden Douglas Tressler, M/S
Area graduates are:

From Humboldt — Eric Michael Bruner, Bachelor of Arts/French, Amy Jean May, daughter of John and Lora May, Bachelor of Science in Education.

From Chanute — Brooke Annette Boaz, daughter of Charles and Kristy Boaz, Doctor of Pharmacy, Adam Michael Brazil, son of Dan and Ella Brazil, Bachelor of Arts/Spanish, Brittny Ann Clark, daughter of Dana Clark, Bachelor of General Studies/Applied Behavioral Science, Ryan W Knapp, son of Ruth and Robert Knapp, Bachelor of Science in Business/Business Administration, Kara Rae Lock, daughter of Clark and Lesly Lock, Bachelor of Arts/History and Bachelor of Arts/Political Science, Ethany Nelson, Doctor of Medicine, Brandon Ray Simmons, son of Don Simmons, Bachelor of General Studies/American Studies, Taryne D Stanislaus, daughter of Debby Stanislaus, Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

From Erie — Arinya Nikki Eller, Master of Arts/Latin American Studies, Ashley Renee Harlow, daughter of Joe and Tina Knight, Doctor of Pharmacy, Bryan Edward Luttrell, Master of Business Administration, Cody Joseph Vitt, son of Robert and Donna Vitt, Bachelor of General Studies/Psychology, Grace L. Ward, daughter of Mark and Tina Ward, Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management.

From Galesburg — Chelsea Lynn Miller, daughter of Daniel and Tammy Miller, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting.

From Yates Center — Erin Lindsey Grisier, daughter of Rodney and Kelley Grisier, Bachelor of Social Work.