Bethany College to show documentary film titled "Fall From Grace"

On Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. in Lindquist Hall, the Bethany College Ally group will host a presentation of the new documentary movie "Fall from Grace" by K. Ryan Jones. All members of the community are invited to attend.

According to the movie’s Web site, the film is “the first in-depth documentary feature film to focus on Pastor [Fred] Phelps and his hate group, and features unprecedented interviews with the myriad of dissenter: Topeka leaders and officials, ministers, theologians and two of Pastor Phelps’ adult children who have chosen to leave the church and their family.”

Jones currently is a senior at the University of Kansas. His film has been purchased by Showtime and will be airing this fall. The showing on Bethany’s campus is by the permission of the filmmaker and will be accompanied by Rev. Barry Dundas, Trinity Unity Methodist Church, Salina. Dundas will moderate a question & answer session following the movie.
Siltation may cause shortages by 2012

- Population growth could shorten timetable because of increased demands.

**By Jerry Engler**

The Free Press

Marion Reservoir is filling with sediment and nutrients that cause it to change to swamp conditions at a fast pace.

The change is occurring so quickly that experts at an Oct. 23 meeting in the Marion City Auditorium said there could be water shortages by 2012 if a 2 percent drought occurred.

Deb Baker of the Kansas Water Office said supply and demand estimates cross-referenced against reservoir conditions project permanent public water deficits by 2054.

Baker said Marion Reservoir Council Grove Reservoir and John Redmond Reservoir supply most water in the Neosho River Basin. John Redmond is the largest with the most water.

Population projections from Baker's office predict flat-line growth for Marion County through the years to the 2050s. In other words, population based on current data is not expected to grow or shrink appreciably.

Baker said everything in the research could be thrown off if one of the counties experiences unexpected growth. If all of Marion County's efforts to recruit employers pay off, with more people living here, there could be earlier problems to deal with at the reservoir, she said.

The City of Emporia in Lyon County is the only entity in the Neosho Basin expected to experience continuous growth, Baker said. Each county has different projections. Baker said Morris County, with Council

See Shortage, Page 3A

Leaves and other vegetative debris floating along French Creek north of Hillsboro contribute to the silatation issue that could result of water shortages by 2012 under drought conditions.

Area officials met in Marion last week to consider options.
Shortage
from Page 1A

Grove as its major city, is expected first to grow, then decline.

Baker’s data are based on a poor situation scenario on rainfall, to error on the side of caution. She said 2 percent drought equal to that which occurred from 1952 to 1957 is used as the constant background.

The only ways available to improve the situation from KWO observations, Baker said, are reducing sediment flow into lakes, reallocating storage reserves, developing additional supplies—including, perhaps, new reservoirs—and dredging sediment from the reservoirs.

Of these choices, Baker said reducing sediment flow and dredging from strategic locations in each reservoir appear to be the most realistic.

Any of the choices involve great expense, she said, but building new reservoirs would be the most costly and the most upsetting to current uses.

“Besides that,” Baker added, “all of the really good locations for reservoirs were chosen the first time around.”

Some participants at the meeting said that if no conservation work had been done over the years on lands above reservoirs, many of the lakes would be filled already. Baker said the reservoirs were built for 50- to 100-year life spans with much of the work completed in the 1960s.

Phil Barnes of Kansas State University, who has been metering contaminant flows at Marion Reservoir this year, said he has been able to observe results of storms this spring and summer that were powerful enough to be in the likelihood of occurring only once in every 100 to 200 years.

This gave him high record daily inputs. On French Creek, for example, there were 4,400 tons of sediment, 48 tons of nitrogen and 15 tons of phosphorus. Plus this, he said, the lake had a high pH, which along with the load of nutrients, gives high growth conditions for algae contributing to eutrophication.

Eutrophication includes the growth of plants that fill a lake to turn it to a swamp or marsh area. The plants may include toxic species such as the blue-green algae that has been a problem in Marion Reservoir, he said.

Researchers for the state and the U.S. Department of Agriculture WRAPS program from the University of Kansas and Kansas State University also find concerns at the reservoir site. Their studies show high potential for cycling of nutrients from within the sediments of Marion Reservoir itself contributing to eutrophication and rapid erosion of banks.

Peggy Blackman, administrator of $489,073 in WRAPS grant funds, will travel the 200 square miles of the Upper Neosho Basin, which constitutes the Marion Reservoir watershed, to help agricultural producers initiate practices to slow sedimentation and nutrient loss. For the first time, this funding will include helping farmers adopt no-till crop practices.

The Marion County Commission also has included $50,000 in the county’s 2008 budget to provide the local contribution necessary to continue the watershed assessment study.

Applying stone to the shoreline, as was done here at Cottonwood Point, is one strategy used to reduce erosion and siltation at Marion Reservoir.

Jerry Engler / Free Press
Second high school?

GARDEN CITY — Voters are likely to see a school bond issue on an upcoming ballot, but USD 457 Board of Education members are split on whether it should pay for a second high school or a new, bigger one to house all of the district’s high school students.

The board met Saturday morning to work on a long-range, district-wide facility plan. Issues at Garden City High School dominated the agenda.

GCHS has been the subject of discussion in recent months for a study group of USD 457 staff, students and community members. Administrators say the building is overcrowded with inadequate science labs, vocational classrooms, music rooms, gymnasiums, locker rooms, athletic practice fields and other facilities.

Board members Bruce Reichmuth, John Schepner and Mike Utz said Saturday they favored one of two recommendations from the study group — a second high school with space for at least 1,100 students, a little more than half GCHS’s population.

However, Tom Blackburn, Jeff Crist and George Hopkins thought the best way forward was with the study group’s other option — a new high school with capacity for 2,250 students and room for expansion.

— The Garden City Telegram
www.gctelegram.com

Rec commission quandary

GREAT BEND — The Great Bend Recreation Commission’s board of directors is still interested in acquiring the former Morrison School site, but needs more time and more information before making a decision. That was the consensus Monday, at a special board meeting held to discuss the possibilities of using the site.

In April, voters rejected the GBRC’s request for a one-mill tax increase so it could develop a 25,000-square-foot recreation center on the site at a cost of about $1.65 million. Great Bend Unified School District 428 had agreed to turn over the property so the recreation commission could build a new facility, razing all of the existing building except the gymnasium.

Six months later, USD 428 officials say they need to know if the recreation commission is still interested in the property. If not, school board members must decide whether to maintain the former school — which needs a new roof but is otherwise structurally sound — or tear it down.

GBRC Director Diann Henderson said staff recently took another look at Morrison with their architect. They asked for cost estimates on a scaled-back project that includes renovating the gym and adding a 2,000 square-foot exercise area and 200 square feet of storage space.

“We eliminated other focus areas,” Henderson said. Gone are a 3,000-square-foot wellness/cardio area, a multi-purpose gym in addition to the existing gym, a walking track and a lobby/lounge.

— The Great Bend Tribune
www.gbtribune.com

Hays visitor center

HAYS — Paint is on the walls, carpet is on the floor, and the chandelier is hung in the new Hays Welcome Center.

Jana Jordan, executive director of the Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau, flits through the building, eyeing the progress.

“I think it will make a lovely front door for our community,” she said. “A lot of times, you think it won’t look as good as the artist renditions ... but it does.”

The building, which sits at the corner of 27th and Vine, is an architectural tribute to the old Union Pacific Depot, with medallions on the front and rounded windows.

“We’re really getting excited,” Jordan said. “Things are really starting to come together.”

As she spoke, columns to house brochures arrived. She pointed to the area on either side of the front door, where a U.S. and world map will hang.

“That’s so people can put a pin from where they’re from,” Jordan explained.

The front of the building will serve as a welcome center. It will house public restrooms, as well
as coffee and informational brochures.

"I love the lobby area. It's fantastic," Jordan said. "It's inviting and classy looking."

With the new welcome area, Jordan said she expects to greet visitors as they come into the community.

"I'm so excited about having people come into our office and be able to visit one-on-one about things they must see or do before they leave the community," Jordan said. "A brochure in hand is one thing, but a personal recommendation — really giving them a personal testimony — is so much more influential than handing them a brochure or mailing them a brochure."

— The Hays Daily News www.hdnews.net

Tax help for hotel

LAWRENCE — Plans for a unique seven-story hotel on the edge of the Kansas University campus will require unique tax help, developers said Monday.

The development group — led by executives of Gene Fritzell Construction Co. — said it wants city approval to establish a special sales tax zone for the project and to use tax increment financing to help pay for parking and other infrastructure.

The unique and expensive construction process for the building — which would be one of the city's taller buildings — makes the financing options necessary in order for the project to be feasible, developers said.

"The parking garage will be unlike anything else in town," the development group said in a statement. "We're talking about building a seven-story building that is built on top of a five-story underground structure."

The two special taxing options that are being proposed would require the city, county and school district to allow some future tax revenue created by the project — slated for 12th and Indiana streets — to fund infrastructure.

— The Lawrence Journal World www.ljworld.com

Roundup suppers

NEWTON — A slice of the old West is alive and well in northeast Harvey County. Westward Ho Roundup Suppers is a business venture owned and operated by Kenneth “Jack” and Leona Griffith. The couple hold a half-mile hayrack ride, dinner and entertainment for guests in a tree grove near a stream on the Griffiths' 500-acre ranch about a mile north of Walton off Rock Road. It's close to history, too, as it's just a few miles east of the famed Chisholm Trail, the route where cattle were driven north to waiting rail cars and their journey to urban markets.

— The Newton Kansan www.thekansan.com
International business students learning English not the only language

LAWRENCE (AP) — Ellie Gibbs wants a career in international business and she’s not assuming her contacts will learn English.

“It almost goes without saying,” says Gibbs, a senior at Bishop Seabury Academy. “If you’re dealing with different countries, you can’t expect everyone to know English. That’s an outdated prejudgment.”

Larry Day, a retired University of Kansas faculty member, agrees. He’s the author of “Careers for Foreign Language Aficionados & Other Multilingual Types” ($14.95, McGraw-Hill) which recently was published in its third edition.

Day who publishes under the name J. Laurence Day was on the journalism faculty at KU and has taught journalism seminars throughout Latin America and in other parts of the world.

He says being bilingual will make the next generation of workers much more marketable when it comes to getting jobs.

“You type in, for example, ‘jobs for Urdu speakers’ in a search engine, and you get 150,000 hits,” says Day, who lives in Lawrence. “It’s amazing what the Internet has done for expanding the numbers of jobs and the kinds of jobs.”

And that’s for Urdu, a South Asian language. Day says the Hispanic immigration in the United States still makes Spanish the most sought-after language for employees to know.

“In terms of getting jobs in the United States entry level, Spanish is probably the language that would be most approachable in terms of the language itself, and the most needed,” Day says.

Though the basics of his book, which first was published in 1991, remain the same, Day says globalization, immigration and technology (including handheld translators) meant it needed to be updated.

The book outlines a wide spectrum of careers that especially lend themselves to bilingual employees. Healthcare and human services are among those with the largest need, he says.

“It’s so important that people know they don’t have to be completely fluent,” Day says. “You don’t have to speak native-level Spanish to get employment or improve your chances in a company.”

It’s a Friday afternoon in Mireille Green’s honors French class at Bishop Seabury, and the smell of crepes is creeping out into the hallway.

Students are making the traditional French pastry and talking almost exclusively in French.

“I feel like even though people are saying the French market is crashing down, it’s still practical,” says Gibbs, the senior. “We do a lot of business between the states and France. It makes a lot of sense.”

Another senior, Bill Butler, is planning to hedge his language bets. He’s taken four years of French, but he wants to learn Chinese in college.

“I think China is going to be where it’s at politically and economically in the future,” Butler says.

And learning a language and culture gives workers a clear advantage over those who haven’t taken the time or made the effort, Butler says.
MRSA common at KU

LAWRENCE — At Kansas University's Watkins Health Center, MRSA staph diagnoses are a regular occurrence, at least "several a month," in fact.

Students who come in are treated with special antibiotics and then advised to rest while the infection dissipates. So far, no one at KU has been hospitalized because of an encounter with Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, or drug-resistant staph infection, but in other areas people have not been so fortunate.

At Iona College in New York, nine athletes and a coach contracted the serious infection, as did a public school teacher in Indianapolis. And in the Piper school district in Wyandotte County, a football player was found to have contracted MRSA.

This comes a week after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the disease is far more prevalent than ever thought, accounting for 94,000 life-threatening infections and nearly 19,000 deaths in the United State in 2005.

Patricia Denning, chief of staff at Watkins, said patients at KU most often come in complaining of a particularly painful spider bite. In reality, however, the "spider bite" is actually a boil infected with MRSA. Treatment includes opening and draining the boil and then providing the patient with a high-powered antibiotic.

— The Lawrence Journal World www.dailynu.com
Professor upset over ad campaign

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE — A University of Kansas professor is upset about being used in an advertising campaign critical of the proposed coal-fired electric power plants in western Kansas.

Dr. Steven Simpson, an associate professor of pulmonology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, said Thursday that when he agreed to allow his photograph and name to be used in the anti-coal ad, he didn't know that the ad was being paid for by a natural gas company.

"I would not have done that at the behest of a natural gas company," Simpson said. "That's a whole different ball of wax."

The company — Chesapeake Energy Corp., headquartered in Oklahoma City — has launched a multimedia campaign criticizing coal-fired power plants, specifically the ones proposed near Holcomb. The ad in newspapers and on television and a Web site, http://www.knowyourpower.net, does not mention Chesapeake.

Last week, the Kansas secretary of health and environment, Ron Bremby, denied an air-quality permit for Sunflower Electric Power Corp.'s $3.6 billion project near Holcomb because of potential carbon dioxide emissions. The decision upset legislators who saw the project as an economic boon for western Kansas, while environmentalists praised the decision.

Simpson said he agreed that coal-fired plants lead to health problems but that he didn't want to get involved in a fight between coal interests and natural gas interests.

"I don't want to combat their competitor," he said.
Topeka painter pushes through pain to create art

By TERRY ROMBECK
Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE — Six years ago, Debra Clemente took the back roads from her home in Lawrence to her native Wichita.

The trip, which usually takes 2 1/2 hours, took seven. She photographed the flowers, grasses and hills she saw along the way.

She saw vibrant hues — a contrast to the stereotypically boring sights most people think of.

"I see Kansas that way," she says. "I want others to see that, too."

The result was a set of paintings on display at the Phoenix Gallery in Topeka.

The exhibition represents both an evolution in thought for the native Kansan and a major physical accomplishment — Clemente suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, celiac disease and, because of her hard work on the project, carpal tunnel syndrome.

But she’s not backing down from her art, as difficult as it may be at times.

"It’s really scary," she says. "This is what I do. I have to do this. I have all these things I have to express."

Clemente majored in visual communications at the University of Kansas and worked for a few years as an illustrator. She also has helped her husband, David, who is a homebuilder.

About 12 years ago, she decided to start to do her own paintings. Instead of painting with oils and a brush, she layered the oils on with a palette knife.

"I’m really glad that is the way I took my path," she says. "Along the way, I created my own signature, my own path. In the end, to market yourself, you have to be unique."

Now, Clemente’s process works this way: She spreads out globs of paints into paper napkins, then uses a 5-inch knife to layer the paints onto a canvas. She usually has to complete her paintings within a few days or the paintings dry out too much to get the right layering.

"Most of the time," she says, "there’s a blending effect, so it’s not so separated."

Clemente suspects she’s caused some of her own health problems through the years.

"I’d been pretty stupid with the way I cleaned up," she says. "I’d clean myself with paint thinner."

Now, making art with a palette knife means she can use bigger hand motions that don’t hurt her arthritic hands as much as using a brush might. Still, she worked so hard on this show that she ended up with carpal tunnel syndrome — and that comes after last December, when she ruptured a disc in her back and had to undergo surgery.

"Necessity allowed me to do what I ultimately wanted to do with my oils anyway," she says. "Her style of painting has earned her a top-tier art fan.

A painting of a sunflower by Clemente was included in an art exhibition at Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ office last year. Sebelius liked the painting well enough a donor was identified to purchase it, and now it hangs over her personal desk in her office.

"I think the painting is beautiful," Sebelius says. "It reminds me of the natural beauty of Kansas and this wonderful flower which turns to find the sun and provides beauty as well as great nutrients — a perfect Kansas symbol."

Over time, Clemente’s work has become more abstract. Her latest exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery has brightly colored wheat fields, a barn that glows blue in the twilight sun and neon-blue Kansas skies.

"She really took a chance," says Kyle Garcia, the Lawrence resident who owns the gallery.

"The color is extremely bold. It’s a spin on Kansas that I don’t think a lot of people have seen yet."

What they find is a mix of familiar and unfamiliar — common scenes painted in an uncommon way.

"Rural people get it," Garcia says. "In fact, they might have gotten it more. They’ve seen these scenes, but they haven’t intellectualized them."

Clemente, a lifelong Kansan, says she’s glad others have been receptive to a new look at the state she loves.

"I’ve wanted to paint Kansas the way I see it," she says. "I don’t have to go to Italy to paint. I have it here. They always say, ‘Paint what you know.’ This is what I know."

County: Dickinson
31001-10-31_5001
Who could predict that the simple act of giving a child a ride to wrestling practice would completely change the course of one’s life?

For Stuart Griffiths, of Riley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Griffiths, Clay Center, that’s exactly what happened when, as a student finishing up his history degree at Kansas University, he would pick up a young man at his group foster home and take him to practice.

“Yeah, sports got me into this,” laughed Griffiths, who continues to coach youth football even now.

He began volunteering at the group home, doing whatever was needed from helping with homework to playing ball. They later asked him to take over as assistant director.

“I just saw that I could take a kid that ought to be in a group home, work one on one with him and reintegrate him with his family quicker,” Griffiths said.

After working in the foster care system for several years and caring for 32 children, Griffiths went back to college to earn his degree in social work and is now employed by SRS in Manhattan.

Griffiths was honored recently in Washington, D.C. as a 2007 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Five of the youngsters Griffiths took into his home became permanent members of his family through adoption. There’s Joseph, now a sophomore attending classes at Cloud County Community College’s Junction City campus.

“Joseph’s always been very special and people oriented,” Griffiths said. He was ten when Griffiths adopted him. He carried on the family love of sports as a four-year letter winner in track and one year of football at Riley County High School. He also took part in drama classes and a host of other activities.

Joshua joined the family next, first as a nine year old foster child and eventually adopted at 13. Now 16, and a sophomore at Riley
Single dad recognized nationally

From Page 1

County High School, Joshua is described by Griffiths as a very gifted artist who hopes to pursue a career in art one day.

Trevor came to the Griffiths home at age ten, was adopted at 11 and is now a 16-year-old junior at RCHS. According to Griffiths, he is also a gifted athlete with a possible collegiate career ahead of him.

Some time passed before the family grew again, this time with the addition of Jewel, a young man whose adoption was finalized at age 13. He is now 14 and a freshman at RCHS who is currently playing football and will lace up his cleats for baseball in the spring.

Fifteen year old Rayshawn whose adoption will be finalized soon, rounds out the Griffiths family. His interests are video games and running track. He is a freshman at RCHS.

Running a household with five teenage sons, working full time in a demanding job and continuing to coach football makes for quite a challenge for Griffiths, a single parent. But it's a challenge he is more than ready to take on.

"Depending on the sports season, it gets pretty hectic," he admits.

Along with the usual aspects of parenting, Griffiths has the added responsibility of effectively dealing with the issues that children from the foster care system typically bring with them.

"One of the things I've had to do over the years is separate behavior from emotion," he said. "You discipline behavior, but you treat emotion. You talk it out."

He also sees their siblings as one of the best support groups the boys can have because often the younger ones find that whatever they're going through, one of their older brothers has probably also dealt with.

"Sometimes the best thing they can do is talk to their siblings," Griffiths said.

Since adopting his sons, Griffiths has worked with three different school systems and believes Riley County has been the best.

"They want the kids and they want to work with the parents," he said. "Mrs. Grant (RCMS principal) and Superintendent Starnes are very positive, forward thinking people."

He describes Mrs. Grant's first conversation with one of his sons. "She said, 'Welcome to Riley County. This is your school and we want you here.' No one had ever said that to him before," Griffiths said.

He believes that the staff is less eager to medicate students and more willing to find alternatives to issues such as Attention Deficit Disorder.

"They were trained as teachers, and first and foremost they want to teach the kids with whatever they walk in the door with," Griffiths said.

One of the boys began a school year two years behind in math and English. He now tests as advanced and exemplary in those subjects.

On October 3, all of the Griffiths family traveled to Washington D.C. where Stuart was presented with the CCAI Angel in Adoption Award. He was accompanied to the ceremony by Congresswoman Nancy Boyda, who said in a press release: "For over a decade now, Stuart has opened his home and his heart to children in need. His efforts are inspiring and I'm pleased to have the chance to honor his caring work.

"Of course, no award can repay the efforts of caring men and women like Stuart, but I hope the recognition helps to express our nation's gratitude for their efforts."

Griffiths no longer does foster care, but devotes himself fully to the care and development of his sons. He doesn't foresee adopting any more children.

"I think at this point the family is complete," he said.

While traveling to the nation's capital to accept the award was quite an honor for Griffiths, the even bigger honor comes from seeing his sons overcome challenges the likes of which most of us will never know, and go on to become productive members of society.

"I just think every kid needs a platform to jump from," Griffiths said. "Sometimes it's tough, but
"Sometimes it's tough, but you can take your adversities and overcome them and be a stronger person."

Clay Center
Dispatch
Clay Center, KS
Circ. 2784
From Page: 8
10/25/2007
31102
Lance Mall, CCCHS graduate and son of Mr. and Mrs. Durwin Mall of Clay Center, is among 10 finalists for the 16th annual Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership Awards at the University of Kansas. The finalists will be recognized during a private reception Nov. 2 and participate in the homecoming parade Nov. 3. A male and female winner will be announced at the half-time of the KU-Nebraska homecoming game. Mall is a senior majoring in accounting and a master’s degree student in accounting and information systems. He is part of the KU Student Ambassadors. He is vice president of administrative affairs for the Interfraternity Council and has served in Student Senate. He is a member of Delta Chi fraternity; Beta Alpha Psi, a honor society for accounting, finance and information systems majors; and Order of Omega, a Greek leadership honor society. He is preparing for a public accounting degree.
KU Grad Finds New Fruit Bat Species
By JAN BILES

LAWRENCE (AP) -- University of Kansas graduate student Jake Esselstyn was collecting bat species in 2006 with a research team in the forests of the Philippines when a guide told him about an unusual fruit bat he’d seen.

The man described a bat with orange fur, white stripes on its face and a black beard on its throat. Its facial features resembled that of a fox, and its wing span was about two feet.

"I didn’t believe his description. I thought he was a prankster," Esselstyn, 33, said. "And then a few days later we caught one."

Although the "flying fox" bat had been known to Filipinos and bat hunters for a long time, he said, a specimen had never been captured.

Esselstyn said the Filipino government announced the discovery of the bat and "word spread." Since then, he has been interviewed by National Geographic and other media.

"It's a nice example of how little we know about the animals in the world," he said.

Esselstyn, who grew up in Oregon, moved to Lawrence in the fall of 2004 to work on his Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology. His dissertation, he said, explores "genetic variations across geography."

In the past three years, Esselstyn has made six trips to the Philippines to collect specimens. The island country already was familiar to him because he had served as a Peace Corps volunteer there from 1998 to 2001, doing biodiversity and inventory.

He said little is known about the flora and fauna on the island, so finding a new mammal species is "not as uncommon as you might believe."

Esselstyn said the researchers set up nets on farms, in forests and over streams to catch the bats while they were flying. Sometimes, they sought out the bats in caves.

"They get tangled up in the nets and getting them out is time-consuming," he said.

The researchers have caught as many as a thousand bats in one night, he said.

"There are 75 to 80 (known) species of bats in the Philippines," he said. "Some are common and then there's others that are rare."

The researchers determine which bats they want to euthanize and export to KU to study. Once the animals are at KU, he cleans some of the skulls and skeletons and preserves some of the bat bodies in jars filled with a preservative. The specimens are then catalogued in order to secure the data.

"I'm interested in how animals diversify, colonize a new area and evolve into a new species," he said.

When the KU researchers are done studying the specimens, one-half is sent to the Philippine National Museum in Manila; the other half remains in the collection at KU's Natural History Museum.

Esselstyn said the "flying fox" fruit bat is "the flagship species for conservation in the Philippines" because its appearance is so appealing it has the potential to change the way people think about bats.

On the island, many legends about bats flourish, he said. A popular legend involves a half-man who has wings and enters people's homes to drink their blood and steal their bodies.

"It's difficult for one species to overcome that legend," he said, "but if we give the government a reason to protect a patch of forest it's found in, that's great."

Esselstyn's research is supported by small grants from the KU Natural History Museum Endowment Fund, American Philosophical Society, Society of Systematic Biologists, American Society of Mammalogists and National Science Foundation.

Esselstyn and a herpetology student from KU returned to the Philippines earlier this month. At some point, he hopes to collect samples from Malaysia.

Eventually, Esselstyn would like to work as a curator at a university-based museum.