KU Provost to speak Wednesday at Kiwanis

The Kiwanis Club of McPherson (Noon Club), will host Richard Lariviere, the new Provost at The University of Kansas, Wednesday, Oct. 31, at Perkins Restaurant in McPherson. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., soup and sandwich luncheon served for $6.75 per person. The provost will speak about What’s New at KU and how Higher Education transforms lives.

RSVP by Tuesday noon to Dianna 620-755-3408 or Bob 620-242-4129

Lariviere joined the senior administration at KU last year after having served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Texas, Austin. Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Lariviere is the chief operations and academic officer on the Lawrence and Edwards Campuses.
Bethany College forum scheduled Tuesday

LINDSBORG -- Bethany College will bring three experts in diverse religious topics together in dialogue at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Lindquist Hall at Bethany College. It's free and open to the public.

Panelists will address the question, "How do people of faith live in a pluralistic world?" as part of a forum on interfaith dialogue.

Rev. Dr. Hans Ucko is an internationally known Swedish theologian and expert in interfaith issues and the 2007 Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies at Bethany College.

Margaret Rausch teaches classes in Islamic literature and culture at the University of Kansas. Rabbi Nissim Wernick serves as rabbi and spiritual leader at Wichita's Ahavath Achim Hebrew Congregation.
KU Provost Lariviere will visit McPherson Wednesday

LAWRENCE — The chief academic and operating officer of the University of Kansas Lawrence campus will visit the National Cooperative Refinery Association and speak to the McPherson Kiwanis Club on Wednesday.

For Kiwanis reservations, call 755-3408 or 242-4129.

Richard Lariviere, KU provost and executive vice chancellor, will be escorted by NCRA president Jim Loving in a tour of the refinery, which processes 85,000 barrel of crude oil a day. Lariviere also will meet with KU School of Engineering alumni who are NCRA employees.

In addition to his KU post, Lariviere is a fellow of the IC2 Institute, an Austin, Tex.,-based international think tank that specializes in technology commercialization. The author of prize-winning works on Indian legal history, he also is a consultant to American and Indian companies in the information technology and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industries and has served on corporate boards in the IT industry.

A native of Iowa, Lariviere has been at KU since 2006.
Fort Hays State is the state’s fastest-growing university

HAYS -- The state’s fastest-growing university will not rest on its laurels, choosing instead to launch ambitious goals for the year 2020.

Fort Hays State University, recognized recently in the Council for Aid to Education’s Collegiate Learning Assessment for performing better than 90 percent of four-year institutions across the nation in improving its students’ writing, reasoning, thinking and argumentation skills, continues to set enrollment records year after year. “Our estimate of your value-added placed you in decile group 10,” Roger Benjamin, president of the Council for Aid to Education, wrote in his report to FHSU. “You performed better than 90 percent of four-year institutions.”

FHSU's 20th-day headcount for the fall 2007 semester was 9,588 students, a new all-time record. Annual statistics from the Kansas Board of Regents show that FHSU has been the growth leader over the latest five-year reporting period. From fall 2001 to fall 2006, FHSU had an enrollment growth of 62.1 percent. During that same five-year period, Emporia State University saw an increase of 11.2 percent, Kansas State University grew by 3.2 percent, the University of Kansas increased by 3.8 percent, Pittsburg State University grew by 2.0 percent, and Wichita State University actually saw an enrollment decrease of 3.7 percent.

Even with the remarkable growth that includes Virtual College students in nearly every state and more than 2,200 students in China, the majority of the FHSU student body continues to be Kansas residents.

Besides Hays, the 2007 media tour includes stops in Dodge City, Garden City, Liberal, Goodland, Colby, Norton, Hutchinson, Great Bend, Wichita, Topeka, Kansas City, Mo., Kansas City, Kan., Lawrence, Clay Center and Salina.

The president will be accompanied on his annual media tour by Debra Prideaux, director of the Alumni Association and Governmental Relations; Kent Steward, director of University Relations; and Tim Chapman, the new president and CEO of the FHSU Foundation, formerly called the Endowment Association.
New branch manager at Great Plains Federal Credit Union

A new branch manager has quietly taken over the reigns at Great Plains Federal Credit Union located at Montezuma. Carol Winsor, a long time employee of the Credit Union, filled the position when former Branch Manager, Connie Beery, stepped down from the position September 28th.

The new branch manager said she started to work for Credit Unions in November 1985 at a Cimarron branch. She and husband Doug moved and when she realized their daughter would be attending school in Montezuma; she changed to the Montezuma Credit Union in 1987.

Not a native of Montezuma, Carol grew up in Spearville where she graduated from high school. She then attended St. Mary of the Plains College, meeting Doug while there. The couple got married in November 1992, and she graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration in May.

Great Plains Federal Credit Union is one of approximately 10 branches of the Great Plains Federal Credit Union whose home office is located in Joplin, MO.

She said that with Connie’s resignation, Great Plains opened the position to employees from all branch locations. “We send in our qualifications and they go from there,” she said.

The new manager said that she’s allowed to approve loans for nearly every kind of loan such as car loans, real estate, home equity.

Unlike banks, credit unions are owned by the persons who invest in them through use of their services and members make up the board of directors.

Two other employees work with Carol at Great Plains Federal Credit Union. Jackie Brown has been an employee since last November and a recent addition to the staff is Aracely Ballesteros. Aracely’s name will be familiar to many Ensign residents, as she is a member of the Ensign city council.

The new Credit Union manager said she and Doug’s daughter, Amy, graduated in May from the University of Kansas. She is currently student teaching in Lawrence but will go to Eudora Elementary Education next semester. “She really like kids,” Carol said.

Carol commented that she’s a rather quiet person, but welcomes anyone to come in and get acquainted with the services provided and visit with her about what they can do for their customer/members. She said they have some services online meaning members can look at their account on the computer and are able to transfer funds from savings to checking. “We offer CD’s, IRA’s, we offer it all,” Winsor commented.

She noted that since the business is member owned they focus on their members. “I feel like I’m more on an equal level with people who walk in.”
Carol Winsor brings 22 years of credit union experience to new position. She invites people to come in and get acquainted.
I am very excited to share a new local scholarship with you. It is the Orville and Beulah Klitzke Scholarship. For the first year, one student from Ness City High School and one student from Western Plains will be awarded with this scholarship. To be eligible, the applicant must have attended one of these high schools for at least two years, be in the top 1/3 of the graduating class, score in the upper half of students taking the SAT or ACT, and intend on majoring in journalism, history, agricultural science, or a field of physical sciences or mathematics (although a first-year recipient does not have to have one of these as a declared major.) In addition, the selection committee will also look at academic achievement and a commitment to community. This scholarship is renewable for three more years, but you must meet qualifications.

All sophomores will take the PLAN test on November 7th. The results of this test will help point out academic strengths and weaknesses, help find careers that match the students' interests, and connect students to colleges. Students do not need to sign up or pay for this test.

Don't forget that the ACT deadline for the December 8th test is November 22nd. If you have not signed up but want to take it on that date, register as soon as possible. You can register online at www.act.org or get a registration packet from me. I also have practice booklets and other sources if you would like to prepare for the test.

Juniors and Seniors who took the ASVAB were able to evaluate their results last Friday. My goal now is to meet with everyone individually to discuss career options. I will try to get all of this done by the end of November.

There are a lot of Senior Days at various colleges and universities coming up. I have listed them in previous articles. If there is a school you are interested in visiting but can't remember when that particular Senior Day is, please let me know.

The University of Kansas School of Fine Arts holding Music Audition Days November 16th and February 8th, 9th, 22nd, and 23rd. Auditions application forms are available at www.arts.ku.edu/musicdance or music@ku.edu. Auditions appointment times must be made. Recommendation letters are not required. Music students must also apply for admission first. There are several college visits coming up. They are:

- Dodge City Community College - October 31
- Colby Community College, November 1
- Fort Hays State University - November 8
- Ks. Wesleyan —November 29
Third annual women’s conference held in Tribune

- The third annual Women’s Health and Community Wellness Conference was held October 26 at Greeley County High School in Tribune. The conference provided an interesting variety of information for community members, medical staff and professionals. Conference hosts were Greeley County Health Services, KU Medical Center Area Health Education Centers, and KU Schools of Nursing and Family Medicine.

  Dr. Bob Moser, Greeley County Health Services, introduced keynote speaker Barbara Gibson, Director of Primary Care, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Moser said he appreciated Ms. Gibson’s commitment to rural healthcare in the state of Kansas.

  Gibson spoke on Patient-Centered Care and Health Professions Shortage. She noted that KDHE defines Greeley County and 30 other counties in Kansas as “frontier,” at 6 persons or less per square mile, rather than “rural”. A key in patient-centered care, she said, is access to care and this is particularly an issue in frontier areas, with extreme shortages in dentists and mental health professionals. KDHE’s current vision, said Gibson, is “Healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments.”

  Other presenters in breakout sessions during the day included: Dr. Byron Cline, Dr. Bob Moser, Community Emergency Response Training; and Joni Pearce, Improving Behavioral Change in Chronic Disease.

  Sponsoring the conference were Dixon Drug, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas, and booth exhibitors Osteoporosis Services, Lincare, GlaxoSmithKline, St. Catherine Hospital/ The Cancer Center. Conference organizer was Chrysanne Grund. Conference contributors were ARSI, Gardner and White and Colorado East Bank and Trust.

  Student media presentations were by Greeley-Wallace Healthcare Foundation, Dr. Wendel Ellis and Bret Mangan.
Dr. Byron Cline, Wichita, spoke at breakout sessions at the women's conference held in Tribune October 26.
Schultze Graduates Law Enforcement

Brian Schultz of Belleville was among those who graduated at the University of Kansas in law enforcement training. He is with the Republic County Sheriffs Department in Belleville, Kansas.
Fort Hays growth in enrollment is tops in state

By ROBERT PIERCE
Southwest Daily Times

As part of a statewide media tour, the president of Kansas' fastest growing university stopped in Liberal Monday, and Dr. Edward H. Hammond said with a growth of more than 60 percent in the last five years, he and other Fort Hays State University officials are trying to decide exactly how big they would like the university to get.

"We've grown from 5,800 students to 9,600," he said. "One of the things we're looking at is a strategic plan that would set our growth level for 2020. Right now, we're looking at growing to about 15,000 total students."

Hammond contributes the school's recent enrollment success partly to good faculty and low costs.

"We had won the award for being the best buy in the state," he said. "I think our students seem to benefit significantly from our education. When you look at reading and when you look at writing skills and analytical skills, Fort Hays State ranks in the top 10 percent of schools in the country as it relates to adding value or benefiting from the education."

In addition to low costs, Hammond also contributes Fort Hays State's success to its high quality education, as well as technology.

"We've really integrated technology a lot into the curriculum," he said. "Everyone has tablet laptop computers in a totally wireless environment. The combination of those things, I think, has driven our enrollment up from 5,800 to 9,600 students."

The enrollment increase has also led to the opening of two new buildings on the school's campus, including a brand new memorial union building, according to Hammond.

"One of the questions is what do we need to have in place if we're going to grow the university to 15,000 or more," he said.

Fort Hays' goal is to have 10,000 students by 2010, and with 9,600, Hammond said the school is almost there. With those numbers in mind, the president said he is confident the school will reach that goal, and he said the university is now looking at bigger and better things.

"That's caused us to take a step back and say, 'What do we need to do to get bigger? Do we want to get bigger? and What do we need to do to get there?'" he said.

Hammond said one of the other things that makes Fort Hays growth significant is that while population demographics in western Kansas have been declining for 10 years, the school's enrollment continues to grow.

"What has happened is we're beginning to serve a lot more people out of the eastern third corridor, and I think they're voting with their feet. They're coming because of low costs and high quality," he said.

Hammond said the school's objective as it grows to 15,000 students is targeting international students.

"We'd like to have 10 percent of our student body be international," he said. "We think that having a real significant number of international students in our classes will help our students understand the world economy they live in."
Hammond said he would also like to see growth from states such as Colorado, Nebraska and Oklahoma, which he said would help make Fort Hays more of a regional university than just a western Kansas university.

The president said he does not believe the school’s recent enrollment success is due to a lack of four-year schools in western Kansas.

“I wouldn’t be upset about that, but the number of high school graduates in western Kansas has actually been going down over the last 10 years,” he said. “The growth couldn’t have come from western Kansas even though 50 percent of the high school graduates in western Kansas will at some point attend Fort Hays State University. We have a very high penetration rate in western Kansas, but that’s not what’s producing the growth.”

Hammond said the enrollment growth has also allowed the school to look at adding some new degree programs in hospitality management.

“If you look at the Kansas economy, one of the fastest growing parts is the service sector side, so we’re looking at adding those kinds of degree programs,” he said. “Also a program that will address the needs of developing managers and people that will work in senior citizen facilities as they grow in our state.”

Hammond said with the population of Kansas getting older, there needs to be a work force trained for the needs of the state.

“We only have about 2.7 million people in Kansas, and if we’re going to be successful as a state, we’ve got to figure out how we can educate most of those people and get them into the work force in a very productive way,” he said.

Hammond said the unemployment rate in Kansas currently stands at 4.2 percent, with a 2.4 percent rate in Hays itself.

“The general experts say 5 percent or less is full employment, so we’ve got more jobs in Kansas than we have trained workers for right now,” he said. “What we need to do is to help get more of the work force here to meet those jobs.”

When the university reaches the 15,000 student level, Hammond said he would like to see as many as 1,000 of those students be from out of state.

“Hopefully, we’ll be able to keep most of them here to be our doctors, our nurses, our teachers,” he said. “Fort Hays State University produces more principals and more superintendents than any other school in the state.”

With this standard, Hammond said FHSU is constantly looked at to produce more education professionals.

“To do that, we’ve got to get more students enrolled in those programs,” he said. “We’re going to get aggressive about trying to bring to Kansas what we need in order to grow our state.”

Hammond said the school is also looking to put an emphasis on entrepreneurship.

“When I first became president 21 years ago, we had some regulations that really preempted us from competing with the private sector, and now those regulations have been removed,” he said. “What we want to do is position the university to be able to use our assets and our resources to attract businesses to Kansas.”

As part of the emphasis on new business, FHSU is working with bio-science authorities to try to identify companies the school would like to recruit to the Sunflower State and have them come to western Kansas where they will be provided with land, facilities and resources, according to Hammond.

“The university may end up owning part of those companies or take an ownership interest because we believe that’s a good way to keep them in the state,” he said. “We’re looking at creative kinds of ways of also recruiting students to start businesses in western Kansas.”

Fort Hays is also looking at a pilot program in which they would recruit 10 to 15 business students from western Kansas, whom they would provide a full ride to the school, including room, board, tuition and fees, according to Hammond.

“During their first two years, they would develop a business concept of the business they wanted to start,” he said. “Their junior year, we’d have them go co-op and work in that business environment. During their senior year, they would develop a business plan. Then we will migrate them and a team of students to a smaller community to start the business.”

Hammond said he has also talked with small communities and asking them if they could put up as much as $100,000 as well as facilities for a new business to start in their community.

“I’ve not had one community say no,” he said. “They say ‘Can we get more than one?’ If we can recruit kids from western Kansas and return them to western Kansas towns to start businesses, we’ll grow the communities in western Kansas again.”

Hammond said this is similar to a model the school uses for its rural medical program.
Experts discuss religious topics at Bethany

On October 30, Bethany College will bring three experts in diverse religious topics together in a dialogue.

Panelists will address the question, "How do people of faith live in a pluralistic world?" as part of a forum on interfaith dialogue.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be at 7 p.m. at Lindquist Hall on the Bethany College campus.

"Through interreligious dialogue I have come to appreciate the saying that 'the pure and simple truth is rarely pure and never simple.' This insight helps me realize that I am still on the way, still discovering what God is doing in my life and in the lives of others. It is my hope that the forum will help us realize the dilemma expressed in the words of Cardinal Newman 'O how we hate one another for the love of God,'" said the Rev. Dr. Hans Ucko, an internationally known Swedish theologian and expert in interfaith issues who will participate in the forum.

(Continued on Page A2)
Hans Ucko to join panel on interfaith dialogue

(Continued from Page A1)

Other panelists will include Margaret Rausch, assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Kansas and scholar of Islam, and Rabbi Nissim Wernick of Ahavath Achim Hebraic Congregation in Wichita.

Ucko, program executive for Inter-religious Relations and Dialogue at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, is the 2007 Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies at Bethany College. The Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies program is endowed by Gerald L. "Bud" Pearson of Okoboji, Iowa, a former member of the board of directors and longtime friend of Bethany College. Under the program, each year a key figure in Swedish culture, arts or scholarship assumes the professorship at Bethany College. The purpose is to discover ways in which contemporary Swedish culture and experience can illuminate and strengthen life in the United States.

Ucko was born in Sweden in 1946 and graduated from Lund University. Following his ordination as a minister for the Church of Sweden in 1971, he studied Jewish-Christian relations in Jerusalem at both the Swedish Theological Institute and David Hartman Institute. In 2000, he received his doctorate in theology at the Senate of Serampore College, Calcutta, India, where he wrote his thesis on the concepts of “people and people of God,” as integral to the Jewish tradition and to the Minjung and Dalit theologies in Korea and in India, respectively.

From 1971 to 1981, Ucko worked in parishes as a curate in Helsingborg and Burlow, Sweden, as well as the Swedish Sofia Parish, Paris, France. From 1981 he lived in Uppsala, Sweden, where he worked with the Church of Sweden as executive secretary for Jewish-Christian relations and the East Asian relations. He was hired by the World Council of Churches in 1989.

Currently Ucko is a board member of the European Buddhist-Christian Dialogue, an international consultant to the International Interfaith Centre in Oxford, England, and an official observer of the International Council of Christians and Jews. He is the editor of Current Dialogue, a biennial publication of the World Council of Churches’ Office on Inter-religious Relations and Dialogue.

He has authored and edited several books, including “Worlds of Memory and Wisdom: Encounters of Jews and African Christians” and “Common Roots, New Horizons: Learning About Christian Faith from Dialogue with Jews.” He also has written numerous articles and papers – covering issues such as interfaith dialogue, missiology and liturgy – in English, French, Swedish, German, Danish, Czech, Dutch, and Italian.

Rausch teaches classes in Islam, Islamic literature, Islamic culture, Sufism and gender in Islam and society at the University of Kansas. She previously has served as a lecturer at Free University, Berlin, Germany, and taught at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

An accomplished scholar, Rausch has published and presented extensively. Her books include “Bodies, Boundaries and Spirit Possession: Moroccan Women and the Revision of Tradition” and “Modern Literary Arabic,” an advanced level course book co-authored with Frederic Cadorra. She has been awarded numerous fellowships including a Fulbright-Hays Turkish Language Fellowship for study in Istanbul, Turkey, and an Arabic Language Fellowship for study in Cairo, Egypt. Currently, Rausch is a Hall Center for the Humanities Research Fellow at the University of Kansas.

She has language proficiency in Arabic, French, German, Persian and Turkish, and has taught a variety of languages and dialects in Germany and as a member of the Peace Corps in Kousseri, Cameroon.

Rausch holds a doctorate in Islamic studies from Free University. She earned her master’s in Middle Eastern history and bachelor’s in French language and literature from Ohio State University.

Wernick has served as rabbi and spiritual leader at Ahavath Achim Hebrew Congregation in Wichita since 2004. He previously has served at Beth Judah Temple, Wildwood, New Jersey; Rabbi Isaac Luria Synagogue, Miami Beach, Florida; Congregation Ohev Shalom, Johannesburg, South Africa; Congregation Shearith Isra-
el, Dallas, Texas; and Congregation Shearith Israel, Atlanta, Georgia.

Wernick also has taught courses in Judaism and related topics at many universities, including Friends University, Wichita State University, the South African Jewish Theological Seminary and Southern Methodist University.

He has edited and authored a number of books, including translations, commentaries and prayer books. In 2004 he was elected to the Board of Directors of Inter-Faith Ministries in Wichita, KS. He also currently serves as president of the Greater Wildwood Pastoral Association, a group dedicated to bringing together different faith and racial groups in an effort to dismantle the regime of apartheid.

In 1988, Wernick founded the Conservative Movement in Johnsonburg, South Africa and from 1990—1995 he chaired the Citizens Committee for Social Action There, which brought together different faith and racial groups in an effort to dismantle the regime of apartheid.

Wernick holds a doctorate degree from Brigham Young University. He earned his master’s in Hebrew Literature and was ordained a rabbi at The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. He also holds bachelor of arts from Long Island University.

Hans Ucko, an internationally known Swedish theologian and expert in interfaith dialogue, will be part of an October 30 forum on interfaith dialogue at Bethany College.