Students learning English not only language in world

BY TERRY ROMBECK
LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD

LEAVENWORTH — 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 That’s an outdated pre judgment.”

Larry Day, a retired University of Kansas faculty member, agrees. He’s the author of “Careers for Foreign Language Aficionados & Other Multilingual Types” ($14.85, 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 hand-held translators) meant it needed to be updated.

The book outlines a wide spectrum of careers that especially lend themselves to bilingual employees. Health care 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.

“Especially now with globalization, it’s important for everyone to interact,” he says. “If you can do that in their language, it gives you a better chance to be successful.”

Danny Anderson, professor of Spanish and associate dean for interdisciplinary studies at KU, says he’s seen a growing number of dual majors during his nearly 20 years at the university. More students are choosing to major in a language in addition to, say, business or education.

He doesn’t have statistics to prove it, but he’s pretty sure students with those double majors find jobs more easily and probably get paid better than those who only know English.

“I feel like when you think about the forces of globalization, and business executives talk about this, 10 years ago, people would say English is what everyone in the world is going to have to learn,” Anderson says. “More and more, if you look at it after 9/11, with what we understand with all the other cultural groups, there’s a greater sense we’re behind as a country as far as promoting a multilingual view of the world.”

In fact, the National Association for Bilingual Education reports that only 9 percent of Americans are bilingual. That compares with half of European citizens.

Though most people get their language training during their high school or college years, Anderson says KU has considered offering more evening language courses to be more convenient for members of the community to take them.

That’s good news for Day, who says it’s never too late to learn a foreign language.

“People tell me, ‘I can’t learn a language,’” Day says. “‘Learning to speak a foreign language is a mess.” You’re going to have trouble with verb tenses. My advice to people is to get in there and don’t worry about that. Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t learn a foreign language.”
Several students from Leavenworth High School recently attended the Black Leadership Symposium on Oct. 18 at the University of Kansas.

They are Eleada Adams, Sydni Brown, Whitney Bush, Contessa Caraballo, Hannah Cooper, Chelsea Demer, Ja'nae Fraiser, Marlayna Garvin, Cheyene Harper, Brooklynn Hildebrandt, Darian Hill, Nicholas Hunt, Timothy Jones, Vanessa McKinney, Crystal Rivera, Kendra Thomas.

The conference was sponsored by KU's Office of the Provost, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Office of Admissions and Scholarships, the Multicultural Resource Center and Continuing Education.
Senior Center happenings

Chris Nolte and Dean Thibeault, of Homecare and Hospice, will present a program at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Nov. 2, on the vision of providing a "Hospice House" in our community.

Marcy Allen, collections librarian for the Manhattan Public Library, will be at the Seniors Center at 11:30 a.m., Monday, Nov. 5 to talk about new mystery books.

The Flinthills Parkinson’s Support Group will host a speaker from the University of Kansas Pharmaceutical Program to discuss medications for Parkinson’s Disease at 1:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 5.

The Reader’s Theatre Interest Group will be reading “Potpourri: A Selection of Scenes and Monologues.” The group will meet at 1 p.m., Nov. 5.

The Seniors’ Center is hosting a Silpada Jewelry fund raiser from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, Nov. 5. The proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to upgrade the television area and make it more user-friendly for the hearing impaired.

All events will take place at the Seniors’ Center, 412 Leavenworth.
Keep door open

The cost of moving up is going up, rapidly.
A report released this week by the College Board showed the cost of obtaining a college education had jumped more than the inflation rate for the second year in a row.

The board certainly isn’t suggesting costs have risen so high that at least a bachelor’s degree isn’t a wise purchase. But the trend of increasing costs suggests higher education and government officials need to pay attention lest they place a college degree beyond the reach of those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder.

The College Board reported the price of tuition and fees at four-year public universities rose to an average of $8,185 this year, up 6.6 percent from 2006, when tuition and fees at public universities increased by 5.7 percent.

To bring the numbers closer to home, tuition at Kansas State University rose from $2,587 per semester for full-time resident undergraduate students last year to $2,812.50 a semester this year. At the University of Kansas, tuition rose from $2,756.25 a semester for the 2006-07 school year to $2,922 a semester for the 2007-08 school year.

Standing alone, those numbers seem like a bargain, but they don’t begin to address the cost of a degree.

Anyone, student or parent, who is paying for college education or has paid for one recently knows tuition and fees are only part of the picture. Those numbers don’t include books and accessories, and rarely is the class that doesn’t have some other fee attached that isn’t included in the base sticker price. Then, there is transportation and room and board for students who move away from home to go to college.

According to the College Board, the average “net cost” to students of tuition and fees for a semester at four-year public universities is only $2,580 when grants and tax breaks are figured into the mix.

Slowing rising admission prices at our public universities in Kansas — where the Board of Regents last spring asked the Legislature for more than $500 million for delayed building maintenance and more recently approved salary increases for top administrators — may not be easy or politically popular just now.

But education and government officials need to beware of the upward trend and do what is necessary to ensure our public universities remain accessible to all.
Colleges set sights on OHS recruits

Paul Mobiley, admission counselor at University of Kansas, looks on as Ottawa High School senior Ramond Wilson fills out an information card Wednesday morning at Ottawa High School during the school's College Planning Conference. Representatives from more than 50 schools in Kansas and Missouri came out to recruit OHS students Wednesday morning.
English not only language, students learn

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EDITORIAL

Universities must keep education accessible

The cost of moving up is going up, rapidly.

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The board certainly isn’t suggesting costs have risen so high that at least a bachelor’s degree isn’t a wise purchase.

But the trend of increasing costs suggests higher education and government officials need to pay attention lest they place a college degree beyond the reach of those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder.

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To bring the numbers closer to home, tuition at Kansas State University rose from $2,587 per semester for full-time resident undergraduate students last year to $2,812.50 a semester this year. At The University of Kansas, tuition rose from $2,756.25 a semester for the 2006-07 school year to $2,922 a semester for the 2007-08 school year.

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Anyone, student or parent, who is paying for a college education or has paid for one recently knows tuition and fees are only part of the picture. Those numbers don’t include books and accessories, and rare is the class that doesn’t have some other fee attached that isn’t included in the base sticker price.
Then, there is transportation and room and board for students who move away from home to go to college.

According to the College Board, the average "net cost" to students of tuition and fees for a semester at four-year public universities is only $2,580 when grants and tax breaks are figured into the mix. The problem is, not everyone gets the average. Some students get more and some less.

Many students — even after scholarships, grants and tax breaks — walk away from college with bachelor's degrees and student loan debts that equal more than their parents paid for their first homes.

For the 2006-07 school year, students and their families borrowed $59.6 billion in federally guaranteed loans and $17 billion in private loans not guaranteed by the federal government. The Project on Student Debt, a nonprofit organization, reports that student debt is increasing even faster than tuition and fees.

Slowing rising admission prices at our public universities in Kansas — where the Board of Regents last spring asked the Legislature for more than $500 million for delayed building maintenance and more recently approved salary increases for top administrators — may not be easy or politically popular just now.

But education and government officials need to beware of the upward trend and do what is necessary to ensure our public universities remain accessible to all.

*The Topeka Capital-Journal Editorial Board*
Local students named Kansas Honor Scholars

Students from 10 Kansas high schools will be honored Monday, Nov. 5, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 91 seniors from high schools in Clay, Pottawatomie and Riley counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Manhattan Country Club.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals. Honorees' names are listed at www.news.ku.edu/2007/october/17/khpmanhattan.shtml.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education, will speak to the students, parents and guests.

Local students include, from Blue Valley: Taellor Howland, Ashley Lund and Tara Pfaff.

From Riley County: Jesse Bailey, Joel Eastes, Cassidy Fowles, Nathan Jones, Aimee Nanninga, Veronica Taylor and Mollie Winter.

From Flint Hills Christian School: Andrew Featherstone.
Editorials

College Tuition

Keep door open

Universities must find way to keep education accessible in this age of mushrooming costs

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Professor upset over ad campaign against coal-fired plants

LAWRENCE (AP) -- 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.