TOPEKA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

2008 inductees announced

By Michael Hooper
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

The Topeka Business Hall of Fame is honoring an enterprising publishing family, a financial wizard, a minority business leader and a dynamo businesswoman who served as the country’s treasurer.

The 2008 Laureates are the Stauffer family, Oscar Stauffer and his sons, John and Stanley Stauffer; Kris Robbins, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Security Benefit; Alonzo Harrison, president of HDB Construction; and the late Georgia Neese Gray, an actress, businesswoman and U.S. treasurer.

The Topeka Business Hall of Fame is a project of Junior Achievement and was housed for five years at The Topeka Capital-Journal.

Mark Nusbaum, publisher of The Capital-Journal, said he appreciated walking by the pictures and biographies in the Topeka Business Hall of Fame every day, but wanted to make them more accessible. So the Business Hall of Fame is moving to Washburn University’s Henderson Hall, where the 2008 inductees were announced Thursday morning.

“I think it is now where it belongs,” Nusbaum said.

Greg Fankhauser, president and CEO of Heritage Bank and co-chairman of the Topeka Business Hall of Fame, said the hall recognizes business leaders who have demonstrated excellence, an entrepreneurial spirit, courageous thinking, inspiring leadership, have had an impact on the community and helped move Topeka forward. The selection committee was Jack Dicus, Howard Fricke, Larry Robbins, Velma Pollock and Vince Frye.

“I’m truly honored and truly humbled,” Kris Robbins said.

He said the culture at Security Benefit drives behavior. He described the culture as customer focused; integrity with fairness and dignity; continuous improvement; and giving back to the community.

Harrison, a Washburn University graduate, said he was pleased to see the university support the Topeka Business Hall of Fame.

The award recognizes not just him, he said, but also his parents. His father, Walt Harrison, founded HDB Construction in 1959.

“I stand on his shoulders,” Alonzo Harrison said. “Dad endured.”

Mary Brownback, daughter of John Stauffer, said her grandfather, Oscar Stauffer, would be honored and humbled to be chosen along with his sons to the Business Hall of Fame.

The Stauffer family has given a lot back to Kansas, including to Topeka Civic Theatre, Washburn University and the University of Kansas. Madeline Stauffer, widow of Stanley Stauffer, said she wishes her husband could have been there to receive the honor.

“He would have really reveled in it,” Madeline Stauffer said.

Stanley Stauffer helped found Junior Achievement in Topeka many years ago.

Georgia Neese Gray graduated from Washburn University in 1921. She moved to New York and was an actress for 10 years. She returned to Kansas to run her family’s business in 1930 when her father was dying. She ran the Bank of Richland, moved it to Topeka and changed the name to Capital City Bank. President Truman made her U.S. Treasurer, said Juli Mazachek, Washburn Endowment president and co-chair of the Topeka Business Hall of Fame.

Michael Hooper can be reached at (785)295-1283 or michael.hooper@cjonline.com
Alonzo Harrison, president of HDB Construction, left, and Kris Robbins, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Security Benefit, greet each other following a news conference that announced them as two of the Topeka Business Hall of Fame’s 2008 Laureates on Thursday at Washburn University.
Pelosi visit postponed

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has postponed her visit to The University of Kansas today.
Pelosi, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, was to speak at 11:30 a.m. at the Dole Institute of Politics. Pelosi’s staff notified Dole Institute officials Thursday that because the House is in session all day today, Pelosi has to remain in Washington, D.C. Barbara Ballard, associate director of the Dole Institute, said Pelosi’s staff said she hopes to reschedule her visit as soon as possible.
Traffic assistance services offered

K-State News Service

Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, in partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Highway Administration and the Kansas Department of Transportation, will offer courses for Traffic Assistance Services for Kansas in 2008.

Course locations and dates include:


A course in Liability and Traffic Control also will be offered for independent study.

For registration, contact the K-State Division of Continuing Education at 785-532-5569 or 1-800-432-8222. Information also is available online at h t t p : / / w w w . d c e . k - state.edu/conf/task
With state money decreasing, some universities look to private donations

Endowment funds on the rise

By James Carlson
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Declining state funding of higher education has helped drive increased donations to some state universities, say university officials.

The University of Kansas saw a record 43,300 donors for fiscal year 2007, giving a total of $94.3 million. Fewer donors, about 41,000, in fiscal year 2006 gave $99 million to the university.

“We’ve communicated to our potential donors that decreasing state support means rising tuition rates, and that puts a burden on students,” said Dale Seuferling, president of the KU Endowment. “That’s a pretty strong message for donors.”

With the new donations included, the market value of KU’s endowed funds reached $1.24 billion.

Pittsburg State University saw an increase in donations from $9.3 million in 2006 to $15.1 million in fiscal 2007, which ended June 30. That came even though the number of donors decreased from 12,300 in 2006 to 11,900 in 2007.

Brad Hodson, director of university development for Pittsburg State University, said PSU, like every other school in the state, has seen a decrease in higher education money.

“We use that to our advantage in fundraising,” Hodson said.

The new money flowing into PSU brings the endowment’s total assets up to $65 million. Hodson said giving has increased in recent years at PSU also due to the three-year capital improvements campaign.

Kansas State University also saw its second straight year of more than $90 million of do-

Please see FUNDS, Page 6A

Funds: State support becoming ‘an issue’

Continued from Page 1A

State funding is also on the mind of schools that haven’t seen such increases. The amount of donations to Emporia State University in fiscal year 2007 was the lowest since 2003, coming in at $3.5 million. But Jesse Tuel, director of advancement communications, said that amount doesn’t include a large sum that was donated this year by an alumnus but won’t be available until the alumnus’s death. Other universities contacted do include those donations. With that amount, the total for ESU would rise to $6.3 million.

“As state support for higher education becomes an issue, we’re always seeking to increase our private support,” Tuel said.

The school endowment’s total assets now total $71 million.

James Carlson can be reached at (785) 295-1186
or james.carlson@cjonline.com.
A noteworthy effect on kids’ lives

Bigger paychecks and higher math and reading scores are linked to involvement with music programs.

By MELODEE HALL BLOBAUM
The Kansas City Star

Nathan Jesmore may not enjoy the 7 a.m. practices, but there’s a lot about band he does like.

The Olathe East High School senior said marching while playing his saxophone honed his concentration skills.

“Band lays a lot of the foundation and teaches you a lot of the fundamentals about how to prepare for life,” said Jesmore, who has been in school bands since fifth grade.

He may be on to something. A poll released this week suggests that being involved in music programs — from orchestra to garage band — could be linked to greater educational attainment and bigger paychecks.

Also, a recent study by a University of Kansas music professor found a possible link between high-quality school music programs and higher math and reading scores.

Educators say music is important even as schools focus more on reading and math under the mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The law requires that all students be proficient in the two subjects by 2014.

“I can’t think of a music educator who would diminish the importance of the things measured by standardized tests,” said Eric Griffin, Olathe East’s director of bands. “But if we diminish the time we spend on the arts to bring emphasis to those subjects, we may find ourselves with less and less to read and write about.”

Christopher M. Johnson at the University of Kansas found that students at schools with

MUSIC: Focus is required in classes

better music programs consistently scored higher on standardized math and reading tests. His research didn’t uncover exactly why the scores were higher. And he cautioned against putting kids in music programs just because it might help with math and reading.

“You want kids in music because you want kids in music,” he said.

Johnson speculated that the higher scores could be related to the concentration and focus required in music classes.

“If you’re in math, you can be studying and thinking and check out for a couple of minutes,” he said. “But if you’re in the middle of a tune and check out, all of a sudden you’re singing by yourself.

“Most kids don’t want to be singing alone by accident.”

David Circle, Blue Valley’s district coordinating teacher for performing arts and the immediate past president of the National Association for Music Education, said the teacher may be the most important piece of a quality music program.

A good teacher can prompt kids to solve problems by asking them how to make a phrase more musical or encouraging group participation and teamwork.

FROM A1

Olathe East junior Brandon Steffen and classmates played during a jazz band class Tuesday morning at the school.

The poll found a similar relationship, though not quite as strong, with high income earners. Of those polled earning $150,000 or more, 83 percent had been involved in a music program, compared with 74 percent of those earning less than $35,000.

Mark Lyle, an Olathe East senior trumpet player, said band teaches cooperation and perseverance.

“When you’re playing music with people, you have to think like them,” he said. “And you learn perseverance with practice.”

To reach Melodee Hall Blobaum, call 816-234-7733 or send e-mail to mblobaum@kcstar.com.
**TIPS FOR PARENTS**

Music educators suggest parents consider these ideas when exploring their school's music programs:

1. **Look for a school program that adheres to national standards developed by the National Association for Music Education.** The standards can be found at [www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org).

2. **Instructional time is important.** The more time kids spend learning something, the more they'll learn.

3. **Active learning is better than passive learning.** Look for a program where kids are singing or playing an instrument, not merely listening to music.

4. **Programs where kids provide input, figuring out the best way to play a piece of music rather than merely being told how to play it, are important, too.**

**Sources:** Christopher M. Johnson, University of Kansas; David Circle, Blue Valley School District; Eric Griffin, Olathe East High School director of bands.