The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas is pleased to announce that they are accepting applications for Spring 2008 for the John Kur-tis Ostenberg Memorial Scholarship. One scholarship will be granted to a meritorious Kansas resident attending KU with an interest in wildlife and
KANSAS HONORS PROGRAM - Pictured at the Kansas Honor Scholar Award Program at Hays High School on September 27 are from the left, Dave Miller, Palco High School Principle and USD #269 Superintendent; Wesley Landis, son of Fred and Velma Landis; Rebecca Benoit, daughter of Tom and Donna Benoit; and Peggi Benoit, daughter of Don and Sandy Benoit, all of Damar.

Scholars recognized

The Kansas Honors Program recognizes the achievements of high school seniors. The program began in 1971. Students are nominated each year for their outstanding academic achievements. Students from all 105 Kansas counties are honored through the program.

To be nominated, students must be graduating seniors who rank in the top 10 percent of their classes. The program is sponsored by the Kansas University Alumni Association and through major gifts from KU friends and alumni.

Palco students who were recognized were Wesley Landis, son of Fred and Velma Landis; Rebecca Benoit, daughter of Tom and Donna Benoit; and Peggi Benoit, daughter of Don and Sandy Benoit, all of Damar.
“Get the kernel right,” is a remark that I often make. “What do you mean,” is a response that I often hear.

I came across the concept years ago while working with relational databases. The kernel of the relational database was articulated by E.F Codd, and one of the repeated phrases was, “Every record in the file must depend upon the key, the whole key and nothing but the key, so help me Codd.”

If you get the kernel right, the system will continue to adhere to basic principles over time. It’s hard to build a solid house if the foundation is wrong. It applies to everything. I spent ten years searching for the kernel of the Western scientific worldview. In Christianity the kernel was easier to find. It’s the two commandments of Christ.

So what?

Well, if you are making decisions on how to farm not based on the crops and the land, but on the mental models of the farm bill, then the kernel of the farm bill is not right. If KU is more concerned with profit than the truth, then the kernel is not right.

The kernel of the industrial economic system does not work for agriculture, utilities or information. Basic stuff that affects everything we do.
Husband and wife join Watkins Calcara

The law firm of Watkins Calcara, Chtd. of Great Bend has hired two new attorneys at the firm.

Christopher Shepard joined the firm on Aug. 13. Shepard is originally from Topeka. He is the son of William and Cynthia Shepard. After graduation from Topeka West high school in 2000, he attended Baker University in Baldwin City where he played varsity baseball and earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy and business in 2004. He then attended the University of Kansas School of Law and received his Juris Doctor degree in May of 2007. He passed the Kansas bar examination in late July and was sworn in to the state and federal bars on Friday, Sept. 2.

"I am incredibly excited to begin my career with a law firm of the caliber and reputation of Watkins Calcara, Chtd..." Chris said. "I am equally excited at the prospect of living in Great Bend. I have always been actively involved wherever I have lived and look forward to becoming an active member of this wonderful community."

Lindsay Shepard also joined the firm on Aug. 13. Lindsay is originally from Scott City. She is the daughter of Wes and Debbie Campbell. After graduation from Scott City High School in 2000, Lindsay attended the University of Kansas and earned a bachelor's degree in business in 2004. She then went on to attend the University of Kansas School of Law where she graduated and received her Juris Doctor degree in May of 2007. Lindsay also passed the Kansas bar examination in late July and was sworn in as a member of both state and federal bars on Sept. 28.

"It has been a whirlwind summer for us. Chris and I graduated from law school, got married, moved to Great Bend, studied for and took the bar exam and even managed to sneak in a short honeymoon all over the course of about three months. We are thrilled to be a part of Watkins Calcara and Great Bend. It was a perfect match for us." Lindsay was also just notified by the KU Law School she has been recognized as the winner of the James P. Mize Trial Advocacy Award established to recognize student scholarship and excellence in lawyering skills.

With the addition of its two newest attorneys, Watkins Calcara remains the largest law firm headquartered in the western half of the state. It offers a broad range of legal services including business, corporate and employment law; trust and estate planning and agricultural and water law. The lawyers in its litigation division are recognized as among the best in the state.

Mark Rondeau, the firm's managing partner, said, "We are extremely fortunate to have Chris Shepard and Lindsay Shepard join our firm. They are bright, energetic and focused. Their skills and interests will complement the practice areas of the firm very well and we know they will be great additions to our local area."
Monarch butterflies make annual trip to Mexico

By PAM MARTIN

Flying on bright orange and black wings no more than 4 inches wide and weighing .02 ounce, monarch butterflies follow a migration route and distance rivaling bird species many times their size.

Monarch butterflies tagged at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge Monarch Mania event on Sept. 22 fly more than 1,200 miles to overwintering sites in central Mexico. Once arriving in October and November, they will cluster in tree canopies, flying out during the day to feed from nearby flowers and springs until late February when they begin the trip back north.

“The population (this year) is close to the long-term average,” said Dr. Orley “Chip” Taylor, University of Kansas entomologist and director of the Monarch Watch program. “The population will definitely be bigger than last year at Mexico and that’s good.”

The butterflies arrived at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge right this year. Swooping nets wielded by parents and kids caught not one or two of the butterflies but five and six at a time.

“This is just great,” said QNWR Manager Dave Hilley as he watched groups of kids and adults tagging and releasing butterflies around the visitor center yard.

In less than an hour, the 200 or so participants had captured, tagged and released 400 butterflies — a new record since the event began 10 years ago.

Taylor began the volunteer tagging project in 1992, in an effort to increase numbers of tagged monarchs and recovery of tags in overwintering sites. Tag recoveries are used by Taylor and his graduate students to learn more about the butterfly’s annual migration. Four monarch butterflies tagged during Quivira’s Monarch Mania have been recovered in two of the known butterfly roosting areas in Mexico, having flown more than 1,250 miles.

Monarch Watch prints and distributes 200,000 tags each year, with 80,000 to 100,000 actually ending up on butterflies, Taylor said.

“We hope to recapture 1 percent. If we get 800 to 1,000 tags back it’s great,” he said.

The tagging project has yielded a lot of information, Taylor said. Scientists can now predict when migrations in different parts of the U.S. and Canada will begin and peak migration times.

“Migration appears to correlate with the declining altitudinal angle of the sun in the sky,” he said.

Migration routes have also been mapped and mortality rates corresponded with location. Scientists still don’t understand how butterflies find their way to Mexico, but believe there is both a celestial and magnetic component.

While the project nets important information for scientists, it also generates an interest in nature for kids. Charles Martinez of Great Bend, a returning participant in Monarch Mania, brought his young children to the event. Cheyenne and Shay Lee sat on the ground removing stickers and waiting patiently to tag a net full of butterflies, while their older sister took off to capture more.

Each child got to hold a butterfly as it was tagged. Then the colorful insects were released, with big smiles all around.

“The kids really enjoy this,” Martinez said.

Build a monarch “way station”

Monarch butterflies need nectar sources for their trip south and milkweed as a food source for caterpillars. With farmland and ranch land disappearing at a rate of nearly 3,000 acres per day, those sources are disappearing. Dr. Orley “Chip” Taylor, Monarch Watch founder, has developed a project encouraging people to plant both, with a goal of establishing at least 10,000 way stations.

Milkweed seed can be obtained at www.monarchwatch.org, with butterfly weed, a milkweed variety, also available at nurseries selling perennial plants. For nectar sources, create mass plantings of zinnias, asters or sedum (also called everlasting). The flowers will also attract other butterflies and help honeybees, which have suffered declines in numbers.
Cheyenne Martinez of Great Bend gets ready to release a monarch butterfly after tagging at Quivira Refuge. Several butterflies migrate short distances, but the monarch makes the longest trek, traveling from southern Canada and the United States, east of the Rockies, to Mexico.
ABOVE: A tagging leader helps a participant in Quivira National Wildlife Refuge’s Monarch Mania event place a tag on a monarch butterfly’s hind wing. The self-adhesive tags, supplied by the University of Kansas Monarch Watch program, are about the size of a pencil eraser.

RIGHT: A tagged Monarch ready to be released. Tagging leaders record the tag number, date, butterfly’s sex and location tagged, providing information used by scientists to learn more about the butterfly’s migration.
Monarch butterflies sipping nectar on goldenrod flowers at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Thousands of the butterflies filled blooms on Sept. 22. Migrating monarchs store fats for their long journey, sometimes nearly doubling their weight.
T-shirt winner

Dave Meierhoff of Emporia won a T-shirt with the Jayhawk logo by visiting the University of Kansas booth at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. Five names were drawn each night of the fair, Sept. 7-16. Kansans from 21 counties were winners of the shirts.
New KU Resident joins GCH staff

The public and Geary Community Hospital staff will welcome a new family practice resident to the hospital staff at a reception on October 3, from 2-3 pm, in the hospital cafeteria. Dr. Rafael M. Velasquez will spend the next two years studying with Dr. Ronald Mace and other physicians who are part of the University of Kansas Family Practice Residency-Junction City Rural Track. The residency program is based at Geary Community Hospital.

Dr. Velasquez grew up in Lima, Peru. He is the second Peruvian to join the residency program. Dr. Alberto Montoya was the program’s first resident in 1995. Dr. Velasquez completed his medical education at the Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal in 1993 in Peru.

In that same year, he treated patients during the Cholera epidemic that affected Lima citizens. He then spent seven years working for the Peruvian Red Cross until he moved to New Jersey where he worked as a crisis support counselor for the mentally ill, a medical laboratory assistant, and a United Cerebral Palsy support counselor.

Before moving to Junction City, he completed two years with the University of Alabama Family Medicine Residency. He plans to graduate from the KU residency program in 2009.

His extended family lives in New Jersey, all except for a sister in Alabama. His wife, Marina Leonova, and son, Alex, 14, live in Junction City.

New patients may make an appointment with Dr. Velasquez by calling 762-7707 in Junction City.
Donovan, Sydney, Jordan named Kansas Honor Scholars

Donovan Krehbiel, Sydney LeSage and Jordan Schrag will be among the students from 13 Kansas high schools honored Wednesday, October 3, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 135 seniors from high schools in Harvey and Reno counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program in the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center, 1400 N. Lorraine, Hutchinson.

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.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Danny Lewis, assistant director for alumni programs for the KU Alumni Association.

David Johnston, director of marketing and Internet services for the KU Alumni Association, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $15 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Jeff and Marla Eriksen, Hutchinson, will be the site coordinators and county coordinators for Reno County. Sue Ice of Newton will be the county coordinator for Harvey County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
Donovan Krehbiel, Sydney LeSage and Jordan Schrag, representing the top 10 percent of their senior class, will be recognized as Kansas Honor Scholars on Wednesday, October 3.
Fort Hays by far the growth leader

The Kansas Board of Regents is not an organization shy about touting its success. Last week, it proudly boasted that for the first time, enrollment at the state's six universities had exceeded 90,000 students.

The record mark was established because of an overall increase in enrollment of 557 students.

What the Regents didn't point out was had it not been for the student body at Fort Hays State University, there would have been no need for such a press release. FHSU accounted for 466 of the increase, by far the growth leader. In fact, our local university has set the pace for the past five years with its 62.1 percent spike in enrollment.

Fort Hays is even ahead of its own aggressive enrollment goals. With 9,588 students either on campus or in the Virtual College, FHSU is well on its way to hitting the 10,000 target it has set for 2010. This, in turn, should help boost efforts to reach 15,000 students by the year 2020.

That growth will bring its own challenges in the forms of physical space and faculty requirements. We're confident the long-range plan under development adequately will address all such needs.

We're hoping the attractiveness of Fort Hays State University will attract close attention by the Board of Regents. The growth here is helping overcome declines at both the University of Kansas and Emporia State University. Such efforts should be rewarded, whether through additional funding for long-term maintenance or a larger share of scholarship funding.

With its affordable success model, FHSU is helping raise the bar for all university students in the Sunflower State.

--The Hays Daily News