ESU receives lowest amount of state funds for deferred maintenance

BY MAGGIE RASMUSSEN
AND KEVIN NARDI

In a report made in 2004, the Board of Regents found Kansas’ six state universities in desperate need of repair. According to the Board, the repairs would cost $584 million. Only two years later, in a 2006 report, that total had climbed to $727 million.

Three years after the original report, the Kansas state legislature has committed to fixing some of the major problems plaguing its universities’ buildings.

According to the Board of Regents, buildings at state universities comprise two-thirds of all state-owned buildings in Kansas. New funding will address a significant portion of the huge “maintenance backlog”—the hundreds of minor and major repairs necessary across the six state schools. But how did it ever get this bad in the first place?

“The main contributor to the backlog is that these are state-owned buildings, but the funding stream allocated by the state to maintain those buildings just wasn’t big enough,” said Kip Peterson, the director of government relations and communications at the Kansas Board of Regents.

That “funding stream” is a property tax called the Educational Building Fund that was set at a tenth of a percent of property value in 1955. “It hasn’t been adjusted in over 50 years,” Peterson said.

Since then, the six universities have grown in size, and construction costs have risen significantly. The roughly $15 million provided from the educational building fund each year is only a small fraction of the $84 million necessary, as estimated by the Board. Without the necessary money for maintenance, the state’s schools continue to slide into disrepair. The official term is “deferred maintenance,” but according to the Board of Regents, these are repairs that “should be corrected immediately.”

And at least some of them will be happening soon.

In April, the state legislature approved a bill granting $90 million dollars in new state funding over the next five years to the six campuses. An additional $44 million in existing funding, over five years, was designated by the legislature for use on maintenance. This additional amount comes from interest earned on student tuition payments.

“What the legislation said was, ‘You’re going to spend that money on deferred maintenance,’” said Peterson. “In reality it was something that the board and the universities were already committed to do.”

The legislation also provides up to $123 million in tax credits for private donations to the schools’ maintenance needs.

“It’s too early to speculate on if all the tax credits will be used,” said Peterson. “There’s a thought that the bigger universities will probably be able to ‘tap out’ their tax credits, but there’s more of a question mark next to Emporia and Pitt State.”

The tax credits will be available to private donors who contribute to ESU’s maintenance cost. In return, their taxable income is decreased by half of the amount they donate.

“The tax credits don’t take effect until January, the start of a new tax year. So, a year from now, we’ll be able to look back and see how much interest there is,” Peterson said.

Before tax credit donations, Emporia State will receive $8.88 million in state funding, which will be used for, among other things, repairing or replacing old heating and air conditioning units, electrical systems and utility tunnels. Because of the nature of the repairs, students may not notice the changes right away.

“The main thing students will be
able to see [this year] will be the roof of the physical education building,” said Ray Hauke, vice president of administration and financial affairs at ESU. “White Library will be the next big ticket item that you’ll see next year.”

There are a total of eight buildings slated for repair by ESU, plus utility tunnels (see sidebar, Table 4 page 7). Of those nine projects, the ones that will receive the most work are William Allen White Library, the physical education building, and Roosevelt Hall.

While the money allocated to the university will undoubtedly have a positive effect, some wonder if it will be enough.

“We asked for $200 million,” said Courtney George, Associated Student Government president and junior political science and public affairs major. “I’m a little disappointed that the legislature didn’t give us more money.”

George said she has been lobbying the state government for two years for increased funding.

The $134 million being granted to the state schools over five years will cover less than 19 percent of the total maintenance required, according to numbers reported by the Board of Regents. Of the $44.7 million ESU needs, the school will receive only $8.88 million, less than 20 percent of the money necessary to repair problems on campus. However, ESU tended to fare better than other schools in the state. Emporia State will be receiving a higher percentage than the University of Kansas, Pittsburgh State University or Kansas State University (Table 3).

Also interesting to note is the amount of money received per student. ESU, for instance, will be receiving $1,397.70 per student, which is hundreds of dollars more per student than either University of Kansas or Wichita State University will receive (Table 2).

Though the money received by the school will be applied to what are considered the top priorities, many projects will have to be left out due to financial constraints. Non-academic buildings in particular, such as the residence halls and Memorial Union, will not be addressed with this new funding.

According to a list of projects compiled by the Kansas Board of Regents, “Buildings considered ‘mission critical’ are those that directly support the delivery of academic pursuits. University housing, student unions and parking structures were never a part of the $727 million list.” Even among academic buildings, however, there were some that didn’t make the list.

Teaching labs are an example of a project that did not have a place in the final priority list. ESU still stands as a leader for education majors, and the school has around 50 teaching labs on campus. The problem is maintaining those labs.

“We try to renovate one or two of them a year with some of the money we get,” Hauke said. “Renovating a lab costs about $50,000. If you multiply that out, you can see that with the money we’ve got it’s going to take about 20 years to renovate all of the labs we have.

“And that isn’t fast enough. Labs tend to out-date themselves very quickly.”

Concerns for Memorial Union, parking and residential space also are being voiced. While the union, parking lots and residential halls are technically considered state property, schools are largely on their own to provide and maintain these spaces.

“Statutes don’t allow us to spend state dollars on those,” Hauke said. “So, take parking for example. Parking lots can only be addressed with money that we collect from parking.
The William Allen White library is among the many different projects on the list of structures for deferred maintenance. The deferred maintenance money will be going towards improving the infrastructure of the library and other buildings on campus.
**Maintenance**
Continued from Page 1

Residence halls can only be addressed by money from the students staying in them. The Memorial Union is only addressed with fees that we collect as Memorial Union fees.”

In other words, the areas where students’ non-academic lives are concentrated are largely their own responsibility.

A call for more funding is still being made by those here at ESU.
“Anytime you’re only doing 20 percent of something, you’re kind of scratching the surface,” Hauke said.

“We believe these are all big needs, but we also recognize there are a bunch of other things out there that we can’t address with the money we have.”

The money allocated to ESU has been called a “down payment” on future funding—a way for the school to take care of its largest problems immediately.

“We’ve been clear that the legislation that passed this last session is a down payment, and that’s all,” said Peterson. “It’s a positive first step, and it allows the campuses to tackle some of their most urgent needs, as far as maintenance is concerned—some real-life safety issues that exist. But the fact of the matter is, if initial funding cannot be identified in the next five years in addition to this legislation that passed, that backlog is going to be larger than it is today, because we’re still just not meeting the annual requirements.”

In other words, putting off the problem will only perpetuate it. A lack of funding now may result in a larger problem for both the schools and for the legislature.

“The state needs to pick up the slack, because, in essence, they are the landlords,” George said. “They need to fix it.”
## Sidebar to Deferred Maintenance, page 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KSU</td>
<td>$45,783,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>KU*</td>
<td>$32,970,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSU</td>
<td>$15,444,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSU</td>
<td>$10,193,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHSU</td>
<td>$9,378,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESU</td>
<td>$8,881,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$134,000,000</strong></td>
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Table 1 – Total state funding

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Funding per student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KSU</td>
<td>$1962.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHSU</td>
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<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
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Table 2 – Funding per student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Maintenance received</th>
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<tr>
<td>WSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHSU</td>
<td>22.93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESU</td>
<td>19.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KU*</td>
<td>18.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSU</td>
<td>17.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHSU</td>
<td>5.77%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18.43%</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 3 – Funding percentage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Begins</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical education (HPER) building</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$1,666,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Tunnels</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Allen White Library</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$2,875,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roosevelt Hall</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$1,610,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cramer Hall</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Hall</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visser Hall</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stormont Maintenance Building</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power House</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2007-2011</td>
<td><strong>$8,881,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 – ESU Projects

*Not including the University of Kansas Medical Center.*
State needs to give ESU more funding for deferred maintenance

In April, the Kansas state legislature approved a bill granting $134 million in new state funding over the next five years to the six campuses.

Emporia State will receive $8.8 million of this funding to use for deferred maintenance, less than 20 percent of the money needed to repair the university, according to a report made in 2004 by the Kansas Board of Regents.

The university’s first three main priorities will be to replace the roof of the physical education building, repair various areas of the William Allen White Library and work on the utility tunnels. Work on the HPER building roof and the tunnels will begin this year, and then they will begin work on the library in 2008.

To be exact, ESU has $8,881,000 to use towards maintenance. Nine projects in total are on the agenda, but we think the university should be able to do much more than this.

We believe that it is unfair that ESU received the smallest amount of state funding out of the six state colleges. We want to know why the other universities get priority over ESU.

Granted, ESU is receiving more funds than KU, Wichita State and Fort Hays State in terms of funding per student; however, this does not make up for the fact that we are still getting the least amount of funding.

Of the three Division II colleges, ESU is the oldest university, being established in 1863. FHSU and PSU were built about 40 years later.

Just because a campus has more buildings and students does not necessarily mean they automatically have more repairs. Considering the fact that ESU is the second oldest state regent university, there are most likely many buildings and areas on campus that have been neglected for a longer amount of time than at some of the other colleges.

While ESU will receive tax credit donations in January to use towards the maintenance, the state cannot expect the college to rely too heavily on them because private donors will only be able to donate so much.
LAWRENCE - Students from six Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, October 10, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment. A total of 44 seniors from high schools in Anderson and Franklin counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Ottawa High School.

- Anderson County High School Scholars - Molly Kate Boese, Kirstin Brown, Karra Friedli, Mindy Hightberger, Jordan Kruse, Deanna Maley, Tracy Rockers, Roger Shilling, Katie Traul, and Jason Wright.
- Crest High School Scholars - Carolyn Chapman and Brittany Newton.
- Central Heights High School Scholars - Laurel Brock, Vincent Ouellette, Kyle Rossman, Sara VanZant, and Billy Wicks.

Terry Solander of Garnett is the coordinator for Anderson County. The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
Local Firefighters Train in Simulator

The Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute from the University of Kansas made a stop at the Baxter Springs Fire Department last Thursday evening. The Institute brought their semi-trailer specially designed to train firefighters on entering a burning building and seeking out the source of the fire.

The unique trailer is a great tool for getting young firemen experience and giving them an idea of what it’s going to be like when they have to enter a burning building.

There was a time, in Baxter, that old housed targeted for demolition would be burned by the fire department in order to train their members. City ordinance no longer allows this practice, so having access to equipment such as the fire simulator is priceless to small town fire departments.

Taking advantage of the opportunity were several local departments.

Firemen came from Peoria, Galena, Columbus, Quapaw, Seneca and, of course, Baxter Springs.

The trailer itself had a kitchen with stove to simulate kitchen fires, and a bedroom with jets that could shoot flames up through the box springs of a bed and also from the ceiling, simulating the effect of a fire rolling over the firefighter’s head.

The experience was appreciated by all departments.
GUEST EDITORIAL

Speak up on health care reform

BY MICHAEL FOX
President,
Kansas Health Consumer Coalition

It is time for Kansans to speak out on behalf of meaningful health reform in our state. While we know about the 300,000 persons without health insurance whose needs have to be addressed, less visible are the hundreds of thousands of us with what is still called health insurance but should really be called asset protection instead. Steadily and almost without our knowledge, insurance plans have stabilized premiums in recent years while they have gutted benefits for what we had once felt were comprehensive insurance plans. Deductibles have skyrocketed, pushing people into plans that carry low premiums but require massive infusions of out-of-pocket expenses. Meanwhile, insurance company profits soar.

Health insurance used to be about distributing risk among large numbers of people so that no one segment of society would bear undue financial burden for the hardships of some. The problem as viewed by many in corporate America now is not that we don't have enough health insurance or that it isn't good enough. The problem is that we have too much and that it is too good. If we don't choose to pay lots of money toward policies that force us to pay more for less, somehow we are to blame, or worse yet, are acting irresponsibly, making informed choices in our own worst interest - falling prey to the so-called moral hazard. We've gone from health insurance being responsible for taking care of us to practicing personal sacrifice so that we can take care of the insurance industry. Health insurance no longer supports our economy; increasingly it is our economy.

By 2030, it is estimated that 1 in 4 dollars spent in this country will be spent on health care. Last year, we spent almost $200 billion alone just on administrative costs. Since 2000, premiums have increased by 87 percent, yet wages have risen by only 20 percent.

It is time to ask more of our political leaders. It is time to reassert our belief that access to quality health care is a right and not a commodity. The consumer voice will strongly influence whether this happens in our lifetime or that of our children.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority will be considering a number of major options in the weeks ahead that may determine the course of this health reform in Kansas for years to come. It is imperative that they consider the needs of people before profits in the direction they take. But policy makers throughout the state have to hear from consumers as well. It is time to speak out.

Editor's note: Michael H. Fox, ScD, is associate professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Senior Research Scientist in the Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas and President of the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition. The Kansas Health Consumer Coalition is an organization created to advocate for affordable, accessible and quality health care in Kansas.
Getting down to business

By DAYNE LOGAN
Times Staff Writer

Calvin Coolidge once said, “The chief business of the American people is business.”

Although Coolidge uttered those words more than a century ago, they ring as true today as they ever did before.

It only takes a short stroll through downtown Leavenworth to see that new businesses are springing up all over the place. In the last year alone, 14 new businesses have opened their doors in downtown, said Wendy Scheidt, director of the Leavenworth Main Street Program.

However, the city still has plenty of room to grow.

“There’s space available,” Scheidt said.

For that reason, a new business seminar entitled, “The Right Start,” will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Riverfront Community Center.

“It’s basically a seminar for start-up and early-stage businesses,” said Will Katz, director of the University of Kansas branch of the Kansas Small Business Development Center.

The seminar, which will be sponsored by the KU-KSBDC and Main Street, will give new and potential
New businesses springing up in community

Continued from page A1

business owners a
day they attempt to nurse their
foundation to work from as
respective businesses
through their infancy
stages.

Katz said that many
prospective business owners
don't realize what all is
involved in creating and
maintaining their own
company. That's where the
KU-KSBDC and Main
Street come in.

"We've seen a lot of
people start up businesses
and we know some of the
stumbling blocks," Katz
said.

According to Katz, there
are two challenges that are
especially difficult for new
trepreneurs to overcome.
The first challenge is
finding the capital to fund
the initial creation of the
company.

"People think that the
money will show up on a
silver platter," Katz said.

However, the truth is that
it is often difficult to find
investors.

The second stumbling
block that Katz said he
often sees is unrealistic
expectations from business
owners about the market
demand for the product or
products they intend to sell.

Katz said "The Right
Start" seminar is designed
to set people straight about
the challenges they will
have to face while providing
them with effective
strategies for overcoming
those obstacles.

Scheidt said that when
the seminar was first offered
in the spring, several people
left feeling that they had
acquired the tools necessary
for small business success.
In the short amount of time
between then and now, one
of those people has opened a
business in downtown
another is very close to
doing the same, Scheidt
said.

Katz said that he is
hopeful that even more
success stories will come out
of this month's seminar.

"Hopefully people will go
to the seminar and think, "I
can do this," he said.
KU reports on release of records

TOPEKA — A breach of about 600 students’ privacy occurred at the University of Kansas last month because its math department didn’t follow standard policies for destroying discarded documents, officials have concluded.

But the university said Friday it had corrected the problems and had notified students and staff whose personal information was included in the documents.

The problems in handling documents became known when someone mailed documents anonymously to three newspapers. The packets came with letters saying the papers had come from either the department or the university’s recycling center.

It was the second report of such a privacy breach in two months.
University: Deficiencies led to release of student records

TOPEKA — Officials say a breach of students' privacy at the University of Kansas occurred because a department didn't follow standard policies for destroying documents. But university officials said Friday that they have taken action to correct problems in the math department.

Problems became known last month, when someone mailed discarded records to three newspapers. Letters accompanying the packets said the papers had come from the math department or the university's recycling center.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
GOING BATTY

KU grad student nets a new fruit bat species

By Jan Biles
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

LAWRENCE — 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 and his story has appeared online at Yahoo! News.

"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.

Please see DISCOVERY, Page 3B

This is the skull of the newly discovered Mindoro stripe-faced fruitbat.

**Discovery:** New bat species resembles a "flying fox"

*Continued from Page 1B*

"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.

*Jan Biles can be reached at (785) 295-1292 or jan.biles@cjonline.com.*

Jake Esselstyn removes a specimen of the "flying fox" fruit bat from the collection shelves at The University of Kansas' Biodiversity Research Center. Eventually, he would like to work as a curator at a university-based museum.
BHS seniors gain accolades from KU

BY MACKENZIE ELDER
BHS CORRESPONDENT

Several of Baldwin High School’s brightest students were honored at the annual Kansas Honor Scholar’s banquet Sept. 19 at the Lied Center on the University of Kansas campus.

The top 10 percent of the BHS graduating class, nine students out of 89, were formally invited to attend. Sponsored by the Kansas Alumni Association, all counties in Kansas have the option to attend. Students from Douglas, Jefferson and Leavenworth counties were recognized Sept. 19.

BHS Principal Shaun Moseman presented the BHS students at the ceremony.

“I think it was a wonderful night to reward hard work and dedication of Baldwin students,” Moseman said. “We were able to display our best and brightest students of the senior class to area schools.”

The nine BHS students recognized were Lindsay Atchison, Callie Craig, Sarah Eberhart, Heather Garcia, Jordan Hanson, Colby Heckathorne, David Lynch, Marianne Schroer and Ashley Tucker.

BHS Counselor Melody Hoffsommer was originally scheduled to present, but parent-teacher conferences conflicted with the banquet date.

Despite not attending, Hoffsommer loves the idea of the Kansas Honors Scholars banquet.

“We usually wait until the end of the year to honor students for their academics, but it’s nice to honor (the seniors) early,” Hoffsommer said. “The banquet is a really nice event for students and their parents to go and be recognized for academics.”

Hanson had a good time at the banquet, despite a short power outage.

“The event was pretty good,” Hanson said. “We had a blackout, due to the power outage. A blackout with school’s brightest; irony at it’s best. But now we have a chance for a $4,000 scholarship.”

Baldwin High will recognize its scholars at 7 p.m. March 3 during the annual Honors Banquet.

During the ceremony, each student received an American Heritage Dictionary, in hardback and CD versions, presented by Jennifer Sanner, senior vice president for communication for the KU Alumni Association.

Stephen McAllister, KU professor of law, spoke to the students and their parents and guests.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Eight Baldwin High School seniors were on hand for an academic presentation at the University of Kansas recently. From left are Sarah Eberhart, Marianne Schroer, Ashley Tucker, Heather Garcia, Jordan Hanson, Callie Craig, Lindsay Atchison and Colby Heckathorne. At far right is BHS principal Shaun Moseman. A ninth student that gained the honor, David Lynch, didn’t attend the ceremony.