KU profs receive Fulbright awards

LAWRENCE — Three faculty members at The University of Kansas have won Fulbright Senior Scholar Awards for the 2007-08 academic year.

Gregory Cushman, assistant professor of history, has received a Fulbright for the fall semester to teach in the Georgikon Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Pannonia in Hungary. Cushman will teach courses in environmental history and its ethical dimensions.

Erik Herron, associate professor of political science and director of the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, will teach courses on electoral systems and democracy at Ivan Franko National University in Lviv, one of KU’s partner institutions.

Mashasweta Banerjee, associate professor of social welfare, has received a Fulbright to conduct research in India during the fall semester, focusing on the ability of residents of West Bengal, India, to earn a living.
Lure of sex trumps fear of online police

By LAURA BAUER
The Kansas City Star

Sitting at a computer, typing words that a teenage girl would, investigators know it's only a matter of time before a predator asks the question. "R U a cop?"

Or sometimes, it's this one: "Ur not w/ Dateline, R U?"

After years of sting operations aimed at catching Internet predators luring children for sex, it's no secret that investigators throughout the country are swarming in cyberspace.

Police tout statistics, such as Johnson County's 51 arrests since January 2006, and NBC has made a series of videotaping men who think they are meeting a teen or preteen for sex but then confronted by a reporter and a team of police.

But what's crazy, authorities say, is that after years of these operations and all the attention that has come with them, predators...
ONLINE: Lure of sex
trumps fear of police
for many predators

From A1

are still seeking victims. And, they’re still getting caught.

An Overland Park doctor was arrested more than a week ago after, authorities said, he tried to meet someone he thought was a 14-year-old girl he allegedly solicited for sex over the Internet. A radio announcer from Marshall, Mo., faces federal charges after Independence police arrested him last month when he showed up allegedly to have a sexual encounter with someone he thought was a 14-year-old girl.

And about a week ago, a pastor in Texas was jailed after getting caught in a similar operation there.

“Of 85 percent of the chats, somewhere in the chat they say, ‘You know, I could get into trouble for this. They know it’s illegal,’” said Sgt. Mike Pfannenstiel of the Johnson County sheriff’s office. “We’re still surprised we’re still catching people.”

In some cases, though, police acknowledge that it is taking a little longer. It used to be that a detective posing as a young girl would chat with a predator for as long as 30 or 40 minutes before the predator asked to meet for sex.

Now it can take days or, in a few cases, months.

“It’s taking longer to build their trust,” said Capt. Frank Hunter of the Platte County sheriff’s office, one of the first in the Kansas City area to conduct sting operations. “It takes longer for us to get to the point where they are committing themselves.”

Predators are also wise to the ways of law enforcement, causing detectives to change their techniques, said Hunter, who would not elaborate. More than once a Platte County detective has seen the words, “Bye, Cop.” before the person on the other end stops chatting with the supposed young teen.

Nikki Delaney, though, tells story after story about predators who have not given up.

The Colorado woman has transcripts from Internet chats and taped phone conversations to back it up, including several with men from Kansas. As a consultant working with police in many sting operations across the nation, she often poses as a young girl.

Delaney, a founder of the nonprofit organization US Cyberwatch Inc., which uses the Internet to catch online sex predators, has noticed some men “doing the psychological dance a little longer.” That is when they hesitate a bit after finding out her character is 13, saying she’s “jailbait” or admitting that what they’re doing is illegal.

But they still detail what they want to do to her sexually. And almost always they end up setting a time and place to meet the girl for sex.

“Especially after they talk to me over the phone,” Delaney said. To prove her point, she started talking in a high, squeaky voice, a dead ringer for a 13-year-old girl.

“It’s so tunnel vision,” Delaney said. “They are so focused, hoping that this time it’s really a child. For them it’s like, ‘What are the odds they are going to get caught in a sting operation? ... The obsession wins out.”

A man from Arkansas told her up front that he was 50. She was posing as a 13-year-old girl from the same state. His photo was online.

Using the screen name “fireman_at_large,” he told her he could teach her, a young girl who said she was a virgin, about sex.

“Well if I know, for sure u would not say anything i would offer my things i know but i had a friend get into jail messing with a 14 yr old,” he wrote. “... he got in a (sting) thing and im not goingthere.”

After more chatting, explaining what he could show her sexually, he asked to meet the girl. He was convicted of sexual indecency with a child and received shock jail time and four years of probation.

He is now a registered sex offender.

And he is an example, authorities say, of men who know the dangers, who think they are not going to get in trouble, but end up behind bars because they don’t stop.

Only a small fraction of predators on the Internet get caught. Pfannenstiel doubts suspects who tell investigators that the sting operation in which they were busted is the first time they solicited a child on the Internet.

“It’s like with a DUI and the driver says, ‘I’ve only had two beers, officer,” Pfannenstiel said.

After the radio announcer from Marshall was arrested, prosecutors alleged in court filings that he had admitted previously meeting four minors in other states and engaging in sexual activity with three of them.

And a New York man, a former elementary school principal, will be sentenced to time in federal prison for a sexual relationship with a teenage girl from Nebraska whom he met online.

“These people just don’t think they’re going to get caught — it’s really that simple,” said David Holmes, a professor of psychology at the University of Kansas. “There’s no deep psychological reason why they keep doing this; they just think they’re smarter than any sting operation.”

Holmes used the analogy of an alcoholic.

“They see people drunk out of their minds on Skid Row and see what disaster can occur if they drink again, but they still do,” Holmes said. “It’s the same with a sexual offense. We can’t underestimate the urge of that sexual craving. It just overwhelms their rational thinking.”

To reach Laura Bauer, call 816-234-7743 or send an e-mail to lbauer@kcstar.com.
LAWRENCE | Sculpture trail hits a snag

Plans for a new Burcham Park trail that would be lined with unique sculptures are on hold after some residents were concerned the project would too dramatically disrupt the natural area along the Kansas River.

Artist Marie Thompson said the project could be revived later if the University of Kansas goes forward with plans to use the park for its rowing program.

Lawrence Journal-World
SCHOOL ALTERNATIVES | It's time to go back to class — but not necessarily the classroom

EDUCATION CHOICES ABOUND

Virtual schools and homeschooling are two of the fastest-growing options for families.

By MELODEE HALL BLOBAUM
and JOE ROBERTSON
The Kansas City Star

Back to school for Brandon and Nicole Deering means trekking to their basement for online classes from the Basehor Linwood Virtual School.

It means taking a horseback ride when it is time for recess.

And it means heading out to the jousting log in the backyard pond of their Harrisonville home for a yearlong study of the Renaissance with their classmates in a homeschooling cooperative.

While the vast majority of American parents will send their children to a nearby public school this fall, their choices in 2007 may be more varied than ever: from public and private schools to homeschooling to click-of-the-mouse virtual schools to specialized high school programs.

Virtual schools are among the fastest-growing options.

Missouri is opening a statewide virtual school this year. Jim Morris, a spokesman for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, said the program has been filled to its 2,500-student state-funded capacity. Most of those students are enrolled part time, he said.

Last year, Kansas had more than 2,000 students enrolled in 28 virtual school programs, auditors for the Legislature reported in April. Though that represents less than 1 percent of the state's student population, auditors said that the number of students in virtual programs has risen about 200 percent since 2001-2002.

Experts say that homeschooling also seems to be gaining popularity. Some estimates suggest as many as 2

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OPTIONS: Choices abound in school, at home, online

FROM BI

Million students are homeschooled across the nation, said John Rury, a University of Kansas education professor. Homeschooling has grown beyond its initial base of religiously motivated parents, Rury said.

"It's just become more acceptable and, frankly, the availability of the virtual-school option has probably led some people to do it who otherwise wouldn't," he said.

The proportion of students enrolled in private schools has stayed steady at about 10 to 12 percent of the school-age population. But some schools report growing enrollment and, in the Kansas City area, three Christian schools are pondering forming their own district.

Still, the local public school is the school of choice for most parents. About 84 percent of 6- to 17-year-olds in the Kansas City area attended public schools in 2005, according to census data.

Ray Wilson keeps his 13-year-old daughter, Brianna, in public school in the Kansas City district — like her brothers before her. He has seen the sales pitch that private schools make.

"They tell you about the percentage of their students who are going on to college and that's attractive to a parent," Wilson said. "But you have the same opportunities in public school if the parents are on board and aware of what it takes."

But even in public schools, parents have choices. For example, the Shawnee Mission School District this year will introduce biotechnology, biomedical health science and engineering programs that are open to any high school student in the district.

Rury calls it an extension of the magnet-school phenomenon.

Olathe introduced its first transfer programs for high school students in 2003 and has seen enrollment in them grow steadily. One of the fastest growing is the sports medicine program at Olathe North High School, which was introduced in 2005.

Brooke Galley will be a senior in the program this year. Over the last two years, she has learned how to tape ankles and studied anatomy and physiology. She expects to get an internship this year in the pediatric department at Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Galley, 17, plans to study pediatric physical therapy in college.

"If you have some interest in this field, you can try it out and say, 'Is this really what I want to do?' If it is, it gives you a great head start," she said.

For many parents, the most basic school choice comes when they choose where to live. Schools are a factor in home buying, and public schools now offer more information about student achievement through online report cards.

"People used to decide where to live based on word of mouth. 'We hear this is a good school,' " Rury said. "They felt good about it, but they didn't know why. Now hard data is available at the click of a mouse."

Melanie Dearing has sampled nearly all of the school options. Her oldest son went to Catholic school through eighth grade, then graduated from Shawnee Mission Northwest High School.

Dearing's next two children appeared headed down the same path until another son, Adam Schieber, lobbied to be homeschooled by his mother, a certified teacher. By the start of seventh grade, he had won her over.

Then Adam read an article about the Basehor-Linwood Virtual School — and he began a new lobbying campaign.

After dozens of calls to the Basehor Linwood principal, Dearing was sold on the computerized instruction. She designed a hybrid virtual school-home school-public school education for him that continued through high school.

Soon Adam's sister Kristin Schieber joined him at home, and younger siblings Brandon and Nicole Dearing have never experienced anything else.

Though they have moved to Missouri, they will continue virtual schooling at Basehor, though the school district won't receive state funding for them.

Jousting, anyone?

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By STEVE KRAKSE
and DAVE HELLING
The Kansas City Star

For months, in the face of brutal criticism, George Bush stood by Alberto Gonzales.

Now, as the attorney general joins the migration of the president's closest Texas friends out the door, the question is: Where will Bush turn for help in the waning days of his administration now that the Austin crowd is packing its bags and headed home?

And what price did Bush — and his party — pay for that loyalty?

Even Bush's supporters are used to the pattern.

Bush stuck with political adviser Karl Rove, despite the 2006 election debacle and potential connections with the U.S. attorney quagmire. He nominated Harriet Miers for the Supreme Court, when even Republicans criticized her conservative credentials.

And this

SEE AIDS | A4

Analysis

After months of controversy over his leadership of the Justice Department, Alberto Gonzales announced his resignation as attorney general Monday in Washington. He gave a brief statement to reporters and took no questions.
AIDES: Bush’s loyalty may have cost support

FROM A1

year, Gonzales.
"It’s a big code of personal principle for him not to throw people over the side," said Bruce Buchanan, a professor of government at the University of Texas in Austin.

"The president has an issue with defiance of people who press him to do things when he’s supposed to be the decider."

That defiance has earned Bush the strong support of his friends but may have cost him support in his party and for his presidency.

In 2006, Bush supported Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, even as the situation in Iraq deteriorated, hurting the party’s chances at the polls. Later, Republicans were outraged to learn that Rumsfeld had wanted to quit before Election Day but that Bush had refused to accept his resignation until after the voting.

The decision may have cost the GOP the Senate, which in turn led to a series of investigations — including the circumstances surrounding the firing of nine U.S. attorneys — that contributed to Gonzales’ downfall.

Bush is hardly the first chief executive to hang on to embattled advisers. Most presidents have gone through similar battles because they felt so personally tied to top aides. "Presidents feel their judgment is being questioned," said Charles Bullock, a University of Georgia political scientist.

Jim Miller, a Washington-based political adviser who once served as Ronald Reagan’s budget director, said, "These are people he's known for a very long time."

He was referring to people like Scott McClellan, former news secretary; Dan Bartlett, former White House counselor; and Joe Allbaugh, former FEMA director, once a member of the "iron triangle" involving Rove and Karen Hughes, now with the State Department.

"They’ve been traveling with this guy for a long time," said Texas journalist Bill Minutaglio. "There’s a strong personal connection."

Many are expected to continue as informal advisers to Bush, but he will have to adjust to new faces, new management styles and new approaches to government.

Republicans and Democrats said the departures could create a bigger opening for another longtime friend, Vice President Dick Cheney.

"It doesn’t diminish the vice president at all, even as he’s discredited in many ways," said University of Kansas political scientist Burdett Loomis. "He becomes the person who’s had the longest-term relationship."

Miller said, "(Bush) has enormous confidence in Dick Cheney, and for good reason."

But leaning on Cheney, whose poll numbers are lower than Bush’s, may be a problem for the White House as it struggles to find support for a variety of issues in the last year of its second term.

Some of the blame for that struggle, Republicans and Democrats said, can be laid at the feet of Gonzales and his long fight to keep his job, a battle that included testimony before Congress that even Republicans found not credible.

"I don’t know why the president kept him as long as he did," said former Democratic Rep. Martin Frost of Texas. "It was long overdue."

Former U.S. Attorney Jean Paul Bradshaw of Kansas City said the resignation was the right thing.

"For the good of the department, it was time to move on," Bradshaw said. "Fair or unfair, it’s what happens in politics sometimes."

And the Democrats’ investigation of the White House, from the U.S. attorney firings to warrantless wiretaps, will undoubtedly continue, as will the fight over Bush’s use of executive privilege to shield Gonzales, Rove and other officials from the congressional spotlight.

But Bush will not be without resources. His poll numbers are moving up, based in part on improvements in Iraq and Democrats’ concerns about appearing weak on intelligence-gathering and national defense.

For his part, the president on Monday appeared ready to do battle.

Gonzales’ "good name was dragged through the mud for political reasons," he told reporters in Texas.

But in acknowledging that he had accepted Gonzales’ resignation reluctantly, Bush may have also signaled his sadness at losing another Texan to the rigors of Washington.

"The only surprise is not that any of the Texans have left, but that they stayed so long," said Mark McKinnon, a former Bush media consultant.

McClatchy Newspapers’ Dave Montgomery contributed to this report.

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Jeff Boerger

**Title:** Chairman.

**Organization:** Kansas City
Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce, 727 Minnesota Ave.,

**Focus:** The chamber’s mission is to help promote business
development and legislative agendas to create a pro-business
environment within Wyandotte County and enhance the quality of
life in the county and in Kansas City, Kan.

**Details:** Boerger also is president of Kansas Speedway. As chamber
chairman, he replaces Irene Cumming of the University of
Kansas Hospital, who resigned in May. He will serve through 2008.

**Goals:** "The chamber’s top priority is workforce development,
always, not only in the manufacturing area but in the
hospitality service sector," Boerger said. "Transportation will also be a
big issue, and economic development to help create wealth in
Wyandotte County by working with KU Hospital to enhance life
sciences development."

**Education:** He has a bachelor of fine arts from the University of
Kansas.

**Background:** Before joining Kansas Speedway in 1998, Boerger
had been vice president of business development for the
Kansas City Area Development Council.

| Rosanne Wickman, special to The Star |

County: Jackson
Caregivers need help

With the nation's population aging, and rapidly, many families will face the challenge of providing care for loved ones who live longer, and with chronic conditions. Carolyn Smith's experience (8/23, Letters) highlights this issue. Caregiving can be rewarding, yet it involves taking on new roles and responsibilities that can be stressful and overwhelming. All too often, loved ones are sent home and their caregivers are reminded to take care of themselves — but they receive very little direction on exactly how to do this. Finding creative solutions to respond to caregivers' needs will require a comprehensive approach.

One approach is through research. Cynthia Teel at the University of Kansas School of Nursing is studying ways to support the health of older adults caring for a spouse or partner.

She has developed two randomized studies for older spouse caregivers to determine if a program called Self-Care TALK is helpful in reducing caregiver strain and promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors.

One study is designed for spouse caregivers of stroke survivors. The other is for spouse caregivers of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

If you would like more information about these studies, please call 913-588-4680.

Anita Macan
Research operations manager

Cherie Parker
Health promotion intervention specialist
Self-Care TALK Research Study
University of Kansas School of Nursing
Kansas City, Kan.
Family gels over law and rockets, drums and slides

By WILL MANLY
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Fort Hays State University and the University of Kansas School of Law were rallying points for Jeff and Stacey Seibel, who've been married 11 years and have two children.

When the pair met, Stacey was still in law school and Jeff was a practicing attorney in Hays, his hometown. They soon found they'd had a lot of professors in common at their shared undergraduate alma mater — FHSU — and a handful of law school professors in common, too. They married shortly after Stacey graduated from law school.

Today, Stacey practices estate planning law and has a part-time teaching post at FHSU and Jeff is a financial adviser and serves on the dean's executive advisory coun-

Stacey's law practice — bolstered by a master's degree in tax law from the University of San Diego — gives her the chance to make a real difference for clients.

"I really wanted something where I could help families," she said. "It's really satisfying to help families pass on their wealth and their assets."

Jeff gave up law in 1996 for a financial advising post at Edward Jones Investments, where he works with his father and sister.

The Seibel family poses outside their home in Hays with their dogs and their rockets. Both Jeff and Stacey Seibel's fathers were pilots, so they hope their children will enjoy learning about aeronautics.

From left, Lauren, 4, Jeff, Stacey and Grant, 3.

WILL MANLY / Hays Daily News

County: Ellis
SEIBEL: Real drums replace wooden spoons

Continued from Page A1

“In law, you often see good people on their worst day,” he said. “In financial planning, you meet with successful people and you’re helping plan retirement or helping them prepare for a child’s college education. It’s a much more enjoyable career for me.”

The Seibel family, which now includes 4-year-old Lauren and 3-year-old Grant, enjoys launching rockets. Both Jeff’s and Stacey’s fathers were pilots, so the parents hope to pass on a tradition of aeronautical interest to their children.

They also travel to visit grandparents and other relatives and they like swimming at the Hays Aquatic Park. Lauren’s favorite HAP attraction is the water slide — the short white one, not the big yellow one. It’s too scary.

“My other favorite part is the snacks, where me and Mommy get popcorn and vanilla ice cream and bottled water,” she said.

Among Grant’s hobbies is drumming on his shiny drum set. Stacey and Jeff bought it for him to protect the rest of the house from his rocking out.

“He started using wooden spoons on everything,” Jeff Seibel said, glancing at the drum set. “We thought that made more sense.”

The family also includes three dogs. Jeff and Stacey had Max, a sheltie, and Kona, a boxer, for years before they had children. They adopted Sugar, another boxer, from the Humane Society last year.

Will Manly is a reporter for The Hays Daily News and The Stir. He can be reached at (785) 629-1081, Ext. 139, or by e-mail at will@thestironline.com.
Joshua McEwen, Hutchinson, has been elected as a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda. Sigma Alpha Lambda is a national leadership and honors organization at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.
Smith, Pratt, Jeremy Moser.

University of Kansas
Kimberly Hernandez.
Hutchinson, has been accepted
as a member of The National
Society of Collegiate Scholars.

She will be honored during an
induction convocation this fall
on the campus at the University
of Kansas, Lawrence.