Area teachers earn state honors

By JODIE GARCIA
Herald Staff Writer

A handful of area teachers recently were honored by the University of Kansas for their longtime service in education.

More than 880 Kansas teachers were recognized for teaching for 25 years or more by KU’s School of Education.

Local teachers, their school districts, and total years of teaching include: Paula Howard, West Franklin, 25 years; Terry Tinnen, West Franklin, 36 years; Katherine Austin, Central Heights, 25 years; Thomas Horstick, Central Heights, 26 years; Kent Schulte, Central Heights, 25 years; Deanna Groshong, Wellsville, 25 years; and Alice Russell, Wellsville, 25 years.

“As an educator and parent, I know how significant teachers are in the lives of our children,” Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education, said in a recent news release. “It is an honor for the School of Education to offer this small gesture of appreciation to the fine teachers across the state of Kansas who have devoted their professional careers to the field.”

Each year, KU’s School of Education asks Kansas school district officials to recommend educators who should receive recognition. Certificates are issued based on responses from individual districts statewide.
KU professor takes aim at religious right in new book

BY TERRY ROMBECK
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAWRENCE — More than anything, Robert Minor views his new book as cultural commentary. But he hopes it serves another role.

"It's sort of like an intervention," he says.

The Kansas University professor's eighth book, "When Religion is an Addiction," may become his most controversial. He suggests that some members of the religious right have become so addicted to their church activities that they have to continue advancing their causes to get new "highs."

"It's like any addiction," he says. "At some point, it doesn't do the trick for you, so you need to strengthen it. Religion wasn't enough for them, so they entered politics to get a stronger affirmation of righteousness."

Before any liberals think they're off the hook, Minor has a message for them: "I'm not really writing it to convince people they're addicted to religion. It's more written for people who are liberals, who are enablers."

Minor is expecting to rile people on all sides of the political spectrum.

Minor has been a professor of religious studies at KU since 1977. His areas of study and teaching include religions of south Asia, sexuality and religion and gender.

His previous books include "Scared Straight" and "Gay and Healthy in a Sick Society."

He says he's been thinking about the concept of religious addiction for years, and he admits it's not a new concept. Religious scholars and authors such as John Bradshaw and Leo Booth have written about it before.

But Minor hopes to cast it in terms of the rise of the religious right in the past 20 to 30 years.

He says the high of advancing beliefs through political activism has replaced the highs of church activity.

"Like the family drunk," he writes in the book's introduction, "they are high on a bender, and their current drink is political."

The addiction can manifest itself in other ways, Minor says, including "winning a political battle, doing political work, feeling like you're doing the work of the Lord ... more Bible readings, more studies, more testimonials."

He gives the example of gay unions and marriage as an issue. Passing the federal Marriage Protection Act wasn't enough, he says. Conservatives then decided to work for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, or work so gays can't adopt children.

"The fix never lasts, so you need another issue," he said.

Minor doesn't profess to be a psychologist, so he doesn't know the exact cause of the religious addiction. But he thinks it is connected to low self-esteem issues, because some fundamental Christians believe they "deserve eternal child abuse from a heavenly father," and that "you can only be OK if somebody else (God) likes you," he says.

And, he says, the media has helped further the right-wing cause. He notes a study by the watchdog group Media Matters of America that said right-wing religious leaders were interviewed, quoted or mentioned 3.8 times as often as other religious issues.

Minor blames liberals for enabling conservatives in their religious and political changes through the years.

Though the concept of religious addiction has been around for decades, it's "safe to say that field is still in its infancy" in terms of scientific and clinical research, says Steve Ildari, a KU associate professor of psychology.

Ildari says chemical or substance addictions tend to activate the same reward pathways of the brain that "process addictions" — such as gambling or binge eating — also activate.
Act helps students

Before starting their annual August work period, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate worked to approve important legislation.

Kansas delegation members voted in favor of H.R. 2272, the America Competes Act. This legislation creates a comprehensive program to reverse the declining number of graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The America Competes Act provides more than $33 billion for undergraduate and graduate school research programs in STEM fields. KU is also pleased the bill will strengthen K-12 programs.

Kansans should thank their elected representatives for their support of this bill.

Students at KU will have more resources available to help them earn college degrees, which will keep Kansas and the United States moving forward as global leaders in knowledge, technology and innovation.

Richard Lariviére
provost, University of Kansas
Lawrence
Local educators recognized for service to Kansas

The School of Education at the University of Kansas has recognized more than 880 Kansas teachers with certificates honoring them for 25 years or more of service in education.

Two teachers honored this year each have more than 40 years of service in education in Kansas. Robert Runnebaum, secondary school principal from Kansas City, Kansas, was honored for a total of 42 years of service in Kansas. He is a principal in the Piper school district.

KU's School of Education annually asks Kansas school district officials to recommend educators who should receive recognition. Certificates are issued based on responses from individual districts statewide; some school districts do not participate in the recognition program.

Other educators from the Kansas City, Kansas, area recognized by KU are: (from Turner schools) Anne Atkinson, Jean Bauman, Susan Klankley, Brenda Miller, Jena Rejba, David Vaugh, Linda Wolken; (from Piper schools) Rebecca Knetter, Kathleen Schaffer, Cecilia Trabert, William Warne; (from Bonner Springs/Edwards ville schools) Gail F. Berman, Susan E. Gash, John R. Lefler, Michael A. Leonard, Deborah A. Nelson, Vicky L. Wheeler; (from Kansas City, Kansas, schools) Brenda Barnes, Marcia Cook, Jess Cornelius, Catherine Daly, Elaine Donovan, Mary Lou Feagan, Cindy Fields, Judy Fink, Brenda Diehl, Julia Gaunce, Joanne Hale, Cassandra Jackson, Pamela Jasinski, Ania Johnson, Debra Keltner, Cynthia Lake-Asfaw, Jeannie Long, Joann Madden, Herbert Matthews, Cheryl McDonald, Gloria Meredith, Barbara Novak, Franchiel Nyakatura, Linda Orangkhadivi, Wanda Paige, Beverly Pierce, Mary Popchoke, Carol Shafer, Joan Sirokman, Delanna Toevs, Theresa Torres, Nancy Wolf and Carolyn Work.

"Teaching is such a vitally important career, that it is our privilege to recognize these individuals who have dedicated their lives to working with students," said Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education. "As an educator and parent, I know how significant teachers are in the lives of our children. It is an honor for the School of Education to offer this small gesture of appreciation to the fine teachers across the state of Kansas who have devoted their professional careers to the field."
Changes at health center

Dr. Crystal Hill is now serving as acting medical director for the Flint Hills Community Health Center-Lyon County Health Department. Dr. Ronald Carson, who has been medical director since Aug. 1, 2005, has resigned, effective in early October, to become a staff physician for the Shawnee County Health Agency.

Dr. Hill, who has been at the center since Sept. 1, 2005, earned her medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Her undergraduate degree is also from KU.

The center’s medical practice provided outpatient and inpatient medical care, dental care and behavior health services to more than 8,000 patients in 2006. In the same year, a satellite practice as established at the Osage County Health Department in Lyndon and the center’s physicians assumed responsibility for medical supervision of Emporia State University’s Student Health Services.
Mount Oread scholars to walk uphill Aug. 13

LAWRENCE — The 11th annual walk up the hill for Mount Oread Scholars is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13. Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle, associate vice provost for Student Success, will lead the walk and provide commentary about campus history and Mount Oread, pointing out landmarks along the way.

The walk signifies the beginning of a higher education journey for the 189 Mount Oread Scholars whose ultimate goal is to walk down the hill upon graduation. Two scholars will carry the 2007 KU graduation banner to further mark this important beginning, and scholars are encouraged to wear their Mount Oread Scholars T-shirt that states, “What Goes Up, Must Come Down.”

Established in 1996, the Mount Oread Scholars Program is designed to facilitate academic connections on campus and is part of KU’s University Advising Center. New first-year students are invited to become Mount Oread Scholars during their first years at KU if they graduated in the top 20 percent of their high school classes and received an ACT composite score of at least 28 or a minimum SAT score of 1,240.

Mount Oread Scholars work individually with an adviser in their fields of interest, share class schedules to form study or discussion groups, attend scholar support sessions and enroll in relatively small classes taught by veteran faculty. There is also a Learning Community and seminar course reserved for scholars. The program’s retention rate the past two years is about 94 percent.

The walk up the hill will be followed by a continental breakfast reception at Spencer Research Library. Library staff, including Sherry Williams, interim head of Spencer Research Library, and librarian Tami Albin, will greet the students and invite them to learn more about all of KU’s libraries as they enjoy a commanding view of the Kaw River Valley from the gallery.

During the breakfast, Williams, Nemeth Tuttle, Senior Vice Provost Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett and Mount Oread Scholars Program alumna Ava Dinges will address the scholars.

Area honorees include:

Claflin — Kristi Lyn Jensen, daughter of Ronald and Susan Jensen, microbiology BS freshman, Mt. Oread Scholar, Hoisington High School

Great Bend — Jacklyn Ann Pringle, daughter of Steve and Linda Pringle, Pre-Business freshman, Mt. Oread Scholar, Great Bend High School

Hoisington — Jacquelyn Renee Koester, daughter of Richard and Pamela Koester, Theatre and Film BA freshman, Mt. Oread Scholar, Hoisington High School
**Music camps attract more than 380 youngsters**

LAWRENCE — More than 380 junior high and high school students from Kansas and 16 other states arrived at the University of Kansas this summer to attend one of four Midwestern Music Camps.

KU's School of Fine Arts and Department of Music and Dance offer the camps. David Clemmer, director of athletic bands and assistant band director at KU, leads the camps.

The camps provide instrumental, vocal and keyboard students a variety of musical experiences, including opportunities to participate in full symphony orchestras, choirs, bands, jazz ensembles and music classes.

This year's camps and dates:
- Junior High Band and Orchestra Camp, June 10-16
- Senior High Band, Orchestra and Choir Institute, June 17-23
- Marching Band Leadership Camp, July 8-12
- Jazz Workshop, July 8-13

From Great Bend Great Bend High School, senior Robbie Underwood took part in the Senior High Camp.
Patients from throughout state could ‘visit’ KCK doctors with new program

By NICK SLOAN
Kansan Staff Writer

More patients throughout the state may become closer to the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., without leaving their hometowns.

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS), representative from the First District in Kansas, announced an earmark of $300,000 for the medical center’s telemedicine program. The measure has passed the House and approval remains for the Senate.

Using a video conference center and other technology, doctors at the medical center can meet with patients as far away as Hays, Kan., preventing an over four-hour drive for both parties.

Dr. Gary Doolittle of the medical center led a demonstration of the communication system Wednesday with Mitch Berens, a patient from Hays.

Berens, who suffers from melanoma, said the telemedicine program is convenient for him and his family.

“I enjoy it, especially having see (Dr. Doolittle) on a weekly basis,” Berens said. “It’s offered me the same doctor every time. My visits go much quicker and my wait is much shorter.”
KU Med
Continued from PAGE 1

The telemedicine program at KUMC reaches out to over 70 locations throughout the State Kansas, including Kansas City, Kan. The number could increase if the bill is approved by the Senate.

Ryan Spaulding, director of the center for Telemedicine and Telehealth, said the $300,000 would go toward adding more locations, expanding the amount of services for patients and more research.

"We want to expand the number of sites in our program," he said. "It's probably going to be about $15,000 by the time all the technology is set up at one site."

Doolittle said he initially had to adjust to the telemedicine program when it was introduced in the mid-1990s, but now hopes it is expanded with the help of the earmark.

"I would like to see this type of service expanded," he said. "Services just don't have to go through Kansas City. You can use this technology to bring people together."

Services offered by the telemedicine location range from psychiatry to educational program. With the video conference setup, Doolittle and other physicians can listen to heartbeats and can look inside a patients' throat and ears with available technology.

Although KU Med does not fall inside Moran's district, which ranges from the Colorado border to just west of Topeka, Kan., he said the medical center is important for him and residents in the state.

"This is to me strong evidence of the role KU plays," he said. "This is a perfect example of where KU makes a difference in the quality of life for many."

Along with Rep. Moran, University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway, KUMC Hospital and President and CEO Bob Page and KUMC Executive Vice Chancellor Barbara Atkinson all visited the event.
KU professor’s controversial new book examines ‘religion addiction’

LAVERNE, Kan. — More than anything, Robert Minor views his new book as conceptual commentary. But he hopes it serves another role.

“It’s sort of like an intervention,” he says.

The Kansas University professor’s eighth book, “When Religion is an Addiction,” may become his most controversial. He suggests that some members of the religious right have become so addicted to their church activities that they have to continue advancing their causes to get new “fights.”

“It’s like any addiction,” he says. “At some point, it doesn’t do the trick for you, so you need to strengthen it. Religion wasn’t enough for them, so they entered politics to get a stronger affirmation of righteousness.”

Before any liberals think they’re off the hook, Minor has a message for them: “I’m not really writing it to convince people they’re addicted to religion. It’s more written for people who are liberals, who are enablers.”

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But Minor hopes to cast it in terms of the rise of the religious right in the past 20 to 30 years.

He says the high of advancing beliefs through political activism has replaced the highs of church activity.

“Like the family drunk,” he writes in the book’s introduction, “they are high on a bender, and their current drink is political.”

The addiction can manifest itself in other ways. Minor says, including “winning a political battle, doing political work, feeling like you’re doing the work of the Lord ... more Bible readings, more studies, more testimonials.”

He gives the example of gay unions and marriage as an issue. Passing the federal Marriage Protection Act wasn’t enough, he says. Conservatives then decided to work for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, or work so gays can’t adopt children.

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Though the concept of religious addiction has been around for decades, it's "safe to say that field is still in its infancy" in terms of scientific and clinical research, says Steve Iarlidi, a KU associate professor of psychology.

Iarlidi says chemical or substance addictions tend to activate the same reward pathways of the brain that "process addictions" — such as gambling or binge eating — also activate.

But, Iarlidi says, there is "enormous controversy in the literature right now" when it comes to determining what qualifies as a process addiction, which is the area where Minor's idea of religious addiction would fit.

The big factor clinically speaking, Iarlidi says, is whether there's harm in religious involvement.

"Religious addiction," what does that mean?" he asks. "Does it mean a person who spends hours a week in religious practice at church or at meetings, who reads the Bible daily or prays daily, and it's somewhat rewarding to them? Are they addicted? From a clinical perspective, I would say no, unless it's something that's clearly harmful."

That would include neglecting other relationships, work or other life responsibilities, Iarlidi says.

"Is it impairing a person's functioning?" Iarlidi asks. "That's the question I would want to see addressed before I'd consider labeling something a religious addiction."

Shaun LePage, pastor at Community Bible Church, 906 N. 1464 Road, is among those questioning Minor's logic.

"The book is just another in our psychobabble-hungry culture to declare something an 'addiction,'" LePage says. "If it was sarcasm or parody, it might be funny. But I think Dr. Minor is completely serious."

Bill Bump, pastor at Lawrence Free Methodist Church, 3001 Lawrence Ave., says he doesn't consider himself part of the "Christian right." But, after reading the online version of Minor's book, he says he feels uncomfortable with the broad generalizations Minor makes.

"I think he's writing from his perspective, which is fine," Bump says. "But it's not a book I would read or recommend. I think he paints people with too broad a stroke, talking about their personality. I can't say everybody has the same psychology, whether they're Democrats, Republicans, liberal or conservative."
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