Lawrence Journal-World, on tuition costs

Are tuition premiums placed on some areas of study at Kansas University and other U.S. colleges pushing low-income students into majors with less career potential?

According to comments by KU Provost Richard Lariviere in a recent New York Times article, the answer to that question appears to be “yes.”

KU began charging “differential tuition” (now referred to on the KU Web site as “course fees”) in the early 1990s.

The fees were justified as a way to insure students in certain majors have the up-to-date equipment and top-notch faculty necessary to succeed in their careers.

However, the tie between higher course fees and majors that lead to higher paying jobs is undeniable.

It’s worth noting that even this year’s entering freshmen, who will pay the much-touted four-year “guaranteed” tuition, must pay course fees.

The evidence that low-income students are avoiding majors with additional course fees may be anecdotal, but it is nonetheless disturbing.

Acquiring a well-paying job may be one goal of a university education, but universities shouldn’t be in the business of placing a relative dollar value on various fields of study.

It’s also unsettling for university officials to point to scholarship programs that are funded by the additional fees. That amounts to having students who pay full tuition and fees actually subsidizing the education of some of their classmates.

Too many students already are being left behind because of the rising costs of higher education.

There’s nothing wrong with being a history major, but it doesn’t serve the state of Kansas and its economic future to push people into liberal arts majors rather than encouraging those who are interested to pursue professional degrees.

If even anecdotal evidence that course fees are having that effect doesn’t worry KU officials, it should.
The Eudora Sesquicentennial Committee will have four historical presentations during September as part of the city's 150th anniversary celebrations.

Bertha Cameron will present "The Life and Times of Paschal Fish" at 3 p.m. Sept. 9 at Eudora City Hall, 4 East Seventh St. Cameron is a member of the Shawnee Tribe and has spent a lifetime researching the history of the tribe in the Kansas area. She will discuss life in Kansas during Paschal Fish's time and what was known of his life, family and work.

Dr. Steve Jansen will present "Eudora and World War II," a discussion of the effect of the war on Eudora at 3 p.m. Sept. 16 at Eudora City Hall. Jansen has long studied Douglas County history and is a popular local speaker. His program will include a discussion of how the influx of Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant (Hercules) workers changed Eudora.

Dr. William Keel will present a Kansas Humanities program "The German Founders of Eudora" at 3 p.m. Sept. 23 at Eudora City Hall. Keel is Professor of German at Kansas University. He takes particular interest in the German communities of Kansas.

Keel's presentation will include the history of the Germans who founded Eudora, why they came, why they stayed and how their influence shaped the town.

"Remembering Miss Nottingham, Eudora's Favorite Teacher" will be presented at 3 p.m. Sept. 30 at Nottingham Elementary School, 1428 Elm St. Roberta Nottingham shaped the future of Eudora by her influence on Eudora's youth. Those planning to attend will have a chance to share memories of Miss Nottingham, who was an important part of Eudora's history.

All presentations are free and open to the public.

For more information about any of the presentations, call Martha Harris at (785) 979-4588.
An organization of women philanthropists who are interested in the University of Kansas has provided its members an opportunity to support important causes and expand their own interests.

The group, Women Philanthropists for KU, started four years ago as part of a national trend to get women philanthropically involved.

"It's not a program or a club," said the Endowment Association's Judy Wright, who leads a steering committee of the group. "It's an initiative. The point is to get women more involved through programming and to offer opportunities for leadership on campus."

Wright said that the group tries to consider the way women like to interact.

"We know that, generally, women like to get more involved with causes or programs they want to support," she said. "Men say, 'It sounds great; here's some money.' Women say, 'It sounds great; how can I be of service?'"

Deanell Reece Tacha of Lawrence, a federal judge and one of the organization's two co-chairwomen, said women often look for causes that focus more on children's issues and on health care.

But Tacha and Wright added that women athletics and the sciences, generally popular with men, are also important causes for women philanthropists.

Generally, the group tries to hold programs every year that will connect women who are interested in the University of Kansas with others and the school. The group's Sept. 7 program will be a luncheon with Margaret May Damen, who leads a group that focuses on the creation of wealth by women.

Other programs have included introducing women to the Audio Reader program and visiting the new Lifespan Institute at the Kansas University Medical Center.

"I had women come up to me after the Audio Reader program and ask me how they didn't know it even existed," Wright said. "I suspect many of those women are still volunteering there today."

The group also runs a fund administered by the Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center that gives grants to female undergraduate seniors and graduate students to advance their careers, doing such things as paying for travel to an interview or buying a new suit.

"And that was driven by interest by our women," Wright said. "And it's not a fund we do fundraising for. It's funded entirely through this organization."

Wright said the 33 women on the advisory board, some with their spouses, have donated more than $6 million to the university since the program was founded.

More importantly, according to Tacha, the group has become a source of wonderful friendships.

"It's so energizing to be with a group of women who are so committed to philanthropy, all KU women," she said.
Five questions with Erika Meza-Zerlin

Erika Meza-Zerlin, Topeka, was featured in an article in the Topeka Capital-Journal this month. Two years after graduating from high school, Meza-Zerlin is a woman of distinction at The University of Kansas. She is featured in the 2007-2008 “Women of Distinction” calendar, standing alongside professors and graduate students who have made a significant mark in their chosen fields. She is the granddaughter of Esther Quiarte, Chanute.

The question-and-answer article was entitled “From NASA to calendar girl.”

How did you get selected for the calendar?
I was nominated by somebody. I’m not really sure who. I am pretty young. A lot of these women are PhDs and graduate students. So it is a huge honor, especially for me, even to be nominated. I feel a little intimidated by it. I mean, look at all these women I am being photographed with, and I haven’t done anything in comparison to them. I think I was nominated because of my internship with NASA.

You worked at NASA?
My internship was 10 weeks during the summer, from June 4 until Aug. 10. I worked on AREDS — Advance Respiratory Exercise Device. I helped with the testing, and I helped make prototypes of it with foam.

It is like an expensive Bowflex. That is what everyone at work used to say. It is a machine that simulates free-weight maneuvers. They created a vacuum with air cylinders. It is kind of like the concept of an air pump. If you close the end of the pump and still try to push down on it, it is going to be really hard. This machine will be able to do 29 different exercises with resistance of up to 600 pounds.

In Johnson Space Center, they have a building where they have all the mockups — life-size replicas of the space station and the space shuttle. Actual one-to-one ratios. They are training models for the astronauts.

We got to go in and install the AREDS prototype in the actual node within the space station where it was going to be placed. Just seeing that replica, walking through — it was really cool. It was like I was actually there. Obviously without the floating, though. I had to walk.

It was funny because all the little kids who came in with camps, they would all be waving at me. They think everyone is an astronaut at NASA, so I waved back. It was a lot of fun.

Did you see any of the astronauts who went up in the shuttle Endeavour on Aug. 8?
A couple of them were training right next to me. I didn’t get to meet them, but I saw them. They were going through the whole pre-launch thing. I was like, “Hey, I’ve seen that girl on TV.” It was Barbara Morgan, the teacher.

I actually got to meet Sunita Williams, the woman astronaut who set the record for the longest space flight — six months. And I met Gene Krantz. He was the flight director of Apollo 13.

He was Ed Harris in the movie.

It was crazy. I was getting all this history all at once, and I am just a little college kid from Kansas.

Did you always want to go to NASA?
I wasn’t really one of those big NASA freaks because, you know, in Kansas we don’t really have that much exposure to it. I just got this opportunity, this scholarship through the MUST program — Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology. A benefit of the scholarship was getting the chance to intern at NASA.

I wanted to go to Johnson Space Center in Houston because that is the facility that does the really cool stuff with human space flight.

You are majoring in engineering. Is that still a male-dominated field?
I typically see maybe 10 girls in a class of 70 people. But there are more of us now than before.

I think a lot of girls are very intimidated to come in. They think math and science are too hard for them. It is hard, but it’s not impossible. It just takes perseverance, mostly, and hard work.

Girls just need to focus on what they believe their goals are, and not just step down because they believe they shouldn’t be doing something because it’s not their role as a woman. They shouldn’t dumb themselves down.

WHERE TO FIND IT

The University of Kansas “Women of Distinction” poster-calendar recognizes the accomplishments of female faculty, alumni and students.

The 2007-2008 calendar is available at several campus locations, including the KU bookstore and the Student Involvement and Leadership Center at the Kansas Union in Lawrence; the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan.; and the Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

The calendar is free, but donations are accepted.
Programs set at Dole Institute

LAWRENCE — The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas will host two programs next month focusing on international issues such as genocide and war. The events will feature two former U.S. ambassadors and the KU alumnus who created Google Earth.

Former U.S. ambassadors Robert Beecroft and Edward Brynn will discuss "Genocide: What the World Can Do and Should Do" at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 6 at the Dole Institute. They will examine the current crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan and compare it to the genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda.

KU alumnus Brian McClendon, the creative force behind Google Earth, will join Alexander Murphy and Jerry Dobson to examine conflict from geographical perspectives at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 at the Dole Institute. "World Hot Spots: What Google Earth and Geography Tells Us About War, Peace and the Environment" will spotlight how technology and geography are changing the way countries wage war and people make life and death decisions.

The forums are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.doleinstitute.org or call (785) 864-4900.
All-male cast restages KU alum’s spoof of beauty pageants

Testosterone is their beauty secret

By BILL BLANKENSHIP
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

LAWRENCE — When it comes to the words that come out of the mouths of beauty pageant contestants, fact may be more incomprehensible than fiction, but not funnier.

Last weekend, Miss South Carolina Teen’s rambling, incoherent answer to a question about the state of geography education among American youths was good for a guffaw and 8.5 million and rising YouTube views.

However, the laughs will be longer and louder this weekend at The University of Kansas, where University Theatre will restage its sold-out summer musical, “Pageant.”

An all-male cast, including two Topekans, will reprise their roles of roller-skat-

‘PAGEANT’
Place: 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday
Where: Stage Tool in Crafton-Prayer Theatre, in Murphy Hall, The University of Kansas, Lawrence
How much: $15 for the general public, $14 for seniors and KU faculty and staff members and $10 for students and children
Buy now: Call (785) 864-3982 or go to www.kutheatre.com.

ing, accordion-playing, dramatic-reading, tap-dancing, ventriloquist-speaking, gospel-singing, swimsuit-wearing contestants vying for the title of Miss Glamouress in this send-up of beauty pageantry.

Returning to direct the farce will be Bill Russell, who along with fellow KU alum-

Please see BEAUTY, Page 3B

For the talent competition in "Pageant: The Musical Comedy Beauty Contest," Miss Great Plains (Spencer H. Holdren, of Topeka) offers a dramatic reading about the land. The play, which features an all-male cast, closes Sunday.
Beauty: ‘This is not a drag show!

Continued from Page 1B

nus Frank Kelly, wrote the book and lyrics of “Pageant,” the music of which was composed by non-
jayhawk Albert Evans.

Russell, who attended KU in the early 1970s, lives in New York, where he earned Tony Award nominations for writing the book and lyrics of “Side Show,” which lost the 1998 Tony Award for best musical to “The Lion King.”

Russell said the beauty contest format provided him a way to deliver satire “about the way beauty is sold to women in our culture,” or as he puts it in one line in the play, women must do everything they can to be gorgeous “so the world is a better place, and men have something nice to look at while they run it.”

Writing the play with real women as the contestants would exploit them the way real beauty pageants do, so Russell and his collaborators went with an all-male cast to drive home the point about what is considered feminine and beautiful.

However, Russell insists, “This is not a drag show!”

To truly make the comedy work, KU senior Spencer C. Holdren, who plays Miss Great Plains, said Russell told the actors they needed “to find a character that was a woman, not a man dressed as a women.”

It made for some new experiences for the “Pageant” cast.

“For one thing, I had never been in heels before,” said Robbie Gordy, a junior who moved last year to Topeka from Omaha, Neb., when his father took a position with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Gordy plays Miss Bible Belt, whose hobbies are fasting and praying, while Holdren’s Miss Great Plains’ favorite color is beige and is “happiest when breeding livestock.”

They compete for the Miss Glamouress title along with Miss Industrial Northeast (B. Michael Ford, a May graduate from Lenexa), Miss West Coast (Brian Patrick Ervin, an Overland Park senior), Miss Deep South (Jonathan Matteson, a Leavenworth senior) and Miss Texas (Ben Cook, a senior from Plano, Texas). Emcee Frankie Cavalier (Tosin Morohunfola, Leawood sophomore) rounds out the cast.

Judges selected from the audience at the top of the show select the winner of the pageant, so the ending could vary from performance to performance, seven of which sold out the 200-seat Stage Too! setup on the stage of Crafton-Preyer Theatre in Murphy Hall.

To get the judges vote, the contestants appear in evening gowns and swimsuits, as well as pitch beauty products made by the con-
test sponsor and field questions called into a beauty crisis hotline.

A beauty pageant wouldn’t be complete without a talent competition, which provides some of the funniest moments of “Pageant.”

Miss Industrial Northeast plays the accordion while roller-skating. Miss Deep South does a ventriloquist act while dressed like an antebellum belle, and a pistol-packing Miss Texas tap dances and tumbles her way through a song while wearing cowboy boots and a poofy skirt.

Charla Jenkins, University Theatre’s marketing director, said the encore presentations of “Pageant” are likely to sell out just as the original run did, so she advised quick purchase of the remaining tickets.

Bill Blankenship can be reached at (785) 295-1284 or bill.blankenship@cjonline.com.

"Pageant: The Musical Comedy Beauty Contest" features two University of Kansas students from Topeka, Spencer E. Holdren, left, and Robbie Gordy, who portray Miss Great Plains and Miss Bible Belt, respectively, in the send-up of beauty pageants, which features an all-male cast.
Miss Kansas Alyssa George spoke Wednesday to Golden Plains students

**Bullying focus of Miss Kansas’ talk**

*By Jan Katz Ackerman  Free Press reporter ackermanjk@ruraltel.net*

Golden Plains students in Rexford Wednesday listened to Miss Kansas 2007 Alyssa George talk about her goal to bully-proof Kansas schools.

"There are two reasons people bully someone," George said. "They are insecure or jealous. Insecurity and jealousy go hand in hand."

George, 21, told middle and high school students that as an eighth grader in Minneapolis, where she grew up, she was a victim of bullying.

"You name it," George said. "It was probably done to me. Bullying happens once every seven minutes and episodes last on average 37 seconds."

A business management major at the University of Kansas, George is traveling to schools throughout the state lecturing about her platform, Bullying: The Bystander Effect.

"There are three people involved in bullying," George said.

"The bully, the target and the witness. Every one of you is a witness and every one of you is a target."

George said there are three categories of bullying. She said physical bullying is pushing, shoving or hitting; verbal bullying; and social bullying involves rumors, gossip or manipulation about or of someone. She said the first step to avoiding bullying is to get help.

"We have to learn to accept help from people," she said. "Another step is to lose your friends. If people are shunning you, get new friends. Why are you still trying to get into their circle if they are bullying you?"

George said other ideas for fighting being bullied are as simple as writing thoughts and feelings down in a journal to talking to an adult, parent, teacher or counselor. She said when she was a victim of bullying, what hurt her most was her friends knew she was being victimized and did nothing to help her.

George said the two most important words to address bullying are "stop it."

"Help someone else and be a responsible witness," George said. "Confront the bully, talk to the victim and intervene when it's happening."

Golden Plains Superintendent Mary Ellen Welshhson said schools across Kansas, including Golden Plains, are addressing bullying.

She said one of her primary goals for the district is to make sure students, faculty and staff are aware of how to stop bullying.

"I wouldn't call it a problem here," Welshhson said. "But I think we need to recognize it and work with kids so they know not to do it."

Welshhson said a major change this year for the middle school in Rexford and elementary school in Selden has begin to implement "positive discipline."

"We are catching the kids being good," Welshhson said. "The teachers have been fantastic with it and I'm really pleased. So far, this year has been great and if we have anything happen on we nip it in the bud."
Bucklin Says Hola To New Spanish Teacher

By Danye Guthrie

As students return for yet another year of school, they have noticed a few new additions to the USD 459 teaching staff. One of them is Ms. Becky Barnhardt. She is teaching high school through college level Spanish. This is Ms. Barnhardt's 5th year teaching. She taught at Dodge City Community College prior to being hired to work at Bucklin High School.

If you are thinking that her name sounds familiar, it's because she grew up in Bucklin and graduated from Bucklin High School. She then attended Baker University to get her bachelor's degree and earned a master's degree at Wichita State University.

Ms. Barnhardt's children also attend Bucklin schools, but as students. Jeff the youngest is an eighth grader, Lauren, the middle child, is a junior, and Ashley, the oldest, graduated from Bucklin High School last year and is currently attending the University of Kansas.

While growing up Ms. Barnhardt wanted to be an archeologist and looked to her Spanish teacher, Mrs. Cyndi Christopher as her role model. When asked why she wanted to become a teacher she replied, "Because I wanted to make a difference."