President of Newman University to visit Dodge City

Noreen M. Carrocci, Ph.D., Newman University’s 11th president, will be the guest of honor at a reception Friday at the Newman University Western Kansas Center, located at 236 San Jose No. 39 in Dodge City. Refreshments will be served, and guests will enjoy the musical talent of Adam Keda.

Keda, a local artist and distinguished cellist, will play a variety of musical selections.

The reception will be hosted by Brian A. Weber, class of ’05, and is open to the general public.

Carrocci’s term began on July 2, and she will be formally inaugurated in the coming weeks. A graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Carrocci earned her degree in communications and psychology and went on to earn a master’s and a doctoral degree in speech communication and human relations from the University of Kansas.

The new president comes to Newman University from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., where she served as provost and vice president for academic affairs. She is married to Robert John (Bob) Benson, a principal with The Beta Group, a consulting firm specializing in strategic and financial management of information technology.

Benson is also an adjunct professor with Washington University in St. Louis and Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

Weber, who sits on the National Alumni Associating Board, is hoping the reception will bring together Newman University alumni, prospective students, members of the business community and supporters from the surrounding region. Weber previously served as student body president of the Student Government Association at Newman University from the fall of ’04 to the spring of ’05, at which time he graduated cum laude with a degree in history and a minor in political science.
KU PROFESSOR STUDIES BENEFITS OF NUTRIENTS

BY JONATHAN KEALING
Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE — For one University of Kansas professor, the key to defeating infectious diseases may be something as simple as diet.

No, not chicken soup for the malaria-ridden soul. But perhaps less iron for the man with tuberculosis.

Or maybe a diet with reduced carbohydrates for a woman suffering from salmonella poisoning.

“I suspect there must be thousands of nutrients out there that show a role in health, particularly when it comes to infectious diseases,” said Val Smith, a professor in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology.

Smith has published several papers documenting results that changing the balance of nutrients, in the proper settings, can actually control diseases.

Recently, he published a paper that showed, in mice at least, that salmonella will be less deadly if it has access to few carbohydrates. He also shows that a version of malaria functions less effectively if exposed to little protein.

Essentially, Smith said, the body and the disease-containing microbes are competing for the same nutrients to survive. He compares the idea to a car. Without tires, a car won't go.

Without nutrients, a microbe won't grow.

“If done in a hospital setting, putting the body in a state where it is getting the absolute minimum of nutrients, people could get better much more quickly,” Smith said.

The idea is grounded in a personal experience for Smith. More than a decade ago, when in a hospital for surgery on a thyroid condition, he realized that his body was merely a vessel through which fluid travels.

That gave him the idea that if he controlled what nutrients entered his body, as he does in algae experiments all the time, he might be able to directly influence his own health.

Almost before he had recovered from his surgery, he began to pore over the research already available.

He said he quickly found hints that he was heading down the right path.

“These experiments suggested profound effects on the outcome and severity of diseases,” Smith said. “This isn't one of those miracle cures either. This has its grounding in basic principles of science.”

Eugene Weinberg, a professor emeritus of microbiology at Indiana University, has been impressed by Smith's work.

“It's a concept that's tremendous,” he said. “He's developed this worldwide and is really a leader in the field.”

Weinberg said he's been doing similar research for more than 50 years, but he focused almost solely on iron.

“Microbes cannot carry enough iron into the body with them to reproduce to cause illness,” he explained. “So then you get competition for scarce resources. If the body successfully prevents that microbe from having iron, then the disease won't be successful.”

Weinberg said that Smith has organized international conferences where other scientists pursuing similar ideas have come together to compare notes on their progress.

“We always need someone to look at the forest and make examples out of the trees,” Weinberg said. “He’s great at looking at the big picture. He does his own work, and he also pulls things together.”

Another area of research where Smith hopes nutrients could play a major role is the reproduction of cells in HIV. Though he hasn’t developed conclusions, he’s interested in what sort of way T-cell reproduction could be affected by nutrient levels.

Smith isn’t content just to study how nutrients can impact diseases in humans. He’s also looking at exploring how some of the same principles could be applied to insect control, but for humans and for agriculture.

He's working with researchers at Washington University in St. Louis and Michigan State University to determine how nutrient levels and biological spores could work together to eliminate mosquito-growing pools of water, among other dens for disease.

He hopes to get a $1 million grant from the National Institute of Health to continue that work.
BRIEFCASE

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Ribbon cutting set

The ribbon will be cut at the new Wheat State Grille, 707A Commercial St., at 11:30 a.m. Thursday. The event, sponsored by the Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau, will include light snacks after the ribbon is cut.

Ryan Murphy is the owner of Wheat State Grille and Wheat State Pizza, Adam Hagemann is the area manager for both businesses. Murphy, and Emporia native, started the pizza chain in Lawrence, later bringing it to Emporia. He opened his first Wheat State Grille in Emporia.

The restaurant is managed by Buzz Snyder.

Managing Paola

Emporia native Jay Wieland has been hired as city manager of Paola.

Wieland, who has a bachelor's degree from Emporia State University and a master's in public administration from the University of Kansas, worked for the city of Emporia for more than 20 years before becoming city administrator at Hesston.

Moving out of state, he became city administrator at Charles City, Iowa and then city manager at Sterling, Ill.

Wieland's wife, Peggy, is from Olpe.

Scholarship program

Staci Sull of A Lasting Image Photography in Olpe is participating in a nationwide scholarship program to be awarded to a member of the class of 2008.

The scholarship is made available by Senior Photographers International, an organization of photography studios specializing in high school senior portraits. The scholarship is based on the financial need.

The $5,000 scholarship may be applied to tuition and related costs at any accredited institute of higher learning, including colleges, universities and trade schools.

“This scholarship was established as a means of helping one senior each year to continue his or her education,” said Ed Burns, president of Senior Photographers. “Applications are only available through member studios like A Lasting Image Photography.”

This year’s scholarship winner will be announced in April 2008.

For more information, visit www.alastingimagephoto.com or call Sull at (620) 475-3953.

Mortgage support

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve and other banking regulators issued special guidance this week urging loan service companies to work with borrowers in danger of defaulting on their home mortgages.

The new guidelines are not mandatory, but the regulators expressed the hope that companies that collect payments on mortgages would heed the advice.

Sheila Bair, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., said mortgage collectors have the authority under existing accounting and tax rules to help deserving borrowers.
Farm bill founded in days of mass exodus

By AMY BICKEL
The Hutchinson News

Earl Hayes was just a 17-year-old kid in 1933, working on his family’s Stafford County farm for 25 cents a week amid the Great Depression.

Now 92, Hayes easily recalls those days, and remembers spending his wages in one night on 10-cent-a-gallon gas and 10-cent movie tickets before heading to the pool hall to blow the rest.

“Td go home broke,” he said, noting his weekly situation on a Saturday night signaled what most in the farm sector experienced at the time.

It was around that same period that Hayes and his father had wheat on the ground at 30 cents a bushel during the June harvest, then picked it up and took it to the elevator for 25 cents a bushel. The younger Hayes watched as banks and mortgage companies foreclosed on one local farm after another.

“Times were tough,” said Hayes, who recently moved from his Zenith-area farmstead to a senior apartment. “You could buy farms at a bargain price.”

It was a time of mass exodus from rural America. Hundreds of thousands of farms went out of business. Drought and dust storms hurt income, with the average farm household making half or less than nonfarm households.

Commodity prices plummeted due to a surplus of crops. Some farmers found it more profitable to burn corn for fuel than sell it at 10 cents a bushel.

Hayes said there were two banks in Stafford, and the one his parents had their money in went belly up.

Then, Franklin Roosevelt became president, Hayes said, and his administration’s New Deal programs were aimed at saving America’s farms and rural areas. The plan helped farmers recover from the economic collapse of the nation’s heartland.

“He started putting his loving arms around the farm people because he knew they were important,” Hayes said of Roosevelt. “He brought around some farm action.”

Nearly 75 years later

But when Roosevelt signed the first farm policy into law in May 1933, he promised it would be a temporary measure.

Yet more than 70 years later, the plan — though tinkered with over the years — still is in place, and many farmers remain dependent on subsidies to aid their farm income amid a tough farm economy that includes high fertilizer and fuel costs.

See Fixture, Page 45

Retired Zenith area farmer Earl Hayes, 92, was 17 when the first farm bill was enacted in Congress in 1933, while he was working on the family farm. Hayes still owns the land he farmed and just recently sold the family farm house and outbuildings. Hayes said the farm bill helped save family farmers in rural America.
Exposed: Farm bill founded in days of mass exodus

Continued from Page A1

This year, the farm bill debate continues as Congress works on its latest measure — expected to pass sometime this year. But it’s a different era than Roosevelt’s New Deal period, or even a decade ago.

Most Americans are far removed from the land that sustains them, unlike the 1930s when 25 percent of the U.S. population lived on farms. Today, that figure is less than 2 percent.

The top two priorities for Roosevelt’s administration were to save “the family farms and help rural America,” said Troy Dumler, Kansas State University agriculture economist. But one question looms for an industry where there are fewer protesters farming the same amount of land: Does a program started amid the Great Depression still help those it was intended to help?

“That’s the million dollar question, you can basically argue both sides of that,” Dumler said. “Some say it helps a lot. Others say not much.”

A new New Deal

The government stepped in when successful farmers started losing their farms during the Great Depression. Programs established target prices for certain commodity crops, such as corn, wheat, cotton and rice. The program included payments for taking land out of production, as well as conservation efforts, said Donald Worster, a University of Kansas professor who wrote “Dust Bowl, The Southern Plains in the 1930s.”

Roosevelt saw the farm bill as a temporary measure to help boost farm income, Worster said. “But it became quite permanent,” he said. “Farmers became part of a welfare state. And for some people, it has meant a lot of money.”

The government has spent $164 billion on farm programs in the last decade, he said, noting the farm bill of the 21st century is no longer a poverty program.

“If you want to combat rural poverty, you give the money to the poorest,” Worster said. “But the subsidies today are going to a relatively small handful of people. They tend to be the richest farmers.”

Policy opponents, including the Environmental Working Group — an advocacy group that tracks farm payments — argue that subsidies aren’t helping the rural communities or the small family farmers that the first farm policy intended.

Still, farm bill leaders, such as Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., say the policy means a lot to a state like Kansas that ranks No. 1 for wheat and grain sorghum production, 10th for soybeans and seventh for corn.

“(It is) more than just about Kansas farmers and ranchers,” Moran told reporters in June during a House subcommittee hearing on the farm bill. “This is about whether or not we have people who populate our state, who live in our smaller communities and whether we have kids in our school systems.”

A different era

About a dozen farm bills have been passed since the creation of the first farm policy during the Roosevelt administration.

Every five to seven years, agricultural policies are evaluated and authorized through the federal farm bill. The last passed in 2002.

Those bills have added everything from a food stamp program — a move aimed at gaining urban support of farm programs — to a conservation reserve acres program, which pays farmers to turn cropland to grassland, Dumler said.

The commodity title of the bill includes 20 different commodities.

The 1996 bill, known as Freedom to Farm and largely authored by Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts, was written with an eye to expand agriculture trade and reform U.S. farm policy to comply with the World Trade Organization. The bill offered a program of decreasing income support payments, while giving farmers more planting flex-

ility and reliance on an open market.

It also removed the last remaining pillar of inventory management — the requirement for farmers to set aside a percentage of their acreage to qualify for government payments.

When farmers were allowed to produce as much as they could, prices collapsed, and the promised export expansion never materialized. Congress responded with a series of $20 billion in “emergency” bailouts over four consecutive years, according to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

Today, there is pressure from various groups and individuals, — including environmentalists, the World Trade Organization, members of Congress who represent urban areas and specialty-crop producers who don’t receive government checks — to uproot current policy, Dumler said.

Some say they need subsidies to boost household income, he said. In Kansas, subsidies make up 60 percent of the farm income. And of those receiving subsidies, much of it gets capitalized into land values.

Opponents make the argument that only 40 percent of the nation’s farms receive subsidies, with only 10 percent receiving a majority of the payments. Still others call for capping payments instead of continuing big handouts to wealthy farmers and landowners.

“A lot of people are pushing for reform,” Dumler said. “We still support the same commodities that we did in 1933, but things are way different now. Is support really justified now?”

Still vital?

Stafford County’s Hayes admits he probably wouldn’t have stayed with farming if it hadn’t been for New Deal legislation.

His father gave him interest in 20 acres when he first started farming full time. Hayes expanded his operation to 2,000 acres that spread across portions of Stafford, Gray, Finney and Reno counties. In the 1970s, he went to Washington, D.C., nearly every month to lobby for farm bill legislation as president of the Kansas Association
of Wheat Growers. Hayes notes the consolidation in the farm sector, and has seen farms get bigger while communities shrink. Even the cooperative in the small town of Zenith, where he served on the board for 21 years, merged with a larger group. Hayes began renting his land years ago. A new family moved into his farmhouse last month. Still, he'd argue with anyone that subsidies are vital to rural America. "Who pays the taxes in a rural community?" he asked. "It isn't the person with the two or three children who is working for the co-op."
Former student choreographs musical

Theater-goers can see the work of a former Garden City resident at the University of Kansas' Crafton-Preyer Theatre in Murphy Hall this weekend.

Alicia Gian, a Garden City High School graduate working on her master's degree in theater, was a choreographer for the musical "Pageant," which will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Sunday after selling out all six performances this summer.

General admission tickets are available in the KU ticket offices: University Theatre, (785) 864-3922; Lied Center, (785) 864-ARTS; Student Union Activities, (785) 864-7468; and online at www.kutheatre.com. Tickets are $15 for the public, $10 for students and $14 for senior citizens and KU faculty and staff. All major credit card are accepted for phone and online orders.
Hey Willie! Give me a K-S-U

By GREG TAMMEN
Sentinel Staff Writer

MANHATTAN -- "W is for Willie ... wait a minute, that's me! I really love K-State as you can see," Willie the Wildcat tells readers in the pages of "Willie's ABC Day."

The book, stocked by various distributors throughout Kansas, was written by 1972 McPherson High School graduate Deanna K. Burton.

Burton said she and her family are huge Kansas State University fans.

"K-State is a place we enjoy and we always go to the ballgames," she told reporter Jessica Grant of The Manhattan Mercury. However, most readers would be surprised to learn that Burton spent only a tiny part of her formal education at K-State, earning While K-State was put on the backburner for several years, Burton never lost her purple pride.

Having already written the book, Parenting Your Child For School Success, Burton began toying with the idea of Willie's ABC Day.

"(Reading is) vital. It's just something that you start from the day you're born," Burton said. "A logical place is to start with an ABC book, and with my love of K-State, it just kind of fit it."

It wasn't until she and her friends -- Sharon K. Beems, a former teaching colleague who illustrated the book, and Kathy Monser, who helped with design -- decided to collaborate that their idea was launched.

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DEANNA K. BURTON

only nine hours of graduate work. Instead, Burton earned her bachelor's degree from Emporia State University and her master's degree and reading specialist certificate from Wichita State University.

"I actually first started out at Hutch Juco," Burton said with a chuckle.

While there, she met her husband and decided to pursue a teaching career.
Willie

From WILLIE, Page 1

K-State officials convinced the trio to use the cartoon version of Willie rather than the Powercat during their contact to secure the mascot rights. After a year of working through the writing, illustrating, design and publication process, the book was completed.

It features Willie at various locations and situations at KSU. Each K-State location corresponds to a letter of the alphabet.

For example, the letter "K" stands for K-Hill, the large whitewashed stone "KS" overlooking the Kansas River Valley in southeast Manhattan.

The illustration shows Willie in hiking boots and a walking stick with the letters in the distance. Above him is a short poem about K-Hill, which reads:

"Next we visit K-Hill which starts with an enormous K.

Those 80-foot tall letters can be seen in Manhattan every day.

Willie looks at the K and then at the S.

He is bursting with pride because K-State is the absolute best!"

Beside each illustration is "A Touch of History," a section of historical snippets about each alphabetical subject. For K-Hill, Burton wrote "The K was constructed in 1921 for the cost of $350..."

"The historical pieces were a little harder to write," she said. "I tried to put in one historical fact that was interesting and one I thought people wouldn't know."

While some of the book's words may be a little foreign to young readers (especially 'H' for "horticultural" and 'N' for "natatorium"), Burton insists these words are not above children's comprehension.

"Are they a little large for them? Absolutely not," she said. "You develop a listening vocabulary, so while they may not be able to read the word at first, they'll recognize it when it's spoken."

Burton said the book is doing so well that she and her team are planning on creating a University of Kansas edition as soon as finances allow them.

She said she is interested in branching out from there.

"We want to go where there's a big fan base, and do some of the Big 12 schools. That's our goal," she said.

She said that while she hasn't yet considered doing a Bullpup edition for McPherson, it's not entirely out of the realm of possibility.

"It would be fantastic," Burton said. "I was born here, and went to school here from the second grade to graduation, so the town's very special to me."

Even though the book is written for the K-State enthusiast, Burton said her ultimate goal is to foster a love of reading in children.

"I love reading, and I know my children and grandchildren think it's fun when I read to them. It's been amazing to hear the vocabulary my children have because of their experience through reading," she said.

Burton's book is available for purchase at McPherson's Bookshelf, 204 N. Main, and through her website Mascot ABC (http://mascotabc.com). Burton, who lives in Manhattan, will return to McPherson for a book signing at the Bookshelf Sept. 29.
Manhattan’s Deanna K. Burton shows off a copy of "Willie’s ABC Day.”
2007 Rural Kansas photography contest underway

The 2007 Rural Kansas Photography Contest is presented by the University of Kansas, Rural Health Education and Services. Photos submitted should depict Kansas as a great place to live, work and play. Winning photos will be published and prizes will be awarded. Photographs are due by September 30, 2007.

Entry forms can be downloaded by visiting www.rural-health.kumc.edu.
Fictional ‘last’ drive comes to life

ERIN CASTANEDA
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An adventurous and beloved Kansas tale about a modern-day cattle drive is coming to life in September.

Robert Day’s humorous novel, “The Last Cattle Drive,” is celebrating its 30th anniverser. year this year, and to commemorate the tale of a wild romp across Kansas, Day and friend O. Newton King will re-enact a drive.

For the past three years, King, retired owner of King’s Pharmacy, has planned and organized the drive to pay tribute to one of his favorite books, and he’s inviting others to join.

“His idea is almost as crazy as the idea of the book,” Day said. “It will sort of be a real chapter of the book — a condensed version.”

On Sept. 4 and 5, they will ride trails on the Dickinson Ranch in Gorham, near where the cattle drive started in the novel. Last September, they did a practice drive just to see how things would go.

“It went badly,” Day said. “We lost all the cattle and ran into a mile field. It became the ‘lost cattle drive’ rather than the ‘last cattle drive.’”

Day’s novel, which is modeled after Mark Twain’s “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” is about a cattle drive in the age of the automobile. Four men started a drive in Hays and traveled 300 miles to Kansas City, Kan. He described it as a “contrast between irreverence and some kind of order.”

The man driving cattle in the novel, for example, is in the “business of breaking rules,” Day said.

“For someone to take 250 head of cattle and do what they did would have been an impossible task,” King said.

Day created his main character, Spangler Turkle, from his own experiences working on the Ward Sullivan ranch northwest of Gorham, King said.

Readers can recognize certain places in the book such as the towns Clinton and Eudora, King said.

“That’s what he used to make the thing come alive,” King said.

Day was born in Shawnee in 1941. He graduated from Kansas University and taught English at Fort Hays State University. He was a visiting professor at Kansas University and taught fiction writing. He began working at the English department at Washington College, where he is now a writer in residence. He summers in Ludell, Kan. He has also written two novellas, “In My Stead” and “Four-Wheel Drive Quartet.”

“The Last Cattle Drive” is considered a modern western classic and hasn’t been out of print since it was published in 1977.

KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway has taught the novel in an honors seminar, “Kansas as a State of Mind.”

Hemenway said the book is well received by students because they can relate to the idea of the cattle drive.

“We have such a rich history in Kansas,” he said. “I think it’s fun for students to imagine themselves as residents in the 20th century and imagine experiences of their forefathers.”

Hemenway said Day has a great sense of humor and his comic vision is evident in the book. It’s also an interesting challenge to students because he “evokes so many questions that students can ask, such as ‘What happened to the West?’; ‘What happened to the cowboy?’; and ‘Have we lost some of the values we associated with stalwart settlers?”

King says the ride will “focus on fun and avoid the calamities of the novel.” It’s limited to 50 riders each day for $300 each. The money will go to Ellis and Russell County 4-H clubs.

King said he “wanted to leave something more permanent than cow pies” after the drive.

Activities and book signings will take place in Gorham and Luray beginning Sept. 4.

Kirk Dickinson will host the drive as part of his agri-tourism business.
Book discussion series takes look at issues of faith

LARA HASTINGS
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A new discussion series’ aim is to allow participants to travel the world, learn about different cultures and gain a better understanding of faith.

“Faith in Fiction: World Faiths,” a four-part discussion series, is a part of the Talk About Kansas Literature program and will explore four books about different religions and how the characters in those books struggle to keep their faith despite hardships. The series is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization and hosted by the Basehor Community Library.

Community members will join the discussions with a different leader each month.

“The Kansas Humanities Council hand picks the speakers,” said Jenne Laytham, assistant director of the library. “They are typically professors from universities from across the state and are always well-educated on the subject.”

Laytham pointed out that the series delves deeper than an ordinary book club discussion group. Discussion leaders ask questions to get the group to think about underlying issues within the book and explain issues that may not be apparent.

“They not only discuss the book, but give readers information about the author, put it in historical context and try to make connections to today’s life and culture,” Laytham said.

The first book in the series, “Distant View of a Minaret and Other Stories” by Alifa Rifaat is a collection of short stories about women living under Islamic rule. While Laytham said the series is centered around religion, the books are really about world events. Discussions during these groups often go beyond the book, Laytham said, and people have a chance to learn about themselves and other people in the group as well as the discussion leader.

“You always relate it back to your own life,” she said. “You truly feel like you’ve gained some knowledge of an era or a person. It’s fun, but also educational.”

Kansas University professor Beverly Mack will lead the first discussion in the series at 1:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 10, at Reece and Nichols Community Room, 1106 N. 155th St.

The series will continue at the same time and place with “Go Tell It on the Mountain” by James Baldwin on Oct. 8, “Harp of Burma” by Michio Takeyama on Nov. 12 and “Nectar in a Sieve” by Kamala Markandaya on Dec. 10. The discussion series is free and the books are available for checkout at the Basehor Community Library.

For more information, contact the library at (913) 724-2828.
Women say philanthropists group helps with leadership, causes

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) _ 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.