At the invitation of The University of Kansas Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere, Latino community leaders from across the state have formed the Latino Vision Council. The group had its first meeting April 4 on the KU campus.

Members of the Latino Vision Council will share their valuable insights and experiences with KU officials on the many challenges faced by Latino and Hispanic youths and their families as they contemplate KU and higher education.

Members of the Latino Vision Council include:

- Stephanie Gómez of Newton, senior and president of the university chapter of the Hispanic American Leadership Organization.
- Christopher Muñoz, a recent KU graduate from Newton and president of the Mu Beta chapter of Sigma Lambda Beta, the largest Latino-based fraternity in the United States.
Landis to be honored at Sherbon event

Nancy Landis, Oskaloosa, will be among those recognized this weekend at events at the University of Kansas Department of Music and Dance that honor Elizabeth Sherbon.

Sherbon will be honored on her 100th birthday. KU has an award named in honor of Sherbon, who performed with the Martha Graham and Jean Erdman dance companies in New York City. She was a renowned dancer, teacher and choreographer in the United States and was the head of the dance department at KU from 1961 until she retired in 1975.

Landis was the 1983 recipient of the Elizabeth Sherbon Dance Scholarship and used the award for teacher training with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Winnipeg, Canada. She performed with the University Dance Company and the Prairie Wind Dancers during her time at KU. She taught at the Lawrence School of Ballet and the Lawrence Arts Center. She is a...
Gaines among top 11 finishers in arts project

Patricia Gaines, Oskaloosa, a senior at the University of Kansas, was recently among 11 semifinalists in the Kansas City, Mo., Municipal Art Commission's Avenue of the Arts project.

The international competition was a call for artists to submit a public art proposal for installation in Kansas City, Mo. Gaines was one of four KU students to make the semifinals and one was among the six winners.

Gaines is a senior majoring in art history and is a graduate of Granger High School in West Valley City, Utah.
President’s new climate change policy draws kudos, criticism from Kansans

By SARAH KESSINGER
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — President Bush’s first major foray into the controversy over stemming the growing flow of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere drew both kudos and criticism from Kansans Wednesday.

From the power industry, there was applause and assurances they could meet the president’s announced goal of ending the growth of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025.

That year’s target falls heavily on the shoulders of energy companies, whose coal-fired power plants produce high levels of CO2. Westar applauds the president’s balanced approach to addressing climate change, Bill Eastman, Topeka-based Westar Energy’s director of environmental services, said. The company’s recent agreement with Kansas regulators to begin looking for ways to cut CO2 output is in line with the Bush administration’s plan for “a strategic and cost-effective solution to this global issue,” Eastman said.

But one environmental group’s leader suggested Bush take steps now.

“We all know it is more expensive to fix something that’s broken than it is to keep it from breaking in the first place,” Nancy Jackson, executive director of the Climate and Energy Project at Salina, said. “So, having acknowledged the problem, why not act decisively now to avoid it at least cost? Waiting until 2025 to halt growth in emissions is unacceptable from the climate and economic perspective.”

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BUSH: Kansans react to president’s climate policy

“Governor Sebelius welcomes President Bush’s involvement in the critical discussion of climate change.”

— Abbie Hodgson, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ spokeswoman

(Continued from Page 1)

Several of the largest corporations, and emitters, are among those calling for climate regulation, Jackson said.

“Caterpillar, Dow, GM, Shell, know that swift, decisive regulatory measures are the best way to meet this challenge.”

Sunflower Electric Power Corp. spokesman Steve Miller said the utility would meet whatever deadlines are proposed.

Hays-based Sunflower’s proposed pair of coal-fired power plants, now mired in legal and legislative battles over an emissions permit, would emit some 11 million new tons of CO₂ each year.

But Miller says that the plants would be more efficient in emissions levels than any other coal plant in Kansas.

“We are confident this project will be able to fully comply with any law passed by Congress,” Miller said. “As Senators Obama and Clinton have both stated recently, coal will be a part of our energy future.”

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ office issued a statement offering an encouraged view of the Bush plan.

“Governor Sebelius welcomes President Bush’s involvement in the critical discussion of climate change,” spokeswoman Abbie Hodgson said.

“In order to successfully address this issue, Governor Sebelius has long believed that leadership at the federal level is necessary to establish greenhouse gas emission policies.”

The president’s goal recognizes that the power sector needs to make significant efforts to meet it, Hodgson said. That includes waiting to see whether construction of the Sunflower plants, which will largely supply power to other states, is prudent.

“Since the most likely way to achieve this goal is through a cap-and-trade system, which would, in effect, tax carbon, it would be unfair to Kansans for our utilities to build coal-fired plants for other states until we can evaluate the costs of those plants for Kansas taxpayers and ratepayers.”

One Kansas researcher of climate change expressed disappointment in Bush’s proposal to continue watching emissions grow. He said it will be years before people see the ultimate effect of rising CO₂ levels.

“One of the things people should be aware of is that the full impact of greenhouse gas emissions today won’t be felt until 25 to 30 years from now,” said Chip Taylor, director of MonarchWatch at the University of Kansas, which studies climate change’s effects on the Monarch butterfly.

“If you don’t cap these gases really soon, we’ll accumulate a long-term effect that’s going to be quite severe,” Taylor said. “We have to start reducing levels pretty soon. We can’t wait another 16 years to get this done.”

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., however, commended Bush for his focus on economic growth and investment in innovative energy technologies.

“I agree that this must be done without placing an undue financial burden on working families,” Brownback said. “The president’s support for further development of carbon capture and storage, clean coal and nuclear technologies places us on a path of enhanced energy security and environmental stewardship.”

Brownback said Sunflower’s project would allow for development of new carbon-capture technologies.

“As international oil prices hit all-time highs, it is more important than ever that we embrace a wide range of energy technologies.”
Learn how to plant Monarch waystations

For The Record

HESSTON – On April 26, at 10 a.m., Dyck Arboretum of the Plains will host “Planting Monarch Waystations,” a class taught by Dr. Chip Taylor, an entomologist at the University of Kansas. Dr. Taylor will explain how to plant wildflowers that support monarch butterflies, which need resting spots on their annual multigenerational journey from Mexico to Canada and back again.

Habitat loss is a growing problem for monarch butterflies, who depend on certain wildflowers for food and as host plants for their larvae.

According to the Monarch Waystation Program, an estimated 6,000 acres a day of wildlife habitat are lost in the United States to development and other social forces. Roadsides where milkweed and other wildflowers once sustained migrating monarch populations are increasingly mowed or planted with turf.

Dr. Chip Taylor is the director of Monarch Watch, an educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that engages citizen scientists in large-scale research projects relating to conservation issues.

The class is offered during the FloraKansas Native Plant Sale, open to members on April 25-26, and May 8-9. Members, or individuals who become members of Dyck Arboretum at the sale, receive a 10 percent discount on plants. The FloraKansas Native Plant Sale will be open to the public on May 10 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 11 from noon to 4 p.m., and on May 12 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“Planting Monarch Waystations” is free of charge. To make reservations call Dyck Arboretum at 620-327-8127.
Derby grad’s art to be featured in KC

DERBY NEWS REPORT
news@derbyreporter.com

Derby native Sarah Kephart, a master's student in sculpture at the University of Kansas (KU), was recently selected as one of six winners in the Kansas City, Mo., Municipal Art Commission’s Avenue of the Arts project.

The international competition was a call for artists to submit a public art proposal for installation in Kansas City.

Kephart will receive $5,000 to create her installation, “It Blingz,” to be installed in downtown Kansas City the first weekend in May and remain there through the summer.

She will be among those honored at a May 16 reception at the Folly Theatre in Kansas City.

In addition to

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Kephart: Derby High School graduate’s art to be featured at Kansas City gallery

Kephart, the students were Maize native Jordan Briceland, Oskaloosa native Patricia Haines, and Lawrence native Matt Farley.

“It Blingz” is a large metal necklace that reflects my admiration for Kansas City,” Kephart said. “The medallion was designed to reflect the Kansas City skyline, reflected side to side and top to bottom, to create the form. There will be a silver metallic vinyl map of Kansas City adhered to the front surface.”

“The idea to create this piece originated from the ways in which we as individuals decorate, adorn and illuminate our bodies. Jewelry is also something that all cultures can relate to which will hopefully make the piece approachable by all walks of life, which is important in all of my works.”

Kephart, who was born in Salina and graduated from Derby High School, graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in 2004 from Wichita State University. While at KU, she has organized and curated an exchange show between Wichita State and KU graduate art programs and participated on the student tuition differential committee.

She also teaches Drawing I and Drawing II classes at KU.

Since 2006, the Avenue of the Arts program has been an annual summer exhibition of temporary public artwork created by six regional artists. Works are selected by a panel of arts professionals and business and community representatives.

She is the daughter of Charles Kephart of Salina and Michael Kephart of Wichita.
University of Kansas student Laura Mae Vest is a member of the award-winning advertising staff at KU’s Daily Kansan.

The staff received Best Advertising Staff in the Nation, as well as Best College Newspaper.

In addition to the staff awards, Vest was recognized as Student Sales Rep of the Year.

One hundred twenty colleges across the United States participated in the competition. Vest won her award over 60 students also in that category.

The event, College Newspaper Advertising and Business Manager Awards, was held March 28 in San Antonio. Vest received a check for $250 on the stage when they called her award. She earned 100 out of 100 points rating overall.

The presenter commented her out of the box ideas were exceptional.

She also interviewed with numerous advertising and newspaper companies while attending the awards. Almost every company showed interest in her being a future employee. She attends Kansas University School of Journalism and has worked as an advertising sales representative for several semesters. She recently received a promotion as a business manager executive.

Her grandparents are Carol Ward of El Dorado and Bob Ward of Rosalia.

Laura Mae Vest
By All Samson

The top 10 percent of senior students from 14 area schools were invited to the Kansas University Honor Banquet held in Oakley on Wednesday April 3. Representing Decatur Community High School were Gage Reichert, Jessica Bremer, Heather Glodt, and Chenaniah Langness.

The students were accompanied by their parents; Principal Charles Haag; Guidance Counselor Debbie Arp and Kurt Vollertsen, the local Kansas University representative for Oberlin. The students received a certificate and a Webster’s Dictionary as a symbol to never stop learning.

David Johnston, Director of Marketing and Internet Services for the Kansas University Alumni Association, gave an inspirational speech about taking advantage of every opportunity presented.

That leads to creating your own success, instead of just waiting for it to happen.

“It was quite an honor to announce Gage, Jessica, Heather, and Chenaniah as our recipients from DCHS,” said Mrs. Arp. “They are well-rounded and high-achieving students, and we are proud of each and every one of them.”
Decatur graduate interns at drug store

A 1998 graduate of Decatur Community High School is getting his feet wet in rural pharmacy, serving as an intern at Ward Drug Store this month.

Travis Castle, who is in his final year of pharmacy school at the University of Kansas, started at the store at the beginning of April, helping out and learning.

Owner Kurt Vollertsen said the preceptor program helps keep him and the store affiliation with the pharmacy school. He said he has been a licensed preceptor, or supervisor, since he's been working here, but this is the first time a student has been placed here.

The program gives the students a chance to learn about independent rural pharmacies, said Mr. Vollertsen.

During the last year of pharmacy school, said Mr. Castle, students do nine rotations, learning about their role of a pharmacist in each setting, including clinical, hospital, retail and ambulatory care. The idea is to experience the full breadth of pharmacy and expand their knowledge of what they have learned in class, he said.

Mr. Castle said he had two years of prerequisites to fill before he got into the pharmacy school. A degree normally takes at least six years.

As a high school student, he said, he worked at the Good Samaritan Center. Mr. Castle said he enjoys the health care arena, science and math, so pharmacy seemed like a good choice.

Mr. Castle is the son of Pam and Brian Simonsson and Joe Castle. After graduation, he said, he plans to stay in the Kansas City area and work in hospital pharmacy.
A total of 22 University of Kansas students have received Undergraduate Research Awards for spring 2008, it has been announced. The awards support original, independent research by undergraduates enrolled on the Lawrence campus. The University Honors Program administers the awards with funds from the offices of the provost and the vice provost for research and graduate studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Selection criteria included the quality of the proposal, the student’s academic record and ability to complete the proposed research project, the project’s potential contribution to knowledge and the educational value of the research to the student.

Ella Medora Fund-Reznicek, a sophomore in linguistics, daughter of Mary Fund and Edward Reznicek, and graduate of Wetmore High School, completed “Neurological Responses to Key Changes in Chord Progressions: An EEG Study,” with Robert Fiorentino, assistant professor of linguistics.