Officials at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, visited classrooms of 10 graduating seniors recently to announce that they were Chancellor's Student Award recipients. The awards recognize the students' academic, volunteer and leadership accomplishments during their time at KU.

Included was Hannah Love, Dodge City, who received the Rusty Leffel Concerned Student Award. She is a sociology major who successfully campaigned for affordable textbooks at KU and to increase funding for student groups focused on multicultural education. Elected student body president for the 2007-08 academic year, Love managed an $18.5 million budget from student fees.
University of Kansas

Joseph Ralph and Jessica Schmitt, both of Hutchinson, have recently been recognized as members of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Sigma Alpha Lambda is a national leadership and honors organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development and lifelong professional fulfillment.
At the invitation of 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 held 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 council have a history of leadership in their respective communities. The nearly two dozen council members include public school officials, state officials and leaders of community, religious, media and social service organizations. Four KU students will also serve on the council.

Members of the Latino Vision Council include Betsy Copeland, Riley, senior and president of KU's chapter of Sigma Lambda Gamma, the largest Latina-based sorority in the United States.
LAWRENCE — For the second consecutive year, The University of Kansas William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications has placed first in the 48th annual Intercollegiate Writing Competition of the Hearst Journalism Awards competition.

Often called the “Pulitzers of College Journalism,” the Hearst competitions in writing, photography and broadcast news take place throughout the academic year. For the Intercollegiate Writing Competition, the journalism school that accumulates the most points in each category of the six writing contests is the winner.
Potwin resident says she felt quake

When Suzanne Montano felt her Potwin house giggle early Friday, she had only one thought: earthquake.

The 5.2-magnitude earthquake centered in southern Illinois was indeed felt in Kansas, said Don Steeples, professor of geophysics in the geology department at The University of Kansas.

The U.S. Geological Survey has seismology equipment at the Cedar Bluff Reservoir near Hays, Steeples said, and it recorded Friday’s quake clearly.

"The earthquake waves travel through the ground at approximately 5 miles per second," he said. They would be more likely felt in an upper story of a building or where the ground is loose or saturated with water, he said.

Steeples remembers the last notable quake in Illinois, a 5.3-magnitude temblor in November 1968. He felt that tremor in Manhattan.

Montano, who said the ripples caused her 130-year-old house to creak, also has some experience with earthquakes after living for five years in Mexico City, where tremors aren’t uncommon.

“I remember the first one I ever felt,” Montano said. “I thought it was me.” Then she saw that a radio tower across the street was swaying.

When she felt the house shake Friday morning, she said, “I immediately thought — we’re having an earthquake.”

She said she doesn’t think she would have felt it if she hadn’t already been awake, so Topekans who were still sleeping at 4:37 a.m. likely missed it.

The quake, which was along the Wabash fault about six miles north of Mount Carmel, Ill., shook skyscrapers in Chicago and Indianapolis and homes in Cincinnati.

Dozens of aftershocks were recorded, including one with a magnitude of 4.6.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*
Concealed-carry advocates will take part in campus protests nationwide

By Steve Fry
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Nick Parkhill will slide the holster for his .45-caliber pistol onto his hip Monday before he heads to classes at Washburn University.

But Parkhill’s Smith & Wesson won’t be going to class with him.

Parkhill, 22, will take part in the nationwide “empty holster” protest sponsored by the Students for Concealed Carry on Campus.

Washburn has 21 SCCC members in two chapters, 15 in the law school and six undergraduates.

Nationwide, SCCC had 27,000 members as of April 16, the first anniversary of the Virginia Tech shootings, according to concealedcampus.org, SCCC’s Web site.

In Kansas, SCCC has 231 members at Kansas State University, 54 at the University of Kansas and 20 at Pittsburg State University, said Ryan Willcott, SCCC state federation president.

SCCC is starting chapters at Fort Hays State University and Wichita State University, Willcott said.

The nationwide “empty holster” protest comes four days after the Kansas Board of Regents voted 9-0 to create a new policy for the six state university campuses to be “weapons free.” The regents Thursday directed its staff to develop a policy to put the “weapons-free” directive into effect.

Parkhill, a sophomore in information systems, is head of the SCCC chapter for undergraduate students at Washburn. He said he will carry an empty holster “to show that once we cross the line onto university property, we are left defenseless. It’s all about the issue of self-defense.”

Parkhill completed firearms training during spring break but must finish the paperwork to get the Kansas-issued, concealed-carry permit.

He thought about getting the concealed-carry permit after the law was passed, then the massacre of 32 students and teachers at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., struck April 16, 2007.

If the state has decided college students are responsible enough to carry pistols, he said, “why shouldn’t we be able to carry where we spend the majority of our time, on our campus?”

Cope, a second-year law school student, expects the empty holsters will draw mixed responses from students at Washburn.

Some will be opposed and some will support concealed carry on campus, he said. SCCC is trying to generate questions and feedback from students, Cope said.

Cope got a permit to carry because “this is an incredibly important issue at this time. It is the right of every trained individual to carry a firearm to protect yourself.”

If the state and teachers at Washburn want to do that, “I’d rather be prepared than not prepared,” he said, echoing the Boy Scout motto. Cope, an Eagle Scout, has a concealed-carry permit.

“Anythin that stimulates thought, we’re willing to do that,” Forster said. “That’s how people learn.”

But during the protest, the student holsters aren’t to carry anything, including cell phones, Forster said.

Amanda Hughes, a Washburn spokeswoman, said 98 percent of the signs banning handguns on campus have been put up on university buildings. The project started in January.

With the exception of schools kindergarten through 12th grade, concealed pistols are allowed in Kansas buildings unless they are posted with the state-approved sign that indicates guns are banned, according to Kansas law.

Steve Fry can be reached at (785) 295-1206 or steve.fry@cjonline.com.
Ferguson and Grauerholz KU Honor Scholars

The KU Honors Banquet was held Thursday, April 10, in Logan. Todd Bowman, Principal, introduced Kensington's two honor scholars, Erin Ferguson and Lindsey Grauerholz. The seniors, along with their parents, were honored with an evening meal, certificate of achievement, and a special edition of "The American Heritage Dictionary" designating them as Kansas Honors Scholars. Parents of the students are George and Deb Ferguson and Darren and Nikki Grauerholz.

The 2008 National Honor Society induction ceremony will be Wednesday, April 30, 2008. This ceremony will take place in the gymnasium at 3 p.m. with a reception for the NHS members and parents following the ceremony.
CHS grad Kelsie DeNaze Clark, now a senior at Kansas University, will star as Evelyn in the closing production of the season at the University Theatre in Lawrence. She is the daughter of Jim and Debra Clark, Chapman. The production is “The Shape of Things” by Neil LaBute. Jack B. Wright, professor of theatre and film, is directing the KU production.

Set on a Midwestern college campus, the drama centers on the lives of four young students who become emotionally and romantically involved with each other. The play examines the meaning of art.

Evelyn, an art student, meets the nerdy Adam in a museum where she’s about to deface a statue. She begins a makeover on the hopelessly smitten student and, with him in her thrall, convinces him to take various self-improvement steps: he changes his hairstyle, goes to the gym and begins losing weight, changes his style of dressing, gets contact lenses and even has cosmetic surgery.

As it turns out, Evelyn is using Adam as the subject of her “art” for her master’s thesis.

“Every artifact she has collected from Adam, every conversation they’ve had, every videotape of their sex together, all the documentation of the behaviors she has used her wiles to elicit from him were unfeelingly, clinically collected so she can put on a display in a gallery,” Wright said.

University Theatre and Capitol Federal Savings will present “The Shape of Things” by Neil LaBute, a 1989 University of Kansas alumnus, at 7:30 p.m., April 25 and May 1-3, and 2:30 p.m. April 27 in the Crafton-Preyer Theatre in Murphy Hall. The production is part of “Alums Come 5,” the KU theatre and film alumni reunion to be held April 24-27.

Reserved-seat tickets for “The Shape of Things” are on sale in the University Theatre, 864-3982; or online at kutheatre.com.
Seven KU Hillel students participated in the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation's women's Shabbat Retreat on March 28 at the Sheraton Hotel in Overland Park. The women joined together for prayer, meditation, Torah, yoga and music that combined for a special intergenerational Shabbat experience. Pictured with Women's Division Director Bev Jacobson (middle) are KU students Leah Levy (from left), Megan Singer, Rachel Kraig, Megan Williams, Shannon Portillo and Leah Jordan. The students' participation was made possible by a grant from the Legacy Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation.
Chabad Jewish Center shares joy of Passover with KU, Lawrence

The Jewish Holiday of Passover celebrating the Hebrew exodus from Egypt over 3,000 years ago begins as the sun goes down tomorrow, April 19, and the Chabad Jewish Center will offer an array of Passover programs and initiatives for the University of Kansas and Lawrence community.

The Center will sponsor the following programs:

- To enable faculty and community members to celebrate their seders with authentic, hand-prepared matzah crackers, Chabad will distribute matzot free of charge to Kansas University faculty and members of the Lawrence community.

This initiative is in its second year, and is expected to reach 70-90 individual faculty members, which is an increase of over 100 percent from previous years. Contact Chabad Center for a matzah package. In addition, Matzah packages have been sent to Jewish servicemen at Fort Riley in Junction City as well as outlying communities throughout Kansas, from Salina to Lindsborg and beyond.

- Passover seder dinners for both graduate and undergraduate students and the community at large. Included in the seder will be the traditional hand-baked matzah crackers, four glasses of wine or grape juice, and multi-course Passover dinner. These seders are English-friendly and not prayer-intensive, so everyone can feel welcome.

The traditional texts are integrated with Chassidic wisdom and spiked with Jewish humor. The first seder will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19. The second seder will be at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, April 20, both on campus in the Kansas Union, Jayhawk room, fifth floor.

For reservations, visit www.HawkSeder.com or call the Chabad Center office, (785) 832-8672.

Details of other meals during Passover, including lunches and dinners on Shabbat and the festive days of the holiday can be found on the Web site.

- The Chabad Student Association in partnership with the KU chapter of AEPI fraternity is selling Passover foods at low prices to help maximize the numbers of students who have easy access to kosher food. All proceeds will go to charity.

In addition, Chabad has launched a comprehensive Passover Web site at www.JewishKU.com/passover. The Web site includes hundreds of pages of Passover information from practical, how-to guides to deep mystical insights, multimedia clips, games and recipes.

The Web site includes features such as the complete translated text of the Haggadah (seder service) to print out and use at a seder; a seder companion, day-by-day calendar and a directory of Passover celebrations around the world. Video and audio clips include a guided tour through the process of matzah baking by hand, and traditional Passover seder songs so everyone can brush up before the seder.

This site has proven popular in the past, and this year, about 500 to 1,000 visitors per day were expected to visit the site in the week leading up to Passover.