Search for fine arts dean at KU continues

LAWRENCE — The six-month search for a new dean of the School of Fine Arts at Kansas University has run into a hurdle: The candidates who were brought to campus this month aren’t a good fit for the university.

John Gaunt, dean of the School of Architecture and chairman of the fine arts dean search committee, said more would be known about a new timetable for the search when an interim dean is announced later this week.

The three candidates who came to Lawrence were Wade Hobgood, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Asheville; William Vernon May, dean of the College of Music at Baylor; and Aaron Horne, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Winston-Salem State University.

KU Provost Richard Lariviere sent an e-mail to fine arts faculty and others last week saying he was dissatisfied with the search and intended to restart it with an interim dean assuming the role of dean when Steve Hedden leaves the position later this year.

—Lawrence Journal-World—
Street picnic for 5×4×7 next week...

To celebrate last week’s arrival of the 5×4×7 Arts Center in Greensburg, and its ongoing construction, the public is invited to a street picnic supper Thursday, April 3 from 5-7 p.m. at the Center’s location at 204 W Wisconsin. Come meet the Studio 804 (Univ of KS) architectural students completing the facility while touring the progress made.
LAWRENCE — Students from nine Kansas high schools will be honored Thursday, April 3, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 40 seniors from high schools in Barber, Harper, Kingman and Pratt counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program Park Hills Country Club, 337 Lake Road, Pratt.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Hannah Love, a senior from Dodge City and KU’s student body president, will speak to the students and their parents and guests.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $10 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Cindy Keller and Marcia Suiter, both of Pratt, will be the site coordinators. County coordinators are Bob Slinkard of Medicine Lodge for Barber County; Debra Meisenheimer of Kingman and Charles Holcomb of Cunningham for Kingman County; and Ron Giesen of Anthony for Harper County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Local seniors to be honored are:

- Blake Koblitz and Lori Yearout from South Barber High School.
- Jacob Clarke, Kristen Eck, Rachel McDuff, Brooke Mease, Jordyn Rickard, and Mattie Sheldon from Medicine Lodge High School.
- Jessie Loreg and Megan White from Attica High School.
Kansas University to honor seniors

A total of 51 seniors from high schools in Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars next week in Oakley.

The university will sponsor a 6:30 p.m. dinner program next Wednesday at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, 703 W. Second St.

Area students to be honored include Jessica Bremer, Chenaniah Langness, Heather Glodt and Gage Reichert, Decatur Community High School, and Andrew Broeckelman and Caitlyn Moss, Golden Plains High School.

The Kansas Honors Program, begun in 1971, has honored more than 100,000 students who rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions from Megan Hill, coordinator for alumni programs for the KU Alumni Association.

David Johnston, director of marketing and Internet services for the association, will speak to the students, parents and guests.

Honored students will be guests of the KU Alumni and Endowment associations; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $12 each.

Kurt Vollertsen of Oberlin is coordinator for Decatur County.
Panther Pause columnist Brendan Allen has received writing quality recognition from the Kansas Scholastic Press Association.

The Phillipsburg High School junior's Valentine's Day column was awarded third place in a statewide clipping contest. Allen was praised by the University of Kansas judge for his use of hyperbole to aid the humorous piece he wrote about dating and the perils of relating to the fathers of young ladies.

Aaron Groothoff said Allen's humor always attracts him to the columnist's stories. "Fatherly Love" compared fathers and African lions, something that made Groothoff laugh.

Fourteen students entered column clippings from their school newspapers.
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The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

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The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Names of local students who are being honored are listed below:

**Cunningham**
- Shawn Schaller
- Allison Steffen

**Medicine Lodge**
- Jacob Clarke
- Kristen Eck
- Rachel McDuff
- Brooke Mease
- Jordyn Rickard
- Mattie Sheldon

**Pratt**
- Jillian Aramowicz
- Heather Goertz
- Matthew Gould
- Heather Himmelwright
- Monica Hostetler
- Jeffrey Lynch
- Meghan Oeding
- John Rowland
- Emma Shrack
- Alexandra Trimpe

**Skyline High School**
- Nick Depenbusch
- Jared Flowers
- Hannah McPherson

**South Barber High School**
- Blake Koblitz
- Lori Yearout
HUTCHINSON — St. John's city police department added its newest recruit to the schedule recently with the graduation of Nick Lauffer from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center.

Fairway Police Chief John Simmons congratulated 54 graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center at a March 7 ceremony in the 4-H Encampment Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

Lauffer, 26, said he was glad to finally be out of school and on duty. Especially with the recent series of crimes in the area.

"I kept up with what was going on, and read about it in the paper," he said. He also said he got a little good-natured ribbing for being at the academy with so much going on back home.

Lauffer, is a graduate of Pratt/Skyline school district. He previously worked as an electrical lineman, but said law enforcement work is something he has wanted to do for a long time. He and his wife, Jamie, two children ages, 3, and 4.

The graduates, who began their training course Sept 10, represented 37 municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies from across Kansas. They were the 195th basic training class of graduates.

The training center is a unit of University of Kansas Continuing Education. Established in 1968 as the central law enforcement training facility for the state, the center is near Yoder.

Graduates receive certificates of course completion and Kansas law enforcement certification from the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training, the state's law enforcement licensing authority. The training course fulfills the state requirement for law enforcement training. Classroom lectures and hands-on applications help train officers to solve the

(See Officer, pg 10)
increasingly complex problems they face in the line of duty.

The center trains the majority of municipal, county and state law enforcement officers in Kansas and oversees the training of the remaining officers at seven authorized and certified academy programs operated by local law enforcement agencies and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

About 350 officers enroll annually in the 14-week basic training program. The center offered continuing education and specialized training to more than 2,500 Kansas officers last year. Funding for the training center is generated from court docket fees from municipal and state courts. No funds from the state's general revenue are used to operate the center.
For some students, spring break is no easy, breezy day at the beach.

These days, area universities, colleges and even high schools offer students a chance to volunteer their time in addition to traveling across the country or even out of the country.

"One thing we try to do is set a standard and a passion for them to serve throughout their lives," said Ben Berning, a Kansas University junior from Shawnee who is co-director for Alternative Breaks.

Alternative Breaks at KU started in 1995, and spring break is a busy time for the service program. Last week, 49 KU students spent time at sites working across the country in Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Washington, D.C. At KU, students pay $250 for travel expenses, and they attend a Special Projects in the Community Course before their trip to earn one course credit.

Co-director Ashley Bloom, a Hutchinson senior, said she talked to one student who volunteered for the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, D.C.

"She said her experience was life-changing," Bloom said.

About a dozen Bishop Seabury students also gave up three days of their break this week to help social service organizations around Lawrence. The students have spent their days doing projects at the Salvation Army, Lawrence Community Shelter and Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen.

They've also camped outside the school, 4120 Clinton Parkway, at night. This is the second year students, led by teacher Bill Gollier, have participated in the project.

"It makes you more empathetic, and I think it really broadens your experiences," said Julia Davidson, a Seabury junior.

HELP FOR THE SOUTH

Two Free State High School graduates and current KU students spent time last week in the South, working with blind children and helping rebuild homes that Hurricane Katrina destroyed.

"I decided instead of sitting here partying or doing what normal college students do, I would do something different," said Aleese Kopf, a KU freshman from Lawrence.

Kopf helped rebuild homes for a school teacher and an elderly man through Rebuild Lakeshore in Lakeshore, Miss. And Elise Rock, a KU sophomore from Lawrence, spent her break driving to Spartanburg, S.C., with six other students to work at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind.

"I've never been in that kind of environment. It was a learning experience," she said.

A group of 17 Baker University students, alumni and faculty headed to Baldwin County, Ala., where they helped with cleanup at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, which incurred heavy damage from Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina in 2004 and 2005.

The Rev. Ira DeSpain, campus minister at Baker University, and his wife, Barbara, sponsored the trip, which is in its 15th year.

"The trip is a way for students to have fun and contribute to society in some way," DeSpain said. "It gives different impressions to people about how students spend their vacations."

Brad Page, a senior at Baker University from Paola, said the trip — his second — was fun and productive.

"I liked being able to help while getting to be on a beach enjoying the warm weather at the same time," Page said. "I've done all the partying before. This was much more rewarding."

GOING GREEN

For Megan Holton, a Kansas State University sophomore, it was a green spring break.

On March 16, Holton, a 2006 Tonganoxie High School grad, took a trip to Greensburg to help rebuild the home of 86-year-old Elma Helwig.

Helwig lost her home last May, when an enhanced F5 tornado destroyed more than 90 percent of the town. Since the disaster, city officials have decided to stay as environmentally friendly as possible during reconstruction.

Holton remembers seeing pictures of the town covered in debris after the storm. She said things look very different now.

"When you go there and see the town, everything is cleaned..."
up, but there is still a bunch of empty lots with little bits and scraps here and there,” she said. “It’s pretty much empty.

Holton, along with six students from the university’s Ecumenical Christian Ministries and four from the K-State Office of Civic Leadership, rebuilt sections of the house.

David Jones, campus pastor for the ECM who also went on the trip, said getting Helwig’s home up and running would be a morale booster for the community.

“She has the reputation of making the best cinnamon rolls in the region,” he said. “That’s why this was kind of a high property to get her house built and get her back in the kitchen.”

Holton said when they arrived at Helwig’s house it was merely four walls, but by the time they left, it was starting to resemble a home — a home that could withstand 200 mph winds.

—— Caroline Boyer, reporter at the Shawnee Dispatch, Adam Mowder, reporter at the Baldwin City Signal, and Estuardo Garcia, reporter at the Tonganoxie Mirror, contributed to this report.
Coffee’s aroma better than its taste

There are two schools of coffee drinkers — those who like it straight and those who prefer it diluted with milk products and sweeteners. I happen to be one of the latter, although I occasionally drink it straight up. I also sympathize with those who want it straight and black.

Mother let her coffee boil away until later in the day, it began to resemble tar. She drank it hot and cold — but always black.

In both my mother’s house and in my mother-in-law’s, coffee was the drink of choice for hospitality. A cup of coffee and a piece of pie were universally accepted as an invitation to have a seat and share conversation and companionship. There was nothing better. My mother-in-law and her sisters all served coffee at the close of every visit, and it wasn’t decaffeinated. It was fully leaded. Perhaps, that’s why everyone made it home safely. Their eyes were wide open.

Coffee was discovered in the ninth century in what is now Ethiopia. Since then, coffee beans have become an important agricultural export item all over the world. According to Wikipedia, it is the most important export in 2004 for at least nine countries. Arabia was the first place the coffee berries or beans were roasted before they were used to make the drink. It was brought to Europe in the late Sixteenth Century where it gained popularity. Pope Clement VIII declared it a Christian drink in 1600 A.D. After the Turks were turned back from Vienna in 1683, the captured supplies were gladly confiscated and used by the good citizens of that Austrian city. The rest is history. Coffee became more popular than tea in the United States after both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 made the import of tea from British merchants unpopular and expensive.

When I was in college at the University of Kansas, there was a coffee house downtown that served all kinds of coffee with milk and flavorings in it. It had art on the walls and occasionally hosted performers. It was an alternative to places which served alcohol, and I always liked to go there after going to a movie or other event. No coffee has become an upscale experience with Starbucks and other places making it almost unrecognizable with the additional of many different flavors. Of course, with the chic transformations, the price has soared. The nickel cup of coffee has disappeared along with gas available under a dollar. We’re lucky to find a cup of coffee at a restaurant for a dollar. Even at that price, it’s a bargain compared to anything else other than plain water. May our coffee pots never run dry!
By Sen. Jay Scott Emler
R-Lindsborg

Here is a look at activities through March 21.

SB 541 Kansas Healthwave:
The Senate passed SB 541 potentially providing health insurance to an estimated 5,500 additional Kansas children. The bill proposes extending benefits to a larger population of uninsured children under Healthwave beginning in 2009. Healthwave is the Kansas version of the popular federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Currently about 125,000 Kansas children are covered by Healthwave, including about 38,000 who are in the SCHIP portion of the program. By means of using a program we are already administering, Healthwave allows Kansas to access federal dollars for our children as SCHIP is expanded. A recent survey by the Kansas Health Institute revealed the number of uninsured children in Kansas has been increasing steadily as the cost of affordable insurance has risen for most families. SB 541 passed the Senate 31-8.

S Sub HB 2001 & SCR 1624 National Bio & Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) Support:
S Sub HB 2001 issues bonding authority totaling up to $105 million for infrastructure improvements to enhance the final cost-share package to be considered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in selection of the NBAF site. Manhattan is one of five final proposed sites throughout the country for the new NBAF facility — including locations in North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, and Texas. The new facility is proposed to replace the old and aging facility currently located at Plum Island, New York. The intent of the bonding authority is to demonstrate Kansas' resolve to the DHS to secure the project and provide the necessary support to be a cooperative partner. The bonds most importantly will fund a separate dedicated utility plant — an addition that is standard for bio-containment facilities. NBAF would be located on the Kansas State University campus, adjacent to the existing Bioscience Research Institute. HB 2001 passed the Senate 37-0.

Additionally, forty Senators sponsored SCR 1624 pledging their support for NBAF, and urged Congress and the President to positively support the proposed facility's new location to be Manhattan, Kansas.

Sub SB 409 Sentencing Reform:
Sub SB 409 is aimed at giving judges more flexibility when sentencing violators and providing counseling intervention for habitual offenders. At the bill's core is providing actual jail time for felony property theft criminals after their third conviction. Additionally, for individuals whose underlying problem is their addiction to drugs or alcohol, the action requires the state to provide substance abuse therapy. This measure has beneficial effects to local communities whose jails are overburdened with DUI violators and individuals who have committed crimes against people and property because of drugs and alcohol. By giving judges the flexibility to move perpetrators into a state run program it will potentially relieve overcrowding in county jails. SB 409 passed the Senate 33-6.

HB 2781 Satellite Dental Practices:
HB 2781 allows dentists in Kansas the ability to establish satellite offices if certain criteria are met. The measure permits a dentist to operate up to two satellite offices if each office is within a 125-mile radius of the dentist's primary location, as well as being located in a county with a population below 10,000. The bill provides opportunities for those seeking dental care in Kansas who may find it difficult to travel to the dentists' primary practices. Additionally it allows dentists flexibility in provide care to more Kansans. HB 2781 changes current law which states that a dentist must personally operate in a practice the majority of the time known as the 50 percent rule. HB
The Senate passed SB 535 favorably this week, offering a bill containing language and compromises to which both banks and credit unions have agreed. SB 535 limits the geographic area where credit unions are allowed to operate, controls credit union mergers and defines who may join a credit union. Commercial banks argue that credit unions have tax advantages they pay neither the state's privilege tax, nor a corporate tax. Credit unions, on the other hand, argue they typically facilitate smaller loans in which banks do not care to engage, and since they are member-owned, pass their...
profits on to their members. Banks feel that over the last several years, credit unions have been allowed to encroach on what historically has been a commercial bank’s scope of business—an assertion supported by Legislative Post Audit. SB 535 contains compromises to which both parties agreed, and is supported by mostly everyone involved. SB 535 passed the Senate 35-2.

SB 629 Patient Care Services Coverage:
SB 629 assures Kansans their health plans will continue to pay for the costs of routine patient care services when they enroll in cancer clinical trials offered in Kansas, if those same routine patient care services would otherwise be covered absent of a clinical trial. These “routine patient care services” are the usual costs of medical care, such as doctor visits, hospital stays, clinical laboratory tests, x-rays and other routine services one would receive regardless of participating in a clinical trial. The University of Kansas Cancer Center remains committed to obtaining the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) designation and with it bringing world class cancer research and treatment to all Kansans. SB 629 helps move us closer to achieving this important goal. Currently, twenty-three states require routine care coverage for patients who participate in a cancer clinical trial. Of these twenty-three states, 53 percent of NCI’s designated cancer centers are located in these states. By passing SB 629, Kansas sends a clear message to the NCI that it believes in the importance of removing barriers so that everyone across the state has the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge clinical trials that come with this designation and that obtaining NCI designation is important for the entire state. SB 629 passed the Senate 39-0.

HB 2735 Oil and Gas Well Fund:
Extending the sunset date of the Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Fund to 2016, HB 2735 will provide more financial assistance to plugging the large number of abandoned wells in Kansas each year. The Kansas Corporation Commission estimates that more than four hundred wells are abandoned each year in Kansas, contributing to a growing inventory of more than 16,000 abandoned wells. The KCC estimates it will only be able to plug 470 wells in
the next three years. To fund these operations, HB 2735 allows the continued draw of $400,000 annually from each of the State General Fund, the State Water Plan Fund, and the Conservation Fee Fund. HB 2735 passed the Senate 39-0.

SB 4 Drivers License & Improvement Clinics:
Under SB 4, the Kansas Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) allows Kansans whose driving privileges have been suspended to retain their privileges (with the exception of a commercial driver’s license) by successfully completing a DMV driver improvement clinic. The Department of Revenue will set guidelines and standards for the completion of the clinic. A fee will be paid by drivers who wish to participate and fees collected for clinic participation will be split evenly between the DMV operating fund and the Correctional Services Special Revenue Fund which is created by the bill. The Correctional Services Special Revenue Fund can be used by the Department of Corrections to create programs that reduce recidivism and prepare criminals for re-entry into society. SB 4 passed the Senate 39-0.

SB 670 2010 Transportation Plan:
In anticipation of the current state transportation plan ending in 2009, this measure establishes a joint committee to evaluate, review, and make recommendations regarding:
Conditions and adequacy of the state highway system, including road surface and bridge conditions;
Condition and extent of the state transportation system and infrastructure including, but not limited to, railroads, airports, trucking, and public transit; and
Issues relating to transportation needs to be addressed in the next comprehensive transportation plan legislation, including financing options and priorities for funding. SB 670 passed the Senate 37-0.

TOLL FREE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE
The State Library will continue its practice of operating the toll free hotline for Kansans to call their legislators and leave brief messages.

The hotline number is 1-800-432-3924.