On KU Honor Roll

Several area residents are among the more than 4,540 undergraduate students earning honor roll distinction for the fall semester at the University of Kansas.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade point average and others raise the minimum grade point average for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Area students earning recognition, and their school at the university, are:

- Council Grove -- Molly Aldrich, Pharmacy; Hali Baker, Liberal Arts and Journalism; Benjamin Horning, Liberal Arts; Brenda Pracht, Pharmacy; and Kaylee Sarratt, Liberal Arts.
- Alma -- Carolyn Haller, Liberal Arts; Amanda Lasswell, Education; and Jenny Wilson, Allied Health.
- Eskridge -- Rachel Yancey, Liberal Arts.
- Cottonwood Falls -- Carl Black, Pharmacy; Jordan Kline, Pharmacy; and Noah Lock, Liberal Arts.
- Herington -- Brian Blackwell, Engineering; Sean Darby, Liberal Arts; and Taylor Erickson, Liberal Arts.
- Reading/Northern Heights High School -- Stuart Symmonds, Business.
By CARL MANNING
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) -- Supporters of banning smoking in restaurants, bars, casinos and most other public places got a quick lesson Tuesday in practical politics when they urged the Senate Judiciary Committee to rewrite the bill.

They didn't like a provision of an anti-smoking bill mandating a Nov. 4 vote in each county on whether residents want to be part of the statewide ban. In counties that opt out, municipal governments still could enact their own smoking bans.

"We can expect millions of dollars in expenditures by the tobacco industry to defeat the initiative county by county," said Terri Roberts, Kansas State Nurses Association executive director.

Mary Jane Hellehurst, director of the Tobacco-Free Kansas Coalition, said in written testimony that the move was unusual. "Statutes usually passed by the Kansas Legislature do not ask local constituents to ratify matters affecting the public health," she said.

Leon Vinci, Johnson County public health director, suggested alternatives, such as having the ban become effective statewide when 50 percent of the state's population votes to approve it.

But Sen. David Wysong, the lead sponsor, said the provision was included out of political necessity.

"We wouldn't get it out of committee without the county vote," the Mission Hills Republican said.

He sponsored a smoking ban bill last year that was amended to give counties the option to vote, and many supporters wanting a stronger bill balked. Senate leaders shelved the bill because its passage was doubtful.

Thirty-one states have some type of statewide smoking ban. The National Conference of State Legislatures says 22 states require all public places to be smoke free; an additional six require workplaces and restaurants to be smoke free but exempt bars. Three exempt from these bars restaurants and bars whose customers must be at least age 18 or 21.

Dr. Howard Rodenberg, former state Division of Health director said a survey last year showed more than 70 percent of Kansans favor clean indoor air laws.

"By placing the issue in the hands of the voters, legislators can demonstrate that they are responsive to the will of the people," Rodenberg said. "No doubt, come November, there will be significant opposition to this act, and we can expect an orchestrated campaign to kill it."

Committee Chairman John Vratil said the panel will hear from opponents Wednesday and will debate the bill and vote on it next week. The Leawood Republican said he believes there are enough votes to send the measure to the Senate.

Tim Shallenburger, a former House speaker and lobbyist for Penn National Gaming Inc., said he would testify against the bill. Penn National wants to operate a planned state-owned casino in Cherokee County.

"A business should have an opportunity to set its own rules when it comes to smoking," he said. "In the case of Penn National, there will be another casino few feet away in Oklahoma where smoking is allowed. People will walk next door, and it will be a revenue loss."

He also questioned whether the ban applies to private clubs, because the bill says employers shall provide a smoke-free workplace for all employees.

Gilbert Cruz, state long-term care ombudsman, said he's concerned it would apply to adult care facilities that have designated smoking areas for residents.

"The elderly can't walk out into the snow and put a coat on, so they have to have a supervised controlled environment," he said.

Dr. Roy Jensen, University of Kansas Cancer Center director, said about 1,500 Kansans die each year from lung cancer and 89 percent of lung cancer cases are among smokers. He said the annual health care cost in Kansas caused by smoking is $927 million.

Sen. Roger Reitz, a physician, said secondhand smoke also contributes to diseases.
Pharmacy students visit Ellsworth businesses

Ellsworth’s two downtown pharmacies were part of a tour taken by 11 members of the student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy.

The students visited 16 independent pharmacies in central and southwest Kansas during their semester break. The students came from a variety of counties, including Johnson, McPherson, Ness and Smith.

Other pharmacies they visited included those in LaCrosse, Meade, Ness City, Cimarron and Lakin.
CHASE CO. COUPLE GIVE $1 MILLION TO KU

Pyle bequest to fund research on autism

Special to the Gazette

The University of Kansas announced Wednesday that a Chase County couple made a $1 million bequest to the university. The money will be used for research into the cause and treatment of autism.

The money comes from the estate of Thomas and Wanda Pyle, who ranched near Elmdale. Thomas Pyle died in 2001 and Wanda Pyle died in 2006. They had no children, but stipulated that most of their estate should be used for research and service at KU to improve children's lives.

The Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies at KU will benefit from the bequest.

In a news release, Steve Warren, director of the institute, said the money will be used to enhance the institute's efforts to pursue research on the causes and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, which currently affect one in every 150 children in the United States.

"We greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness of Wanda and Thomas Pyle in making this bequest, which will make a significant difference in our work not only in Chase County but also throughout the state and nation," Warren said.

The institute is one of the largest research and development programs in the nation for the prevention and treatment of developmental disabilities. It includes 12 centers and more than 120 programs and projects located on the Lawrence campus, the KU Medical Center and other sites in Kansas City, Kan., and Parsons.
Army partners with KU for wounded warrior education program

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. - The Army and the University of Kansas struck up a partnership that will allow wounded Soldiers to earn a master’s degree at the school and to apply what they have learned inside the Army’s own academic community.

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Chancellor Robert Hemenway of the University of Kansas announced the Wounded Warrior Education Initiative Feb. 6 on the campus of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

“There’s so much pent-up generosity out there in the American public,” Geren said. “Americans want to step up and do something for our Soldiers.

“And Chancellor Robert Hemenway had a good idea - let’s develop this partnership, to help Soldiers that want to continue their education. Let’s figure out a way to make this work to help these Soldiers continue professionally, to pursue their professional and educational dreams.”

Soldiers and those medically retired who are part of the Wounded Warrior Program are eligible to participate in the new education initiative. They must already have a baccalaureate degree and must also be physically and mentally prepared to attend school.

Under the pilot program, participants will complete their master’s degree at the University of Kansas, while the Army picks up the tab for that education.

“The welcome mat is out at KU,” Hemenway said. “I look forward to having a great group of Soldiers among us and we will do everything in our power to help them succeed. This is an exceptional program; it is good for the Army because the Army will retain talent and the spirit of courage. It is good for KU, (because) we are determined to do what we can as a public university, known for supporting Soldiers, to contribute to the larger purposes to which the Army and these men and women have given so much.”

At the completion of their degree program, graduates would take jobs as faculty or staff at the Army’s Command and General Staff College or Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth. Those Soldiers who are still on active duty would remain on active duty, while those retired due to injury would serve as civilian instructors.

The program is one way the Army can stem the loss of military knowledge, education and experience that comes when wounded Soldiers leave the service, officials said. By helping wounded Soldiers complete their master’s degrees, the Army can keep some of that corporate knowledge in house.

Participation in the pilot program now has been offered to eight initial candidates: retired Spc. Michael Hogg; Capt. Tim Hornik; Capt. Kristin Facer; Capt. Gates Brown; retired Capt. Michael Reynolds; retired Capt. Wesley E. Fine; Staff Sgt. Thomas Davis and retired 1st Lt. Jason Gladney. All eight Soldiers were injured in combat while serving in Iraq and all received Purple Hearts.

If these wounded warriors choose to complete their education at the University of Kansas, they will take jobs at CGCS, filling positions already identified by the school and applying their own education and personal experience to benefit students enrolled there.

Those wishing to participate in the Wounded Warrior Education Initiative must have been wounded in the war on terror and have a campaign medal. They may be either active duty, or medically retired active-component or reserve-component Soldiers.

Depending on the success of the Wounded Warrior Education Initiative, officials said the program may be expanded to include other civilian universities, other Army institutions of learning or even other branches of service.

“I want to thank KU for stepping up and setting up an opportunity for these fine Soldiers,” Geren said. “The people of Kansas have always been great to the U.S. Army, whether at Fort Riley or at Fort Leavenworth - they are neighbors helping neighbors.”
LAWRENCE (AP) — Students at the University of Kansas are pushing a proposal to reinstate sales of beer at a campus bowling alley and eatery for the first time in nearly a decade.

University union directors recently approved the student-led proposal.

But prospects for the return of beer sales at the Jaybowl and Hawks Nest are uncertain.

Three years ago, a similar proposal was rejected by then-Provost David Shullenburger.

A spokeswoman for current Provost Richard Lariviere said he hadn't seen the proposal and declined to comment.

Sales of beer stopped in 1998 following the death of a student in a traffic accident. Both she and the driver were intoxicated.

Beer is sold at the student union at Kansas State University in the bowling and billiards areas.
Fort Hays State University’s Office of Career Services has announced the launch of a consortium Web site, Hire Kansas Talent, that provides employers with a centralized location to post jobs just once and have those jobs reach a large number of candidates at all member schools in Kansas.

Hire Kansas Talent is a collaborative effort of career services offices within the state’s four-year public universities.

Leveraging a system created by career services research, FHSU’s Career Services consortium Web site is located at www.hirekansas-talent.com. It is an easy-to-use site that enables employers to post jobs for free and have them automatically distributed electronically to all member schools.

Students at each of the member schools can view the postings at their respective career service office’s Web site or résumé database and job-posting system.

As a result of implementing this system, students benefit from seeing a much larger number of opportunities in the area.

Six other Kansas universities are participating: Emporia State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, the University of Kansas, Washburn University and Wichita State University.
Alexis Reed, University of Kansas Graduate Research Student, was a presenter at the Ecological Society of America Convention in San Jose, California. She presented an abstract on Deep water availability as an influence on the stable oxygen and carbon isotopes of red oak (Quercus rubra) tree rings. Alexis also participated in the 2008 North American Dendroecology Fieldweek in Smoky Mountain National Park. She worked with carbon assimilation and stand dynamics of old growth trees within the national forest.

Alexis, a Graduate Research Assistant, is working with research in biogeochemistry and global change. She is researching carbon and oxygen stable isotopes in tree rings and their link to drought and pest resistance in a coordinated effort to predict future forest distributions under climate change.

Also, Alexis is a KU Graduate Teaching Assistant. She taught Mammalian Physiology to pre-med students for the Fall Semester; she is assisting with Field Ecology instruction during the Spring Semester.

Alexis is the daughter of Max and Judy Reed and a 2002 graduate of Great Bend High School.
TOPEKA (AP) — The co-chairman of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s presidential campaign in Kansas predicted Monday that she wouldn’t win its Democratic caucuses because of the resources put into the state by rival candidate Barack Obama.

Dan Lykins, a Topeka attorney and state Democratic Party treasurer, made his comments after Gov. Kathleen Sebelius campaigned for Obama at gatherings on three college campuses. Sebelius endorsed Obama last week and appeared in a television ad in the Wichita market.

Kansas Democrats caucused Tuesday at 50 sites. At stake were 32 of the state’s 41 delegates to the Democratic National Convention this summer in Denver.

“This is truly, tomorrow night, going to be a David-and-Goliath event, and Senator Clinton is the David,” he said Monday. “We know that we are going to be dramatically outnumbered on people — there’s no doubt about it.”

Obama’s campaign in Kansas didn’t offer any predictions, saying only that they were working on getting as many supporters as possible to the caucuses. They also acknowledged his campaign put more resources into trying to capture Kansas delegates.

“All those things are indications of Obama’s commitment to a 50-state strategy and to reaching out to voters in red states as well as blue states,” said Dan Watkins, a Lawrence attorney who is Obama’s senior Kansas adviser. “Even Kansas’ 1 percent counts, just like Idaho’s 1 percent counts and North Dakota’s half-percent counts.”

About 1,300 people participated in caucuses in 2004, but they weren’t held until mid-March, when the Democratic race had been decided. Chairman Larry Gates said the party expected at least 10,000 people to participate this year; the actual turnout was 37,089, Gates said Wednesday.

Obama opened a Kansas campaign headquarters in October in Lawrence, and last month, the Illinois senator opened offices in Topeka and Wichita. As of Monday, he had 20 campaign staffers in Kansas.

Clinton dedicated three staff members to Kansas and opened offices in Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita last month.

Her campaign set up a national “town hall” meeting Monday night, linking at least one site in each Super Tuesday state with her by teleconference. One site was in Wichita.

The New York senator raised almost $132,000 in 2007 from Kansas, according to Federal Election Commission reports, but the total for Obama was more than $141,000.

“It’s obvious the Obama people started their campaign in Kansas earlier than the Clinton people. ‘They have more paid staff,’ Lykins said. ‘They have put out a lot of expensive campaign literature all over the state. We have not done that.’

Sebelius also has been a visible part of Obama’s campaign, appearing at a rally with the candidate last week in El Dorado, then in the television ad. On Monday, she was featured at Obama events at Kansas State University in Manhattan, the University of Kansas in Lawrence and Washburn University in Topeka.

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle, whose state has a Feb. 19 primary, joined Sebelius at Washburn and the University of Kansas.

At Washburn, Doyle told about 40 people that in the 1960s, President John F. Kennedy inspired him to spend two years in Africa with the Peace Corps. He said Obama has the same ability to inspire voters.

But Lykins, who worked for Robert F. Kennedy in 1967 and 1968, said he and other veteran Democrats are supporting Clinton because of her experience working on public policy.

“Inspiration won’t get you very far unless you’ve been in the trenches, working, and know how to get things done,” Lykins said.

Additional reporting by Susan Thacker, Great Bend Tribune
FORT LEAVENWORTH (AP) — Eight current and former soldiers who were wounded in Iraq are getting an opportunity next fall to continue graduate-level education through a pilot program between the Army and the University of Kansas.

Army Secretary Pete Geren announced the program Wednesday during a gathering at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

The eight men and women will complete a two-year graduate program at the university. Geren said the program was the latest initiative by the Army to take care of its wounded soldiers in the wake of last year’s disclosure of the lack of quality care provided at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

After they complete the Army-paid education, the soldiers and civilians will go to work as instructors or other military employees, a requirement for being selected in the program.