Students from six Kansas high schools will be honored Thursday, Feb. 21, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 20 seniors from high schools in Edwards, Pawnee and Stafford counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Knights of Columbus, Scenic Drive, Larned.

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. Honorees’ names are listed at www.news.ku.edu/2008/february/7/khplarned.shtml.

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.

Kevin Corbett, president of the KU Alumni Association, will speak to the students, 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 $12 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. John Adams of Larned will be the site coordinator as well as county coordinator for Pawnee County. Other county coordinators are Al Frame of Kinsley for Edwards County; and Gayle Cornwell of Saint John for Stafford County.

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

Honorees’ names from Pawnee Heights High School are listed below:

Samantha Crook
Jordan Hann
Christopher Housman
Keeper of Great Bend history Bob Parrish named Citizen of the Year

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Anyone wanting to know anything about Great Bend knows just who to call. Bob Parrish has been involved in Great Bend his entire life, as a student, a businessman, an elected official, a community leader, a political leader and as its longtime historian. For his longstanding service and devotion to his community, Parrish earned the award of “Citizen of the Year” during the 86th Annual Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Banquet held Saturday night at the Highland Convention Center, Great Bend.

Annually, the Chamber recognizes outstanding

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
continued on A14

As Bob Parrish, left, comes forward to accept the Citizen of the Year Award at the chamber banquet, he is congratulated by Mayor Mike Allison.
service by an individual who contributes to the quality of life in Great Bend. The award winner is also someone who gives of his time, talent and energy to help the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce excel. Additionally, the award recognizes people who provide outstanding service to the community, or it recognizes people who have excelled in their chosen professions and serve as role models in the community.

Parrish is a 1945 graduate of Great Bend High School who, after serving in the armed forces and earning a business degree from the University of Kansas, returned to his hometown and joined his father in managing and operating Parrish Motors. Through his years as a businessman, Parrish served on the Great Bend City Council and was elected mayor of Great Bend several times. He served as county chairman for the Republican Party and also held district and state positions for the party.

Parrish teamed up with the late Ray “Jiggs” Schulz on a popular local weekly radio show titled “Pages in Time,” about the early happenings of Great Bend. With his passion for Great Bend History, he has volunteered longtime service to the Barton County Historical Society. Additionally, Parish sat on the Board for the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development and he even served as chairman for a term. As a local business man, he served on the Board of the previous American State Bank for many years. He’s also been a member of the Great Bend Rotary Club since 1963.
LAWRENCE — Eleven members of the student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy visited 16 independent pharmacies in central and southwest Kansas during their semester break.

KU Pharmacy Dean Ken Audus and Associate Dean Gene Hotchkiss accompanied the KU-NCPA members on the Jan. 9-11 road trip as part of a KU initiative to enhance student awareness of the career opportunities within Kansas in independent pharmacy.

The KU-NCPA Student Chapter is a professional pharmacy student organization that promotes independent pharmacies as a career pathway option for pharmacy students at KU. Established in 1998, KU’s chapter has been honored as the national Chapter of the Year by the NCPA parent organization at their annual meeting four times in the past 10 years and was first runner-up in 2007.

Hotchkiss noted that KU’s chapter is an innovative organization that has implemented and participated in several professional development programs and community service projects. One such initiative is to organize road trips each academic year to conduct on-site visits with progressive independent pharmacy practitioners throughout the state.

“Our objective is to establish a relationship and network between pharmacy students who have an interest in a career as an independent pharmacy entrepreneur and/or staff pharmacist, and independent pharmacists in Kansas,” Audus said.

KU-NCPA students have participated in more than 100 visits to independent pharmacies from Hiawatha to Hugoton, Atwood to Baxter Springs and destinations in between.

Hotchkiss and Dennis Grauer, assistant professor in pharmacy practice, are the NCPA student chapter co-advisers.

The students and their deans visited pharmacies and pharmacists in these area communities:
- Ellsworth: F&M Drug, Barbara Kennedy; and Seitz Drug, Terry Kepka
- Kinsley Pharmacy, Brad Eustace
- La Crosse: Barrows Drug, Richard Barrows
- Ness City: G&L Drug, Greg and Lisa Flax

The KU-NCPA students participating in the recent road trip are upper-level students in KU’s Doctor of Pharmacy or PharmD program, a six-year professional degree similar to a law or medical degree. They are listed here with their hometown, parent names, high schools and previous degrees.

From Ness City, Melissa Sue Rufenacht, fifth-year PharmD student and a junior in allied health, daughter of Benjie and Randae Rufenacht; graduate of Ness City High School; and at Ellsworth, Melissa Sue Rufenacht; daughter of Benjie and Randae Rufenacht; graduate of Ness City High School.
Regents request smaller tuition hikes

By CHRIS GREEN
HARRIS NEWS SERVICE

TOPEKA — The state Board of Regents on Wednesday decided against imposing a formal cap on next year’s round of tuition increases for six state universities.

Following a lengthy discussion, the board instead voted 7-2 to request university leaders propose tuition hikes later this year well below the double-digit ones paid by students and their parents earlier this decade.

However, board members also said they expected to see charges increase by 6 percent or less this year, unless university leaders face extraordinary circumstances.

“I think we’ve made it clear that we would like to see proposals under the 6-percent limit,” said Regent Janie Perkins of Garden City.

Two board members, Gary Sherrer of Overland Park and Donna Shank of Liberal, wanted to impose a formal 5-percent cap but were voted down. In opposing the resolution calling for more moderate tuition hikes this year, Sherrer and Shank said the board’s action would carry little meaning.

“This motion just says, ‘Don’t do it as big as you did in the past and we’ll see you in June,’ ” Sherrer said, referring to the month in which board members set tuition rates.

Yet Regent Jill Docking of Wichita, who made the proposal, said she believed higher education officials had reached an understanding Wednesday on what level of hikes would be acceptable.

“If they come in at 8 (percent), then we have the authority to say no,” Docking said.

College officials defended their efforts to keep tuition at reasonable rates in recent years, but several indicated they generally planned to have increases below 6 percent this year.

“We understand that the era of double-digit tuition increases is over,” said Kansas State University President Jon Wefald.

The board’s debate Wednesday was sparked by a series of steep hikes that significantly have driven up the price of the state’s historically low tuition rates.

In recent years, the board has approved the hikes proposed by university leaders in May, a month after they’re initially unveiled. But several board members called last month for a discussion on whether the board should change its approach to setting tuition rates.

Since 2002, in-state tuition and fees have more than doubled at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. Increases at the state’s other schools — Wichita State, Emporia State, Pittsburg State and Fort Hays — have averaged at least 8 percent a year.

At the same time, in-state enrollments at some schools have dropped slightly, and student debt loads among borrowers were 5 percent to 21 percent higher for 2006 graduates than their 2004 counterparts. The average borrower at a state university owed more than $17,000 in student loans upon graduating in 2006.

However, university leaders argued Kansas universities had been underpriced prior to the tuition ramp up earlier this decade and states across the nation have seen comparable or bigger increases.

College officials also said the increased charges were prompted too by insufficient boosts in funding from the Legislature. Plus, they said the hikes helped ensure universities offer excellent programs and keep or lure top-notch faculty instructors.

Student leaders also told the board most universities involved them in the process of determining their tuition rates.

But Sherrer said such efforts didn’t mean students weren’t being priced out of attending the state’s universities by the recent hikes.

“I wonder who speaks for the student who couldn’t be at your school because they couldn’t afford to be there.”
Bloodhart Drug is toured by students of Pharmacy Association

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KU-NCPA students have participated in more than 100 visits to independent pharmacies from Hiawatha to Hugoton, Atwood to Baxter Springs and destinations in between.

One of the pharmacies the students and their deans visited was Hugoton's Bloodhart Drug and Gift Company under the management of Bret Horyna.

Hotchkiss and Dennis Grauer, assistant professor in pharmacy practice, are the NCPA student chapter co-advisers.

The KU-NCPA students participating in the recent road trip are upper-level students in KU's Doctor of Pharmacy of PharmD program, a six-year professional degree similar to a law or medical degree.

This article was submitted by the University of Kansas National Community Pharmacists Association.
A break, if not a dam, on tuition raises

Regents won’t cap rates, but request increases stay ‘well below’ double digits.

BY CHRIS GREEN
Harris News Service

TOPEKA - The state Board of Regents on Wednesday decided against imposing a formal cap on next year’s round of tuition increases for six state universities.

After a lengthy discussion, the board instead voted 7-2 to request that university leaders propose tuition increases later this year “well below” the double-digit ones paid by students and their parents earlier this decade.

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Affordable schools?

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University leaders argued, however, that Kansas universities had been under-priced before the tuition ramp-up earlier this decade and that states across the nation have seen comparable or bigger increases.

College officials also said the increased charges were prompted by insufficient boosts in funding from the Legislature. Plus, they said the rising rates helped ensure universities offer excellent programs and keep or lure top-notch faculty instructors.

Student leaders also told the board that most universities involved them in the process of determining their tuition rates.

But Sherrer said such efforts didn’t mean that students weren’t being priced out of attending the state’s universities by the recent increases.

“I wonder who speaks for the student who couldn’t be at your school because they couldn’t afford to be there,” Sherrer said.
More than 4,540 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall semester. These students, from KU's Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing in Kansas City, Kan., represent 96 of 105 Kansas counties, 43 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the allied health; architecture and urban design; business; education; engineering; fine arts; journalism; nursing; and social welfare schools.

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 GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Local students achieving honor roll are:

From Delia, Emily Claire Seifert, daughter of Leon and Connie Seifert, fine arts senior, St. Mary's High School.

From Rossville, Jacob Brian Landis, son of Alicia and Joe Vanatta, liberal arts senior; and Marc Thomas Roth, son of Gary and Tina Roth, liberal arts sophomore. Both are Rossville High School graduates.

From Silver Lake, Brianna Rae Barnes, daughter of Susan Barnes, pharmacy senior, Hiawatha High School; Danielle Jean Bulson, daughter of Patricia Hough, liberal arts freshman, Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School; Andrew Joseph Jennings, son of Kathy Jennings, liberal arts senior, Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School.

From Topeka, Jenna Lee Hewitt, daughter of Mark and Lori Hewitt, education senior, Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School.
The University of Kansas debate team has kicked off the spring semester with a No. 1 overall ranking in the National Debate Tournament varsity debate after strong showings at several tournaments.

In the NDT varsity rankings, KU leads Emory University, second; Harvard University, third; Northwestern University, fourth; and Wake Forest University, fifth.

Eight KU debate teams won awards at tournaments in January.

At the Herbert James Invitational tournament hosted by Dartmouth College Jan. 26-28, Brett Bricker, Wichita senior, and Andrew Jennings, Silver Lake junior, took second place with a 5-1 record. The tournament is an invitational round robin for the top seven teams in the country. KU defeated Harvard, Dartmouth, Northwestern, University of California-Berkeley and Wake Forest. Emory University won the tournament, and Harvard finished third. Bricker won the award for the top individual debater at the tournament.

It is the best finish ever for Kansas at the Dartmouth round robin,” said KU debate coach Scott Harris.

Over the winter break, Bricker and Jennings competed at tournaments at the University of Southern California, among 82 teams, and the University of California-Fullerton, with 90 teams. They were the first- and second-place individual debaters at Fullerton.

“The overall squad performance has allowed Kansas to hold the No. 1 ranking in varsity debate,” Harris said. Following Kansas in the top 10 are Emory, Harvard, Northwestern, Wake Forest, Dartmouth, Binghamton, Michigan State, UC-Berkeley and Missouri State.

The National Debate Tournament will be March 28-31 at UC-Fullerton. KU has sent more teams to the NDT than any college or university. By qualifying for 39 consecutive years, KU has the second-longest active streak of any college or university in the United States. KU debaters have won the national title four times and reached the Final Four rounds 13 times.
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 Hellebust, 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 their ban 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.

“If 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. 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.

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.

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.”
The Board of Directors of the Ashland Health Center is pleased to announce that Chad Sharp, M.D. will begin practicing full time in Ashland beginning February 6, 2008 and will reside in the community. Dr. Sharp is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine and did his residency at St Francis Regional Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas and has twelve years experience in Family Practice and the emergency room. Dr. Sharp recently has been on the medical staff at Meade District Hospital in Meade, Kansas. While at Meade, Dr. Sharp has been coming to Ashland three days a week and looks forward to a full time practice in Ashland. Dr. Sharp along with Jon Bigler, P.A. will enable Ashland Health Center to provide comprehensive care to the community and surrounding areas. Office hours for the Clinic are Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings. Appointments may be made by calling the Clinic at 635-2222. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Sharp to our community.