Army secretary, KU announce program

Education program aimed at improving life for wounded

By JOHN MILBURN
The Associated Press

FORT LEAVENWORTH — Army officials on Wednesday unveiled a new education program aimed at enhancing the lives of soldiers disabled by combat injuries.

Army Secretary Pete Geren introduced eight current and former soldiers who will enroll in graduate programs at the University of Kansas in the fall.

The soldiers then owe the Army three years of service — either on active duty or as civilian employees — for every year they spend in school. To qualify, the soldiers must be at least 30 percent disabled by their war wounds.

Geren said public support for wounded veterans has grown since disclosures last year of substandard care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"You had some soldiers that had not received the care that they needed. When that became known to the Army, it was a like an electric shock to the system," Geren said. "The Army has stepped up. Soldiers do take care of soldiers. And when the soldiers learned that some people had dropped the ball and not taken care of soldiers, the whole system responded.

"We're trying to pay a debt to the soldiers who have given so much to this country." First Lt. Jason Gladney, a retired armor officer, joined the Army after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and was wounded in Iraq in March 2006.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and started a master's degree program years ago. He's now living in California and will attend the University of Kansas to finish his education.

Gladney said whether students can stay in uniform or have to be civilians, it is rewarding to know that they can continue to serve and "be part of the team."

"I think it's an incredible opportunity," Gladney said.

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway said he approached Geren and Defense Secretary Robert Gates, the former president of Texas A&M University, whom Hemenway knew because both schools are in the Big 12 conference.

"The welcome mat is out at KU," Hemenway said. "The Army, the nation will benefit.

Geren and university leaders detailed the program during an assembly at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College, about 50 miles from the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence.

The soldiers will qualify for in-state tuition at the University of Kansas, currently about $2,165 a semester, not counting books or campus fees.

"Funding won't be a problem. This is a commitment the Army will make," Geren said.

Hemenway said other universities have inquired about the program, which the Army hopes to expand throughout the country.

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. The first graduates are expected to join the Command and General Staff College staff.

Ronald James, assistant Army secretary for manpower and Reserve affairs, said the additional training would give soldiers an opportunity to give back to the military while raising the intellectual level of the Army.

"This is not a gift," James said. "We are in an era where we are short of critical skills."

Staff Sgt. Thomas Davis has been cleared to stay in the Army. He has been in for five years and wants to retire after 20.

Davis was wounded by an improvised explosive device in June 2006, and is now a basic training instructor at Fort Benning, Ga.

"I didn't know how long that was going to last. This is great to come out and go in a different direction and still serve in the Army the best way that I can," he said.

Davis will seek an information technology management degree next fall.

"I'd like to go somewhere that's warm and there isn't snow," he said.
Soldiers listen to University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemingway speak on Feb. 5 about a new pilot program for soldiers to continue their graduate education in Lawrence.
Regents against a cap on tuition increase

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 that 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,” Regent Janie Perkins of Garden City said.

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 felt 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 that they generally planned to hold increases below 6 percent this year.

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

Affordable schools?

The board’s debate Wednesday was sparked by a series of steep hikes that have significantly 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 State — have averaged at least 8 percent a year.
Area students named to KU Fall Honor Roll

LAWRENCE — More than 4,540 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2007 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.

Area students named to the honor roll include:

**Glade:** Brenna Long, Liberal Arts Sophomore;

**Logan:** Darci Jo Goddard, Liberal Arts Sophomore;

**Phillipsburg:** Zachary Ceman, Liberal Arts Freshman; Travis Lower Liberal Arts Senior; Rebecca (Flipse) Marks, Social Welfare Senior; Bradley Rachow, Liberal Arts Junior; Stacy Rachow, Liberal Arts Junior; Alexa Riffel, Liberal Arts Senior; Isaac Riffel, Education Senior; Ashleah Smith, Education Senior; Amanda Taylor, Liberal Arts Senior;

**Kensington:** Melissa N Luiso Business Senior
Markley To Participate In KU Concert

Emily Markley, daughter of Joe and Sheila Markley, Chapman will participate in the University of Kansas Concert Choir, which has been selected to perform for the Southwest Division of the American Choral Directors Association convention Feb. 20-23 in Kansas City, Mo.

KU's Concert Choir performance will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, in the Folly Theater, 300 W. 12th St., Kansas City, Mo. Paul Tucker, KU assistant professor and associate director of choral activities, will direct the 25-minute program titled 'There is a Spirit.'

Concert selections will include 'Jamaican Medley,' arranged by Tucker; the late Kevin Oldham's 'Thou Art in Every Breath'; Brahms' 'Motet Op. 29 No. 2' and more.

KU's Concert Choir includes more than 70 vocalists who were selected before the fall 2007 term began in August. Most are KU students from many disciplines, but the choir includes a few area residents: Mark Wagstrom, bass; Megan Pasley, soprano; and Eric Chadwick, tenor.

Recent KU graduates in the choir are: David MacKay, bass, fall 2007 graduate in theatre and film; Jennifer Niemann, soprano, spring 2007 graduate in music education; and Heidi Schellman, soprano, spring 2007 graduate in anthropology.
KU students want beer sold at Union again

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 Shullenberger. A spokeswoman for current Provost Richard Lariviere said she 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.
Kansas regents want to limit tuition hikes

The board in charge of Kansas' higher education system wants to make sure the cost of attending a state university or college doesn't increase too much next year, but it's not ready to impose a cap.

The Board of Regents expects to receive proposals for new tuition rates from the universities in May and to vote upon them in June. On Wednesday, the board discussed whether it should give university officials any guidance — or impose a limit on what they can propose.

The regents voted 7-2 to let universities, community colleges and technical schools propose their own tuition rates. But they also strongly suggested that the increases sought be 6 percent or less.

The state's six public universities have instituted double-digit percentage tuition increases in the last five years. Since 2002, increases have ranged from 42.2 percent at Fort Hays State to 136 percent at the University of Kansas.

Presidents of all six of the universities told the regents their tuition increases would be less than 6 percent next year.

Student leaders who spoke at the meeting said they had been involved in setting tuition at their schools and they don't want lower tuition if it affects the quality of their education.

"We don't want the increases to be outrageous," said Courtney George, student body president at Emporia State University. "But we want our diploma to mean something. What matters most is how the money is being spent."

Regents Chairwoman Christine Downey-Schmidt, of Inman, said she opposes a tuition cap because she wants to maintain the flexibility that university presidents have to address their campuses' needs.

But regents Donna Shank, of Liberal, and Gary Sherrer, of Overland Park, who cast the only no votes, said they favored limiting tuition increases to 5 percent.

"I'm just saying: This year, in this economy, can't we take a break and show some restraint?" Shank asked.
KU Concert Choir to perform at choral directors convention

Group includes HHS graduate, tenor Ben Shrimplin

The University of Kansas Concert Choir has been selected to perform for the Southwest Division of the American Choral Directors Association convention Feb. 20 through 23 in Kansas City, Mo.

KU Senior Benjamin Shrimplin is a tenor in the choir. He is the son of Thomas and Rebecca Shrimplin of Hiawatha.

KU's Concert Choir performances will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, in the Folly Theater, 300 W. 12th St. in Kansas City, Mo. Paul Tucker, KU assistant professor and associate director of choral activities, will direct the 25-minute program titled "There is a Spirit."

The association's southwest division is made up of Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. It is one of seven divisions in the United States.

Concert selections will include "Jamaican Medley," arranged by Tucker; the late Kevin Oldham's "Thou Art in Every Breath;" Brahms' "Motet Op. 29 No. 2;" William Dawson's arrangement of the spiritual "Ezekiel Saw De Wheel;" and Ben Parry's arrangement of the Welsh folk song "David of the White Rock."

The choir also will premier the winning composition in the Raymond W. Brock student composer competition. The composer is a student at William Jewell College in Missouri.

KU's Concert Choir includes more than 70 vocalists who selected before the fall 2007 term began in August. Most are KU students.
KU to honor local high school seniors

The University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment are honoring students from seven Brown and Doniphan county high schools at a Feb. 27 dinner.

A total of 27 seniors will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at the dinner, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Hiawatha High School.

Honorees include:
- Doniphan West High School — Joshua Hargis, Stephanie Schiender, Brittany Schmitz and Jonathon Simmons.
- Horton High School — Nathan Britt, Natalie Pederson, Kelsey Rice, Erin Ross, Mark Ross and Melbien Tinio.
- Kickapoo Nation School — Kathleen Cueva.

Seniors representing Elwood, Troy and Wathena high schools also will attend.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971. It 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.

Law Professor Stephen McAllister, will speak to students, parents and guests. Honored students will attend as guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment. Parents and area alumni must pay to attend.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Jamie Winkelman, assistant director for alumni programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts. LeLand and Debbie Hansen of Hiawatha and Mike and Pam Arnold of Bendena are coordinators for Brown County.
KU grads help with river project

FORT SCOTT — Graduate students from the University of Kansas will help Fort Scott/Bourbon County Marmaton Riverfront Authority with plans to revitalize the Marmaton River.

Seven students will be involved, the Fort Scott Tribune reported. The students will assist with obtaining grants and private funding and give advice on infrastructure and other components necessary to build a riverwalk.
All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others" is a proclamation by the pigs who control the government in the novel "Animal Farm" by George Orwell.

The sentence is a comment on the hypocrisy of governments that proclaim the absolute equality of their citizens but give power and privileges to a small elite.

Americans, and especially Kansans, innately believe in equality and that government is our servant. Its power comes from and exists "of the people, by the people and for the people." And part of the genius of American-style governance is the division of responsibilities and the checks and balances established for each branch of government over the other.

However well-intentioned, through a series of events and over time, a small elite has taken power and privileges at the expense of the rest of the Kansas citizens.

They have circumvented the normal distribution of power and checks and balances in Kansas regarding how Kansas selects its Supreme Court justices.

Most people neither know, nor care, how these judges are selected, but in these days of activist liberal justices legislating from the bench — directing increased taxes for education for example — we should start caring about, if not actively seeking, to change the process. As a minimum, we should at least have "sunshine" laws in the system and selection decisions. Currently, Kansas does not.

Kansas is unique among all 50 states and the federal government in how it replaces its Supreme Court judges.

It allows a special interest group, a commission of Kansas Bar Association lawyers, to nominate a slate of three nominees from which the governor can choose one of the three people.

Failure of the governor to select one of the three nominees empowers the same panel of lawyers to make the selection themselves.

And that's it. No voting, no appeals, no veto, no majority consent of the legislature, or Senate as is the case at the federal level and like most other US states.

More than 50 years ago, after the outgoing reelection-defeated governor essentially appointed himself a Supreme Court justice during the 1956 "Triple Play," the Kansas Bar Association lobbied heavily for the current selection system.

They opportunistically offered a "merit-based" system to prevent further political "games" being played in the selection of Supreme Court justices. They "fixed" the problem of that day, but now control the "merit-based" selection process that they define, themselves. After half a century, it's past time to restore accountability and power back to the people of Kansas or at the very least back to our elected representatives.

Certainly lawyers aren't all bad, despite the numerous jokes about them. But a "behind closed doors" system, which is not open to legislative or executive scrutiny, let alone public scrutiny and accountability, is un-American and needs to change.

It gives some "animals" unfair and undeserved advantage and power over the rest of us.

More in-depth reading and analysis about this brewing political issue is contained in a research pamphlet entitled "Selection to the Kansas Supreme Court" by University of Kansas School of Law Professor Stephen J. Ware.

Better yet, Professor Ware will be speaking at a 12:30 p.m. luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at the High Noon Saloon. He'll discuss the issue, several potential solutions to the problem and entertain questions.

It's not often that a constitutional lawyer and national authority on a topic comes to our town to speak, so take advantage of this invaluable opportunity.

The High Noon meeting room can only accommodate 45 people, so reserve tickets at $10 each early by contacting John Bradford at 913-351-3688 or email at jbradford@kc.rr.com.

I'm not sure if the High Noon will be serving pork or beef that day at the luncheon, but I do know that currently in Kansas, some animals are more equal than others.

Greg Beck resides in Leavenworth and is an instructor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College on Fort Leavenworth.