KU announces local students named to honor roll

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

From Maize: Shea D. Fairchild, daughter of Don and Pam Fairchild, Education Undergraduate, Senior, Maize High School; Emily Diane Hooker, daughter of Sheila Hooker, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Freshman, Andover Central High School; Erika Lian Schnittker, daughter of LaDale Schnittker, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Freshman, Maize High School; Nicole M. Witt, daughter of Bruce and Janice Witt, Business Undergraduate, Junior, Maize High School;
KU Concert Choir to perform at choral convention at Kansas City

Maize High School graduate, Jacquelyn Venetia Kelley, daughter of Robert and Cynthia Kelley, is a member of the University of Kansas Concert Choir 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.”

The Southwest Division of the American Choral Directors Association is made up of seven states: Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri, and is one of seven divisions in the United States. Of all the university choirs from the seven states in the southwest, the KU Concert Choir was selected for the coveted final performance.

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.”

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

KU’s Concert Choir includes more than 70 vocalists who were selected before the fall 2007 term began in August. Jacquelyn is a junior majoring in voice.
Andrea Fortner, 7th grader at Mount Hope Grade School, represented the Haven School District in the Kansas Sousa Honor Band on January 26, 2008. The concert was performed at Lied Center on the campus of the University of Kansas. Andrea was one of 156 young musicians chosen from 352 blind audition tapes submitted by students in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades from across Kansas.
Board opts to not impose cap on state tuition hikes

TOPEKA (AP) — 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 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

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 university presidents have to address their campuses’ needs.

But regents Donna Shank, of Liberal, and Gary Sherrill, 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.
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KU architecture students at work on Greensburg’s first ‘green’ site

By Deb Gruver
The Wichita Eagle

A group of graduate architecture students at the University of Kansas is building what Greensburg leaders hope will be an example of “green” design and construction. The KU design and build program is constructing the sustainable prototype using materials salvaged from an ammunition plant, wind turbines and a geothermal heat pump, among other Earth-friendly systems and designs.

The students, in the Studio 804 class, hope to unveil the building in Greensburg on May 4, the one-year anniversary of the EF5 tornado that tore through the town, leaving little intact.

The town has pledged that all city-owned buildings will be certified at the highest LEED — Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design — level, platinum. It is the first city to take such a pledge in the United States.

The 1,600-square-foot building, to be relocated to Greensburg’s downtown area, will be used as an art gallery and community gathering space.

“I think this building is going to be unlike anything anybody here has ever seen before and will be a great Please see GREENSBURG, Page 5A

The 547 Arts Center in Greensburg will be 1,600 square feet and will be used as an art gallery and community center. University of Kansas students hope to unveil the building on May 4, the one-year anniversary of the big tornado.

.com Watch a video about the KU students and the Greensburg project attached to this story at Kansas.com.
example for our community to see what LEED platinum looks like," said Stacy Barnes, board president of 547 Arts Center.

The center was named after the date of the tornado.

The nonprofit group is working with Studio 804 students, under the direction of Dan Rockhill, the J.L. Constant Distinguished Professor of Architecture.

The 22 students are working in a Lawrence warehouse constructing modular units that they eventually will bring to Greensburg and reassemble.

Rockhill said the United States Green Building Council, a nonprofit trade organization, developed LEED as a standard for the design, construction and operation of sustainable buildings.

In its 12 years of existence, the Studio 804 program has leaned toward green techniques — salvaging much of its building materials, Rockhill said.

But this is the first year students are participating in the LEED process, he said.

Arts center

Much like the recycled materials making up the building, it too will have multiple functions.

The 547 Arts Center also will offer art classes.

"It's always been a dream of mine to open an arts facility here in Greensburg," said Barnes, assistant to the city administrator and a ceramic artist.

Even though the building will not be owned by the city, it is being built to LEED platinum standards.

If sold on the market, the building likely would cost about $380,000; that includes the four lots it will sit on.

Studio 804 received seed money from the Kansas Housing Resources Corp. and the American Institute of Architects as well as numerous smaller donations from around the nation, Rockhill said.

Costs have been reduced because the labor is donated by the students, and Studio 804 has reclaimed building materials from the closed Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant located between Lawrence and Kansas City, Kan.

More than 1,000 old ammunition buildings are on the 9,000-acre site.

Students' idea

Rockhill said the Greensburg project started with his students. Studio 804 most recently has been working in blighted areas of Kansas City. Students asked Rockhill if he had given any thought to going to Greensburg.

"I held off because I know from experience that these kinds of tragedies, it takes awhile for people to get their feet on the ground," he said.

"My students were very keen on the possibilities. They went down and made inquiry sometime in November."

Not only do Studio 804 students design a building each year, they also build it.

"I've got eager builders," Rockhill said. "I think it's always good to give a little back."

Reach Deb Gruver at 316-268-6400 or dgruver@wichitaeagle.com.
KU graduate students remove trusses from the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant to be used in Greensburg’s arts center.
Twenty-three area advertising agencies and businesses were awarded a total of 112 first-place gold awards Saturday night at the 2008 Addy awards show.

The event — formerly known as the Omnis — was expected to draw more than 800 advertising professionals at the Bartle Grand Ballroom. The event was sponsored by the Advertising Club of Kansas City.

The name was changed this year to the Addy awards to conform with those bestowed by the American Advertising Federation, which oversees the judging of regional and national Addy awards.

Winning the most first-place awards was Barkley, with 23 gold awards, as well as Best of TV and Best of Radio, both for producing ads for Sonic, according to an advance list of winners. The ceremony had not concluded by press time.

Meers Advertising was expected to take home Best of Show and Best of Print awards, both for its client Wink, as well as 15 gold Addy awards.

Bernstein-Rein was slated to win 13 gold awards, while VML was to win Best of Interactive in addition to 12 gold.

RushWade2 was to win 11 first-place awards, followed by Muller + Co. with seven gold and Creative Consumer Concepts, with six.

Blacktop Creative was to win five first-place Addy awards, followed by iBlood Creative, with three.

Expected to win two gold awards each were Sullivan Higdon and Sink, Two West and Willoughby Design Group.

Expected to win one gold award each were iBlood Creative; the Ad Club of Kansas City; Bazillion Pictures; Callahan Creek; Diamond Merckens Hogan; ekcreative; RMR Studios; Ron Berg Photography; Salva O'Renick; Sturges Word Communications; V2 and Vedros & Associates.

Barkley chief executive and chief creative officer Brian Brooker was to be named Advertising Professional of the Year, while Mike LaMonica of LaMonica Design was to be named Ad Club Member of the Year.

Art + Copy Club Member of the Year was expected to be Kevin Fullerton of Springboard Creative, while ad2 Member of the Year was expected to be Austin Walsh of Austin Walsh Photography.

Kansas State University was slated to win a student gold Addy and the Student Addy Best of Show for client World Wildlife Fund, while Johnson County Community College was to win two student gold awards.

The University of Central Missouri and the University of Kansas each were slated to win one student gold award.

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Internet to reveal every state outlay

By JIM SULLINGER and DAVID KLEPPER
The Kansas City Star

TOPEKA | The Internet has opened up more information about government than was possible in your grandparents' generation.

You can listen to city council meetings and legislative sessions, for example, on computers in streaming audio or video.

Now the state is about to take a giant leap forward. A Web site opening March 1 will allow people to examine any payment made by the state to a vendor.

Gavin Young, a spokesman for the state Department of Administration, said people also will be able to review payments made by the state to a vendor.

If a state agency buys coffee and rolls for a meeting, you'll be able to see who was paid for it and how much.

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In a letter to the city, the association ultimately signed off on that ban, calling it "reasonable for businesses."

More than 20 cities in Kansas have banned smoking in public places.

Many lawmakers have long objected to the influence that the Kansas Bar Association has over the selection of judges for the state's Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. But efforts to tweak the bar association's power have so far failed.

Rep. Lance Kinzer, an Olathe Republican, is trying again. He's pushing a bill to reduce the number of lawyers serving on the commission that reviews applicants for the Court of Appeals and require nominees to be confirmed by the state Senate.

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To reach David Klepper, call 785-354-1388 or send e-mail to dklepper@kcstar.com.
A team of researchers with connections to KU learns the Cajun chorus frog is its own species.

By BILL GRAHAM
The Kansas City Star

A tiny frog is making a big hop into the scientific world.

Four scientists, all with ties to the University of Kansas, are proclaiming the Cajun chorus frog a new species. They gave the little green critter the name Pseudacris fouquettei.

Its discovery as a distinct species advances knowledge about frogs that are important to nature's diversity — knowledge that assists in monitoring environmental quality, said Joseph T. Collins, a retired KU herpetologist who, with three...
FROG: It’s a ‘pretty exciting’ discovery, thanks in part to DNA

FROM BI

proteges, wrote a paper about the frogs.

“The pinnacle in science is discovery,” said Collins, 68, of Lawrence. “The peak is finding a new living thing on earth. Even more cool is that we found it in the United States, which has really been picked over.”

The 1-inch Cajun chorus frog has differences in genetics, head shape and mating calls from other chorus frogs, he said.

Its close cousin, the Western chorus frog, will emerge from hibernation when Kansas City’s first late-winter rains arrive. Males then make a loud racket as they give the “preep preep” courting call to attract females to puddles.

Cajun chorus frogs are found farther south, in southern Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and border areas of nearby states.

“They would not be considered unique, though, if not for a young scientist who found her inspiration in Lawrence.”

In 1992, a 13-year-old turtle and frog fanatic knocked on the door of Collins’ office.

She wanted his autograph on a Peterson “Amphibians and Reptiles” field guide that he wrote.

“It was a big deal to me at the time,” said Emily Moriarty Lemmon, now 29. “I was so excited and astonished.”

Collins became her mentor. After Lemmon graduated from St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Ind., Collins guided her to the University of Texas, where one of his former KU students, David C. Cannatella, led research.

Lemmon studied how chorus frog species evolve. She also met and married Alan R. Lemmon, a theoretical biologist who helps her chase frogs.

In 2001 near Baton Rouge, La., Emily Lemmon waded through ditches on a rainy night to collect chorus frogs for DNA testing.

“It was the very first night of my very first field trip,” she said.

Lemmon said she was surprised when tests showed the frogs’ DNA was different from that of other chorus frogs.

“At that point, I started getting excited,” she said.

So Lemmon called Collins.

“I knew the work was just beginning,” Collins said of proving the new species.

The foursome spent years collecting chorus frogs in the field or sorting specimens sent by other researchers.

Lemmon analyzed DNA and mating calls.

Her husband spent a summer measuring body parts and the markings on 800 frogs from across the country.

They found differences, and the four researchers collaborated on a paper that appeared in a January edition of Zoo-taxa, a scientific journal.

“It’s pretty exciting, especially since the U.S. has been studied so well,” Lemmon said.

Scientists will review the paper rigorously, said Jeff Briggler, a herpetologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

But reference books probably will add the Cajun chorus frogs in coming years because the research was thorough.

New technology makes such reclassifications possible by pinpointing subtle differences among similar creatures.

But it also takes something else, Collins said. Successful scientists are awed and obsessed with the complex biology sustaining seemingly simple creatures.

Lemmon and her husband soon will join the faculty at Florida State University, and she plans to travel the world to study frogs.

“We haven’t had time to celebrate,” Lemmon said. “Right now Alan and I are raising a colony of 400 frogs. We work a regular day and then stay until 10 o’clock at night to record mating calls.”

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Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius is proclaiming today Polar Education and Research Day. Her proclamation cites the University of Kansas-based Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets and its efforts to educate students and the public about the polar region, global climate and sea-level change.

Sebelius will make the proclamation in recognition of the International Polar Year, a research effort that involves more than 200 projects with scientists from more than 60 countries.

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