Jeff Kennedy has received the Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award from the University of Kansas Alumni Association. Kennedy, managing partner of Martin Pringle Attorneys at Law, was honored for his volunteer efforts for the KU Alumni Association. He is currently president of the Wichita Chapter. The award is named for Clodfelter, a devoted Association staff member.
A newspaper article two years ago motivated Todd Rogers to become a Big Brother. At that time, 167 children in Douglas County needed a Big Brother or Big Sister.

“I didn’t realize the need was as great as the story described,” Rogers said.

The number of unmatched children isn’t as high this year, but there is still a great need. About 100 children are waiting for matches through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County.

Rogers, an assistant dean at Kansas University’s law school, had been involved in helping children before he became a Big Brother. He had enjoyed coaching youth sports, but with the seasons lasting only a few months, he said there wasn’t much chance to form long-term bonds.

“What was always missing from that was the continuity and I felt like I wanted to make a more lasting impact,” Rogers said.

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FRED, 9, left, and Todd Rogers pet a fellow runner’s Beagle, Dewey, on Dec. 13, before the Jingle Bell Run/Walk fundraiser for Ballard Community Center and the Boys & Girls Club behind Kizer-Cummings Jewelers, 833 Mass. St. Frederick and Rogers have been paired up through Big Brothers Big Sisters for two weeks. The fundraiser was the third time they had spent time together.
Mentors spend at least 2 hours a week with each child,
said.

Rogers and his Little Brother, Fred, are both sports fans, which has become evident in their activities together. One recent activity was the Jingle Bell Run/Walk fundraiser for Ballard Community Center and Big Brothers Big Sisters on Dec. 13 downtown. They both put lights on over their running clothes and donned Santa hats for the event.

Having a Big Brother runs in Fred’s family. His older brother and younger brother are both matched with couples. The Journal-World agreed to withhold the last names of children and their families in the program.

Fred, 9, said he likes having a Big Brother because he it allows him to have time to himself.

“I just get to have some time with one of my friends and away from my family... not that I don’t like my family,” Fred said.

He said he also enjoys having a Big Brother because he has fun with Rogers.

“We’ve gone to his house and we play games and we threw snowballs,” Fred said.

One of those activities was an electronic football game that Rogers has had since he was Fred’s age. Both are football fans.

“Because we’re pretty like-minded, that was the thing he gravitated to at my house,” Rogers said. “So, I had to school him on that a little bit. Show him how it’s done.”

Rogers and Fred have recently been matched, but both have been involved with the organization before. Fred was matched with his previous Big Brother for three years.

This is also Rogers’ second time around. His last match ended sadly. His Little Brother, Nolan, died about a year ago in a fire at 1205 N.J. that killed three other children and their grandfather.

After taking some time to recover from that tragedy, Rogers became a Big Brother again. He said he’s enjoying the experience and learning from it too.

“I think I have a real appreciation for some of the issues or challenges that young kids have,” Rogers said.

Rogers participates in the organization’s community-based program, which requires mentors to spend at least two hours a week with a child for a full calendar year.

But if you can’t give up that much time, there is another way to get involved. Bigs in School allows mentors to meet with children at school for about a half hour during lunch or after school.

That commitment lasts through the school year.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County hosts weekly orientation sessions for those interested in mentoring. The half-hour sessions are scheduled Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m. and Wednesdays at noon. More information is available at the organization’s Web site, www.mentoringmagic.org.
Tutoring makes a difference for students who need help

KRISTI HENDERSON
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Sami Safadi had been getting tutored for two years. Then last year, he quit.
And then his homework wasn't getting done.
This year, the Lawrence sixth-grader returned to a tutoring program and he's seen an improvement in his grades, he said.

"I like it because it gives you a better understanding of it and you can actually get it done with help," Sami said.
Sami is one of many students in area districts who benefit from various tutoring programs.

One of the largest resources for tutoring programs in the area is universities, such as Kansas University and Baker University. But districts that don't have the benefit of a nearby university still have several resources available for students who need assistance.

In a smaller district such as Perry-Lecompton, where finding manpower to staff tutoring programs is difficult, software has been useful, said Superintendent Denis Yoder. The software, which is used at all grade levels, can assess a student's strengths and needs, and then create individualized lessons, Yoder said.

Students get time during the school day to use the software, Yoder said.

Another resource is students in Perry-Lecompton, where finding manpower to staff tutoring programs is difficult, software has been useful, said Superintendent Denis Yoder. The software, which is used at all grade levels, can assess a student's strengths and needs, and then create individualized lessons, Yoder said.

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In the De Soto and Eudora school districts, students help either their peers or younger students.
In De Soto, for instance, accelerated math students take time during the week to help students whose scores are lower, said Alvie Cater district spokesman.
"The students are able to explain it in a way that maybe an adult can't explain it," Cater said. "We use whatever we think can work."

Eudora students tutor

In Eudora, high school students go to Nottingham Elementary during the day to provide tutoring assistance, said Don Grosdidier, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.
Both districts also rely on teachers to provide assistance to students. In Eudora, teachers are paid an extra stipend to staff an after school tutoring program for at-risk middle school students, Grosdidier said.
The De Soto district is also able to offer a 21st Century Community Learning Center, funded by a state grant, at Starside Elementary, Cater said. The program offers academic assistance as well as recreation activities.
Universities provide assistance

Many of the resources used in those districts are also used in Lawrence and Baldwin City. But the two districts also benefit from programs staffed by university students.

One such program is Youth Educational Services, or YES, which benefited Sami Safadi. The program, run by the University Career Center at KU, pays students to work as tutors in Lawrence public schools. For the fall semester, there were 28 tutors working in 18 schools, including Quail Run, where Sami attends classes, said Christina Kuhn, YES coordinator.

See TUTORING, Page 3
Tutoring helps at-risk students make the grade

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school district. Like YES, Boys and Girls Club gets a helping hand from KU students. There are about 350 to 500 people helping out with the Boys and Girls Club each year, and a majority of those involved are KU students, said Janet Murphy, executive director.

Murphy said Boys and Girls Club’s programming, which includes homework assistance along with recreation, leadership and other activities, reaches about 1200 students on any given day.

On the WIN team

In Baldwin City, Baker University students play an important part in tutoring programming. Students who are in the school of education’s classroom management class are given the task each fall of coordinating, planning and running Wednesday Instructional Night, or WIN. The program participants work on homework, read and take part in activities such as visiting the Baldwin City Public Library.

Michelle Swain, a Baker graduate whose fifth-grade son, Dylan, has gone to WIN for several years, says the program helps her son focus on schoolwork.

“He’s more likely to do his homework on nights that he has WIN because it’s an academic setting,” Swain said. “The problem with homework is that it’s hard to get them into that school frame of mind when it’s at home. It has helped him a great deal.”

Her son has enjoyed the program so much, she said, that he’s disappointed he can’t come back next year. The program, which is offered only in the fall semester, just serves students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Real-life experience

Young students aren’t the only ones who benefit from tutoring programs such WIN and YES. University students gain valuable experience, too.

Karla Wiscombe, a Baker education professor who created the WIN program, said the classroom experience is beneficial to her students.

“It’s the first time to really take charge and be in control,” Wiscombe said. “They just actually get to see what it’s like to work with students.”

KU students working with YES say they also benefit from working with children. Many of the YES tutors are education majors or they have plans to pursue careers in a school setting.

Even teachers whose students are tutored benefit. Quail Run sixth-grade teacher Nancy Dietze said her students are more prepared and more confident than before they were tutored.

“It makes a huge impact,” Dietze said. “They’re so much more involved because they’re not trying to hide.”
Kansas needs more pharmacists

The shortage of pharmacists in Kansas is a statewide problem.

Although many citizens depend on prescription drugs, seven counties have no pharmacist.

Among those counties are Chase and Kiowa in south central Kansas, Stafford and Wallace in western Kansas and Wabaunsee and Doniphan in northeast Kansas.

Kansas pharmacists are aging. In some areas, the average age is 59.

The heart of the problem is that the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy is at maximum capacity — 105 students a year.

The KU school is our state's only one.

Maintaining high standards, particularly in laboratory facilities, keeps the lid on student numbers.

Fortunately, there is a response in the making.

The university wants to develop a KU School of Pharmacy campus in Wichita that would add 40 pharmacists a year, aiding the supply in central and western Kansas.

The university also wants to build a modern teaching and research facility for the school of pharmacy in Lawrence, adding 45 pharmacists a year.

Both the Wichita and Lawrence facilities would play a part in meeting the requirements for the KU Cancer Center. That center is a major building block in Kansas’ plans to compete in the bioscience field.

To help launch these projects, KU is working through the board of regents to request state resources totaling $5 million. It makes all kinds of sense for the board to endorse this request and pass it on to the Legislature.

While lawmakers debate health care reform, they can actually do some by passing this request when it comes to them.
Higher education will be front and center in Kansas City this year. The Pied Piper of Purple Power, Kansas State University President Jon Wefald, is coming to town, and Gary Forsee will bring renewed hope to the University of Missouri.

In November, Johnson County voters will consider a one-eighth-cent sales tax that would create a Johnson County Education and Research Triangle and provide financing to three institutions: the University of Kansas Cancer Center, the KU Edwards Campus and Kansas State University.

Leaders of the University of Missouri System hit a home run when they named former Sprint Nextel CEO Forsee as system president. He can muster considerable support as he tackles problems caused by stingy state support of MU for many years. He'll rally dispirited alums. He has the ear of Gov. Matt Blunt. Business and civic leaders who respected his leadership on regional issues will help him.

The choice of Forsee is great news for the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the region. Wefald was elected recently to the board of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. In a presentation to the board, on which I sit, he touted the planned Innovation Campus in Olathe.

No one touts like Wefald. A script for him is just a prayerful suggestion. He's employed unlimited enthusiasm and an equal number of words to skillfully advance K-State's interests for more than 20 years.

With financing from the Kansas Bioscience Authority and the Research Triangle, K-State will build an institute for the study of food safety and animal health in Olathe. The facility will enhance the university's growing national reputation in those areas.

The Research Triangle also would finance expanded science, technology, engineering and math programs at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park. That would boost work force training on that campus, at the Johnson County Community College and throughout the region.

Finally, the Research Triangle would finance construction of a clinical trials facility for the KU Cancer Center, poised to produce leading-edge cancer drugs.

I'm betting that Johnson County voters, who have historically supported educational excellence, will get it. The Research Triangle is an opportunity not to be missed.

The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation sponsored the "Time to Get It Right" study, in part, because civic leaders were concerned that the city didn't have a great institution of higher education. Benno Schmidt's task force proposed a bold solution: Build on the strengths of higher education institutions on both sides of the state line.

The wisdom of that approach will begin to emerge this year. Why have just one great university in town when you can have three?
KU announces candidates for degrees for fall 2007

LAWRENCE — The names of more than 1,600 candidates for degrees for the fall 2007 semester at the University of Kansas have been announced by the Office of Registrar.

Graduate and undergraduate degrees are conferred in December based on work completed during the fall semester. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many students graduating in the fall or summer terms will return for the traditional walk down the hill and into Memorial Stadium on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

Five of KU's 13 colleges and schools conducted recognition programs or hooding ceremonies earlier this month to honor those planning to graduate at the end of the semester: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Engineering, the School of Law and the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

The candidates for degrees are also listed by home county, state or country at http://www.news.ku.edu/2007/december/21/december07grads.shtml.

Dodge City: Victor Alfonso Aguilar, son of Dora Aguilar, History, Senior, Bachelor of Arts, Latin American Studies and Religious Studies Minor. South Gray High School, Montezuma; Dodge City: Dustin Dean Volz, son of Tim and Jackie Volz, Finance, Senior, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance, Dodge City Senior High School, Montezuma; Dodge City: Trevan Andrew McGee, son of Lyndol and Bridget McGee, News and Information, Senior, Bachelor of Arts/Theatre and Film, Bachelor of Science in Journalism, Bucklin High School, Bucklin; Copeland: Sarah Beth Leonard, daughter of Risa Stevens, Strategic Communications, Senior, Bachelor of Science in Journalism, Sublette High School, Sublette; Fowler, Tanner Jay Zimmerman, son of Pam and Donie Shumard, Sport Science, Senior, Bachelor of Science in Education, Fowler High School, Fowler; Meade: Leslie Jordyn Massey, daughter of Debra D Smith, Psychology, DECL, Senior, Bachelor of General Studies/Sociology, Meade High School, Meade; Shelby Ann Guillen, Sport Science, Senior, Bachelor of Science in Education, Dodge City Senior High School, Dodge City; Olathe: Jordan Phillip Smith, son of Brenda Morgison, Psychology, DECL, Senior, Bachelor of Arts/Psychology, Dodge City Senior High School, Dodge City.
An Emporia police officer and an area sheriff's deputy were among 57 graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center near Yoder last month.

Officer Timothy Wacker of the Emporia Police Department and Deputy Samuel E. Ralston of the Osage County Sheriff's Department began the 14-week training course Sept. 10.

The training center is a unit of University of Kansas Continuing Education. It was established in 1968 as the central law enforcement training facility for the state. 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. 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.
Three McPherson police officers graduated Dec. 21 from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center among the 57 graduates, according to a University of Kansas announcement. Kansas City Police Chief Sam Breshears delivered the graduation address.

The 57 graduates, who began their training Sept. 10, represented 38 municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies from across the state. They were the 194th basic training class of graduates.

The training center is part of the University of Kansas Continuing Education. The training course fulfills the state requirement for law enforcement training. Classroom lectures and hands-on applications help train officers to solve the increasingly complex problems they face in the line of duty. 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 three McPherson officers are: Patrolman Aaron Bobier, 22, Sioux City, Iowa; who has an associate's degree in police science from Western Iowa Tech Community College. Patrolman Gregory J. Johnston, 33, Derby, who has served in the U.S. Army. Patrolman Chase P. Wylie, 23, Wichita, who worked for Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office as a correctional officer. Wylie also has an associate's degree from Cowley County Community College.

The Kansas Law Enforcement Training 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.
LAWRENCE — Sixty-eight University of Kansas students from 25 departments completed the Global Awareness Program during the summer and fall 2007 semesters. Among them is Laura Ashleigh McMurray, daughter of Jim and Linda McMurray, Burlington. Laura is a senior at KU and is working toward bachelor degrees in marketing and psychology.

GAP recognizes students for studying abroad, taking courses with an international focus, learning foreign languages and being significantly involved in international co-curricular activities. All undergraduates are eligible to participate.

To receive GAP certification, students are required to complete two of three requirements. Beginning in the fall 2007 semester, students have been encouraged to complete all three tracks, which nine have now done: Dustin Alkire, Manhattan junior; Sean Allen, Manhattan junior; Clarice Amorim, Recife, Brazil, junior; Amy Foster, Overland Park junior; Lara Kindle, a former student from Basehor; Mwikali Betty Kivuvani, Olathe senior; Dylan Porter, Iola senior; Jessica Shippee, Shawnee senior; and Valerie Smith, Lenexa senior.

"These students went beyond the call of duty, taking advantage of different ways in which an international experience can be achieved. It is hoped more students will follow suit," said Jane Irungu, GAP coordinator.

More than 40 student organizations are affiliated with GAP, which means their members receive GAP credit. Engineers Without Borders and the Turkish Student Organization became affiliated this fall.

Launched by the International Programs office in fall 2004, GAP has recognized more than 450 students in the past three years. Students earn certification on their KU transcripts and are honored at a luncheon in the spring. More than 1,200 KU students are currently participating.
BY EDIE HALL
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Dean Lippincott has one request of the USD 308 Board of Education.
Spend tax dollars prudently.
Lippincott, owner of Fire-Tronics Inc., will address the school board Monday with concerns about how bond issue projects will be bid.
Or, in this case, will not be bid.
In November 2006, USD 308 patrons approved a $78.8 million bond issue to update and renovate 11 schools and the vocational/technology building. The bond issue includes equipping all facilities with new or updated fire alarm systems.

While the school district is bidding out the installation of fire alarm systems, it isn’t taking bids on who will supply the equipment.
Instead, the district has selected one supplier – SimplexGrinnell – without going through a competitive bid letting.
Lippincott, who deals in Faraday fire alarm equipment, says, given the chance, he could offer the district a better deal. He’s sent the district a letter to that effect – promising equipment and labor at 10 percent to 15 percent less than what Simplex has offered.

On Monday, he’ll ask the school board not to award him the contract, but rather to take bids from a number of fire alarm equipment manufacturers and select the best value.

Piggybacking
Bond project manager Bob Williams said there are several reasons he doesn’t want to take bids on the equipment – chiefly because the state of Kansas already did so.

Their choice? SimplexGrinnell.
The Hutchinson school district had planned to “piggyback” on a 2004 state contract awarded to Simplex to outfit the University of Kansas with a fire alarm system.
The engineering service and labor rates and the 30 percent equipment discount Simplex offered to the state are available to all political subdivisions in Kansas, including USD 308.
Williams added that he’d like to use the same brand of fire alarm equipment in all district facilities. The middle schools and high schools have already been outfitted with Simplex systems, although they will have to be upgraded.
Standardizing the equipment will make replacement and repair more efficient, Williams said.
And finally, USD 308 is using Overland Park-based DLR Group to design the projects within the bond issue. The architecture firm does educational facility work all over the nation and has approved four fire alarm manufacturers for their purposes. Simplex is one of those manufacturers. Faraday is not.
“We don’t just go out there and pick a brand,” Williams said. “I have 16 years of experience with the district and another 16 years’ experience as a con-
Bid

Continued from Page A1

struction electrician. We focus on what works well and try to make things as bulletproof as we can.”

Fair reasoning?
The reasoning might sound logical enough, but Lippincott says a closer look reveals flaws.

First, although Faraday isn’t “approved” by the DLR Group—the 130-year-old company is reputable and has been used by many local school districts and companies.

Within a 60-mile radius, there are 11 school districts and three colleges that use Faraday equipment, including the Buhler, Sterling and McPherson school districts, and Hutchinson Community College, Bethany College and McPherson College, Lippincott said.

He has sent a letter to DLR Group requesting they review Faraday’s equipment and consider approving the use of the company’s equipment for the USD 308 projects.

Regarding the state contract, Lippincott says he believes what was best for the KU project might not be best for other projects.

“It’s my opinion that this was a unique system and this pricing should not be offered to other political subdivisions of Kansas,” he said.

Also, Lippincott has tried to obtain Simplex’s merchandise catalog that, by contract, is to be provided to KU every year. He found that neither KU nor the state could produce the catalog, which would outline equipment costs.

Williams said he also had not seen a catalog of Simplex’s prices and representatives with DLR Group did not respond to inquiries from The News about whether they’d seen prices for the Simplex equipment.

Lippincott has offered the district 10 percent off the 30 percent discount Simplex provided in the state contract.

He’s also offered 15 percent off the labor pricing Simplex offered in the state contract.

To address Williams’ concern about the efficiency of repair and replacement of equipment, Lippincott is offering 24/7 service from the Hutchinson office, a three-year warranty on parts and labor vs. the one-year warranty Simplex offers, and free training for USD 308 personnel on the proper operation and maintenance of the systems.

Also, Lippincott says he’ll stock the district’s shelves for free, billing the district only for what they use.

Along with his offer, Lippincott has requested the district consider using Faraday products or open the door to competitive bidding so he can make an official bid.

“This is not a prudent way to spend tax dollars,” Lippincott said. “Buying all the material from one company at whatever they want to charge is not the best way to do things.”