Johnson & Sly Take Part In Duke TIP Recognition Ceremony

The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 1, at the Lied Center for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance exam scores that are in the top 5 percent while the students are in middle school. Students participate by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests. Working with host academic institutions such as KU, Duke TIP sponsors 35 ceremonies in its 16-state talent search region. The state recognition ceremonies honor seventh graders who have earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors.

Among those students are Kelby Johnson and Kayla Sly of Belleville. These girls will be 8th graders at the Republic County Middle School in August.

Kelby Johnson is the daughter of Kevin and Keri Johnson and Kayla Sly is the daughter of Justin and Susan Sly.

Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion.
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From Smith County attending the ceremony will be Faith L. Karg of Smith Center.

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Lawrence Journal-World, on tuition increases:

It seems that Kansas University isn’t the only state university trying to put a positive spin on rising tuition rates.

Officials at Kansas State University issued a press release this week indicating that the school was proposing a “lower tuition increase.” The move, it said, was “to respond to difficult economic conditions and concerns from students and their parents.”

The only problem is that the new tuition proposal actually will result in many students paying more than they would have under an earlier proposal taken to the Kansas Board of Regents.

K-State initially proposed to raise tuition by 4.5 percent for resident freshmen and sophomores and 7.3 percent for resident juniors and seniors.

The plan announced this week is to raise tuition by 5.85 percent across the board.

Although it seems disingenuous to portray this as a “lower tuition increase,” K-State, like KU, offers various justifications for its action. The Kansas Legislature gets significant blame for not providing better higher education funding.

Officials also point out that “tuition increases are offset by additional financial aid and more scholarships.”

This Robin Hood approach of taking tuition money from some students and sharing it with students who supposedly are more worthy or in greater need gets surprisingly little attention from higher education officials in spite of the fact that it displays a basic lack of fairness, especially to the students and their families who are scraping together loans and savings to pay full tuition.

When the regents consider these rates, they should keep their focus on the effect rising tuition is having on the availability of higher education to Kansas students and the cost of this education for families and students who already are facing severe fiscal challenges. Regents should not be fooled by the tuition spin being served up by university officials.
McIntosh Returns to Horton Community Hospital

By Linda Messer

Gary McIntosh, PA/RN, has returned to the staff of the Horton Community Hospital after a 7 month battle with AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia).

McIntosh started in the Horton area on a part-time schedule in the summer of 2006, going full-time in September 2006. He had previously practiced in the Atchison Hospital Emergency and Family Practice.

Mountain climbing is his favorite pastime. Early October of 2006 he was climbing 14,000 feet peaks in the Denver area and in the New Hampshire Mt. Washington Range. Later October, he became extremely tired and could hardly climb a flight of stairs. He then decided to have it checked by Dr. Gary Doolittle at KU Medical Center.

Dr. Doolittle is a top oncologist and the National Director of Cancer Research Institute of the entire Midwest area. He is also the director of Cancer at KU MC.

A bone marrow biopsy was performed on Friday, October 26 and the results were not the suspected virus, but the Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

While waiting on word from Dr. Doolittle, for a patient he was treating, he received the word to go home, pack a bag, and come to KUMC immediately. Although he tried to postpone the trip, when he heard he may only have 4-6 days left, he obeyed the doctors request.

Upon arrival, he checked into the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit which is total isolation and absolute sterile conditions. The 14 room unit had vacuum sealed doors with Air Laminar Flow to filter the air every 30 seconds. He received continuous chemo infusions for the first seven days, then another chemo treatment which destroyed all his bone marrow. Transfusions were given practically every day for the 30 day stay.

He then stayed in the “Stepdown Unit” for 2-2½ weeks where he ran a temperature for 12 days and had been given last rites for the first time. At home McIntosh took two IV antibiotics for a month and developed double pneumonia, which he contacted from a young patient with croop before he had gotten sick.

The form of leukemia McIntosh has is expected to have been contacted from Benzine fumes from painting automobiles. The bone marrow just quits instantly.

Even just 5 weeks ago, he spent 11 days in ICU with an abscess in his right lung caused from an IV pickline infection, due to no resistance by taking the chemo treatments. He became comatose for 7 days and received last rites again.

After this long battle, the word finally came from Dr. Doolittle that he was able to return to work on June 4, 2008.

Since he had to leave his patients rather abruptly, Gary is looking forward to getting back in the grind and taking care of others again.

Gary and wife, Della Taylor-McIntosh, OB/GYN at Heartland Hospital in St. Joseph, MO, have lived in Troy since 1989. Between them they have 5 children which reside all over in New Hampshire, California, Colorado, and two still local attending KU, soon to begin nursing school and one attending Missouri Western for nursing.
Two women have filed to challenge state representative Bill Feuerborn.

Both Cynthia "Carla" Polsley, Ottawa and Jeannie Plaisted, Oswawatomie, filed for the Republican nomination for the 5th House District, setting up a primary.

Polsley, 22, is a student at the University of Kansas and is working on degrees in classical languages and antiquity with an eye to getting a law degree.

Polsley said she's disturbed by the lack of patriotism or leadership among younger generations and believes everyone should become involved and informed.

"I think a lot of kids don't care about the future of our country," she said. "I want to help preserve America."

In a written announcement, Polsley said she's "concerned for the proper maintenance of rights, privileges and responsibilities set forth in the federal and state constitutions."

"As the governmental structure becomes more removed from the people even on a local and state level, more powers, privileges and rights of people are abridged."

Without an education in the Constitution, American
Martin receives Phyllis Keeney Lawrence Teaching Award

Dayid Martin, RN, MS, clinical assistant professor, recently received the Phyllis Keeney Lawrence Teaching Award during the University of Kansas School of Nursing recognition ceremony.

This award goes to a faculty member possessing a long reputation of strong teaching, developing unique teaching methods and contributing to the curriculum. It is named for Phyllis Keeney Lawrence, an RN and former KU nursing student who was killed by a drunk driver in a 1997 auto accident.

“I am very honored to receive this award,” Martin said.

“I thoroughly enjoy helping the students learn about the nursing profession and how to care for their patients with compassion.”

The $3,500 award is from the Phyllis Keeney Lawrence Teaching Award fund administered by the KU Endowment Association, an independent, nonprofit organization serving as the official fundraising and fund management for the University of Kansas.

Martin is a 1977 graduate of Pittsburg State University with a nursing degree, and a 1981 graduate of the University of Washington with a master's degree in nursing and a master of business administration. He is the son of Laurence and Ila Jo Martin, Pittsburg.
US 36 Association meets at Washington
Extension of four-lane highway threatened by escalating costs for materials

By Howard Kessinger

When state Sen. Dennis Pyle, R-Hiawatha, asked when the four-lane could be extended west of Wathena on U.S. 36, first district engineer W. Clay Adams, Topeka, said that could be included in a new highway program.

The annual U.S. 36 Highway Association meeting was Friday at First National Bank, Washington. Kansas Legislature will be faced with drafting a new highway program next session, and escalating costs, driven mostly by record costs of oil, are threatening work planned for the next few years.

Shannon Kusilek, St. Joseph, district planning engineer for Missouri Department of Transportation, said the completion of the remaining 52 miles of four lanes on U.S. 36 between Macon and Hannibal is to be completed by late 2009, a year ahead of schedule. Finish work was speeded up by a sales tax increase voted in by counties where the last stretch of two lane was under construction or scheduled for construction.

The upgrade is from rural two-lane to four-lane expressway. Costs will be about $100 million for work done from 2007 to 2011 for expansion and rehabilitation of existing lanes on the 180 miles from St. Joseph to Hannibal.

Monroe City to Hannibal, 11.5 miles of roadwork, is to be finished in September; Shelbina to Monroe City, 16 miles, is to open in November 2009; and Macon to Shelbina is to open in December 2009.

After the four lanes are completed, Kusilek said, traffic on the four lanes in Missouri is expected to pick up 10 percent in five years, perhaps more.

Adams, one of three new KDOT district engineers at the meeting, said his first district, Wathena to the Marshall-Washington line, has two more resurfacing projects on U.S. 36 this year, from Wathena west to Troy and Seneca west to K-87.

Wathena to Troy started May 19 and is to be finished in late June. Work started near Seneca June 4 and is to be finished in July.

“We try to match the action with what’s going on and spend efficiently,” Adams said.

Proposed for 2009, he said, but on the bubble because of excessive costs were two bridges between Fairview and Hiawatha and resurfacing from the west junction of K-63 to K-236 and from that junction to the Nemaha-Brown County line.

Adams is on the task force named to start meeting in later summer to consider a new highway bill. He said top equipment will be more expensive because of rising costs.

New program needed
State Rep. Sharon Schwartz, R-Washington, said the Kansas gas tax paid by motorists goes to fund airports, railroad yards, other modes of transportation and not just highways.

A new program is needed, she said, and this will be a topic for the Legislature, which will consider a new highway program next year.

If additional gaming is approved, Schwartz said, and tax relief and debt reduction come to pass, taxpayers could benefit.

Programs to be considered include a $450 million expansion for the KU Pharmacy School, she said, expansion of prisons, the current transportation plan, interest for universities and pay for KPERS. These have created resistance in the Legislature for additional bonding obligations.

Of the 13 counties along U.S. 36 across Kansas, asked to raise $2,000 each for a Docking Institute of Fort Hays State University study to help determine the feasibility of widening U.S. 36 to four lanes from Wathena west to Belleville, then super-two to the Colorado line, eight have paid $2,000, two more have promised to pay and the last three are to be contacted.

The funding will be needed by this fall if the association is going to try for a foundation grant, U.S.
President Steve Haynes, Oberlin, said, The effort may take 50-60 years to get improvements, Haynes said, just as getting U.S. 81 improvements took a long time.

William F. Horner, Plano, Texas, a native of northeast Kansas, was at the meeting and wrote a check for $200 to U.S. 36 Highway Association toward this effort.

Director Marilyn Sorenson, Scandia, noted that 1,800 new U.S. 36 brochures given out at the Kansas Sampler Festival at Concordia were well received.

Vice president Jim Erickson, Scandia, head of the fall treasure hunt along U.S. 36, noted plans are unfolding for the event.

**District 2**

New district 2 engineer, Randy West, Salina, said just over $2 million has been spent in his district removing guard rail, which in snowy weather has acted like snow fence. Another safety move has been to add rock at the edge of highways to stop erosion by semis. Rock is very expensive, he said, because it must be shipped in from other states. Thirty-foot minimum roadways are being added to help make travel safer.

Set for next year is rebuilding of the U.S. 36-K-15 Washington intersection, which doesn’t have room for semis and is to cost $1.6 million.

**District 3**

Jeff Stewart, Norton construction/materials engineer, said old milling will be used for two-inch overlay for western Rawlins and western Decatur counties. To be done later this summer will be 11 miles east from the Decatur-Rawlins line.

Because of “raging costs” that have risen 20-30 percent in a half year, a wait-and-see attitude is being taken on work in Atwood.

Schwartz asked if anyone had considered locking in prices for asphalt, and Stewart said Nebraska had done that at McCook, which is just north of Oberlin.

Engineer Adams said soaring prices can put contractors out of business, and there is no way they can guess at what prices will be in the future.

Stewart noted that contractors can’t get estimates for two years.

Schwartz noted that Southwest Airlines had locked in fuel prices for two years.

**Officers re-elected**

Officers re-elected were president Steve Haynes, Oberlin; vice president Jim Erickson, Scandia; executive vice president, Cy Moyer, Phillipsburg; vice president Chad Kramer, Marysville.

**Dog service**

Judy Sifers, CEO of Kansas Specialty Dog Service Inc., Washington, told at the luncheon how she had read about KSDS in the Kansas City Star while she and her family lived at Platte City, Mo.

The family visited the place, learned it was OK, there was no charge for the service and took a yellow Lab puppy named Chopin home for about a year. They came to Washington for graduation after Chopin had received formal training. Chopin went to a Topeka-area firefighter who had fallen off a roof and was confined to a wheel chair, and the Sifers learned what Chopin would do for him.

Nine litters later, and after Sifers had retired from teaching and the family was living at Granby, Colo., the head job opened at KSDS and she got it July 1 of last year.

The Sifers learned about the involved training, which included having a trainer take a dog on busy city streets for two weeks. Guide, service and social dogs are trained to meet ADI standards, and the right temperament is important.

“Being a partner with a dog is hard work,” Sifers said.

“This is such a friendly community,” she said of Washington, and KSDS is providing freedom and inclusion for the people it helps.

KSDS has five full-time people, six part time and lots of volunteer help from the community.

Fund-raising is under way for $300,000 and a matching grant to develop six more units at Washington.

One duplex has been built and six more would provide privacy and accessibility for clients.
Sifers said she hopes to see an existing building remodeled to provide a commercial kitchen, a small community room, continuing education and restrooms.

"KSDS needs you," she said. About 20 clients and dogs are placed in a partnership every year.

The next graduation will be July 26, Sifers said, when seven dogs will be ready to provide independence.
More than $107,000 in scholarships and awards were presented in May to outstanding students in the Department of Theatre and Film at the University of Kansas. Among those earning a theatre scholarship was Chance Carmichael of Mulvane.

Carmichael, the son of Daniel and Melinda Carmichael, is an incoming freshman planning to major in theatre and film. He is the recipient of a Creative and Performing Arts Scholarship.
By Jack Martin

As President Bush made his farewell tour of Europe, one could almost be forgiven for thinking the continent had become an afterthought for the United States. Yet such a view would ignore the fact that a strong trans-Atlantic alliance is needed now more than ever, as America shares many more values, challenges and goals with the democracies of Europe than with any other nations.

This was evident during a recent seminar organized by the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the German Ministry of Defense. As a Manfred Woerner Seminar Fellow, I had the opportunity to join with more than two dozen American and German professionals in discussions with key German, NATO and European Union foreign policy and security leaders.

The United States, Germany and the other European democracies all share common values, and many of our people share common ancestries. We all desire secure yet open societies where people have a voice in their government and are free to pursue happy, productive lives. This much is clear.

What was also made clear during the seminar was that while our shared values and history point to a desire for greater trans-Atlantic cooperation, the similarity of the challenges we face demand it. The democracies of the West cannot hope to be successful without working together.

For example, both the United States and Europe both must shift away from fossil fuels for environmental reasons and because of the security problems that come from our reliance on oil and gas.

In the fight against terrorist extremists, Europe has been hit more recently, and is closer to the breeding grounds for terrorists, than the United States. That's why both the United States and its NATO allies, such as Germany, have troops fighting to stabilize Afghanistan, and why such an effort must be enhanced.

And on Iran, while the United States is justifiably concerned about the potential for Iran to develop nuclear weapons, Europe is again closer to the action and would be within the range of Iranian missiles much earlier than the United States. Here again, a united front is needed.

On issue after issue, Americans and Europeans share common cause. Just as we did when we came together to face down the Soviet threat, we must join together again to meet these new challenges. Each side can benefit from the specific strengths of the other, and both sides can benefit from a union of our efforts.

This does not mean there will not be times when we disagree on specific policies or goals. But our values are too similar, our histories too intertwined and the challenges we face too great to let the trans-Atlantic alliance fray.

Jack Martin is deputy director of university communications at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.
LAWRENCE — Economic development leaders have unveiled an $8 million plan to build a life sciences incubator facility at the University of Kansas to attract promising high-tech startup companies. The goal of the proposed facility is to allow startup companies using KU research to locate in Lawrence.

The proposed deal would require the city and county to each provide the incubator with $75,000 a year for 10 years. KU would provide the land for the incubator and $1.5 million in cash during a three- to four-year period.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Bioscience Authority would provide $500,000. Economic development leaders are optimistic that the remaining funding will be provided by the Kansas Bioscience Authority.

The incubator would be a 20,000-square-foot building that would provide office space and lab space for startup companies that are in the drug development field and other life-science arenas. The building — which could be expanded to 40,000 square feet — would be owned by the local bioscience authority.

Day-to-day management would be contracted to the Lawrence Regional Technology Center, a non-profit organization that provides consulting and services for startup technology companies.