The Senate honors a former astronaut who is returning to Kansas to teach at the University of Kansas.

He is Steve Hawley. The Salina native who logged more than a month in space in space shuttle missions in 1986, 1990, 1997 and 1999. He now oversees planetary and space science research for NASA.

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway announced Wednesday that Hawley will join the faculty of the department of physics and astronomy in the fall. Hemenway said Hawley will promote math and science education.
A University of Kansas professor of law, Stephen Ware, spoke Wednesday to a group of Leavenworth residents about the selection of judges to the Kansas Supreme Court.

Ware presented the results of a paper he had written about the selection process. He told the audience that Kansas uses "merit selection" to choose judges, in which a nine-member nominating commission chooses three candidates from which the governor picks one to fill an empty seat. Ware's paper was
University of Kansas law professor speaks to local residents

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paid for by the conservative and libertarian Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.

Ware said that Kansas is the only state in which lawyers have a majority of the control in the nominating commission. Of the nine commissioners, five come from the Kansas Bar Association, with the other four nominated by the governor. He said the meetings for the nominations are also held in secrecy.

He said that proponents of the current system claim partisanship is reduced by the elimination of politics from the selection process. He said that nine of the past 11 judges have been from the governor's own party. Ware said he has heard arguments on both sides of the debate, but that he thinks the proposed reforms would reduce the level of partisanship in the process. He insisted that his interest in the issue was not due to one single issue, but the process as a whole. He said whether or not the reforms would benefit one party remains to be seen.

"I'm looking at the long-term," he said. "I'm doing this for my grandchildren."

Some of the reforms Ware is proposing are currently being pushed in the House. State Rep. Lance Kinzer, R-14th Dist., recently introduced a bill into the state House of Representatives to change the selection process. The new law would have the governor, the speaker of the House and the president of the Senate each selecting three members of the nominating commission. At least one commissioner would be a lawyer in all three cases. Ware said he would also advocate for Senate approval of judicial nominees.

Not everyone is in favor for the reforms. Former Kansas Supreme Court Justice Fred Six said the proposed reforms are a "paper solution chasing a non-existing problem" in an Associated Press article last week.

Six said that the process provides an independent process. Kansas currently holds judges accountable through retention elections, Ware said, but that no judge has ever lost a retention election. Supreme Court justices for Kansas serve six-year terms, he said.

Opponents of the reforms also say that because of Kansas' traditionally Republican-controlled legislature, the selection process would be highly partisan, Ware said.

Ware said he began to research the subject in Alabama. When he came to Kansas, he said the issue was making the front page of newspapers. He then decided to conduct more in-depth research into the issue. His results were published by the conservative and libertarian Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.

Kansas is one of 22 states to use merit selection since the process began to be used in Missouri in 1940. Other methods of judicial selection include partisan elections, confirmation of a governor's nominee by the Senate and nominating commissions with little or no bar involvement.
KU Honors Banquet

Prairie View High School

Jayhawk Linn High School

A Seniors recognized at last week’s University of Kansas Honors Banquet are (l-r): Simeon White, Elaine Wagner, Kirsty Mano, Amanda Hethfeld, DeAnna Gainer, Ty Burgoon. Not pictured – Jesse West. Prairie View hosted the annual event that honored students from Linn and Miami county high schools.

A Five seniors from Jayhawk-Linn were recognized at the annual University of Kansas Honors Banquet last week. They are (l-r): Brogan Hoover, Brock Bruner, Taylor McGown, Haley Squire, Stephanie Mayhugh. Not pictured – Lynda Beth.

Pleasanton High School

A Pleasanton seniors recognized at last week’s University of Kansas Honors Banquet are (l-r): Jordynn Saulsberry, Alex Richmond, Erika Lowe.
Another view

Politics can be a raw, funny, sometimes dirty business

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I nteresting, isn't it, what some individuals or companies will do to try to win the votes of state legislators or the general citizenry?

Two cases in the last week are perfect examples.

Officials of Sunflower Electric Power Corp., which wants to build two coal-fired electrical plants near Holcomb, said they would give $2.5 million to Kansas State University if permits for the plants were approved by June 1. The offer was revealed to members of the Kansas House just before a vote on legislation to allow construction of the plants.

It will be interesting to watch the final vote and any effort to override an expected veto by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Some consider Sunflower's offer almost as a bribe.

The other example is the offer by the Hall Family Foundation to purchase several buildings in Johnson County, one of which would be used for University of Kansas cancer research program, if Johnson County residents approve an eighth-cent sales tax later this year.

The campaign or scheme to get a favorable vote has been in the works for some time, with the Hall Family Foundation offer being the latest piece of the strategy.

Time will tell, but regardless, it is interesting to see what individuals and companies will do to try to get what they or their leaders want.

This type of vote-getting is likely to happen with greater frequency in the coming months and years, with the average voter probably wondering whether his or her single vote is going to mean much in the face of such powerful, well-organized and well-orchestrated campaigns.

The Hall family and Hall Family Foundation has been extremely generous to KU for many years, but this is the first time foundation officials have used the possible acquisition of a building as a tool or bait to get voters to approve a tax hike. KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway is a member of the foundation board.

Politics is a funny, sometimes dirty, raw business.
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University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway announced Wednesday that Hawley will join the faculty of the department of physics and astronomy in the fall. Hemenway said Hawley will promote math and science education.

The two men visited the Statehouse and sat on the Senate floor, where Sen. Pete Brungardt, a Salina Republican, praised Hawley's career.
Area students listed on fall honor roll at University of Kansas

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 liberal arts and sciences, 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 are:

- **Bucyrus**: Colin Patrick Davidson, engineering sophomore; Devin Cole Dougan, engineering junior; Kristin Gail Driskell, liberal arts senior; Matthew Hunter Schons, liberal arts sophomore; and Patrick Charles Crawford Stephens, education senior 2007.

- **Fontana**: Christina Renee Graham, pharmacy professional prof 1.

- **La Cygne**: Katie Nicole Hobson, liberal arts junior; and David E Voorhees, business senior.

- **Pleasanton**: Bowen Tyler Marshall, liberal arts senior; and Taylor Matthew Murray, liberal arts junior.

- **Waupaca**: Ali Khaleel Agha, liberal arts senior; Sarah L Byrne, business senior; Dennis Michael Chanay II, liberal arts senior; Timothy Paul Day, liberal arts junior; Tamara Leigh Guenthether, pharmacy professional prof 1; Kendra Dawn Hall, journalism senior; Christian Nicol Jensen, liberal arts freshman; Katherine D Leslie, liberal arts freshman; Matthew Elliott Mawby, liberal arts senior; Jay Justin Middleton, liberal arts senior; Kimberly Irene Moore, liberal arts freshman; David Andrew Nicholson, liberal arts sophomore; Anthony Robert Onofrio, business senior; Kali Marie Platt, liberal arts junior; Mitchell Adam Plummer, business senior; Michael Lee Tetwiler, liberal arts freshman; Lindsay Marie Thornberg, liberal arts freshman; Zachary Craig Timpe, business senior; John Thomas Voha, business senior; Nathan Michael Weave, engineering freshman; and Jonelle B. Yannotta, education senior.

- **Spring Hill**: Sarah Jane Birmingham, liberal arts senior; Kathrine G. Bogart, education senior; Brady William Greig, liberal arts junior; Jacob Hayes, liberal arts sophomore; Sara Beth Schlagel, social welfare senior; Kelsey Jo Simpson, liberal arts sophomore; Chad Christopher Studham, liberal arts junior; and Megan Christine Studham, nursing senior.
First Presbyterian books KU musicians for weekly performances through Easter

In honor of Lent, Paola’s First Presbyterian Church has scheduled special musical performances throughout the month of March.

Musicians from the University of Kansas performed for the past two Sundays and will perform for the next four, beginning with a voice performance by Chris McBride this Sunday. The church’s Sunday worship service begins at 10:30 a.m.

Performers for the following weeks will be:

- **March 9**: A string quartet.
- **March 16**: Soprano Olivia Betzen, accompanied by Kezia Schrag on piano.
- **March 23**: A woodwind trio, including Matthew Allison on flute, a bassoon player and a clarinet player.

KU’s music program hopes to schedule performances at First Presbyterian in April and May as well.

— Erin Wisdom
Area Students Earn KU Honors

Winners of the 2008 University of Kansas Honors Program awards from Osawatomie High School include (from left, front row) Jenna Wendi, Allysha Newton, Jessie French, Kelsey Cook, (back row) Amanda Troutman, Tim Walmann, Mitch Kerr, Blake Davis and Skye Chester. Makayla Evans also earned the honor but is not pictured. The awards were presented last Wednesday at Prairie View High School.

Those from Pleasanton High School who earned KU Honors Program awards are (from left) Jordyn Saulsberry, Alex Richmond and Erika Lowe.
Recipients of KU Honors Program awards from Jayhawk-Linn High School are (from left) Brogan Hoover, Brock Bruner, Taylor McGown, Haley Squire and Stephanie Mayhugh. Award winner Lynda Beth is not pictured.
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The two men visited the Statehouse and sat on the Senate floor, where Sen. Pete Brungardt, a Salina Republican, praised Hawley's career.
Several Crawford County undergraduate students were on the fall 2007 honor roll at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

They are listed alphabetically by hometown as follows:

ARMA — Maegan Nicole Easter, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1.
FRONTENAC — Lisa Ann Becker, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1.
GIRARD — Kelci Denae McFarland, Liberal Arts freshman; McKenzie Nicole Widner, Liberal Arts freshman.
PITTSBURG — Amber D. Beasley, Liberal Arts senior; Erin Earl DeLee, Liberal Arts senior; Trevor Ryan Elliott, Liberal Arts freshman; Valerie Suzanne Graham, Pharmacy Professional senior; Jason Lu, Liberal Arts sophomore; Amy Marie Masters, fine arts senior; James Brendan Mitchell, Liberal Arts sophomore; Christina N. Nelson, education senior; Jesse Cale Niebaum, Liberal Arts junior; Joshua Otis Patterson, business freshman; Savannah Marie Remmich, Liberal Arts freshman; Kevin W. Robertson, Liberal Arts senior; Laura Kristin Smith, Liberal Arts senior; Daniel James Spence, Liberal Arts sophomore; Emily Michelle Wishall, Liberal Arts freshman; Matthew David Wishall, engineering junior; and Lauren A. Zagorski, Liberal Arts/journalism freshman.
WALNUT — Katie Marie Blackbourn, Liberal Arts sophomore.