Dr. Wenger mentors KU Medical student Zack Shafer

Gregg Wenger, M.D., Sabetha family physician, is hosting Zack Shafer, a medical student from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, for four weeks (Feb. 25-March 22) as part of a community-based educational experience.

Wenger is a volunteer mentor, or preceptor, with KU School of Medicine’s Kansas Rural Preceptor Program. Since 1951, the program places all fourth-year medical students, approximately 175 annually, in communities across Kansas.

This program introduces students to the practice of primary care in non-urban areas, to increase their awareness of professional opportunities in rural areas. It also gives them the opportunity to use their diagnostic and clinical skills in real-life scenarios under the guidance of their preceptor mentors.

“These students gain valuable knowledge and skill in the field that they wouldn’t receive without this program – a program made possible by partnerships with doctors across Kansas,” said Barbara Atkinson, M.D., executive vice chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center and executive dean of the KU School of Medicine.
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BHS journalists do well in competition at KU

BY JORDAN HANSON
BHS CORRESPONDENT

On Feb. 23, the Kansas Scholastic Press Association regional contest was taking place in Stauffer-Flint Hall at the University of Kansas. More than 499 students from 23 high schools competed in the competition. The results were another successful year for the BHS journalism staff, as it had 16 placers, only one short of its record of 17 set last year.

First-place winners were junior Calleigh Durr in Newspaper Design, junior Colin Busby in Headline Writing, junior Cassidy Burkhart in Editorial Writing, senior Logan Keener in News Writing and senior Lindsay Atchison in Infographics.

Second-place winners were junior Emily Johnson in Cutline Writing, senior Tess Lyons in Editorial Cartoon and junior Hannah Harris in Feature Photography.

Honorable Mention were senior Marianne Schroer in three events Headline Writing, Newspaper Design and News Writing; senior Logan Keener in Editorial Writing; junior Katie Lurken in Layout; junior Ashlyn Cole in Layout and Sports Photography; and junior Hannah Elder in Yearbook Sports Writing.

“I was surprised because I didn’t know what my competitors were doing,” Harris said. “I am glad that I can go to state now.”

“I am really excited because I did better in this contest than last year,” Lyons said.

“I was super duper pumped when I learned about my first-place finish,” Busby said. “It feels great to win the contest.”

The regional winners will advanced to the state competition which takes place at the University of Kansas in May.
Following is a corrected version of the information published for FrameMakers in the Record's State of the City issue of Feb. 28.

FrameMakers
1114 N. Newton, KS 67114
316-283-8895

Year Opened: June 2006

About Us: If you are looking for a unique shop, come see us at FrameMakers in Newton. We purchased the custom picture framing business in June 2006 from Hague Paint and Decorating. Our frame shop specializes in custom framing of art work, photographs, needlework or other items suitable for framing. We pride ourselves in being able to create something of beauty for your home or office. You will receive professional, quality workmanship completed in a timely manner. The quality of our finished product greatly exceeds what you could purchase at a local discount store.

New in 2008: Since purchasing the frame shop we have expanded our line to include custom framed beveled mirrors, shadowboxes with sports memorabilia, or family heirlooms and custom designed artwork to compliment college diplomas from local area colleges including Bethel College, University of Kansas and Kansas State University.

Owners: Dean and Elaine Davis

Number of Employees: 2

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays

Email Address: frames0916@sbcglobal.net
Shield law supporters testify in Topeka

BY JEANNINE KORANDA
Eagle Topeka bureau

TOPEKA — The public loses when Kansas journalists can be forced to turn over unpublished notes and confidential sources, supporters of a reporter shield law testified Monday during a legislative hearing.

"This is not about reporters, it is not about journalists," said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, sponsor of SB 313, a reporter "shield law."

Such a law would assure whistle-blowers that they could tell a reporter that information and their name would remain confidential, he said.

Courts now can require reporters to turn over such material, making people less likely to step forward with information about wrongdoing, said Mike Kautsch, director of the media, law and policy program at the University of Kansas School of Law.

"Whistle-blowers don't fare well in America," he said.

It's not just those with information who might hesitate, Kautsch told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"Journalists who have no protection against orders to disclose their confidential sources may not even dare to begin an investigation of suspected wrongdoing in government," he said.

The bill would prevent journalists from having to turn over unpublished notes or sources until those seeking the information had shown that...
the material was relevant to the issue, could not be obtained in another way — and that there was an overriding interest of justice that the information be disclosed.

Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia have shield laws, said Lucy Dalglish, executive director for the Reporters Committee on Freedom of the Press. The rules make people think twice before subpoenaing a reporter for information.

“Most of time they can get along just fine without hearing from a reporter,” she said.

Some senators wondered if Kansas needed the law.

“In the last 50 years, how many times has a journalist been found in contempt of court for refusing to disclose their notes?” asked Sen. John Vratil, R-Leawood, the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman.

In his testimony, Kautsch cited a 2000 case in which a prosecutor subpoenaed unpublished notes from The Wichita Eagle. The notes contained interviews with parolee Tanner Green, who was in jail after being charged with first-degree murder in the death of Janice Vredenburg.

The paper fought the subpoena. A judge found the paper in contempt and imposed a $500-a-day fine. The paper then published the notes on its Web site and turned them over to prosecutors.

Vratil said that was the only case he was aware of.

A lack of cases does not mean the law isn’t needed. Sometimes the issue comes up but does not get to court, supporters said.

“Ninety percent of Kansas newspapers could not go to court to defend themselves. That would in turn lead to them deciding not to investigate for fear of a lawsuit that would cripple them financially,” said Doug Anstaett, executive director of the Kansas Press Association.

No one testified against the measure.

Vratil said he did not know if the committee would discuss the bill more or vote on it. Most of the interest in the bill came from the media, he said.

Schmidt said he would ask Vratil to bring the bill up for a vote.

Reach Jeannine Koranda at 785-296-3006 or jkoranda@wichitaeagle.com.
Evaluation tells KTEC where to improve

BY JERRY SIEBENMARK
The Wichita Eagle

An independent evaluation of Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp. is prompting the public-private technology development group to sharpen its efforts.

Overall, KTEC's evaluation by RTI International — a Research Triangle Park, N.C.-based consulting firm — was positive.

"KTEC operates highly effective programs that are well focused and meeting client needs," the 65-page report said.

But the report said there is room for improvement, and KTEC officials said they have begun to act on its recommendations.

"We want to get better, and we're committed to implementing the most important of these recommendations as soon as possible," said Tracy Taylor, KTEC president and chief executive.

Created in 1987, KTEC's mission includes oversight and support of university-based research centers at the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University; assistance to technology and bioscience startups through network affiliates, including Wichita Technology Corp.; and direct equity investments in startup technology and bioscience companies.

Taylor said it had been several years since KTEC was evaluated by an independent organization.

RTI conducted its evaluation through interviews with 50 people, including company and economic development executives inside and outside Kansas.

It also compared Kansas to six other states — Arizona, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Utah — on performance benchmarks.

The report lauded KTEC for operating "a highly collaborative network that allows it to maximize resources to benefit as many clients as possible in an efficient manner." The report also said KTEC was effective in technology-based economic development on multiple fronts.

But on nine of 17 measures comparing Kansas with peer states, Kansas was either lagging other states or considered a "most challenged state," the report said.

Those measures included entrepreneurial activity, new company creation per 1,000 workers and cumulative university start-up formation.

Based on its evaluation, RTI made several recommendations for KTEC, including increasing access to venture capital, improving technical assistance for technology businesses, refining performance measurements of its network affiliates, and increasing engagement with large, established technology companies.

Taylor said a few of the recommendations probably won't be acted on right away, including the RTI's suggestion that KTEC increase venture capital in the state.

"We are limited by our amount of funding," he said.

Reach Jerry Siebenmark at 316-268-6576.
TOPEKA (AP) — Supporters of a proposed shield law for Kansas say it's needed as protection for confidential informants just as much as for the journalists who don't want to identify their sources.

The Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony Monday about the bill, which was introduced last year. It would provide some measure of protection so reporters won't have to reveal information, such as confidential sources or notes, unless ordered by a judge.

"This isn't about reporters," said the measure's sponsor, committee Chairman John Vratil, R-Leawood. "It's about citizens who have information that needs to be in the public discussion, but they are reluctant to provide it."

Doug Anstaett, Kansas Press Association executive director, voiced similar sentiments. "It's to protect those who have something to tell us," Anstaett told the committee.

No one spoke against the measure during Monday's hearing.

The Reporters Committee on Freedom of the Press says 34 states and the District of Columbia have some type of shield law. The state of Washington enacted its law last year, and the Utah Supreme Court in January made one part of its rules.

The legislation would allow a judge to order reporters to release information only if it has been shown by "clear and convincing evidence" that the information is relevant to the controversy, can't be obtained any other way, there's a compelling and overriding interest for the information and it's needed "to secure the interests of justice."

Mike Kautsch, a University of Kansas law professor, said that would make it easier for courts to balance the interests of reporters exposing corruption with the help of confidential sources and law enforcement officials wanting to uncover evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

Vratil questioned why the bill has such a high burden of proof to be met before a judge can order a reporter to reveal information. Kautsch said it was "because of the impact on the First Amendment."

Vratil also asked if Kautsch could point to any cases in the past 50 years of reporters being ordered to turn over information. Anstaett said he only was aware of a 2000 case in which a judge ordered a Wichita Eagle reporter to turn over notes from a telephone interview with a man charged with murder. The Eagle surrendered the notes after posting them on its Web site.

"My concern is rather than waiting for something to happen, to have something in place," Anstaett replied.

Kautsch told the committee a shield law would reduce concern about law enforcement using a subpoena to seize written notes, audio or video tapes from a reporter.

"If police have power to indiscriminately acquire journalists' materials, then the journalists become an arm of law enforcement," he said. "Moreover, journalists' sources will get a clear signal that anything they say could be discovered by law enforcement."

Kautsch also said it would eliminate the uncertainty that has surrounded a reporter's right to not reveal sources or information since a 1978 Kansas Supreme Court ruling that he said didn't clearly set up the requirements for overcoming a reporter's privilege.
Although the number of students leaving U.S. campuses for overseas slowed for a while after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, involvement in study abroad reached record numbers last year, increasing by 8.5 percent over the previous year, according to the report.

Studying abroad has become more popular, in part, because schools are offering students shorter, more convenient programs, such as over school breaks or over just one semester rather than a full academic year.

“Some young people and educators now understand that students need some global education to compete in the global marketplace,” said Daniel Obst, a spokesman for the Institute of International Education.

Local colleges and universities have increased the number of students studying abroad, too.

The University of Kansas and Truman State, in Kirksville, Mo., were among the top 40 universities in the country for percentage of students studying abroad by the time they graduate, Open Doors reported.

KU, with 29 percent of its students studying abroad by graduation, is ranked seventh among public research universities with doctoral programs and 38th among all research institutions — public and private.

Truman State, where 45 percent of undergraduates study abroad by graduation, ranked 14th among public and private master’s degree-granting institutions. Both schools began trying to boost their study abroad programs more than a decade ago.

“It’s a life-changing experience,” said Patrick Lacaque, who directs the Center for International Education at Truman State.

R. Michael Philson, executive director of the Office of International Education at Wichita State University, said students need to understand other cultures and societies.

“Not just because of the increasingly international work environment,” he said, “but also because of the increasing diversity in our own cities and towns. Nothing is as educational in the broadest sense of the word as living and studying or working in another culture.”

KU junior Andrew Stanley, of Overland Park, has made two study trips to Latin America to expand his knowledge of the culture and to become fluent in Spanish.

“You learn so much, not only about other people and other cultures but also about yourself,” Stanley said.

He spent six weeks in Mexico and a semester in Costa Rica. Stanley wants to work for a nonprofit agency and spend his career helping the poor in Latin America.

For universities, study abroad programs are a way to become more internationally connected. Faculty members travel overseas to set up study programs. While there, they connect with foreign faculty in their discipline. From those relationships, faculty exchange programs and joint research agreements often sprout.

To continue growing study abroad programs, leaders of campus programs encourage faculty to find ways to integrate foreign study into their course curriculum. Most of those opportunities don’t last a full academic year.

Kay, of Springfield, Ill., spent a semester in Russia, a medium-length study abroad experience.

More than half the students studying abroad are going on short-term trips, such as for a few weeks during the summer. The Open Doors report said 41.8 percent of students go overseas for a semester, and only 5.7 percent spend an entire academic year abroad.

The most common destinations are Europe and Latin American countries. But increasingly students are choosing to study in China.

Students are taking advantage of short- and medium-length study opportunities because, for many of them, the shorter study abroad is more manageable and more affordable, said Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco, director of KU’s study abroad program.

Last year, faculty at KU offered 45 short-term undergraduate programs, and this year the number has increased to 61, Gronbeck-Tedesco said.
Higher education officials said they will continue looking for ways to make study abroad more the routine rather than the exception for students.

Richard Lariviere, provost and executive vice chancellor at KU, said he expects to see, within a decade, the percentage of students who study abroad before graduating increase at his school from 29 percent to 50 percent.

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KU announces Schuelerkongress medalists

LAWRENCE — More than 140 medals were awarded to high school and junior high school students studying German at the University of Kansas' Schuelerkongress, or student congress, held March 1.

A total of 280 students from schools in Abilene, Hays, Junction City, Lawrence, Lindsborg, Newton, Olathe, Overland Park, Topeka and Wichita attended the annual event sponsored by the Kansas Association of Teachers of German in cooperation with KU's Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

Schuelerkongress promotes the study of German languages, literature and culture with contests in poetry recitation (lyrik), prose reading (prosa), spelling (rechtschreibung), cultural tests (kulturquiz) and poster making.

Junction City High School students won first in the poster-making contest; Olathe East High School, second; Newton High School, third; Abilene High School, fourth; and Olathe North High School, fifth.

A committee of high school teachers selects the poems and prose in advance to match students' level of study, such as first-year or second-year German. Faculty and graduate teaching assistants from KU judged the contests.

Kansas high school and junior high school students who won medals are listed by their schools at www.news.ku.edu/2008/march/6/german.shtml. Some students entered more than one event.

Medals recognize proficiency for first-, second-, third- and fourth-year German. An "E" medal recognizes a fifth-year of study or study abroad experience.

Abilene honorees include

Annie Christner Lyrik 2;
Kaitlin Mounts Lyrik 3;
Olivia Garver Lyrik 4;
Robin Smart Lyrik 4, Poster Contest 4th place;
Kaitlin Mounts Prósá 3;
Kaitlin Mounts Rechtschreibung 3.
Junior Miss Choreographers

Tamara Howe

As a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a B.F.A. in Dance and a B.S. in Kinesiology and Health Promotion, Tamara Howe is an accomplished dancer and continues to inspire students through the teaching of dance. Tamara began her dance training at Yvette Sparks Dance Center in Gillette WY. Through the years, she has studied with Tony Coppola, Bill Evans, Gary Abbott, Gus Giordano, Jay Franke, Peter Pucci, General McArthur Hambrick, Marsha Fay Knight, Margaret Wilson, the American Repertory Dance Company and many others. She continues to attend master classes and workshops throughout the country expanding her training and versatility in dance. She has performed in numerous productions including the Nutcracker, Inanna, Carmina Burana, Vertical dance productions, and also traveled to the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. with the University of Wyoming to perform Velorio choreographed by Bill Evans. She continues to choreograph and teach dance throughout Wyoming and Kansas. Her choreography has won outstanding choreography awards and many top placements at competitions. Tamara also serves as a judge for the World Spirit Federation. She began serving as choreographer for the Kansas Junior Miss program in 2007.

In 2005, she completed an internship at the White House Athletic Center in Washington D.C. and was certified as a group exercise instructor and personal trainer through the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America (AFAA). Prior to graduation, Tamara served as Miss Wyoming 2003 in the Miss America Organization promoting arts in education.

As a member of the Salina community, Tamara is a member of Salina Newcomers and a participant in the 2006-2007 Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class. After moving to Salina, Tamara began working as the Head Dance Coach for Bethany College, teaching at Peggy Simms School of Dance, and substitute teaching in USD #305. In July of 2006, Tamara was married to Steven Howe. In the fall of 2007, she opened the Tamara Howe School of Dance in Salina.

Assistant to the Choreographer

Kendra Brown was the 2006 Kansas Junior Miss. She is currently a sophomore at the University of Kansas where she is a member of the University Dance Company, performing at the Lied Center under the direction of internationally known performer and choreographer, Bill Evans. Kendra has also auditioned for and been accepted into the University Dance Company, performing at the Lied Center under the direction of Muriel Cohen and Patrick Suzeau. She has performed with the ‘Peggy Simms Young Champions’ on a dance tour of the Hawaiian Islands and has taken Master’s classes at ‘Steps’ in New York. While at KU, Kendra has studied under the direction of internationally known performer – choreographer, Bill Evans. Kendra remains very active with the Junior Miss program, continuing to present her Be Your Best Self program and assisting with fund raising activities.
Seniors Use Nintendo Wii For Physical Therapy, Socializing

By KRISTI HENDERSON

LAWRENCE (AP) -- With all the clapping and commotion coming from the Big 12 Pub at Brandon Woods Retirement Community, it could've been mistaken for a bowling alley.

But instead of a lane and bowling balls, there was a Nintendo Wii and flat-screen television. And the bowlers could choose between throwing strikes while standing or sitting.

Brandon Woods has introduced the Nintendo Wii game system as a new activity for residents.

"We see a lot of therapeutic benefit to it as well as the very obvious social, sports-related benefit," said Donna Bell, director of public relations at Brandon Woods. "When you're bowling or playing tennis, there's a whole range-of-motion benefit."

Before anyone took to the lanes last week at Brandon Woods, Kim Blocher, social programming director, gave the small group of men and women a tutorial on the controller and game.

Some had been exposed to the Nintendo game system through grandchildren. Others hadn't even heard of it.

Resident Evelyn Hallberg said she had played tennis on the Wii once during a family gathering. But she didn't consider herself an expert.

"I don't learn things like that easily," Hallberg said.

Blocher went through the game step by step, showing them how to position the bowler, how to angle the ball's path and even how to put a little curve on it.

"Whatever your hand does, you're doing to the ball," Blocher said. "If you turn it a lot like this, like I did, it's going to curve powerfully. If you roll straight, it'll go straight."

For some bowlers, there was frustration at first.

"Hell's bells" was resident Natalie Gump's reaction when she hit the wrong button and couldn't figure out how to get back to the main screen.

But after a few throws, everyone in the group seemed to get the hang of it and began making spares and strikes.

"After a while, it starts to get simple," said Gump, who didn't know what a Wii was before the tutorial.

Senior center directors and researchers see a lot of potential with the Wii. The obvious benefit is increased physical activity.

Susan Kemper, a distinguished professor of psychology at Kansas University, says the competition that comes with playing the Wii is a great motivator. Kemper, who has an emphasis in aging and cognition, works with the Gerontology Center at KU.

"It's not just you playing against a clock or a computer scoring system. It's not just you keeping track," Kemper said. "It's a real sense of competition. That's why it seems to be very rapidly adopted in a lot of assisted living senior centers because it gets people active."

The competition also lends itself to more social interaction.

"If it gets older persons up and moving and doing something enjoyable that they can share with their friends and younger family members, then that's definitely beneficial," said Matthew Schragcr, an assistant professor in health, sport and exercise science at KU. He also works with the Gerontology Center.

Douglas County Senior Services also recently acquired a couple of WIs. Although training doesn't even begin until next week, the system already seems to be popular.

Executive Director John Glassman said golf and bowling have been the most sought-after games.

"I've got these people up here talking to me already. Which golf game did you get? Did you get the Tiger Woods game?" Glassman said.

For some seniors, the Wii has brought back fond memories.

Gump, at Brandon Woods, had been an avid bowler until a leg injury. Until the Wii tutorial, she hadn't bowled in probably 15 years, she said. After howling for a few frames, she said it made her want to return to the lanes.

But she wasn't so sure her bowling experience was going to translate into endless strikes on the Wii.

"Oh, I don't know about that," she said.