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

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the allied health; architecture and urban design; business; education; engineering; fine arts; journalism; nursing; and social welfare schools.

The students are listed by first name, last name, school or college, level (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior), parents or guardians and high school. For students in the School of Allied Health, a level in school is not always listed.

**Lebo**

Aaron Ross Gillespie, son of Vickie and Donnie Gillespie, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, sophomore, Lebo High School; Ashley Nicole Gourley, daughter of Doyle and Lori Gourley, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Lebo High School; Eric Scott Gourley, son of Doyle and Lori Gourley, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Lebo High School.

**Burlingame**

Casey Marie Montgomery, daughter of Don Montgomery, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, senior, Burlingame High School.

**Carbondale**

Emily Carmel Robbins, daughter of Marian Massoth and Vic Robbins, Engineering Undergraduate, senior, Santa Fe Trail High School; Julie Ann Welge, daughter of Marc and Patricia Cooper, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Santa Fe Trail High School.

Lyndon: Alicia Jill Schmitz, daughter of Galen and Denise Schmitz, Business Undergraduate, senior Lyndon High School.

**Osage City**

Britt Leitia Tobias, daughter of Robert and Cynthia Tobias, Fine Arts Undergraduate, junior, Osage City High School.

**Overbrook**

Jamie D. Coffman, daughter of Dana and Kathy Coffman, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, junior, Santa Fe Trail High School, Ray Glenn Thompson III, son of Ray and Lisa Thompson, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Santa Fe Trail High School, Kylie Brooke Wiscombe, daughter of Kirk and Diane Wiscombe, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, junior, Santa Fe Trail High School.

**Scranton**

John Robert Granger, son of William and Sarah Granger, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, junior, Santa Fe Trail High School.
Pressing China to expand beef market

Office of Congressman Jerry Moran

Congressman meets with ambassador of China to discuss the importance of beef trade

MANHATTAN (Feb. 15, 2008) — Congressman Jerry Moran this week met with the Ambassador of China, H.E. Zhou Wenzhong, to press the Chinese to fully open their market to U.S. beef. Since the first case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) was found in the U.S. in 2003, beef trade with China has been nonexistent due to existing Chinese restrictions on U.S. beef. Moran visited with Ambassador Zhou after the ambassador spoke at Kansas State University in Manhattan as part of its Landon Lecture Series.

“The First District of Kansas produces more beef than any other congressional district in the country,” Moran said. “The Chinese market represents a huge opportunity for Kansas producers to expand their business.”

Currently, no protocol exists under which U.S. producers can ship beef to China. Moran emphasized the safety and quality of U.S. beef to the Chinese ambassador and urged adoption of international guidelines that would allow both bone-in and boneless cuts of meat from cattle of any age.

Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture.
Open Government
It’s a vital part of representative government

BY ALAN RUSCH
ELLSWORTH COUNTY I-R

It’s no accident that the state’s lawmakers have — over the years — enacted statutes to make government open to the citizens of Kansas.

It’s that important, two experts on the subject said Feb. 7 during a workshop at the Ellsworth Municipal Golf Course.

“The whole theory of open government is that if government is open, the public will have confidence in the governmental body,” said Mike Kautsch, of the University of Kansas Law School at Lawrence.

Mike Merriam, a Topeka attorney who specializes in media law, offered another reason.

“If citizens know what their government is doing, they become an informed electorate,” he said. “They make better decisions at the ballot box; they get better government.

“It says in the statute that an informed electorate is essential to good government. And that is part of the way of informing the electorate — by showing them what government is doing and how it is being effective.”

About 20 Ellsworth County public officials, attorneys and private citizens attended the so-called “Mike and Mike Show.” The presentation, supported by the Kansas Press Association, was co-sponsored by the City of Ellsworth and the Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter.

Kautsch and Merriam have presented their program across the state to a variety of organizations. The goal is to talk about the Kansas Open Meetings and Open Records acts and answer questions about their application.

Kautsch said concerns about the public’s access to government dates back to colonial times. The colonists, when they wrote the Declaration of Independence, referred to the King of Great Britain “as one who was engaged in an absolute tyranny over the colonies.”

“They said of him, ‘he has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable and distant from the depository of their public records,’” Kautsch said.

“So all the way back in the Declaration of Independence, there was this concern that meetings be accessible when they concern the public business, and that records be available.”

Throughout the two-hour session Kautsch and Merriam offered several cases — many of them which have surfaced in Kansas — and asked their audience to decide, open or not open?

Merriam said the foundation of the state’s open records and open meetings laws is that all public gatherings and documents are open.

The rub comes with exemptions, which are included in each statute. The open records law, for instance, has 49 exceptions, including personnel and student records and attorney-client communications.

Kautsch said throughout the history of the Kansas Open Meetings Act, court decisions have affirmed the law’s aim of giving the public the opportunity to observe the interaction among elected officials, whenever the elected officials are forming the basis for an open vote.

“In other words, every discussion that might lead each member of the body to form a conclusion or take a position about what public policy ought to be or what decisions ought to be made by the body,” Kautsch said.

“The idea of the law is to have that conversation occur in a way that the public can observe.”

Merriam said violation of the law can result in a civil fine of $500.

“In these kinds of situations, you are going to have to have your discussion at the open meeting rather than at the coffee shop. Because the legislature has made that value judgment. Sacrificing that business efficiency is necessary in order to have the openness part of the government,” he said.
As Mike Merriam, right, a media attorney in Topeka looks on, Mike Kautsch of the University of Kansas School of Law makes a point on the Kansas Open Meetings Act during a workshop Feb. 7 at the Ellsworth Golf Course.
Community Fair ready to inform residents

By EMILY BEHLMANN
bebhlmann@gctelegram.com

Janie Perkins, a former Garden City mayor and current supplemental programs coordinator at USD 457, said she feels she's involved in and knowledgeable about the place where she lives.

Yet she finds she's always learning something new about the community — a resource or activity of which she's never heard.

To showcase some of those resources and activities, Perkins and others in her office plan to have a new event for Finney County families across the county that will combine the district's Reading Carousel and is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 1 at Garden City High School, 1412 N. Main St.

Perkins said the first Community Fair is for all area residents, regardless of whether they have children in the school district. The event will provide informational booths and presentations on topics including youth opportunities, family services, child safety, health services, immigration issues, prevention programs and education.

Presentations will showcase some local agencies, plus higher education opportunities including Garden City Community College, the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Fort Hays State University, Perkins said. Some presentations will be in Spanish.

The fair's keynote speaker will be Kevin Honeycutt, a workshop leader and graduate of Ottawa University who will be discussing keeping families safe online. His 20-minute presentations will be at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

"In today's world, there is more technology as far as kids are concerned," Perkins said. "As parents, we need to be aware of what's out there."

Scheduling the Community Fair with the Literacy Carousel was a natural fit, USD 457 Literacy Coordinator Leigh Ann Roderick said. This will be the seventh year for the carousel, which Roderick said started when the community received a grant to help address concerns about children's reading ability in Garden City.

Out of the planning process came the Literacy Carousel and Books on the Bus, a bus full of books children can check out in the summer. The carousel will include children's activities, including storytelling, puppets and free books, with a pirate theme for some events.

"We try to make it fun for kids and provide information for parents helpful for reading at home," Roderick said.

For more about the Community Fair, contact Perkins, 276-5162, or Jperkins@gckschools.com. Information about the Literacy Carousel is available from Roderick, 276-5324, or Lroderick@gckschools.com.

Fair: Informing residents

Continued from Page A1

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Most state colleges see small enrollment gains

Enrollment figures released Thursday by the Kansas Board of Regents show an increase of 913 students at the six state universities for the spring semester, or 1.1 percent over last year.

Combined enrollment at the institutions was 83,701, as of the 20th day of classes.

The increases at each school:

- Fort Hays State University: 432 students, 5.7 percent.
- University of Kansas, one student, 0 percent.
- Kansas State: 261 students, 1.3 percent.
- Wichita State: 47 students, 0.3 percent.
- Emporia State: 34 students, 0.6 percent.
- Pittsburg State: 138 students, 2.1 percent.
A slight break in a steep trend

When is a 6-percent price increase a bargain? The short answer is when it’s associated with college tuition or insurance costs. So it was with something closer to relief than outrage last week that we greeted word that the Kansas Board of Regents has given preliminary approval to tuition increases of up to 6 percent at Regents institutions next school year.

Not that a 6-percent increase is modest. It is, after all, about twice the rate of inflation, and it’s considerably larger than the annual raises most people get.

But it’s downright attractive compared to the succession of tuition increases that students and their families have absorbed at Kansas State University, the University of Kansas and other Regents institutions. Tuition at KSU has more than doubled in recent years.

What the Board of Regents did when members met last week was allow the institutions to set their own tuition rates, adding a strong recommendation that those increases be kept below 6 percent.

KSU President Jon Wefald indicated last week that K-State would likely increase tuition by 4.4 percent. That ought to come as good news.

The bad news — it’s almost inescapable when the subject is tuition — is that this year’s fairly reasonable increases could well set the stage for higher, perhaps significantly higher, increases next year.

To their credit, university students who spoke at last week’s Board of Regents meeting didn’t condemn the increases, and although they would have been delighted to pay less, they know such a notion is a fantasy. Rather, they expressed concern that cuts in tuition could undermine the quality of the education they’re counting on and asked the Board instead to ensure that increases not be “outrageous.” What matters most, the student body president at Emporia State University said, is “how the money is being spent.”

As for outrage, it ought to be reserved for university administrators who do not spend the money wisely and for elected officials who deny or even begrudge universities adequate funding. And some outrage ought be directed at the trend in tuition increases, the sort of trend in which a hike of 4 to 6 percent is considered a bargain. Maybe sufficient outrage will lead to changes that keep higher education affordable while protecting or improving its quality.
To the Editor:

As a member of the Kansas Board of Regents since 2005, I am very concerned about tuition increases at our Regents schools.

Regents schools pay their bills with money from the Legislature, from tuition and from donations. Twenty years ago Kansas State and Kansas University received 52 percent of their budgets from the Kansas Legislature, but today that figure is only 26 percent. Regents schools have tried to make up this huge budget loss by getting people like you and me to donate to their schools. Donations have increased, but not enough to offset the big loss from the Kansas Legislature.

I will do all I can to keep tuition costs down but the students and their schools need more help from the Legislature.

Dan Lykins, Member
Kansas Board of Regents
222 W. 7th. St.
Topeka
KU student athletes recognized

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas honored 231 student athletes who were named to the Athletic Director's Honor Roll for 2007 during halftime of the KU-Iowa State men's basketball game at Allen Fieldhouse.

Honorees represent 28 Kansas counties and 39 other states and countries. Students from Miami County and the sports they represent are: Lauren Nicole Winchester of Paola, freshman rowing; and Kelsey Jo Simpson of Spring Hill, sophomore rowing.

Student athletes enrolled in at least 12 credit hours who achieved a semester grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale during spring or fall 2007 are eligible for the honor. Among those with special recognition are 73 students who earned 4.0 GPAs in one or both semesters.

The Athletic Director's Honor Roll recognizes students in intercollegiate baseball, men's and women's basketball, football, golf, rowing, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and volleyball. KU is a member of the Big 12 Conference.

"The student athletes who represent our program and the University of Kansas are an outstanding group of young people," said Athletics Director Lew Perkins. "They give every ounce of energy to compete in their sports and then they go home, completely tired, and study. We have every reason to be extremely proud of all their efforts — especially their work in the classroom this past fall. Congratulations to all the student athletes, our terrific KU faculty and to our outstanding athletics academic support staff."
Morse files for Jackson County sheriff

Tim Morse of rural Holton, former Jackson County deputy sheriff and currently chief of the Onaga Police Department, has announced his candidacy for Jackson County Sheriff as a Democrat.

Morse, 41, is a native Kansan who was primarily raised in neighboring Jefferson County, spending most of his youth working on the family's livestock farm and graduating from Perry Lecompton High School. He studied political science and public administration at the University of Kansas and Washburn University. He worked for the Douglas County Emergency Radio Service, of which he was elected president and coordinator at 21.

During the last 18 years, Morse has worked in various fields of emergency service, including emergency management, fire, EMS, and law enforcement. He was certified as a paramedic in 1997 after previously serving as an EMT, and he worked as a safety and medical consultant for the motion picture and television industry from 1996 to 2007. In addition to his law enforcement duties, he also serves as a lieutenant/paramedic for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Continued to Page 12A.
Morse... Continued from Page 1

Morse started his career in law enforcement in 1995 as a dispatcher and soon became a police officer. He attended the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, graduating in the top of his class, then worked as a police officer for several cities in Jefferson County.

In 1999, he began working in Jackson County as a police officer for the Potawatomis and later as a Jackson County deputy sheriff. While in Jackson County, Morse held several positions and conducted numerous criminal investigations, many of which led to arrests involving illegal narcotics and drugs. Some of these cases made their way to United States Federal Court.

While in Jackson County, Morse also was instrumental in investigating and apprehending a grandfather and grandson involved in a crime spree across Missouri and Kansas. He also investigated an identity theft scam that started in rural Circleville, bringing one of the suspects to justice and noting the recent conviction of the operation's ringleader in federal court.

In November 2006 Morse was appointed chief of Onaga's police department. He performed a number of investigations that led to multiple arrests, helping to restore order and reduce crime. Morse instituted changes to department policies and procedures, and he prompted the city to adopt a series of modern codes and ordinances.

At the community's request, Morse drafted an ordinance for the city of Havensville in order to create a new police department. He then drafted a contract that enabled Onaga to provide law enforcement services to Havensville.

If elected, stated priorities for Morse will include creating a stable work environment for sheriff's office employees, reducing deputy turnover and training expenses for the county, implementing a community policing program for the county, improving relationships with other law enforcement agencies, solving problems with the dispatching progress and maintaining a balanced budget.

Morse also plans to bring back the field training program for new officers, who will be required to work with a field training officer for a determined period of time. After new officers successfully complete the program, they will be allowed to work independently.

Furthermore, he plans to create a personnel advisory board that will provide sheriff's department employees with a grievance procedure, instead of making the sheriff the final authority in all personnel issues. Morse plans to provide a hiring and promotion board to give every prospective employee a fair chance in gaining employment and promotions, ensuring that employees are dealt with on a fair and consistent basis.

Morse is currently a member the Topeka Major Area Case Squad and Board of Directors, and a member of the Kansas Chiefs of Police Association, Kansas Narcotics Officers Association and the Kansas Peace Officers Association. He and his wife, Melissa, are the parents of three children, two of which still reside at the Morses' rural Holton home.

The general election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 4. If Jackson County Sheriff Charles Cornell, also a Democrat, files for re-election under his current party affiliation, he and Morse will face a primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 5.
Special guest speakers at Monday’s Kansas Honors Program dinner and awards presentation at Holton’s First United Methodist Church included Kansas Rep. Steve Lukert (above) and Lynn Bretz (at right), director of university communications at the University of Kansas. Lukert, a former teacher at high schools in Sabetha and Holton, congratulated the students for their achievements, and he was later commended by Bretz for “blocking and tackling for education in Kansas.” Bretz also congratulated students for their achievements and noted past program honorees from Jackson and Nemaha counties in her speech.  

Photos by Brian Sanders