KU chancellor to speak at dinner for local scholars

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway will speak to 36 Marshall County and Washington County high school students and their parents and guests at an honors dinner March 5 in Washington.

Students from eight Kansas high schools will be honored by the KU Alumni Association and KU Endowment for their academic achievements and will be named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program in the First National Bank.

Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher education goals.

Local students to be honored:

**Axtell** — Ashley Blonquist.

**Frankfort** — Amy Hundinghake, Leah Miller, Kayla Mitchell, Merica Schreiner, Jena Wulfschlegler.

**Hanover** — Briana Bruna, Rashele Hynek, Kirk Loges, Christopher Martin, Alexa Pralle, Chantel White.

**Marysville** — Karissa Bruna, Thomas Henry, Rheba Howard, Courtney Kroeger, Lisa Loges, Philip Schmitz, Emily Spunaugle.

**Valley Heights** — Lindsey Coggins, Kirk Duensing, Brittani Whiting.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $9 each.

Larry and Nancy Stoppel of Washington will be the site coordinators as well as county coordinators for Washington County. Kenneth and Zita Duensing of Blue Rapids are coordinators for Marshall County.
Seniors use Nintendo Wii for physical therapy, social interaction

By Kristi Henderson

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

But instead of a lane and bowling balls, there was a Nintendo Wii and flatscreen 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 Schrager, 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.
Trio named to KU AD honor roll

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas honored 231 student athletes named to the Athletic Director's Honor Roll for 2007. Those from Baldwin City are Emily Brown, Katherine Beall and Denise Orloff.

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 Athletic 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."

Honorees represent 28 Kansas counties and 39 other states and countries.
Proposal gets a cool reception

Local officials not much impressed with Reardon’s Dotte Promise program

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Unified Government Mayor Joe Reardon’s proposal to give every high school graduate a $2,000 college scholarship failed to make much of a spark here this week.

UG Commissioner Pat Pettey told Bonner Springs-Edwardsville School Board members Tuesday about the mayor’s proposed Dotte Promise scholarship program, which would offer a $2,000 per year scholarship for up to four years to any student graduating from a Turner, Piper, Ward or Kansas City, Kan., high school who lives in Kansas City, Kan., and has attended school there for at least four years. The scholarship would be good at any post-secondary institution in Kansas, or at the University of Missouri in Kansas City.

To keep the scholarship, the student would have to maintain at least a C average in their post-secondary education, and give 40 hours of community service in Wyandotte County each year of the scholarship.

Bonner Springs and Edwardsville are not part of the proposal, but, Pettey said, part of the reason for her presentation to the board was the hope that the two cities would find a way to participate in the program.

The funding for Reardon’s proposal as it stands would come from revenue generated by slot machines at the Woodlands plus private donations. The program is modeled on one in Kalamazoo, Mich., which was initiated three years ago and gives $6,000 a year to graduating seniors.

Board member Gregg Gibson asked Pettey why so much money should go to high school graduates “who may not be ready” for college, instead of spending on K-12 education.

Pettey, who is a retired Turner school district teacher, said the program could serve to show schools how well they were preparing students for post-secondary education, and what changes they may need to make in the curriculum.

Also, Pettey said, the benefits of money going to day-to-
Proposal met with skepticism

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day public school expenses can’t be measured, but the dropout rate and the number of students who go to college can be measured.

Pettey said she didn’t see the Dotte Promise as an economic-development tool so much as it was in Kalamazoo, where she said new businesses had been created since the scholarship program was introduced there.

Superintendent Robert Van Maren had some doubts about the plan.

He said he’d talked to prospective casino operators in the county about their donating funds to schools, and said “I’d be happy for them to give money to my (Education) Foundation” to be used as the foundation board sees fit.

But Van Maren said he was concerned $2,000 would not make much of a dent in college expenses, given a recently announced 80 percent tuition jump at Kansas University.

Also, Van Maren said, the means of dispensing the scholarships was a concern.

“I can’t do it for free, or with just one person,” he said.

Still, the superintendent said he wasn’t entirely opposed to the idea.

“I think if we do it, let’s jump in with both feet,” he said, and study who would most likely use the program.

The mayors of Bonner Springs and Edwardsville said they didn’t have enough information on the plan to have formed much of an opinion.

“It’s a very interesting concept,” Bonner Springs Mayor Clausie Smith said. “I have to do some study before we decide.”

Smith said he liked the idea that the money would come attached with grade-point average and community-service requirements.

“I don’t think we should just give $2,000 and say here it is,” he said.

As for the potential economic-development benefits of the program, Smith said, “I’m not sure that’s an issue, since to get the whole amount you have to start pretty young in life.”

Smith was referring to the part of Reardon’s proposal that says the amount of money a student gets would vary percentage-wise in relation to how long he or she attends school in Kansas City, Kan.

Edwardsville Mayor Heinz Rodgers was less enthusiastic about the concept.

“That doesn’t sound very good,” Rodgers said. “It sounds to me like socialized (post-) secondary education.”

“I don’t understand how that would spur economic development in any way, shape or form,” Rodgers said.

Rodgers said he thought the name of the program was misleading, because “Dotte” implies the program is for the entire county.

Smith said later after talking with Reardon that the three Wyandotte County mayors would be meeting soon to discuss the proposal.

“We’ve got a long ways to go before this thing becomes fact,” Smith said.
Donnelly College Celebrates Black History Month With A Visit From George Washington Carver

Students and Staff overflowed the Chapel Meeting Room on February 1, 2008 as Cedric R. Saunders masterfully performed a spirited portrayal of George Washington Carver, African American botanical researcher, agronomy educator and inventor. Saunders brought Carver to life, using the bird-like voice tonality known to afflict the famous inventor and role model. After displaying a dozen of the 100 industrial products Carver created from peanuts, Saunders closed the event by playing two old Negro Spirituals, making the sound of a trumpet by using only his mouth. Saunders, senior tool designer for Honeywell and an ordained minister at Hillview Church of God, is known as “The StoryTeller.” For over 15 years he has ministered locally and nationally to a variety of audiences through his music and storytelling. “My objective is to bring history to life through original sketches of men of character,” Saunders said.

The Black History Month Celebration will continue with a presentation by Dr. John Edgar Tidwell on February 13, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel Meeting Room. Entitled Against the Odds: Writers Growing up Black in Kansas, Tidwell’s discussion reveals how Langston Hughes, Gordon Parks and Frank Marshall Davis, all born in Kansas, developed their remarkable literary talents and learned to succeed against the odds.

Dr. Tidwell is an associate professor of English at the University of Kansas. A native of Independence, he received his B.A. from Washburn University. His Master’s degree was awarded by Creighton University, Omaha, and his Ph.D. by the University of Minnesota. Before joining the KU faculty in 1999, Dr. Tidwell taught at a number of schools, including Miami University and the University of Kentucky. His research specialties are African American and American literatures. He has edited the memoirs and the collected poems of Kansas-born writer Frank Marshall Davis, has written more than 14 essays on the esteemed African American poet Sterling A. Brown, and has directed “Reading and Remembering Langston Hughes,” a series of poetry circles that met to discuss selected works of Hughes.

This program is provided by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization with over 30 years of experience promoting understanding of the history, traditions, and ideas that shape our lives.

“The majority of written American history ignored the important roles and contributions made by African Americans,” said Dr. Amber Reagan-Kendrick, Donnelly College’s dean of student and community services. “When referenced they were usually depicted negatively. African American history month serves as a reminder to all of the struggle and progress Blacks have made given the legacy of slavery.”

Donnelly College is an accredited private Catholic college located at 608 North 18th Street, Kansas City, Kansas. Donnelly’s mission has remained the same since the school’s founding in 1949. That mission is to provide access to higher education to those who might otherwise go unserved. Today, Donnelly offers students two- and four-year liberal arts and professional degrees, English as a Second Language courses, health care certificates, as well as college courses to inmates at its Lansing Correctional Facility campus.
Donnelly hosts Carver portrayal, presentation by KU’s Dr. Tidwell

Students and staff overflowed Donnelly College’s Chapel Meeting Room Friday, Feb. 1, as Cedric R. Saunders masterfully performed a spirited portrayal of George Washington Carver, African-American botanical researcher, agronomy educator and inventor. The event is part of Donnelly’s observance of Black History Month.

Saunders brought Carver to life, using the bird-like voice tonality known to afflict the famous inventor and role model. After displaying a dozen of the 100 industrial products Carver created from peanuts, Saunders closed the event by playing two old Negro spirituals, making the sound of a trumpet by using only his mouth.

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Memo dead wrong

The Feb. 14 Memo from Steve Rose regarding TIFs in Overland Park is dead wrong. First, Overland Park failed to plan growth properly. Overland Park builds over four times the national average of retail square feet per person and cannot sustain it, which is why northern Overland Park is declining.

Second, no amount of TIFs, TDDs, or other public subsidies can correct the problem. Overbuilding must stop while population grows.

Third, City Manager John Nachbar recently appointed a new director of planning who has no urban planning experience whatsoever. Both KU and UMKC offer degrees in this field. Unfortunately, Nachbar does not value such education.

Steve Rose has become a big business sycophant pushing taxpayer subsidies for failing retailers. Yet, he is correct in that once Overland Park heads down this road, there is no end to public subsidies, ever.

Nachbar needs to go, as do his supporters, including Steve Rose.

David Conrad
Overland Park
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KANSAS CITY, Kan. — A nonprofit foundation is offering to provide the University of Kansas Medical Center drug development and testing space if Johnson County voters approve a sales tax for research this fall.

The Hall Family Foundation is buying an office complex in Fairway and said it is willing to give one of the two buildings to the medical center.

"We have tremendous capability in this community in the drug development field," said Bill Hall, president of the foundation started by the founder of Hallmark Cards. "What has been done by KU over the years is extraordinary. The ability to combine clinical trials with drug development capabilities should give us a significant leg up."

County officials are being asked to place a measure on the November ballot asking voters to approve a 1/8th-cent sales tax to pay for the Johnson County Education Research Triangle initiative. If approved, the measure is expected to generate $15 million a year, which would be split between the medical center, the University of Kansas Edwards Campus and Kansas State University.

The schools plan to use the money to build new facilities in the area, develop cancer treatments and increase the number of degree programs for math and science.

Organizers have said they expect the triangle initiative to create more than $1 billion in economic development for the area over 20 years.

Kansas State is opening a new food security and research institute in Olathe on property also shared with the Kansas Bioscience Authority and private-sector companies, such as Fort Dodge Animal Health.

The Edwards Campus plans to create a Business, Engineering & Technology Center focused on offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs in molecular bioscience, engineering and other advanced areas.

The medical center's project would cost $15 million in construction and equipment, which the Hall foundation would provide. Noting that the Edwards Campus and Kansas State already have property allocated for their projects, Hall said it was important to do the same for the medical center.

"It says to the voters that this is a real proposal," he said.

David Adkins, the medical center's vice chancellor for external affairs, said the 70,000-square-foot building would help as the center works to become one of the nation's leading centers for cancer treatment and research.

The medical center already has opened the Kansas Life Sciences Innovation Center, a 200,000-square-foot facility that had helped attract top scientists.

Adkins said the Fairway building would fill a big need for clinical trials.

"At this point there is not the kind of space on our campus that would be easily and conveniently accessible to patients seeking clinical trials," he said.

Those trials require intensive record keeping and supervision by physicians, nurses and others, said Roy Jensen, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center. He said it would be cheaper and more efficient to put all of those efforts in one place.

Making the process cheaper and easier would also attract the attention of pharmaceutical companies and other drug developers looking for a place to do clinical testing.

He said such a clinical trials facility would significantly aid the medical center's efforts to be named one of the country's top programs by the National Cancer Institute.

"If we have this ballot initiative passed and we have a building that is being renovated or is close to being opened, clearly we are demonstrating a visionary approach and that we are putting the plan into action," Jensen said. "That would be a powerful statement."

KU Med Center may get more research space
Third-year University of Kansas School of Law student Cody Wamsley analyzes potential legal solutions to the problem of data transmitted over the Internet being obtainable to anyone with Internet access.

His article titled “Internet Transmissions: Who Owns the Data and Who Protects It?” is in the February issue of the Journal of Internet Law.

Wamsley's article argues that the federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act offers inadequate protection to data transmitted over the Internet.