A total of 27 seniors from seven Kansas high schools in Brown and Doniphan counties will be honored Wednesday, Feb. 27, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

The students will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Hiawatha High School, 600 Red Hawk Drive.


The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. 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. Honorees’ names are listed at www.news.ku.edu/2008/february/11/khiawatha.shtml.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Jamie Winkelman, assistant director for alumni programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Stephen McAllister, professor of law, will speak to the students, parents and guests. 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.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. LeLand and Debbie Hansen of Hiawatha are the site coordinators as well as Brown County coordinators. Mike and Pam Arnold of Bendena are Doniphan County coordinators.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
Topeka Capital-Journal on KOMA:

In a perfect world, there would be no need for proposals like the one introduced by Sen. Tim Huelskamp to clarify the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

But an action by some members of the Topeka City Council ... provides ample reason why Huelskamp's bill deserves consideration.

The proposal by Huelskamp, a Republican from Fowler, would prohibit members of governing bodies from engaging in "serial communications."

That term has become part of the Topeka lexicon since last December, when the City Council made its end run around Mayor Bill Bunten's veto of the purchase of a backup police helicopter ...

With help from Mike Kautsch, a professor of media law at The University of Kansas, Huelskamp drafted a bill aimed at barring individual communications "that collectively involve a majority of a quorum and that share a common topic of discussion."

Kautsch summed up the need for the bill this way: "One should not be using the exception for meetings of fewer than a majority of a quorum to generate a consensus on a single issue that ought to be discussed before the public."

We couldn't agree more. ...

Here's wishing Huelskamp the best of luck in tightening the rules.
The University of Kansas Concert Choir has been selected to perform for the Southwest Division of the American Choral Directors Association convention Feb. 20-23 in Kansas City, Mo.

KU’s Concert Choir performance will be at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22, in the Folly Theater, 300 W. 12th St. KU’s Concert Choir includes more than 70 vocalists who were selected before the fall term began in August. Singing with the choir is Lindsay Erin Link, a senior music education major, daughter of Bradley and Joan Link of Derby.
Area students named to KU fall honor roll

LAWRENCE — 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 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.

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.

The students are listed online by hometown in the following format: First name, last name, school or college, level (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior), gender (M or F), parents or guardians (P/G) and high school (when available). For students in the School of Allied Health, a level in school is not always listed.

Douglass

• Kasie Danielle Knoll, daughter of Larry and Betti Knoll, Allied Health Undergraduate Senior, Bluestem High School, Leon.

Arkansas City

• Laura Michelle Durham, daughter of Kerri Schwartz and Tim Durham, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Junior, Arkansas City High School.
• Jonathan Parker Taylor, son of Fred and Marilyn Taylor, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Arkansas City High School.
• Georgia Marie Leake, daughter of Henry Leake, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Senior, Arkansas City High School.

Atlanta

• Tyler Brett Martin, son of Brett Martin, Business, Undergraduate Senior, Central Jr.-Sr. High School, Burden.

Burden

• Martha Ruth Campbell, daughter of Daniel Campbell, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Central Jr.-Sr. High School, Burden.
• Heather Dawn Redenius, daughter of Ron and Dana Redenius, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Senior, Central Jr.-Sr. High School, Burden.
• Ruth Leann Seeliger, daughter of Michael and Carolyn Seeliger, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Senior, Winfield High School.

Cambridge

• Bobby Jonas Amey, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Junior, Central Jr.-Sr. High School, Burden.

Dexter

Leslie A. Holmes daughter of Robert and Laurie Holmes, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Junior, Dexter High School.

Winfield

• Jaden Dean Bailey, son of Kerry and Shelley Bailey, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Senior, Winfield High School.
• Hannah N. Ballard, daughter of Sharon Ballard, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Freshman, Wellington Senior High School.
• Rebekah Kathleen Freeman, daughter of Dan and Lucy Freeman, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Sophomore, Winfield High School.
• Thomas Henry Harms, son of Teresa and Doug Myatt, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Sophomore, Winfield High School.
• Justine Karen Hathaway, son of Roderick and Debra Hathaway, Education, Undergraduate Senior, Winfield High School.
• Alexandria Lee Kaufman, daughter of Christian and Jane Kaufman, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Sophomore, Winfield High School.
• Elisabeth J. Knackstedt, daughter of Dennis and Elizabeth Knackstedt, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Sophomore,
Winfield High School.
• Luke Anthony McCune, son of Matt and Kimberly McCune, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Sophomore, Winfield High School.
• Autumn R. McPherson, daughter of Billy and Penny McPherson, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Senior, Central Jr.-Sr. High School.
• Abby Marie Otte, daughter of Lucy Freeman, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Freshman, Winfield High School.
• Laura Renee Smith, daughter of Timothy and Elizabeth Smith, Business, Undergraduate Sophomore, Winfield High School.
• Alyssa Lane Steffen, daughter of Rodger and Marcie Steffen, Liberal Arts, journalism, Undergraduate Sophomore, Winfield High School.
• Daniel Jonathan Theimer, son of Ben and Sharon Theimer, Engineering, Undergraduate Senior, Winfield High School.
• Rachel Lynn Theimer, daughter of Ben and Sharon Theimer, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Freshman, Winfield High School.

Cedar Vale
• Mauntell Renee Ford, daughter of Howard Ford, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Freshman, Wilson High School.

Sedan
• Laura Anne Allison, daughter of Everett and Mary Allison, Business Undergraduate, Junior, Sedan Senior High School.
• Kathryn Elisabeth Presley, daughter of James Presley, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Sophomore, Sedan Senior High School.

Oxford
• Danielle M. Totten, daughter of Ricky and Kaffy Totten, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Oxford High School.
• Kristina N. Witternbom, Allied Health, Undergraduate Senior.

South Haven
• Jarod Justin Bryant, son of Charles and Rita Bryant, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Senior, South Haven High School.

• Megan Lynn Ziegler, daughter of Don and Kathy Ziegler, Liberal Arts, Undergraduate Freshman,
KU releases fall honor roll

University of Kansas fall 2007 honor roll

Cimarron — Kimberly Ann Doubek; Matthew Dylan Monical

Deerfield — Maryanne Leigh Hett

Dighton — Jessa R. Kuhlman; Nick Jerome Weiser

Garden City — Samantha Jan Algrim; Whitney N. Blau; Kristin Suzanne Campbell; Whitney Page Clarke; Chelcie R. Crockett; Kristen Marie Doering; Cyndi Mai; Megan A. Nelson; Thy Anh Nguyen; Ashlea Ann Orrell; Aaron G. Payne; Jay Thomas Ryan; Karson K. Thompson; Andre Vo; Anh Van Vu; Kaitlin E. Wurst; Aimee Ann Zeller

Holcomb — Matthew R. Cook; Jennica J. Kilwein; Sherri Lee Magner

Kendall — Kelsey N. Kohman

Lakin — Trey M. Shipley

Leoti — Tyson Wade

Mullen

Montezuma — Ashlee Marie Grover; Kamille Dawn Ratzlaff

Scott City — Megan Anne Gechter; Cameron Elizabeth Turpin

Tribune — Bradford Lee Cardonell; Jentri Kae Dixon; Elijah C. Tuttle

Ulysses — Katelyn Noel Deckert

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Three La Crosse High School seniors, Meagan Wilson, Rachel Urban and Nicholas Moeder were recognized on Wednesday, February 13 at the Kansas University Honors Program for being among the top 10 percent academically in the 2008 graduating class. The annual program was held at Stoneridge Country Club in Great Bend and was hosted by the KU Alumni Association. Schools from Rush and Barton counties were in attendance. Standing with their parents are: Meagan and her parents, Cindi and Ross Wilson (far left); Rachel and her parents, Alan and Susan Urban (center); and Nick and his parents, Duane and Linda Moeder (far right). Honored students were presented with a certificate and a special edition of The American Heritage Dictionary designating them as Kansas Honors Scholars. (courtesy photo)
FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (AP) - Army officials on Wednesday unveiled a new education program aimed at enhancing the lives of soldiers disabled by combat injuries.

Army Secretary Pete Geren introduced eight current and former soldiers who will enroll in graduate programs at the University of Kansas in the fall.

The soldiers then owe the Army three years of service — either on active duty or as civilian employees — for every year they spend in school. To qualify, the soldiers must be at least 30 percent disabled by their war wounds.

Geren said public support for wounded veterans has grown since disclosures last year of substandard care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

“Some had not received the care that they needed. When that became known to the Army, it was like an electric shock to the system,” Geren said.

“The Army has stepped up. Soldiers do take care of soldiers. And when the soldiers learned that some people had dropped the ball and not taken care of soldiers, the whole system responded.

“We’re trying to pay a debt to the soldiers who have given so much to this country.”

First Lt. Jason Gladney, a retired armor officer, joined the Army after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and was wounded in Iraq in March 2006. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and started a master’s degree program years ago. He’s now living in California and will attend the University of Kansas to finish his education.

Gladney said whether students can stay in uniform or have to be civilians, it is rewarding to know that they can continue to serve and “be part of the team.”

“I think it’s an incredible opportunity,” Gladney said.

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway said he approached Geren and Defense Secretary Robert Gates, the former president of Texas A&M University, whom Hemenway knew because both schools are in the Big 12 conference.

“The welcome mat is out at KU,” Hemenway said. “The Army, the nation will benefit.”

Geren and university leaders detailed the program during an assembly at Fort Leavenworth’s Command and General Staff College, about 50 miles from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. The soldiers will qualify for in-state tuition at the University of Kansas, currently about $2,165 a semester, not counting books or campus fees.

“Funding won’t be a problem. This is a commitment the Army will make,” Geren said.

Hemenway said other universities have inquired about the program, which the Army hopes to expand throughout the country.

After they complete the Army-paid education, the soldiers and civilians will go to work as instructors or other military employees, a requirement for being selected in the program. The first graduates are expected to join the Command and General Staff College staff.

Ronald James, assistant Army secretary for manpower and Reserve affairs, said the additional training would give soldiers an opportunity to give back to the military while raising the intellectual level of the Army.

“This is not a gift,” James said. “We are in an era where we are short of critical skills.”

Staff Sgt. Thomas Davis has been cleared to stay in the Army. He has been in for five years and wants to retire after 20. Davis was wounded by an improvised explosive device in June 2006, and is now a basic training instructor at Fort Benning, Ga.

“I didn’t know how long that was going to last. This is great to come out and go in a different direction and still serve in the Army the best way that I can,” he said.

Davis will seek an information technology management degree next fall.
Kansas State University's enrollment numbers for the spring 2008 semester have increased by 261 students from a year ago.

According to the enrollment figures released today by the Kansas Board of Regents, headcount for the spring semester at K-State is 21,008 students, 1.3 percent more than spring of 2007. Those figures include students both in Manhattan and elsewhere.

The figures released by the board showed an increase of 913 students at the six state universities, a 1.1 percent increase from spring 2007 semester to spring 2008. The combined enrollment reported for the six universities is 83,701 as of the 20th day of classes.

Other universities saw increases as well. Fort Hays State University had the most gain with an increase of 5.7 percent. The only state school in the state to not increase was the University of Kansas, which had a 0.6 percent decline.
Political journalists, historians to headline lecture series at KU

The Capital-Journal

LAWRENCE — The Dole Institute of Politics at The University of Kansas will examine “The American Presidency: Past, Present and Future” in its 2008 Presidential Lecture Series.

There will be four programs in the series in late February and early March. All will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Dole Institute and are free and open to the public.

A panel of political journalists will kick off the series with talk of the future presidency in “Straight From the Trail: Part I” on Tuesday. Part I will feature Jill Zuckman, of the Chicago Tribune; Steve Kraske, of the Kansas City Star; and Joel Mathis, of RedBlueAmerica.com.

Zuckman works in the Tribune’s Washington bureau and closely follows John McCain’s presidential campaign. Kraske is a Kansas City Star political correspondent, and Mathis is the blue moderator and blogger on Red Blue America, a political Web site that strives to present both sides.

On Feb. 28, the lecture series will focus on the George W. Bush administration with “Reagan’s Disciple,” which will feature authors Lou and Carl Cannon. The father-son duo will discuss whether Bush altered the conservative landscape in America and reshaped Ronald Reagan conservatism.

Lou Cannon, who kicked off the 2005 Presidential Lecture Series, is one of Reagan’s foremost biographers. Carl Cannon is an author and the White House correspondent for the National Journal. A book signing will follow.

“Straight from the Trail: Part II” will take place March 6 with reporters Lynn Sweet, Washington bureau chief for the Chicago Sun-Times; Chris Cillizza, of WashingtonPost.com; and Geoff Earle, of the New York Post.

Sweet is on the trail with Barack Obama’s camp, and Earle is traveling with Hillary Rodham Clinton. Cillizza is the editor of “The Fix,” a political blog at the Washington Post.

The final event in this year’s series will examine lessons from the Eisenhower era with “Ike’s Final Battle” on March 11. Political historian Kasey Pipes will examine Eisenhower’s presidency and the civil rights movement.

Pipes is a former speechwriter for the Bush administration and is author of “Ike’s Final Battle: The Road to Little Rock and the Challenge of Equality.” A book signing will follow.
LAURENCE — Students from eight Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, March 5, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 36 seniors from high schools in Marshall and Washington counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program in the First National Bank, 101 C St., Washington.

The Kansas Honor Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. 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.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Mike Davis, senior vice president for alumni programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Chancellor Robert Hemenway will speak to the students, parents and guests. 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.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Larry and Nancy Stoppel of Washington will be the site coordinators as well as county coordinators for Washington County. Other county coordinators are Kenneth and Zita Duensing of Blue Rapids for Marshall County.

The Kansas Honor Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Honorees’ names are listed below.

Ashley Blonquist Axtell High School 66403
Caitlan Brownell Clifton-Clyde High School 66937
Katie George Clifton-Clyde High School 66938
Anna Rogers Clifton-Clyde High School 66938

Amy Huninghake Frankfort High School 66427
Leah Miller Frankfort High School 66427
Kayla Mitchell Frankfort High School 66427
Merica Schreiner Frankfort High School 66427
Jena Wulfschleger Frankfort High School 66427
Briana Bruna Hanover High School 66945
Rashele Hynek Hanover High School 66945
Kirk Loges Hanover High School 66946
Christopher Martin Hanover High School 66946
Alexa Pralle Hanover High School 66412
Chantel White Hanover High School 66945
Megan Holle Linn High School 66953
Ashtyn Meyer Linn High School 66962
Benjamin Meyer Linn High School 66953
Levi Ohlde Linn High School 66953
Melissa Pachta Linn High School 66953
Kellyn Peters Linn High School 66962
Karissa Bruna Marysville Jr./Sr. High School 66508
Thomas Henry Marysville Jr./Sr. High School 66548
Rheba Howard Marysville Jr./Sr. High School 66412
Courtney Kroeger Marysville Jr./Sr. High School 66438
Lisa Loges Marysville Jr./Sr. High School 66508
Phillip Schmitz Marysville Jr./Sr. High School 66508
Emily Spunaugle Marysville Jr./Sr. High School 66508
Lindsey Coggins Valley Heights High School 66548

Kirk Duensing Valley Heights High School 66411
Brittani Whiting Valley Heights High School 66548
Claire Bailey Washington County High School 66968
Bridge Baker Washington County High School 66958
Tiffany Brax Washington County High School 66968
Cody Dodd Washington County High School 66968
Elise Hardenburger Washington County High School 66944