State's poet laureate grew up in Lawrence

Lawrence Journal-World

EMPORIA (AP) — As a child growing up in Emporia, Denise Low dreamed of becoming a painter, but admits she never had the opportunity — or the talent.

Instead, she learned to create images with words.

"I constantly think about writing. It's always in the back of my mind," the interim dean of humanities and art at Haskell Indian Nations University said.

And Low uses what's in front of her to create poetry with a regional flavor and a deep respect for nature.

"Her use of language is extraordinary and vivid," said Llewellyn Crain, executive director of the Kansas Arts Commission, the group that will work with Low as Kansas' second official poet laureate.

"She's a Kansas native. She uses the land and history to convey very profound thoughts about what it means to be alive now" in 21st century Kansas, Crain said.

Recently, Low began a two-year appointment as poet laureate. The title comes with a $5,000 annual honorarium to help cover travel costs and other expenses.

"I think that people are hungry to understand and feel good about their place in the world," she said.

Low, of Lawrence, hopes to feed that hunger with large helpings of homemade poems. Well-versed on other poets from the Sunflower State — both living and deceased — Low plans to put the spotlight on them during her term.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius created the poet laureate's position in 2004, charging that person with developing a greater appreciation for writing and poetry among all Kansans.

"It's not only an outstanding poet, but someone who wants to bring it to the public," Crain said. "Someone who's a real crusader for poetry and has a real commitment to it."

Amid her many public appearances — including guest lectures at Kansas University Continuing Education programs in July and the River City Reading Festival in October — Low plans to publish an e-mail profile of a Kansas poet every other week.

"This is the literary culture of this area, and I think it needs to be celebrated and recognized more fully," Low said.

Among other ideas, Low admits she has a "not-too-hidden ecological agenda." Nature, and the human relationship to it, is a recurring theme in her poems.

"People need to respect and interact with and have many kinds of relationships with nature, and these words are a vehicle for that," Low said.

Since she was selected as poet laureate in December, Low said she's received many e-mails from aspiring poets asking for critiques and advice. She said beginning writers must learn to look at the world around them.

"Not many people care about
your lost love, your dead dog or what you had for breakfast, but people do share an environment,” Low said. “But you’d be surprised how many people are out there writing poems.”
More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester. Among those recognized are four Mulvane High School graduates.

Students included on the honor roll of their respective colleges include: Gavin Snider, son of Tim and Rita Snider of Derby, an architecture undergraduate; Grant Snider, also the son of Tim and Rita Snider, an engineering undergraduate; Cara Comfort, daughter of Jackie and Mike Comfort, a nursing undergraduate; and Shanna Doering, daughter of Candice and Mark Doering, a liberal arts undergraduate.
New research group sets focus on root causes of TB

Associated Press

LAWRENCE — Experts in diverse fields such as genetics, anthropology and epidemiology have formed a consortium dedicated to bringing new strategies to the fight against tuberculosis.

It's a grand goal, and the effort is in its early stages, but members say the approach is different enough from typical medical research that it could someday provide customized treatments for TB sufferers.

They say that's necessary to treat a complex bacterial disease that kills about 2 million people a year and has nine or 10 different strains, some of which are causing worldwide alarm because they are resistant to current antibiotics.

"We are clearly in a very crucial stage of tuberculosis control," said Phil Griffin, director of tuberculosis control for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. "With the emergence of new strains, our tools for fighting it are getting very old."

The consortium involves about 30 researchers from the University of Kansas; the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research; the University of Arizona; the University of Texas-El Paso; the Texas Department of State Health Services; the state of Kansas; and Chihuahua University Medical School and Public Health Service in Mexico.

The International Consortium for the Study of Tuberculosis will focus on the DNA of populations with high rates of the disease, the genetics of the various strains of tuberculosis and environmental factors affecting high-risk populations.

While the disease has been largely eradicated in the U.S., the recent case of Andrew Speaker, who flew to several countries before being hospitalized in Colorado with extremely drug-resistant TB, has brought the disease back into the national consciousness.

But members of the consortium say their main concern is an influx of immigrants from countries where the disease has not been eradicated, such as Mexico, China and Somalia.

The problem is especially acute along the U.S.-Mexico border, and in states like Kansas that have growing immigrant populations.

"People are very, very concerned that our whole medical system is being threatened," said Michael Crawford, an anthropological geneticist at the University of Kansas who is directing the consortium. "The real fear is that we could have a pandemic at some point."

While some consortium members will study populations with high rates of tuberculosis — including their genetic makeup, family structure and environmental factors such as malnutrition or smoking — others will work in laboratories to unlock the genome of the disease.

They want to know why only about 10 percent of those who are infected with TB get the disease.

"The central question is 'Why?'" Crawford said. "Why do some people handle the disease and some die from it very, very quickly?"

The group's pilot project will focus on TB patterns among the Tarahumara, a native Indian tribe in northern Mexico with high rates of the disease. Members from the U.S. and Mexico have met to discuss the project and plan another meeting in August.

Results from that study may help Texas and Arizona officials battle high rates of TB in Mexico, which has been a concern for years along the U.S.-Mexico border.

For now, the consortium is trying to attract more funding and to bring representatives from places such as Russia, India and Africa on board. The group has initial funding of about $16,000 from the University of Kansas and some funding from the Texas health department.

Crawford said group members will work on the Mexico project and training workshops while trying to develop the credentials and research to attract more funding.
The names of the following area students appear on the 2007 Spring honor roll of the University of Kansas Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the medical center. They are grouped by town.

Lebo - Eric Scott Gourley and Travis Richard Wallace.

Pomona - Buck Allen Bradley, Christopher Wayne Harris, and Kyle Mackenzie Kost.

Reading - Curt Ryan Jones and Stuart Nelson Symmonds.

Burlingame - Ryan Michael Patrick.

Carbondale - Michael James Eamigh and Julie Ann Welge.

Lyndon - Christian L. Altic, Dennis R. Knoernschild, Alicia Jill Schmitz; and Jamie M. Schmitz.

Melvern - Jennifer Marie Lawhorn.

Osage City - Jarod Scott Jackson and John Michael Jacoby.

Overbrook - Maggie Elaine Apodaca, Jamie D. Coffman, Joan Renae Hudson, Lindsey Nicole Sand; Ray Glenn Thompson III; Jennifer Ann Watson; and Brandy Lee Wilson.

Scranton - John Robert Granger.

Vassar - Mark Austin Harries.
KU Announces
Spring 2007
Honor Roll

From Kismet:
Joshua Wayne Roehr, son of Bruce Roehr, Education; Kevin Clark Veltri, son of Mike and Laura Veltri, Education; and Kelli Lynn Roehr, daughter of Jan Nuss, Liberal Arts.

From Liberal:
Jesus Antonio Castillo, son of Carmen and Samuel Castillo, Liberal Arts; Ofelia Castro, daughter of Bill and Yolanda French, Education; Hong Thanh Le Do, daughter of Hue Do, Journalism Undergraduate; Jesus R. Hidalgo, son of Gloria Hidalgo, Pharmacy Professional Prof; Stephen D. Lewis, son of Bill Lewis, Liberal Arts; Nicholas Kent McMullen, son of Brian and Elizabeth McMullen, Liberal Arts; Ryan Eugene McNabb, son of Janice McNabb, Business; Caitlyn Ngoc Nguyen, daughter of Viet and Thanh-Hoa Nguyen, Liberal Arts; Suong T. Nguyen, daughter of Dat Nguyen, Liberal Arts; Reece James Petty, son of Rex and Eydie Petty, Liberal Arts; Kendal Ryan Reed, son of Steve and Anita Reed, Liberal Arts; Joshua Andrew Schepers, son of Mark and Kathy Schepers, Business; and Tyler Cole Westerman, son of Mel and Melisa Westerman, Engineering.
University of Kansas

The University of Kansas School of Allied Health, Kansas City, awarded the following scholarships at the conclusion of the 2006-07 academic year:

**Lewis:** Tara Roenbaugh, Dean's scholarship, June Hull Sherrid scholarship; **Dodge City:** Trinh Thuy Tran, Dean's scholarship, June Hull Sherrid scholarship, Lindsay Gibbs, June Hull Sherrid Scholarship;

**Hutchinson,** Aaron Wiens, Dean’s scholarship, June Hull Sherrid scholarship, Sean Tucker; Student Senate Scholarship, June Hull Sherrid scholarship, Louise de Schweinitz Darrow Award; **Utica,** Jennifer Lindsley, June Hull Sherrid Scholarship; **Plains,** Elizabeth Mercer, June Hull Sherrid Scholarship; **Halstead,** Kimberly Milne, June Hull Sherrid Scholarship; **Inman,** Emily Yoder, Faculty Award for outstanding health information management student; **Great Bend,** Aimee Riegel, Joan Mills Clinical Excellence Award.
More hurdles to go

Before the proposals can become law, however, they must still clear the Senate, where lawmakers are plan-

ning to debate a similar bill that doesn’t include the loan rate reductions. The Senate’s plan also pumps more money into aid for poor students.

The House’s bill also faces opposition from the president, who threatened to veto the proposal, saying not enough of the benefits go to needy students. The Bush administration also criticized the creation of “poorly designed” mandatory programs with “significant long-term costs to the taxpayer,” in a written statement.

Supporters of the legislation, including 2nd District U.S. Rep. Nandy Boyda, said the bill represents the single largest federal investment in college aid since the GI Bill in 1944.

Boyda joined all four of the state’s representatives, including 1st District Congressman Jerry Moran, R-Hays, in voting in favor of the bill.

The debate over financial aid comes at the same time that student loan companies have been under fire nationally for providing perks to higher education officials.

In addition, tuition rates have jumped significantly at the state’s four-year universities, more than doubling at the University of Kansas and KSU. The amount of debt carried by undergraduate students at state universities also has increased. The average borrower has more than $17,000 in student loans.

More than half of all 2006 graduates at state universities left with loan debt, except at KU, where 43 percent were borrowers.

Gilloogly said she understands funding the aid changes might result in someone paying more. But the added spending would be worth it, she said.

“You may have to pay a price but, if it’s furthering the education of our future generation, you can’t go wrong.”

The Associated Press contributed to this story.
More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

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

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.

Local students earning the KU Spring 2007 Honor Roll are: Brandi Leigh Dixson, daughter of Glenda Dixson, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior; Elizabeth Louisa Hamel, daughter of Greg and Julie Hamel, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior; Emily Elizabeth Markley, daughter of Joe and Sheila Markley, Fine Arts Undergraduate, Sophomore; Hillary Renae Stroda, daughter of Bob Stroda and Terry Miller, Business Undergraduate, Senior; David Paul Wiese, son of Merve and Kay Wiese, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior; Adam P Gantenbein, son of Kenny and Rita Gantenbein, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Junior; and Cody Adair Riedy, son of Gary Riedy, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior.

These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and 37 other countries.
The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas is host to 48 high school seniors from across Kansas, chosen to participate in the Youth Civic Leadership Institute.

Students attending include Brandon Lackey of Sabetha and Amber Teske of Fairview, both seniors at Sabetha High School.

The youth program began Wednesday, July 11, and ends Friday, July 13. It is designed to foster appreciation and involvement in public service. Students stay overnight on the KU campus in a residence hall.
KU Honor Students

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Local students include:

Hiawatha: Blake George Paul Barrett, son of Gene and Kathryn Barrett Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior; Taylor Collins)Lenon, son of Dennis and Sandy Lenon, Fine Arts Undergraduate Senior; Megan Ann Persinger, daughter of Bill and Kathy Persinger, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior; Brice Nathaniel Sanner, son of Tim and Vicky Sanner, Business Undergraduate Senior; Jordan Isaac Sanner, son of Tim and Vicky Sanner Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior; Charles Robert Stinson, son of Robert and Bernadette Stinson, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior; Elizabeth Marie Weingart, daughter of John and Nancy Weingart Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore

Horton: Matthew Wayne Dunlap son of Teresa and Gregory Sanderson

Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore; Nathaniel R Mayhew son of David Schuetz Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore; Joshua Cole Oaks son of Rodney and Delia Oaks Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior; Whitney Nicole Ryan daughter of James and Lois Ryan Education Undergraduate Senior

Robinson: Clarence Wayne Hall son of Shiela Erdley Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior

Denton: Leigh Ann Massey daughter of Mary Ann and Melvin Massey Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore

Highland: Kristan Sue Olson daughter of Wayne and Marla Olson Education Undergraduate Senior; Angela Kay Stewart Female - Nursing Undergraduate Senior

Troy: Kristin Beth Jeschke daughter of Rick and Laura Jeschke Nursing Undergraduate Senior; Bret Andrew Johnson son of Greg and Carol Johnson Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior; Sean Ryan McIntosh son of Gary McIntosh Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior

Wathena: Darren Michael Koehler son of Lori and Brian Koehler Liberal Arts Undergraduate Junior.