KU grad finds new fruit bat species

LAWRENCE (AP) — University of Kansas graduate student Jake Esselstyn was collecting bat species in 2006 with a research team in the forests of the Philippines when a guide told him about an unusual fruit bat he'd seen.

The man described a bat with orange fur, white stripes on its face and a black beard on its throat. Its facial features resembled that of a fox, and its wing span was about two feet.

"I didn't believe his description. I thought he was a prankster," Esselstyn, 33, said. "And then a few days later we caught one."

Although the "flying fox" bat had been known to Filipinos and bat hunters for a long time, he said, a specimen had never been captured.

Esselstyn said the Filipino government announced the discovery of the bat and "word spread." Since then, he has been interviewed by National Geographic and other media.

"It's a nice example of how little we know about the animals in the world," he said.

Esselstyn, who grew up in Oregon, moved to Lawrence in the fall of 2004 to work on his Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology. His dissertation, he said, explores "genetic variations across geography."

In the past three years, Esselstyn has made six trips to the Philippines to collect specimens. The island country already was familiar to him because he had served as a Peace Corps volunteer there from 1998 to 2001, doing biodiversity and inventory.

He said little is known about the flora and fauna on the island, so finding a new mammal species is "not as uncommon as you might believe."

Esselstyn said the researchers set up nets on farms, in forests and over streams to catch the bats while they were flying. Sometimes, they sought out the bats in caves.

"They get tangled up in the nets and getting them out is time-consuming," he said.

The researchers have caught as many as a thousand bats in one night, he said.

"There are 75 to 80 (known) species of bats in the Philippines," he said. "Some are common and then there's others that are rare."

The researchers determine which bats they want to euthanize and export to KU to study. Once the animals are at KU, he cleans some of the skulls and skeletons and preserves some of the bat bodies in jars filled with a preservative. The specimens are then catalogued in order to secure the data.

"I'm interested in how animals diversify, colonize a new area and evolve into a new species," he said.

When the KU researchers are done studying the specimens, one-half is sent to the Philippine National Museum in Manila; the other half remains in the collection at KU's Natural History Museum.

Esselstyn said the "flying fox" fruit bat is "the flagship species for conservation in the Philippines" because its appearance is so appealing it has the potential to change the way people think about bats.
Proponents tout deal's benefits for rural Kansas

By CHRIS GREEN
cgreen@dailynews.net

TOPEKA (HNS) — Supporters say an agreement expanding the links between the state's medical school and a Missouri hospital could ultimately help bring more doctors and cancer treatments to rural Kansas.

The state Board of Regents signed off Thursday on a long-talked about affiliation agreement between the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., and St. Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

The decision initially wasn’t supposed to be discussed by the board this month but it was added to the agenda Thursday morning.

“I think it’s going to be something that’s going to positively affect the whole state,” said board member Janie Perkins of Garden City.

However, the pact has generated controversy over the past year. Some critics, particularly conservative lawmakers, are concerned about how the deal would affect the school’s primary teaching hospital in Kansas, which competes with the Missouri hospital.

Other questioned whether the state would lose out on medical residents because they’d be working in a Missouri health care system.

A chief critic, House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ringkalls, said in a written statement that he was concerned that university officials were moving forward with the agreement, prior to reaching a deal with nearby KU Hospital.

The KU Hospital is governed independently from the school but operates under an agreement to serve as the university’s primary academic, clinical, teaching and research hospital.

University and board officials offered assurances that the state would see only gains from the affiliation, which will provide KU Medical Center with at least $1 million a year for the next four years.

Dr. Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center, said the parties expect the agreement to bring an additional 10 residents to St. Luke’s over the next three to five years.

Eventually, the medical school hopes that as many as 100 additional slots would be added at the Missouri hospital so KU can train more physicians and provide them with a more diverse clinical training, she said.

University officials said the deal is the first in a three-step process expand the medical school’s ability to serve the state and the region.

KU officials also must reach an agreement with KU Hospital and make arrangements to determine how the three entities will collaborate on KU's plans for a nationally designated cancer center.

Regent Gary Sherrer asked Atkinson to explain how the deals would benefit individuals living in "out state" Kansas.

Atkinson said that while the arrangements weren’t likely to produce more primary care physicians, they would result in more specialists being trained. That could help non-metropolitan areas gain more cardiologists, anesthesiologists and other specialty physicians they lack today.

She also said the cancer center would bring additional research for cancer cures, which could also result in more opportunities for treatment throughout the state.

Sherrer said he was hopeful the end result would be that people in central and western Kansas wouldn’t have to drive as far to receive the latest in medical care.

“Just think that some of the people who are so concerned about this don’t understand and need to take into account the human element and the vision.”
Student: Still room to improve cultural relations

By EMILY BEHLMANN
ebehlmann@gctelegram.com

Elements like trust, cooperation and networking are strong in Garden City, despite some national studies that shows a recent depletion of these traits in a modern, diverse society, according to research presented Saturday at the Finney County Museum.

However, most of Garden City’s municipally sponsored events and agencies attracted people that were ethnic-specific, though some adjustments could make these activities more inclusive, said Molly DesBaillets, an anthropology graduate student at the University of Kansas.

DesBaillets has been compiling research into a master’s thesis on social capital in Garden City, following a six-

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Relations: Student: Still room for improvement

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conducted observations, interviews and other research. Her work also took into account research conducted 20 years ago by her adviser, KU anthropology professor Don Stull, on the relationship between newcomers and established residents in Garden City.

In a presentation to about 25 residents, she said her main research question was how municipal government affects Garden City’s social capital, the valuable connections between people and groups.

There recently has been a growth of research into social capital, and DesBaillets said one researcher of interest was Robert Putnam, director of the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and author of the 2001 book “Bowling Alone.”

In the recent paper “E Pluribus Unum,” Putnam writes that in the short run, “immigration and ethnic diversity tend to reduce social solidarity and social capital,” and that in the United States, “in ethnically diverse neighborhoods residents of all races tend to hunker down. Trust (even in one’s own race) is lower; altruism and community cooperation rarer; friends fewer.”

However, DesBaillets said she didn’t find this to be the case in Garden City, saying immigration from a variety of countries “shifted the face of social capital but did not deplete it.”

She cited several examples of events and institutions she thought were rich in social capital, though they haven’t necessarily been included in most studies, like boxing clubs, community theater and youth baseball.

At baseball games, for instance, bleachers are ethnically mixed as residents chat, contributing to psychological well-being and raising levels of trust and belonging, she said.

The families and team members were part of a social network, with regular meeting times, and their relationships often extended beyond the field, turning into friendships, DesBaillets said.

She said many local adults also were civically engaged, with involvement in advisory boards, volunteer organizations and other groups. Those who don’t participate in formal institutions still tend to be involved informally, by preparing dinner for neighbors or helping seniors with yard work, she said.

“The reason I bring up these examples is to help think through what kinds of things are done to achieve a space where people feel welcome,” DesBaillets said.

She said municipal government, a group she said generally has done well adjusting to diversity, could heed some of the advice that inclusive events like youth baseball present. Most municipally sponsored events she observed, like Finney County Fair competitions, the Stevens Park Concert Series and Community Mexican Fiesta, drew mostly ethnic-specific crowds.

Organizers could seek the advice of the Cultural Relations Board — a group formed following a recommendation by Stull and his fellow researchers — to increase the trust in and inclusiveness of their events, DesBaillets said. Possible adjustments would include establishing a salsa contest at the fair or inviting Hispanic church musicians to play in the Stevens Park Concert Series.

Institutions also could work to overcome an English/Spanish linguistic divide cited in some of DesBaillets’ interviews by making translators more readily available, producing bilingual publications, and offering a variety of courses not only to learn English but also to learn Spanish, she said.

Gipsy Serrand, a psychology major at Garden City Community College who moved from Nebraska, said that as a recent newcomer, she sees some involvement between the Hispanic and Anglo-Saxon communities. Yet the two groups mostly stay separated, she said.

However, other Hispanic long-term residents said they feel they are a part of the community as a whole, and that they can spend time with people of any ethnic group.

Several audience members said it would be up to the youth to move the community in a more inclusive direction — if they stay in town.

Part of the problem, Serrand said, is Garden City lacks a four-year university, so many leave for school and don’t return.

She said one way to combat that would be for potential employers to connect with potential employees in high school or at GCCC, and keep personal contact with them as they earn four-year degrees. That way, they’d be more likely to return for a job, Serrand said.

DesBaillets said part of her reason for returning to Garden City to present her findings was to seek feedback from residents. She said she was glad for the participation by various audience members, and that she would incorporate ideas like personal contact by employers into her thesis, which she hopes to complete by the end of the year.

“This helps rethink things from a Garden City perspective instead of a Lawrence perspective,” she said.

She presents her final findings at the Society for Applied Anthropology’s annual meeting in March in Memphis, Tenn., and copies of her thesis will be sent to the Finney County Public Library and the Finney County Museum.
Area students to be recognized at dinner

The University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment plan to recognize a group of high school students from southwest Kansas by naming them Kansas Honors Scholars at a dinner program at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at Seward County Community College, Liberal.

Students recognized will include the following:

- Hugoton High School
  - Brenda Erives, Shay Hicke, Katherine Lulf, Patricia Reyes, Kristen Schnittker, Sheena Shuck and Savannah Thomas

- Moscow High School
  - Tony Granillo and Blake White

- Satanta High School
  - Kyla Clawson, Rebecca Haddican and Jessica Shogren

- Stanton County High School
  - Ashley Burkett-Crist and Garrett Martin

- Sublette High School
  - Hope Lucas, Paul Messerly and Lainie Sjeklocha

- Ulysses High School
  - Marisa Broyles, Justin Egley, Pamela Eveleigh, Tory Fry, Mattie Higgins, Hannah Koops, Shane Martwick, Garrett Metcalf, Grant Prusa,

- Andi Shore, Kristy Stevenson, Brandi Stevenson, Heather Waechter and Megan Zerr:
Student Held In Woman's 'Horrific' Beating

LAWRENCE (AP) -- A University of Kansas student has been charged for the bloody beating of a Lawrence woman.

Matthew Jaeger, 22, was arrested Tuesday after police rescued the badly beaten woman from a vehicle. The college senior, who's trained in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, is accused of attacking a female acquaintance so brutally that more than 24 hours later doctors still didn't know the extent of her injuries.

"This is extraordinarily horrific. The wounds are extraordinarily terrible," Assistant District Attorney Dave Melton told a judge Wednesday afternoon during the suspect's first court appearance.

Jaeger is charged with aggravated kidnapping, aggravated battery, aggravated burglary and making criminal threats. He is being held on a $850,000 bond.

Jaeger told Judge Stephen Six via camera from the Douglas County Jail that "a lot of this could just be a big misunderstanding."

Police said Jaeger broke into an apartment and held the woman captive in a car. Authorities found an ax, a martial arts knife and a Bowie knife in the vehicle.

Prosecutors said the woman has already undergone two surgeries at Lawrence Memorial Hospital and will require more.

The next court hearing is scheduled for Oct. 23.
Harvard professor to speak at 60+ program

Dr. Arthur J. Dyck, a Harvard Divinity School professor and alumnus of Tabor College, will present “Preserving Life’s Worth Within the Context of End-of-life Decisions” at 10 a.m. Monday at the 60+ Learning in Retirement Program in the Wohlgemuth Music Education Center at Tabor College in Hillsboro.

The public is invited to attend.

Dr. Dyck is Research Professor of Ethics at Harvard Divinity School, Professor Emeritus at the Harvard School of Public Health, and Director of the Kennedy Interfaculty Program in Medical Ethics at Harvard, in Cambridge, Mass. He is a leading apologist for Christian ethics in the academic debate over end-of-life issues.

In addition to his speaking engagement, Dr. Dyck is returning to Hillsboro to receive the Tabor College Alumni Medallion Award for his lifetime of service to society. The presentation will occur Saturday during homecoming activities.


In his most recent book, a revised version of “Rethinking Rights and Responsibilities: The Moral Bonds of Community,” Dr. Dyck argues for the compatibility of Christian arguments in the modern debate over life and death, which is a minority position among ethicists in academia.

Dr. Dyck was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and raised in Ontario, Canada. He made the decision to study at Tabor College after hearing the Tabor choir perform in his hometown. After graduating from Tabor in 1953, he earned two master’s degrees from the University of Kansas, and a Ph.D. in religious ethics from Harvard.

Admission for Learning in Retirement Series is $3 per session or $15 per semester ($28 per couple). Registration and discount cards for lunch in the college cafeteria will be available at the door before the meeting. For more information, contact the coordinator at (620) 947-3121 or 947-5964.
Signs point to Brownback pulling out

Campaign schedules news conference for today in Topeka

By James Carlson
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Sen. Sam Brownback reportedly will exit the presidential race today, ending a campaign that lagged behind in fundraising and fell flat in a recent key poll among Iowa Republicans.

Brownback will hold a news conference this afternoon at the Kansas Statehouse, one mile from the Kansas Expocentre’s Heritage Hall where he announced his candidacy 10 months ago. He spent some of Thursday calling supporters and Iowa Republican officials to inform them of his decision.

The senator gathered moderate support from social conservatives for his stance against abortion and same-sex marriage.

According to local observers, Brownback’s thunder was stolen by former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who shares many of the conservative ideals of the two-term Kansas senator but was widely seen as more engaging in debates.

“Huckabee had one big advantage, and that is he’s a Baptist minister,” said Joe Alstrup, a Kansas State University political science professor. “He probably knows how to connect with Christian conservatives like no other candidate can.”

Alstrup said Brownback probably would have fared better if not for Huckabee.

Brownback had stacked a lot of his eggs in the Iowa straw poll, an early chance to garner broader media attention and boost his fundraising efforts. But spending heavily in the poll didn’t pay off as well as hoped, said Washburn University political science professor Bob Beatty. It was Huckabee who surprised observers by finishing second behind
Brownback: Campaign funds have dropped

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"I think Brownback saw the writing on the wall at that point," Beatty said.

Jonathan Earle, interim director of the Dole Institute of Politics at The University of Kansas, thought the timing was odd.

"If you can afford to wait until people are actually casting ballots, I would think you would," he said.

Brownback’s funding has dwindled recently. Financial reports released earlier this week showed he had $94,000 on hand, far less than any of his opponents, and he had raised just more than $800,000 in the past quarter.

In total, the senator raised nearly $4 million, compared to $62 million for high-profile candidate Romney and $47 million for Giuliani.

Brownback’s polling numbers never peaked above double digits, and a Des Moines Register poll earlier in October tracked him at two percent of Iowa Republican voters.

The Associated Press reported Thursday that sources close to the senator said Brownback would announce his exit today, and the campaign said he would have a news conference this afternoon.

Beatty says Brownback’s exit isn’t for lack of effort.

"He had a good plan, but Huckabee had the same plan, and it just worked better for him," he said. "Brownback showed up and even with small crowds, he had fire in the belly."

Alstrup said Brownback shouldn’t feel bad about bowing out at this juncture.

"Running for president of the United States is one of the hardest things to do," he said. "A lot of good candidates with all the right intentions of running never make it far."

In a Topeka Capital-Journal interview in 2005, Brownback recognized the problems he could face in a presidential run.

"I have to have a longer lead time and do more tilling of the field than several other candidates would have to do," he said.

The 50-year-old has been rumored to be interested in the governor’s office for 2010. He pledged when he first ran in 1996 that he wouldn’t seek a third U.S. Senate term, and he reaffirmed that pledge in 2005. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ term ends in 2010.

Brownback’s exit leaves eight Republicans in the field.

James Carlson can be reached at (785) 295-1186 or james.carlson@cjonline.com.
Hairspray next do at Lied

By Bill Blankenship
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

LAWRENCE — "Hairspray," the John Waters film made into a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical that was transformed into a Hollywood blockbuster, comes this week to the Lied Center in its stage musical form.

A NETworks Presentations' national tour of "Hairspray," which won eight 2003 Tony Awards, including the one for Best Musical, will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the performance hall at the University of Kansas.

Set in 1962 in Baltimore, the '50s are out and change is in the air. Sixteen-year-old Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, has but one passion — to dance.

Tracy wins a spot on the local television dance program, "The Corny Collins Show," and, overnight, she is transformed from an outsider to irrepressible teen celebrity. But can a plus-size trendsetter in dance and fashion vanquish the program's reigning princess, win the love of heartthrob Link Larkin AND integrate a television show without denting her 'do?

"Hairspray" the musical is based on the Waters film which starred Nikki Lake as Tracy and Divine as her mother, Edna Turnblad.

Marissa Janet Winokur and Harvey Firestein won Tonys for those respective roles on Broadway, where the musical is still playing with Overland Park native Shannon Durig as Tracy.

For the 2007 film, John Travolta filled Edna's pumps, while Nikki Blonsky was selected to be Tracy from more than 1,100 candidates in an open casting call.

Tickets for "Hairspray" are $49 and $40, with a $1 discount for seniors 62 and older and 50 percent off for KU and Haskell Indian Nations University students and youths to age 18.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (785) 864-ARTS or going to www.lied.ku.edu.
Henry Way, right, a graduate student at KU, is learning about Kansas by traveling with lawmakers to their homes. Way recently traveled to Wilson County with Rep. Forrest Knox and included a tour of the Citizen back shop on his visit.

First-hand knowledge helps Way in study of geography

When you’re studying geography in a country other than your native country, books aren’t the best way to learn about a new place. Especially about a country that is enormous in terms of what you’re used to.

That is what Henry Way, now a graduate student at the University of Kansas, is discovering. When it comes to the geography of the United States, it’s most effective to study it first hand.

Way came to the United States two years ago, and he is spending time examining the widely varies geographic details of the area. He was already familiar with the geography of his homeland, having studied the details of his home in Bristol, England. But while England is certainly interesting, when it comes to geography, Way decided that the United States had an interesting variety of geographical locations.

And so he traveled to this country on a trek to bring geography to life in a way the classroom never could. He’s been studying it ever since. Right now he is involved with seeing and learning the formations that make up Kansas. He has been studying the state from corner to corner. And he chose a most efficient method of doing so.

Way has been making appointments with the state’s elected representatives and spending time with them, hoping to get to every district in the state. This past weekend, he visited with Rep. Forrest Knox, and got to know his district, which includes Wilson County.

Way commented that southeast Kansas reminded him a good deal of his home in Bristol, the terrain being similar. But life in southeast Kansas is significantly different from his home, and he enjoyed getting to meet some Kansas natives, learn about their ways of life and thus add excitement to his studies. He was happy to be greeted so warmly by southeast Kansans, and said he hoped to make a return trip, sometime during his studies at KU.

If he spends enough time here, Way may change a great deal. He might even turn into... gulp!...a KU Jayhawk!
Derby graduate passes Illinois bar

Derby News Report
sgregory@derbyreporter.com

Chance’ L. Cooper, a 2000 Derby High School graduate, passed the bar this month.

She will be sworn in on Nov. 9.

Cooper graduated from the University of Kansas in 2004 and attended Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, where she graduated in May 2007.

She was a member of Moot Court and an editor on the Consumer Law Review.

While in Moot Court, Cooper was a National Finalist and was awarded Best Overall Advocate for her region in New York.

In her final year of law school, she was given the role of Chief Justice of Moot Court.

Cooper currently works for the law firm of Belgrade and O’Donnell in Chicago.

Cooper