KU to honor area high school Seniors

Lawrence, Kan. Students from eight Kansas high schools will be honored Monday, Oct. 15, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 60 seniors from high schools in Cherokee and Labette counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Labette County High School, 601 S. High School St., Altamont.

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.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary, in both hardback and CD versions, presented by Jennifer Sanner, senior vice president of communications for the KU Alumni Association and editor of Kansas Alumni magazine.

Chancellor Robert Hemenway will speak to the students and their 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 $11 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Dennis and Joanna Willson of Parsons will be the site coordinators. Neale and Wandalee Shaw of Parsons will be county coordinators for Cherokee and Labette counties.

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

Those honored from area high schools are: Galena: Adrienne Dodge; Noemi Lopez; Ashton Titus; Whitney Wade; Stephanie Watson; Riverton: Michelle Andrews; James Barrett; Esther Campbell; Josh Davis; Alexia Walker; Megan Wells; Baxter Springs: Marcus Bunce; Crystal Carver; Brooke Elliott; Katherine Kemp; Kris Sanderson,
Coal production has hazards

By JOHN HANNA
Associated Press Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — A regional utility's top executive acknowledged the dangers of global warming and promoted conservation Thursday, but he said coal-fired power plants still will be necessary to satisfy rising demands for energy.

Bill Downey, president and chief executive officer of Kansas City Power & Light Co., spoke during a conference where two Kansas scientists also outlined potential problems that climate change could cause. They include hotter summers and shorter crop-growing seasons in western Kansas, they said.

Discussions at the University of Kansas conference were timely because of a debate over proposed coal-fired power plants in Kansas and Missouri. Environmentalists worry about coal plants' potential emissions of carbon dioxide, which most scientists see as a major contributor to global warming.

In Kansas, Sunflower Electric Power Corp. is seeking an air-quality permit from the state for its $3.6 billion plan to build two-coal-fired plants in southwest Kansas. In Missouri, KCP&L is building a coal-fired plant northwest of Kansas City but promised environmentalists in March to develop wind power and energy conservation programs.

Downey said helping consumers reduce their energy use shows great promise but demand will still require higher energy production, including electricity from coal-fired plants. Technology to make coal burn cleaner and to capture and store carbon dioxide is an important part of reducing CO2 emissions, he said.

"Coal, oil and natural gas will remain indispensable," he said. "It's a hard truth that a rapidly growing world economy will require large increases in energy supplies over the next quarter-century."

About 130 people attended the conference, including utility officials, legislative staff, university scientists, and federal, state and local officials. Organizers wanted the event to touch on issues involving energy, the environment and the economy because they viewed them as intertwined.

But the mix of messages about the need for higher energy production and the potential problems from global warming troubled conference attendee Dan Nagengast, executive director of the Kansas Rural Center.

"It adds up to doom," he said, chuckling over the clashing themes.

According to federal statistics, the U.S. generates almost half of its electricity from coal-fired plants, and Kansas and Missouri rely even more heavily on them.

Three-quarters of Kansas' electricity comes from coal-fired plants, while the figure is 85 percent for Missouri.

The federal government expects Americans' demand for energy to grow over the next several decades, and Downey said KCP&L's experiences back up that assumption.

It's a global trend as well. Timothy Carr, a senior scientist with the Kansas Geological Survey, said the worldwide demand for energy will increase as China and other developing nations seek to improve their standards of living.

"It's not going to come from renewables," Carr said. "It's going to come from coal."

Nagengast questioned what he saw as an assumption that citizens of developing nations will want to emulate westerners' over-consumption of goods and services.

"I think to draw these charts out, assuming that the whole world is going to be sort of as gluttonous as we are and ever-increasingly so, probably underestimates just how people perceive the world," he said.

But even in forecasting higher energy demands and use of coal, Downey and Carr said the potential environmental issues must be addressed.

Johannes Feddema, a University of Kansas geology professor, said computer models suggest western Kansas would become drier with a rise in temperatures.

And Charles Rice, a professor of soil microbiology at Kansas State University, said rains could become less frequent but more intense.

Because of concerns about CO2 emissions, Nagengast and other environmentalists want utilities to promote conservation and develop wind power.
Sticking points

By The Associated Press

ENERGY NEEDS: Bill Downey, the top executive at Kansas City Power & Light Co., said Thursday that increasing demands for energy will require increased production of electricity from coal-fired plants, even as he promoted energy efficiency and acknowledged the dangers posed by carbon dioxide emissions.

CLIMATE WARNING: Two Kansas scientists warned global warming could make western Kansas drier and shorten its crop-growing seasons. CO2 emissions are seen as a major cause of climate change.

THE FORUM: They spoke at a conference at University of Kansas.

WHY IT’S TIMELY: Sunflower Electric Power Corp. wants to build two coal-fired plants in southwest Kansas. In northwest Missouri, KCP&L is building a coal-fired plant but has agreed to develop wind energy and efficiency programs as well.
Shots fired at KU dorm during its fall break

By Emily Sterk

An unknown gunman fired three shots as a University of Kansas residence hall last weekend during the university's fall break. No one was injured.

According to the crime alert on the KU Web site, www.ku.edu, the shots were fired at Lewis Hall between 5:30 p.m. Oct. 13 and 10:30 a.m. Oct. 14.

The alert posted that an unknown person shot into two windows on the east side of Ekdahl Dining Commons and one window on the west side of the Lewis Hall third floor lobby.

Chris Keary, assistant chief of police at KU, said no one was injured. Keary said the university is posting the crime alert, which will branch off to other news sources.

"We put out the crime alert to help bring any more information for who is responsible," Keary said.

Hannah Love, KU student body president, said no one was around because the incident happened over the students' fall break.
The University of Kansas Army ROTC program’s Wall of Fame ceremony is from 9-11 a.m. Nov. 3 at the KU ROTC building before the Kansas-Nebraska homecoming football game. All former Army ROTC graduates from KU or any of its extension centers are invited to see military demonstrations by cadets and listen to the 312th Army Reserve Band. Contact David Pendleton at (913) 684-5320 or henry.david.pendleton@us.army.mil for information.
Supreme Court orders new trial

TOPEKA (AP) — The Kansas Supreme Court is ordering a new trial for a Lyon County man who was convicted of child molestation. The court found that Kenneth Waddell's constitutional right to confront his accuser was violated because the trial court allowed videotaped testimony by a 7-year-old girl.

Victim at one time stood up for accused, witness says

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Testimony by prosecution witnesses continued in the trial of a Kansas woman accused of cutting the baby from a pregnant Missouri woman and strangling her. A man who knew both women says the victim had spoken in favor of the accused -- Lisa Montgomery -- even when others distrusted her.

Garden City Zoo has reason to celebrate

GARDEN CITY (AP) — The Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City is celebrating the hatching of two healthy chicks whose species is almost extinct in its native Indonesia. The Bali Mynah Bird is a distinctive white starling with an electric blue patch over its eyes.

University officials share in blame for records flap

TOPEKA (AP) — University of Kansas officials blames a breach of student privacy on a department that didn't follow standard policies for destroying documents. The problems became known last month, when someone mailed discarded records to three newspapers.
LAWRENCE, Kan. (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 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.
Deficiencies led to release of records

By JOHN HANNA
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A breach of about 600 students' privacy occurred at the University of Kansas last month because its math department didn't follow standard policies for destroying discarded documents, officials have concluded.

But the university said Friday it had corrected the problems and had notified students and staff whose personal information was included in the documents.

The problems in handling documents became known when someone mailed documents anonymously to three newspapers. The packets came with letters saying the papers had come from either the department or the university's recycling center.

It was the second report of such a privacy breach in two months.

The records included what appeared to be graded exams, job applications, change-of-grade forms, class rosters, seating charts and copies of health insurance cards and immigration forms, according to editors at the newspapers. Many contained Social Security or other identifying information, and a few contained credit card numbers, the university said.
October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Pink is not a traditional fall color, but pink ribbons are on full display this October in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

In Kansas, it's the second leading cause of cancer death among women. Annually 2,000 women in Kansas are diagnosed with breast cancer and 400 lose their battle. My aunt died of breast cancer when she was 33, leaving five children behind. The good news is that medicine has advanced since then, and many more women are survivors today. Early detection is key to treating the disease. If breast cancer is caught early, the five year survival rate is 97 percent. The American Cancer Society recommends women conduct self breast exams monthly, receive clinical breast exams annually, and that women over the age of 40 have a mammogram each year. The State of Kansas provides mammograms free of charge to low income women between the age of 40 and 64 through the Early Detection Works Program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

To date 20,000 Kansas women have received mammograms, 500 of which were diagnosed with breast cancer and were able to receive early treatment.

Women who are diagnosed with breast cancer deserve the highest quality medical treatment available. Here in Kansas we are fortunate that the breast cancer specialists at the University of Kansas Medical Center are leaders in diagnosing and treating breast cancer. The KU Breast Cancer Prevention Center saves lives through prevention, detection, and treatment, but extensive research is still needed to find the cause of and a cure for breast cancer. In an effort to take cancer research to the next level, the KU Cancer Center is seeking a designation as a National Cancer Institute. Dr. Roy Jenson, a Kansas-born and nationally recognized breast cancer researcher, is leading the effort to make KU a nationally recognized comprehensive cancer research and treatment center.

For the one in eight women who will develop breast cancer in their lifetime it is of critical importance that we find a cure for breast cancer. I encourage Kansans to make a difference by supporting breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment not just during October and Breast Cancer Awareness Month but throughout the year.

For more information about free mammograms and the Early Detection Works Program, visit www.k dhe.ks.gov/edw.
Kansas Honors Program recognizes 82 seniors

BY ASHLEY NETFIELD
Dodge City Daily Globe

Those who receive top honors have demonstrated their dedication to academics, according to University of Kansas chancellor Robert Hemenway. "You're the people who have a deep love of learning and a thirst for knowledge," Hemenway told a group of honor students Wednesday evening. "Don't take that for granted, and take it and make a difference in people's lives."

Eighty-two seniors from 16 high schools in southwest Kansas were named Kansas Honor Scholars for their ranking in the top 10 percent of their classes. The students were treated to an banquet at the Student Union Ballroom at Dodge City Community College, and they

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University of Kansas chancellor Robert Hemenway talks to students at a reception Wednesday night at Dodge City Community College. RICK DRUSE/DAILY GLOBE

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were each awarded hardback and CD-ROM versions of the American Heritage Dictionary.

Hemenway spoke to the crowd about the importance of thinking globally and the types of challenges that academics take on each day, such as finding a cure for malaria or reducing the prevalence of poverty.

"I would encourage you to take on that kind of a challenge, a challenge that affects the destiny and the wellbeing of entire populations," he said.

The Kansas Honors Program was created in 1971 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association. Since then, KU Endowment has recognized more than 100,000 students.

Hannah Love, a graduate of Dodge City High School, a Kansas Honor Scholar and student body president of KU, also spoke at the banquet. Love encouraged the seniors to follow their own paths in life.

"You never grow or excel in a world that you already understand," she said. "At some point, even if you don't know what you're doing, even if it's uncomfortable or awkward, you have to step out of your comfort zone and really try something."

Love was able to relate her college experience to the same issues that the seniors are facing right now. She spoke about her struggle to find a major that suited her, joking that she picked a "major of the week" simply...
to have something to tell people who inquired.
Rather than urging the students to make a decision as soon as possible, Love encouraged them to let life take them where they want to go.

"Your way is the right way for you," she said.

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KU mascots to marry

BY JONATHAN KEALING
Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE — Big Jay and Baby Jay are about to get married. No, this is not a marketing promotion from the University of Kansas athletic department.

Jessica Virtue and Chris Veit, a former Baby Jay and Big Jay, respectively, will walk down the aisle this month. The two met when Virtue was trying out for the mascot squad, of which Veit was already a part.

"Friday night, you start tryouts, and I remember seeing her and thinking, That's a really hot girl," said Veit, from Overland Park. "The second day of tryouts, I tried really hard to be nice to her."

The two quickly became friends and, over time, began to date. But Virtue, who is from Lawrence, said it was important that they never let their characters seem like they were dating.

"I think it would be really weird for the fans if we were a little extra friendly when we were in the suit," she said.

But that didn't mean that the two didn't perform together. Although several people act as mascots, Veit and Virtue regularly were able to be "in suit" as the mascot community refers to it at the same time.

Veit said it was almost natural that the two found themselves interested in dating.

"You get a core group of mascots who are hard-core," Veit said. "Even before Jessica was in the picture, the other mascot and I would spend whole weekends together."

Virtue said the mascots would perform, then perhaps do an appearance, and then spend evenings or spare time repairing the costumes. It just made sense that they'd become close.

Albert Veit, Chris Veit's dad, said he knew quickly there was something special between the two, perhaps even before his son knew Virtue's name.

"Chris met her in the spring and then all summer long didn't see her. I would hear him mention to his friends all summer this blonde chick," Albert Veit said. "I think at that point he didn't even know her name."

But Albert Veit, who lives in Overland Park, said he could see a twinkle in his son's eyes that hadn't been there before. Albert Veit and his wife both knew this was the one, probably long before Chris Veit did.

"It's very cool. We were very excited," Albert Veit said. "They have a lot of common interests. They both enjoy sporting events and things of that nature. I would say it would probably help their relationship."

KU graduates Christopher Veit and Jessica Virtue, former Big Jay and Baby Jay, will be married this month. They were photographed Sept. 6 standing in front of the John Brown Jayhawk, one of the Jayhawks On Parade by sculptor Jim Brothers.