Centralia’s John Riggins has name placed in KU’s Ring of Honor

From the Centralia Panthers in High School, all the way to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, John Riggins “The Diesel” is now one of only 15 names on the legendary Ring of Honor at KU’s Memorial Stadium, a place for those chosen few selected for their significant on-field contributions to the game of football.

Riggins returned to his alma mater this past Saturday to receive the honor during the halftime ceremony of the KU vs. Baylor game.

Riggins stats and football legend are nationally known, but to area residents, Riggins’ story began well before he played for the Jayhawks or was named Super Bowl XVII MVP in ‘83. It began when he called Centralia his home and was quarterback for the Centralia Panthers and also a 100 yard dash Kansas State Champion in track & field, not once, but twice during his high school career.

He has come a long way since then, but in the Topeka Daily Capital, Riggins is quoted as saying, “To be honest, there was a time I didn’t want to leave Centralia, even to come to KU. My dad would watch a college game on TV and say, ‘That will be you someday’, and I thought, Yeah, right.’”

Well, “yeah right” is exactly what happened. Riggins earned his name in the Ring of Honor by leading KU in rushing for three seasons, finishing with 2,659 yards, ranking him in fifth place on KU’s all-time rushing chart and 14th for total yards.

Riggins went on to play for the New York Jets as a first round draft pick in 1971 and then, after five seasons, went to play for the Washington Redskins in ’76. He totaled 11,352 rushing yards for 104 touchdowns and caught 250 passes for 2,090 yards and 12 touchdowns during his career in the NFL.

Riggins was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1992 and is now living in New York, but still owns the family farm outside of Centralia.
"First Basket" premieres in heart of basketball country

“The First Basket,” a film documenting the Jewish legacy in professional basketball in America, will make its Midwest premiere Nov. 29 at the Lewis and Shirley White Theatre at the Jewish Community Campus as part of a fundraising effort by KU Hillel.

Tickets for the event will be available starting at the Jewish Arts Festival Oct. 14.

David Vyorst’s film details the history of basketball and its early Jewish stars, including the challenges faced by Jewish players. The first basket scored in the Basketball Association of America (a predecessor of today’s NBA) belonged to Ossie Schectman of the New York Knickerbockers in their inaugural season of 1946. Schectman and other Jewish players’ experiences are chronicled in this film that details the sport’s start in tough, Jewish lower-east side neighborhoods and the role Jews played in American basketball’s infancy.

Kansas City Star sportswriter Joe Posnanski will lead a panel that evening exploring Jewish involvement in athletics. Panelists will include the director, David Vyorst, former NBA players Dolph and Danny Schayes and other prominent figures from the world of sports.

This event will benefit KU Hillel. KU Hillel is the foundation for Jewish life at the University of Kansas, serving the estimated 2,000 Jewish students who attend KU. Each year, KU Hillel impacts the lives of hundreds of Jewish students through social, leadership-development, religious, social-action and other programs. Hillel was named the 2006/2007 Student Organization of the Year by the University of Kansas.

All proceeds from the Nov. 29 “The First Basket” event will be used to expand programming at KU Hillel and to build its endowment. None of the proceeds will be used as part of a capital campaign.

For more information about “The First Basket” or KU Hillel, go to www.kuhillel.org or call (785) 749-5397.
KU Hillel brings piece of Israel to campus

Every birthright israeli alumni’s dream is to return to israel immediately, if not sooner. University of Kansas Hillel gave students the next best thing by bringing the culture of israel to the KU campus.

Israel on the Hill, an annual event, took place Wednesday, Sept. 19, on the journalism school lawn. The program is in its third year.

“If students signed a petition to reinstate the Israel study abroad program at KU, they received a free T-shirt,” said Matt Lehrman, Hillel programs director.

The program was discontinued when the Kansas State Department issued a travel warning for Israel. As a policy, KU does not let students study through the university if a country has a travel warning, Lehrman said.

“The event initiated conversations about Israel in my classroom,” said Lauren Rabinowitz, a senior from Minneapolis. “There was a lot of publicity for study abroad in Israel, which I thought was really cool.”

Rabinowitz traveled abroad last semester in Europe, in part because of the strict policy regarding study abroad in Israel.

While frustrated students were able to voice their opinion through a petition to the university, others were able to enjoy other aspects of the event, such as a belly dancing demonstration and chat with Israelis. The event is designed to engage Jewish students interested in Israel and raise awareness on campus about Israel.

Magen David Adom had a representative at the event and the Jewish Federation’s Israeli Emissary, Nir Gad, was also present.

“Without a building on campus, programs like Israel on the Hill are vital to creating a community for Jewish students,” said Jay Lewis, Hillel director.
KU to honor 60 high school seniors

Students from eight Kansas High Schools will be honored Monday, October 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 the 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 curricular, majors, occupational planned higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary, in both hardback and CD versions, presented by Jennifer Garner, 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 Wilson of Parsons will be the site coordinators. Neale and Wanda Lee 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.

Cherokee Counties:

The honorees of Baxter Springs High School are Marcus Bunce, Crystal Carver, Brooke Elliott, Katherine Kemp, and Kris Sanderson.


The honorees of Riverton High School are Michelle Andrews, James Barrett, Esther Campbell, Josh Davis, Alexia Walker, and Megan Wells.
Hill's VP to head Olathe bioscience campus

JACK WEINSTEIN  
staff writer

A Manhattan native and Kansas State University alumnus was named chief operating officer of the Olathe bioscience campus and research park, the university announced Tuesday.

Dan Richardson, the vice president and chief animal welfare veterinarian for Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc., in Topeka, will assume his new role in January.

The collaboration between K-State and the Kansas Bioscience Authority was approved by the City Council in June. Olathe sold for $10 nearly 92 acres at the corner of College Boulevard and Valley Road for the development of the park.

The park will combine a K-State food safety and animal health research facility and research and office space for area bioscience firms.

"The bioscience niche is a broad one," Ron Trewyn, vice president for research at K-State said in prepared statement. "With Dan's leadership and strong connections to K-State, KU and the animal health community, I'm confident we will see lots of collaboration with other institutions. There is a significant foundation of food science and animal health business in the Kansas City area already, so incorporating K-State expertise in these areas to our Olathe campus will be a win-win for all."

The park will include more than 800,000 square feet of research and office space. It is expected to generate $150 million in public and private investment during the next 20 to 30 years. About 3,000 jobs at an average salary of $57,000 will be created as a result of the project.

"I'm excited about where we're going to go with this," Richardson said. "A lot of groundwork's been done. This visionary aspect of the Johnson County and Olathe citizenry is pretty impressive. I'm not sure I've ever been aware of that kind of initiative that's moved that fast and has stayed that committed."

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a bill in April authorizing Johnson County to place a two-tenths-of-a-cent sales tax or a 2-mill property increase or a combination of the two on a ballot for the funding of the county's education and research triangle.

The University of Kansas Edwards Campus Business, Engineering and Technology Center and a KU Cancer Research Center proposed in the northeastern part of the county would encompass the other two points of the triangle.

K-State officials have indicated they would move forward with the park whether the sales tax, which would generate $15 million annually with no sunset, wasn't put on a ballot or approved by voters.

The university seeks private investment and grants to fund the park. The sales tax revenue only would enhance funding, its officials said.

In late September, authority spokesman Clay Bettes said there had been considerable interest from companies wanting to locate at the park.

Richardson received an associate's degree from Colby Community College and a bachelor's degree and doctorate of veterinary medicine from K-State. After completing a surgery/medicine internship at Auburn University, Richardson completed his surgical residency at the University of Tennessee.

After serving as a professor of surgery at Purdue University, Richardson was an assistant and associate professor at North Carolina State University. He is an adjunct professor at North Carolina State and K-State.


"I'm very proud to be associated with it," Richardson said. "It's an opportunity to give back to state that's given a lot to me."
Contact Jack Weinstein at 764-2211, ext. 130, or jweinstein@theolathenews.com.
NAISMITH VISITS

Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game of basketball, made a special visit to Gridley last Tuesday evening. Naismith, in the person of Dr. William S. Worley, related to the crowd gathered at the Gridley Library, how the game came to be, along with other details of his life. Naismith was chaplain and professor of physical education at the University of Kansas, and also spent time as a supply preacher in the Presbyterian church.

Worley is a professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The program was part of the Kansas Humanities Council.

The program was thoroughly enjoyed by all.
KU seeks holiday host families

Program gives students a unique Thanksgiving

Tom Grimwood of Burns is a Kansas State University graduate with a 50-year history of sharing Thanksgiving with University of Kansas international students.

He was 3 years old in 1954 when his mother, Betty, contacted KU with an idea to invite international students to spend the holiday with families in Burns, a farm community about 60 miles northeast of Wichita.

The tradition, which was named the Betty Grimwood Thanksgiving Homestay Program in 1999 after her death, is now in its 53rd year.

KU's International Student and Scholar Services offices is again seeking host families for the program, which provides new international students the opportunity to experience Thanksgiving with a U.S. family.

Host families are needed for one or more international students either for the full Thanksgiving break — Tuesday, Nov. 20, to Sunday, Nov. 25 — or for Thanksgiving Day only — Thursday, Nov. 22.

Last year, 24 families from communities in Kansas and Missouri and 24 students participated. Interested families should contact Melissa Rogers, program coordinator, at (785) 864-3617 or issprograms@ku.edu. The application deadline is Nov. 1.

This Thanksgiving will be no different for Tom Grimwood. He and his wife, Nedy, and their young son plan to host a KU international student over the holiday as do a few other families in Burns. As youngsters, Tom and his brother, Charles, now living in Salina, and other Burns children learned world geography in part through international students from KU.

Their parents, Ted and Betty, kept in touch with their Thanksgiving guests and later visited some abroad. For 45 years, Betty Grimwood worked with the Burns United Methodist Women to organize the three-hour drive to Lawrence to gather international students.

"The Methodist church women continue to sponsor it," Tom Grimwood said.

He is a soil scientist who lived abroad for many years and now commutes to Wichita to teach Spanish, Italian and English to business groups. Although his father died in 2004, Tom Grimwood continues his parents' Thanksgiving tradition.

Host families from nearly 50 communities have participated in recent years, including Valley Falls.

This fall, 1,624 international students from 112 countries are enrolled at KU.

The 10 countries with the greatest number of students here are: China, 300, India, 224, Republic of Korea, 192, Saudi Arabia, 118, Taiwan, 71, Japan, 70, Turkey, 32, Germany, 31, Canada, 25, and Peru, 24.
Chaparral attends International Career Fair at KU

Several Chaparral High School students attended the International Career Fair at KU University last week. This career fair targeted high school students who have expressed an interest in working in an international business. Students listened to three panels of speakers in Education, Business, and Non-Government/Government organizations.

The keynote address was given by David Glassner, Director of International Finance with Cessna Corporation. His remarks certainly gave the students something to think about for their future. His message was “Do all you can to gain international exposure in some area, including fluency in a foreign language.” He said 4.0 MBAs were plentiful, but those with international studies or experience went to the top of the hiring list and started with heftier salaries.

He told the students that the three fastest growing economies were China, Russia, and Brazil and that China will soon have the largest economy in the world. He also explained that already 60% of Cessna’s sales are international sales.

Attending were Haley Ummel, Jennifer Kiser, Cooper Teel, and Dual Bringer, and sponsor Linda Dills.
What are you afraid of on Halloween?

By CAROL WRIGHT
Traveler Correspondent

For one night each year, the ghouls, goblins, ghosts, witches and black cats come forth to haunt familiar and new territory. In a child’s mind, Oct. 31 symbolizes spooky or funny costumes and going door-to-door for tricks or treats.

On a darker note, Halloween is like a curse put upon those who hate bats, crows, spiders, toads, snakes and owls; just a few of the traditional ‘celebrities’ of Halloween.

Every day of the year, however, people and these creatures inhabit the same world. Some human beings do not have a problem with sharing their world with other life forms.

But some people are so involved in a constant tug-o-war with these animals that they’d just as soon witness their banishment from society, then the whole planet, which would be a disaster for both.

Halloween should be fun for everybody. So why do people feel the fear and creepiness of spiders, crows, snakes, bats and toads?

"I can sum it up in one word: tradition," said Shawn Silliman, naturalist and director of Chaplin Nature Center.

These fears have been handed down from generation to generation, most of the time unintentionally. Just look at the historical perspective: Snakes are evil.

The English considered owls harbingers of death, as in Shakespeare's 'Macbeth.' It was once believed that bats carried rabies . . . Most of the animals are active at night, and that plays into people’s fear of the dark and unknown.

"Not every culture, however, views these animals as scary or bad," Silliman said.

Take the owl, for example. The bird has been linked with royalty and wisdom by the French and American Indians. Genghis Khan gave credit to an owl for saving his life.

Halloween wouldn’t be Halloween without a few spiders lurking around.

Many kids love a good spider tale on Halloween night.

Six-foot-wide webs deck homes. In the web is an enormous black spider with glowing red eyes.

Eeek!! Its legs are hairy. Is it real?

No, it’s mechanical and can’t hurt anyone. Phew! It sure is scary!!

Maybe some kids and parents are frightened of spiders, but not Hank Guarisco.

Guarisco is the adjunct curator of arachnids at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History at Fort Hays State University.

He studies many species of spiders, often traveling throughout Kansas and other states and occasionally stumbling across a rare species. He is the author of extensive publications about spiders and their behavior.

Guarisco does not 'judge' spiders. He regards them with interest, caution and beauty.

"Many people are intrigued by the spider's ability to build a web," he said. "Spiders usually eat their webs and recycle the silk. Spiders do have interesting patterns, as well as behavior. People aren’t afraid of something that becomes predictable based on personal experience."
They know what to expect from their pet tarantula—maybe not the best cuddly pet to take to bed.”

Guarisco has always liked spiders. This seems only fitting and natural or else he wouldn't be working with arachnids at the Sternberg Museum.

But it was the graduate classes taught by Dr. Robert E. Beer, who was Guarisco’s major advisor at the University of Kansas, who got him hooked.

Guarisco gained much of his knowledge from Beer.

The now adjunct curator of arachnids obtained his master’s degree years ago in systematics and ecology.

It’s the natural history of the spider that Guarisco finds fascinating.

A word of caution: Guarisco said if people do not know much about spiders or certain nocturnal species, they should be on guard because these animals could hurt them.

He basically is referring to black widows, brown recluse (spiders) and vampire bats.

“But, it makes sense to leave all of them alone,” he said.

Spiders are not always bad and ugly.

They do have beneficial qualities.

“There are so many species of spiders, I know of over 500 species in Kansas, that build different types of webs or hunt in a wide range of habitats... . Their activities are very important in controlling insects before they reach large numbers and become pests,” he said.

On the subject of Halloween-creature superstition, Pat Ross, professor of biology at Southwestern College in Winfield, said that numerous cultures have vastly different views on the evilness of certain animals. “...What may be viewed as an ill omen among one group of people may be viewed as a blessing from the gods in other groups,” Ross said.

One of ecology’s key lessons is the inter-connectedness of all life, he said. From the point of view of the field mouse, the barn owl may be the very definition of evil.

"However, from the point of view of the farmer, the barn owl is a helpful associate," he said.

An hypothesis, one of many, for the widespread fear of bats, spiders, snakes and other creatures can be found in E.O. Wilson’s book, "Biophilia."

In his book, Wilson hypothesizes that there are ancient genetic predispositions to love (biophilia) or hate (biophobia.)

Halloween is a holiday that should evoke a little mystery, humor and fun. After all, the bats, crows, spiders and snakes will be out on Halloween night, too, except they will be in the shadows, wearing their most secretive costumes.

Myths always seem to outrun the truth. Silliman presented the following facts about different animals:

- Bats are not blind. They can see fine during the day.
- You don’t get warts from frogs and toads.
- Owls are not particularly wise.
- Owls can’t turn their heads in a full circle. They can only turn them 270 degrees.
Hank Guarisco is adjunct curator of arachnids at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History at Fort Hays State University.
CCC to Honor Curtis Harshaw at Distinguished Alumni Luncheon

Curtis Harshaw

Coffeyville Community College will honor 1963 graduate, Curtis K. Harshaw, at the annual Distinguished Alumni Luncheon on Friday, October 20.

Harshaw was born in 1943 in Coffeyville and raised on a farm near Liberty. He earned his associates degree from CCC in 1963. He is one of a family of Red Raven alumni as his mother, Betty Logan Harshaw graduated from CCC in 1939, his wife, Janice Walters Harshaw graduated in 1964 and his sister, Linda Harshaw Summers graduated in 1965.

Harshaw continued his education at Kansas University where he earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He then completed his master's degree in business and real estate from Southern Methodist University.

See Harshaw, Page 15A
Harshaw, from page 20A

Harshaw is the owner of Harshaw Asset management Corp., a real estate investment and property management company since 1973. The company’s focus is in apartments and manufactured housing.

Harshaw has been married to his wife of 42 years, Janice Walters Harshaw, and the couple enjoys five children and 12 grandchildren.

A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Harshaw has held many leadership positions including Scoutmaster, Young Men’s President, Bishop, Stake President and Mission Presidency Counselor. Harshaw is a member of the DFW Management Society, an organization of area business professional and has served as president for two years. He holds the designation of Certified Property Manager in the Institute of Real Estate Management. Harshaw has also served as the president of the Optimist Club of Grand Prairie.

In his spare time, Harshaw enjoys researching genealogy and family history, gardening and working with Boy Scouts. Harshaw and his family have been long times Red Raven Supporters.