Geology student teams share exploration work via Internet

BY PHYLLIS JACOBS GRIEKSPOOR
The Wichita Eagle

A University of Kansas course that offers seniors and graduate students in petroleum engineering, geology and geophysics a chance to work together as a team on real world problem solving is being expanded next spring.

The new Internet-based class will involve students from the University of West Virginia and Kansas State University in addition to those at KU.

"The way it works is that a company gives us a data package on a field they would like analyzed," said Tim Carr, a senior scientist with the Kansas Geological Survey and creator of the course. "The kids go through all the data, figure out what's there, run through a computer simulation, do the economics and work up a presentation advising the company what to do, just like a real consulting firm would do." Carr, who now teaches at the University of West Virginia, said professors stay in contact with petroleum companies and geologists to make them aware of the course and offer them the opportunity to participate.

"We seek out relatively small projects that they can work in a semester, small fields with not too many wells," he said. "The key is, we use real-world data and the professors have no idea what the answer will be. Neither do the oil companies."

Several Wichita companies are among those who have participated in the program.

"It gives us a chance to get an in-depth study of a field that we are interested in taking a closer look at, but haven't found the time in-house," said Mark Shreve with Mull Drilling.

He said the most recent project involved a field in eastern Colorado and the information gained was valuable.

"We wanted to know why some of our wells were performing differently in the same field," he said. "We were considering a water flood and wanted a deeper study."

The students went through well logs, ran computer models and came back with information that helped the company better plan for the water flood, Shreve said.

"What we get from working with this program is some sharp, young minds that are utilizing some of the latest technology under the oversight of professors with a lot of academic and industry experience," he said.

Rich Pancake, production engineer with Murfin Drilling, said his company has also benefited from the program.

"Most Kansas operators are not staffed in all the more technical disciplines," he said. "With this program, you get a chance to work with some of the brightest students out there and gain the expertise that comes from the faculty people as well."

Reach P.J. Griekspoor at 316-266-6660 or pgriekspoor@wichitaeagle.com.
State university enrollment hits a record 90,000

BY HURST LAVIANA
The Wichita Eagle

Enrollment is up this year at two of the state's three largest universities, and university enrollment statewide topped 90,000 for the first time, the Kansas Board of Regents announced Thursday.

Enrollment at Kansas State University increased 0.8 percent from last year and reached a record high of 23,332 students.

Wichita State University enrollment rose 1 percent to 14,442. At the University of Kansas, enrollment dropped 1.2 percent to 29,260 students.

Among the state's smaller universities, enrollment was up at Fort Hays State and Pittsburg State, and down at Emporia State.

K-State officials said part of that school's growth could be attributed to its pre-health professions program, which is now the largest area of study at the school.

Wichita State's growth was attributed to an 8.4 percent increase in new freshmen from Sedgwick County and an 11 percent increase in the number of international students.

Ron Kopita, vice president for campus life and university relations, said the increase in Sedgwick County freshmen — from 843 last year to 914 this year — could be attributed to a new scholarship program designed to slow the number of young people leaving Wichita.

Please see ENROLLMENT, Page 3B

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ENROLLMENT

From Page 1B

The program offers one-year, $2,000 scholarships to Sedgwick County high school seniors who enroll at WSU.

"The Sedgwick County scholarship program helped attract a number of local and area students by easing some of the pressure they face financially when choosing where to attend college," he said.

KU officials attributed that school's decrease to a more rigorous application of academic standards in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The new standards resulted in the dismissal of 884 students last year, about 350 more than the year before.

Enrollment figures showed that international students made up a significant portion of the student population at all three universities.

There are 1,190 international students at K-State this year, 1,284 at Wichita State and 1,754 at KU.

Reach Hurst Laviana at 316-268-6499 or hlaviana@wichitaeagle.com.
KU to honor students from Cowley, Chautauqua counties

LAWRENCE — Students from seven high schools in Cowley and Chautauqua counties will be honored Sept. 26 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 52 seniors will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program in the Wright Room of the Cowley College Brown Center, 125 S. Second St., Arkansas City.

The students and their schools are:

Arkansas City High School

Cedar Vale High School
Dana Burdette, Amber Smart.

Central High School
Megan Haunschild, Amber Osborn, Justina Ross, Shawnell Shepherd.

Dexter High School
Allie Crow, Kristina Kill,

Sedan High School
Matthew Beason, Theresa Jackson, Melanie Wolfe.

Udall High School
Lane Krug, Caleb Rockey.

Winfield High School
Nolan Astrab, Kelsey Baker, Hilary Barbour, Nathan Bosie, Rebekah Feaster, Joel Finney, Carol Gardner, Sydney Herlocker, Jaryd Moore, Nicholas Namphengsone, Mariah Pods, Mollie Roths, Ashley Rutherford, Parady Sengsay, John Smith,

Taylor Stevenson, Kelsey Topper, Aaron Wasko, Peter Weinert, Melinda Wilson.
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/2007/september/12/khparkansasocity.shtml.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by David Ochoa, coordinator for member relations for the KU Alumni Association.

Kevin Corbett, president of the KU Alumni Association, will speak to the students, 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 $12.50 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Lucy Herlocker Freeman, Winfield, will be the site coordinator and county coordinator for Cowley County. Tim Hills, Sedan, will be county coordinator for Chautauqua County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.
Area students listed on
KU spring honor roll

Area students were listed on the 2007 spring honor rolls of the University of Kansas. The students are listed by city, name, major, year, high school attended:

**Arkansas City**
- Ryan Christopher Cramer, Business Undergraduate, Senior, Arkansas City High School, Arkansas City.
- Mitchell David Ross, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior, Arkansas City High School, Arkansas City.

**Atlanta**
- Tyler Brett Martin, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Junior, Central Jr.-Sr. High School, Burden.

**Burden**
- Ruth Leann Seeliger, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior, Winfield High School, Winfield.

**Dexter**
- Leslie A Holmes, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Sophomore, Dexter High School, Dexter.

**Oxford**
- Hyriam James Fleming, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Winfield High School, Winfield.
- Danielle M Totten, Pharmacy, Professional Prof 1, Oxford High School Oxford.

**Sedan**
- Libby Ann Allen, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Junior, Sedan Senior High School, Sedan.
- Laura Anne Allison, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior, Sedan Senior High School, Sedan.

**Winfield**
- Alyson Marie Beach, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior, Winfield High School, Winfield.
- Erin Aili Birney, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Junior, Winfield High School, Winfield.
- Zachary S. Coble, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior, Winfield High School, Winfield.
- Travis Dale Lindeman, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Junior, Winfield High School, Winfield.
- Autumn R. McPherson, Liberal Arts/Fine Arts Undergraduate, Senior, Central Jr.-Sr. High School, Burden.
- Alyssa Lane Steffen, Liberal Arts/Journalism Undergraduate, Sophomore, Winfield High School, Winfield.
- Erik Cole Winblad, Fine Arts Undergraduate, Senior, Winfield High School, Winfield.
- Nicole D Winegarner, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior, Winfield High School, Winfield.
FDIC head to speak

Sheila Bair, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., will speak at 7 p.m. Monday at the University of Kansas' Lied Center. She will be giving the 11th presentation in the annual Anderson Chandler Lecture Series for KU’s School of Business. Bair’s topics are expected to include subprime mortgages, pay-day loans and the financial literacy of saving, spending and not wasting money. The lecture is free.

Bair is a native of Independence, Kan., and has a bachelor’s degree and a law degree from KU.

The Star
TOPEKA's no-confidence vote on fire chief

With only one dissenting vote, the firefighters' union has issued a verdict of no-confidence in Fire Chief Howard Giles' ability to run the department. Among the reasons cited were lack of leadership, inability to effectively communicate and fiscal decision-making priorities.

The Topeka Capital-Journal
Admissions directors look beyond scores

A de-emphasis on test scores leads to weighing other factors such as leadership in students.

By MARA ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

College-bound students who slight extracurricular involvement and count on landing their dream school with a high ACT score might think again.

Admissions officers increasingly are more influenced by students’ drive and leadership skills than their ACT scores when deciding who gets in the door.

“We know that not every student is a top test taker and not every student has a high grade-point average, but that student maybe has great leadership skills, and we are looking for leaders,” said Larry Moeder, director of admissions for Kansas State University.

Admissions officers, including those in Missouri and Kansas, said that in the last two to five years they have been looking more at the whole student rather than at a one-time test score.

The de-emphasis on the ACT allows more access to minority and low-income students, who traditionally do not score as well on standardized tests as their white and wealthier counterparts.

Sarah Lawrence College, a highly selective liberal arts and science school in Bronxville, NY, decided in 2004 to drop all consideration of standardized test scores for admission. Instead, the school assesses applicants’ writing and reasoning ability through essays.

A College Board study found that some colleges disregard standardized test scores not to increase access but to boost applications. That leads to more students being rejected and the appearance of greater selectivity, said Larry Griffith, a former vice president at The College Board, which administers the ACT and SAT.

But many education officials maintain that downplaying standardized test scores is an issue of fairness.

Over the years, Griffith said the misconception was created that “higher scores equaled better students. That’s not really true. I’ve seen students who scored 32 on the ACT or 1500 on the SAT crash and burn in college.”

Griffith, now vice president of the Gates Millennium Scholars program, which funds college scholarships for minority students, said the scholars program looks for leadership qualities. It does not review ACT or SAT scores.

Marlesa Roney, vice provost for student success at the University of Kansas, agrees “scores are not everything. There is research that says there are a lot more characteristics that determine whether a student will be a success in college than ACT scores.”

Truman State University, considered the most selective public institution in Missouri, looks at the whole student when making admission decisions, said John Fraire, associate vice president for enrollment. Grades, essays, high school course selection, extracurricular activities and ACT scores are considered.

A perfect ACT score is 36. The average score in Missouri is 21.6, and in Kansas it’s 21.9. The national average is 21.2.

In Missouri, higher education policy requires that standardized test scores factor into admission decisions at public institutions. In Kansas, state law requires that ACT scores be considered.

Students are admitted to the six-year public institutions in Kansas if they score at least 21 on the ACT, a 980 on the SAT or are in the top third of their high school graduating class. Admission also is granted to students who complete the required high school curriculum with at least a 2.0 grade-point average.

In Missouri, admission requirements vary depending on the selectivity of the institution. The more selective schools look for higher ACT scores and grade averages. But for any of the public institutions, a student needs a minimum of a combined percentile score (the sum of the high school percentile rank and the percentile rank on the ACT or SAT) of at least 100, or an ACT score of 21 or better or an SAT score of at least 990.

Many public institutions on both sides of the state line, including community colleges, have open enrollment. To enroll, a student needs a high school diploma or its equivalent.

However, institutions that don’t have open enrollment can admit some students whose test scores or GPA fall below admission requirements.

At the University of Missouri-Kansas City, about 25 percent of students admitted don’t meet admissions criteria, said Jennifer DeHaemers, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management.

“What we want to know is, is this a student who can succeed at UMKC with support,” DeHaemers said. Besides looking at ACT scores, grades and class rank, UMKC considers essays and recommendations.

Roney said administrators at Kansas schools have talked with the state Board of Regents and legislators about giving more weight to factors such as school involvement, leadership skills, creativity and grade history in choosing who they admit.

This year, under a conditional admittance program, the University of Central Missouri welcomed 135 freshmen with low ACT scores who convinced admission officers they could succeed at the Warrensburg university.

To reach Maré Rose Williams, call 816-234-4419 or send e-mail to mdwilliams@kcstar.com.
Some essay portions of Advanced Placement tests are lost

Mill Valley High School students may have to retake courses in order to receive credit.

By MELODEE HALL BLOBAUM
The Kansas City Star

When Alex Rausch saw the essay questions on his U.S. Government and Politics Advanced Placement exam in May, he was stoked.

All but one topic had been thoroughly covered in the Advanced Placement Government class he'd taken at Mill Valley High School in Shawnee. And the last was on a topic he'd studied on his own.

So he wrote his essays, turned in the test, and waited for the results.

Results, as it turned out, that never came.

That's because the testing service that handles the exams for the College Board lost the essay portion of the exams taken by 41 of 43 Mill Valley students.

Every spring, students sit down in more than 16,000 schools around the world to take Advanced Placement exams that serve as the capstone of college-level high school courses on subjects ranging from art history to calculus to world history.

Those who earn 4s or 5s on the exam typically can get college credit for their work. Some colleges also award credit for a score of 3.

Mill Valley Counselor Randy Burwell thought something was awry with the school's Advanced Placement tests when he returned to work in July. He had complete reports — both multiple-choice and free-response scores — for two of the 43 students who'd taken the exam. But the other 41 had a "code 96," indicating that the exam was still being completed.

Rausch, too, was starting to worry.

When he went to freshman orientation at the University of Kansas, the school had printouts of Advanced Placement scores — but not his. An adviser suggested he call the College Board, who told Rausch his exam was still being graded.

On Aug. 31, Rausch and 40 of his classmates received letters informing them that the free-response, or essay, portions of their tests couldn't be found.

The students could accept a projected grade based on the multiple-choice portion of the exam, which had been graded; retake the essay test; or cancel the exam and get a refund.

Rausch's projected grade was a 3 — not high enough to get the credit he'd hoped for from KU, where he's a freshman majoring in journalism and political science.

"With a double major, there's not a lot of time to take extra classes," he said. "I was really looking to use that credit toward my major."

And though he thinks he'd do well if he took the essay exam again, he feels like he wasted time taking a high-school course that's not generating any college credit.

"I'm looking at having to take the course again, at the university, where it will cost tuition, not to mention books," he said.

"I have to waste a semester on something I've already studied."

His father, Walter Rausch, also was frustrated by the late notification and by its tight Sept. 13 deadline to make a decision.

He'd like the College Board to reconsider the options it offered students. He's proposed weighting the multiple-choice results with the students' grades in the Advanced Placement course, including essays written for class, rather than simply extrapolating a score from the multiple-choice exams.

College Board spokeswoman Nancy Viggiano said several steps are taken to keep the materials from being lost or damaged. Students affix uniquely numbered labels to their exam materials. Exams are shipped in double-strength boxes with pre-paid air bills.

Viggiano said that because two students received complete scores, it's fair to say that at least some of Mill Valley's exams made it to the mass readings. How the exams were lost is still under investigation.

And, she wrote in an e-mail, all Advanced Placement students are notified in writing before they take the test that it's possible their exam could be lost.

That's small comfort for Burwell, who said his school in the De Soto School District is trying to expand its Advanced Placement program. The lost tests could take away some student and teacher enthusiasm for the relatively new program, he said.

"What assurances do we have that next year our scores will be back in time?" he said.

To reach Melodee Hall Blobaum, call 816-234-7733 or send e-mail to mblobaum@kcstar.com
FLASH FORWARD

MONDAY | Remember the FDIC?

Sheila Bair, chairwoman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., will speak at 7 p.m. at the Lied Center at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. A native of Independence, Kan., Bair earned undergraduate and law degrees at KU. For information, go to www.business.ku.edu or call 785-864-7369.
KANSAS CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION | Five-year plan to cost $392 million

REPAIR PROJECTS GET STARTED

Heating, electrical and building improvements are among the work scheduled across state.

By JIM SULLINGER
The Kansas City Star

Students and alumni may not know it, but the University of Kansas campus sits atop about three miles of utility tunnels.

Some were built more than 100 years ago and have reached the end of their lifespan. Now, KU will begin replacing them at a projected cost exceeding $8.8 million.

That is just one of many costly repair projects that will get under way on campuses across Kansas in the next five years, thanks to a $392 million plan approved by state lawmakers this year.

The six university campuses, along with the University of Kansas Medical Center in Wyandotte County, will see $38.3 million spent in the next year.

But those will not be the only places where students will see more hard hats. Technical colleges and the 19 Kansas community colleges also will share in the maintenance dollars.

“This important down payment allows the campuses to immediately get to work on critical maintenance projects that exist,” said Christine Downey-Schmidt, chairwoman of the Kansas Board of Regents.

Utility tunnels are part of a steam distribution system that heats buildings at the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence and Kansas State University in Manhattan. They are a major repair priority.

At KU, they not only carry heat to many campus buildings but also house the data and voice communication systems as well.

If a steam pipe were to rupture in the middle of winter and need extensive repair, officials warn, water pipes in buildings all over the campus could burst and cause major damage.

Some of those early tunnels have little structural life left, according to Jim Modig, director of design and construction management at KU.

Many are not easily reached. An old tunnel going to Strong Hall, for example, lies 45 feet below Jayhawk Boulevard, the main street on campus.

SEE PROJECTS | B2
PROJECTS: Colleges start on backlog of repairs

FROM B1

dig said most tunnels are buried an average of 20 feet. An $18.4 million project at K-State is also aimed at addressing utility problems. Part of those dollars will replace the main power plant, which was built in 1928 and is referred to as the “Frankenstein Room” because it resembles the set of an old horror film.

Also, the 56-year-old boiler that furnishes steam to part of the campus needs to be replaced, according to university officials. The project will take all five years to complete with almost $3 million slated for this year.

Board of Regents officials caution, however, that the available money does not nearly cover their building maintenance needs.

In 2006, a comprehensive facilities audit indicated that a maintenance backlog of $727 million existed among the 567 state-owned university buildings. The audit also indicated that a $663 million maintenance backlog existed among 429 “mission critical” academic buildings.

Including $18 million from private donations generated by tax credits, the plan will allow the universities to address about 38 percent of the $663 million backlog, according to the Kansas Board of Regents.

To reach Jim Sullinger, call 816-234-7701 or send e-mail to jsullinger@kcstar.com.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

These are the major projects ($1 million or more) slated for partial funding this fiscal year at the major Kansas universities under a five-year, $392 million package to address building maintenance problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>TOTAL COST</th>
<th>COST IN 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Kansas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Utility tunnels</td>
<td>$8.8 million</td>
<td>$6 million</td>
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<td>Wescoe Hall</td>
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<td>Haworth Hall</td>
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<td>KU Medical Center</td>
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<td>Applegate Energy Center</td>
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<td>Kansas State University</td>
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<td>Utilities/power plant</td>
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<td>Old Memorial Stadium</td>
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<td>Physical Education</td>
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<td>Building</td>
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The entire list and descriptions of each project can be found at www.kansasregents.org/facilities/index.html.

Source: Kansas Board of Regents