KU, fort cooperate

LAWRENCE — Kansas University will announced Tuesday a new initiative to help students at Fort Leavenworth’s Command and General Staff College receive advanced degrees in Lawrence.

Led by David Lambertson, a former U.S. ambassador and a KU faculty member, the new initiative will seek to provide a one-stop destination for Fort Leavenworth soldiers who wish to earn a degree.

“It’s something that’s quite appropriate for us to do,” KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway said. “This is a pool of students in the state of Kansas that want to be educated, which is what we’re supposed to do.”

Lambertson said KU plans to be more user-friendly for Fort Leavenworth residents.

“We’re going to streamline procedures without modifying the university’s academic requirements or rigor,” he said.

— The Lawrence Journal World
www.ljworld.com
Women Philanthropists for KU help with leadership, causes

An organization of women philanthropists who are interested in the University of Kansas has provided its members an opportunity to support important causes and expand their own interests.

The group, Women Philanthropists for KU, started four years ago as part of a national trend to get women philanthropically involved.

“It’s not a program or a club,” said the Endowment Association’s Judy Wright, who leads a steering committee of the group. “It’s an initiative. The point is to get women more involved through programming and to offer opportunities for leadership on campus.”

Wright said that the group tries to consider the way women like to interact.

“We know that, generally, women like to get more involved with causes or programs they want to support,” she said. “Men say, ‘It sounds great; here’s some money.’ Women say, ‘It sounds great; how can I be of service?’”

Deanell Reece Tacha of Lawrence, a federal judge and one of the organization’s two co-chairwomen, said women often look for causes that focus more on children’s issues and on health care.

But Tacha and Wright added that women athletics and the sciences, generally popular with men, are also important causes for women philanthropists.

Generally, the group tries to hold programs every year that will connect women who are interested in the University of Kansas with others and the school. The group’s Friday program will be a luncheon with Margaret May Damen, who leads a group that focuses on the creation of wealth by women.

Other programs have included introducing women to the Audio Reader program and visiting the new Lifespan Institute at the Kansas University Medical Center.

“Had women come up to me after the Audio Reader program and ask me how they didn’t know it even existed,” Wright said. “I suspect many of those women are still volunteering there today.”

The group also runs a fund administered by the Emily Taylor Women’s Resource Center that gives grants to female undergraduate seniors and graduate students to advance their careers, doing such things as paying for travel to an interview or buying a new suit.

“And that was driven by interest by our women,” Wright said. “And it’s not a fund we do fundraising for. It’s funded entirely through this organization.”

Wright said the 33 women on the advisory board, some with their spouses, have donated more than $6 million to the university since the program was founded.

More importantly, according to Tacha, the group has become a source of wonderful friendships.

“It’s so energizing to be with a group of women who are so committed to philanthropy, all KU women,” she said. “What they can accomplish for the university and community as individuals is impressive, but having that mutual support is even better.”

— AP
Moran: College needs to be affordable

By Congressman Jerry Moran

I supported House passage of legislation this week to reduce student loan interest rates and increase federal grants so that more Kansas students can afford a college education. The bill, which is expected to be signed by the President, increases the maximum Pell grant award for students and cuts interest rates in half for subsidized student loans.

In addition to lowering the costs associated with college, the bill also contained other provisions related to education, including the establishment of a new program aimed at training more students to teach in high-need subject areas like science and math. Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher (TEACH) Education Grants will help colleges and universities provide annual scholarships to students committed to teaching for four years in subjects currently lacking teachers. The Upward Bound program also received more funding.

Investing in our children’s education should be one of our nation’s most important priorities. Unfortunately, rising tuition costs have left many students and parents wondering how they will afford a college education. Reduced interest rates and higher grant awards will help more Kansans have access to a college degree.

House Shows Support for Kansas Flood Victims

This week, the House of Representatives passed legislation I sponsored that expressed support for flood victims in eastern Kansas. The resolution, authored by Congressman Todd Tiahrt, expressed gratitude to the officials, emergency personnel and volunteers who responded selflessly to the flooding that occurred in 20 Kansas counties earlier this summer.

The worst of Mother Nature has brought out the best in Kansans. From Greensburg to Chanute and Colby to Great Bend, individuals, churches and businesses have been quick to help neighbors in need. While the damage was in many cases devastating, the kindness people demonstrated to each other was inspiring. Thanks to all who have given time and money to help rebuild communities and lives affected by storms in our state.

Learning about the Status of our Nation’s Bridges

In light of the tragic collapse of the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I participated in a Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing on the status of bridges that are a part of the national highway system. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters and Federal Highway Administrator J. Richard Capka testified about the current status of our bridge program.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) reports that of the nearly 600,000 bridges in the United States, more than 73,000 are in need of significant maintenance attention, rehabilitation or replacement. The Chairman of the House Transportation Committee has proposed a 5 cent increase in the gasoline tax to pay for needed bridge repairs. The Bush Administration has voiced its opposition to such a plan. I am currently examining this proposal. Whatever action Congress takes, we must make sure the needs of our state are not overlooked. Funding invested today in maintaining and improving our transportation infrastructure will pay off in the long run in terms of increased mobility and safety.

Kicking Off the 2007 Kansas State Fair

Annual Kansas Farm Bureau Breakfast: I began the day Saturday by joining Kansas agricultural leaders at the annual Kansas Farm Bureau Legislative Leadership Breakfast at the Grand Prairie Hotel in Hutchinson. The event allowed me to visit with agricultural leaders from across the state about challenges farmers and ranchers face. Specifically, I talked about the 2007 Farm Bill and the opportunities that remain to improve this legislation.

WIBW Farm Bill Forum: After the breakfast, I participated in a farm bill forum with Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback and Congresswoman Nancy Boyda. Joining us from the House Agriculture Committee was Chairman Collin Peterson of Minnesota. Members of several Kansas agriculture organizations posed questions about this important legislation and what it means for Kansans. My thanks to Kelly Lenz and Greg Akagi of WIBW Radio for hosting the forum and to Joe Kejr of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Greg Shelor of the Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, Ken McCauley of the National Corn Growers Association, Roger Griffin of the Rice County Farm Bureau, David Cross of the Kansas Livestock Association, Charles Atkinson of the Kansas Soybean Association, Rick Chambers of the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association, and Lavern Potuzak of the Kansas Farmers Union for participating in the event.

Meeting with State Legislators: I joined members of the Kansas State Legislature at a luncheon hosted by Via Christi on Sunday. It was a good opportunity to visit with Via Christi executives and state representatives about health care issues facing the legisla-
Welcoming Hutchinson Hospital CEO: I welcomed Linda Harrison, the new President and CEO of Hutchinson Hospital, back to Kansas on Saturday. Linda recently became the fourth President and CEO at Hutchinson Hospital following Gene Schmidt’s retirement after leading the hospital for 21 years. Although Linda is a native of Spearville, she had been working in Florida. It is great to have her back in Kansas.

Raising Money for Cancer Care

On Friday evening, I was the guest of Frank Ross at the sixth annual Treads and Threads fundraiser at the Kansas Speedway. Proceeds from the event go to cancer care at the University of Kansas Hospital. Specifically, funds from this year’s event will help create a new Family and Visitor Support and Resource Center, as well as a second Palliative Care Suite within the hospital’s inpatient cancer care area. Larry Moore, KMBC-TV news anchor and cancer survivor, was the emcee again this year. It was great to see so many people there supporting the cancer care efforts of the University of Kansas Hospital.

Accepting Applications for Congressional Internships

One of the great things about representing Kansans in our nation’s capital is the opportunity to give college students the chance to learn firsthand about our government and serve folks back home through a congressional internship. My interest in public service was sparked when I was an intern in 1974.

I am currently accepting applications for the spring 2008 term. Applications for internships in any of my four offices are due by October 22.

Attending German Feast in Schoenchen

On Sunday evening, I attended a community supper at St. Anthony Community Center in Schoenchen. I enjoyed visiting with folks and supporting the local cause. Thanks to the members of the St. Anthony Altar Society for preparing the German dinner.

In the Office

The president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, John Thaevert of Sylvan Grove, was in to discuss the House-passed 2007 Farm Bill and the timetable for the Senate’s consideration of this legislation. Stopping by to visit from Kansas State University were Sue Peterson and Chuck Reagan.

Connie Presley of Wichita and Howard Blankenship of Olathe were in with the National Air Traffic Controllers Association to talk about legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration. Travis Heimon and David Dare of Kansas City and Dan Senestraro of Johnson were in with the Dairy Farmers of America to tell me about the need those in the dairy industry have for workers and to discuss solutions to the problem of illegal immigration. Doug Scott of Andover was in with Hawker Beechcraft to visit.

In for a tour of the U.S. Capitol building this week were Troy and Debbie Cook of Hays, Mike Haug and Joe Frank of Salina and Michael Haug of Lawrence.
District engineer Don Drickey plans to retire from KDOT

Don Drickey, district engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation, is retiring after more than 38 years of service.

A 1969 graduate of the engineering school at the University of Nebraska, Drickey has served the state of Kansas in a variety of positions. Following graduation, he signed on for the engineering training program which took him to Stockton, then to Topeka and finally to Hays. During that time he gained experience in planning, materials and research.

In 1973, Drickey was promoted to a position in Meade as resident engineer, before taking the same job in 1975 in Dodge City. He was then transferred, once again, to Topeka working as an assistant district maintenance engineer. Then as Topeka area engineer.

In 1984, Drickey and his family returned to northwest Kansas when he became the district maintenance engineer in Norton.

While in Norton, he took the job of district construction and materials engineer.

His most recent promotion was to the position of district engineer for north-central Kansas with offices in Salina, where he has spent the last 11 years.

As district engineer, Drickey has directed the construction, maintenance and materials operations within the district. He also provided oversight for all district-wide public involvement, budget and planning activities. Drickey also has been an active voice in the development of future improvements and changes for the Kansas Highway system in north-central Kansas.

"KDOT has been a great place to work and I will miss all the people that I have worked with both internally and externally over the years," Drickey said.

"Tremendous changes have occurred in technology and equipment in the past 38 years," he added. "We have faced many challenges and the agency has changed to meet those requirements."

Drickey and his wife, Jeanne, have two daughters, Kirsten, a PhD candidate at the University of Kansas, and Carmen, a University of Kansas graduate and past Peace Corps volunteer. She currently is working for the Peace Corp in Washington, D.C.
Dole Institute Beams
Came From Tower One

LAWRENCE (AP) - The University of Kansas has learned the original location of two support beams from the World Trade Center that are part of the Sept. 11 memorial at the Dole Institute of Politics.

The university said Tuesday that World Trade Center engineer John Barson determined that the steel beams supported floors 58 through 61 in Tower One. Barson reached the conclusion through markings on one of the columns.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave the beams to former Kansas Senator Robert Dole to express his gratitude for Dole's work on a scholarship fund for children of Sept. 11 victims.

The columns are in exactly the same condition as the day they were pulled from the rubble at ground zero, covered with debris, jet fuel and flame retardant foam.
Studying healthcare

Japanese researchers visit El Dorado

By Jon Pic
reporter@eldoradotimes.com

For the last week, several Japanese researchers have been visiting with representatives from the Kansas University School of Social Welfare. One of the stops on their investigative tour was El Dorado’s South Central Mental Health Counseling Center on Thursday afternoon.

The researchers are studying a specific model of mental health care currently being implemented within the SCMHCC’s service area called the Strengths Model of Case Management, said Rick Goscha, the KU director of training and technical assistance and co-author of the model. The model was developed at KU and is designed to build mental health recovery through community character encouragement.

“In Japan, at least right now, the current environment is they have more people in hospitalization than in any other industrialized country,” Goscha said. “They’re trying to move more from institutionalized form of care to community-based services.”

The state of Kansas adopted this mental healthcare model in the late 1980s, though many of the 27 centers in the state utilized the program in name only, Goscha said. Last year, SCMHCC applied to be a project site for the Strengths Model, moving from low-fidelity adherence to the program to strict observance of the guidelines.

“As South Central has moved to high-fidelity, their outcomes have increased incredibly,” Goscha said. “In terms of the state right now, South Central has done a great job of helping people stay out of the hospital, go back to work, live on their own.”

When the researchers asked to come to KU to learn more about the program, SCMHCC was an obvious choice to become an example of the program in action because of the rapid success rate over the last year, Goscha said.

“I wanted them to see a few things,” Goscha said. “I wanted them to see the group supervision process that they do, which is outstanding.”

The group supervision process helps SCMHCC clients figure out creative ways to meet their goals, such as owning a house or going back to work.

Goscha said people tend to focus on deficits rather than exploring dreams and desires.

Carissa Dorey is the group coordinator and attendant care supervisor for SCMHCC. She also handles a small caseload of clients and said she feels the program has been successful.

“We’ve seen a huge difference in our clients just since we’ve started implementing the strengths-based model,” Dorey said. “A lot of them are a lot more motivated to be

See Japan, page 6
Sir Japanese researchers visit El Dorado's South Central Mental Health Counseling Center Thursday afternoon to learn more about the Strengths Model currently being employed at the center. The researchers are hoping to reshape the way Japan handles mental health patients.
Japan: Researchers visit El Dorado

more of a part of the community, more independent. They’re really grasping that empowerment and feeling like they are worth a little more.”

She said that an exercise she uses with her clients has been a strong indicator of the change the program can elicit. Before implementing the program, she will ask her students to sit down and honestly write out a list of their skills and strengths.

Most of them would write nothing.

“Once we started doing the strengths-based (program) and really talking about recovery and hope,” Dorey said, “I asked them again and all of them had a page full of stuff written down.”

“The center serves hundreds of clients each year throughout Butler County with satellite offices in Augusta and Andover. Some clients are referred by mental hospitals, family members or through court orders; others can check themselves in.

All clientele must be diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness — whether it’s schizophrenia or major depressive disorder — with a history of hospitalization.

“There’s so much stigma on mental illness. A lot of people feel beat down, like they can’t really do much,” said Dorey, who’s worked at the center for five years.

“This is just focusing more on their strengths; what they can do and what they’re good at.”

Though SCMHCC is well on its way to completely adopting the Strengths Model program, it’s still making improvements.

“To use it very effectively, it takes some time,” Goscha said. “They worked really hard just in the first year of learning these (methods), but it’s probably going to take another four to six months to really make it part of the organizational culture.”

The research group consisted of professors, an occupational therapist and a certified psychiatric social worker. One of the researchers, Atsushi Ozawa, a social welfare department professor at Toyo University in Tokyo, said he hoped to take what he was learning back to his home.

“The Strengths Model is very important for Japanese practitioners and research,” Ozawa said. “Especially for the psychiatric patient system is very changing from the institutional care to the community care.”

He said the mental health profession in Japan is facing many barriers as the change to community care draws nearer. Ozawa said private hospitals hold a significant amount of power in Japan.

“They hesitate to remit patients to the community living,” Ozawa said.

Ozawa said he’s been enjoying his trip to Kansas, away from the hustle and bustle of Tokyo.

“The states is very different,” he said. “But the concept is universal.”

As for the future, SCMHCC will be seeking a housing grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund
“transitional housing for people who find themselves in homelessness with no place to go,” said Stacey Gladfelter, SCMHCC housing specialist. The grant would cover four units of housing throughout Butler County that could shelter those in need temporarily. They hope to get the grant by late fall.

Japanese researchers discuss mental health with Kansans.
KU basketball joins fight against cancer

By SUSAN BALZER
susan@hesstonrecord.com
Hesston Record

A basketball -- half orange and black, half red, blue, yellow and white -- is lodging at The Fairmont San Jose Hotel in California. It needs a permanent home.

University of Kansas team members signed the Jayhawk ball when they were guests at the Fairmont last spring while playing in the Sweet 16 NCAA tournament, where they advanced to the Elite Eight.

The players, along with Lisa Brody, director of public relations at the hotel, want someone with deep pockets and KU loyalty to adopt the basketball and support the American Cancer Society's Courageous Kids, a charity that raises money for cancer research and does special things for kids battling cancer. The opening bid for the autographed ball stands at $250.

The Fairmont San Jose, located in the heart of downtown San Jose, caters to business and professional guests, as well as family vacationers and convention groups, such as the Whitemune Mennonite Youth Fellowship members in San Jose for the national Mennonite convention this summer.

When all the hotels in San Jose were booked last March for the Sweet 16, the KU team, their fans and family members got perhaps the best beds in town, complete with four feather pillows and a down comforter on each one.

Their friendliness and good sportsmanship caught the attention of the hotel staff, and particularly of Brody, who said, "The athletes were the most wonderful guests."

"What was really amazing was the huge support system given by the entourage of parents, alumni and the Kansas media. The whole place was ablaze with excitement."

KU fans wore school colors and decorated the hotel lobby during their stay.

They even sang the school fight song in the lobby.

Broydo and the hotel staff and management take pride in providing fine lodging for the hotel's guests and they do it well. But their concern for people reaches beyond the hotel.

"When I graduate -- I do not use the word retire -- from my job here and my grandson asks me, 'Nana, what did you do in the hotel?' I want to tell them that I did more than just put people to sleep," Brody said.

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from Page 1

She's found a way for the hotel to tap the generosity of famous guests to raise funds for a charity that helps kids with their battle against cancer.

During the KU team's stay at the Fairmont, Brody asked if they would contribute an autographed basketball.

"The KU athletic department was very eager to support Courageous Kids," Brody said. "We were very fortunate to have your team."

Brody tries not to miss an opportunity to raise funds for her favorite charity and The Fairmont San Jose supports her efforts.

"Whenever we have celebrities who perform in our area, we ask for their help," she said.

Other famous guests have contributed autographed items. John Travolta and Dustin Hoffman autographed and donated their director's chairs when they stayed at the Fairmont while filming "The Mad City." The auction of the chairs brought in $4,000 for Courageous Kids.

Garth Brooks donated four tickets to his concert in San Jose and the Fairmont added dinner and a stay in one of its suites to the package that brought in another $4,000 for the charity.

Now there's the KU basketball, signed by a whole team of famous people.

And someone, in exchange for a generous donation, may have an autographed basketball to show their grandchildren that they did more than support a KU sports team; they also helped Courageous Kids win the battle against cancer.
CHS band to perform at KU Band Day

LAWRENCE — Cherryvale High School will be among the more than 30 area high school marching bands that will participate in the 60th annual Band Day at the University of Kansas on Saturday, Sept. 8.

Band Day activities include a parade in downtown Lawrence and a performance during halftime of the KU football game that kicks off at 6 p.m. in Memorial Stadium. The events are hosted by the Marching Jayhawks and the Department of Music and Dance in KU’s School of Fine Arts.

The parade will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Seventh and Massachusetts streets and progresses to South Park near 11th Street.

Other southeast Kansas high schools to participate in Band Day include Columbus, Girard, Labette County and Northeast-Arma.
Honors Program
To Fete Scholars

The Kansas Honors Program recognizes students who rank in the top 10 percent of their senior class. Each fall, the University of Kansas Alumni Association and its members travel to schools across Kansas to host receptions for these students. The reception to honor Sedgwick County students will be held Monday, Sept. 24 at Maize High School. The following MHS seniors have been named as Kansas Scholars for the 2007-08 school year:

Amber Bilby, daughter of Daryl and Brenda Bilby; Stephanie Boal, daughter of Suzanne Boal; Brent Cline, son of Kevin and Wendy Cline; Kellie Hampton, daughter of Richard and Angela Hampton; Jessica Harms, daughter of Allan and Carolyn Harms; Caleb Hatfield, son of Doug and Mae Beth Hatfield; Michael Humbolt, son of Todd and Maureen Humbolt and Susan Humbolt; Andrea Johnson, daughter of David and Roseann Johnson.

Kristen Lervik, daughter of Tom and Janice Lervik; Noelle Lewis, daughter of Shirley Lewis; Alexis Limebur, daughter of Brent and Paul Raaf and Rodney Jones; Kayla Loper, daughter of Kirk and Terri Loper; John Pine, son of Michael and Mary Pine; Aerica Van Dorn, daughter of Denise Van Dorn; Tamara Vasko, daughter of Thomas and Roxann Vasko; and Logan Young, daughter of Amy Young and Robert Young.
A popular Lansing teacher has moved out of the classroom and into the administrative office this year.

For Dan Wessel, Lansing High School’s new assistant principal and former multimedia teacher, it’s been a good change, but, naturally, some aspects of his job are different.

“The biggest transition is getting to have daily conversations with 150 kids,” Wessel said. “You lose a lot of that.

“I try to get some of that ... but the kids look at you differently now, like, ‘What is he doing here?’”

Being the disciplinarian is not always a fun job, but Wessel’s amiable personality makes it easier for students to identify with him.

“I’ve always had high expectations, so the discipline part, it’s not a punishment,” Wessel said. “It’s trying to get them to change their behavior. It’s part of the learning process.”

As an administrator, Wessel has more interaction with particular students, parents and with teachers.

“The hope is that you can empower teachers to do innovative things in the classroom,” Wessel said.

He used that innovative spirit often in 11 years as LHS’s multimedia teacher, instructing students in video and web production.

“Ultimately I think those two need to meld,” Wessel said. “There’s a convergence of all media forms coming together, but I think we do a decent job of preparing some of the kids for that.”

Outside of work, Wessel likes to spend time with his wife — a high school sweetheart who works as a counselor at LHS — and two children in his new home southwest of Lansing. He is currently pursuing a doctorate degree through Kansas State University as well.

Wessel also holds a bachelor’s degree from Washburn University in mathematics and a master’s in administration from the University of Kansas.

Along with his teaching duties, Wessel is stepping down as a junior varsity basketball coach, for the girls team last year and for the boys nine years prior to that.

NAME: Dan Wessel
ADDRESS: Rural Lansing
OCCUPATION: Assistant principal, LHS
FAMILY: Kristie, wife; Eric, 6, son; Kara, 18 months, daughter

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN LANSING AND WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?
“We recently moved here this summer (from near Fort Leavenworth). Change in jobs.”

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT LANSING? “Obviously the great schools. Also the people are very nice, and we have great kids.”

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN? “I entered two fantasy football leagues this year, play baseball with my son and watch my daughter run the house.”

WHAT MIGHT SURPRISE PEOPLE ABOUT YOU? “I was class valedictorian.”

WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED? “In my job, probably, always remember that parents love their kids.”

County: Leavenworth

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