Universities should not put dollar value on fields of study

Are tuition premiums placed on some areas of study at Kansas University and other U.S. colleges pushing low-income students into majors with less career potential?

According to comments by KU Provost Richard Lariviere in a recent New York Times article, the answer to that question appears to be “yes.”

KU began charging “differential tuition” (now referred to on the KU Web site as “course fees”) in the early 1990s.

The fees were justified as a way to insure students in certain majors have the up-to-date equipment and top-notch faculty necessary to succeed in their careers.

However, the tie between higher course fees and majors that lead to higher paying jobs is undeniable.

It’s worth noting that even this year’s entering freshmen, who will pay the much-touted four-year “guaranteed” tuition, must pay course fees.

The evidence that low-income students are avoiding majors with additional course fees may be anecdotal, but it is nonetheless disturbing.

Acquiring a well-paying job may be one goal of a university education, but universities shouldn’t be in the business of placing a relative dollar value on various fields of study.

It’s also unsettling for university officials to point to scholarship programs that are funded by the additional fees. That amounts to having students who pay full tuition and fees actually subsidizing the education of some of their classmates.

Too many students already are being left behind because of the rising costs of higher education.

There’s nothing wrong with being a history major, but it doesn’t serve the state of Kansas and its economic future to push people into liberal arts majors rather than encouraging those who are interested to pursue professional degrees.

If even anecdotal evidence that course fees are having that effect doesn’t worry KU officials, it should.

—Lawrence Journal-World
Hornet debate workshop educates local high school students

BY MALLORY LIVINGSTON

For the past five years, students have been traveling from surrounding cities to attend and participate in the Hornet Debate Workshop, hosted by the Emporia State University debate team.

The workshop usually accommodates between 100 and 180 students at a cost of only $15 per student. In addition, the workshop provides training to high school debate students to help them get ahead of the game for the upcoming debate season.

“It’s a day of intense lectures and training for high school debaters so that they can start the season a little bit further ahead,” said Sam Maurer, Director of Debate at ESU. “It’s also intended to provide a more affordable option than other debate camps or workshops. There are debate camps in Washington State or Michigan that cost upwards of $2000 to go to and you stay there for three to four weeks, whereas this is just a one day workshop and tuition is only $15 a student.”

The workshop was also created to give ESU debaters a chance to contribute to the community in which many of them grew up.

“Most of the debaters on the squad debated in high school in Kansas so it’s a good way for us to kind of give back to the community that gave us so much” said Kelly Thompson, senior education major and captain of the ESU debate team.

Schools attending the workshop this year included Dodge City, Marion, Emporia and seven others from across Kansas. Students got to hear a number of speakers including Sam Maurer and James Taylor, assistant debate coach at ESU. In addition to lectures, novice debate students were given the chance to view a demonstrative debate, given by ESU debaters Kelly Thompson, senior secondary education major, Kurt Fifelski, sophomore political science major, Donnie Hanson, freshman political science major and Jeremy Beach, junior physical science major. Hanson remembers attending the workshop as a high school student and recommends the experience to others.

“It’s educational for younger students because we always have the practice debate to begin with, which really helps the younger students understand what a debate round actually looks like,” Hanson said.

Not only did the workshop offer learning opportunities for high school students, but their coaches as well. High school debate coaches were invited to participate in sessions to expand their own knowledge of materials, techniques and coaching styles. However, Mary Griffith, Marion High School Debate Coach, had a lot to say about the workshop and its benefits for students.

“My students really enjoy the workshop here. They get the details of what they need for the topic and they are introduced to the affirmative and the negative. They get a real good background and it’s great that [Emporia] is close,” Griffith said. “It’s always thorough and very informative.”

Another speaker, Malcolm Gordon, Assistant Debate Coach at the University of Missouri Kansas City, spoke about critiques and framework as well as cross-examination. Gordon was also a finalist in the National Championship of College Debate last year.

Other speakers included Kelly Winfrey and Phil Samuels. Both Winfrey and Samuels are ESU alumni and Ph.D. students at the University of Kansas. Samuels advocates the workshop as a way for students to improve their debating skills.

“They get to come here and get lectured to and they get a packet of evidence to get a leg up on the topic, so it really helps them start their season off well,” Samuels said.

With over half of the speakers being ESU alumni, there was a common goal to educate the local community about the functions and educational value of debate programs, as well as the 2007 debate topic.

“Three out of the five speakers we have will be ESU alumni. We want to create outreach to the Emporia and Kansas community,” Maurer said.

One freshman ESU debate student watched intently throughout
the demonstrative debate and commented on the positive aspects of high school debate. LaToya Green debated for three years in high school.

See Debate, Page 3.

Photo by Yinbo Zhang

Kelly Winfrey, graduate teacher assistant from KU, discusses debate techniques with high school students from Emporia High School on Saturday in the Science Hall, Saturday afternoon. Winfrey and other GTAs showed EHS students the fundamentals of debating.

Debate
Continued from Page 1

but never attended the workshop as a high school student.

"Not all freshmen know right off the bat what inherency, topicality and solvency [are]. So what [the lecturers] do is give the information and they stop in the middle of speeches to explain what just happened, that way you can grasp parts of it," Green said.

Green also felt that many students get the wrong impression of debate without taking the time to learn much about it and students of all kinds could benefit from becoming involved in debate.

"Debate in general is a misconceived activity...once you get the fundamental aspects of what it is that you need to do to get your point across, you’re really able to come into it and make it your own...it will actually change your mind about a whole lot of things in life and you’ll think better as a citizen, as a person," Green said.

The workshop was an opportunity for many high school students to become exposed to information that they may not find elsewhere and could be valuable to their competitive abilities.

Jordan Hayes, freshman at Field Kindley High School, felt that she had benefited by attending the workshop.

"I think we’re learning a lot. We’re learning how to flow and take notes and that helps a lot with making speeches. So it’s been really helpful with how the rounds go and I think [the workshop] is really good."
Mission work grows on Toland

By BOB JOHNSON
Register City Editor
Elizabeth Toland has until Nov. 1 to get nearly $46,000 in pledges and cash in hand to continue her dream job as a missionary in Mexico.

What seems like a daunting task, has Toland oozing with enthusiasm.

She got her first taste of south of the border when as a 16-year-old she joined a group from First Presbyterian Church in 1999 to do mission work in Mexico.

Other trips followed and by her graduation from university in December 2005, she knew mission work was what she wanted for her first step out of college. She has a degree in education from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Now 24, she is the daughter of Clyde and Nancy Toland.

She had applied to the Peace Corps earlier, but turned down an assignment to Peru or Guatemala when the tug of spirituality compelled her to answer a call to Mexico.

By early last spring she had a yearlong assignment as a Young Adult Volunteer in the National Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In an April 2006 conversation with the Register, Toland said, “I hope it will turn into more than that.”

It has.

She now has before her a two-year assignment as U.S.

(Cont. page 8, column 1)

Register/Bob Johnson

Iolan Elizabeth Toland is eager to attract support so she may continue mission work in Mexico through 2009.
★ Mission

(Continued from page 1)

A five-week course in Spanish as a second language — a turnaround from its perspective here — at a training center south of Mexico City enhanced Toland’s college Spanish. Feeling comfortable with the language broke one of the barriers she had feared would keep her from pursuing a career in a different culture.

The second roadblock she had to overcome was raising $5,000, so she could “volunteer.”

She’s at it again, this time for a bigger amount to fund a much longer stint.

THE POSITION used to be funded by the Presbyterian Church (USA) until she came on board.

Now, it’s either raise what the mission arm of the church requires, $45,957, or see the position abolished.

She needs to have 110 percent of the first year’s requirement — it’s $23,384 so she needs about $25,700 — banked by Nov. 1 to pay 2008 expenses. Second year expenses are $22,573, with the additional requirement that she has to have the total, $45,957, collected or pledged by the Nov. 1 cutoff.

“Members of my church here, family and friends were great (when she raised money previously) and I know they will be again,” Toland said, but she doesn’t want them to look at the total, gulp, and wonder how that’s going to happen. She doesn’t have time or facility to travel to the many churches that sent members to mission efforts she planned and escorted, but she will contact them through letters that detail her needs and explain the importance of the programs and projects that are helping to overcome fears and barriers between people of faith in the United States and Mexico.

“They know me,” she said of those with whom she has been involved, and they know “what a good job the border ministry is doing.”

Toland also is eager for people here and elsewhere to continue to write and send e-mails supporting what she is doing and “to keep praying for me and the border ministry.”

Anyone who feels led to contribute to Toland’s ministry may send a check to Presbyterian Church (USA), Individual Remittance Processing, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Those contributing should write Toland’s name on the memo line of their check and add her identification number: MJ910081.
Cattle drive to commemorate novel’s 30th anniversary

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — It’s not quite the trek Robert Day envisioned for his novel, "The Last Cattle Drive."

But given the way last year’s practice run went, that’s probably a good thing.

“We lost all the cattle and ran into a mile field,” Day said “It became ‘The Lost Cattle Drive’ rather than ‘The Last Cattle Drive.”’

Day’s 1977 novel chronicles a modern-day drive from northwest Kansas to Kansas City, Kan. To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the book’s release, Day and a friend, O. Newton King, will re-enact a part of the fictional drive.

King, a retired pharmacy owner from Lawrence, has spent three years planning and organizing the drive, set for Sept. 4-5 at the Dickinson Ranch in Gorham, near Hays in Ellis County.

“His idea is almost as crazy as the idea of the book,” Day said. “It will sort of be a real chapter of the book — a condensed version.”

The drive also will raise money for 4-H clubs in Ellis and Russell counties, with 50 riders each day paying $300 each to go along.

“I wanted to leave something more permanent than cow pies,” King said.

Day, who teaches at Washington College in Chestertown, Md., was born in the Kansas City suburb of Shawnee. He graduated from the University of Kansas and taught there and at Fort Hays State University.

He worked on the Ward Sullivan Ranch northwest of Gorham and drew on his own experiences there to create the humorous novel’s main character, Spangler Star Turkle.

Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway, who has taught the novel in an honors seminar, said students can relate to the book because it appeals to their imaginations.

“We have such a rich history in Kansas,” he said. “I think it’s fun for students to imagine themselves as residents in the 20th century and imagine experiences of their forefathers.”

Besides the novel’s humor, Hemenway said, Day “evokes so many questions that students can ask, such as ‘What happened to the West?’; ‘What happened to the cowboy?’; and ‘Have we lost some of the values we associated with stalwart settlers?’”
University of Kansas among the best

KU was ranked 38th among public universities in U.S. News & World Report

STAFF REPORT

The University of Kansas continues to be ranked among the nation’s top 50 public universities, according to U.S. News and World Report.

In the 2008 edition of the magazine’s America’s Best Colleges issue, released this week, KU moved up for the third consecutive year to its highest spot since 2002.

KU was ranked 38th among 164 top national public institutions. The magazine’s rankings are based on a survey of top university administrators, retention rates, graduation rates, faculty resources, selectivity of admissions, per-student financial resources and alumni giving rate.

Already this year, KU has collected top national rankings for its academic offerings. In U.S. News’ America’s Best Graduate Schools rankings for 2007, there were 43 nationally ranked academic programs at the Lawrence campus and the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan. In the magazine’s Best Hospitals issue, KU Hospital was ranked 30th in the nation for heart care and heart surgery.

Also, KU is the only Kansas school in the recently released 2008 edition of the Fiske Guide to Colleges. “With solid academics, outstanding extracurricular programs, winning athletics and a stellar social life, the University of Kansas is one of higher education’s best buys,” the guide states. “With relatively low tuition, its academic value is also hard to top.”

The new Fiske guide notes KU’s “gorgeous campus” and says the university offers “strong programs in a full slate of professional schools.”


Twenty-three KU programs ranked in the top 25 among public universities included city management and urban policy master, special education master/doctorate, community health master/doctorate (tied), paleontology doctorate, public management administration master, occupational therapy master/doctorate (tied), audiology master/doctorate, public affairs master (tied), speech-language pathology master, petroleum engineering, social work master (tied), nursing-midwifery master/doctorate (tied), physical therapy master/doctorate (tied), music master (tied), School of Education (tied), pharmacy PharmD (tied), public finance and budgeting master, clinical child psychology doctorate (tied), health-care management master (tied), clinical psychology doctorate (tied), drama/theatre master (tied), history doctorate (tied) and nursing-anesthesia master (tied).
Firefighter training

Parsons firefighters Danny Ramirez and Adam Grimes recently attended 36 hours of rope rescue and confined space training in Eureka.

The two classes were the first in a series of four required sessions to gain rescue technician status. The training sessions are part of continuing education offered by the University of Kansas' Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

According to Parsons Fire Chief Tim Hay, once technician status is received, Grimes and Ramirez will join six others from the Parsons Fire Department on the regional rescue team, which is comprised of nine departments throughout Southeast Kansas.
Philanthropists help with leadership, causes

LAWRENCE (AP) — 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?'"

Deannell 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 Sept. 7 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.

"I 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.
Lawrence Journal-World, on tuition costs:

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Derby students receive public service scholarships

Derby News Report
janderson@derbyreporter.com

The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas recently announced 128 new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year.

The new scholars were formally announced during a June luncheon meeting at the Dole Institute.

From Derby, the recipients include:

Jessica Calhoun, Kansas State University, dietetics; Richard Landzettel, Emporia State University, pre-engineering; and Sarah Murdoch, Kansas State University, education.

Aligned with the primary mission of the Dole Institute, the scholarship program encourages young Kansans to get involved in politics, government and community service.

Recipients receive a $1,000 scholarship, renewable for three years, and commit to completing 100 hours of civic activities annually.

Kansas high school seniors who have volunteered in community and public service in their communities and who have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale are eligible.
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