More than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester.

These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City represent 101 of 105 Kansas counties, 42 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum grade-point average for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Among those students honored were Shawna Doane, Keah Cunningham, Beth Ohnsat and Renee Henke.

Shawna Marie Doane, daughter of Lee and Denelle Mick of Cawker City, is a Pharmacy Professional Prof student and a graduate of Waconda East High School.

Keah M. Cunningham, daughter of David Cunningham of Glen Elder, is a Business Undergraduate senior and a graduate of Lakeside High School.

Beth Alison Ohnsat, daughter of Francis and Marilyn Ohnsat, Tipton is a student of Pharmacy Professional Prof and a graduate of Tipton Catholic High School.

Renee J Henke, daughter of Ronald Henke and Jean Henke, is an Education Undergraduate senior and a graduate of Lakeside High School.
The School of Education at the University of Kansas recently honored teachers with more than 25 years of service.

Two Barton county teachers, John Thurow and Cindy Vink, both teachers at USD 428 Great Bend, were among those that were honored.

Thurow, whose hometown is Ellinwood, has completed 35 years of teaching.

Vink, also of Ellinwood, has been teaching 25 years and is currently a Counselor.
Officials hoping Obama smears do little harm

By CHRIS GREEN
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TOPEKA (HNS) — Chain e-mail messages that repeat false claims about Barack Obama’s religion, patriotism or life story pop up in Glenn Staab’s inbox almost daily.

“When it happens, the Ellis County Democratic Party Chairman and Hays resident simply hits “reply all” and directs recipients to passages about Obama on Snopes.com, a Web site that catalogs and often debunks urban legends.

“I use it as a chance to educate,” Staab said. “I think the people that are going to believe those e-mails aren’t going to be voting for a Democratic candidate.”

Despite near-constant media reports refuting them, falsehoods about the U.S. senator and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee continue to circulate widely across the nation, including Kansas.

Often surfacing over the Internet in e-mails and blogs, some of the most common messages falsely assert that Obama, a Christian, is secretly a Muslim, took his oath of office on the Islamic faith’s holy book or refuses to pledge allegiance to the flag.

Obama’s campaign is actively working to refute the rumors through its “Fight the Smears” Web site, which lists and counters the untruths and links their spread to individuals and groups politically opposed to Obama.

Despite such efforts, the message appears to have taken hold in the minds of at least some Americans heading into the Nov. 4 general election. A nationwide survey released earlier this year by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press showed at least one in 10 voters believing Obama is a Muslim.

Although the Internet rumor phenomenon hasn’t skipped Kansas, officials representing both of the state’s major political parties say they don’t see smears having much of an effect on how Kansans cast their ballots.

Jenny Davidson, a spokeswoman for the state Democratic Party, said she thinks Kansas voters will care mostly about Obama’s plans for helping the nation’s reeling economy.

“I think the people of Kansas are looking for a leader with a plan to address what’s happening at the gas station or with food in the grocery store,” state Democratic Party spokeswoman Jenny Davidson. “Senator Obama’s background lends itself to addressing these issues and I think that’s what (voters) will really be focusing on.”

Christian Morgan, executive director of the state Republican Party, isn’t a fan of Obama’s policies or politics. He and his party regularly send out e-mail missives attacking Obama’s stands for being too liberal for Kansas.

Yet Morgan said he hopes Kansas voters will cast their ballots for the Republican nominee, Arizona Sen. John McCain, because his policies are better, rather than because of “silly Internet rumors.”

“Anybody that participates in that silliness is just really doing a disservice to not only Sen. Obama — who deserves our respect — they’re also doing a disservice to John McCain,” Morgan said.

‘Get up off the couch’

Staab said that he sees most of the falsehoods about Obama surface over e-mail but rarely hears them uttered in everyday conversation. He figures the e-mail campaign is mostly the work of underhanded Obama opponents who will do whatever they think is necessary to win.

Vic Moser, an Abilene Democrat who is the party’s 1st District and Reno County chairman, said he hears false rumors about Obama’s religion circulating in his region, too.

He worries erroneous beliefs could cost Obama votes at the polls, because people often put a lot of stock in stories their friends or families tell them.

But Moser said he’s hopeful Obama, who wasn’t widely known before the presidential campaign began, will be able to allay most people’s fears as time goes on.

Voters lack of familiarity with Obama, as well as his unusual name and background, likely contribute to the resonance of falsehoods being circulated about him on the Web, according to a University of Kansas professor who has written about the growing use of Internet media in political debate.

Obama, who would become the nation’s first black president should he win, is the son of a Kansas woman, who was white, and a Kenyan father who was black. Obama, whose middle name is Hussein, grew up with his mother in Hawaii and lived in Indonesia for a few years.

But David Perlmutter, a professor at KU’s School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the author of “Blogwars,” said false rumors about Obama only gain traction when people find the elements of them attractive to believe.

In many respects the Obama rumor phenomenon is nothing new, since political candidates have battled rumors or whispers campaigns throughout U.S. political history, he said.

Technology has allowed the rumors about Obama to spread much faster and more widely, perhaps, than in the past. But the Internet’s tools can also be used to dispel the falsehood just as quickly, since factual information about Obama remains just a click away, too. Perlmutter said the large amount of data available on the Internet puts the burden on users to become involved in sorting out what sources of information are credible and which ones are not.

“You’ve got to get up off the couch to use the medium effectively,” Perlmutter said.
Jury finds for KU, worth $127,000

Trademark: Violation isn't going to make infringing business shut its doors.

LAWRENCE (AP) — A federal jury ruled Monday that a Lawrence clothing store must pay the University of Kansas $127,000 for trademark infringement for selling unlicensed Jayhawk-related merchandise.

After two days of deliberations, the eight-person jury ruled that Larry Sinks, owner of Joe-College.com, had infringed on the university's trademark by selling unlicensed T-shirts online and through his store.

"We agree with the jury that all three defendants willfully infringed on and diluted our marks," Kansas athletic director Lew Perkins said in a statement.

"This is an important victory for the University of Kansas, its reputation and its students, who receive approximately $1 million annually in scholarships from trademark revenue."

The award, though, was well below the $500,000 the school had sought. The jury also ruled that about 75 percent of the 206 shirts Joe-College.com sold did not violate any trademark.

An attorney for Joe-College.com said the store will remain in business, though the judge said she would enter an injunction prohibiting the further sale of the infringing shirts.

Sinks said he tried to secure licenses for selling official Kansas merchandise but was rejected, so he decided to make his own shirts that didn't require licenses.

None of his shirts include a picture of the Jayhawk mascot or say "The University of Kansas," both of which are protected trademarks.

He also includes signs in his store and on his Web site making it clear he is not affiliated with the university.

The school contended that Sinks' shirts were close enough to the university's own offerings to confuse customers into thinking he's selling officially licensed apparel.

One shirt printed in connection with Kansas' trip to the Orange Bowl was blue, similar to the school's official color, and had "Hawk Football" on the front and "Orange You Glad We're Going Bowling in Miami," with the words "Orange" and "Bowl" printed in orange.

Another blue shirt says "Missouri, it's Your Turn to Pick Cotton (nice bowl game)," a reference to the University of Missouri playing in the Cotton Bowl this year.
Students recognized for test achievements

About 400 seventh-graders, including several from the area, were recognized at a program at the University of Kansas for their selection in the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Students participate in the program by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests. The state recognition ceremony honored seventh-graders who have earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors. The seventh-graders recognized included:

- Cimarron — Morgan L. Baldwin; Chance T. Harrell; Aidan B. Shaughnessy
- Garden City — Kaitlyn R. Pfeifer
- Holcomb — Ryan W. Roth
- Hugoton — Lawson C. Fiss
- Scott City — Chelsi D. Hess
- Ulysses — Jennifer L. Calderwood
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Local educators honored for 25 years of service

Lawrence, KS - The School of Education at the University of Kansas has honored 797 teachers from 173 school districts statewide with certificates recognizing 25 years or more of service to education in Kansas. Locally, several were honored for 25 years of service. They are: Leanne Tschanz, Satanta Elementary Principal, and from Sublette, Bernard Leverett, Susan Miller, and Terry Phoenix.

Three teachers honored this year have 40 or more years of service. Ronald Daniels of Great Bend, secondary guidance counselor with Great Bend USD 428, has taught for 44 years, all in Kansas; Marilyn Quinn of Holton, elementary teacher with Holton USD 336, has 42 years experience in Kansas; and Charlotte Nelson of Salina, coordinator with Salina USD 305, was honored for 40 years of service in the state.

Two teachers from Holton were honored for 39 years of service in Kansas schools: Sharon Karns, elementary teacher, and Mary Schulz, middle school teacher, both with Holton USD 336.

Mary Mattley of Derby, middle school teacher with Mulvane USD 263; and Shirley Lett of Joplin, Mo., elementary counselor with Columbus USD 493, were honored for 38 years of service in Kansas.

Three teachers were recognized for 36 years of service in Kansas, including two from Holton USD 336: Carolyn Bell, Holton, elementary teacher; Judy Swisher, Holton, secondary teacher. Jeannie Presson, Cherrvyle, secondary teacher with Cherryvale-Thayer USD 447, has been in Kansas for 36 of the 37 years she has been teaching.

Seven teachers each were honored for 35 years of service in Kansas:

Sharaon Buscher, Topeka, elementary teacher for Topeka USD 501
Martha Ann Jones, Olpe, elementary teacher with Emporia USD 253
Walr Koontz, Sedan, secondary counselor with Chautauqua County USD 286
Patricia Simonson, Topeka, elementary teacher for Topeka USD 501
Nancy Wendling, Mankato, middle school teacher with Republic County USD 109
Gwenda R. Wilcox, Topeka, middle school teacher for Topeka USD 501
Mark B. Wilson, Topeka, director of special education with Holton USD 336

"Strengthening education is among the more important public policy issues facing our country," said Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education. "Good teaching is at the core of any success that students achieve. As leaders debate the best ways to attract and retain high quality teachers across Kansas and the country, it is important to recognize those who have dedicated their professional lives to our Kansas classrooms. The time that these teachers have given to the students in our state is significant, and we are pleased to offer this small recognition for their work and dedication."

KU’s School of Education annually invites Kansas school district officials to identify educators who are eligible for recognition. Certificates are issued based on responses from individual districts; some school districts do not participate in the recognition program.
Lawrence, KS - The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas has announced that Molly Hanson of Sublette is among 128 new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2008-09 academic year.

The program recognizes graduating Kansas high school students who have volunteered in their communities and maintained a 3.0 GPA. The 2008 recipients received a $1,000 scholarship, renewable up to three years with a commitment of completing 100 hours of civic activities annually.

“The Dole Institute of Politics provides diverse opportunities for Dole Scholars to become involved in civic engagement and stimulate interest in public service,” said Barbara Ballard, director of the scholarship program and associate director of the institute. “Public service is an honorable profession, and hopefully the scholarships will encourage students to pursue public service as a career.”

The new scholars will enroll this fall at one of the six Kansas Board of Regents universities or Washburn University in Topeka. Regents universities are KU, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University and Wichita State University.

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

“Part of the Dole Institute’s primary mission is to encourage young people to get involved in politics, government and community service,” said Bill Lacy, director of the institute. “Our goal is to improve the public service capacities of future public officials and help students understand the challenges, and rewards, of public life. We are encouraged that so many outstanding young people from across Kansas have chosen to make public service a part of their lives.”

The scholarship program began with a federal grant that funded 40 scholarships each in 2005 and in 2006. In 2007, a total of 128 scholars were awarded. The 2008-09 class also consists of 128 scholars. Funded by NASA, the scholarships are distributed among the state’s four congressional districts to ensure the broadest statewide participation.

The Dole Public Service Scholarship is administered by Scholarship Management Services, a department of Scholarship America, a national non-profit educational support and student aid service organization that seeks to involve and assist the private sector in expanding educational opportunities and encouraging educational achievement. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, gender, disability or national origin.

Ballard formally announced the new scholars during a luncheon program at the Dole Institute. The scholars and their guests received a surprise phone call from Dole, who offered his congratulatory remarks to the scholars. Greetings were offered by President of the Kansas Board of Regents Reggie Robinson, Vice Provost for Student Success Marlesa Roney, Lawrence City Commissioner Sue Hack and Lacy.

The luncheon’s keynote speaker was Paul Buskirk, associate athletics director for Student Athlete Support Services. The luncheon’s keynote speaker was Paul Buskirk, associate athletics director for Student Athlete Support Services. The scholars were individually recognized and presented with a Dole Scholars lapel pin.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Also singled out were FO USD 459/USD 422 Bucklin/Greensburg Michael Brummett 28, music instructor; KW USD 422 Greensburg Darin Headrick 25 Greensburg Superintendent; PR USD 382 Pratt Janet West 25 Greensburg Teacher.

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United Methodist
Pledge $5.2 Million
In Capital Campaign

Wichita—United Methodists in the western two-thirds of Kansas have pledged more than $5.2 million toward a capital campaign to fund facility improvements at United Methodist camp and campus ministry sites and for church growth and development.

The “Bridges to the Future” campaign kicked off in August 2007 and will officially end August 31. The campaign goal was $4.2 million. The beneficiaries of the campaign include Camp Lakeside near Scott City and Camp Horizon near Arkansas City as well as the campus ministry sites at six of the state’s seven Kansas Board of Regents schools: Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas and Washburn University.

The money also will be used to revitalize existing United Methodist congregations through the work of the Center for Small Membership Churches located at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina and to start new congregations in growth areas.

“Many prayers have been answered through this campaign,” said Sue Dondlinger, campaign director and member of University United Methodist Church in Wichita. “Through this campaign, the congregations have embraced a vision of renewal and expansion that will enable the United Methodist Church to carry out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world right here in Kansas.”

Work is already beginning on improvements at the Protestant Campus Center at Fort Hays State University from a $50,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

“The churches of the Kansas West Conference have stepped out in faith and shown a strong commitment to their ministries with youth, young adults and growing populations,”