Local seventh-graders honored at KU

BY THE SUN STAFF

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas will host a state recognition program at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Lied Center for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Students from the area invited to the KU event are: Joshua T. Mathes of Bartlett; Lori M. Henderson of Cherokee; Dalton L. Noakes of Erie; Austin S. Egbert of McCune; Allison C. Hudson of Parsons; Kelsey M. Barton of Weir; and Marina R. Stricklin of Weir. Carter Royce Waite, a KU senior majoring in theater from Palmouth, Maine, will be host. Simran Sethi, the Lacy C. Haynes visiting professional chair in journalism, will deliver a special address to the students and their families and guests. Julie Bennington, seventh-grade talent search coordinator for Duke TIP, will present the awards.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance exam scores that are in the top 5 percent while the students are in middle school. Students participate by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests. Working with host academic institutions such as KU, Duke TIP sponsors 35 ceremonies in its 16-state talent search region.

Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion. The state recognition ceremonies honor seventh-graders who have earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors. Of more than 74,000 applicants this year, 21,115 students qualified and have been invited to state recognition events, including 876 students being recognized at KU.
**Benedict earns scholarship**

LAWRENCE — Nicholas Benedict of Scammon was the recipient of the Roger N. Wooldridge Journalism Scholarship at the University of Kansas.

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications recently announced recipients of annual awards and scholarships totaling about $300,000.

Dean Ann Brill announced the 130 award and scholarship recipients, including 11 incoming freshmen, during the April 29 ceremony in the Kansas Union.

Benedict is the son of John and Debbie Benedict. He is a junior majoring in strategic communications.
Ryan Glessner has graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Ryan will work for B&G Consultants in Emporia. He is the son of Larry and Sandy Glessner of Leonardville, and Deryl and Vicky Minton of Kansas City.
**Student honors**

**Bethany science student honored by Swedish Council**

LINDSBORG — Bethany College student Tessa Howard, Sharon Springs, has been selected as the alternate winner of the Glenn T. Seaborg Science Award for 2008 by the Swedish Council of America.

Howard graduated May 25 with a degree in biology. She will study at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

The Glenn T. Seaborg Science Award is named to honor Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chemist and Nobel laureate who discovered, or co-discovered, numerous atomic elements, including atomic element number 106, officially named “Seaborgium” in his honor.

The annual award honors a junior or senior student majoring in the sciences at one of six Swedish-American colleges in the country with a week-long trip to Stockholm, including participation in the Nobel Prize ceremony.

Howard then was co-author of a poster presentation “Characteization of Thromboxane Receptor Expression in Cultured Sensory Neurons,” which she helped present at the 2007 Experimental Biology Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., an interdisciplinary, scientific meeting drawing more than 12,000 scientists from around the world.

Currently, Howard is a pre-medical volunteer at JayDoc Community Clinic, a community health clinic for low-income families in Wichita. At Bethany College, she is a member of the Honors Program, TriBeta Biological Honor Society, Bio-Chem Club, Gold Key Women’s Honor Society, Campus Ministries, Peer Ministry and the Ally group. She has worked as a biology laboratory assistant and co-founded the school’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity.
KU Alumni Association to fete incoming students at picnic

LAWRENCE — Incoming University of Kansas students and their parents from Anderson, Franklin, Linn and Miami counties will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, in Paola.

The KU Alumni Association and its East chapter will greet the new Jayhawks at the Paola Town Square Park, north of 15 W. Wea. Area alumni, new students, students interested in learning more about KU and parents are invited to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages. Each new Jayhawk also will receive a free T-shirt.

Sid and Carol McKnight of Parker; Bob Nicholson of Paola; Brian and Carroll Platt of Paola; Margy and Charlie Porter of Ottawa; Cindy Reynolds of Leawood; Steve Rottinghaus of Wellsville; and Beck Thomas of Baldwin, all board members, and Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs for the alumni association, are coordinating the event.

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.kualumni.org, call the KU Alumni Association at (800) 584-2957 or e-mail kualumni@kualumni.org.

The alumni association invited incoming students whose enrollment deposits were received by the Office of Admissions and Scholarships by May 1.

Students from this area who were invited include: Garnett: Kirstin Brown, Jordan Kruse, Deanna Maley and Kaleigh Maloan.

Lane: Chad Thomas.

Princeton: Tyler Gardner

Rantoul: Laurel Brock
Local strings camp plucks up the talent

By EMILY BEHLMANN
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When Douglas Beyer was doing graduate work in music at the University of Texas-Arlington, he was asked to be the faculty instructor for first violins at the university’s youth summer camp for strings players.

At the camp, the young musicians were exposed to challenging music and talented musicians outside the school year, said Beyer, now strings instructor at Garden City Community College.

Strings students in the Garden City area haven’t had such opportunities, he said, unless they attend what can be costly camps on the other side of the state.

“With gas prices what they are today it’s prohibitive to a lot of people in this area,” he said.

But no longer are they prohibited from coming together to work on music with instructors who teach at the university.

In his first full summer at GCCC, Beyer is launching a summer strings camp for students entering seventh through 12th grades, plus 2008 graduates, as long as they have been playing their instrument for at least two years.

The camp runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 22 to 24 at GCCC, with auditions to determine skill level from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 21 in GCCC’s Pauline Joyce Fine Arts Building. The camp concludes with a concert at 7 p.m. July 24. It costs $100, though the Garden City High School orchestra boosters organization is making some scholarships available to its students.

Beyer said students will be placed in a junior high or high school performance group, and top high school students also will be chosen for the chamber orchestra, a select group that will tackle more challenging pieces.

Each day will include two group rehearsals and two sectional rehearsals led by a specialist in students’ particular instrument. Some private lessons are available for guest professors for an additional $15 each.

One of the guest professors, Mark Foley, associate professor of double bass at Wichita State University, said he was interested in participating because he sees it as potential to develop future students’ interest in his university’s strings program.

But there are plenty of benefits to students, too, he and other camp leaders said. It’s a way of making connections with fellow students and music professors, which can serve them well in the future, Beyer said.

In addition, it can promote their enjoyment of music, according to Cara Cooper, professor of music at Kansas State University and one of the visiting professors.

It’s also a good idea for music students to keep playing during the summer, even though school is out, said guest professor Ken Hakoda, music director at the Salina Symphony.

Besides helping individual students, Beyer sees it as a way to build the quality of local strings programs by boosting students’ ability levels, he said.

Other program instructors include Benjamin Morris-Cline, music department chairman at Fort Hays State University; Tami Lee Hughes, assistant professor of violin at the University of Kansas; Wilfredo Pasemba, lecturer for cello at Pittsburg State University; and Sara Baxter, professor of strings at Newman University.

The enrollment deadline for the camp is June 16, and registration forms were distributed through school orchestras and are available at GCCC, or from Summer Miller, GCCS orchestra director. More information is available from Beyer at 276-9637, or douglas.beyer@gcccks.
Brad Cardonell initiated into KU's Mortar Board Society

- LAWRENCE — Forty-eight University of Kansas students were recently initiated into Mortar Board, a senior honor society. Among those students was Bradford Lee Cardonell of Tribune, a senior biology major, son of Randy and Tracy Cardonell and a 2005 graduate of Greeley County High School.

The initiation ceremonies were April 13 at the Kansas Union, followed by a reception at the chancellor’s residence for student and alumni members and their families and invited guests.

The KU chapter also initiated its first honorary members: Chancellor Robert Hemenway and Vice Provost for Student Success Marlesa Roney. They were honored for their contributions of countless hours to the university, community and Mortar Board.

Nick Barnthouse, Leawood senior and outgoing Mortar Board president, said that Hemenway and Roney exemplify the ideals of Mortar Board: scholarship, leadership and service.

Barnthouse conducted the ceremonies. Bryan Hay, Topeka senior, organized the selection of new members. Katy Ault, Topeka, and Dustin Curzon, Broken Arrow, Okla., both seniors, were initiation co-chairs. Kevin Campbell, Leawood junior, is Mortar Board president.

Mortar Board advisers assisted with the ceremonies. They are: Linda Mullens, senior budget and personnel administrator in the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success; Antonio Simoes, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese; and Sandy Garrett, Lawrence chapter alumni adviser.

Mortar Board members are selected based on distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Students must have a 3.0 grade-point average and hold senior status during some or all of the academic year. What became KU’s Mortar Board chapter was founded in 1912 as the Torch senior women’s honor society. In 1924, it affiliated with the national Mortar Board women’s honor society. Mortar Board opened membership to men in 1975. This year, 85 students applied for membership at KU.
KU holds May 18 commencement ceremony

The University of Kansas held their 136th commencement ceremony Sunday, May 18, with the following among those receiving degrees: Adrian Caro, son of Socorro and Carmen Caro of Copeland received a Bachelor of Science in Education; Vernon Kehoe, son of Linda Kehoe of Satanta received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering; Sublette High School graduate Ashley Hefner, daughter of John and Julie Easley, received a Bachelor of Science in Business/Management and a Bachelor of Science in Business/Marketing.

KU’s Class of 2008 numbers more than 7,000, including 2,555 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2007. KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year. The names of more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring were announced by the University Registrar. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2008 were expected to participate.

Candidates are also listed online by home county, state or country; degree; major; level in school; gender; parents’ names; and high school (when available) at www.news.ku.edu/2008/may/8/gradspring08.shtml.
GI Bill

Expanding benefit for veterans a small price to pay for their service

A
fter World War II, millions of American soldiers used a then-controversial piece of legislation called the GI Bill to turn their wartime service into a college education.

The result was an unprecedented time of growth and prosperity, as the American working class became better educated, wealthier and more capable of home ownership.

At its peak in 1947, nearly half of all college students were former soldiers who returned home from battle, according to a New York Times story.

Now, a debate rages over the largest expansion of the GI Bill in 25 years, which currently covers about 60 percent of a college education at state colleges such as the University of Kansas.

President George Bush has threatened to veto the expansion, mainly over fear that many soldiers would leave the military after three years for a civilian education when the country is fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and having trouble finding recruits.

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas was among those who voted for the bill, which passed the Senate on Thursday. Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas voted against.

The bill returns to the House for final passage with uncertain support from 1st District Rep. Jerry Moran, a Republican from Hays. He said he backs enhanced benefits for soldiers but was disappointed in the bill with an associated tax increase, which he says would negatively affect small business operators.

The expanded GI bill includes full-ride scholarships for soldiers who have served at least three years of active duty service, including a stipend for books and housing, and extending the benefit period from 10 to 15 years after leaving the military.

The changes, which are expected to cost $17 million, seem like a small price to pay for what the U.S. government is asking of its young men and women in uniform.

Today’s soldiers who fight in Iraq and Afghanistan shouldn’t be short-changed when they return home from their tours of duty. Despite the wars’ unpopularity among U.S. citizens, the people who serve in uniform are no less noble or deserving than their counterparts who served during World War II.

Of all the government programs that aim to help veterans readjust to civilian life, none carries the long-term benefits of the GI Bill.

Picking up the tab for returning soldiers pays for itself by creating a generation of educated people who help build and invest in the economy. Furthermore, educated soldiers who are capable of earning a decent living in the civilian world are less likely to require additional services from the Veterans Administration, such as health care and mental health care services.

There should be little debate on the GI Bill. It is time for an expansion to meet the needs of today’s returning soldiers, who deserve the same opportunities that were extended to their grandfathers 60 years ago.
5.4.7 nears Platinum status

By Janet West
Special to The Signal

Speaking Tuesday to a gathering at the newly finished 5-4-7 Arts Center, University of Kansas Professor and head of Studio 804, Dan Rockhill, and, former student, Jenny Kivett, announced that LEED Platinum certification is assured for the Center. With preliminary certification coming in at Silver, Kivett said a few clarifying statements would be added before resubmitting the application which both Rockhill and Kivett agreed would put the final assessment at Platinum.

Once accepted, the Arts Center would become the first LEED Platinum building in Kansas, the first student designed and constructed LEED Platinum building in history, and the first of what Rockhill hopes will be many sustainable projects in Greensburg.

Rockhill and Studio 804 have been working on community service projects for over a decade beginning in Lawrence. Although run as a business, Studio 804 is a not-for-profit organization that satisfies what Rockhill calls his students’ hunger for life experiences. Although most architects “never get dirty,” 804 requires that students work in all aspects of design and construction.

Over the years, Studio 804 has teamed with Lawrence partners such as Tenants to Homeowners to create innovative, sustainable homes. Currently, Rockhill has turned his attention to Kansas City, KS where 804 helps return depleted housing areas to

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life. Working from a warehouse in Lawrence, houses are built and moved in pieces to construction sites. There is now a waiting list for Studio 804 homes in Kansas City.

Just three weeks following last year's tornado, he and his team began talking about Greensburg. Guided by the City Council's goal to build back green, Rockhill and his students set about constructing a "sustainable prototype," an example that would inspire and serve the community of Greensburg.

On January 3, students began the design phase, by February 4 they were into actual construction, and on March 17, pieces of the Center were loaded onto trucks, in what Rockhill calls the worst rainstorm ever, for the long haul to Greensburg. With hard work, sometimes at night under the lights of parked vehicles, the team completed its project in time for the May 4 anniversary celebration.

Sustainable features of the Center include an impressive array of items including wood recycled from Sunflower Ammunition, three wind turbines that will not only fill batteries at the Center, but also feed electricity back into the city's grid, photovoltaic panels on the roof for solar energy, and three geothermal deep wells that exchange hot or cold temperatures with the earth's constant 54 degrees. Succulents cover the roof to trap heat in the winter and cool the sun's rays in the summer, and rainwater will be harvested, filtered, and stored in a 1,500-gallon receptacle buried in the ground.

Concrete materials, provided by Heft and Sons, create environmentally friendly walkways and the floor which is covered by a coating of epoxy. The green glass "skin" protects recycled wood from ultraviolet rays.

All of these elements and more make up the coveted LEED Platinum certification expected by Rockhill and Studio 804. Sustainability is also a goal for Rockhill's private company, Rockhill and Associates, that has been responsible for rebuilding many historical sites in Kansas such as the Pony Express station in Hanover and the Block House at Fort Hays.

Currently on display in the 5-4-7 Arts Center is a pictorial display of the Center from conception to completion.

Stacy Barnes, member of the Center's Board of Directors announced that summer classes will be offered in ceramics for kids and adults and creative drama for children. Memberships for the Center may be obtained by contacting a 5-4-7 board member.