Durant honored

LAWRENCE — Fifty-two undergraduate and graduate students and two professors were recognized for outstanding academic and teaching achievements by the University of Kansas mathematics department at its 51st annual honors banquet last month. Recipients of the 2008 New Student Scholarships awarded in January were also recognized at the banquet.

This year, the math department presented more than $87,700 in awards and scholarships. Award winners announced included Ryan Anthony Durant of Parsons, son of Cathleen Durant. Durant was studying secondary level education and earned the Black-Babcock Mathematics Scholarship. He is a graduate of Parsons High School.
Abortion doctor's visit to Sebelius raises questions

BY JOHN HANNA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOPEKA — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius undercut her efforts to build her credentials as a moderate problem-solver with a reception last year at her official residence with abortion provider Dr. George Tiller.

Sebelius has gained national attention for winning two terms as a Democratic governor in a traditionally Republican state. National party leaders promote her as someone who governs successfully by bridging political differences, and she's been mentioned as a potential running mate for Barack Obama, the likely Democratic presidential nominee.

That helped make the April 9, 2007, reception with Tiller noteworthy. Last week, the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue posted photos from the event on its Web site, including one of Sebelius shaking hands with the doctor. Tiller, who operates a Wichita clinic, is one of the few U.S. physicians performing late-term abortions.

Sebelius is a strong abortion rights supporter. But like other politicians with similar views, she's sometimes downplayed or massaged the issue to keep conservative Democrats and moderate Republicans with her. And Tiller's business makes many legislators uncomfortable, even if they're not considered anti-abortion stalwarts.

"I saw the photo, and it made me cringe," said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, an Independence Republican.

It's difficult to assess the effects of the reception on Sebelius' standing with voters so soon after disclosure of Tiller's attendance.

Democrats, even some who oppose abortion, said they weren't upset, given what they believe is the governor's well-known stance on abortion. Naturally, some abortion opponents were outraged, though they didn't need additional evidence to persuade them that state government under Sebelius' control protects abortion providers.

"I think anyone who would be upset over this is already firmly against her and her abortion policies," said Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist who once served on Sebelius' staff. "What we are looking at is Sebelius becoming more and more a national figure. As you become a national figure and there's talk about higher office like vice president, you become more of a target."

Operation Rescue described the reception as a lavish secret party at the residence for Tiller, his clinic's staff and several other abortion providers.

The governor's office said Tiller
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

won the right to have a reception at Cedar Crest by being the high bidder at a fundraising auction for the Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus. Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said the governor sometimes donates her time and the use of the residence to groups she supports.

But the women's caucus advocates the election of women who support abortion rights to public office, and in 2002, it gave Sebelius an award for being "a role model of political accomplishment."

Also, at the time of the reception, Tiller was under investigation by the attorney general's office over allegations that he'd performed illegal late-term abortions.

Abortion rights advocates had worked to oust Attorney General Phill Kline, an anti-abortion Republican, from office in 2006, and abortion foes believed the new attorney general wouldn't be aggressive about prosecuting Tiller.

Less than three months after the reception, the attorney general's office filed 19 misdemeanors against Tiller in Sedgwick County District Court. Tiller denies wrongdoing, but the complaint alleges that he failed to get a second opinion for some late-term procedures from an independent physician, as required by law.

Some opponents view that still-pending case as weak and, worse for them, unlikely to stop Tiller from aborting several hundred pregnancies a year after the 21st week and when the fetus can survive outside the womb.

Three of the 13 pictures Operation Rescue posted show Sebelius holding up a red T-shirt commemorating a "Trifecta 2006" — her reelection that year and the election of a like-minded lieutenant governor and attorney general.

"The fact that she was there — and from the photos, happy to be there — with Tiller does say something about the nature of their relationship," said Rep. Lance Kinzer, an anti-abortion Olathe Republican.

As a Kansas House member in 1987-94, Sebelius was among its strongest supporters of abortion rights. In 1990, she even voted in favor of an anti-abortion bill, which the Kansas Senate killed.

"The number of abortions in Kansas has dropped 13 percent since 1999, describing it as a positive development."

For all that, the reception with Tiller suggests where she truly stands on the issue. The question now is whether it makes some voters too uncomfortable to stick with her.
Girard alumna receives journalism scholarship at KU

GIRARD — Lisa Michelle Curran, 2008 Girard High School graduate, has received the Roger N. Wooldridge Journalism Scholarship from the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

The award was announced by Dean Ann Brill during an April 29 ceremony in the Kansas Union. There were 130 award and scholarship recipients, including 11 incoming freshmen. Curran is one of 31 freshmen who received direct admittance to the J-School.

She has also been admitted to the KU Honors College, and will have a double major in journalism and philosophy with a pre-law emphasis.

She will attend the KU summer session with a tuition and books scholarship.

In the fall, she will have the privilege of living in Watkins Hall, oldest of the KU scholarship halls.

She is the daughter of Sandra Belden and Steve Curran.
LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 1, at the Lied Center for approximately 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Area students recognized include Sophia Fortmeyer of Fairview and Jordan Evans of Wetmore.

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.

The Duke program is in its 28th year, and this is the 10th year KU has hosted the Kansas recognition program. In addition to Kansans, students taking part in the activities are Missouri residents from the Kansas City metropolitan area or towns near the Kansas-Missouri state line. Information tables to answer students’ and parents’ questions about various KU programs and activities will be available in the Lied Center lobby during the recognition event.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit educational organization that identifies and helps cultivate the talents of academically gifted youth. Since 1980, more than 1.5 million students have taken part in the program that is supported by student fees and donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.

A list of students invited to the KU event is online at www.ku.edu/2008/may/28/duketip.shtml.
Ashley Heptig has been named one of 10 scholarship recipients for dependents of employees. Students were required to submit an application that included an essay. The award is determined by a panel of judges including professors from both the University of Kansas and Kansas State University.

The award is for $1,500 and is renewable for an additional three years.

Ashley was also awarded the AT&T scholarship based on academics, service, and community and school involvement.

This scholarship is for $2,500 and is also renewable for an additional three years.

Ashley is a 2008 graduate of Rossville High School. She is the daughter of Lois Area and Larry Heptig.
Experts: Copperheads rarely attack humans

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pin the snake’s head down, Loechler grabbed his wife Jennifer to come take a look and snap a picture.

Sure enough, upon further review by Joe Collins, director of The Center for North American Herpetology in Lawrence, the snake was positively identified as a copperhead, one of the few poisonous snakes indigenous to northeast Kansas.

When Bill Loechler tried to corral the venomous viper, it fell from the couple’s 20-foot-high stoop, and the Loechlers have not seen it since.

Common snake

According to Collins and Rafe Brown, a herpetologist at Kansas University’s Natural History Museum, copperheads, which along with various species of rattlesnakes, are the most common poisonous snakes in the area, are not generally dangerous.

But, Brown said, “If you step on one unknown, it will bite.”

“Most of the bites in Kansas occur from people walking around at night with no shoes on,” Collins explained but added that, like most venomous snakes, they rarely attack humans unprovoked.

“They look at human beings like something out of Jurassic Park,” he said.

The reptiles’ ideal habitat is under rocks on wooded hillsides like those across Leavenworth and Jefferson counties.

During the hot, summer months of June, July and August, copperheads come out mostly at night, when they hunt mainly for rodents and other small mammals using heat-sensitive thermal pits to sense body heat emitted from their prey against a cool, nighttime background.

Collins said copperheads can be identified by dark, hour-glass-shaped brown bands against a lighter copper-colored body.

And like most poisonous snakes in North America, Brown said they have a broad, almost triangular head to accommodate enlarged jaws and venom glands.

They range from New England to Florida and can be found as far west as the eastern third of Kansas.

The largest copperhead ever caught was around 40 inches long, Collins said, also noting that females rarely reach more than two feet.

Expert knows of snake bites

Although, according to Collins, in the state of Kansas since 1950, no one has died as a direct result of a copperhead bite, the former KU herpetology acknowledged that plenty of snakebites do occur each year.

Collins, in fact, said he has been bitten four times by venomous snakes — including one copperhead — since beginning study of the reptiles roughly 40 years ago.

“You’re going to wish you were dead (if bitten),” Collins said, “Because it hurts like no get-out.”

His advice for someone bitten by a copperhead?

Stay calm and limit physical movement.

The very first thing to do is to get in a vehicle and go to the nearest medical facility, Collins said.

Brown said people should not adhere to popular anecdotal wisdom like sucking out the venom or cutting open a wound unless extremely secluded while “hiking in the woods” for instance, as those methods usually lead to worse infections.
An affected person could experience anything from discomfort and discoloration around the wound to dramatic swelling, extreme nausea and possible hemorrhaging.

At a hospital, medical workers will immediately stabilize a victim, fill the patient with liquids to reduce pain and swelling and might administer the antivenin (or antivenom) CroFab as an intravenous drip if deemed necessary, Collins said.

In ordinary circumstances, a victim should be out of the hospital within three days, he added.

In worst-case scenarios, a person could lose a finger, toe or a “chunk” of skin because of tissue destruction, caused by a necrotic element in a copperhead’s venom.

**Once is enough**

While many people would do their best to avoid venomous snakes, Collins goes out of his way to find them.

When he heard of the Loechlers’ recent chance encounter with a copperhead, Collins said, “Some people just get lucky. I spend my life looking for (snakes).”

For Jennifer Loechler, though, a lifetime spent without seeing any more copperheads on her back stoop would be just fine.

She said she welcomes the black snakes that she and her husband find on their 22-acre property, because — like snakes of the venomous variety — they keep mice away, without posing any real danger to her or her husband.

“I respect snakes,” Jennifer Loechler said. “I don’t like them, but I respect them.”

Collins encouraged anyone who has questions about or needs help identifying a venomous snake to call (785) 749-3467 or email jcollins@ku.edu.
Mike was a dedicated doctor, fun-loving guy

Mike Dennett worked hard and played hard. As his brother Mark put it, he lived his life with gusto. The 44-year-old Valley Center native died May 29 about 15 minutes after family members opted to remove him from the respirator. Mark said his younger brother died peacefully, quietly and painlessly.

Mike had been on life support since May 23, when his parents, Betty and Ken, found him collapsed in the stairway of his Topeka home. The Dennett family had planned a gathering over Memorial Day weekend, and Betty and Ken had gone up early to avoid the holiday traffic.

The family doesn’t know how long Mike had been on the stairs when his parents found him. Betty couldn’t find a pulse and did CPR on her son until EMS arrived. EMS workers also performed CPR and eventually found a weak pulse.

Mark said they likely will never know the exact cause of Mike’s death, although it appears that his airway was blocked for a period of time and his lungs were damaged by aspiration. The blocked airway starved the body and brain of oxygen, causing severe brain damage, Mark said.

Several family members were at Mike’s side when he died. Mark said they were with him to his last heartbeat — which came right after the “amen” of a pastor’s prayer.

Within an hour, Mike’s organs were harvested to benefit others, as he had stipulated on both his driver’s license and a donor card family members found after his death. It was further evidence of his care for others that was demonstrated on numerous occasions in his brother’s medical practice, Mark said.

“He was a stickler for detail and patient care, and known as a very capable surgeon,” his brother said. “Co-workers appreciated Mike’s open-door policy. He communicated his commitments and honored his commitments.”

Mike was a 1982 Valley Center High School graduate. He joined the Army right away, serving from 1982 to 1984. He ended up at Fort Myer, Va., with the 3rd U.S. Infantry, often referred to as “the Old Guard.”

Mike “walked the mat” as a sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. As a result of this experience, Mark said, his brother learned that he could serve in leadership, juggle multiple priorities and deal with any challenge under pressure.

After his stint in the service, Mike attended WSU, earning a degree in marketing. He studied science before applying for med school at KU. A friend’s car accident and the influence of two physician uncles helped him identify medicine as a career, Mark said.

Mike was one of the oldest in his med school class. Despite a five-year residency requirement, he chose general surgery. Since graduation, he had worked in Leavenworth and Lansing before moving to Topeka about six years ago.

The past two years, Mike had been working as a contract surgeon around the country, most recently in Maine and Wisconsin.

“Based on some time sheets I had seen,” said Mark, “he worked almost every day — probably by choice.”

Outside work, Mike was an avid outdoorsman. He loved hunting, cooking, entertaining and sports. He also was a collector: antique furniture and cars, fountain pens, bedpans, medical equipment antiques, Santa Claus statues and dolls, razors, coffee grinders, and Civil War and military weapons and uniforms. Just part of his eclectic mix of hobbies, Mark said.

Most of all, family members say, people knew Mike for his laugh, his ornery, fun-loving and mischievous demeanor, positive attitude, and love of family and friends.

It’s entirely appropriate that his donated organs will improve or prolong the lives of the 50 or so recipients. Mike wouldn’t have had it any other way.
Rules are rules with backyard junk

So, this is how it’s supposed to work. I just wish I wasn’t so intimately involved.

I got a letter from the City of Valley Center late last week, telling me something I already knew but was avoiding like the plague.

Since late last year, my family and I have been remodeling a couple rooms in our home here in Valley Center. The new family room is finished, but the master bedroom and bathroom aren’t.

It’s been slow going.

There’s a lot more demolition than I thought there would be. I cleared a spot behind our backyard shed near the alley to place all the wood and debris. The mountain grew and grew. I figured I’d get someone to haul it off once I was finished tearing out the old stuff in my family room.
The process hasn’t stopped.

And there was that mountain, growing each weekend.

I don’t know how the city’s code enforcement officer ran across my junk pile. Maybe a neighbor called about it. Maybe she noticed it when my wife called about a dog that got into our fenced back yard. However it happened, she certainly nailed the description.

“The following conditions exist: chairs, sofa, TV, doors, drywall, plastic buckets, bricks, bags of trash, lumber, misc. trash and debris.”

That, she wrote, “constitutes a nuisance, a menace and/or a danger to the health of the inhabitants of the city, neighborhood, family and residents.”

The letter gave me five days to get it cleaned up or else.

With the deadline looming, I scheduled my weekend around the heap because I knew I wouldn’t have time to do anything about it during the week. I knew I needed a strong back and a pair of willing hands, so I asked around for some help at the ballpark during my son’s baseball game May 30. One of the umps told me to get in touch with Ben Trombold. The 2007 Valley Center High School graduate is home from KU for the summer. He umpires games and coaches a local basketball team while he’s here.

Ben agreed. Awesome.

The next day, we loaded my little pickup four times and got the last load to the landfill about 30 minutes before it closed.

Later that afternoon, I filled my truck once more and left it sitting in the driveway for one final trip to the landfill June 2.

It’s done for now. I know I have a little more demolition left in the back room.

But I’m glad I got that letter last week.

And I guess I shouldn’t have been surprised. Seriously, I’m not upset.

That’s the way it’s supposed to work. If you’ve got piles of junk at your home, the city should do what it can to make you get rid of it.

I wouldn’t want that pile of trash sitting in my neighbors’ yards. It makes perfect sense to enforce the rules.

Chris Strunk is publisher of The Ark Valley News. Reach him at 755-0821 or news@arkvalleynews.com.

Out of the office

By Chris Strunk
Darcy Foster of Park City received a diploma during a TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) graduation ceremony May 27. Foster lost 37 pounds to her goal. The TOPS chapter meets Tuesdays at Calvary Temple Assembly of God's church annex at 6227 Longmont in Park City. Weigh-in is from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer Noel of Valley Center was named to the spring 2008 semester Dean's Honor roll at Seward County Community College. The Dean's Honor Roll recognizes those students who maintained a 3.5 or greater grade point average and completed at least 12 credit hours in courses numbered 100 or above.

The Bel Aire Police Department donated 14 bicycles April 30 to the Boys and Girls Club of Wichita that had been in found property for several years.

Al and Shirley Schuessler will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception hosted by their children from 3 to 5 p.m. June 8 at Faith Bible Baptist Church in Valley Center. Al was the pastor at Faith Bible Baptist Church for 27 years before retiring in March 2007. Shirley is retired from The Better Book Room.

Al Schuessler and Shirley Webster were married June 7, 1958, at Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita. They have three sons and daughters-in-law, Greg and Toni Schuessler of Bel Aire, and Lanny and Dianna Schuessler and Jeff and Pat Schuessler, all of Valley Center, and 10 grandchildren.

Harold and Thelma Eilert of Furley will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary June 1 with card shower and a private gathering at their home June 7. Cards may be sent to them at 10711 E Third-Furley, Valley Center KS 67147. Harold Eilert and Thelma Baker were married June 1, 1938. They have four children, 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Terry and Kathy Ellis of Valley Center will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary June 8. Terry Ellis and Kathy Knottgen were married in Clifton, where they were both raised, on June 8, 1968, at Saint Mary's Catholic Church.

They recently sold their business, Water-Rite Sprinkler Systems, which they had owned and operated in Valley Center for the past 30 years. They still own and operate North Meridian Storage, also in Valley Center.

They have three children: Quentin and Amy Ellis of Wichita, Tyler Ellis and Jharon Mathewson of Evergreen, Colo., and Bryn Ellis and Ryan Parish of Wichita, and three grandchildren Luke, Rylee and Kolton.

Their children ask you to shower them with cards and include a special memory or picture. Please send cards to them at 2559 E. Fifth, Valley Center KS 67147.

Dean and Bonnie Day of Harper will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary June 7. Dean Day and Bonnie Dougherty were married June 7, 1968, at the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Cheney. They have three children and four grandchildren: Steven and Kim Day, Noah and Mariisa of Dodge City; David and Nancy Day, Joshua of Valley Center; Nancy Day of Campbell, Calif.; and Thomas and Kristen Day of St. Mary, Ga. Cards may be sent to them at 30 NE 80 Road, Harper KS 67058-8102.

Cori Capper and Brandon Wolff, both of Wichita, have announced their engagement. She is the daughter of Jamie Capper and the granddaughter of Wanda Leon, both of Hutchinson. He is the son of Cynthia and Walter Wolff, both of Wichita, and the grandson of Betty Stout and the late Thomas Stout.

She is a graduate of Hutchinson High School and received a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree, both from Emporia State University. She is an elementary teacher in the Valley Center school district.

He is a graduate of Maize High School. He received a bachelor's in education from Friends University and is a teacher in the Maize school district.

Their wedding will be Aug. 30, 2008, at St. Francis of Assisi, with a reception at St. Francis-Cana Hall, both in Wichita.

The couple will reside in Wichita.

Jill Nicole Andrew of Andover and Christopher Patton Shelly of Bel Aire have announced their engagement. She is the daughter of Cindy and Jim Andrew of Andover. He is the son of Deb and Mark Shelly of Bel Aire.

She received a bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Kansas. She is currently a student at Wichita State, pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering.

The wedding will be July 19, 2008.

Molly Frances Matingly and Thomas David Mitchell, both of Wichita, received degrees May 10 from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Matingly majored in accounting, and received a bachelor of business administration degree. Mitchell majored in secondary school education and social studies, and received a bachelor of science degree.

Four area students received degrees during commencement exercises May 16 and 17 at Pittsburg State University. Receiving undergraduate degrees were Jonathan Tyler Shelly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shelly of Bel Aire, bachelor of science in technology; Carrie J. Campbell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Campbell, bachelor of business
administration, and Kala Marie Truman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Truman, bachelor of science. Matthew L. Dunn received a master in business administration.

+++ The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program June 1 for academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). This program recognizes academically talented students nationwide based on college entrance exam scores that students take while in middle school.

The following area students were scheduled to be acknowledged: Aaron R. George and Mitchell C. McIntyre of Bel Aire; Matthew Hankins and Evan K. Hutfles of Kechi; Jack Stewart of Park City and John J. McCune of Valley Center.


+++ The Valley Center High School band will have a potluck picnic at 6 p.m. June 10 in McLaughlin Park. Bring a covered dish to share. Drinks will be provided. For more information, call Debbie at 838-7130.

+++ Thao-Linh Thi Nguyen, daughter of Quy and Linh Nguyen, received a Service Learning Certificate May 8 from the University of Kansas. She is a sophomore majoring in human biology and a graduate of Heights High School. The certification process consists of four components: completion of a service learning course; an independent service project; a set of directed civic engagement and leadership readings; and a reflection.

+++ The Kechi Seniors will be meeting for breakfast at 9 a.m. each Friday in June, beginning June 6, at the Red Stone Grill at 53rd North and Broadway. Call Linda at 744-8359 or Rick at 744-1337 for more information or if you need a ride.

+++ More than 2,900 students received degrees from Kansas State University last month. Commencement ceremonies were held May 10 for K-State at Salina, and May 16-17 in Manhattan.

Valley Center residents or graduates of Valley Center High School who were candidates for degrees included: Catherine M. Hagan, bachelor of science (education); Erin Kathleen Hiskett, doctor of veterinary medicine; Dwayne Jahwn McFerren, bachelor of arts; Brad Stephen Metzler, bachelor of science (computer systems technology); Kyla Dawn Scotts, bachelor of arts; Vaughn Paul Scribner, bachelor of arts; Nathan Eugene Winkley, bachelor of science (civil engineering); Justin Christopher Patterson, bachelor of science (agriculture); Jonathan E. Miles, master of business administration; Bryan J. Unruh, bachelor of science.

Sunrise Christian Academy graduates who were candidates for degrees included: Andrew Charles Campbell, bachelor of science (business administration); Kelly Jill Kilgroe, bachelor of science (dietetics), and Anthony R. Geide, bachelor of science (mechanical engineering).

Heights High School graduates who were candidates for degrees included: Eric Andrew Campbell, bachelor of science (agriculture); Andrew Scott Coltrain, bachelor of science; John Jacob Green, bachelor of science (engineering technology and associate of technology); Sinead O'Hara Leahy, bachelor of science; Mandy Michelle Malone, bachelor of science (agriculture); Stephen Andrew Pile, bachelor of science (mechanical engineering); Julie Kay Powell, bachelor of science (business administration), and Jon S. Roth, bachelor of science (agriculture).

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Beverly Bednasek of Valley Center, Kansas TOPS coordinator, left, and Lucille Bitner of Park City, weight recorder, congratulate Darcy Foster on her achievement.

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Terry and Kathy Ellis

Kathy and Terry Ellis in 1968.

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Ark Valley News Valley Center, KS Circ. 1993 From Page: 3 6/5/2008 34100
Local students qualify for Duke program

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

Carter Royce Waite, a KU senior majoring in theatre from Falmouth, 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.

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Levi K. Bond, Bernadette F. Drouhard and Derek E. Martin, Conway Springs, are qualified for the recognition ceremony.

The Duke program is in its 28th year, and this is the 10th year KU has hosted the Kansas recognition program. In addition to Kansans, additional students taking part in the activities are Missouri residents from the Kansas City metropolitan area or towns near the Kansas-Missouri state line. Information tables to answer students’ and parents’ questions about various KU programs and activities will be available in the Lied Center lobby during the recognition event.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit educational organization that identifies and helps cultivate the talents of academically gifted youth. Since 1980, more than 1.5 million students have taken part in the program that is supported by student fees and donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.