Student chosen for doctoral program

Eric Daniel Martinez, a graduate of Garden City High School, is one of 18 University of Kansas students chosen to join the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program with an internship this summer.

McNair scholars are undergraduates who plan to attend graduate school and pursue doctoral studies. The program is intended to support first-generation college students and minorities underrepresented in graduate education.

Students have to demonstrate a high level of academic achievement to be chosen.

Martinez is a junior at KU majoring in psychology.
University of Kansas Cancer Center Promotes Colon Cancer Screening in Communities Across the State

- KANSAS CITY, Kan. - Colorectal cancer information specialists from the University of Kansas Cancer Center (KUCC) will be in eight Kansas communities, June 9 through July 18, for "Healthy Living Kansas," a program designed to work with rural family practice physicians to remind Kansans over the age of 50 to get screened for colon cancer. The results of the program will be used as research data on the effectiveness of intervention by rural family practice physicians and colorectal cancer information specialists.

The cancer information specialists will be at each of the following medical sites from June 9 through July 18:
- Montezuma Clinic, in Montezuma;
- Family Practice Associates, Dodge City;
- Wichita County Health Center, in Leoti;
- Bluestem Medical, in Quinter;
- Greeley County Family Practice Clinic, in Tribune;
- Hays Family Medicine, in Hays;
- Scott City Clinic, in Scott City; and
- Paola Family Practice, in Paola.

As part of the study, patients 50 years of age or older, upon visiting their primary care physician for their regularly scheduled appointment, will be prompted to use an in-office computer to assess their colon cancer screening status prior to meeting with their physician. Patients who indicate they are not current with their appropriate screening will be prompted to discuss colon cancer testing with their physician. Colorectal cancer information specialists will conduct follow-up phone calls to evaluate whether the patient complied with the screening suggestions and to provide telephone-based counseling.

"Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of death from cancer in Kansas, killing nearly 520 people in 2007," said Roy Jensen, MD, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center. "These statistics are frightening, because this disease is highly preventable and curable if detected early. The Healthy Living Kansas program will give us important insight into the behavior of people who are reminded to get screened at their family practice physician's office."

The Healthy Living Kansas program is funded by an RO1 grant, or a significant award given to a researcher to support a specific project, from the National Cancer Institute. Kimberly Engelman, PhD, assistant professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center and co-leader of the Cancer Control and Population Health Research Program at the University of Kansas Cancer Center, is the principle investigator of the grant.
Despite worry about burden on students, Regents OK increases.

TOPEKA – Despite some lingering concerns about the rising cost of a college education, the state Board of Regents signed off Thursday on increased charges at state universities for this fall.

The board voted to approve tuition and fee increases for in-state undergraduates that ranged from a 5.3 percent jump at Emporia State University to a 6.7 percent jump at the University of Kansas.

Charges for resident undergraduates taking 15 hours at Fort Hays State University, the state’s least costly public university, will rise $184.50, or 5.5 percent, to $3,540 a year.

For the second consecutive year, board members also approved a tuition compact that locks in a four-year tuition rate for KU’s incoming freshmen at $229.25 per credit hour, 7.6 percent higher than last year’s freshmen compact.

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Continued from Page A1

The hikes generally represent the smallest percentage jumps for tuition and fees at the state’s six public universities in several years. But they still prompted concern among some board members.

Regent Gary Sherrer of Overland Park, a former lieutenant governor, said he believed the university officials who drafted the proposed rates had worked hard to hold down the size of this year’s round of increases.

Since 2002, most schools have averaged double-digit jumps and rates have more than doubled at KU and Kansas State University.

But Sherrer also said higher education officials should do more to help out students and parents, particularly ones who might be struggling through a tougher economy.

Sherrer was the lone member to vote against most proposals, which all passed easily. He voted against every proposed tuition increase, deciding to support only a suggestion for KSU’s Salina campus that didn’t raise tuition or fees.

University officials requested the increases to cover such things as higher energy prices and to help bolster faculty salaries in order to compete for top personnel.

However, Sherrer said he feared higher tuition charges could ultimately prevent some students from attending Kansas schools and noted a recent rise in student debt loads.

“We cannot, in my judgment, take the public out of public education,” Sherrer said.

Balancing priorities

Other board members said that while they were concerned about preserving access for lower-income students, they also had to balance that priority with their responsibility to see that universities received enough funding to excel.

While funding for higher education has increased over the years, data Thursday showed it representing an ever-smaller portion of the state’s overall budget over the past two decades.

Board member Jarold Boettcher of Beloit said the information showed higher education becoming less of a budget priority for state lawmakers than other matters.

Regent Dan Lykins of Topeka said there’s also an attitude among many people that students, not taxpayers, should bear the burden of increasing higher education costs.

“A lot of people feel that way today,” Lykins said. “They’re getting the benefit of a great university, let them pay.”

Outgoing chairwoman Christine Downey-Schmidt of Inman said she has yet to see much hard evidence that students are being priced out of attending state universities.

Students gain an economic advantage in life by attending excellent institutions, she said.

Higher education officials are responsible for making sure universities meet high standards. “I’m not willing to short change this system,” Downey-Schmidt said. “I’m not willing to settle for pretty good.”

But Regent Donna Shank of Liberal said that each round of tuition increases had a “cumulative effect on families.” She also noted that some Big 12 schools in Oklahoma and Texas were contemplating holding down their tuition increases this year.

Shank joined Sherrer in voting against KU’s proposed tuition compact rate for incoming freshman, which is $681, or 9.7 percent higher than the standard rate for juniors or seniors, because she considered it too high.

Because the prices for attending state universities have jumped significantly, smaller percentage increases generate much bigger dollar amounts than they did six years ago, Shank said.

She said board members should seek out data that could show whether students were hurt by the increases and how much they’re helping to meet university goals, such as increasing faculty salaries.

“If we’re going to approve increases in tuition, we ought to see what these increases are producing on the other end,” Shank said.

Fort Hays State President Edward Hammond said he appreciated the board’s discussion and was glad to see his institution’s tuition proposal approved.

The rate approved by the board will help his school continue to be viewed as an economical choice, he said, which will help the university remain competitive should it ever have to boost charges significantly higher.

But Hammond said he’s also concerned that a weaker state economy could hurt the state’s budget revenues, putting more pressure on college officials to raise tuition in the very near future.

“I think we’re looking at some real difficult times in the state of Kansas,” Hammond said.

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## Approved Tuition and Fees for 2008-09

The following figures show the yearly charge for resident undergraduate students taking 15 hours of courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Rate 2008-09</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Kansas</td>
<td>$6,627.30, up $392.50 or 6.3 percent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KU Undergraduate students (most juniors and seniors)</td>
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</tr>
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</tbody>
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Sigma Alpha Lambda Kimberly Hernandez, Hutchinson, and Zachary Borth, Arlington, were recently recognized as members of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.
GREENSBURG, KS- On Friday, the 5.4.7 Arts Center in Greensburg was presented with a plaque by United States Green Building Council representative, Corey Enck, naming the center the first LEED Platinum certified building in Kansas. Platinum is the highest rating of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building ratings, making it the first of many extremely ‘green’ buildings in Greensburg.

On behalf of the 5.4.7 Arts Center board of directors, Stacy Barnes and Chris Ballard accepted this honor. Board President Barnes said, “This is a tremendous day for the 5.4.7 Arts Center, Studio 804, and for Greensburg. This is an amazing accomplishment and we could not be more grateful to the 22 students and Professor Rockhill of Studio 804 for making this possible.

“We are elated that the first LEED Platinum building in Kansas has its home in Greensburg. We also want thank to Mr. Enck and the USGBC for their work to expedite the application process.”

The 5.4.7 Arts Center takes its name from the date of the tornado that devastated Greensburg on May 4, 2007. The founding Board of Directors has chosen to remember this day not for the destruction, but for the opportunities that have come because of it.

“We want to remember that day not because of the horrible tornado, but for all of the positive things that have happened since,” Barnes said. “That day has been a catalyst for change in our community and we want to remember that.” Barnes said.

The 5.4.7 Arts Center will host art exhibits, classes, and other community arts events. Currently in the gallery is the work of Topeka printmaker, Justin Marable and the center’s first class, Adult Beginning Ceramics, will begin on June 17.

Studio 804 is a non-profit program with the University of Kansas School of Architecture. Comprised of 22 graduate students and Professor Dan Rockhill, this design/build program saw this project through from start to finish.

Many other LEED Platinum projects are slated for construction in Greensburg. In December of 2007, the Greensburg City Council passed a resolution that all City owned projects would be built to LEED Platinum levels. Although it is not a city project, the 5.4.7 Arts Center is just one example of the town’s commitment to rebuild sustainably and responsibly for the future. Following the devastating May 4, 2007 tornado, the community has embraced the opportunity to create a sustainable environment and to leave a smaller carbon footprint for future generations.

“It’s exciting to see the resolution passed by the city council last year to now come to fruition, for Greensburg to have 1st LEED Platinum Building in Kansas,” said current Greensburg Mayor Bob Dixson.

“This honor shows the commitment of the community to build sustainable and with renewable resources, building on green initiative for future generations. What a great honor for Greensburg and the 5.4.7 Arts Center.”
Steinle earns scholarships

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas has announced recipients of annual awards and scholarships totaling about $300,000.

Amanda Kay Steinle, Russell, received the Bob Billings Scholarship and the Diane Lazzarino Award for Strategic Communication Writing.
Regents approve tuition raises

K-State at Salina only campus to not have an increase

By CHRIS GREEN
Harris News Service

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Tuition and required fees for 2008-09

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- University of Kansas standard (mostly juniors and seniors), $7,041.70, up $442.20 or 6.7 percent
- KU sophomores (tuition compact), $7,236.70, up $81.20 or 1.3 percent (fees only)
- Incoming KU freshmen (tuition compact), $7,722.70, up $577.20 or 8.1 percent
- From what last year’s freshmen cohort paid
- Kansas State, $6,627.30, up $392.50 or 6.3 percent
- K-State at Salina, $6,223.32, no increase
- Wichita State, $5,084.50, up $280.50 or 5.6 percent
- Emporia State, $4,136, up $210 or 5.3 percent
- Pittsburg State, $4,322, up $262 or 6.5 percent
- Fort Hays State, $3,540, up $184.50 or 5.5 percent
Miller, Jones, Deaver shine on Thursday

Newcomer wins talent by playing and singing

By CAROL BRONSON

A newcomer and a pair of second-year contestants stood in the spotlight at the end of the first preliminary competition Thursday at the Miss Kansas Pageant at Pratt Community College.

Miss Augusta Emily Deaver sat down at the piano — as if she were playing for a group of friends — and played and sang “What Are You Doing For the Rest of Your Life?”

A jazz piano performance major at Wichita State University, she began honing her skills on the ivories at the age of three and at 19 is a veteran performer. Deaver is making her first appearance at the state pageant, after competing in locals for a couple of years.

Miss Cheney Lake Alexandra Miller added a hit to a pair she won last year, repeating a preliminary win for evening wear. She wore a sweeping red satin strapless gown, unadorned except for soft ruffles edging a deep side slit. Finishing as second runner-up in 2007, she said she had no pressure from anyone else (to equal or surpass last year’s achievement) but has set her own goal to better herself. An 18-year-old from Derby, Miller is a business major at the University of Kansas.

Miss Butler County Jennifer Jones took the honors for swimsuit, wearing the briefest of suits on her slender body. As a feature twirler for the University of Kansas Marching Jayhawks, she gets a strenuous workout during football season. She also “finds a lot of joy” in a daily cardio and three-times-a-week weight-lifting routine. A 22-year-old senior at KU, she is from Salina.

A fourth phase of competition required half the contestants to answer a question on current events. Miss Capital City Megan Ensley acknowledged that rebate checks may not achieve the goal of stimulating the economy because many families will be forced to spend the money for gas. Miss Flint Hills Erica Mahan favored bringing some troops home from Iraq but said the U.S. needs to “stay until we get what we want accomplished.” Miss Sedgwick County Danielle Coffman drew a question on the historic importance of the presidential race and Miss Ruby Slippers was asked whether China, in light of its human rights violations, should host the Olympics.

Contestants’ responses to the on-stage question gave the audience a sample of what judges learn in private interviews, an important piece of the overall scoring system.

The competitions were punctuated by production numbers from Miss Outstanding Teen Alasyn Zimmerman, Miss Mississippi Kimberly Morgan and Los Angeles dancers Gregg Russell, Ryan Lohoff, Denise Bailey and Angie Carter.

The warm-up was provided by semi-finalists from Monday’s Dancing With Miss Kansas featuring all 20 contestants partnered with local businessmen. After two rounds of audience applause, Miss Kansas Alyssa George declared the competition to be essentially a tie, but made the decision that Deaian Taushanov and Miss High Plains Shameem Kauffman will move on to the finals Saturday night. Their performance was highlighted by Kauffman’s dancing skills and a sort of low-flying maneuver ending with a lift. Jason Gallagher and Danielle Coffman, whose athleticism made up for less-than-smooth transitions, were “sent home.”

The second round of preliminary competition begins at 7:30 p.m. tonight at PCC’s Lesh Sports Arena.
Miss Kansas Alyssa George hands out preliminary winner awards the first night of competition at the Miss Kansas Pageant. Preliminary winners are (from left) talent winner Miss Augusta Emily Deaver, swimsuit winner Miss Butler County Jennifer Jones and evening wear winner Miss Cheney Lake Alexandra Miller.
JOHNSON COUNTY TO SEEK TAX FOR RESEARCH TRIANGLE

The Associated Press

OLATHE — Johnson County voters will be asked to approve a sales tax increase to finance projects designed to enhance the Kansas City area’s efforts to become a leader in life sciences.

The Johnson County Commission voted Thursday to put an eighth-cent sales tax on the November ballot. If approved it would raise an estimated $15 million every year.

The tax would last forever. It would leverage state and federal dollars into a $1.4 billion economic boost in Johnson County in the next two decades, according to the County Economic Research Institute.

Revenue from the tax would be divided among three campuses in the Johnson County Education Research Triangle:

♦ The University of Kansas Edwards Campus in south Overland Park, where the university would build a 75,000-square-foot Business, Engineering and Technology Center. The center would offer 10 new degree programs and add 1,000 students a year.

♦ The KU Clinical Research Center in the Fairway Office Park, which would help the university’s efforts to become a national cancer center.

♦ Kansas State University’s Olathe Innovation Campus, where the first initiative would be a National Food and Animal Health Institute.

The commission approved the ballot measure 6-1, although some expressed concern that the tax would not expire and wondered why local taxpayers should provide what was once a state responsibility.

Commissioner John Toplikar voted against the proposal.

“The name of this reminds me of the Bermuda Triangle, where maybe the public’s money going in will never be seen again, although we can expect those who begin their projects with the public’s money will surely be back for more,” Toplikar said in a prepared statement. “True economic development doesn’t need a tax to support it.”

Bonds would be issued to build the new facilities and the tax revenue would help pay off those bonds. University officials said they would also raise private money for the buildings, and once the buildings are completed, they expect research dollars to support the programs.

Supporters of the research triangle acknowledged that it might be harder to get approval in current difficult economic times.

“But this is an investment, and if we’re going to be able to pay for a high quality of life in the future, an investment in education is the best move we can make,” said Mary Birch, a triangle supporter and government liaison for the law firm of Lathrop & Gage.

A seven-member advisory board would oversee the equal yearly disbursal of tax revenue. An independent audit would be conducted annually and a $100,000 scholarship program would be established for county residents.
Service learning

Students from this area who received the Service Learning Certification from the University of Kansas during the May 8 ceremony were Lacie Rochelle Reed of Burlington, a junior at KU studying elementary education; and Cindy R. Heilman of Council Grove, a senior at KU studying pre-social welfare. Reed, a graduate of Burlington High School, is the daughter of Stacy and Debbie Reed of Burlington. Heilman, a graduate of Council Grove High School, is the daughter of Randy and Joyce Heilman of Council Grove. Certification indicates that students have dedicated significant time to classes and activities that foster civic engagement, community involvement and leadership.