Wadas recognized by KU
art history department

The Kress Foundation

Department of Art History at the University of Kansas announced its awards for excellence for the 2007-08 academic year during the 33rd annual Amsden Awards Ceremony on May 2.

Jennifer Renee Wadas of Derby, daughter of Michael and Denise Wadas, a junior in Applied Behavioral science, received the Amsden Award.
Regents approve tuition increases at 6 universities

TOPEKA (AP) — It will cost more to attend the six state universities in Kansas next year.

The Kansas Board of Regents on Thursday approved tuition increases ranging from 4.9 percent to 6 percent for the universities and extended a program at The University of Kansas that sets a fixed four-year tuition rate for incoming freshmen.

Under the so-called tuition compact, University of Kansas freshmen will pay $229.25 per credit hour this fall, and that rate will not change through the 2011-12 school year. That's an increase of $24.44 a semester, or 7.6 percent, more than 2007 freshmen paid.

Juniors, seniors, transfers and graduate students will pay 6 percent more in tuition at Kansas next fall, or an additional $175.50 a semester for a student taking 15 hours. Nonresident juniors, seniors and transfers would pay an additional $460.50 per semester.

The regents also approved a 5.9 percent increase, or $164.56 per credit, for undergraduate students taking 15 hours at Kansas State University. In May, Kansas State had proposed imposing most of the increases on juniors and seniors, but that plan was later dropped.

Tuition will not increase for Kansas State students on the university's Salina campus, which emphasizes technology.

Tuition rate increases approved for other universities, all based on undergraduates taking 15 credit hours, were: Wichita State, 5.9 percent, or $116.25 per credit hour; Emporia State, 4.9 percent, or $77 per credit; Pittsburg State, 5.8 percent, or $83; and 5.5 percent, or $71.25 at Fort Hays State.
Don’t be fooled by tuition spin

The Lawrence Journal-World said in an editorial Saturday:

It seems that Kansas University isn’t the only state university trying to put a positive spin on rising tuition rates.

Officials at Kansas State University issued a press release this week indicating that the school was proposing a “lower tuition increase.” The move, it said, was “to respond to difficult economic conditions and concerns from students and their parents.”

The only problem is that the new tuition proposal actually will result in many students paying more than they would have under an earlier proposal taken to the Kansas Board of Regents.

K-State initially was pursuing a plan to hold down tuition for freshmen and sophomores by charging a higher rate for juniors and seniors. The proposal presented to the regents was to raise tuition by 4.5 percent for resident freshmen and sophomores and 7.3 percent for resident juniors and seniors.

The plan announced this week is to raise tuition by 5.85 percent across the board. That’s obviously better for upperclassmen but not so great for freshmen and sophomores.

Although it seems disingenuous to portray this as a “lower tuition increase,” K-State, like KU, offers various justifications for its action. The Kansas Legislature gets significant blame for not providing better higher education funding.

Officials also point out that “tuition increases are offset by additional financial aid and more scholarships.” This Robin Hood approach of taking tuition money from some students and sharing it with students who supposedly are more worthy or in greater need gets surprisingly little attention from higher education officials in spite of the fact that it displays a basic lack of fairness, especially to the students and their families who are scraping together loans and savings to pay full tuition.

When the regents consider those rates, they should keep their focus on the effect rising tuition is having on the availability of higher education to Kansas students and the cost of this education for families and students who already are facing severe fiscal challenges.

The Board of Regents is scheduled to take final action on university tuition rates at its meeting on Thursday. When the regents consider those rates, they should keep their focus on the effect rising tuition is having on the availability of higher education to Kansas students and the cost of this education for families and students who already are facing severe fiscal challenges. Regents should not be fooled by the tuition spin being served up by university officials.
Cotton completes KU global awareness program

More than 110 students from 30 departments completed the Global Awareness Program at the University of Kansas this spring. Among them was senior Shaunika Renee Cotton, daughter of Latonya Cotton. A graduate of Wyandotte High School, she has earned a B.A. in African and African-American Studies.

The program recognizes students for studying abroad, taking courses with an international focus, learning foreign languages and being involved in international co-curricular activities. All undergraduates are eligible to participate. To receive certification, students are required to complete two of three requirements. This semester, 10 students completed all three requirements.
Where will prices peak?

PHILIP BATSON 15-155
STAFF WRITER

As temperatures begin their climb it appears gas prices will continue to do the same.

With the national average price of gas at $3.97, according to AAA June 2, and the price of a barrel of oil more than doubling the early 2007 price of about $50, high prices at pumps are here to stay, according to experts.

“There isn’t any real reason for optimism in the petroleum market; I don’t see where it would come from,” University of Kansas City economics associate professor Peter J. Eaton said. “The dollar doesn’t show any signs of strengthening. We continue to import way too much, so that spiral is going to continue into the foreseeable future.”

Alan Gaines, chairman of Houston-based Dane Energy, has reported the possibility of gas reaching $7 to $8 a gallon.

Gaines predicted last year that oil was headed to $100 a barrel with gas hitting $4 a gallon. Gas prices in the $7 to $10 range would follow oil hitting $200 a barrel, which could happen in the next two to three years, Gaines has predicted.

Eaton said $5 a gallon would not surprise him.

Prices of $5 to $7 a gallon would be ground breaking in the United States, but gasoline for many Europeans is near $9 a gallon, including a $2 per gallon tax.

“As the U.S. dollar continues to weaken the price in the U.S. is going to tend to catch up with the rest of the world and that means it has a long way to go,” Eaton said.

Eaton said prices will force people to change their gas consumption ways.

“The average U.S. citizen consumes so much more than the rest of the world that that’s got to change,” he said.
KU honors local seventh graders

The University of Kansas hosted a state recognition program Sunday, June 1, at the Lied Center for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Among those from KCK were Paige Bowman, James O. Cate, Gracy J. Kubicki, Sarah C. Pestock, Alejandro A. Winkle and Ethan M. Zolotor.

Also honored were Randa M. Mortensen, Tessa R. Newberry and Quinn A. Richert, all from Bonner Springs, and Sierra C. Seacat from Edwardsville.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance exam scores that are in the top 5 percent done 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.
Johnson County will vote on tax for research project

OLATHE (AP) 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 disbursement of tax revenue. An independent audit would be conducted annually and a $100,000 scholarship program would be established for county residents.
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Annual Chamber of Commerce dinner set for next week

The Paola Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner is set for next week, but there's still time to make reservations.

The fund-raising event is set to begin at 5:30 p.m. Monday at Evergreen Events with a social hour, followed by dinner, a guest speaker, meeting and auction. Tickets, which include dinner and appetizers, are $40 apiece for chamber members, and $50 apiece for non-chamber members.

Rachel Williams and Tom Maples of the University of Kansas String Ensemble will perform cello duets during the social hour from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. thanks to the law offices of Smithyman & Zakoura.

The guest speaker will be Robert Courtney, who is president of the Olathe Historical Society. Joe Auten will be the auctioneer for the live auction.

Chamber executive director Carol Everhart said winners will be announced for the Dale Mitchell Chamber Service Award, The Paola Spirit Award and The Business of The Year Award.

Evergreen Events is located at 15 W. Wea St. in Paola.

For more information, call the Paola Chamber of Commerce at 294-4335.

— Brian McCauley
Regents approve tuition increases at Pitt State, 5 other universities

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— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS