Four Sabetha High School students earn recognition from KU Honors Program

Honored at the annual Kansas Honors Program Monday evening, February 18, at Holton are Sabetha High School seniors (L-R) Jacob Nagely, Amber Teske, Jordan Meyer and Christian Busch. Scott Henry, a senior at Wetmore High School, and Bryson Haverkamp, a senior at Bern High School, were unable to attend the event. Each student who attends receives an American Heritage Dictionary in both hardback and CD versions. The honored scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their class.
Twenty undergraduates at the University of Kansas named University Scholars for 2008 were honored during the first timeout at the KU vs. Baylor men's basketball game Saturday, Feb. 9, at Allen Fieldhouse.

Ella Medora Fund-Reznicek, sophomore in linguistics, daughter of Edward Reznicek and Mary Fund of Goff and a 2006 graduate of Wetmore High School is one of the students selected. Her faculty mentor is Dr. Marc Greenberg, chair and professor of Slavic languages and literatures.

The University Scholars Program provides academic experiences that challenge students intellectually and enhanced opportunities to second-year undergraduates. The scholars must maintain at least a 3.5 grade-point average to stay in the program and are eligible for $250 scholarships for up to five semesters while enrolled at KU.

The 20 scholars and their faculty mentors also were honored during a 6 p.m. dinner Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Malott Room in the Kansas Union.

As part of the program, students enroll in an interdisciplinary seminar that allows them to integrate knowledge from fields of study outside their own. Each scholar works with a faculty mentor. That partnership is expected to continue until the student graduates.

This year's seminar is titled "Law and Society: The Supreme Court's Role in American Government and Culture." Stephen R. McAllister, professor of law and former dean of the law school at KU, is teaching the seminar for this year's scholars, the 27th class. McAllister was a KU undergraduate in 1982 when he became a member of the second class of University Scholars.

The University Scholars will explore legal aspects of a variety of disciplines and professions, including media law; international law; law and religion; health law; racial justice; and law and politics. The seminar will feature speakers from many of these areas.

From March 15 to 19, the seminar will move to Washington, D.C., where students will visit the Supreme Court, the Capitol, the Department of Justice and, tentatively, the White House.
KU Concert Choir presents Choral Evensong

The University of Kansas Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Paul Tucker, will be Grace Cathedral’s guest choir for this month’s offering of Choral Evensong. This ancient choral service of anthems, canticles, Bible readings and prayers will be at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 2. Choral Evensong is offered on the first Sunday of most months at Grace Cathedral. The service lasts about 45 minutes.

This month’s choral music will include a Magnificat and Nunc dimittis by British composer Herbert Sumsion, prayer responses by John Sanders, Psalm tune by Martin Luther, and anthems by Ernest Bullock and others.

Comprised of over seventy voices, the KU Concert Choir is the largest choral ensemble at the University of Kansas. Participants in the choir represent a variety of majors at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This group requires a significant level of vocal talent, musicianship, and sight-reading ability for the broad spectrum of choral repertoire pursued. Its trademark is its intensely unified sound and immense musical artistry. In the spring of 2007 the KU Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Paul Tucker, performed for the first time at the Kansas Music Educators Association convention. This performance was hailed as one of the finest performances in the state of Kansas. More recently, the choir performed at the Southwest Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association.

Dr. Paul Tucker was born in Kingston, Jamaica, where he studied conducting and piano at the Jamaica School of Music with Dr. Kaestner Robertson. His musical experience includes owning and operating Sabre Sound Studio in Riverside, Calif., where he produced and performed on albums for various recording artists. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas at Arlington, and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of North Texas.

Dr. Tucker is currently the Associate Director of Choral Activities at The University of Kansas in Lawrence, where he teaches Graduate Choral Conducting, Orchestral Bowing for Conductors, and directs the Concert Choir, one of KU’s premier choral ensembles. He has taught choral music at the junior high, high school, and collegiate levels, and has also served as the Director of Bands at the junior high and high school levels. As a choral clinician, conductor, and adjudicator, Dr. Tucker has traveled across the United States, the Caribbean, Hawaii, and Europe. Well-known for his unique approach to the tuning of choral ensembles, Dr. Tucker’s special interest in this particular area of music research has led him to develop a methodical approach to tuning. In addition to teaching his method in choral clinics, he has outlined these steps in a paper entitled “Choral Intonation: A Proactive Approach.”

Prior to joining the faculty at KU, Dr. Tucker served as the Director of Choral Activities at Richland College in Dallas, Tex. He is the founder, artistic director, and conductor of Paradigm Vocal Ensemble, a semi-professional choral ensemble based in Arlington, Tex. With this ensemble, he has recorded five compact discs, The Best of Paradigm, What Sweeter Music: Christmas Through the Ages, Broadmoor.
Vocal Ensemble - 10 Year Reunion, and Sing 'til the Spirit Moves. Dr. Tucker pursues a varied musical career as a conductor, pianist, and record producer. Dr. Tucker is also a licensed pilot who holds an Airline Transport Rating and has worked as a professional pilot. His identical twin, Stephen, is the Director of Orchestral Studies at The University of California, Irvine. Dr. Tucker resides in Lawrence, with his wife and two children.
KU Med sees record Spring enrollment

159 more students this year, a 5.7 percent increase

Kansan Staff Report

Spring enrollment at the University of Kansas Medical Center continues to set records, increasing for the sixth consecutive year, according to a report released Thursday by the Kansas Board of Regents.

The headcount for Spring 2008 at the medical center is 2,928 students, an increase of 159 students, or 5.7 percent.

"The University of Kansas Medical Center is committed to training physicians, nurses and other health professionals for Kansas," said Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the School of Medicine. "Increased diversity among our students is important because it means we can train a health care workforce that is representative of our nation's population."

Of the total number, 2,047 are categorized as "residential students" while 881 are non-residents. The number of residential students increased by 167, while enrollment of non-residents dropped by eight.

Minority enrollment at the medical center increased 13 percent over spring 2007, with a 32.8 percent jump in Hispanic students.

The same report announced that enrollment at the University of Kansas, including the medical center's numbers, was up by just one student. Enrollment at just the KU campus in Lawrence, Kan., dropped by 158 students. Fort Hays State University increased by the largest amount, 432 students, or 5.7 percent.

"We are pleased to see stable enrollment overall for the university," Chancellor Robert Hemenway said. "Our entire student body benefits from the talented, diverse mix found on our campuses."
By NICK SLOAN
Kansan Staff Writer

When a group of students from the University of Kansas offered a helping hand to the Kansas City, Kan., Public Library, it was an easy decision for library staff members to make.

Two campus student organizations at the university held a book donation drive which netted 3,000 books for children of all ages in the KCK Public Schools District. The International Children’s Assistance Network and the Honors Program Student Council held the book drive in both KCK and Lawrence, Kan.

Danielle Coffyn, the vice president of both the ICAN and Honors Program Student Council, said the efforts were difficult early on.

“We initially struggled to collect books,” she said. “We all did fundraising with money and it was a great opportunity to redistribute resources.”

She said later efforts paid off in increasing the book totals after students began placing boxes on porches.

“We got quite a few books that way,” she said.

Charles O. Perdue, director of libraries for KCK Public Schools, said about a third of the collected books will go to preschool students or children ages 1-3 within the district, and will be given out at the district’s preschool roundup later this year.

“We wanted to do something special with the materials because so much work was involved,” he said. “It’s been a great activity.”

The idea of the book drive began last year when Coffyn contacted Perdue about the possibility of having a book drive to benefit the school district. The district was selected in part because of the need for library materials.

Perdue said a book drive isn’t the easiest thing in the world to hold, but said the work was worth it for both the district and the students from KU.

“We just couldn’t say enough about the students coming together and doing a book drive,” he said. “It takes a lot of organization and work. It was a wonderful partnership and we received a lot from it. And I think they received a lot of satisfaction helping out the students.”

The library led in honoring Coffyn and others associated with the book drive at Tuesday’s KCK Board of Education.

The district’s preschool roundup program will be held on April 24. Each book will have a certification noting where the book came from and how it arrived in the student’s hands.
KU Medical Center enrollment hits another record high

Spring enrollment at the University of Kansas Medical Center continues to set records, increasing for the sixth consecutive year. Overall enrollment at the university held steady, according to a report released by the Kansas Board of Regents.

KU's overall spring enrollment was up by one student for a total of 27,876. The minority student population increased by 1.4 percent from last spring. Minority students now comprise 12.3 percent of the total KU population. International student enrollment is up 3.2 percent.

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"The University of Kansas Medical Center is committed to training physicians, nurses and other health professionals for Kansas," said Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the School of Medicine. "Increased diversity among our students is important because it means we can train a health care workforce that is representative of our nation's population."

The Topeka Capital-Journal, on Open Meetings Act:

In a perfect world, there would be no need for proposals like the one introduced by Sen. Tim Huelskamp to clarify the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

But an action by some members of the Topeka City Council ... provides ample reason why Huelskamp’s bill deserves consideration.

The proposal by Huelskamp, a Republican from Fowler, would prohibit members of governing bodies from engaging in “serial communications.”

That term has become part of the Topeka lexicon since last December, when the City Council made its end run around Mayor Bill Bunten’s veto of the purchase of a backup police helicopter. ...

With help from Mike Kautsch, a professor of media law at The University of Kansas, Huelskamp drafted a bill aimed at barring individual communications “that collectively involve a majority of a quorum and that share a common topic of discussion.”

Kautsch summed up the need for the bill this way: “One should not be using the exception for meetings of fewer than a majority of a quorum to generate a consensus on a single issue that ought to be discussed before the public.”

We couldn’t agree more. ...

Here’s wishing Huelskamp the best of luck in tightening the rules.
ROCKET MAN RETURNS:
The Senate honored a former astronaut who is returning to Kansas to teach at the University of Kansas.

He is Steve Hawley, of Salina, who logged more than a month in space in space shuttle missions in 1986, 1990, 1997 and 1999. He now oversees planetary and space science research for NASA.

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway announced Hawley will join the faculty of the department of physics and astronomy in the fall. Hemenway said Hawley also will promote math and science education.

The two men visited the Statehouse and sat on the Senate floor, where Sen. Pete Brungardt, a Salina Republican, praised Hawley's career.
Derby native publishes article in Journal of Internet Law KU

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You’re not as safe as you think you are. At least that’s the case when it comes to transmitting information over the Internet, according to Derby native Cody Wamsley, a student at the University of Kansas School of Law.

“Given the fundamental physical structure of the Internet, virtually anyone connected to the Internet has access to any data transmitted over it,” Wamsley said.

The third-year law student analyzes potential legal solutions to this problem in an article titled “Internet Transmissions: Who Owns the Data and Who Protects It?” The paper appears in the February issue of the Journal of Internet Law. The monthly publication contains scholarship on legal issues and business developments brought about by emerging online systems and computer networks.

In his article, Wamsley argues that the federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act offers scant protection to data transmitted over the Internet. Moreover, he finds that property law, privacy law and contract law don’t provide adequate safeguards either.

Ultimately, Wamsley concludes that the best way to protect data is with advanced encryption technology and “to act with awareness that information sent can be intercepted and used by anyone at any time.”

Having an article published in an influential, peer-reviewed publication like the Journal of Internet Law would be an impressive accomplishment for a faculty member, let alone a student, said Andrew Torrance, associate professor of law.

“Cody is one of the finest students I’ve had the pleasure to teach at KU law school,” Torrance said. “His intuitive grasp of intellectual property, patent law and cyberlaw is so strong that he is able not only to articulate complex legal doctrines fluently, but to question the origins, assumptions and logical bases underlying those doctrines."

Wamsley majored in computer engineering at the University of California-Santa Barbara and then transferred to KU, where he earned a bachelor’s in business administration in 2004. His emphasis at KU’s law school has been intellectual property law.

He is pursuing a media, law and policy certificate and is chair of the Cyberlaw Committee for the Intellectual Property Law Student Association.

He is set to graduate in May. He is the son of Dwight Wamsley of Wichita and Joan Wamsley of Derby. He is a graduate of Wichita Collegiate High School.
Southern Plains Coop received a national award from the Mid America CropLife Association on February 21. SPC had tens of thousands of gallons of liquid fertilizer, dry fertilizer, and NH3 on site when the tornado struck Greensburg. Because their facilities were engineered well and their leadership acted decisively, the only spills were small and quickly contained. No significant exposure to environmental damage is known to have occurred. Keith Brown, Greg Hinman and Charles Collins were on hand to receive the award. This shows that the millions of dollars our fertilizer dealers have invested in safety actually works to protect our environment.

### Farm Trucks.

During the week of February 21 the Corporation Commission announced that it is backing off of a directive that would have caused more regulation for farm trucks. The KCC will not interpret the load or grain going to the elevator as the "first leg of interstate commerce." As a result, the farm trucks will not have to have DOT numbers pasted on the doors and other inspection requirements. Farmers will also not be required to have shipping papers on each load of fertilizer pulled from the dealer’s location to the farm.

Had there been a demonstrated safety need these regulations would have been worthy to consider. However, there is no clear need to extend the regulations that would have little or no benefit to the public but would cost money, time and headaches for those required to comply.

### Immigrants and Social Services.

About 2 years ago Governor Sebelius issued an order directing social services agencies to take necessary steps to prevent those who are not legally residing in Kansas from receiving social services. Since then we spent a large amount of money auditing recipient records from the last four years to see if illegal aliens are receiving state social services. Since then we found only two errors. In one case a citizen who was thought to be undocumented was mistakenly denied benefits. In the second case, one undocumented resident was found to be receiving benefits.

Clearly we need to address the issue of illegal immigration. However, I point out this review of our state’s social services because I receive many questions and hear many comments about demands on social services by undocumented residents. Perhaps it is a problem in other service areas, we just are not seeing it with our state social services.

### Electricity.

The House formally debated the highly publicized energy bill this week, House Substitute for Senate Bill 327. Though the legislation was officially approved at a 77-45 vote, this debate is far from over. The bill still awaits review from a joint House and Senate conference committee and requires signature from the Governor. Additionally, litigation between utility companies and the state regarding the original Holcomb decision is still pending. However, the debate this week did begin what needs to be a long-term discussion about Kansas’ energy policy.

The House tentatively voted to approve House Substitute for Senate Bill 327. After three hours of debate, six amendments were offered to the bill. Among them was an amendment by Rep. Vaughn Flora, D-Topeka, to require new coal plants to lower the amount of mercury in smoke stack emissions, which is one of the harmful by-products of burning coal.

With the absence of federal guidelines limiting mercury emissions, the Flora Amendment represents the first real regulation of mercury emissions from Kansas coal plants. Another amendment to the bill would require Kansas utilities to generate at least 5% of their energy from renewable sources by 2012. This would increase to 10% by 2020.

Opponents of the bill were concerned with an amendment added that would strip the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment of his authority to regulate carbon emissions and deny permits based on those regulations. Furthermore, they argued that the final bill had removed many of the conservation measures for public building construction originally included in the bill.

When the other hand, this bill does require all of the state’s utilities to invest more heavily in renewable power over the next 12 years. In addition, the utilities would have to pay a higher price to homeowners who install solar power and generate extra electricity to sell back to the power company. Finally, the bill requires the proposed coal fired plant to use the best available technology practices to reduce emissions.

### Prayer.

On February 20, Senate Chaplain Hollomon offered this appropriate prayer:

"Heavenly Father, Should legislators always vote what their constituents desire? Or are there times when they should vote what their consciences inspire?

This is one of the oldest dilemmas in political history.

Philosopher Edmund Burke tried to solve this mystery:

But there’s another place to go for wisdom that will last:

To make a wise decision for each vote they have to cast.

You may not be specific Lord;

But there’s another place to go to make a wise decision for each vote they have to cast.

I pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen."