Courses in Traffic Assistance Services offered for Kansas

Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Highway Administration and the Kansas Department of Transportation, are offering courses in traffic assistance services for Kansas.

Locations and courses include:


Hutchinson -- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Technicians,

March 17; Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads, March 18; and Use of Traffic Control Devices to Improve Highway Safety, March 19.


Continuing education units are available for all course offerings.

To register, contact the K-State Division of Continuing Education at 785-532-5569 or 1-800-432-8222, or register online at http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/task

More information on traffic assistance services for Kansas is available by contacting Stokes at 785-532-1595 or drbobb@k-state.edu, or Mulinazzi at 785-864-2928 or tomm@ku.edu.
KSBDC announces new Web site to assist small business development

The Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC) recently launched a redesigned Web site at www.kansas.gov/ksbdc for entrepreneurs and small business owners. The site grants access to free consulting and tools to start and grow a small business. Fort Hays State University is the statewide host for KSBDC.

The KSBDC partnered with www.kansas.gov to develop the new site now housed in the Kansas Business Center, the state’s "one-stop shop" for information vital to starting and growing a business in Kansas.

"This partnership will provide current and future KSBDC clients access to the resources they need as entrepreneurs," said Wally Kearns, KSBDC state director. "It is a collaborative effort that illustrates the commitment the state has to economic development and in providing online access to state resources."

The new site replaces www.ksbdc.biz. Users will automatically be redirected to the new site.

The KSBDC site includes information about how to access one-on-one business consulting at no cost to the user from one of 12 regional or outreach centers throughout Kansas.

The KSBDC provided more than 12,000 hours of free one-on-one counseling to 2,000 clients in 2007. Approximately 4,650 individuals attended onsite workshops at the eight regional and four outreach centers throughout Kansas. In 2007, the KSBDC assisted clients in 263 new business ventures, helping generate about 1,400 new jobs in Kansas.

Online virtual business training in areas such as "Starting Your Business," "Managing Your Finances" and "Foundations of Marketing" is accessible at any time. The online courses are also available in Spanish. The new site also includes business success stories from the Emerging and Existing Business of the Year in Kansas.

KSBDC is a partnership program with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Topeka Chamber of Commerce and the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce. University partnerships include Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas, Washburn University, Wichita State University and several community colleges throughout the state.
Lawrence man documents resin bee in Kansas

By EILEEN RODDY
Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE (AP) — Most people avoid bees like the plague.

They certainly don’t welcome them at summer gatherings.

Ismael Hinojosa-Diaz, a University of Kansas entomology doctoral student, is different.

While attending a barbecue at friend Charles Linkem’s house in June, he saw a bee nearly 1 inch long with a yellow thorax and black abdomen.

“I started screeching, ‘Help me! Help me!’ because I was so excited. I couldn’t believe my eyes,” he recalls.

This wasn’t your common variety bumble or carpenter bee. It was a giant resin (megachile sculpturalis), thought to have originally arrived in North America via Chinese and Japanese cargo ships.

“The first recorded collection of the bee occurred at the campus of North Carolina State University in 1994,” says Hinojosa-Diaz. “Since then, it’s appeared all over eastern North America.”

Until that summer day in Lawrence, the giant resin bee hadn’t been identified authoritative west of the Mississippi River.

Three years earlier, in 2005, Hinojosa-Diaz and four colleagues published a study predicting the bee would make its way as far as the Great Plains.

“To be the one to find the subject of our predictions and prove those predictions right was amazing,” he says.

After the bee’s capture, he lost no time in producing the first scholarly report of its recorded presence in Kansas. It was published in July.

As a boy growing up in Santa Maria Rayon, about two hours west of Mexico City, Hinojosa-Diaz had no idea he would one day end up catching bees in Kansas.

His mother died when he was 7 and, because his father had abandoned the family, he and his 17-year-old sister Yolanda went to live with their aunt.

“I wanted to be a scientist, but that was much too expensive,” he says. “So when it was time for college, I decided to study biology.”

He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology from the National University of Mexico in 1997 and then worked in the government’s treasury department, while attending night school to complete a master’s degree in animal biology.

“As part of my studies, I did an elective course on bees and really liked it,” he says. “From then on I became really involved in studying bees. Once you get into the bee world you soon learn that there’s a person named Charles Michener who has been the source of knowledge in this field for more than 60 years.”

He pauses and laughs.

“You also learn he’s been a professor in the University of Kansas for a long time, and has helped to create the most comprehensive and best bee collection in the world. It didn’t take me long to realize that there’s no better place in the world to do studies related to bee systematics and evolution than Kansas.”

After graduating with his master’s in 2001, he got a scholarship to attend the University of Kansas.
of Kansas to study for a Ph.D. focused on bee systematics.

In spite of his coup with the giant resin bee, it's not the subject for his doctorate. He's focusing instead on the phylogenetic study of a genus of orchid bee. His work has already taken him to Spain, Costa Rica and Mexico.

"I'm an entomologist and systematist," he explains. "I try to make sense of the organization of living things according to their evolutionary ties. In doing that I have to deal with many specimens and make reviews so it's easy to find new species. I've described six. That's not much."
Kansas University graduates

Kansas University announced the names of graduate and undergraduate students from Osage County who completed work during the fall semester. Formal commencement ceremonies will take place May 17. The students are as follows:

Kristen Kay Lichtenauer, Melvern, daughter of John Lichtenauer, earned a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry, with a minor in history. She graduated from Marais des Cygnes Valley High School.

Charles J. Friesen, Overbrook, son of Max and Delores Friesen, earned a Bachelor of General Studies in environmental studies.

Geneva M. Diamond, Lawrence, received a Doctor of Philosophy in English. She graduated from Lyndon High School.

Myron Cailteux, Topeka, son of Vincent and Virginia Merlenbach, earned a Bachelor of General Studies in anthropology and a Bachelor of General Studies in communication studies. He graduated from Lyndon High School.
KU announces fall 2008 candidates for degrees

The names of more than 1,600 candidates for degrees for the fall 2008 semester at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, have been announced by the office of the registrar.

Graduate and undergraduate degrees are conferred in December based on work completed during the fall semester. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many students graduating in the fall or summer terms will return for the traditional walk down the hill and into Memorial Stadium on Sunday, May 17, 2009.

Five of KU's 13 colleges and schools conducted recognition programs or hooding ceremonies last month to honor those planning to graduate at the end of the semester: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Engineering, the School of Law and the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Area graduates include:
Emily Claire Seifert, Delia, daughter of Leon and Connie Seifert, Music EducationBME DECL, senior, Bachelor of Music Education/Music Education, graduate of St. Marys High School;
Jacob Brian Landis, Rossville, son of Alicia and Joe Vanatta, BiologyBS, senior, Bachelor of Science in Biology, graduate of Rossville High School;
Joseph Jeremiah Simecka, Silver Lake, son of Joe and Colleen Simecka, Sport ScienceBSE, senior, Bachelor of Science in Education, graduate of Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School;
Justin Joseph Thompson, Silver Lake, son of Norman and Leann Kroft, HistoryBS, senior, Business Minor and Bachelor of General Studies/History, graduate of Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School.
Kansas University announces graduates

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Area students receiving degrees are:

Axtell - Kyle Kimbel Winchell, Sport Science BSE, and Bachelor of Science in Education.

Goff - Jennifer Lyn Flentrope, Speech-Language Pathology MA, Master of Arts/Speech-Language Pathology.

Sabetha - Madeline E Allen, Bachelor of Science in Business/Marketing. Meagan Frances Deiter, Graduate Master of Music Sabetha High School Sabetha KS

Seneca - Amanda Rayanne Hermesch, Bachelor of Arts/History Nemaha Valley High School. Sarah Ann Strathman, Bachelor of Arts/History.

Vermillion - Randal Joseph Gerstner, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting.
Kansas University confers graduate and undergraduate degrees in December based on work completed during the fall semester and conducts formal commencement ceremonies in May. Autumn E. Shields, Oswego, who majored in International Studies, will receive her master's graduate degree. She is the daughter of Bob and Linda Shields of Oswego.
New lab to study animal disease

Kansas officials said Tuesday that landing the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility is another milestone in efforts to make the state a world leader in animal health research.

Construction of the $450 million lab at the Kansas State University campus is expected to require about 1,500 workers and could begin in 2010. The lab will employ between 300 and 500 scientists, conducting research currently done at an aging facility in Plum Island, N.Y.

Researchers at the lab will study animal diseases and other potential bioterrorism threats.

The Department of Homeland Security had not commented as of Tuesday on Monday's announcement by members of the Kansas congressional delegation that the agency chose Manhattan for the project. However, a document obtained by The Associated Press shows that the agency making final confirmation of its decision, first announced in December, awarding the lab to Kansas.

For the city of Manhattan, the project adds to the challenges already presented by the Army's growth since 2005 at nearby Fort Riley. Manhattan Mayor Mark Hatesohl said leaders will be revising plans for housing, commercial development and city services.

"We're going to have to go back to the drawing board," Hatesohl said. "Compared to what to do with a shrinking tax base and population, these are pleasant challenges to deal with."

Ron Trewyn, vice president of research at Kansas State, said the seeds for landing the lab were sown in 1999, when the university established a program for homeland defense food safety, security and preparedness.

That led to construction of the Biosecurity Research Institute on the campus and greater collaboration with other researchers and animal health firms. The institute is going through final certifications to begin research, with a staff of 40. Research from Plum Island could be transferred yet this year to Kansas, he said.

Manhattan is at the western edge of the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, which is home to more than 120 animal health companies.
Disease  Continued from Page 1

with about 13,000 employees. The corridor stretches to
Columbia, Mo., and includes
the University of Kansas and
University of Missouri as well
as Kansas State.
"This is where the activity
is. We'll be a magnet," Trewyn said. "This should
help keep kids in Kansas."
Trewyn predicted that
NBAF research would lead to
cures and vaccines that would
be produced in the corridor,
creating thousands of jobs and
potentially billions for the
economy over the next several
decades.
The project's cost could be
closer to $650 million. DHS
has said initially the lab would
cost $450 million, plus $105
million in infrastructure
improvements. However, spe-
cific designs for the Kansas
State location could increase
the overall cost, the bulk paid
in federal funds.
Manhattan has already
experienced a economic
boom in the past three years
with the return of the 1st
Infantry Division at Fort
Riley. The Army post has
seen more than $1 billion in
construction with the arrival
of thousands of soldiers and
their families.
Hatesohl said Manhattan
has room to accommodate the
growth. A key will be good
communication among local,
state and federal agencies on
what to anticipate, much like
ongoing discussions with Fort
Riley.
"I think we're in really
good shape. When we look
back in 20 years, I think peo-
ple will think things went pre-
ty well," Hatesohl said.
Landing the laboratory
wasn't about giving the fed-
eral government a patch of land,
it was about finding animal
health solutions, said Tom
Thornton, president of the
Kansas Bioscience Authority.
"We're providing more
than a big box," Thornton
said.
Legislators created the
authority in 2004 to cultivate
bioscience firms in Kansas,
with the goal of diversifying
the state economy by creating
new, high-tech jobs. Thornton
compared bioscience devel-
opment to the aviation indus-
try that developed around
Wichitas in the 1920s or com-
puter technology in
California's Silicon Valley in
the 1980s.
The difference, he said, is
that it won't take decades to
create jobs. But that won't
happen without a push, he
said.
"We must create that
future. If we allow it to grow
organically, it will take a long
time," Thornton said. "If we
proactively focus on that
future, there will be a gravita-
tional pull of capital, resources
to the region.
"We have a running start."
Bob Marcusse, president of
the Kansas City, Mo.-based
Kansas City Development
Council, compared the NBAF
decision to the New York
Yankees signing slugger Alex
Rodriguez, saying it was "a
good team that becomes a
great team."
He said the animal health
corridor was already drawing
attention from firms as far
away as Europe that are inter-
ested in locating to the region
because of new lab.
"We have a powerful
region already," Marcusse
said. "Even though Manhattan
is a couple of hours away, we
would feel this is a tremen-
dous success for the entire
community."
KU Announces
Fall 2008
Candidates for
Degrees

Brian Wayne Fesler, Abbyville, and Wendy Sue Brandt, Arlinton, were among the more than 1600 candidates for degrees for the fall 2008 semester at the University of Kansas announced by the office of the registrar.

Fesler earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business/Finance. Brandt, the daughter of Richard and Juanita Zink, earned a Bachelor of General Studies/Public Administration degree. Both are graduates of Fairfield High School.
Local students earn degrees from KU

Two Rawlins County High School graduates, Shaylyn R. Laufer and Patrick W. Sweet, are among students who have completed requirements for degrees during the fall semester at the University of Kansas. Shaylyn has earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration. She is the daughter of Brian and Rhonda Laufer of Ludell. Patrick has earned a master’s degree in accounting. He is the son of Dee and Kathy Sweet of Colby. KU confers degrees in December based on work completed during the fall semester and conducts formal commencement ceremonies in May.