KU-to-Johnson County bus service upgraded

BY ELVYN JONES
EJONES@THEWORLDCO.INFO

Service was upgraded for a commuter bus route between Kansas University and its Edwards Campus in Overland Park as a result of the Johnson County Commission's decision to spend more money on its transit system.

In November, Johnson County commissioners approved Johnson County Transit's emergency funding request for $2.5 million. The funding included $1.4 million to purchase as many as seven buses and a $1 million transfer from the general fund to add 50 more operating hours a week, aiding the K-10 Connector route between Lawrence and Overland Park.

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The first to get the new buses was the K-10 Connector between Kansas University and the Edwards Campus. Cris Gault, Johnson County Transit community relations coordinator, said an added bus started running the route Jan. 12.

The new bus was added to the route during peak morning and evening hours so buses now depart on half-hour intervals at the two campuses, instead of on the hour, Amrein said.

That's good news for people like Danielle LeFever, a second-year KU law student from Overland Park who rides the route four days a week. She said she has to occasionally stand up for the entire route because of crowded buses.

Donna Hultine, KU director of parking and transit, said that while the university had no direct financial stake in the routes, expanded bus routes would still impact the university.

The K-10 Connector buses drop off students at KU's Park and Ride lot on West Campus, meaning that more service may require an adjustment in the way KU's Park and Ride buses operate, Hultine said.

The department plans to monitor ridership numbers before making any service adjustments, Hultine said. She said that she was pleased about the expansion of Johnson County's commuter line.

"We do hear that it's filled to capacity at certain times of the day," she said. "It's very popular."

The new buses will not stop in De Soto, Eudora or other communities despite interest in those cities for service, Amrein said. Stops would make the buses slower for riders than driving cars from campus to campus and, as a result, would decrease bus ridership, she said.

Johnson County Transit has been a victim of its recent demand and has lost potential daily commuters because of crowded buses, Amrein said. That was particularly true on the K-10 connector route, she said.

"We're going to have to do some marketing, especially with the K-10 riders," she said. "We lost some people because of the waits or because they couldn't find a seat and were late for class because they had to get to their car. We're going to have to work a little to get those people back."

LeFever agreed that the buses had lost riders in recent months.

"The people that stopped riding would probably come back and ride again if they knew they wouldn't have to stand," she said.

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"It's on the to-do list," she said. "They have an interim director and have to get their arms around what they have with the tax and how they are going to coordinate with the university."

+ Lawrence Journal-World reporter Andy Hyland contributed to this report
Enrollment goes up as economy goes down

by Kevin Lawson

When the economy faces challenges such as the current recession, escalating unemployment, a shrinking job market, and a wavering financial market, many people look for new venues to explore to keep their expenses in check. Some pursue second jobs, others take an altogether different approach, like going back to school.

That's right, back to school. Dale Rogeman was a driver of commercial trucks for 20-plus years until the recent spikes in gas prices and company layoffs affected his career.

"I realized I had to change my career path if I was going to survive," Rogeman said. "So, I did a little research and decided to pursue a career in respiratory therapy."

When asked why he chose the field, Dale said, "It's somewhat a protected job being in the health field, people are always going to be sick, so it gives me job security."

Going back to college offers many challenges. Students ask themselves if they should go for short-term direct career path in a specialized skill, or go full out and get a four-year degree from a major institution? How do they fund their education? Will they be able to work while attending school? What sacrifices will they make in their family life? These are all questions that soon-to-be students face when they are contemplating a decision to make a career change and go back to school. Fortunately, most students can contact a career counselor at any of the local schools and be given advice on furthering their educational needs.

When I first started in collegiate education in the 1950s, most students were directly out of high school or may have just served time in the military," said Dane Lonborg, past academic dean for the University of Kansas.

"Today, students come from all walks of life and all ages. With online classes, remote site classes, and short-term skilled classes, the landscape of education has changed," Lonborg said. "With downward economic times, enrollment for these services increase, as the systems retool themselves. I've seen this happen during every economic recession from the late '50s."

In the Kansas City metro area there are more than 11 for-profit academic institutions with skilled programs for the health care field, long considered a recession-proof environment. There are also more than 20 bachelor degree-granting institutions nearby.

"We have definitely seen an increase in enrollment and interest in our programs during the past year," said Natalie Fox, academic director of Concorde College Kansas City. "People are realizing that enhancing their education relates to more career opportunities, and in a down economy fields such as the medical and service industries offer strong career opportunities with good long-term salaries."

For anyone deciding to go back to school for whatever reason, the most important advice is to do research. Contact the institute and talk with a career counselor. Discuss the options with the family. Finally, look into the financial aid and grant information to pay for education. Each school offers all this information online and the federal government offers facts about financial aid at FAFSA.gov, for filing deadlines and amounts available.
KU announces Fall Graduates

The names of more than 1,600 candidates for degrees for the fall 2008 semester at the University of Kansas have been announced by the Office of the Registrar. Among those graduates are several Mulvane High School grads.

Alysha Phillips, daughter of Patrick Phillips of Derby, and Jessica Dunn, daughter of Timothy and Kathleen Graves, both received a bachelor of science in business and accounting. Lucas Weller, son of Joe and Karolee Weller, received a bachelor of fine arts in design.

Graduate and undergraduate degrees are conferred in December based on work completed during the fall semester. KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year and it will be held Sunday, May 17.
New Specialist and Returning Physician at Outpatient Specialty Clinic

Beginning in January, Anthony Medical Center’s Outpatient Specialty Clinic is offering another new service for patients in Harper County and the surrounding areas, as well as expanding one of their current service options. Dr. David E. Webb, M.D., a nephrologist (kidney specialist) from Wichita Nephrology Group began seeing patients on January 5, 2009. Also, returning to the OSC this month due to increased cardiology patient needs, is Kansas Heart Hospital’s Dr. Jason Tauke, M.D.

Dr. David Webb graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City, KS in 1982. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine in 1982 and a fellowship in Nephrology in 1984, both with the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Effective in January, he has partnered with Anthony Medical Center’s Outpatient Specialty Clinic to provide care for patients needing a nephrologist.

Nephrology is a branch of internal medicine dealing with the study of the function and diseases of the kidneys. Dr. Webb specializes in the treatment of patients dealing with diseases and disorders of the kidneys, hypertension, and hypertensive disorders and diseases. He also coordinates treatment for patients needing to be on dialysis. He is currently the Medical Director of the DaVita Dialysis Centers in Independence, Derby, and Maize, KS as well as coordinating dialysis treatments with many other dialysis centers across the state and in Enid and Ponca City, OK.

Dr. Tauke, from Kansas Heart Hospital also returned to the Outpatient Specialty Clinic in January. Due to the increased load of patients needing cardiology services, Dr. Tauke will be rejoining Dr. Roger Roberts, also from Kansas Heart Hospital in providing additional services to the patients in the area. If you are currently a patient of Dr. Tauke, Dr. Roberts, or the Kansas Heart Hospital and are driving to Wichita for your care, call the Outpatient Specialty Clinic to see if your appointments can be scheduled locally.

Anthony Medical Center’s Outpatient Specialty Clinic is pleased to be able to offer local and area patients these new and increased options for their care. Patients who are currently seeing a nephrologist, who would like to find out if they can transfer their care to Dr. Webb, can call Rosie Walker, Outpatient Specialty Clinic Supervisor at 620-842-5706. If you have a diagnosed kidney problem, or feel that you may need to see a kidney specialist, call Rosie Walker for additional information, or talk to your family physician for a referral. Patients wishing to make an appointment with Dr. Tauke or Dr. Roberts from Kansas Heart Hospital should also contact Rosie at the Outpatient Specialty Clinic. The OSC at Anthony Medical Center can also be reached toll free at 1-866-842-5111.
LAWRENCE MAN DOCUMENTS RESIN BEE IN KANSAS

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 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."
Israel Hinostroza-Diez, a Kansas University entomology doctoral student, shows a bee at the university in Lawrence, Dec. 8. He found the first recorded sighting of the Giant Resin Bee in Kansas, a bee believed to have come to North America on a foreign cargo ship.

AP Photo/Lawrence Journal-World, Richard Gwin
Dance team comes to Ulysses

Chelsea Ybarra is a member of the UNITY hip-hop dance troupe. Come join her for a weekend of fun and entertainment January 30 and January 31. Boys and girls from the ages of three and above will have a wonderful great time.

UNITY is a student-based organization continually seeking girls and guys to represent the hip-hop culture. UNITY does not discriminate against race, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality. Since the founding date of 1995, UNITY has striven to achieve the dreams and goals of founder Eve Bradley by maintaining livelihood and community involvement within the troupe. We cordially invite you to come join us at a performance, tryouts, or out in the community for a diverse and meaningful experience! Embracing diversity through the common interest of hip-hop dance.

Ybarra is a 2005 graduate of Ulysses High School and is a member of the team. The UNITY dance team will perform at the Ulysses vs Garden City basketball game on January 30, 2009 at Ulysses High School. The Ulysses dance team will also be featuring a short performance.

The group will have a youths "Hip-Hop Dance Clinic" clinic on Saturday, January 31 at Kepley Gym. Registration will begin at 8:30am. The times are 9-11am for the three year olds thru fifth grade. The sixth grade and up group will have a clinic from noon till three pm. The registration fee is $15 and can be emailed to dance.4.ever08@live.com or unityhiphopdance@yahoo.com. One can also register at the door for twenty dollars.

The cost also includes a t-shirt and snacks.

This a great time for the youth of our community experience some entertainment values at an economical cost.

She is the daughter of Michael and Paula Ybarra and has one brother Josh and one sister Tia.

UNITY Hip-Hop Dance Troupe began as UNITY/S.U.T.H. (Students Uniteding Through Hip-Hop). It was founded by the aspiring hip-hop artist Eve Bradley in 1995. As a KU student of color, Eve found it difficult to express herself through dance in the student organizations that KU offered. Opportunities available at the time were limited to traditional dance forms. Eve wanted to bring the originality and expressiveness of the hip-hop culture from the clubs to the KU campus for all students to enjoy. UNITY’S mission has since been to embrace diversity through the common interest of hip-hop dance. The members of UNITY have worked hard to reach founder, Eve Bradley’s, goal of keeping the hip-hop element instilled within UNITY and shared with the community. UNITY will continue to strive to reach out to KU
Dance

and the Lawrence community in all its endeavors! Community Service is an important part of UNITY membership. Not only is it an opportunity to contribute diversity to our community, but it also serves to give UNITY members a sense of cohesiveness outside the studio. UNITY has volunteered for various events and organizations: the Habitat for Humanity, the Pelathe Center, the ’Womyn Take Back the Nite’ rally, the Lawrence Public School District, and Relay for Life just to name a few.

UNITY performances are energetic, exciting and motivating! UNITY has performed at residence hall programs, parties, talents shows, concerts, and many more entertaining events. UNITY has also traditionally perform at Late Night at the Phog.

Tryouts for UNITY are held at the beginning of each semester. (This is subject to change.) They are publicized (by fliers, facebook, etc.) up to two weeks before hand in both the Fall and Spring. If you are interested in trying out for UNITY you may send your questions to: unityhiphopdance@yahoo.com and Spring.

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College students feeling pressure of economic times

BY MELISSA TREOLO
MTREOLO@THEWORLDINFO

It is an unstable world in which we live, say university administrators, but it might be too soon to determine how a weakening economy will affect incoming college students and those graduating this year.

"Everything's just come to a head recently (with the economy), so it's really too early to tell," said Megan Hill, associate director for career networks at Kansas University. "However, we do get the sense that students are feeling the pressure of the economy."

One certainty is KU isn't seeing a drop in the amount of interest from prospective students.

"We are actually flat," said Lisa Pinamonti Kress, director of undergraduate admissions and scholarships. "We're receiving the same amount of applications this year as we were last year."

The same is true at Baker University's School of Professional and Graduate Studies.

"Our enrollment's about the same," said Kelly Belk, director of enrollment management. "This January (enrollment) will be higher than last January."

Belk said she hadn't seen any widespread panic among students yet, but she does believe that, as she said, "people are worried for the future." This may explain why, with rising tuition rates, colleges aren't seeing a decline in enrollment.

But what direction are students choosing to go after graduation?

An increasingly unpromising job market would suggest college graduates are much more inclined to delay their entrance into a profession and head to graduate school instead. But Kerri Day Keller, director of career and employment services at Kansas State University, says this may not necessarily be the case.

"Students are usually leaving any campus with some debt accrued, so they are seeking employment," she said. "A lot of our students can't afford to go on to another grad school."

Jack Hunter, director of the career center at Missouri State University, said jumping into the job market after graduation shouldn't be such a scary concept - at least, not for those students with some experience under their belt.

"Students who have had internships during college get 50 percent more offers and 50 percent more interviews," said Hunter.

For those who don't have an internship during college, Hunter said, the outlook can be quite different.

"We have seniors come in who haven't done much for four years except, regrettably, study, asking, 'What can I do?' Well, we pray for them," he said.

Keller said the job search, while intimidating, shouldn't be considered impossible, even for those students without internships.

"There are still jobs out there," she said.

"But in a world where layoffs are becoming a common occurrence, some students may choose to keep the option of going to grad school open for a later time. In this case, Kress has some advice.

"I definitely recommend they make sure they check with the college or university for the deadlines," said Kress. "Any planning ahead you can do is still important in difficult economic times."
University registrars throughout the area were busy in the fall semester as record enrollments were posted at Ottawa University, Baker University, Kansas University and Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Enrollment at Ottawa will continue to grow, if university president Kevin Eichner has a say. His plan for the college is detailed in the university's annual report this year. In the report Eichner set definite goals for the university's growth.

By 2020, Eichner would like to see enrollment at all the university's campuses to 25,000 students, 1,500 at the Ottawa campus.

Fall enrollment for the Ottawa campus totaled 554 students, 245 of which were new degree-seeking students.

Paula Paine, spokeswoman for the university, said the increase in enrollment could partially be attributed to better communication.

Eichner's first phase of the Vision 2020 plan also seeks significantly improve the university's recruiting and retention.

The university recently brought on a new team to take on recruiting.

Paine said new publication materials and stronger relationships were catching the eyes of prospective students.

New marketing and admissions teams have attributed to the getting word out about the university.

Paine said the university strives to attract underserved populations. The university focuses on recruiting students from rural areas and the St. Louis area.

The Kansas City campus of the university is growing as well.

Paine said enrollment for the campus was up 28 percent.

The downturn in the economy may be a good thing for universities, as many people are choosing to go back to school.

Beginning this year Ottawa is offering a Leadership Matters Workshop. The workshop, free to students and the public, offers insight to improve businesses.

Eichner leads each session using real world examples from his six years as CEO at Enterprise Financial Services Corporation in St. Louis, a position he held before coming to the university.

Baker reported a record enrollment of 4,112 students with increased numbers in the fall semester at all four of its schools — College of Arts and Sciences, School of Professional and Graduate Studies, School of Nursing and School of Education.

"Reaching an enrollment of 4,000 students for the first time in our history is a significant milestone for Baker University," Baker President Pat Long said of the fall 2008 enrollment. "Our excellent academic programs continue to attract quality students pursuing degrees ranging from associate to doctoral."

The Baldwin City campus, which serves College of Arts and Science students and School of Education undergraduates, reported an enrollment of 998 students, the highest figure for that location in at least 30 years. The enrollment figure includes non-degree-seeking students. The on-campus population totaled 947 students.

The School of Professional and Graduate Studies, which serves working adults at locations in Kansas and Missouri, recorded an enrollment of 1,885 students. That figure consisted of 992 undergraduates and 893 graduate students.

Operating at maximum capacity, Baker's School of Nursing at Stormont-Vail HealthCare in Topeka had 59 students enrolled.

Baker's School of Education
Numbers up at universities

FROM PAGE 5

graduate programs reported 1,070 students in the fall semester. KU hit its high-water mark with 30,102 students enrolled in fall 2008. Overall enrollment at KU was a 2.9 percent increase over fall 2007. Enrollment at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., increased by 6.3 percent to a record 3,103. Multicultural enrollment at KUMC rose by 6.1 percent.

A KU official said the increase wasn’t spurred by the school’s successes in football and a basketball national championship.

“These students were motivated by KU’s strong academic rankings and overall reputation and were eager to attend KU before the athletic victories. KU is a great place to be,” said admissions director Lisa Kress.

At Kansas State in Manhattan, enrollment increased in the fall semester to 23,520, up from the fall 2007 record of 23,332 students.
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— Lawrence Journal-World reporter Andy Hyland contributed to this report
Julia Snell, a McPherson junior majoring in flute, was one of two KU students competing at the 2009 Music Teachers National Association in Minneapolis.

Snell qualified for national competition when she won first place in her division at the state competition conducted in November at KU.

For the state competition, Snell performed the “Suite for Flute and Piano” by Charles Widor, the “Air Allemande” by Theobald Boehm and second movement of the “Mozart Concerto in G Major.” Snell studies with Paul Dukas, assistant professor of flute.

She competed at the national competition in Minneapolis, Minn., on Saturday, Jan. 17. She placed seventh in the competition.

She is the daughter of Glen and Kerri Snell of McPherson. She is a McPherson High School graduate.