Frazier receives KU scholarship

LAWRENCE — More than 5,400 students at the University of Kansas will receive about $26 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2007-08 academic year.

Virtually all scholarships, awards and fellowships awarded by KU come from private contributions to KU Endowment.

Among those receiving scholarships is Christa Nicole Frazier of Altamont, a junior PharmacyPD major. She is the daughter of John and Linda Frazier and a graduate of Labette County High School.
KU awards $26 million in scholarship support to students for 2007-08

Area students are: Riley G Dutton, Arma, English BA, sophomore, was awarded the Roland T. Beard Scholarship, he is a St Mary's-Colgan High School graduate.
- Maegan Nicole Easter, Arma, Pharmacy PD Prof 1, was awarded the Edward A. and Sara Mae Diekman Scholarship, she is a Northeast High School graduate.
- Jessica Marie Fields, Arma, Medicine MD Prof 1, was awarded the Office of Cultural Enhancement and Diversity NIH Scholarship, she is a Northeast High School graduate.
- Bryce James Jones, Arma, Astronomy BS, freshman, was awarded the JANICKE FRESHMAN HONOR SCHOLARSHIP.
- Ryan David Lasota, Franklin, Medicine MD Prof 1, was awarded the Flowers Memorial Trust.
- Lindsey Ann Brake, Girard, Accounting and Info Systems MAS, Graduate student, was awarded the John W. Rader Scholarship.
- Kelci Denae McFarland, Girard, Pre-Physical Therapy, freshman, was awarded the Ellis D. Bever Undergraduate Scholarship, she is a Girard High School graduate.
- Jennifer Michelle Schrimsher, Girard, Medicine MD Prof 1, was awarded the Flowers Memorial Trust, she is a Girard High School graduate.
- John Gantt Yost, Girard, Medicine MD Prof 1, was awarded the Flowers Memorial Trust.

he is a Riverton High School graduate.
More than 5,400 students at the University of Kansas will receive about $26 million in privately-funded scholarships during the 2007-08 academic year.

Among them are high school graduates from Brown County:

Hiawatha High School — medical student Todd A. Barrett, son of John Barrett and Marcia Barrett, Dr. Phillip Galloway Fund; medical student Abigail Suzanne Maze, daughter of Charlie and Betty Maze, Dr. Thornton L. Waylan Family Practice Scholarship and George E. and Blanche Sterling Trust; Kelly junior Elaine Rockey, daughter of Phil Rockey, Pi Beta Phi Educational Foundation Scholarship; freshman Chelsea Marie Rosenberg, daughter of Kristin and Bradley Rosenberg, A.B. and Dana Foster Keith Scholarship; junior Brianna Rae Barnes, daughter of Joey Barnes, Emiel and Mary Kanehl Scholarship; and freshman Robert Wilham Jackson, son of Nancy and William Jackson, KU Scholarships.

Horton High School — sophomore Matthew Wayne Dunlap, son of Theresa and Gregory Sandersen, Franklin E. Reed Memorial Scholarship and Multicultural Business Scholars Scholarship; and sophomore Nicole Ann McReeves, daughter of Cheryl Simon, Howard Reed Sailors, Thelma Sophia Ally Sailors Scholarship.

This year’s awards represent a 10.6 percent increase from the 2006-07 school year.

This year’s recipients represent 101 of the 105 counties in Kansas, 44 other states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 50 other countries.

Scholarship funds are managed by KU Endowment, an independent, nonprofit organization serving as the official fund raising and fund-management organization for KU.
LAWRENCE — A University of Kansas student from Delia will join the University of Kansas Trumpet Ensemble in a tour of China later this month. KU officials noted recently.

Emily Seifert, a senior in music education and the daughter of Leon and Connie Seifert of Delia, is one of 14 students who play in the ensemble and will tour China over the university’s Christmas break. Seifert is a graduate of St. Marys High School.

The ensemble, a finalist in the National Trumpet Competition the past two years, performed preview concerts in Lawrence and Mission this past weekend in preparation for the tour. Steve Leisring, assistant professor of trumpet, is the ensemble’s director.

At the invitation of the U.S.-China Cultural and Educational Foundation, the ensemble will perform nine concerts in six cities in China. Leisring and several students from the trumpet ensemble will perform solos, assisted by Scott Watson, professor of tuba/euphonium. Scott Weiss, director of bands, will be guest conductor.

“Our hosts in China have requested an audience-friendly program, which I believe we have been very successful in putting together,” Leisring said. “We will perform many popular works, from opera and orchestral transcriptions to ragtime, jazz and Latin favorites to show the versatility of our ensemble.”

The ensemble will perform in major concert halls at Renmin University in Beijing and in Shenyang, Chengdu and Kunming, China. The group also will perform a special concert for students and faculty of the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.

The students also will perform during a New Year’s concert in Chengdu, and portions will be recorded for inclusion in a widely televised New Year’s special, according to the U.S.-China Cultural and Educational Foundation. Additional tour performances are pending.

“The opportunity for our KU students to connect with audiences in China will be something they will carry with them the rest of their lives,” Leisring said. “They will all experience how quickly music can bring people from different parts of the world together, regardless of language or other cultural differences.”
For reservist, potholes are grim reminder

By ERIN CASTANEDA

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Potholes that dot Lawrence streets are just one of many reminders of combat in Iraq, said Felix Zacharias, a sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves.

The University of Kansas sophomore from Wichita is used to swerving from potholes to save his life. He recalled maneuvering his vehicle around a 15-foot crater one day last spring in Fallujah. The hole was created by a suicide truck that exploded the day before.

Transitioning from a war zone where anything that moves has the potential to kill you to civilian life can be difficult for veterans, their families and the health care providers working to help them.

The nature of warfare in Iraq is prompting changes to health care for soldiers. Richard Selig, the Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom program manager for the Eastern Kansas Health Care System, said health care providers are facing a "neurobiological phenomenon."

In previous wars, a soldier would gear up for the "fight or flight" phenomenon, deal with a crisis, and then "chemicals of excitation" would subside, Selig said.

Iraq war veterans are faced with a hyperarousal from a constant state of fear and anxiety, which leads to stress disorders, as well as traumatic brain injuries, the signature wounds of this war, he said.

"Our enemy doesn't wage conventional war with us," Selig said. "This war is exclusively in an urban setting rather than a jungle." He said "There are not clear battle lines, there is no clear-cut enemy ... a large part of our casualties are due to IEDs (improvised explosive devices) or VBIDS (vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices). Aside from that, the next percentage of death is snipers."

The hyperarousal causes desensitization, an effective defense mechanism in combat, but a difficult mentality to "turn off" when service members return, he said.

"Oftentimes soldiers will come back and feel incredibly bored and restless," Selig said. "Nothing in our civilian world approximates to the level of excitement and stress that they are exposed to in harm's way. There's nothing here in our world that can approximate that."

Army National Guardsman Kris Fisk, a 27-year-old University of Kansas senior, said the transition to life in Lawrence has been more difficult than adjusting to life in Basra, where he spent one year under frequent mortar bombardment.

"Instead of being in a place where you might die doing nothing, you come back to people being concerned with things that don't matter," Fisk said.

In Basra, life was simple, he said.

He described going into "automatic" as he left the gates of Basra Palace, where he stayed, to conduct a classified mission in a city where traffic and shooting laws are sparse.

"There's no time or inclination to think," he said. "You don't wonder what happened to the car that just exploded."

He described killing as a "rush like nothing else in the world."

"But it's extremely terrible. You never get over the realization that that was a person. I'd say it's one of the hardest things to live with," he said.

Fisk said he learned to accept death, his own and others.

"From that moment on the sky was bluer, the grass was greener," he said. "He said that freedom was an acceptance of being "OK with ceasing to exist."

"That whole thing has been fading away," he said. After he graduates in May with a history degree, he plans to go to Afghanistan for one year with a different Army unit.

Selig said it's not enough to try and reach out to service members when they return. He said soldiers often are redeployed, which can intensify their psychological problems. The Eastern Kansas Health Care System has a unique agreement with the Kansas National Guard to help soldiers and their families pre- and post-deployment. Selig said it has been effective in improving access and services in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Inpa-
Inpatient, outpatient and psychiatric services are provided. Carol Birt, a Lawrence psychiatrist who is federally contracted to help veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan at military bases around the United States, has experienced what she calls “chaos in the veterans system” in other states. She is in Sacramento, Calif., helping veterans at Mather Air Force Base and McClennan AFB, where she said funding and organization are needed.

“We are scrambling to invent new programs, groups, treatments, and we are doing all we can do,” she said.
Preparing our students for tomorrow's working world

As the Kansas economy becomes increasingly global and highly competitive, we must prepare the children of Kansas with the training they need for the economy of the future.

Key to Kansas' ability to succeed in the new technology-driven marketplace will be workers who excel in math, science, technology and engineering; and right now, our students are underperforming compared to their peers around the world.

Encouraging more students to focus on these fields and continue their education in math and science will help to ensure that we have the workforce for a prosperous future.

Quality teachers are essential to the success of our students; however, Kansas faces a shortage of math and science teachers. The Kansas State Department of Education recently reported that next year Kansas schools are likely to have over 680 vacancies for math and science teachers, but only 228 new math and science teachers are expected to graduate from Kansas schools.

Teachers have always had significant impact on the lives of their students, but now more so than ever, teachers dictate the future success of our economy as well.

Given the importance of these educators, it is essential the state produce not just more math and science teachers, but more effective math and science teachers. We can do this by encouraging math and science majors to enter the teaching profession and by supporting the development of highly qualified teachers in math and science fields. A new program at the University of Kansas will accomplish those goals.

UKanTeach is an innovative new program that allows students to earn degrees in math or science as well as a teaching license. The program, a collaboration between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Education, aims to double the number of math and science teachers graduating from KU each year, resulting in an additional 50 new teachers in Kansas classrooms.

Last week the University of Kansas was one of 12 universities nationwide to receive a National Math and Science Initiative grant. The $2.4 million grant funded by the ExxonMobil Corporation will be used to fund the UKanTeach program. We know it works, because this program has been in place at the University of Texas and the results are encouraging.

We are pleased that KU was able to secure one of these competitive grants, and I am confident the UKanTeach program will produce more of the teachers our state needs to help our students thrive in the subjects of math and science.

With programs like this and a continued focus on math and science, success in the classroom will no doubt extend to economic success in the future.
Five Spring Hill High School graduates who are enrolled at the University of Kansas recently earned the following scholarships: Stephanie Dallam, Melva Jean Hatfield — John Wettig Scholarship in Nursing; Katherine Harry, J. L. Constant Scholarship; Rachel Ebenstein, Lawrence Intercampus Scholarship; Kelsey Simpson, KU Scholarships; and Megan Stidham, Fay Thies Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund.
Each year, a summit on electric transmission in Kansas gains a little bigger charge.

This year’s event, the state’s fifth, is scheduled for Friday at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. Expected to attend are officials from power and transmission companies, wind energy developers and others looking at the state’s potential to expand power production and the lines necessary to move it.

“If we’re going to develop our state’s wind capacity we’ve got to be able to build new transmission,” said summit organizer Rep. Tom Sloan, R-Lawrence.

The U.S. electrical grid is behind the times, he noted, thanks to “our congressional waffling” on developing renewables such as wind energy as well as the nation’s lack of response to climate change.

However, several states are starting to act. Kansas has a few new transmission lines in the works and more on the drawing board for the next few years.

But Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson recently said the state ideally could be part of a transmission “super highway” to sell Kansas wind energy to the southeast United States, which has less wind power potential.

Officials from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, regional transmission planners as well as legislators will be on hand Friday to answer questions.

“I really encourage folks to raise issues,” Sloan said.
Breman family restores barns built by German immigrants

BARN PRESERVATION
BY MICHAEL HOOVER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE BURLEY • THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Breman — Settled in a grove of trees near Breman are some of the oldest barns in Kansas. One barn dates to 1867, when German immigrant Christian Drinkgern homesteaded his family’s ranch. A second barn was constructed in 1894.

Milford Drinkgern, the fifth generation to own and operate the ranch, renovated the barns in recent years to preserve the heritage of the family farm and its place in Kansas history.

Many old barns crumbled after years of neglect and exposure to the elements on the Great Plains. If the roof and foundation suffer, the rest of the barn will crumble, Drinkgern said. Kansas Preservation Alliance Inc. recently added Kansas barns to its endangered property list in Kansas.

The barn is where most of the work was done on the farm. The barn was a place to store hay and feed, milk cows and board horses and other livestock.

Each of the Drinkgern barns were painted with a red Arrow D brand, which has been around for four generations.

The 1867 Drinkgern barn has wire racks where farmers used to dry tobacco. But tobacco hasn’t been raised on the Drinkgern farm in a century.

The second barn, called the “new barn” when Drinkgern was growing up, was constructed in 1894 by J. Karsten, whose name and date are inscribed on a post in the center of the barn.

Both barns had deteriorated over the years, but Drinkgern said he didn’t want to see them fall apart. He has added new siding and roofing and restored the foundation. Steve Muleski was the general contractor in charge of the work for the Drinkgern family.

Coming to America
The farm is a few miles from Breman, a German town about 11 miles west of Marysville. Breman, founded in 1886, has about 35 residents and is home to Breman Farmers Mutual Insurance Co., Citizens State Bank & Trust, a farmers co-op, a U.S. Post Office, Crome Truck Line and several well-kept homes. A hand-powered pump in the center of downtown used to provide water to residents.

Immigrants who settled in Breman and nearby Hanover came from Breman and Hanover, Germany. They spoke a low-German dialect, but the Drinkgerns spoke a different, more common dialect from eastern Germany. Many of these Kansas Germans still speak Plattdeutsch and are trying to preserve the language in a monthly school with instructors from The University of Kansas.

Christian Drinkgern came from Mecklenburg, Germany, a relatively poor region of Germany where the grand duke owned half the land and serfs worked for him.

“They were absolutely poor,” said Drinkgern. “They were serfs, who lived in these huts. It was close to slavery. My great-great grandfather decided he had enough and wanted out. They left knowing they would never see the family again.”

Christian Drinkgern, his wife and their two children arrived at Breman with just a trunk in 1867. The pioneer Drinkgerns never went back to the old country.

Milford Drinkgern, who grew up on the family farm but has lived in Marysville for years, has traveled to Germany several times.

“It was so bad there, they never talked about it,” he said. “When they heard about free land, they came here and just worked themselves to the bone. I’ll bet...
Mitford Drinkern is the fifth generation to own and operate the family ranch near Breman, a small German town west of Marysville. Drinkern recently renovated the ranch's two barns to preserve their history, which dates back to when the ranch was settled by German immigrant Christian Drinkern.

Left: Inside the newer of the two restored barns, Drinkern runs his hand over some etched writing recording several dates, the oldest being 1894, the year the barn was built. Right: Wire stretches across the interior of the older barn, built in 1867, and was used to dry tobacco more than a century ago.

With his dog, Max, at his side, Drinkern closes the door to the 1894 barn, which has had its exterior restored with gleaming red siding.
**Barn: Family proud of German heritage**

Continued from Page 1B

they died feeling lucky and grateful they had such a good life here."

The first home on the Drinkgern farmstead was a log cabin, located where a graveled parking lot is today. The site is about 50 feet from the first barn. The second home is a small wooden frame house that's still standing but looking rather aged.

"I haven't got the nerve to put the bulldozer on it," Drinkgern said.

**Love of the land**

Drinkgern's son, Scott Drinkgern, resides with his wife, Sandy, in the ranch's third home, built in 1889 on the original property at the extreme northern edge of the Flint Hills close to the Nebraska border. Scott's son, Ryan Drinkgern, grew up on the farm and built a house on the family's land across the road. Scott and Ryan Drinkgern own and operate United Pest Control.

The Drinkgerns raise Hereford cattle and several row crops, including wheat. They don't milk cows.

"Milk comes from the grocery store," Milford Drinkgern said. "I'm an old Hereford man. They've been very good to me."

His grandfather, Henry F. Drinkgern, was a tall man who was good with livestock. His pencil figuring can be found on the old scale where they used to weigh animals for sale or purchase.

When asked how the Drinkgerns survived all these years on the family farm, he said, "You weather the storms, you take the good with the bad."

Drinkgern is a pretty tough man himself. He got trampled by a cow about two years ago, but survived it. He also skydived from 11,000 feet and free fell to 4,000 feet, calling that experience an "awesome adrenaline rush." He also bungee jumped three times in two days with his grandson.

He has had two jobs since 1951: rancher and insurance broker in Marysville. His agency is called United Insurance Service.

Drinkgern and his wife, Verda, have been married nearly 50 years and he has traveled to more than 40 countries. Their daughter, Brenda Albin, loved the cow business and helped her dad deliver calves while growing up. Today she and her husband, Steve, own and operate an independent insurance agency in Lincoln, Neb.

Drinkgern has added acres to the family's ranch over the years.

"Land is for buying, not selling," he said.

Sometimes he drives his pickup with his dog, Max, to a 63-acre meadow of virgin prairie grass.

The prairie has big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass and sideoats grama, but has never been tilled.

"This is my love, the land and the prairie," he said.

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CHECK IT OUT

For more information about the Kansas Preservation Alliance and its efforts to preserve barns and other structures in the state, go to www.kpalliance.org.
The older of the two barns on the Drinkgern family ranch near Bremen has stood the test of time since 1867, witnessing more than 140 years worth of northeast Kansas sunsets.
Body found in residence hall

The Capital-Journal

LAWRENCE — Police on Saturday night were investigating an unattended death at a University of Kansas residence hall.

According to KU officials, a body was discovered at around 2:30 p.m. Saturday in a room on the seventh floor of the Oliver Hall residence hall, 1815 Naismith Drive.

There were no outward signs of foul play, but no cause of death had been determined, according to the KU Office of Public Safety.

No additional information was available.