The University of Kansas recently announced area degree candidates. They were:

Burns: Shelby Plummer, bachelor of science in education/athletic training.

Goessel: Amanda Voth, juris doctor.

Hillsboro: Adam Driggers, bachelor of fine arts/art.

Marion: Jared Beeton, graduate doctor of philosophy/geography; Ashlee Moore, bachelor of science in nursing.

Peabody: Jeremy Carroll, bachelor of science in physics; Tina Hardin, juris doctor; Sarah McLeod, bachelor of social work.
Financial aid officers respond to inquiry into student lending

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE — Financial aid officers at Kansas universities applauded investigations into student-lending practices after reports of kickbacks uncovered nationwide.

The $87 billion student-lending industry has been the target of prosecutors this year after allegations that schools have received compensation to steer students to particular lenders, even if it's not in the student's best financial interests.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, who has been leading the national investigation, found evidence that some colleges received a percentage of loan proceeds from lenders given preferred status by the schools and found college loan officers got gifts from lenders to encourage them to steer borrowers their way.

But at Baker University in Baldwin City, financial aid director Jeanne Mott said the school chooses "preferred" lenders based on the service they think students will receive. Baker students who apply for financial aid online see a list of four preferred lenders.

"We don't get free trips," Mott said. "I don't serve on any boards with pay."

Kansas University spokesman Todd Cohen also said Kansas doesn't have any "preferred lenders" and participates in the federal direct-lending program, in which students get loans directly from the federal government.

Howard Fischer, the financial aid director at Ottawa University, said he believes the controversy has been overblown.

"In any industry the size of the student-lending industry, there are going to be a small percentage of individuals who are going to make some bad decisions," he said.

Every Christmas, packages of candy show up at Ottawa University's financial aid office, compliments of student-lending companies. A couple times per year, lenders bring in lunch for the financial aid staff and talk about their companies and their loan products.

"The lenders do normal marketing," he said.

But Fischer said that's as cozy as the relationships get.
Sixteen seniors received awards for their presentations at the 10th annual undergraduate Research Symposium recently at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Area winners include Kyle Hesed, Pawnee Rock, general interest contribution award, and Rebecca Deeds, Little River, poster session award.
MACKSVILLE — Eulogizing police officer Robert Tim Buckman, who suffered fatal injuries in the line of duty on a stormy night, Pastor David Crook reached for the Gospel According to John: Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. Buckman dashed from the safety of his home May 4 to tell friends to take cover from a tornado, although he had no cover, Crook said. “That was who Tim was,” he said. At the funeral Saturday, Crook’s voice carried up to a balcony inside the Macksville Christian Church and to an adjacent room filled with mourners, and to the outdoors, where more people stood. Macksville was Buckman’s town, and a recording of Montgomery Gentry’s “My Town” opened the service. Buckman grew up in Macksville, graduating from high school in 1979. He spent a career in public safety. Besides his role as a police officer, Buckman, 46, was a longtime firefighter and a reserve deputy for the Stafford County Sheriff’s Department. He also was a public works employee for Macksville. On the night of May 4, tornadoes ravaged the state’s central region, crushing Buckman’s patrol car. Buckman was removed from life-support systems in a Wichita hospital and died May 8, one of 12 victims of the storms. Crook described a man who had “a passion for the outdoors,” was a bit of a daredevil and had more than an ounce of orneriness. He recounted that when a man fell into a grain elevator, Buckman arrived first and dove in headlong to rescue the man sinking into grain. “He fought desperately,” Crook said, and after four and a half hours, the fight was won. Once offered a job in another town, Buckman turned it down. “No, I can’t go, because this is my town,” Crook said Buckman decided. “You could always depend on him,” said Doris Tompkins, with Stafford County EMS, after the funeral. Buckman’s death leaves a void for Macksville and Stafford County, she said. “Oh, it is a hole,” agreed Stafford County Commissioner Lee Suiter. "A contingent of more than 100 members from law enforcement, fire, emergency services, the Highway Patrol and Kansas Wildlife and Parks attended to...
McPherson High students place in journalism contest

LAWRENCE -- McPherson High School placed two students in the Class 5A-6A classification of the Kansas Scholastic Press Association Contest. Aislinn Maier, junior, took first in cutline writing and Jonathan Shorman, junior, won honorable mention for editorial writing.

Students qualified for the state contest by placing at one of six regional contests in February. At the state level, students participated in 18 categories including: advertising, cutline writing, editing, editorial cartoon, editorial writing, feature writing, headline writing, infographics, news writing, newspaper design, newspaper photography, newspaper sports writing, yearbook copy writing, yearbook layout, yearbook photography, yearbook sports writing, yearbook theme development and broadcasting.

Students from 128 Kansas high schools proved their journalism talents at the University of Kansas with a total of 1,020 entries.
Degree Candidates At KU Commencement

Several area students will be among the more than 6,400 who are candidates for degrees this Sunday during commencement exercises at the University of Kansas.

Faculty and candidates for degrees will assemble at 2 p.m., along Memorial Drive for the procession into the stadium, which will begin at 2:30 p.m. The program will begin at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Degree candidates include:

Dwight -- Aaron Bradley Oleen, juris doctor degree, and Amy Louise Reif, master of science degree in education.

White City -- Kora Kae Anderson, bachelor of science degree in biology.

Admire -- Audra Rochelle Jenkins, bachelor of arts degree in theatre and film.

Allen -- Jessica D. White, bachelor of fine arts degree in design.

Americus -- Jeffrey J. Commerford, bachelor of science degree in business/accounting and bachelor of science degree in business/finance; Benjamin L. Grother, bachelor of arts in English; and Melanie Renee Privat, master of science degree in counseling psychology.

Alma -- Gretchen Rebekah Gehrt, master's degree in occupational therapy, and Joshua J. Umbehr, doctor of medicine.

Herington -- Jenna Renee Haire, bachelor of science degree in nursing, and Matthew Garrett Wolff, master of science degree in education.

Strong City -- Shelly Diane Unruh, bachelor of science degree in occupational studies.
KU honors many

KU announces students with degrees for commencement ceremony.

Ashley Jill Stepp, graduate of Smith Center Junior Senior High School, daughter of Carl and Leann Stepp, Pharmacy PD, her award is Doctor of Pharmacy.

Simeon George Weltmer, son of Kenton Weltmer, Medicine MD, his award was Doctor of Medicine. Simeon graduated from Smith Center Junior Senior High.

John Stuart Wiehl son of Bryce and Beverly Wiehl, English MA, was a graduate with an award Master of Arts/English. John was a Smith Center Junior Senior High graduate.

Jill Dane Windscheffel, daughter of John and Tamara Windscheffel, Sport Science BSE, award was Bachelor of Science in Education. Jill was a Smith Center Junior Senior High School graduate.
More than 4,000 candidates for degrees to graduate at KU

LAWRENCE — The names of more than 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring — representing 97 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and 52 countries — have been announced by the KU registrar.

KU’s Class of 2007 numbers more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these candidates for degrees will return Sunday, May 20, for the university’s 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2007 are expected to participate.

Graduates from Anderson County include:

From Previous Column
Prof 1, Doctor of Medicine, Anderson County High School.

Graduates from the local Franklin County area include:

Princeton Paul Thoburn Dundee, son of John Dundee: Psychology BA, Bachelor of Arts/Psychology Sabetha High School, Sabetha, KS.

Rantoul: Natalie Christine Burkdoll, daughter of Scott and Linda Burkdoll - Nursing BSN, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Central Heights High School.

Richmond: Ashley Sutton Elaine Dunbar: Dietetics and Nutrition MS, Master of Science/Dietetics and Nutrition.
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But at Baker University in Baldwin City, financial aid director Jeanne Mott said the school chooses "preferred" lenders based on the service they think students will receive. Program students who apply for financial aid online list a list of four preferred lenders.
Area students honored

Area students are KU grads

Several area students graduated with degrees from the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Kasey Arin Monroe of Geneseo, the son of Linda Monroe, graduated with a bachelor of general studies degree in Theatre and Film. He is a graduate of Quivira Heights High School in Bushton.

Lance Bradley Hill, of Little River, the son of Joni Brown, graduated with a bachelor of general studies degree in Theatre and Film. He graduated from Central Christian High School Hutchinson.

Bethany Kay Barrientez, of Lyons, the daughter of Julie McClure, graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in History and Christopher W. Hogan, son of Karml and Randy Blumanhourst, graduated with a master of science degree in Nurse Anesthesia. They are both graduates of Lyons High School.

Samantha Kay Irick, daughter of Chris Sillin, graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in Speech-Language-Hearing. She is a graduate of Sterling High School.