A University of Kansas team of three undergraduate students placed first this year in the third annual Kansas Collegiate Mathematics Competition held March 30-31 at Wichita State University as part of the Kansas section meeting of the Mathematical Association of America.

Twelve teams of two to three students from Kansas colleges and universities took part in the intensive three-hour adjudicated competition that challenged each participant to solve five math problems worth 10 points each. The top two individual scores on each team were added to form the overall team score. Two teams of three students each represented KU at the event.

The KU-I team of Rachel Debes, Hays junior; Brian Moehring, Olathe senior; and Nick Tobaben, Topeka junior, received the first-place plaque award. Members of KU’s second team were Bowe Neuenschwander, Hoxie sophomore; Rong Chen, Atchison freshman, and Bertrand Kotewall, Hong Kong senior.

Moehring received the $100 third-place individual award with a 40 out of a possible 50 points, and Debes was fourth with 38 out of 50 points. Judges also cited Tobaben and Neuenschwander with noteworthy individual scores. First- and second-place individual winners were from Kansas State University.

Atanas Stefanov, KU assistant professor of mathematics, was in charge of the intercollegiate competition portion of the program. Jeremy Martin, assistant professor of mathematics, coached both KU teams.

KU undergraduates at the conference also took part in mathematics-related program presentations. Keynote speaker Robert Finn, professor emeritus of mathematics at Stanford University, considered a leading expert in the mathematical theory of capillarity was keynote speaker.

The Mathematical Association of America is a professional society whose purpose is to advance mathematical sciences at the collegiate level.

KU student participants are listed below by hometown, level in school, major, parents’ names, high school attended (when available) and award received.

**ATCHISON COUNTY**
- From Atchison 67601 - Rong Chen, freshman in mathematics, daughter of Xiuzhu and Lida Chen; Atchison High School.

**ELLIS COUNTY**
- From Hays 67601 - Rachel Debes, junior in mathematics, daughter of Ken and Debbie Debes; Hays High School; first-place team member and fourth-place individual award winner.

**JOHNSON COUNTY**
- From Olathe 66061 - Brian Moehring, senior in mathematics, son of Rick and Dene Moehring; Olathe South High School; first-place team member and third-place $100 individual award winner.

**SHERIDAN COUNTY**
- From Hoxie 67740 - Bowe Neuenschwander, sophomore in computer engineering with a minor in mathematics, son of Karl and Lu Neuenschwander; Hoxie High School.

**SHAWNEE COUNTY**
- From Topeka 66605 - Nick Tobaben, junior in mathematics and mechanical engineering, son of Jim and Anita Tobaben; Shawnee Heights High School, Tecumseh; first-place team winner.

**HONG KONG**
- Bertrand Kotewall, senior in mathematics, son of Robert George Kotewall.
On Wednesday, April 4, 2007 Megan Juenemann (right) and Stephanie Juenemann (left) attended the Kansas Honors Program award ceremony at the Gateway in Oberlin, Kansas. This program has been a University of Kansas tradition since 1971. To be selected as an honor scholar, you must be at the top 10% of your class. These two young ladies were among fifty-two other scholars from the nine northwest Kansas counties that attended. They were awarded a certificate and an American Heritage College Dictionary for all of their hard work throughout high school.
Capturing a once-lost collegiate dream

BY ERIN WISDOM
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When I met Becky Bright, it didn’t take me long to learn we have quite a bit in common. We both double-majored in English and journalism at the University of Kansas. We both worked for The University Daily Kansan. And like soldiers swapping war stories, we both have battle wounds from reporting classes we thought would be the end of us.

But while I graduated from KU in 2006, Bright graduated in 1946 and, therefore, went into a post-college world much different than mine. Hers was one where, after a few months as a newspaper society editor, she married and set aside her life as a journalist for one as a housewife. In this, she went from interviews to ironing, from working with words to working with a washing machine.

“I was one of those 1950s women,” she said. “Most of us were stay-at-home moms.”

But Bright’s journalism career didn’t end forever when she became a wife and mother. Rather, it really didn’t have its start until decades later — a testimony to the age-old story that, sometimes, second chances at collegiate ambitions come around.

Bright’s second chance began by taking her back to her roots. She earned a master’s degree from KU’s William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications in 1981 — after having been one of the eight students who composed the school’s first graduating class in the 1940s.

Her master’s thesis led to her first foray into international journalism, taking her to the Philippines to interview Carlos P. Romulo. Among other honors, the diplomat, politician, soldier and journalist had earned the designation of serving with Gen. Douglas MacArthur in World War II and of being the first Asian to win the Pulitzer Prize.

Bright’s decision to write about Romulo resulted, in part, from her desire to choose a subject that would interest her husband, Bill, who had been in World War II. Their trip to the Philippines was only one of their many travels, which took them all over the United States and Europe and as far away as Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Building upon the experience she gained writing her master’s thesis, Bright used these trips as opportunities to write articles for travel magazines. She turned what she saw on Caribbean cruises, in Rio de Janeiro’s hotels and during a two-week tour of Italy into stories that brought the experiences to others. Between these and other articles, she totaled more than 20 pieces that were purchased by national publications.

Despite these academic and professional achievements she garnered later in life, Bright recognizes that, in some ways, she’s not so far from her housewife starting point. For her, the most ironic indication of this is the wall of framed diplomas and honor society certificates in the laundry room of her home in Paola.

“It all comes back to the washing machine,” she said.
LAWRENCE — A University of Kansas business instructor is kicking in some of his own money to help generate more than $50 million for a new building.

Ken McCarthy, who has already provided $1.2 million to the KU Endowment Association, said Wednesday he has agreed to give another $10 million if the school can raise $15 million.

McCarthy said he hopes construction could begin on the new four- or five-story building if the $25 million can be raised by next year.

McCarthy teaches at the business school’s Applied Portfolio Management program, receiving the Henry Bubb Award for excellence in teaching in 1995. He came to the university in 1994 from Goldman Sachs investment bank on Wall Street and has a master’s degree in taxation from the school.
Wishall spends break working on social issues

THE MORNING SUN

Matthew David Wishall, son of Mike and Beth Wishall, Pittsburg, was one of 68 University of Kansas students who spent their spring break on service-learning projects at Alternative Spring Breaks sites in Washington, D.C., Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin.

Students worked March 18-25 with agencies that address such issues as animal rescue, urban homelessness, conservation, health care, linguistics, environmental preservation, hurricane relief, education and help for those with disabilities.

Students selected for the Alternative Spring Breaks program are required to attend the Special Projects in the Community course. Those who complete all course requirements earn two college credit hours. The projects count for one honors unit for the University Honors Program, which now requires students who want to graduate with honors to complete one or two honors units outside the classroom.

Wishall worked at Give Kids the World, Kissimmee, Fla., a not-for-profit wish-granting resort that creates memories for children who have life-threatening illnesses. Volunteers worked in the village resort doing a variety of jobs, such as operating rides, planning family activities or helping at concession stands.
Stephanie Shephard and Krista Wilson have been selected by their peers as this year’s USD 231 Teachers of the Year.

Each year, the district selects one elementary and one secondary Teacher of the Year to represent the district in the Kansas Department of Education’s State Teacher of the Year competition.

Shephard, eighth-grade algebra teacher at Wheatridge Middle School, and Wilson, fifth-grade teacher at Nike Intermediate School, will be honored at a banquet in September.

The Kansas Teacher of the Year will be named in November.

Shephard, who has a bachelor’s degree from Ottawa University and a master’s degree from MidAmerica Nazarene University, is originally from New Mexico.

Her 10-year career in the Gardner Edgerton district has included teaching computers and third-grade at Sunflower Elementary and sixth-grade at Nike.

Shephard said her career path was inspired early on by one of her own teachers.

“I started out wanting to be an accountant,” she said. “One teacher inspired me when I was in junior high.”
I wanted to see what I could do to inspire other students. My freshman year, I decided I wanted to pursue a teaching career.”

Shephard said she believes that learning is a “shared responsibility” and that she strives to get to know each of her students as individuals.

“As soon as you get to know them as individuals and who they are, then you win their respect,” she said. “And once you win their respect, you can teach them anything.”

Shephard also strives to know her subject matter well, make it relevant to her students, and be a friend as well as a teacher.

“Teachers who are knowledgeable and prepared, who truly care for and respect their students, and who foster a positive, safe and challenging learning environment are teachers who will achieve that ultimate success — students who love to learn.”

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Tim Brady, Wheatridge principal, said Shephard has a knack for creating a classroom atmosphere that fosters learning.

“She has a special ability to connect with kids,” he said.

“They want to learn math because she makes it interesting and as a result the students are eager learners. She is deserving of the honor because she is constantly giving her time and talents to others. Our school is a better place because of Stephanie Shephard.”

Wilson is a lifelong Gardner resident and Gardner Edgerton High School graduate.

She has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from MidAmerica Nazarene University and a master’s degree in special education from the University of Kansas.

Wilson, who has taught all nine years of her career in the Gardner Edgerton School District, said becoming a teacher was just a natural progression for her.

“I don’t really know how I ended up in education,” she said. “My mom was a teacher and I remember playing school in my bedroom as a kid. I would even do pretend assignments, grade them and write the “scores” in my homemade grade book.”

Wilson’s professional philosophy is to provide children with “the tools and the opportunity to shine.”

“My job is to give them both of those things then to watch the magic occur,” she said. “Kids have the best ideas and love to learn and create.”
Richmond, Groover take part in Alternative Break

LAWRENCE — Sixty-eight University of Kansas students have returned to school after spending spring break on service-learning projects at Alternative Spring Break sites in the District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin.

They worked March 18 through 25 with agencies at 10 locations that address such issues as animal rescue, urban homelessness, conservation, health care, linguistics, environmental preservation, hurricane relief, education and help for people with disabilities.

Among them were:
■ Marion — Amber Nichole Richmond, daughter of Rodney and Diane Richmond, pre-pharmacy sophomore, Chicago Cares, Chicago, Ill., site leader.

Chicago Cares is one of the largest community organizations in the Chicago area. It develops 120 hands-on group volunteer projects each month serving children, adults, seniors, the environment, the hungry and homeless. KU students worked with health-related programs. Chicago Cares is an affiliate of Hands On Network, a growing alliance of volunteer management and mobilization organizations across the United States and other countries.
■ Hesston — Emma Lee Groover, daughter of Donald and Brenda Groover, biology freshman, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Kanab, Utah.

Best Friends Animal Society's sanctuary, a 33,000-acre ranch in Angel Canyon in southern Utah, is the largest no-kill animal shelter in the United States with more than 1,500 dogs, cats, horses, burros, goats, birds and other creatures. The sanctuary provides adoption, spay/neuter and educational programs nationally and publishes Best Friends magazine. KU students worked with the sanctuary staff to help dogs become more adoptable.

KU's student-run Alternative Spring Breaks program offers students a unique opportunity to make service part of their university educational experience. After students are selected for the program, they are required to attend the Special Projects in the Community course. If they complete all course requirements, they can earn two college credit hours.

An Alternative Spring Breaks project counts as one honors unit for the University Honors Program, which now requires students who want to graduate with honors to complete one or two honors units outside the classroom. The program costs participants $225 ($175 for site leaders) and covers their transportation, housing and meals at the sites.
The three points of the proposed Johnson County Education and Research Triangle may not be on par with Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill – the university towns that anchor other research triangle in North Carolina.

But proponents of this area’s three-campus triangle plan to dangle its huge economic development potential before Johnson County voters, who may be asked to pass a triangle tax next year.

“Two out of three points of the triangle will further the area’s life sciences initiative,” said Bob Regnier, a Johnson County banker who supports the triangle. “And all of them will result in very, very strong economic returns for the county.”

Regnier and 14 other civic leaders directing a Triangle Advisory Council cleared their first hurdle hours before the Legislature’s April 4 adjournment, when the House approved new county taxing authority for the concept.

By a 75-44 vote, the House approved a bill that would allow Johnson County to establish a triangle authority and finance it with a voter-approved sales tax of as much as two-tenths of a cent, a property tax of as much as 2 mills or a combination of the two.

The proceeds, estimated at $15 million to $23 million a year, initially would be used to build three buildings — a food-safety research facility for Kansas State University’s new Olathe campus, a clinical trials unit in Westwood for the University of Kansas Cancer Center and a new classroom building for the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

Bob Clark, vice chancellor of the KU Edwards Campus, said a recent study showed that the three-build-
iÒRIANGLE: Public safety needs come first, official says

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ing campus had made a 10-year impact of more than $500 million on the regional economy. County Economic Research Institute Inc. is studying the economic impact of the proposed triangle-tax improvements, he said.

County Commissioner Ed Eilert said he favored a sales tax rather than a property tax and hoped the improvements wouldn't require using the entire two-tenths-cent authority.

"But I don't know how much work you'll see done on the ballot proposal until we get that economic impact study," Eilert said.

Once those numbers are available, Eilert said, he is confident that the Board of County Commissioners will place a tax measure on the ballot, perhaps as early as November 2008, and that voters will approve it.

Johnson County's belief in education as an economic driver has been shown by previous taxpayer and philanthropic support for public schools, the Edwards Campus and Johnson County Community College, Eilert said. He and Dave Lindstrom, however, were the only commissioners who endorsed the triangle measure in Topeka.

Annabeth Surbaugh, chairwoman of the seven-member county commission, said the full body took a neutral position on the issue "because we wanted people to understand that we still think our public safety needs should come first."

In the closing hours of the session, the Legislature also passed a bill proposed by Johnson County Sheriff Frank Denning to allow a vote on increasing the county sales tax by a quarter-cent to pay for jail expansion, a crime lab and a juvenile detention center. Surbaugh, however, called that tax inadequate because it would not cover operations and would sunset in 10 years.

Five years ago, commissioners attempted to address public safety needs with what was then the county's last remaining quarter-cent of sales tax authority. However, Surbaugh said the county's public school superintendents "hijacked" that authority, persuading voters to approve a quarter-cent sales tax increase for education.

Approved for three years and renewed for three, the sales tax for schools is set to sunset Dec. 31, 2008.

Regnier said he favored renewing the school tax again. But Eilert said he thought state school financing had improved enough to allow the quarter-cent tax to be renewed -- with the superintendents' approval -- for public safety uses.

That would make the sales tax proposed by the sheriff unnecessary and the triangle tax more palatable to voters, Eilert said.

House Majority Leader Ray Merrick, R-Stilwell, said the triangle tax still would give him heartburn.

Merrick accused Sen. Barbara Allen, R-Overland Park and chairwoman of the Tax Committee, of holding up tax cut legislation to win House approval of the triangle bill for her deep-pocketed "friends."

"I guess Bob Regnier can afford all these sales taxes," Merrick said. "But they are not going to help Johnson County retailers compete with Missouri and all the counties around us."

Without the triangle tax, Clark said, it would take years to add the Edwards Campus building, which will allow new undergraduate and master's degree offerings in disciplines ranging from engineering to molecular bioscience.

"After I came here, it took me eight years to build one building, Regnier Hall," Clark said.

That $18 million building, financed largely by the Regnier and Hall families, filled up in two years, prompting Clark to begin inquiring about local tax support for further expansion.

"But nobody could get real excited about a tax to support one campus," Regnier said. "So we decided to divide it three ways."

Dr. Roy Jensen, who leads KU's effort to win comprehensive cancer center designation from the National Cancer Institute, said the triangle tax would help attract the designation and huge economic benefits.

"We anticipate that in the year 2016, with NCI designation, an additional 9,400 jobs will be created, bringing $1.3 billion annually to the region," he said.
THREE FOR THE MONEY

A PROPOSED sales and/or property tax increase for the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle initially would be used to build and equip the following structures:

1. A $25 million clinical trials unit for the University of Kansas Cancer Center adjacent to KU Hospital’s new outpatient cancer center in Westwood.
2. The $28 million National Food Security & Research Institute on the new campus that Kansas State University plans to develop in Olathe.
3. A $23 million Business, Engineering & Technology Center on the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park.
The earth shook last week in Topeka. Kansas legislators stunned political observers and passed a law that would give Johnson County voters the opportunity to create a Johnson County Education and Research Triangle.

If Johnson County voters approve a two-tenths-cent sales tax, a two-mill levy, or some combination of the two, this region will jump-start a research triangle similar to the one that galvanized the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina. The revenue generated will finance construction of a University of Kansas Cancer Clinical Research Institute facility in northeast Johnson County, a Kansas State University National Food Security and Research Institute in Olathe, and a new Business, Engineering, and Technology Building on the KU Edwards Campus in south Overland Park.

The Research Triangle would transform Johnson County. It would enhance and complement Cancer Center activities in Wyandotte County. In his update to the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation's "A Time to Get It Right" report, Benno Schmidt said "the benefits that these projects would bring to the entire Kansas City area are hard to exaggerate."

A lot of people dismissed the legislation's prospects this year. Those people didn't reckon with the law's primary sponsor, Sen. Barbara Allen.

The Overland Park Republican was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago. She lost her hair and became a kind of reverse Samson: She got stronger and tougher. In this fight, she made mincemeat of Republican power brokers in the House who had vowed to kill the legislation. The measure passed in that chamber on a 75-47 vote. It could go on the ballot in Johnson County in 2008.

Let's take a closer look at what a Johnson County Education and Research Triangle would mean.

The proposed Cancer Clinical Research Institute would mark another major advance in the region's growing cancer research capacity. It also would enhance the University of Kansas Medical Center's efforts to win a comprehensive cancer center designation from the National Cancer Institute.

In his "A Time to Get It Right" update, Schmidt said "it is gratifying to report that Kansas State University figures prominently in Kansas City's future." He wasn't kidding.

Last year, Olathe announced that it would donate land on which K-State could construct a food and animal safety facility. Scientists at the proposed National Food Security and Research Institute would conduct core research in cooperation with the Midwest Research Institute. Their work in the areas of threat assessment and prevention, and forensic agricultural science would acquire national, if not international, prominence.

Experts who have looked at this area's educational and work force needs consistently have called on higher education institutions to provide more business and engineering programs. The proposed Business, Engineering, and Technology Building on the Edwards Campus will be just what the doctor ordered.

Legislators who opposed the Research Triangle derided it as a program for the wealthy. We can be grateful that determined cancer survivor Barbara Allen ignored the insults and stared down the naysayers. She and other pro-Triangle legislators persuaded colleagues that all three facilities will provide enormous benefits for people from all walks of life.

They also gave supporters of the Triangle the gift of time — time to explain this extraordinary project to the public.

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