Folsom, Fox graduate

Kansas University, Lawrence announces names of more than 900 summer 2007 graduates. Summer 2007 graduates are members of the Class of 2008 and may participate in the Kansas University commencement exercises in May.

Area graduates include: Blaine M. Folsom, Silver Lake, Urban PlanningMUP, graduate Master of Urban Planning; and Sara E. Fox, Maple Hill, daughter of Larry and Sally Fox, Educ-Curr &Ins graduate Master of Science in Education.
Chabad Center in Lawrence to hold High Holiday services

Chabad Jewish Center in Lawrence will be hosting High Holiday services for KU students and the local community. All services take place on the KU campus at Burge Union, followed by holiday meals.

“According to Jewish tradition, at the New Year the doors of Heaven are open; G-d accepts all prayers, from anyone,” said Chabad’s Executive Director Rabbi Zalman Tiechtel. “The least we can do is open our doors as well, to all who are interested.”

The celebration and services will be warm, friendly and traditional, Rabbi Tiechtel said. Whether one’s Jewish background is extensive or limited, the services will be easy to follow. The English-Hebrew prayer book, along with song and commentary, will allow everyone an opportunity to be an active participant.

Membership is not required to join the services; it is free and all are welcome, regardless of background or affiliation. “You may see yourself as unaffiliated, Reform, Conservative or Orthodox. At Chabad, we see you as Jewish,” Rabbi Tiechtel said. “No labels. No differences. Chabad is a home for every Jew.”

Rosh Hashanah services were to be held at 10 a.m. Thursday and Friday, Sept. 13 and 14, with the blowing of the shofar at 12:30 p.m. on both days.

Kol Nidre and holiday opening service will be at 6:45 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21. Yom Kippur morning service is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, with Yizkor at 12:30 p.m. Ne'ilah (closing service) is at 6 p.m. and includes “Napoleon’s March, final shofar blast, Havdalah and a buffet Break-the-Fast.

For more information about the High Holiday services or about Chabad, call (785) 832-8672 or visit www.JewishKU.com.
Draft agreement outlined

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - The state-funded medical school is closer to affiliating with a Missouri hospital system, but a key legislator says it’s premature to talk about closing such a deal.

The University of Kansas Medical Center's top administrator, Barbara Atkinson, outlined a draft agreement Tuesday between the center and the St. Luke's system. For a yet-unspecified fee, St. Luke's would be allowed to call its hospital in midtown Kansas City, Mo., a research and teaching arm of the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Atkinson presented the draft agreement to the University of Kansas Hospital's board.

The University of Kansas Hospital currently is the primary teaching hospital of the university’s medical school, and the hospital and the medical center share a campus in Kansas City, Kan.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius backs an affiliation between St. Luke's and the medical center, believing it will make the Kansas City area a center of biosciences research and attract a national cancer institute.

But House Speaker Melvin Neufeld worries the deal would hurt medical education in his state. Kansas hospital officials also worry it could hurt their institution enough to force it to cut off care to patients who can't afford to pay.

Neufeld said it is "critically important" for the medical center to have an agree-
Agreement

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ment with the Kansas hospital before signing a deal with St. Luke's.

"This is the best way to protect our state's health care system now and in the future," Neufeld said in a written statement.

Atkinson told the Kansas hospital's board that the agreement with St. Luke's follows almost exactly "guiding principles" the medical center and the Kansas hospital signed in March.

"There are no significant differences that I know of," Atkinson said.

The draft agreement will go to St. Luke's board next month. Its approval, as well as that of Atkinson and University of Kansas Chancellor Bob Hemenway, are required. Also, Sebelius said in April that the state Board of Regents would have to approve the affiliation.

Meanwhile, negotiations between the medical center and the Kansas hospital over a new affiliation between those two are ongoing. Both Atkinson and Bob Page, the Kansas hospital's chief executive, said they think progress is being made, although they are staying out of the talks.

Atkinson and Hemenway said they brought the draft agreement between St. Luke's and the medical center to the Kansas hospital's board because the board had asked that it see any proposal before any action is taken.
Piper graduate travels to Uganda

Nusz teaches children in AIDS-afflicted village

by Kelli Bamforth

When Hannah Nusz first arrived in Uganda this summer, she didn’t immediately love it. The villages had no electricity or running water. The residents and visitors used wells or rain water for bathing. Most homes consisted of single rooms, and the people slept on floor mats.

As her first trip to Africa continued, she began to love the village and its people. Though, the accommodations still took some getting used to.

“It’s just completely different from here,” Nusz said upon her return from Uganda in late July. “I didn’t love it at first, as I was taking it all in, but it grew on me. I fell in love with it.”

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Nusz

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This semester, she’ll present her findings to her department. Nusz is a sophomore majoring in African and African-American studies, and her research advisor is Alice Lieberman, professor of social welfare.

Nusz used Global Volunteer Network based in New Zealand, an international organization that partners volunteers with different NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and schools across the world. For her KU research project, she went to different hospitals and interviewed staff on their strategies of AIDS prevention, funding issues, their staffing and their structure. But, her duties in Uganda stretched far beyond research.

“Students are paired with the NGOs and a lot of people teach while they’re there,” she said. “If you have medical experience, you might work in a hospital. I worked at Wolicami Initiative in Kampala, Uganda. They have an AIDS clinic and a school. I taught kids during the day and worked at the clinic counseling patients.”

Wolicami Initiative has established early 90 community development care centers across six districts throughout Uganda, according to www.volunteermatch.org. These care centers take ownership of community issues and address the needs of the people in the areas they serve.

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The school Nusz worked in was in a different town, so part of the time, she lived in the village, sharing space with a roommate. She also stayed in a flat in the same town as her school, which was a little more modernized with a grocery store and Internet access. In the village, she slept surrounded by a mosquito net, and the generator providing light went out every other day.

“You just kind of get used to it,” she said. “That’s how it is for them. The program is made so you can relate with the people. I didn’t want to live a standard higher than them. I wanted to relate to them and be part of their lives.”

Most of the children Nusz taught during her days in Uganda were orphans who had lost their parents to AIDS. They lived with grandparents, aunts or other relatives. Some kids lived with their widowed mothers.

Keeping track of the kids she taught proved difficult at times. She rarely took attendance, because the students would show up one day but not the next. They were always getting sick, Nusz said, with malaria as a result of not being protected by mosquito nets at night.

One of the projects she spearheaded during her time in Uganda was an AIDS testing day for her kids. Many of the kids hadn’t been tested, she said, because there was little money to transport them to the local hospital. She ordered tests for the students as well as their guardians, sending notes home and visiting the homes herself to encourage the villagers to attend. It was an all-day event, with Nusz starting to cook at 5 a.m.

“The doctor came at 8 a.m. and families started coming around 7 a.m.,” Nusz said. “We provided games for the kids, like hopscotch, so they would be occupied while their friends were getting tested. We provided precounseling to provide information on HIV and AIDS.

“Few of the kids had HIV or AIDS,” Nusz said. “It was amazing, because most of their parents had AIDS, but a lot of the kids didn’t.”

If one of the kids or guardians tested positive, the testing day also provided opportunities for further counseling about the next step. Some medicine was given out, but the clinic had little funding and medicine was not always readily available. Nusz and the other volunteers had to explain to the villagers that they’d have to go to the hospital and get more.

“We tested about 40 kids,” she said. “About 10 had HIV. Five parents had HIV as well as two babies, younger siblings of the kids.”

Nusz taught her kids, mostly first- and second-graders, all subjects, including English, math and social studies. Most had never seen a map of the world or pictures of the animals Africa is known for.

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Nusz also picked up short phrases to help her teach the kids, like “don’t hit.” She tried to teach them right and wrong, the difference between good and bad.

“A lot of the orphans were not taught those basic things growing up,” she said.

Nusz’s homecoming to Kansas City, Kansas, in early August was both joyous and difficult.

“It was good to see friends,” she said. “Being there gave me energy and ideas. I’m wanting to do so much more. It gave
me inspiration. It's difficult, though, because I really did fall in love with the place and the kids."

Nusz said she's been working on obtaining sponsorships for some of the older children to attend school. Private schools in Uganda cost money, of course, but so do some of the public schools.

"They are not supposed to," she said,
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Nusz teaches children in AIDS-affected village

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Piper graduate Hannah Nusz spent six weeks in Uganda this summer, tutoring and counseling children affected by AIDS. (Submitted photo.)
Nusz

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Nusz said she’s been working on obtaining sponsorships for some of the older children to attend school. Private schools in Uganda cost money, of course, but so do some of the public schools.

“They are not supposed to,” she said, “but there’s a lot of corruption, so a lot of the government schools charge the students. Twenty older kids are in immediate need of sponsoring.”

Nusz said it costs around $250 per year to sponsor a Ugandan child, a small amount compared to the cost of even school supplies for an average American student.

“An education for kids is a top priority,” she said. “Otherwise, the kids will be like their parents, selling the tomatoes and onions they grow in their backyard and living off that income alone. The kids who are sponsored take their education seriously, because they know it’s their only way out of that life and out of extreme poverty.”

Though the economic situation for the people in Nusz’s Ugandan village is serious, she wants Americans to know that the people have skills and do a lot with what they have.

“They don’t need money thrown at them,” she said. “They need help getting started. They need microfinancing.

“I don’t want people, when they think of Uganda, to think of how needy the people are and what they don’t have. I was so filled with joy and happiness there because the people were so welcoming. When the kids smile, it makes you smile. What they don’t have, they make up for. Some have given up, but a lot keep trying. They don’t give up on their lives.

“The people do have bad situations, but in reality, you can’t change everything. You have to continue with what you have and persevere.”

To learn more about sponsoring a Ugandan child in need of education, e-mail Nusz at nuszh@ku.edu.
KCK students earn degrees at KU

More than 900 students received degrees from the University of Kansas after the 2007 summer session, Registrar Cindy Derritt announced last week.

Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these graduates will return as members of the Class of 2008 to take part in commencement exercises May 18.

The summer graduates represent 52 counties in Kansas, 37 other states and U.S. territories, and 24 countries outside the United States. Graduates from the Kansas City, Kansas, area included Margaret Diane Brown, who received her master's degree in special education; Andrew James Wing, a graduate of Bishop Ward High School who received a bachelor's degree in business administration; Antonio M. Hayes, a Sumner Academy graduate who earned his bachelor's degree in biology; and Mindy Elizabeth Eldridge, another Sumner Academy graduate who received a master's degree in nursing.
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Local and area students include:

- Hesston — Philip John Schmidt, master of science in education.
- Newton — Brittany Joel Claassen, bachelor of science in business.
LAWRENCE — Sororities at The University of Kansas pledged 567 women during fall formal recruitment, the KU Panhellenic Association announced.

The number represents an increase from 2006 fall recruitment when 550 students affiliated with sororities.

Among them is Kari Renea Tajchman of Marion, daughter of Charles and Kay Tajchman. She pledged Gamma Phi Beta.
New, higher student fees helping to increase funding at area colleges

BY LAINE RUSCO

As state funding for Kansas universities continues to decrease, student leaders and university administrators are looking toward additional fees as an alternative stream of income.

Wichita State University has seen a 4.3 percent rise in student fees over the past five years. Kansas State University’s fees have risen 14.9 percent. And the University of Kansas has increased its student fees by 13.6 percent over five years.

Those increases are small compared to many bigger universities. And unlike some of their out-of-state competitors, tuition at KU, K-State and WSU is still rising at a faster pace.

But more and more, new fees are becoming a way to fund student activities and services that straight tuition doesn’t cover.

Kansas universities aren’t the only ones raising fees. In a New York Times article earlier this month, several examples were cited of institutions that are trying to keep tuition flat but are drastically raising fees.

At the University of Oregon, for example, there’s a new $51 energy surcharge to pay for rising electricity costs and a $270 technology fee for computer service. And the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga tacked on a $25 health fee.

While tuition in Kansas is set each year by the Board of Regents, nearly all fees are determined in large part by the students themselves.

At WSU, for example, there is a seven-person committee that includes five students and two administrators. University groups present their case each year to the committee on whether to increase funds. The committee votes, then it goes to President Don Boggs, who sends the final recommendation to the regents board.

In the past few years the committee’s student group has been liberal in its recommendations for fee increases, says Ron Kopita, vice president for campus life and university relations. The funds help pay for things such as Heskett Center and the student health center. The committee does try, though, to keep increases at 10 percent or less when combined with tuition.

“You’re really talking about students deciding to tax themselves,” Kopita says, adding that students are starting to have a broader view of fees and see them as a chance to improve university programs.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Along with fee increases, universities sometimes add new fees to the mix.

At KU, a $10-a-year student union activity fee was tacked on in 2005. In 2003, the university added a $7-a-year multicultural resource center construction fee. And last year, a $12-a-year SafeRide fee was added to help pay for evening transportation for students.

Those increases are all related to student activities or needs, says Linda Mullens, special assistant to the vice provost for student success at KU.

At K-State those fees — which they call privilege fees — have also risen. Although Bruce Shubert, associate vice president for administration and finance at K-State, says the fees committee generally tries to avoid major increases.

In 2005, for example, K-State initiated an approximately $2.60-a-year sports club activity fee. From 2006 to 2007, total fees rose less than $6 a year.

“Our students have tried to keep things fairly simple,” Shubert says. “There just aren’t a lot of additional fees that are assessed here.”