KU Alumni Association To Host Picnic

Incoming University of Kansas students and their parents from Grant, Haskell, Morton, Seward, Stanton and Stevens counties will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12, in Elkhart.

The KU Alumni Association and its Southwest chapter will greet the new Jayhawks at the home of Brian and Rosa Mitchell, 1055 Vilymaca St. in Elkhart. Area alumni, new students, students interested in learning more about KU and parents are invited to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages. Each new Jayhawk also will receive a free T-shirt.

Erick Nordling of Hugoton, chapter president; Catherine Moyer of Ulysses, vice president; Tracy Utz of Liberal, communication chair and secretary; Debbie Nordling of Hugoton and Kent Colvin of Liberal, co-membership chairs; Jackie Hall of Sublette, legislative chair; Bill Hill of Liberal and Kevin Moyer of Ulysses, co-events coordinators; Scott Hinkle of Liberal, student recruitment chair; Nathan McCaffery of Liberal, board member; and Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs for the alumni association, are coordinating the event. Association staff will arrive with the signature KU trailer full of grills, burgers and brats for the festivities. Current KU students, alumni and university representatives will mix and mingle with students to answer questions and offer advice.

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.kualumni.org, call (800) 584-2957 or e-mail kualumni@kualumni.org. The alumni association invited incoming students whose enrollment deposits were received by the Office of Admissions and Scholarships by May 1.

The guests will include: Ashley Burkett Crist of Johnson and Bryndon Annis and Andi Shore of Ulysses.
Hess in Duke Talent ID Program

Chelsi Hess, an eighth grader next fall at Scott City Middle School, has been selected for the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

The University of Kansas will be hosting a state recognition ceremony on Sun., June 1, 1:30 p.m., at the Lied Center.

About 400 students who are entering eighth grade will be honored.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance exam scores that are in the top five percent while the students are in middle school. Students participate by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests.

Working with host academic institutions such as KU, Duke TIP sponsors 35 ceremonies in its 16-state talent search region.

Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion. State recognition ceremonies honor seventh graders who have earned scores above the average of college-bound high school seniors.

Of more than 74,000 applicants this year, 21,115 students qualified and have been invited to state recognition events.

In addition to Kansans, students taking part in the activities are from Missouri and the Kansas City metro area.
Buffalo ‘safari’ a highlight on annual tour

KU staff makes annual visit to Western Kansas

Museums, art centers, historic Kansas forts and wind farms were all part of the annual Wheat State Whirlwind Tour that covered more than 1,000 miles.

But it’s still hard to beat riding among a Kansas buffalo herd in the rolling hills of Western Kansas - even in a 40 mph wind.

“It’s just a wonderful experience,” said Cathy Clark about the annual stop at the Duff buffalo ranch in southern Logan County. “Going on the buffalo tour is like being on a safari in Kansas.”

This safari included more than 40 faculty and staff members from the University of Kansas who were getting their first look at the state away from 170. Many of the tour participants were first and second year employees of the university.

“We have many students who come to KU from across Kansas and this helps us to gain a better understanding of where they’re from,” says Clark, an instructor in architecture and construction management.

The Whirlwind Tour included stops in more than 20 communities over a five day period. Among the highlights were the Brown v Board of Education historical site in Topeka; the African-American pioneer community of Nicodemus; Fort Larned; the Underground Salt Museum in Hutchinson; the former Ness City bank known as “Skyscraper of the Plains; and the Spearville wind farm.

“Year after year, the tour has been an outstanding way for our faculty and staff to learn first-hand what makes this great state tick,” says Chancellor Robert Hemenway, who was on part of the tour.

Virginia Lewis, executive director of the Great Plains Diabetes Institute, KUMC, says the tour was important in the Institute’s goals of working with more primary care physicians around the state. But it was also a chance to relive her own family history.

“I grew up on my father’s stories of working on ranches in Western Kansas,” she says. “I’d been away from Kansas for 35 years, so it’s been really neat to come back again and see a lot of the country that I knew as a child.”

Spearville, Ness City and an overnight stay in Goodland were new stops on this year’s tour.

Three of the “Eight Wonders of Kansas” were also on the itinerary: Monument Rocks in Gove County, the Underground Salt Museum in Hutchinson; and the Flint Hills.

Margey Frederick, director of special events, said the tour is an opportunity for KU employees to discover Kansas’ “hidden treasures” and enhance their knowledge while having fun.

“Anyone who has gotten off the beaten path and really explored Kansas can tell you there is enough beauty and history in the state to provide a lifetime of traveling,” she says.
“On this week-long tour, our participants get a taste of what Kansas has to offer and, at the same time, learn new ways they can give back to the state that gives so much to KU.”
Former Bird City resident John Dorsch, M.D., was presented the Thor Jager Award at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Senior Banquet on March 29. The award is presented to a faculty member in the clinical sciences in recognition of his representation of the "complete physician."

Dr. Dorsch is the associate professor, Family and Community Medicine. He is the son of Norman and Mary Dorsch, Bird City.
French student receives award

LAWRENCE — More than 110 students from 30 departments completed the Global Awareness Program at the University of Kansas this spring, including James Harris of Wellington.

The program recognizes students for studying abroad, taking courses with an international focus, learning foreign languages and being involved in international co-curricular activities.

Harris is a senior at KU, on his way to obtaining a bachelor’s degree in French.

All undergraduates are eligible to participate. To receive certification, students are required to complete two of three requirements. This semester, 10 students completed all three requirements.

“Educating students in the context of an interconnected world gives them a much needed advantage as they set out to work in a global economy,” said Jane Irungu, program coordinator.

The newest organization to be affiliated with the Global Awareness Program is Students for Global Awareness, which was formed by program ambassadors to reach out to more students on campus and to allow graduate students and other interested students to participate in related forums and volunteer activities.

Launched by International Programs in fall 2004, the Global Awareness Program has recognized more than 600 students in the past three years. Students earn certification on their KU transcripts and are honored at a luncheon in the spring.
KU journalism school announces honorees

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas has announced recipients of annual awards and scholarships totaling about $300,000.

Dean Ann Brill announced the 130 award and scholarship recipients, including 11 incoming freshmen, during the April 29 ceremony in the Kansas Union.

Students from 30 Kansas counties, 12 other states and four other countries earned awards and scholarships in writing, editing, reporting, broadcasting, strategic communication and media management.

Elise Marie Grosdidier, Atchison, received the Christian C. Yegen Scholarship and the Emil L. Telfel Scholarship. Ms. Grosdidier, a junior, studies strategic communications. She is the daughter of Sue Huber and is a graduate of Maur Hill-Mount Academy.
OHS Grads Earn KU Pharmacy Degrees

Jared and Brandon Walker Honored With Classmates Saturday

Jared and Brandon Walker, together with Brandon’s wife, Amanda Walker, received their Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy on Saturday night. The Hooding Ceremony was held in Murphy Hall.

The Walker men are both graduates of Osawatomie High School. They are the sons of Kathy and Dallas Brakeville of Lane and Steve Walker of San Antonio. Their grandparents are Shirley and Fred Thomas of Lane, Opal Walker of Osawatomie and the late Kenneth Wayne Walker, and Joanne Kolosik of Olathe and the late Harold Leroy Kolosik.

Jared has accepted a position with Target Pharmacy in Phoenix. Brandon has accepted a position with Target Pharmacy in Salt Lake City, where his wife has been accepted into a one-year clinical pharmacy residency program at the University of Utah.

A celebration was held Sunday in Lawrence after the traditional walk down the hill. Those attending, in addition to their parents, were Opal Walker, Shirley Thomas, Joanne Kolosik and Bill Donovan of Lawrence.

Amanda Walker, Brandon Walker and Jared Walker have reason to smile after receiving their Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy on Saturday.
Boyda among Dems pushing for new GI Bill

The proposed GI Bill is competing with a scaled-down version promoted by Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, and GOP supporters. President Bush opposes the Democrat-backed bill containing the expansion based on other aspects of the measure, including controls on his authority over the Iraq War.

By SARAH KESSINGER
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — McPherson High School graduate Dan Parker spent five years on the battlefields of Iraq and Liberia. Now finishing a degree at the University of Kansas, he is urging Congress to restore the GI Bill to its original role — paying soldiers for a full ride to college.

President Bush’s threatened veto of the budget measure containing the “new GI Bill,” passed by the House and pending in the Senate, would be a “politically devastating mistake for the president to make,” Parker said. “This is a good piece of legislation.”

“It’s not very often that you get a piece of legislation like this, that everyone can get on board with. So when one comes along, you’ve got to take advantage of it, you’ve got to get it into law.”

Parker, a political science student, heads KU’s Collegiate Veterans Association. He spoke to reporters Monday at a news conference conducted by 2nd District Congresswoman Nancy Boyda, a Topeka Democrat.

Boyda said the original GI Bill “launched millions of families on a course of prosperity and toward achieving the American Dream — and set the American economy on the right course.”

“We’ve lost sight of the intent of the bill,” she added, “and how to do right by our veterans.”

Backed by all major veterans organizations, the bill would add $17 million in new college aid for student veterans in Kansas.

It is competing with a scaled-down version promoted by Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, and GOP supporters. President Bush opposes the budget bill containing the expansion based on other aspects of the measure, including controls on his authority over the Iraq War.

First District U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, a Hays Republican, said he supports the enhancements as well, but was disappointed that House Democratic leaders added billions in unnecessary spending to the bill, including tax hikes on small business.

“The tax surcharge used to pay for items in this bill appears to be targeted at millionaires,” Moran said, “but it will also have a direct impact on more than 75 percent of small businesses that pay business taxes at the individual level.”

Parker, now 25, joined the Marines 10 days after graduation from McPherson High School. College wasn’t on his radar at the time. He expected a future in uniform.

For five years, from 2000 to 2005, he served as an intelligence officer in northern Iraq with a year-long interlude among U.S. troops seeking to restore order in the long-running Liberian conflict.

After returning to Iraq, Parker’s vision of the future changed.

“I thought I’d like to see the civilian side of things.”

He soon finished his tour and headed to KU. He expects to graduate in December — too late to benefit much from a GI Bill expansion. The current law covers about 60 percent of veteran students’ college costs.

But he hopes a more-generous version’s there for student-veterans who follow.

“I have more appreciation for the opportunity to get an education now,” he said.

With 60 percent of college costs covered, Parker faces a good chunk of expenses and state universities are continuing to hike tuition.

Boyda, whose father served in World War II, said her family directly benefited from a GI Bill that once paid the full cost to attend a public university. Some 4,300 Kansas vets use their education benefits today.

Under the proposal pending in Congress:

* Veterans who have served three years on active duty would gain benefits to cover a four-year public university education at the level of the most expensive in-state public school. For Kansans, that presently would be KU at $6,153 each year.

* A stipend for housing...
books and other expenses is included. In Kansas, the average will be $885 per month for living expenses and $1,000 per month for books.

- Benefits would be available for 15 years, rather than the current 10.
- Troops who have served at least three months of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, including National Guard and Reserves, would be eligible for education benefits.
Alphilde Rees, Perry, was among those honored recently by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature at Kansas University for academic excellence and outstanding service to the department. She is a May graduate.
Area Students Receive KU Scholarships

FOR THE INDEPENDENT

Five of the scholarships were presented Tuesday evening, May 6, at the Newton High School Senior Awards Night at Newton High School. The five who were awarded scholarships are: Sammantha Baldwin, daughter of Monette Baldwin; Kacy Leigh Barker, daughter of Carol and Kendall Barker; Grace Choe, daughter of Jong Ran Choe; Caroline Robb, daughter of Joy and Joe Robb; Anna Marie Unruh, daughter of Sherry and Bill Unruh. Two scholarships were awarded Wednesday, May 7, to Halstead High School seniors Matthew Pjesky, son of Karen and Dave Pjesky; Megan Ollendieck, daughter of Deborah and Victor Ryan. Also the recipient of a scholarship is Kiah Mattson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Mattson, Sedgwick. All eight will be enrolled at KU this fall. These eight scholarships are made possible by contributions to the Kansas Honors Program by Harvey County KU alumni and friends of KU, according to Sue Ice, Harvey County KPH coordinator. The contributions also underwrote the cost of the awards banquet last October which recognized the academic top 10 percent of the seniors of all five of the Harvey County high schools, a total of 57 students.