Louisburg area students graduate from colleges

More than 40 area alumni walk across stage in commencement ceremonies

Area families celebrated the graduation of their children from colleges across the Midwest over the last few weeks. The following are students from the Louisburg area.

University of Kansas
More than 7,000 students graduated from the University of Kansas on May 18, including 5 from the Louisburg area.
Kristin Gail Driskell, Bucyrus, received a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish. She is the daughter of Jeff Driskell.
Katherine Amanda Johnson, Bucyrus, graduated with a bachelor of general studies degree in psychology. She is the daughter of Timothy and Brenda Johnson.
Candice Elizabeth Rose, Bucyrus, graduated with a doctor of medicine degree.
Terri Kaelin San Roman, Bucyrus, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She is the daughter of Vicki and Rod.
Cheryl Renee Scharosch, Bucyrus, graduated with a juris doctor degree.
Richelle Dawn Beckman, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in health information management. She is the daughter of Richard and Lauri Beckman.
Jessica Lynn Bergman, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. She is the daughter of Laura and Michael Bergman.
Grant Michael Hash, Louisburg, graduated with a juris doctor degree. He is the son of Linda Hash.
Katie Gene Howells, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of social work degree. She is the daughter of Hope Phillips.
Molly Marie Manger, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of social work degree. She is the daughter of Michael and Sheryl Manger.
Dana Michelle Noyes, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in nursing.
Tammy Renee Rita, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of social work degree.
Cara Patricia Roberts, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of general studies degree in communication studies and sociology. She is the daughter of Steve and Becky Roberts.
Jessica L. Sylvestor, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of social work degree.
Lucas James Thompson, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business/finance. He is the son of Arlen and Kristi Thompson.

Kansas State University
Twelve of the nearly 3,000 students who graduated from Kansas State University on May 16 and 17 were from the Louisburg area.
Crystal Dawn Cline, Bucyrus, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in animal science.
Nicholas W. Guetterman, Bucyrus, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.
Elizabeth Lauren Matile, Bucyrus, graduated with a bachelor of science degree. 
John Michael Quinn, Bucyrus, graduated with a bachelor of science degree.
Jason Charles Waite, Bucyrus, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture.
Mark Steven Edgar, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.
Nathan Ryan Flaigle, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture.
Kendra Michelle Kueser, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in education.
Molly Suzanne Kueser, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in family studies and human services.
Rebecca Dawn Mortensen, Louisburg, graduated with a master of business administration degree.
William Tyler Overly, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture and in business administration.
Matthew Michael Stegeman, Louisburg, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

Pittsburg State University
Five of the 1,000 graduates who walked across the stage on May 16 and 17 at Pittsburg State University were from the Louisburg area.
Craig Aaron Hester, Bucyrus, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in technology. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles
Phillip Edward Bowden, Louisburg, graduates with a bachelor of science degree in engineering technology. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Randy Bowden.

Christopher Orville Fergus, Louisburg, graduates with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Doral Fergus.

Katie Ann Haas, Louisburg, graduates with a bachelor of science degree. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Mark Haas.

Ryan Michael Westhoff, Louisburg, graduates with a bachelor of business administration degree. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Mike Westhoff.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

One Louisburg alum joined more than 2,400 students in commencement exercises May 9 and 10 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Natalie Ellen Pape, Louisburg, graduates summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.
Area students earn journalism awards

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

Dean Ann Brill announced the 30 award and scholarship recipients, including 11 incoming freshmen, during the April 29 ceremony in the Kansas Union.

Miami County students earning scholarships and awards included incoming freshman Alysha Danielle Newton, daughter of Dean and Ronda Newton, Fred W. Brinkerhoff Scholarship, Osawatomie High School; pre-journalism sophomore Francesca Amelia Chambers, daughter of Esther Zimmerman and Shane Chambers, Paola High School; news and information BSJ senior Kendra Dawn Hall, daughter of Kathy and Charles Hall, Wendell R. Sullivan Memorial Scholarship, Paola High School, and Gretchen Bernice Wieland, daughter of Jay and Peggy Wieland, John Katich Broadcast Award.
Kathryn Boyd, left, and her father, Richard, don their graduation gowns.

In an unusual circumstance a former Sabetha family had a double (father and daughter) graduation.

Kathryn Renee Boyd, 22, graduated from Highland Community College with an Associate of Arts degree with honors. She was awarded a Phi Theta Kappa scholarship and will continue her education as a junior transfer at the University of Kansas in August.

Richard Allan Boyd, 45, Renee’s dad, graduated from the University of Kansas with a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree and he will begin a four-year “dual residency” in “Internal Medicine and Pediatrics” in July.
McGeeneys graduate from KU School of Medicine

DR. CURTIS M. McGEENEY

Dr. Curtis Michael McGeeney and Dr. Onalisa Winblad McGee-ney graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine on May 18.

Curt is the son of Dr. Terry and Sue McGeeney, Leawood, and Onnie is the daughter of Dr. John and

DR. ONALISA WINBLAD McGEENEY

Christy Winblad, Winfield.

Curt is the grandson of Rose Mary McGeeney, Seneca, and the late LeRoy McGeeney.

Curt and Onnie are the parents of a daughter, Anna, born April 18, 2008.
Jones graduates with honors

The University Honors Program at the University of Kansas will commend more than 150 graduating students at a ceremony from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the Crafton-Preyer Theatre in Murphy Hall. A reception in the courtyard of Murphy Hall followed.

The ceremony recognized KU seniors who have completed the University Honors Program and the University Scholars Program, in which students participate during their sophomore year. During the ceremony, students received gold cords to wear during commencement activities.

Seneca Maggie Reid Jones, daughter of Pat and Shelton Jones, a Latin American Studies BA Senior, received her Gold cord. She is a graduate Nemaha Valley High School.
Local Students Graduate From KU

The names of more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring - representing 95 Kansas counties, 48 other states and the District of Columbia and 44 other countries - have been announced by the University Registrar.

KU's Class of 2008 numbered more than 7,000, including 2,555 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2007. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these candidates for degrees returned Sunday, May 18, for the university's 136th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2008 were expected to participate.

The following is a list of local students who were expected to complete their degree works.

Andover: Heidi L. Andrew, Graduate Doctor of Physical Therapy; Jill N. Andrew, Bachelor of Science in Microbiology; Jessica E. Bailey, Bachelor of Arts/Political Science; Daniel W. Beckett, Bachelor of Arts/Economics; Stephanie M. Boren, Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care; Collin J. Click, Bachelor of General Studies/Communication Studies; and Kathryn L. Hill, Bachelor of Arts/History.

Towanda: Chelsea M. Delay, Bachelor of Arts/Communication Studies.

Wichita: Ann M. Compton, Master of Architecture; Sarah D. Dillmon, Bachelor of General Studies/Economics; Stephanie L. Ferguson, Bachelor of Science in Business/Marketing; Nathan D. Johnson, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting & Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance; Alex J. Lent, Bachelor of General Studies/Communication Studies & Bachelor of General Studies/History; Patrick C. Millsap, Bachelor of General Studies/History; Katherine E. Schreiber, Bachelor of Arts/Human Biology; and Andrew R. Stangl, Bachelor of Arts/French and co-major, International Studies & Bachelor of Arts/Political Science.
Local Student Initiated Into KU Mortar Board

Forty-eight University of Kansas students - including Maggie M. Murphy of Wichita, were recently initiated into Mortar Board, a senior honor society.

The daughter of Michael and Barbara Murphy of Wichita, Murphy has been majoring in chemistry at KU. She graduated from Andover High School.

The initiation ceremonies were April 13 at the Kansas Union, followed by a reception at the chancellor’s residence for student and alumni members and their families and invited guests.

The KU chapter also initiated its first honorary members: Chancellor Robert Hemenway and Vice Provost for Student Success Marlesa Roney. They were honored for their contributions of countless hours to the university, community and Mortar Board.

Nick Barnthouse, Leawood senior and outgoing Mortar Board president, said that Hemenway and Roney exemplify the ideals of Mortar Board: scholarship, leadership and service.

Barnthouse conducted the ceremonies. Bryan Hay, Topeka senior, organized the selection of new members. Katy Ault, Topeka, and Dustin Curzon, Broken Arrow, Okla., both seniors, were initiation co-chairs. Kevin Campbell, Leawood junior, is Mortar Board president.

Mortar Board advisers assisted with the ceremonies. They are: Linda Mullens, senior budget and personnel administrator in the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success; Antonio Simoes, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese; and Sandy Garrett, Lawrence chapter alumni adviser.

Mortar Board members are selected based on distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Students must have a 3.0 grade-point average and hold senior status during some or all of the academic year. What became KU’s Mortar Board chapter was founded in 1912 as the Torch senior women’s honor society. In 1924, it affiliated with the national Mortar Board women’s honor society. Mortar Board opened membership to men in 1975. This year, 85 students applied for membership at KU.
Wurth Receives Art History Award

The Kress Foundation Department of Art History at the University of Kansas announced its awards for excellence for the 2007-08 academic year during the 33rd annual Amsden Awards Ceremony May 2.

Terry L. Oldham, director of the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art in St. Joseph, Mo., was the guest speaker at the ceremony in the Spencer Museum of Art. KU Endowment administers funds for the awards, which were presented by art history faculty members to outstanding students.

Jordan P. Wurth, son of Paul and Geri Wurth of Andover, received the Amsden Book Award. A History of Art major, Wurth graduated from Andover Central High School.

The Amsden Book Awards were established in 1976 by the late Floyd and Barbara Amsden of Wichita. Faculty members and graduate teaching assistants selected winners based on classroom excellence regardless of class level or major. More than 45 students received books on subjects in which they excelled.
U.S. Supreme Court
Justice Hears Law Students

Second-year law student Brian Nye printed out a photo of Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. a few weeks ago and started delivering speeches to it.

He wanted to get used to the idea that the most senior judge in the nation would scrutinize his performance during the final round of the University of Kansas School of Law’s moot court competition.

“Up until I walked into the room for the final round, I was more nervous than I could believe,” Nye said. “But when I entered the room, my whole perception changed and I was more relaxed than ever. I finally convinced myself to relax and have fun.

Nye and three other KU law students - Daniel Morris, Michael Crabb and Lindsey Heinz - recently presented oral arguments to Roberts and a panel of distinguished judges. The finalists emerged from a pool of 46 students who competed in the law school’s moot court competition, which requires second-year students to analyze legal issues similar to those currently before the U.S. Supreme Court. Students must write a brief and make an oral argument as if they were appearing before the court.

Students in the finals of this year’s competition couldn’t have had a more realistic experience, as the chief justice of the United States presided over the arguments. Roberts was in town for a two-day visit to KU, where he delivered a public lecture and met with law and business students and faculty.

The moot court panel also included U.S. Circuit Judges Deanell Tacha and Mary Beck Briscoe, U.S. District Judge John Lungstrum and Kansas Supreme Court Justice Carol Beier.

During the round, the students responded to difficult questions from all of the judges. More than 120 people watched the arguments, including state and federal judges, attorneys and law faculty and students. Morris and Nye, who argued for the petitioner, were deemed the winning team.

Luke Wohlford, an Andover High School graduate, was involved in the event. The son of Carol and the late Bill Wohlford, he is a second-year law student at KU. He received a bachelor’s in political science with a minor in English from KU.

All of the students performed exceptionally well, said Pam Keller, clinical associate professor of law and moot court adviser.

The students had about a week and a half to prepare for the final round. They pored over their outlines and revisited relevant cases, reviewed questions asked by justices during oral arguments in similar cases and delivered practice speeches.

Although only the top two teams earned the honor of arguing before the chief justice, the top eight teams will represent the school in national and international competitions next year.

The Kansas law firm of Foulston Siefkin LLP sponsors the Robert C. Foulston and George Siefkin Prizes for Excellence in Appellate Advocacy. Roberts and the other judges designated the following awards:

- Best oral argument: Brian Nye.
- Second-place oral argument: Daniel Morris.
- Best brief: Brian Nye and Daniel Morris.
Carnez D. Williams received two scholarships from the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas. Williams, a sophomore majoring in strategic communications, received the Roger N. Wooldridge Journalism Scholarship and the Tanaka-Miller Multicultural Journalism Scholarship during an April 29 ceremony in the Kansas Union. He is the son of Kevass and Teketa Harding of Wichita.

Josh Patterson of Valley Center was a member of a Kansas State University Crops team that participated in the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Crops contest in April. The team took third overall, second in identification and third in lab practical phases in the competition. A sophomore in agronomy at the time of the competition, Patterson had the highest identification score.

Deanna Patterson, 2008 graduate of Valley Center High School, was awarded an academic scholarship and a Valedictorian Scholarship from Washburn University. Patterson was among the 146 high school seniors recognized for their achievements at a banquet recently in Salina.

An academic scholarship indicates to students Washburn’s desire to give early recognition of their academic achievements. To be eligible, a student must have an ACT score of 21 and a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Valedictorian scholarships are awarded to students ranked No. 1 in their class after the seventh semester. The scholarships are renewable.

Steve Rue of Valley Center will be presenting “Steve Rue and Friends — IN CONCERT!” 8 p.m. June 24 at the Mosley Street Melodrama. Friends who will also be in the show are comic Scott Noah and singers Cody Chambers and Jennie Brightup.

Shawna Kern of Valley Center graduated May 17 from the University of Medicine and Bioscience in Kansas City with a doctor of osteopathy. She will serve a residency in Tulsa, Okla.

Krista Lauren Ellis, a 2006 graduate of Valley Center High School, and Audra Alane Blasi, a 2007 graduate of Heights High School, have been named to the spring 2008 President’s Honor Roll at Oklahoma State University. This honor was awarded to full-time undergraduate students who completed 12 hours or more with a grade point average of 4.0 and no incomplete grades.

Senior Joanne Fluker of Valley Center was honored by the Newman University Athletic Department during a special banquet earlier this month. She received her fourth letter in softball and was honored as an outstanding athlete of the week during her senior season.

Gary and Shirley Rundell of Eureka, formerly of Valley Center, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. June 1 at Calvary Baptist Church in Valley Center. Their children and grandchildren will host the event. Gary is a retired employee of Rick’s Appliance, and Shirley is retired from State Farm Insurance. Gary Rundell and Shirley Campbell were married June 1, 1958, at South Seneca Baptist Church, with Rev. Rang Morgan presiding. They have two children, Dennis and Cheryl Rundell of Valley Center, and Darren Rundell of Goddard, and three grandchildren, April, Lindsey and Brady.

Bradye Peniston received the Jeanne Daniels Award for Outstanding Female Athlete at Valley Center High School for the 2007-08 school year. The award was presented in a ceremony May 6. She also received a Kansas High School Activities Association’s Citizenship Award.

Jennifer Rebecca Peterson of Kechi received a master of science degree during Emporia State University’s 141st commencement on May 17.

Chisholm Trail Elementary School will be a summer nutrition site for children under 18 years old. All children are welcome for breakfast and lunch at no cost. The site will be open from 8:30 to 9 a.m. for breakfast and from 11:30 am. to 12:15 p.m. for lunch, from June 3 through Aug. 1.