KU announces candidates for degrees

Colwich residents Ryan Nicolas Gegen, son of Stan and Wanda Gegen, and Stacie M. Weninger, daughter of Jerome and Lynda Weninger, were among the more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring.

Ryan graduated with a BSB, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting.

Stacie graduated with a BGS, Bachelor of General Studies/English & Sociology.

Both are graduates of Andale High School.
WSU sets first Parks lecture for October

Wichita State University will host the first Gordon Parks Lecture on Oct. 6 at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex in what should be a busy year.

Ted Ayres, WSU’s vice president and general counsel, said the event’s working title is “Gordon Parks and His Influence on American Film.”

WSU has commitments from Kevin Willmott, head of the film studies program at the University of Kansas, as moderator; Kurt Baker, a movie and television pioneer who worked with Parks; Parks’ son, David Parks; and Dan Glickman, former congressman and secretary of agriculture and current president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

“With each step and every success, I feel that much closer to Mr. Parks and his wonderful life and legacy,” Ayres said. “And that’s just the beginning.”

Ayres said he’s been busy helping the school become the hub of all things Gordon Parks:
- He has been discussing the Ulrich Museum’s possible hosting of a traveling exhibition of Parks’ work.
- An exploratory committee is discussing a possible parks academic center on campus.
- WSU wants to coordinate campus activities with the celebration each November of Parks’ life in Fort Scott and with the dedication of the Gordon Parks Academy later this year.
- Ayres also will travel to New York next month to discuss continuing efforts with the Parks Foundation.

After Parks died at age 93 in 2006, WSU began a 12-month push for his collected papers and personal effects, valued at more than $500,000.

WSU beat out the U.S. Library of Congress and the New York Public Library earlier this year for the collection, which arrived in February sealed in 113 boxes.

Archivists in the school’s department of special collections continue to examine the manuscripts, personal letters and professional correspondence the Parks Foundation in New York bequeathed to WSU.

The contents of those boxes reveal a man in perpetual creative motion.

His multidisciplinary work and his personal generosity have left a lot of work for Ayres. Parks gave a lot of his work away to people he liked, and he liked a lot of people.

Ayres said a WSU alum with an interest in 50 signed photographs of Parks’ also had contacted the school.

“Those discussions have ceased for the time being, but I remain hopeful that some opportunity might present itself in the future,” he said.

Ayres says he’s been fortunate to see up close Parks’ determination, his multifaceted talents, his zest for life, and his creative energy and genius.

And so he’s been busy. The kind of busy that is no bother.

Boxes to explore and catalog.

New people to meet. Ideas to flesh out. Partnerships to make.

People to invite.

And events to organize.

Reach Mark McCormick at 316-268-6549 or mmccormick@wichitaeagle.com.
The following University of Kansas students have been chosen as members of the 2008 Peer Adviser team: **Briana Saunders**, junior in African and African-American studies, daughter of Floyd and Jane Saunders of Andover; **Kelli Stout**, senior in political science and Spanish, daughter of Wayne and Debbie Stout of Derby; and **Joanne Zhou**, junior in journalism, daughter of Fredrick Plummer and Ying Liu of Wichita.
Too high?

Don’t price Kansans out of college

Because the price of everything seems to be increasing, tuition to state universities cannot be expected to do otherwise. But there are limits to what Kansans can or should pay to access their own higher-education system.

Recent tuition hikes have pushed those limits, if not pushed past them. Since 2002, tuition has risen much faster than family income in the state — ranging from 42.2 percent at Fort Hays State University to 136 percent at the University of Kansas.

Earlier this year, the Kansas Board of Regents debated but rejected the idea of capping tuition hikes, preferring to give the universities flexibility while strongly expressing a preference for increases of 6 percent or less for the fall. Some of the institutions turned in proposed hikes that reflected the regents’ concerns. Wichita State University, for example, has requested a 5.8 percent hike in tuition and fees. But the requests presented last week went as high as 8.7 percent, having the biggest impact on some incoming KU freshmen (whose rate would hold for four years) and some juniors and seniors at Kansas State University.

That may not be all of it, either — some universities suggested their rates might need upward revision because the Legislature appropriated $10 million less for operations than Gov. Kathleen Sebelius had proposed.

But as Overland Park regent Gary Sherrer, who was lieutenant governor under Bill Graves, said: “In this economy, my personal belief is that you do not want to start shutting the doors of your universities based on ability to pay.”

The regents should not bless the increases next month without first ensuring they are essential and fair, and that sufficient aid is available to the most price-sensitive wannabe students.

Meanwhile, state lawmakers and the governor should recognize their role in keeping tuition and fees affordable. The state, which covered nearly half of university funding in 1985, was responsible for only 32 percent of it by 2006, with more coming from students and private sources. At the very least, the affordability of the state’s colleges and universities is a worthy campaign issue for fall.

Conservative lawmakers who wouldn’t be caught dead voting for a tax increase should be pressed to explain why they see no problem in chronically underfunding state-owned colleges, which in turn forces higher tuition and fees on Kansans.

Perhaps this isn’t the year the regents and universities can afford to hold the line. But a state higher-education system should be accessible to all qualified applicants within that state.

— For the editorial board, Rhonda Holman
Leslie Holmes, a 2006 graduate of Dexter High School, a student at the University of Kansas, received a certificate and award for Excellence in Intermediate Russian Language, presented by Dr. William J. Comer, director of the Russian Language Program, and by Mr. Sidney Dement.

This award was presented at the Slavic Department's annual awards ceremony and reception in downtown Lawrence on April 15.

Leslie is a daughter of Robert and Laurie Holmes of Dexter. She will go to Russia for six weeks this summer as part of the University of Kansas' Study Abroad program, and she will study at St. Petersburg State University.
Ag Education Scholarship Awards:

Ag Mechanics Scholarship: Nolan Scott
Horticulture Scholarship: Mitchell Hisle
Dekalb Scholarship: David Pottroff
Community Service Scholarship:
Trevor Lamme, Josh Linck, George Sherer
Golden Hammer Award/Scholarship: Marc Beyer
Ag Education SAE Recognition:
Marc Beyer, Mitchell Hisle, Nolan Scott
Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award: Erin Ross, Mark Ross
Cody Alan Baker Memorial Scholarship:
Frankie Moran, Stephen Ramirez
Brown County Teachers’ Association Scholarship:
Marshall Koelliker
Oscar W. & Zayda V. Dahl Scholarship:
KSU: Natalie Pederson, David Pottroff, Erin Ross, Nolan Scott
HCC: Cortney Baker, Nathan Britt, Mark Ross
Dale Dennis Excellence in Education Scholarship: Kelsey Rice
Everest Lions Club: Maloree Marr, Natalie Pederson, Blaine Sutton
Freeland Memorial Scholarship:
Colleen Berger, Nicholas Britt, Mitchell Hisle
Horton Alumni Association: Marc Beyer, Maloree Marr
Horton Lions Club: Clarissa Hall, Marshall Koelliker
K.S.H.S.A.A. CITIZENSHIP AWARDS: Erin Ross, Mark Ross
Forrest & Marilyn Keener Scholarship: Cortney Baker
Cecil E. Kleppe Scholarships:
Cortney Baker, Colleen Berger, Marc Beyer, Lindsay Frederick, Natalie Pederson
Memorial Scholarship Awards:
Allen Jones: Marc Beyer
Eugene Hosford: Travor Lamme
Ila Mae Geitz: Colleen Berger
Timothy Ringe: Christian Montes
Tanner Cales: Maloree Marr
Mildred Shannon Barnes: Shona Knoxsah
A Scholarship in Honor of W.O. & Eleanor Nelson: Natalie Pederson, David Pottroff
Johnson O’Malley Scholarship:
Shona Knoxsah, Frankie Moran, Stephen Ramirez, Jacob Sanchez, Jere Pederson Memorial Scholarship:
Natalie Pederson
P.E.O: Cortney Baker, Erin Logan
Pony Express Scholarship: Natalie Pederson
Powhattan AM Legion Post Scholarship: Clarissa Hall
Charger P.T.O. Scholarship: Josh Linck
Jere & Melissa Tollefson-Rogers Memorial Scholarship: Colleen Berger
Cletus Samqua Award: Mark Ross
Shelter Insurance Foundation Scholarship: Erin Ross
Student Council Scholarships:
Cortney Baker, Natalie Pederson
The John and Thelma Tate Memorial Scholarship: Marc Beyer
Salutatorian: Mark Ross
Valedictorian: Natalie Pederson, Kelsey Rice, Erin Ross, Melbien Tinio
Other Scholarships & Honors - 2008 - Given By:
Cortney Baker - Highland Community College - HCC Track Scholarship
Beth Bell - Highland Community College - Business Dept. Scholarship
Nathan Britt - Highland Community College - Math & Science Scholarship; Kansas Alumni Honor Grad
Nicholas Britt - Washburn University - Academic Scholarship; Named State of KS Scholar
Zach Buettgenbach - Highland Community College - HCC Art Dept. Scholarship
Raven Milam-Davies - Highland Community College - HCC Art Dept. Scholarship
Lindsay Frederick - Missouri Western State College; Neighboring State Scholarship; Dean’s Academic Scholarship.
Jake Gaskell - Highland Community College - HCC Baseball Scholarship; AM Legion Baseball Scholarship.
Mitchell Hisle - Highland Community College - HCC Math/Science Scholarship
Shona Knoxsah - Highland Community College - HCC Art Dept. Scholarship.
Erin Logan - University of Kansas - Freshman Scholarship
Natalie Pederson - Kansas State University - KSU Achievement Scholarship; Cargill - National FFA - Cargill Scholarship; Kansas Alumni Honor Grad.
Christian Montes - Kansas State University - KSU Memorial Scholarship
Frankie Moran - Highland Community College - HCC Football Scholarship
David Pottroff - Kansas State University - KSU Opportunity Scholarship; KSU Activities Scholarship; National Federation Independent; NFIB Scholarship-
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Ramirez</td>
<td>Highland Community College - HCC Football Scholarship</td>
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<td>Kelsey Rice</td>
<td>Washburn University - Music Scholarship; Academic Scholarship; Kansas Alumni Honor</td>
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<td>Erin Ross</td>
<td>Kansas State University - KSU Leadership Scholarship; Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce-</td>
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<td>Nolan Scott</td>
<td>Kansas Alumni Honor Grad; University of Kansas - Freshman Scholarship; Kansas</td>
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<td>Mark Ross</td>
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<td>Dugan Shoemaker</td>
<td>Highland Community College - HCC Band Scholarship</td>
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The Kansas Masonic Foundation has pledged $15 million for the Kansas Cancer Institute, a research center at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan. The gift is among the three largest private gifts in KU history.

The Topeka-based foundation’s gift to the Kansas University Endowment Association will help the institute in its effort to achieve designation as a National Cancer Institute center, Chancellor Robert Hemenway said. The NCI, a division of the National Institutes of Health, awards the designation to cancer centers for the quality and level of their research, education and patient care. At KU, clinical care for cancer patients is provided through the Kansas Cancer Center in the University of Kansas Hospital. Among the 61 NCI-designated cancer centers nationwide are the Mayo Clinic and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

With the addition of the Kansas Masons’ latest pledge, the foundation’s commitment for KU cancer research and treatment has reached $20 million since 1974.

“To unravel the mysteries of cancer, we need to create an environment that will attract top researchers and foster collaboration,” Hemenway said. “By bringing in additional scientists, the support provided by this gift will help KU increase the amount of federal research grants received and in turn boost the economic development of this region’s life sciences initiatives. It is our hope that these benefits will lead to a higher level of prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer throughout the region. This would not be possible without the generosity of the Kansas Masons.”

The Kansas Masonic Foundation’s commitment includes a $500,000 gift for the William R. Jewell, M.D., Distinguished Kansas Masonic Professorship, which was announced in October. The professorship, which honors the current institute director, will provide the support to hire a full-time director, one of several requirements to achieve NCI status.

Other NCI requirements include demonstrating broad financial support from federal, state and private sources. A research center also must have at least three research programs, each with three researchers, and a research base of $4 million in peer-reviewed funding. The Kansas Cancer Institute already has almost $17 million in such funding, said Barbara Atkinson, dean of the KU School of Medicine.

The gift from the Kansas Masonic Foundation also will help the institute recruit an associate director for clinical trials and recruit at least six basic and clinical scientists to strengthen four existing research programs and build new ones, Atkinson said.

“This gift enables us to recruit the world’s best cancer physicians and scientists,” she said. “The foundation’s support fosters cutting-edge research that leads to better prevention, better diagnosis and better treatment of all cancer patients throughout our region. This gift ensures cancer research and education here at the Kansas Cancer Institute will be the best this region has to offer.”

Jeffrey L. Sowder, president of the board of the Kansas Masonic Foundation, said the foundation was confident in the quality of KU’s cancer research.

“The Kansas Cancer Institute is a top-notch program,” he said. “We want the institute to achieve NCI designation, something we’re very excited about. Supporting the Kansas Cancer Institute is something that shows how we look to the future. This gift will allow us, KU and the institute’s researchers to move forward in the fight against cancer.

“Cancer touches just about everyone’s life in one way or another,” Sowder added. “If we can be just a small part of the effort, or if we can help prevent it in any way, then our work is worthwhile. We really want to help make the elimination of cancer possible.”

Established in 1966, the Kansas Masonic Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit organization that supports charitable, educational and scientific programs. The foundation is funded by voluntary gifts and endowments from Kansas Masons and their families and friends.

The gift from the foundation has put KU First: Invest in Excellence, over its initial goal of $500 million. The KU Endowment Association is conducting KU First, the largest campaign in KU history, on behalf of the university through 2004 to raise funds for scholarships, fellowships, professorships, capital projects and program support. KU Endowment is an independent, nonprofit organization serving as the official fund-raising and fund-management organization for KU.
TIME TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT EVENTS

A COMMENTARY BY RIC ANDERSON

The University of Kansas has asked the state Board of Regents to approve a 6.0 percent tuition increase that would bring standard per-semester tuition for incoming freshmen to $3,097 for the 2008-09 school year. How much was standard per-semester tuition for in-state undergraduates at KU in 1988-89?

A) $2,550
B) $1,550
C) $550

Correct answer: C, according to the KU Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

Match the following items from ads in The Capital-Journal’s archives from 1988 with the prices that would be charged for them today if they had increased at the same rate as KU’s tuition:

A) 12-pack of Coors beer
B) 9 pound, 3 ounce box of Tide
C) Sears 18-horsepower garden tractor
D) A Corvette convertible

1) $24.86
2) $10,646.44
3) $22.18
4) $171,060.81

Correct answers: A-C, B-3, C-2, D-4. The tuition increase is 463 percent. The 1988 prices for the items were:

- $2,299 for the garden tractor, $4.79 for the beer and $36,939 for the car.
- $2,299 for the garden tractor, $4.79 for the beer and $36,939 for the car.

3 True or false: At this rate, KU’s per-semester tuition will be $14,341 in 2028-29.

Correct answer: True

4 True or false: KU’s tuition has gone up at a higher rate than the price of gasoline.

Correct answer: True. According to the Energy Information Administration, the price of a gallon of gas in 1988 was $1.12. If it had gone up at the same rate as KU’s tuition, a gallon would cost $5.18 today.

Per capita income in the U.S. would be which of the following if it had climbed at the same rate as KU’s tuition since 1988?

A) $13,120
B) $26,352
C) $60,757

Correct answer: C. As for the other two answers, A was per capita income in 1988 and B was per capita income in 2006, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Ric Anderson, a KU alum who feels obligated to report that other regents institutions sought tuition increases as well, can be reached at (785) 295-1282 or ric.anderson@cjonline.com.
Novel tells of journey into heart, country

By Larry Freeze

SPECIAL TO THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Steven Faulkner has a come a long way since he delivered copies of The Topeka Capital-Journal to news racks each morning at the each morning UPTF library in downtown.

Former Topekan Steven Faulkner will discuss his new novel "Waterwalk: A Passage of Ghosts" at 1 p.m. today at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library's Marvin Auditorium.

Faulkner will also discuss his new novel "Waterwalk: A Passage of Ghosts" at 1 p.m. today at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library's Marvin Auditorium.

Faulkner is currently the creative writing instructor at Longwood College in Virginia.

It also took him on an incredible adventure 12 years ago when he and his teenage son embarked on a 1,000-mile canoe odyssey through the upper Midwest.

Justin, at 16, was a "vague figure, an occasional apparition flitting in and out" of his father's life. What better way for father and son to reconnect than to trace the route of French explorers Marquette and Joliet?

The results are recounted in exciting detail in Faulkner's first novel "Waterwalk: A Passage of Ghosts."

For years, Faulkner also worked as a dump truck driver, roofer, grave vault maker, painter, carpet cleaner, and for 14 years a carpenter in Topeka to support his wife and seven children while attending classes during the day at The University of Kansas.

After 20 years, he had earned a bachelor's degree, a master's degree in English literature and a doctorate in creative writing at KU. His dissertation was the first creative nonfiction degree awarded at KU.

But, back to the adventure. In 1996, Faulkner and his son left the fast world of cars, jobs, schools, radios, televisions, and computers and set out on a voyage in their 16-foot canoe, Natty Bumpo. They took nothing but a few supplies and a couple of books to read together: Homer's "Odyssey" and Twain's "Huckleberry Finn."

Faulkner had found a translation of Marquette's map and journal in the basement of KU's Watson library, and his account interweaves that epic journey opening the Midwest with their own adventures. The book becomes a kind of triple journey: a voyage into the heart of this country 300 years ago; a modern exploration of the quiet waterways that weave their way through busy, rush-around America; and a voyage into the heart of a father-son relationship.

They were inexperienced canoeers, having only canoed for a single sunny afternoon on the easygoing Kansas River the year before. But they packed supplies and resolve and embarked at St. Ignace, on Lake Michigan's northern shore. They paddled 300 miles along the stormy Upper Peninsula to Green Bay, Wis, then crossed the entire state of Wisconsin on two rivers — first, the flooded Fox River where they managed to swim away from their canoe before it was swept over a dam and then down the Wisconsin River to the wide Mississippi where they canoed 400 miles more to St. Louis.

Despite the dangers, "something in us," Faulkner writes, "longs to go the way of the river, to lie down on those silken currents and swing away from the bank and move along mile after mile. There's something there that's wild and strong and asleep in mystery. And all the while, rivers spoke to us in unfamiliar languages, the winds warned us of unheeded perils, statues came alive and shared their stories, and a father and son tried to learn the language of comradeship and interdependence."

Larry Freeze is a freelance writer from Topeka. He can be reached at freeze@kc. org.

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Novel: Author to speak at library

Continued from Page 6A

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Larry Freeze is a freelance writer from Topeka. He can be reached at freeze@kc. org.
KU journalism school announces spring awards

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas has announced recipients of annual awards and scholarships.

Matthew Hirschfeld of Augusta was awarded the Clyde and Betty Reed News Scholarship.