Area students graduate from KU

LAWRENCE — The names of more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring have been announced by the University Registrar.

KU’s Class of 2008 numbers 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 will return Sunday, May 18, for the university’s 136th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium.

Faculty and candidates for degrees will assemble about 2 p.m. along Memorial Drive for the procession, which begins at 2:30 p.m. The program begins about 3:30 p.m.

In case of inclement weather, participants should call KU Info, (785) 864-3506, or listen to local radio and television stations to learn the exact time of the commencement ceremony.

Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available online at www.commencement.ku.edu.

Local candidates are listed below by home county; degree; major; parents’ names; and high school (when available).

**Medicine Lodge**

Carrie Kaye Abbott, daughter of Donna Abbott, Psychology BA DECL, Bachelor of Arts/Psychology, and graduate of South Barber High School.

**Haviland**

Nathan G Breeden, son of Cynthia Breeden, Spanish BA, Co-Major: International Studies & Bachelor of Arts/Spanish, and graduate of Haviland High School.

**Pratt**

T'Lane Balue Briggeman, daughter of Stuart and Teri Briggeman, Accounting BSB, Senior, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting, and graduate of Skyline High School.

Christopher James Dino, son of Andrea Fea, Economics BA, Business Minor & Bachelor of Arts/Economics.

Serena Asayo Hawkins, daughter of Laurel Yasui, Juris Doctor JD, Juris Doctor, and graduate of Pratt High School.

Troy D Homertzheim, son of David and Ida Mae Homertzheim, Geology BS, Bachelor of Science in Geology, and graduate of Pratt High School.

Andrew Michael Johnston, son of Michael Johnston, Political Science BA, Bachelor of Arts/Political Science, and graduate of Pratt High School.

Kelli Lynn Martin, daughter of Denise and Kris Dover, Occupational Studies BS, Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies, and graduate of Pratt High School.

Megan Diane Jarmer Olson, daughter of Frank and Trish Jarmer, Pharmacy PD, Doctor of Pharmacy, and graduate of Pratt High School.

Sara Michele Richardson, daughter of Brenda Richardson, Anthropology BGS, Bachelor of General Studies/Anthropology.

**St. John**

Casey Elizabeth Cornwell, daughter of Rick and Gayle Cornwell, American Studies BA, Bachelor of Arts/American Studies & Bachelor of Arts/Sociology, and graduate of Saint John High School.

**Stafford**

Bradley Joe Newell, son of Don and Deb Newell, Pharmacy PD, Doctor of Pharmacy, and graduate of Stafford High School.
Rietzke, Wagnon are KU graduates

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Of 105 Kansas counties, 95 are represented. There are no degree candidates from Chautauqua, Cheyenne, Clark, Hodgeman, Logan, Morton, Norton, Rush, Wallace or Wichita counties.

From Comanche County are
Kaci A. Rietzke. Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Kaci is the daughter of Tim and Marilyn Rietzke of Coldwater.

Shanell Kay Wagnon. Bachelor of Science in Education. Shanell is the daughter of Lynn and LaNell Wagnon of Coldwater.

Both Kaci and Shanell are graduates of South Central High School, Coldwater.
Area student to graduate from University of Kansas

Kyle Hesed is a candidate for a Bachelor of Arts/Biology degree with a Linguistics minor at the University of Kansas this spring.

A graduate of Otis-Bison High School, he is the son of Larry and Laurie Hesed of Pawnee Rock.

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Five Scott and Lane county students have completed degree requirements from the University of Kansas.

Commencement ceremonies were held May 18 with more than 4,000 graduates participating. Area graduates were:

Jessa Kuhlman, daughter of David and Nita Kuhlman, Dighton; bachelor’s degree in general studies and applied behavioral science.

Jenna Timken, Dighton, bachelor of science degree nursing.

Nick Weiser, son of Richard and Linda Weiser, Dighton; bachelor’s degree in music/piano.

Susan Strickert, daughter of Susan Geist, Scott City; bachelor of science degree in business/finance.

Cameron Turpin, daughter of Cynthia Miller, Scott City; bachelor’s degree in communication studies and bachelor’s degree in psychology.
KU grad to join Peace Corp

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One of these graduates is Rachele Lee Vierthaler, daughter of Greg and Jill Vierthaler, who will receive her Bachelor of Social Work degree in ceremonies on May 17. Rachele is a graduate of Spearville High School.

During her time in Lawrence, Rachele did volunteer work as the coordinator of meals for the local homeless shelter and soup kitchen. She is also working at the Lawrence Boys & Girls Club before leaving in August for the Peace Corp. Rachele will be in the Peace Corp for two years and hopes to be working with children in South America.
Locals among graduates at University of Kansas

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Among those graduating are:

Tristan Noelle, Greenleaf, son of Elaine Noelle, Theatre and Film, Bachelor of General Studies/Theatre and Film. He is a graduate of Linn High School.

Kurt Funke, Washington, son of David and Jane Funke, Theatre and Film, History of Art and Bachelor of General Studies/Theatre and Film. He is a graduate of Washington High School.


Jeff Alan Bartley, Olathe, will receive a Master of Civil Engineering Degree. He is a Linn High School graduate.
Potential and existing small business owners can now access virtual training courses for free at a website — www.ksbdc.biz — created by the Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC), NetWork Kansas and the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Courses offered on the site address three main subject areas: Starting Your Business, Managing Your Finances and Foundations of Marketing.

The courses take between 30-120 minutes to complete and include audio, high-end graphics, case studies and worksheets. All 26 courses are offered in English and will soon be available in Spanish. A simple registration process is required. Participants will be asked to complete a brief evaluation form after completing the course.

The KSBDC provided 12,139 hours of free one-to-one counseling to 1,999 clients in 2007. Approximately 4,650 individuals attended onsite workshops at the eight regional and four outreach centers throughout Kansas. Last year, the KSBDC assisted clients in 263 new business ventures and helped generate 1,365 new jobs in Kansas.

Contact information for each of the eight regional centers and four outreach centers can be found on www.ksbdc.biz.

NetWork Kansas was established as a component of the Kansas Economic Growth Act of 2004 to further establish entrepreneurship and small business as a priority for economic and community development in the state of Kansas. Backed by more than 400 partners statewide, NetWork Kansas promotes an entrepreneurial environment by establishing a central portal that connects entrepreneurs and small business owners with the expertise, education and economic resources when they are needed most.

For more information about NetWork Kansas, contact Steve Radley at (316) 978-7312. Entrepreneurs and small business owners are encouraged to visit www.networkkansas.com or call (877) 521-8600 to speak with a counselor.

The Kansas Department of Commerce has a clear mission: to deliver the highest level of Business Development, Workforce and Marketing Services that build a healthy and expanding economy. To this end, Commerce comprises a variety of programs and services that create jobs, attract new investment, provide workforce training, encourage community development and sell the state as a wonderful place to live, work and play.
Two Coldwater Girls Earn Degrees at KU

Two Coldwater girls are among 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. Commencement exercises there are this Sunday.

Kaci A Rietzke, daughter of Tim and Marilyn Rietzke of Coldwater, will receive her bachelor of science in nursing.

Shanell Kay Wagnon, daughter of Lynn and Lanell Wagnon of Coldwater, will receive her bachelor of science in education. Both girls are 2004 graduates of Central High School.

KU’s Class of 2008 numbers more than 7,000, including 2,555 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2007. The formal commencement ceremony will be this Sunday, May 18 at the university’s Memorial Stadium, with the procession to begin at 2 p.m. and the program itself to start about 3 p.m.

More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2008 are expected to participate.
Jodi Elizabeth Hems of Edna graduated with a bachelor's degree in Occupational Studies from KU. Kansas University announces more than 4,450 candidates for degrees. KU's Class of 2008 numbers more than 7,000, including 2,555 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2007.

Ninety-five Kansas counties, 48 other states and the District of Columbia and 44 other countries are among those having graduates.
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The following area students are eligible for graduation in the KU Class of 2008:

From Erie:
- Janelle Lynn Buskirk, the daughter of Timothy and Connie Buskirk, a senior with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She graduated from Erie High School.
- Levi J Gahman, of Erie, a graduate student with a Master of Arts/Geography.
- Tracy Renee Spielbusch, the daughter of Edward and Kimberly Spielbusch, a senior, with a Bachelor of Science in Education. She graduated from Erie High School.

From Galesburg:
- Chelsea Lynn Miller, the daughter of Daniel and Tammy Miller, a graduate student with a Master of Accounting and Information Systems. She graduated from Thayer High School.

From Thayer:
- Erin Jean Cox, the daughter of Gene and Susan Cox, a senior, with a Bachelor of Social Work. She graduated from Thayer High School.
- Katie Maria Holtzman, the daughter of Jerry and Sherrie Brant, a graduate student with a Doctor of Physical Therapy. She graduated from Thayer High School.
- Lorena May Spratt, the daughter of Robert Leck, a graduate student with a Doctor of Physical Therapy.