The University of Kansas Department of Political Science honored top students at its annual Pi Sigma Alpha initiation and awards banquet April 24.

Thirty-four students were inducted into the Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, a national political science honor society.

Criteria for induction include at least junior standing in political science and a 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale in all political science courses.

Cumulative grade-point averages for undergraduates must be at least 3.4, for graduate students at least 3.5. Neither may have a course grade lower than a B.

Special award and scholarship recipients were recognized during the program. Awards provide cash prizes with no restrictions. Scholarships provide funds for tuition.

Local students recognized are: Brian Lee Palmer, son of Clifford and Deb Palmer, junior political science major, Elizabeth and Carl Gustafson Scholarship, Walter Thompson Scholarship and Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society; Andrea R. Vieux, daughter of Mike Vieux, graduate student in political science, Walter Thompson Scholarship; and Andrew Hartley Winetroub, son of Dale Winetroub, senior political science major, Ethan P. Allen Pi Sigma Alpha Award.
The University Registrar recently announced the names of more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas.

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 returned May 18, for the university’s 136th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2008 are expected to participate. Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available online at www.commencement.ku.edu.

Local students named candidates for graduation are listed below.

*Basehor:* Tiffany Marie Bates, daughter of Randall and Angelia Bates, Bachelor of General Studies/Psychology; Kristofer Johnson, son of Timothy and Linda Johnson, Bachelor of General Studies/Political Science; Brian Matthew Lane, son of Randall and Joyce Lane, Bachelor of Music Education/Music Education; Benjamin Michael Mustain, son of Mike and Teresa Mustain, Master of Social Work; Dara M. Norwood, daughter of Lori and David Norwood, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting; Abby Jo Page, daughter of Rob and Nancy Page, Bachelor of Arts/Communication Studies; Stephen Michael Rutledge, son of Angela Anderson, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance; Holly Lynne Sebree, daughter of Lynne and Nancy Sebree, Doctor of Pharmacy; and Megan Lindsey Tanney, daughter of Krista Tanney, Bachelor of General Studies/Speech.

*Easton:* Devon B. Ezell, daughter of Joseph and Mary Ezell, Bachelor of General Studies/Applied Behavioral Science.

*Fort Leavenworth:* Adam F. Chura, son of Michael and Monica Chura, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

*Lansing:* Russell Phillip Baldwin Jr., Master of Science in Education; Emily Richele Bogard, daughter of Mike Bogard, Bachelor of Music Education/Music Education; John Douglas Carlson, son of Alfreid and Katherine Carlson, Bachelor of General Studies/Economics; Blake Stephen Deere, son of Kyle and Debbie Deere, Bachelor of Science in Education; Nicole Lynn Kowalewski, daughter of Randy and Mary Kowalewski, Bachelor of Science in Business/Management; Kelly Glen MacDonald, Master of Arts/Russian and East European Studies; Jennifer A. Mitchum, daughter of Timothy Mitchum, Master of Accounting and Information Systems; Katheryn Elizabeth Mooney, daughter of Tim and Karen Mooney, Bachelor of Arts/Psychology; Dennis Partee Jr., son of Dennis Partee and Carolyn Partee, Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care; Brooke Ann Raasch, daughter of Denise Lally, Bachelor of Arts/Human Biology; Stacy N. Schwind, daughter of Michael and Tricia Schwind, Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Sociology; and Brinton David James Thrasher, son of Wanda and James Thrasher, Bachelor of Arts/Theatre and Film.

*Leavenworth:* Jessica Elizabeth Adkison, daughter of Rick and Sherry Adkison, Bachelor of Arts/Political Science; Stephen Michael Rutledge, son of Angela Anderson, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance; Holly Lynne Sebree, daughter of Lynne and Nancy Sebree, Doctor of Pharmacy; and Megan Lindsey Tanney, daughter of Krista Tanney, Bachelor of General Studies/Speech.

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*Leavenworth:* Jessica Elizabeth Adkison, daughter of Rick and Sherry Adkison, Bachelor of Arts/Political Science; Stephen Michael Rutledge, son of Angela Anderson, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance; Holly Lynne Sebree, daughter of Lynne and Nancy Sebree, Doctor of Pharmacy; and Megan Lindsey Tanney, daughter of Krista Tanney, Bachelor of General Studies/Speech.
Renae Schloer, daughter of Stan and Sharon Schloer, Bachelor of Social Work; Rebecca Jordan Shepard, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Aaron Robert Simmons, son of John Simmons, Bachelor of General Studies/Communication Studies; Tara Lynnette Skaggs, daughter of Karen Skaggs, Bachelor of Fine Arts/Art; and Andrew Hartley Winetroub, son of Dale Winetroub, Bachelor of Arts/Political Science.

Linwood: Derrick Kenneth Betts, son of Ken and Twila Betts, Bachelor of Arts/American Studies.

Tonganoxie: David Matthew Barnes, son of Terry and Mary Ellen Barnes, Bachelor of Arts/Economics and Bachelor of Arts/Philosophy; Serina F. Cox, daughter of Cassandra Lowe, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Jonathan Ryan Gripka, son of Ralph and Cathy Gripka, Bachelor of Arts/Architectural Studies; Ross Franklin Low, Bachelor of Arts/History; David Lloyd Roddy, Master of Business Administration; Melissa Lee Ward, daughter of Greg and Karen Ward, Bachelor of General Studies/Political Science; and John Charles Wickey, son of Ruth Wickey, Bachelor of General Studies/Economics; Stephen D. Woolf, Doctor of Education.
More than 165 members of the Class of 2008 will be recognized as top scholars during commencement at the University of Kansas on Sunday.

Each year, KU awards its most prized four-year scholarships to students whose academic records and other qualifications make them eligible for selection. These students are Chancellors Club Scholars, Elizabeth M. Watkins-Emily Berger Scholars, Solon E. Summerfield Scholars, Endowment Meritorious Scholars, National Merit Scholars, National Hispanic Scholars and National Achievement Scholars. KU Endowment manages the funds for these scholarships.

In addition, 11 McNair scholars are among the graduating seniors being recognized. The Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program is funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant that serves undergraduates who come from low-income families, are first-generation college students or are from groups underrepresented in higher education.

The program prepares them to be successful in graduate school.

The Chancellors Club, the major-donor organization at KU Endowment, annually awards 10 renewable scholarships worth $1,500 to $2,000 to recognize National Merit finalists, five from Kansas and five from out of state, who have outstanding high school records.

Elizabeth M. Watkins-Emily Berger and Solon E. Summerfield scholarships provide $3,000 a year for four years to 100 Kansas high school graduates in recognition of their outstanding high school academic achievements and records of community service and leadership. Summerfield scholarships for men are funded through an endowment established by Solon E. Summerfield, who was a Lawrence native and KU graduate. Watkins-Berger scholarships for women are financed by the estate of Emily Berger, a KU graduate, and an endowment in memory of Emily Berger, a KU graduate, by her brother, the late Arthur Berger of Dallas.

Endowment Meritorious Scholarships provide $500 to $2,500 a year for four years to high-achieving students who enhance the diversity of the student body.

The National Merit Scholarship is regarded as the most prestigious national award bestowed upon high school seniors. Fewer than 9,000 students of the 1.3 million who compete for the award, or fewer than 1 percent, receive National Merit Scholarships. Recipients are chosen based on their academic abilities and extracurricular activities.

The National Hispanic Scholars and National Achievement Scholars programs are the nation's most prestigious competitive scholarships for minority students. National Achievement Scholarships are provided through the National Merit Scholarship Corp. in Evanston, Ill. National Hispanic Scholarships are coordinated by the National Hispanic Recognition Program, through the College Board offices in New York City.

KU's National Merit, National Hispanic and National Achievement scholars in this year's graduating class received a scholarship for tuition covering 15 credit hours each semester, campus fees and a housing stipend, renewable for four years.

The Class of 2008 includes graduates from the spring 2008 and summer and fall 2007 terms. The commencement procession begins at 2:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

Among the top scholars being recognized are Lisa Ann Smelser of McLouth, named National Merit Scholar, Adam Chura of Fort Leavenworth, named National Hispanic Scholar, Kaitlyn Kelly of Leavenworth, named Elizabeth M. Watkins-Emily Berger Scholar, Andrew Winetroub of Leavenworth, named Solon E. Summerfield Scholar, and Serina Cox of Tonganoxie, named Endowment Merit Scholar.
Robinson recognized by KU math department

LAWRENCE — ACHS graduate Zach Robinson was one of 52 undergraduate and graduate students and two professors who were recognized for outstanding academic and teaching achievements by the University of Kansas mathematics department at its 51st annual honors banquet last month.

Recipients of the 2008 New Student Scholarships awarded in January were also recognized at the banquet.

Robinson, the son of Richard and Jerry Lou Robinson of Garnett, is a sophomore pursuing a BS in mathematics. He received the Black-Babcock Mathematics scholarship.

This year, the math department presented more than $87,700 in awards and scholarships.
Commencement exercises at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, will begin at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Memorial Stadium.

Among the 4,450 candidates for degrees, those from Marion County include:

- William James Scriven of Florence, bachelor of science in geology. Scriven is the son of Gayle Scriven of Florence.
- Karson Craig, bachelor of science in education-sport science. She is the daughter of Kevin and Debbie Craig of Marion.
- Nicholas Conquest, bachelor of science in electrical engineering. He is the son of Rod and Kim Conquest of Peabody.
- Sarah McLeod, master of social work. She is the daughter of Nancy McLeod of Peabody.

Casey Cole, daughter of Curtis Cole of Wichita and graduate of Peabody-Burns High School, bachelor of science in business/accounting.

Shelly Weibert of Kansas City, graduate of Hillsboro High School, master of health services administration.
GARDEN CITY — Four northwest Kansas students have been named to the fall 2007 Dean's Honor Roll at Garden City Community College. To be named to the list, students must be enrolled in eight or more credit hours and have a grade point average of 3.2 to 3.999.

Named to the list are Shandel Simon, Goodland, Chase Sperber, Oakley, Aaron Herl, Ogallah, and Alan Bruggeman, Rexford.

LAWRENCE — A University of Kansas senior from Hays was among 52 undergraduates recognized for outstanding academic achievements by the KU mathematics department at its 51st annual honors banquet last month.

Rachel Debes, Hays senior, received a cash award of $100 for her performance in the National William Lowell Putnam Competition, sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America. This competition is open to all regularly enrolled undergraduates in colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

The Kansas VFW Endowment Association has selected Clayton A. Betts, Hays, son of Michael Betts and Cindy Suppes, to receive the Barbara Splawn Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to further the education of Betts at an institution of higher learning of his choice. Betts received a $750 scholarship, paid in increments of $250 per semester.

Betts is a student at Fort Hays State University and grandson of Mary Betts.
University of Kansas graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree/Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Anne Kivett</td>
<td>master of architecture</td>
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<td>John and Linda Kenne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zachary Leon Fischer</td>
<td>bachelor of arts/classical antiquity</td>
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<td>Hill City</td>
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<tr>
<td>son of Vera Fischer</td>
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<tr>
<td>bachelor of arts/education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Ann Knoll</td>
<td>bachelor of science in architectural engineering</td>
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<td>Morland</td>
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<td>daughter of Elizabeth Bell</td>
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<td>Tasha Michelle Braun</td>
<td>doctor of pharmacy</td>
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<td>Brownell</td>
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<td>daughter of Alfred Braun</td>
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<td>Tasha Michelle Braun</td>
<td>docto of pharmacy</td>
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<td>Ness City</td>
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<tr>
<td>daughter of Loreta Braun</td>
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<tr>
<td>doctor of pharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calvin Wade Gabe</td>
<td>bachelor of arts/human biology</td>
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<td>Ness City</td>
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<tr>
<td>daughter of Alex C. and Wanda J. Gabel</td>
<td>bachelor of arts/human biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Lee Monden</td>
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<td>Ness City</td>
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<td>son of Edward and Jeanine Monden</td>
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<td>Lacy Lea Albrecht</td>
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<td>Downs</td>
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<td>Jacob Bradley Ruthstrom</td>
<td>daughter of medicine</td>
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<td>Downs</td>
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<td>Bailor Lee Hardman</td>
<td>bachelor of arts/human biology</td>
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<td>Osborne</td>
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<tr>
<td>son of Philip and Debra Hardman</td>
<td>bachelor of arts/human biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derek Dean Spears</td>
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<td>Osborne</td>
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<td>daughter of Doyle and Lisa Spears</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerie C. Jackson</td>
<td>bachelor of general studies/communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logan</td>
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<td>daughter of Mona Sue and Robert Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travis Wesley Lower</td>
<td>bachelor of arts/psychology</td>
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<td>Phillipsburg</td>
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<td>son of Ron and Lee Lower</td>
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<td>Rebecca Lynn Marks</td>
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<tr>
<td>bachelor of social work</td>
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<td>Alexa Anne Riffel</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>bachelor of general studies/communication studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyssa Beth Holste</td>
<td>bachelor of science in nursing</td>
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<td>Atwood</td>
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<td>daughter of Jerry Holste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalli Jordan Bennett</td>
<td>bachelor of social work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
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<tr>
<td>daughter of Scott and Terri Bennett</td>
<td>bachelor of social work</td>
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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 the candidates for degrees are returning today for the university's 136th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the class of 2008 are expected to participate. Graduates from northwest Kansas include the following:

- Travis Lee Castle, Oberlin, son of Brian and Pam Simonsen, doctor of pharmacy.
- Serina Gabrielle Heikes, Oberlin, daughter of Nita Lavielle, bachelor of arts/English.
- Jill Dyan Billinger, Hays, doctor of physical therapy.
- Ashley M. Depenbusch, Hays, daughter of Jean Depenbusch, sociology minor and bachelor of arts/women's studies.
- Kelsi Ann Fielder, Hays, daughter of Philip and Patricia Fielder, bachelor of science in nursing.
- Holly Marie Gottschalk, Hays, daughter of Gene and Kay Gottschalk, bachelor of general studies/psychology.
- Samantha L. Harper, Hays, master of arts/museum studies.
- Jessica Marie Juennemann, Hays, daughter of Jerry and Dalene Juennemann, bachelor of arts/biology.
- Kyle A Kist, Hays, son of Curt and Jennifer Kist, Co-Major: international studies and bachelor of arts/political science.
- Jessica E. Mortinger, Hays, daughter of Alan and Laurie Mortinger, bachelor of science in environmental studies.
- Cody R. Wolcott, Hays, son of Darla J. Wolcott, bachelor of arts/psychology and bachelor of arts/Spanish.
- Tamara Lynn Zimmerman, Hays, daughter of David and Marilyn Jensen, doctor of pharmacy.

County: Ellis
Amber Lee Kollman, Stockton, daughter of Chris and Ginger Kollman, business minor and history minor and bachelor of science in journalism.

Brett Christiana Schlaegel, Stockton, daughter of Keith or Melinda Schlaegel, bachelor of science in journalism.

Joshua Scott Richards, Russell, son of Vicki Richards, bachelor of science in biology.

Brooke N. Stoppel, Russell, daughter of Blaine Stoppel, bachelor of science in education.

Rachel Lea Trible, Russell, daughter of Ronnie and Karen Trible, bachelor of science in nursing.

Alisha Ann Ridgely, Waldo, daughter of Brad and Beth Zweifel, co-major: international studies and bachelor of arts/political science.

Jocelyn B. Lucas, Goodland, daughter of Jack and Linda Lucas, bachelor of science in education.

Janae L. McKee, Goodland, daughter of Jim McKee, bachelor of science in business/finance.

Matthew Dylan Mentzer, Goodland, son of Scott and Debbie Mentzer, juris doctor.

Melissa N. Luiso, Kensington, daughter of Nick and Margaret Luiso, bachelor of science in business/accounting and bachelor of science in business/finance.


Jessica Dee Reinert, Smith Center, master of social work.

Steven Brent Weitmer, Smith Center, son of Michael and Ladonna Weitmer, doctor of pharmacy.

Jake Alan Windscheffel, Smith Center, son of John and Tammy Windscheffel, doctor of pharmacy.

Rebekah Marie Lang, Colby, daughter of Kenneth and Beverly Lang, bachelor of science in biology.

Taylor C. Miller, Colby, son of Peggy Miller, bachelor of arts/Spanish and bachelor of science in journalism.

Andrea Elizabeth Siemsen, Colby, daughter of Cary and Ann Siemsen, bachelor of art education and history of art minor.

Jessica Marie Veeh, Colby, daughter of Tom and Susan Veeh, doctor of medicine.

Robert Ray Tubbs, Levant, son of Ray and Julie Tubbs, doctor of pharmacy.

Barbara Jean Doxon, Ogallah, daughter of Bob and Vicki Doxon, doctor of pharmacy.

Will Schlegel, Ogallah, son of Elmer and Myrna Schlegel, bachelor of arts/economics and co-major: international studies and bachelor of arts/political science.

Denise R. Augustine, WaKeeney, daughter of Darrell and Bernita Augustine, doctor of pharmacy.

Tami Elizabeth Hagan, WaKeeney, daughter of Glenn and Cindy Ziegler, doctor of pharmacy.

Blake Raymond Schmidtberger, Lawrence, bachelor of arts/theatre and film.
‘Youthful ideals’ can stay with us forever

By the time you read this column, The University of Kansas will be abuzz with euphoria once again. Though the festivities will again converge on Memorial Stadium, the celebration won’t be focused on sports, but instead the campus will be celebrating the collective accomplishments of the various men and women who’ve earned a degree or sometimes several from KU.

Area high school students also will be donning caps and gowns to mark the end of one chapter of their lives and the commencement of another.

I love all of the ceremonies and traditions associated with commencement, but for instructors like me this can be a bittersweet time as well. It’s never easy to say goodbye to students I’ve come to know and respect over the years.

Therefore, I offer these words of advice and encouragement to all graduates. I borrow my theme from the inimitable Bob Dylan and one of my favorite Dylan songs, “Forever Young.”

Dylan begins with a simple benediction: “May God bless and keep you always,/May your wishes all come true,/May you always do for others/And let others do for you.” Though simple, these words express a profound truth of the interconnected nature of humanity. Never lose sight of the fact that you’re part of something larger than you.

Dylan continues by exhorting his listeners to follow their dreams: “May you build a ladder to the stars/And climb on every rung./May you stay forever young.” Once again, the advice seems like common sense, but it’s harder than it appears.

Paradoxically, Dylan’s suggestion might fly in the face of an audience who yearns to “grow up.” Yet, the paradox dissolves when you discover there’s no necessary contradiction between being an adult and staying “forever young.” For Dylan and for me, youth is about maintaining your sense of curiosity, wonder, whimsy and joy.

The song continues with further challenges for us to be “righteous, true, courageous and strong.” As the saying goes, this is easier said than done.

Too often adulthood seems to force us to compromise these so-called “youthful ideals” that have sustained us over time. Many adults seem to relish the opportunity to “teach you a lesson about the real world” that almost inevitably involves a challenge to some of your most precious values and beliefs. It’s as if you no longer have a choice in the matter. This is simply not true. We always have choices.

More importantly, we have the ability to change the world around us, each and every one of us.

Dylan ends the song with a hopeful vision of the future: “May you have a strong foundation./When the winds of change shift./May your heart always be joyful./May your song always be sung./May you stay forever young.” Remember that we do have the power to sing our own song, create our own future and live in the type of world where youth is celebrated rather than wasted.

Stay forever young.

Nicolas Shump is a doctoral student in American studies at The University of Kansas. He can be reached at Nico1225@sunflower.com.
He couldn’t afford cap, gown in ’49

Prairie Village engineer, 82, joins the commencement in Lawrence that he missed so many years ago.

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

Jim Ross got his engineering degree from the University of Kansas in 1949 and thought he had missed his only chance to enjoy the pomp and circumstance of graduation day.

Ross, 82, of Prairie Village, couldn’t afford a cap and gown and didn’t get to walk down Mount Oread with his class, a KU graduation-day tradition.

But second chances sometimes do come along.

On Sunday after lunch with Chancellor Robert Hemenway, Ross, a former general partner with Black & Veatch, donned a cap and gown and made the traditional walk into Memorial Stadium with the 2008 KU engineering school graduating class.

His granddaughter, Suzanne Billam, a KU nursing school graduate, walked beside him, hand in hand.

“It was a pretty emotional moment for me when I found out I would wear a cap and gown and that this was going to happen,” Ross said.

The idea for Ross to join commencement came from his granddaughter.

The Ross family’s history of KU graduates extends to 1899. All four of Ross’s children and his son-in-law are KU graduates.

Billam, however, did three years of her undergraduate studies at Kansas State University. She chose KU for nursing school, but the KU Medical Center is in Kansas City, Kan., she felt no connection to the Lawrence campus.

Ross was teasing her one day about finally getting to join the family of KU graduates and learned that Billam didn’t plan to participate in this year’s commencement ceremonies.

And he and his wife, Sylvia Ross, have a grandson attending KU now.

SEE ROSS | B5

Initially, Suzanne Billam was not going to participate in the commencement, but her grandfather, Jim Ross, tried to change her mind. “She said, ‘I will if you will,’” Ross recalled. “But I never thought anything more about it. I just thought we were teasing.”
ROSS: He attended college on the GI Bill but ran out of money

“I asked her why not,” Ross recalled. “I told her I had always wanted to do that. And that I had always wished I had.”

Ross had gone to college on the GI Bill, but his money ran out before the last semester of his senior year.

He picked berries and worked in hay fields for the money to finish school.

“In 1949, you didn’t spend money you didn’t have to,” Ross said.

“All the things you do for graduations — pictures, cap and gown — were optional expenses.”

Ross tried to persuade his granddaughter to participate in the tradition.

“She said, ‘I will if you will,’” Ross recalled.

“But I never thought anything more about it. I just thought we were teasing.”

But Billam, 23, of Overland Park, said her mother wrote to Hemenway and received permission for Ross to participate in commencement.

The granddaughter got an engineering school tassel, cap and gown from KU and wrapped them in a gift box.

She presented it to her grandfather during a family dinner last week.

“At first he was a little confused about getting a graduation card,” Billam said.

“Then he opened the box and saw the cap and gown. Tears were streaming down his face. He put the cap on and wore it the rest of the afternoon.”

To reach Mará Rose Williams, call 816-234-4419 or send e-mail to mdwilliams@kcstar.com.