May 14, 2008

KU announces more than 4,450 candidates for degrees

LAWRENCE — Several Anderson County and Franklin County students will graduate from KU next weekend.

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 beginning at 3:30 p.m.

• KU graduates from Anderson County include:
  Centerville: Sara Elizabeth Holt, daughter of James and Kathy Holt. Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics, Prairie View High School.
  Garnett: Ashli Nicole Bowman, daughter of Donna Bowman and Randy Bowman. Bachelor of Science in Education, Anderson County High School.
  Garnett: Tammy Elizabeth Faries, daughter of Terry Adams, Bachelor of Science in Education, Anderson County High School.
  Garnett: Travis Randal Lowe, son of Kenneth and Cindy Lowe, Bachelor of General Studies/Political Science, Irving High School, Irving, TX.
  Garnett: Kaleb Alan Quin, son of Allen and Peggy Quinn, Master of Architecture, Anderson County High School.
  Garnett: Sue Salazar, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Anderson County High School.
  Greeley: Janell L. Katzer, daughter of Eileen Katzer, Doctor of Pharmacy, Anderson County High School.
  Rantoul: Jeffrey Kyle Gray, son of Jeffery Gray, Bachelor of Science in Journalism (English Minor), Wellsville Junior-Senior High School.
  Ottawa: Charlie Ryan House, son of Kay Asbury, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance, Anderson County High School.

• Franklin County graduates:
  Lane: Genevieve Linville, daughter of Jan Lindsey. Bachelor of Arts/Communication Studies, Paola High School.
  Ottawa: Charlie Ryan House, son of Kay Asbury, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance, Anderson County High School.

• ACHS Graduate: Paul Robert Schreffller, Andale, son of Dorothy Schreffler. Bachelor of General Studies/Economics (History Minor), Anderson County High School.
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.

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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.
What really matters...
Kansas Teacher of the Year challenges seniors to think beyond a career

Mark Pettersen
Managing Editor

BURLINGTON — Coffey County seniors who attended a Senior Honors Banquet Wednesday night were challenged to think beyond their future career.

“You have to think beyond what you are going to do for a living and think about who you are inside,” said Jeri Powers, the 2008 Kansas Teacher of the Year. “Who am I and how am I going to live? Those are the things that really matter. Those are the things that are going to make you have a life that is fulfilling and worth living.”

Powers, a reading specialist in the DeSoto school district, has been traveling around the state speaking to college students, public school educators and administrators, and legislators regarding issues facing Kansas teachers. Wednesday night, the mother of three sons spoke to Coffey County seniors who have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average for seven semesters, and their parents, at the St. Francis Xavier Church Parish Hall.

Finishing this stage of their life, Powers said the seniors might feel anxious at times. “Thinking about your future and being more independent, it is a great time in your life,” she said.

Powers cited several work-related statistics. One out of four employees have worked for their company only a year and by age 38, the seniors will have worked an estimated 10 to 14 jobs. And, many future jobs don’t exist yet, similar to jobs in Homeland Security and nanotechnology not existing 10 years ago.

“It is okay to not be really sure what you are going to do, because you are young and you have a lot of time to change your mind and try different things,” she said.

While seniors are focusing on their future careers, Powers attempted to impress on them that what is really important is who they are as a person.

“I really challenge you to think beyond just your career,” Powers said. “What kind of person are you going to be? What do you stand for? Who are you, really, at the core?”

“Life can be really tough sometimes. Things happen that you don’t expect and things happen that are really difficult to go through. And, that is just normal,” she explained. “It is during those tough times that you are going to develop your character, your inner strength and a deeper understanding of what is important to you.”

She encouraged each senior to be the person they were created to be. “It is easy to fall into the trap of being a slave to other people’s opinions,” Powers said. “It’s easy to judge what you do based on the acceptance or the approval of those around you. That is a really sad direction to go.”

Serving others is also important, according to Powers. “If your goal in life is to do what makes you happy, to do what fulfills you, it becomes a me, me, me focus. That is a very shallow existence,” she said. “It is not about us, it is about serving others.”

Having the courage to do the right thing is also important. “Do the right thing and put others first. You won’t get an award ... but demonstrate courage in the little things because that is what defines your character,” Powers said. “It is those little decisions you make everyday to do the right thing, regardless of how you feel.

“I don’t want to minimize the importance of pursuing a career that emphasizes your talent and the gifts that God has given you,” Powers concluded. “However, what you do in your career truly isn’t as important as who you are and how you live. That is what defines you as a person and that is a true marker of a very successful life.”

The Coffey County Chamber of Commerce hosts this annual event to honor graduating seniors of Burlington, Lebo, Southern Coffey County and Waverly High Schools who have demonstrated sustained academic achievement. Various business and community sponsors help support the event.

Powers graduated from the University of Kansas in 1983 with an undergraduate degree in elementary education and received a reading specialist certification from Emporia State University and a master’s in teaching and leadership from KU in 2004.

Coffey County seniors who were invited to attend the 2008 Senior Honors Banquet were: Burlington High School – Miranda Blazek, Jessica Bluma, Joel Campbell, Joel Dale, Steely Davenport, Camille Freeman, Jeanette Freund, Matthew Gellhaus, Loren Halfmann, Allen Harkrader, Allison Holman, Ethan Jones, Kristi Kesler, Hollee Kirchner, Samantha Kuhlmann, Shanelle Langdell, Andrew Lawrence,
2008 Kansas Teacher of the Year Jeri Powers speaks to Coffey County seniors Wednesday at a Senior Honors Banquet. The annual event is sponsored by the Coffey County Chamber of Commerce.
More than 40 Coffey County seniors attended a Senior Honors Banquet Wednesday night with their parents. Seniors who were invited had to maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average for seven semesters.

Seniors

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Jessica Menard, Danielle Mingle, Lori Muilenburg, Katharyn Parker, Sarah Patton, Blair Paxson, Jennifer Purdy, Kenneth Roney, Sarah Samuelson, Megan Schmidt, William Stevens, Routh Taylor, Jessica Vander Linden, Kenneth Walker, Blake Williams, Joshua Withers; Lebo High School – Amy Bergstrom, Mitzi Eagleburger, Maria Gomez-Beitran, Blake Jones, Gage Milota, Bethany Smith, Cameron Smith, Quinten Taylor; Michael Thomas; Southern Coffey County High School – Staci Bashaw, Dane Birk, Jamie Bryan, Casie Combs, Briane Falls, Dillon Kraft, Kasha Kraft, Adam Moore, Joshua Nauertc, Elizabeth Otto, Alicia Strawder; Waverly High School – Nathan Altic, Miranda Burns, Aaron Collins, Kristina Ervin, Dakota Foster, Kale Hamm, Matthew Hevel, Jayme Hoag, Kevin Schmidt, Megan Stewart and Tiffany Tyson.
On May 1, the National Day of Prayer was once again celebrated. The ceremony was held at the State Capitol and prayers were offered for our nation, military, state government, city, churches, media, youth and families.

On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill establishing a National Day of Prayer. In 1972, the National Prayer Committee was formed for the purpose of coordinating the day’s events, a duty which it continues to fulfill today. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law declaring the National Day of Prayer should be held the first Thursday in May.

As the veto session enters full swing, it is worth noting that a veto override attempt must be presented first in the chamber in which the bill originated.

On Thursday, May 1, SB 148, the second bill concerning the construction of coal-fired power plants in Holcomb failed to achieve the two-thirds majority in the House necessary to override the governor’s veto. The House voted 80-45 short of the necessary majority. CARA would have prohibited coercing a woman into having an abortion, as well as providing the opportunity for the woman to have an ultrasound prior to an abortion.

Also this week, on Friday, May 2, the University of Kansas football, basketball and debate teams were honored in the Senate. The 2007-2008 University of Kansas football team won the Orange Bowl this year, while the basketball team secured the NCAA basketball championship. The University of Kansas debate team was also recognized for achieving first place at the national championship for the second time in three years, defeating second place Emory University and third place Harvard.

It is a rarity that any one college should achieve three such prestigious titles in the same year, and as such, I am honored to have had the privilege to congratulate the University of Kansas. It is a rarity that any one college should achieve three such prestigious titles in the same year, and as such, I am honored to have had the privilege to congratulate the University of Kansas on these remarkable accomplishments.

I hope you have enjoyed this edition of The Pyle File. Thank you for giving me the privilege of serving you in Topeka. Please feel free to contact my office on these or any other issues. You can reach me at: Senator Dennis Pyle, State Capitol, Rm. 120 S, Topeka, KS 66612, 785-296-7379 or pyle@senate.state.ks.us.
The University of Kansas has announced the names of 4,500 candidates for degrees this spring, including:

From Hiawatha — Blake Georgepaul Barrett, son of Gene and Kathryn Barrett, Bachelor of General Studies/Psychology and Bachelor of General Studies/Sociology; Todd A. Barrett, son of John Barrett and Marcia Barrett, Doctor of Medicine.


Robinson — Clarence Wayne Hall, son of Shiela Erdley, Bachelor of Arts/Psychology

Horton — Whitney Nicole Ryan, daughter of James and Lois Ryan, Bachelor of Science in Education.

Highland — Angela Kay Stewart, daughter of Diane Stewart, Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Sabetha — Anna Elizabeth Aberle, daughter of Michael and Kelly Aberle, Bachelor of Arts/Economics; Tyler Wayne Cook, son of Gale and Kendra Cook, Bachelor of Science in Journalism; Bradley David Girton, son of Kelly and Elaine Girton, Bachelor of Science in Education; Rachel Sue Huber, daughter of Marcia Huber and Robert Huber, Master of Occupational Therapy; Samantha Jo Remmers, daughter of David and Cindy Remmers, Bachelor of General Studies/Psychology; Erin Oneill Ross, daughter of Allan Ross, Bachelor of Fine Arts/History of Art; Tyler Marcus Simpson, son of William Simpson, Bachelor of Music/Voice.

Graduation ceremonies are Sunday, May 18.

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KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year. This will be the university’s 136th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium.
Local KU graduates announced

LAWRENCE — Seven Jackson County students are among the more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring.

These students and others will gather Sunday, 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.

Jackson County students to graduate from KU include, by community:

- **Holton**: Travis Eugene Devader, doctor of medicine; Christine Lynn McNicholas, bachelor of general studies/communication studies; and Johnathan Frank Schlodder, doctor of pharmacy.
- **Hoyt**: Mariel Elaine Metzenthin, bachelor of arts/applied behavioral science.
- **Mayetta**: Olivia M Pewamo, master of arts/indigenous nations studies.
- **Netawaka**: Whitney P Bachamp, bachelor of science in journalism; and Kristen Nicole McKee, bachelor of science in occupational studies.

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Humboldt High School’s journalism students who received first place at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association’s state competition May 3 at the University of Kansas in Lawrence are, front row from left, Bailey Myers, Alexis Hosack, Michelle Sollars and Haley Huffman; and back row, Kassidy Young, Karna Carlson, Sarah Works, Shelby Novotny, Bethany Wolverton and Kim Isbell. Not pictured are Emily Hauser and Megan Dillow.

Journalists take state title

HUMBLEDLT — Humboldt High School’s journalism students won first place at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association’s State competition May 3 at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Eleven HHS students competed in 18 categories. The students placed at regional competition in February to qualify.

Winning an award at the opening ceremony of the competition was the Cub Tracks newspaper. It was one of three 3A high school newspaper staffs in the state to earn All-Kansas honors.

Those who placed individually were:
- Karna Carlson, senior, theme development, second place;
- Emily Hauser, senior, sports photography, honorable mention;
- Alexis Hosack, sophomore, theme development, honorable mention;
- Haley Huffman, senior, editorial cartoon, news writing and newspaper design, honorable mention;
- Bailey Myers, junior, feature writing and newspaper sports writing, second place;
- Bethany Wolverton, senior, feature photography, second place, cutline writing, third place, and editorial cartoon, honorable mention;
- Sarah Works, senior, theme development, second place; and
- Kassidy Young, sophomore, theme development and yearbook sports writing, honorable mention.

“I am very proud of our journalism students. They have worked very hard this year to earn this honor, and it has paid off,” said Kim Isbell, journalism adviser.
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Candidates are also listed online by home county, state or country, degree, major, level in school, gender, parents’ names and high school (when available) at www.news.ku.edu/2008/may/8/gradspring08.shtml

Of 105 Kansas counties, 95 are represented.

The following are candidates for degrees from the local area:

Mound City - Shawn M. Shroyer, son of Susan Shroyer, News and Information B.S., Senior, Bachelor of Science in Journalism, Jayhawk-Linn High School, Mound City

Parker - Lawrence A. Raitinger, son of Lawrence and Lynna Raitinger, Civil Engineering, B.S., Senior, Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Prairie View High School, La Cygne
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Graduates from Edwards County are Janet Marie Finger and Adam Nicholas Keehauch. Finger of Belpre, majored in Pharmacy and will be awarded Doctor of Pharmacy. She is Lewis High School graduate. Keehauch, son of Mark Keehauch and Kathy Keehauch, both of Kinsley, will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts/Communication Studies. He is graduate of Kinsley High School.
Young and Rowden graduate

KU's Class of 2008 numbers more than 7,000, including 2,555 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2007.

Paula Marie Rowden of Hugoton will graduate with a Masters of Public Health.

Graham Tolman Young, son of Cass and Robyn Young, will graduate with a Senior Bachelor in Theatre and Film. Graham is a graduate of Hugoton High School.

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