KU pharmacy students provide free flu shots to Greensburg-area

University of Kansas pharmacy students traveled to south-central Kansas on Oct. 11 to provide free flu shots to Greensburg-area residents.

Since a tornado destroyed most of that Kiowa County community on May 4, 2007, residents in the area have been without a local pharmacy. Members of KU’s chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists have been fund-raising this semester to conduct Operation Immunization: Greensburg, a one-day event providing about 400 doses of flu vaccine.

The pharmacy student group annually conducts Operation Immunization on campus. This year, Neil Young of Erie and Laura Mazur of Wichita, both fourth-year pharmacy students, suggested adding an immunization event to assist a Kansas community in need.

Young, a fourth-year pharmacy student, is the son of Frank and Sharon Young and is a graduate of Erie High School, and he is co-chair for Operation Immunization.

Young had traveled through Greensburg after the 2007 tornado destroyed the community that had been home to about 1,400 people. When he and other students learned that Kiowa County was one of the six counties in Kansas with no community pharmacy, they proposed the Greensburg project. KU Pharmacy Dean Ken Audus endorsed their plan and provided some initial funding.

To raise the $4,000 needed for the Greensburg project, the student pharmacists cleaned Memorial Stadium after home football games, sold T-shirts and textbooks, and requested donations from Kansas pharmacists. The group has about 250 members.

Young and Mazur worked with Mitzi Hesser, director of the Kiowa County Health Department, to coordinate and direct Operation Immunization: Greensburg.

In addition, Kiowa County Memorial Hospital in Greensburg; two area pharmacies, Kinsley Drug in Kinsley and Main Street Pharmacy in Coldwater; and KU School of Pharmacy faculty provided professional and clinical support for the 19 advanced pharmacy students who traveled to Greensburg.
Students join KU sororities this fall

More than 600 women joined sororities at the University of Kansas this fall. This includes Troy’s Christi

na Veune Ivey, daughter of Scarlett Ivey, and D-West’s Stephanie Marie Schneider, daughter of Ron and Mary Schneider.
BHS seniors honored at KU for academics

BY ANDY WOODS
BHS CORRESPONDENT

On Sept. 24, 11 BHS seniors were recognized by the Kansas University Alumni and Endowment associations for their academic achievements. There were 232 seniors from the Lawrence area acknowledged by the Kansas Honors Program at the Lied Center.

BHS recipients of the award were Colin Busby, Ashlyn Cole, Calleigh Durr, Brianna Krysztof, Clare Miles, Alyssa Peterson, Anna Richards, Shannon Roberts, Malissa Sansom, Marianne Sansom and James Simmons. The students qualified by being in the top 10 percent of their class academically.

“The program was well put together,” Durr said. “I was glad to be invited.”

Recipients received an American Heritage Dictionary and are eligible for a scholarship at KU next year.

“This is a group of hard-working kids that are really committed to doing their best in academics,” counselor Natalie Schmidt-Konkel said.
There’s ‘always tomorrow’ in Bolivia for Geuda-trainee

(Editor’s note: The following was written by Cindy Ann Oursler, a Peace Corp volunteer from Geuda Springs. Oursler recently was sent to Bolivia as a trainee. She returned home due to diplomatic conflicts between the United States and Bolivia, and is now in Ecuador. This column describes her first days in Bolivia. Oursler, 25, graduated from South Haven High School in 2001, Cowley College in 2003 and the University of Kansas in 2006.)

I still call a charming, white house near Geuda Springs my home, and Ark City, my hometown, but I probably won’t see either for two years.

I am a Peace Corps trainee, soon to be swearing in as a volunteer, in Bolivia. My site will be Chilon in Santa Cruz. We visited the pueblo during tech week and I am excited to report that the people are very nice. I will probably be working with a Mother’s Club.

I’m visiting Chilon all this next week. I have been taking language, safety, medical, agricultural, apicultural and product transformation training in Cochabamba to prepare for two years on my own.

Language training takes up a tremendous amount of time, but I’m so glad for it. I love speaking a new language.

Instead of losing my family — the safe and familiar — I have gained another. I have two more little sisters and a little brother (He’s 19, so not much littler), and some older parental types. But they feel more like older siblings than parents.

La Cancha is a huge part-outdoor, part-indoor marketplace, where you can buy just about anything you ever wanted, except Tropical Splash Trident and decent dark chocolate. (I’m afraid my youngest host sister, who loves chocolate, has no idea what really good chocolate tastes like. I intend to change that.)

My first week, I bought a new sombrero because my host mom insisted on it.

“Your cheeks are going to be red!” she said.

My sisters are 18 and 13, and thankfully, armed with much patience. None of the family speak English, but they are good at making words easy enough for me to understand.

We joke around a lot and dance, too. The older brother finished his one-year term with the army, and there was a big celebration, a “discoteca” of sorts, at their house.

When I first arrived, it was Carneval season, and a Curso de Cursos was in town, which is basically a huge parade with an abundance of traditional dances.

However, this also meant more water. It’s tradition for the kids to throw water balloons, buckets of water and to spray foam at others at that time of the year — a way to sin as much as you can before Lent season. And being a

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before Lent season. And being a “gringita” is a sure target! I found out this much when my sisters and I went out for the fun of it with water balloons one day. A man wouldn’t let me pass, and before I knew it – a bucket full of water!

I was lucky... sometimes the water is dirty.

On my sister’s birthday, we ate similar to what I might have had in the states on a hot summer day: beef, potatoes, corn on the cob (they have super-sized corn here called “choclo”) and veggies.

My host dad grilled the food as my dad would have in the states, and even the cats tried to jump on the table!

The food here consists of an ample amount of potatoes and few veggies and fruits, generally. Our garden is going to be a bountiful one, I hear and see. We have tomatoes, lettuce, parsley, basil, cilantro, pumpkins, radish, spinach, cauliflower, onions and green peppers.

Thanks to some wonderful American friends, my business group was given recipes for breads. My group made zucchini and banana breads to sell to other volunteers and Bolivian families.

This provided some practice for some of us who might start new businesses in the transformation of products. We chose bread because Bolivians do like bread, and they do need the nutrients that veggies and fruits from these breads provide.

I’ve been reading a little about nutrition in Bolivia, and from what I can gather and from what I’ve experienced and seen, Bolivians need more minerals, vitamins and water in their diets, and this might be a small way to accomplish this, if only for a few people for a little while.

My current stop, Cochabamba, is strange. Dogs and birds and music heard at all times of the night, traffic is terrible, you aren’t able to drink the water from the faucets without first boiling and filtering it. You have to throw your toilet paper in a trashcan instead of the toilet, showers are often hot for two minutes and no more, there is trash everywhere (including the BEAUTIFUL “caminos”).

Carb overload all the time.

You can’t rent books from the
library, to name a few. The people, in general, are sweet. I couldn't have asked for a better host family. And there are always many things to marvel over.

One must always practice patience here, whether waiting for food, waiting for a meeting to start, or for a party to begin. This is the world of "siempre mañana," which means "we always have tomorrow, so let's have fun today."

I can't disagree with this, but it also becomes terribly inefficient at times.

Oh, and for those who would like to know, the time here is the same as current eastern savings time and will never change.

Peace,
Cindy Oursler

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." — 2 Corinthians 1:4
Snapshots

(l-r) Eric Green, Katherine Ward, Hannah Hendricks and Jacob Hadley were among the 105 first year Pharmacy students, Class of 2012, to attend the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy Professionalism Convocation. The convocation was held at the KU campus on Sept. 24.
The University of Kansas debate team opened the 2008-09 season by winning 10 individual and team trophies at events hosted by Georgia State University and the University of Northern Iowa.

At Georgia State, KU senior Brett Bricker, Wichita, took first place. Christopher Stone, Derby, placed 11th. Bricker teamed with Nate Johnson, Manhattan senior, also took 10 consecutive wins at the event, and the team of Stone and Mathew Petersen, Wichita sophomore, won six debates.

Dylan Quigley, Wichita junior, and Sean Kennedy, Leawood sophomore, went 4-4 at the tournament.

In junior varsity competition at the Northern Iowa tournament, the team of Alyssa Kennedy, Lee's Summit, Mo., freshman, and Kai Davis, Wichita freshman, placed second.
College presents KU Dole Institute election series

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School will broadcast the University of Kansas Dole Institute election series at 1801 N. Kansas.

The Final Debate: What do the Undecideds Think? featuring Mary Banwart will be broadcast at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday in the Student Activities Center, Room SW229C/D.

The Dole Institute will show the televised presidential debate. Mary Banwart, associate professor of communication studies, then will discuss key points and reactions to debate moments with the undecided focus group.

Media Coverage of Campaign 2008: Magic or Misguided, featuring Chuck DeFeo and Terry Michael, will be broadcast at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22, in the Student Activities Center, W229C/D.

Guests include Chuck DeFeo and Terry Michael. DeFeo is the site manager for Townhall.com, a Web publication that publishes political opinion columns daily as well as Associated Press news stories. Michael is the executive director for the Washington Center for Politics and Journalism and formerly was press secretary for the Democratic National Committee.

All programs are free and open to the public.
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Meier receives KU scholarship

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas Office of Admissions and Scholarships has announced the 138 students who have received prestigious Summerfield and Watkins-Berger scholarships for fall 2008.

Kristen Marie Meier daughter of Mike and Roberta Meier, Beloit received a Watkins-Berger scholarship. She is a graduate of Beloit High School with a Biology major.

The scholarships provide $4,500 per year for four years to each student. About 40 more students received the scholarships this year than in previous years.

"Since KU has experienced its largest freshmen class ever, we also saw enrollment increased in this group of student-scholars," said Gail Sherron, associate director of admissions and scholarships. "We are pleased that so many of Kansas' most talented students selected KU as their college of choice."

All Summerfield and Watkins-Berger scholarship recipients will be recognized as part of Scholars Day on Nov. 15 at halftime of the KU-Texas football game in Memorial Stadium.

The scholarships are awarded to top students graduating from Kansas high schools in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements, records of community service and leadership.

KU Endowment administers the scholarship funds and the Office of Admissions and Scholarships coordinates the review and awarding process. The Chancellor’s Honor Scholarship Committee selects the recipients.

Watkins-Berger scholarships for women are financed by the estate of philanthropist Elizabeth M. Watkins of Lawrence and an endowment in memory of Emily Berger by her younger brother, the late Arthur Berger, and his wife, Marie, Emily Berger, who received a bachelor’s from KU in 1914, died in 1920 before receiving a master’s in chemistry. What became the Watkins-Berger scholarships were first established by the Bergers in 1943.

To be eligible for the scholarships, high school seniors need a cumulative unweighted 3.5 grade-point average and an ACT score of 31 or higher or SAT of 1360 in math and critical reading. Starting in fall 2009, students will need to have a 3.65 unweighted GPA.