KU announces fall scholars

Rebekah G. Lewis, daughter of James and Teresa Lewis, and Nicholas James Hoffmann, son of William and Michele Hoffmann, are among 138 students who KU has awarded its most prestigious scholarships, the Summerfield and the Watkins-Berger. These awards are given to students from 75 Kansas high schools in 31 counties.

Rebeka, a Maize High School graduate is a basic studies freshman.

Nicholas, a Maize High School graduate is a Chemical Engineering BS Sophomore.
KU announces fall scholars

Adam J. Strunk, son of John and Ruth Strunk, is among 138 students who KU has awarded its most prestigious scholarships, the Summerfield and the Watkins-Berger. These awards are given to students from 75 Kansas high schools in 31 counties.

Adam, a Political Science BA Freshman is a graduate from Andale High School.
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.

Media Coverage of Campaign 2008: Magic or Misguided, featuring Chuck DeFeo and Terry Michael, will be broadcast at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday 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.

The program is free and open to the public.
Pratt High grad PRMC's first doctor of pharmacy

Pratt Regional Medical Center's newest pharmacist Megan Olson is also PRMC's first pharmacist to complete the new Doctor of Pharmacy Degree program, which is now required for students pursuing a degree in pharmacy.

Megan is a 2002 graduate of Pratt High School, and a 2008 graduate of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. Of course, Megan says she enjoys watching KU football and basketball games! “Rock Chalk Jayhawks!”

“Doug Meyer, our Director of Pharmacy, identified Megan early in her KU training as a “star” we needed to work with to insure her returning home,” PRMC President and CEO Susan Page said. “He was right and we are so fortunate to have Megan now full time at PRMC.”

Megan says she chose to return to her hometown and work for PRMC because “I wanted to work in a smaller community which provides me with a variety of opportunities. PRMC provides an environment that allows me to work with patients in all aspects of their care.”

April 7th was Megan’s first day as a full-time pharmacist for PRMC, but she was not a stranger. She spent summers and Christmas breaks interning in the PRMC pharmacy beginning in 2005.

Megan is a member of the Kansas Pharmacists Association, the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Rho Chi-Pharmacy Honor Society.

Dolbee new vice president

Pratt Regional Medical Center is proud to announce Hilary Dolbee as the new Vice President of Fiscal Services. Not only did PRMC choose Hilary, but Hilary chose PRMC, “I wanted to work for a company that has such high standards. PRMC’s Simply the Best Standards of Performance were developed by the employees for the employees.”

Dolbee is originally from the Wichita KS area. She attended high school in Towanda at Circle High, and graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with majors in Financial Management, Accounting and Financial Services and then received her Masters of Business Administration from Baker University in 2001.

Dolbee is a member, board member and programs committee co-chair of the Healthcare Financial Management Association – Sunflower (Kansas) Chapter. She has also been involved in the economic development association of Marion, KS and was a member of the board for the Marion County Big Brothers Big Sisters chapter.

Her hobbies include “throwing pottery on the wheel, fixing up my house, hanging out with family, friends and my two cats.”

Dolbee has been with PRMC since June and says, “I like being here. Everyone has been very nice and welcoming. I encourage anyone with any questions or issues or just some extra time on their hands to stop by and see me!”
On Saturday, September 20th, the Anderson County High School Band traveled to the University of Kansas to participate in the 61st annual K.U. Band Day.

The band performed in the parade on Massachusetts Street along with the Dance Team, which is directed by Eileen Burns.

The ACHS Band combined with approximately 45 other bands to form a mass band that performed at the halftime with the KU Marching Jayhawks for a crowd of 50,000+. The bands performed, "I'm a Jayhawk", "Salute to America's Finest", "Patriotic Spectacular", "America on Parade", and "Patriotic Finale".

"We had a great day and the kids had a lot of fun. The atmosphere at the stadium was awesome! I was especially pleased with the crowd's support of the band at the parade. It's really neat to see the band member's faces light up when they hear the crowd clapping and cheering for them. It makes them feel like their hard work and effort paid off and they are appreciated," said band director Jeff Russell. "I also want to thank Cleon Rickel for going along and for taking the photos you see in the newspaper; and the parents who donated bottled water; and other supplies for the trip."

The band is led by head Drum Major Cynthia Brown, and Assistant Drum Major Debbie Coltrane.
Local students among more than 600 women to join KU sororities

The University of Kansas Panhellenic Association has announced that 611 women joined sororities at KU through the fall formal recruitment process.

The number represents an increase from fall formal recruitment last year, when 567 women joined KU sororities. All 13 of the Panhellenic Association’s sororities added new members. Membership bids were extended to women who completed the nine-day recruitment process.

"With the largest freshman class in KU history, we were hoping for a large increase in enrollment for Panhellenic recruitment," Drazen said.

“In addition to the high enrollment numbers, there was a large change in the structure of formal recruitment that included moving the process a day earlier and not having events during the first two days of classes,” Drazen said.

Local students joining KU Sororities include:
Katelyn Jo Strube of Claflin. She is the daughter of Kurt and Patricia Strube and is majoring in Pre-Nursing as a Freshman. Joining the Kappa Delta she is a graduate of Claflin High School, Claflin, KS.

Abby Elizabeth Thill of Ellinwood. She is the daughter of Mike and Ginger Thill and is majoring in Pre-Journalism as a Freshman. Joining the Gamma Phi Beta, she is a graduate of Ellinwood High School, Ellinwood, KS.
Facility named after local donors

During a special women's health event Tuesday, Freeman Health System and Freeman Foundation announced a significant gift for women's health initiatives from Wes and Jan Houser.

"The Houser's gift will allow Freeman to centralize women's diagnostic care with physician offices in a contemporary facility designed to provide innovative services for women," said Freeman Health System President and CEO Gary Duncan.

In appreciation of this gift, the Freeman Women's Pavilion will be renamed the Wes & Jan Houser Freeman Women's Pavilion.

The Houser's donation is the leading gift toward the Freeman Foundation Women's Fund goal of $3 million.

Jan was born and raised in Columbus and a graduate of Cherokee County High School. Upon graduating from the University of Kansas, she lived and worked in Kansas City for many years before moving back to Columbus. In her late 40s Jan went back to school and earned her nursing degree at age 50. Jan is a 34-year cancer survivor, a title that has forever changed her. "Having cancer made me realize the importance of health screening and taking care of yourself. I feel very fortunate in my life today," said Jan. "With this gift, if I can help one person enjoy life as much as I have, it will be worth it."

Born in Carthage, Missouri, and raised in Columbus, Wes graduated from Cherokee County Rural High School, with the class of 1959 and Kansas State and went to work for Commerce Bank in Kansas City.

He later moved to Joplin and served as President of Commerce Bank of Joplin. During his time in Joplin, he served on the Freeman Health System Board of Directors from 1979 to 1989, and as Chairman from 1982 to 1984. In 1979, he returned to Columbus to serve as President of Columbus State Bank where he remained until the bank was acquired by Commerce in 1999. Wes continued to work part time in banking until his retirement in 2006.

The Housters met in Columbus and have been married for 13 years. Wes and Jan each have two children and five grandchildren between them. Now retired, they enjoy time with their grandchildren, working in the yard, riding bicycles, traveling, and hiking.

Wes Houser always felt strongly about Freeman Health System and its work in Joplin. After a 2005 bypass operation at Freeman, Wes expressed personal gratitude for the excellent care. "I want that same excellent care to be available for someone else when they need it," said Wes. "We are very happy to give a gift to Freeman to continue the improvements in healthcare for the people in this community."
Area student proctor at KU scholarship hall

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas Department of Student Housing has named its 2008-09 student leaders, including resident assistants for KU’s eight residence halls, proctors and food board managers for 12 scholarship halls and top officers for the five university housing organizations.

“We are grateful to these student for their outstanding leadership,” said Diana Robertson, director of the Department of Student Housing.

For the 145 students chosen as live-in resident assistants, proctors, desk managers and food board managers, duties include serving as role models, handling administrative and programming duties and performing paraprofessional advisory functions for residents. Food board managers also coordinate menu planning and food purchasing for their assigned halls.

About 5,000 people live in KU student housing facilities, Robertson said. The top 1 percent of these students, based on community leadership, are eligible for membership in the KU chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary.

Stevi Ranae Ballard, daughter of Stephen and Gayle Ballard, Erie, is the proctor at Watkins Scholarship Hall.
Erie Pharmacy student helps organize free flu shots in Greensburg

LAWRENCE — 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 fundraising 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 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 Audas 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.

Vaccinations were given by injection. Kansas allows licensed pharmacists to administer injections for clients age 18 or older and allows trained pharmacy students to do so under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist. Each of the 19 student pharmacists had learned to give injections during their first year in pharmacy school.

As a registered nurse, Hesser administered injections to patients under age 18.

The students were supervised by area pharmacists Bob Eustace of Kinsley and Lisa Gales of Coldwater and three KU pharmacy faculty members: Robert L. Emerson, director of experiential education; Janelle Rusinger, clinical assistant professor in pharmacy practice; and Barbara Woods, director of postgraduate pharmacy education.

Eustace and Gales are also preceptors for KU’s School of Pharmacy experiential training program, and Eustace is the Kiowa County Memorial Hospital pharmacist.

Greensburg’s 5.4.7 Arts Center was the location for Operation Immunization: Greensburg. The center was designed and built last spring by KU architecture students.

Young, a fourth-year pharmacy student, is the son of Frank and Sharon Young, Erie.

Also participating was Brian Lewis Schuessler, fifth-year pharmacy student, son of Jim and Judy Schuessler, Neodesha.
Department of Labor Secretary to address SEK, Inc. in Garnett

GARNETT — The Manufacturers' Forum of Southeast Kansas, Inc. will host its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 11:30 a.m. at the Garnett Public Library (west entrance) 125 W. 4th Avenue. Cost for the lunch is $10 for SEK, Inc. members, $20 for non-members.

Secretary Garner will discuss work he has recently completed which compiles Labor Market Information on Southeast Kansas. The presentation will cover unemployment/employment trends; population and commuting data; industry profiles for the region, and job vacancy and occupation projections for the region.

Garner was born in 1963 in Coffeyville, where he graduated from Field Kindley High School and Coffeyville Community College. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in history from the University of Kansas and a Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas School of Law. Following law school, Garner served a two-year appointment as a research attorney for U.S. District Judge Dale E. Saffels. He then returned to Coffeyville, where he has had a private practice since 1990.

Garner served six terms in the Kansas House of Representatives. On Jan. 7, 2003, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius announced her selection of Garner to serve as Acting Secretary of the Kansas Department of Labor, and on March 28 the governor selected Garner to serve as Secretary of Labor. To make a reservation for this meeting, contact Kathy Swezey at (620)249-5606 or email kathys@sekinc.org by Oct. 24.