Students from 10 Kansas high schools will be honored Thursday, September 18, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment. Students from high schools in Ellis, Rooks, Russell and Trego counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a dinner program at Hays High School.

Among the students being honored from Trego County are: Eric Cunningham, Olivia Fabrizius, Casey Flax, Teran Frick and Scott Pfannenstiel.

T&T

The Trego County Health Department will be administering flu shots on October 13, 2008 at the high school from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm. If you would like a flu shot this year, please plan on getting one this day. No appointment will be necessary.
Early doctors left their mark on Gardner

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The early doctors of Gardner were what some would call “country doctors,” who would make house calls to many of their farming community patients.

The phrase, “Call for the doctor!” was coined at that time.

The more modern phrase is, “You need to go see a doctor.”

Country doctors sometimes had offices, but more commonly saw patients in their homes. They would travel often, sometimes in the middle of the night, with their black doctor duffel bag in hand.

Home remedies were often used.

“Samples” from pharmaceutical companies were unheard of.

Common items doctors carried in their bags were a stethoscope, an ophthalmoscope (to inspect the ear canal), a blood pressure cuff, a needle, a scalpel, a tourniquet, stitches, scissors, bandages, antiseptic, and painkillers.

Gardner’s first doctor was Woodman M. Shean in 1857. He served Gardner for 31 years.

Shean came from Maine. He grew up on a farm and taught school for 12 years, while studying medicine on the side.

He eventually received news that the Shawnee lands of Kansas were opened up for settlement.

Shean traveled to Kansas in 1857 and claimed a quarter-acre of land two miles south of Gardner. His family arrived the following summer.

During the Confederate raids of the Civil War, Shean was sought by Quantrell the night before the Lawrence Massacre.

Shean and eldest son, Chandler, escaped through their back door and hid in a field behind their barn, while Shean’s youngest son, Ed, and wife gave directions to Lawrence.

Ancestors of Shean still living in Gardner are the Laquet and the West families.

The second doctor, John B. Armstrong came to Gardner on horseback in 1868 after graduating from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Keokuk, Iowa.

Before Gardner, Armstrong served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

He was wounded at Shiloh Plantation and Kennesaw Mountain in Georgia before marching to Washington.

Armstrong was honorably discharged as a corporal at Louisville, Ky., in July, 1865. Armstrong marched approximately 7,000 miles with his regiment, the 6th Iowa, and fought in 27 battles.

Armstrong was the treasurer for the first Gardner City Council.

He served Gardner for 59 years. He spent his final 15 years in retirement after going blind.

Armstrong was the grandfather of Virginia Johnson, Gardner historian.

Armstrong partnered with James Henry Coleman in 1844 after Coleman graduating medical college from Columbus, Ohio.

Coleman was 17 and the oldest of eight children when his father died. He taught school for several years before he graduated from college.

Coleman was the first city clerk for the Gardner City Council.

He died prematurely at 38. The cause of death is unknown.

In 1872, Woodman Shean’s son, Chandler, became a doctor and was his father’s partner in Gardner, after graduating from Washington Medical College in St. Louis.

Chandler Shean was one of Baker University’s first students in Baldwin City when he started his college education.

Chandler and his brother, Ed, owned and operated a drug store where the Downtowner Café is currently located.

Chandler’s home was the three-story white farmhouse located on Gardner Road behind the Shell gas station at Interstate 35.

Wilbert A. Uhl was born on his parent’s farm outside of Gardner.

He attended medical school at the University of Michigan, then returned
to Gardner where he started practicing in 1893. He moved his office to Baldwin City in 1900 because he had a son enrolled at Baker University.

Rawlings C. Fear practiced in Gardner for 35 years starting in 1895, after attending William Jewel and St. Louis Medical Colleges.

He drove to his office on the second floor of Farmer's Bank in his 1911 Maxwell Roadster.

He is also known for spending one summer in Minnesota to relieve his hay fever.

William C. Harkey, also a native of Gardner, was born and raised on his parent's farm southeast of town.

He was a teacher before graduating from the University Medical College in Kansas City.

Harkey began his practice in 1900 in the back room of a jewelry store where Wardrobe Cleaners is now located.

Harkey's house, located at 224 E. Main St., is on the Kansas Register of Historical Places.

Oda T. Leftwich started practicing with Harkey in 1907.

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Early doctors left their mark on...

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Leftwich was from St. Joseph, and graduated from Ensworth Medical College.

Leftwich eventually took over Harkey’s practice and served Gardner until 1912 when he decided to become an ear, nose, and throat specialist and moved to New York for further schooling.

He eventually settled in Oakland, Calif.

John R. Crawford was a Kentucky native who graduated from Marion-Simms Medical School in St. Louis.

He practiced in Gardner from 1911 to 1914, when world war was declared.

Crawford served as a medical officer in the U.S. Army during World War I.

After the war, in 1920 he returned to his family in Gardner and continued his practice until 1922.

A. W. Divilbiss grew up in Maryland and graduated from Keokuk College in Iowa. He was in Indian Territory in Oklahoma before coming to Gardner in 1914 to fill in for Crawford until 1920.

He then practiced in California, before returning to Kansas and retiring.

Roy D. Grayson graduated medical school from the University of Kansas. He started practicing in Gardner in 1922.

On the day Grayson and his wife moved to Gardner, his car broke down three miles east of town and had to be towed in.

That night, an elevator burned a block away from Grayson’s rented house, and the following morning his wife’s dress caught on fire preparing breakfast.

He is quoted as saying, “I practiced in Gardner in the days of dirt roads when you drove as far as you could, and walked the rest.”

Grayson moved to Olathe and then to Overland Park.

His wife, Irene, was a registered nurse.

“Looking back it seems now, the happier days of my life as a physician were spent at Gardner,” he said.

Adelbert S. Reece served Gardner from 1930 until his death in April of 1980.

Reece also had his office on the second floor of Farmers Bank at one time and was responsible for establishing Gardner’s first Hospital in 1933. Reece served in the Army for two years during World War II.

In 1961, Reece sold shares and built a larger Gardner Hospital, now Meadow Brook Rehabilitation Hospital.

Turner W. Reid, a graduate of the Kansas City School of Medicine, was from Slater, Mo.

Reid had a practice in Wellsville, before coming to Gardner in 1933.

His office was located on the second floor of Farmers Bank before he built a bungalow office east of present day Patriots Bank.

While Reece was serving two years in WWII, Reid operated the Reece Hospital on the corner of Elm and Shawnee streets.

Reid tragically died in a car wreck in 1949 while returning from a house call in the country.

In 1951, a room in the Reece hospital was furnished by patients and friends as a memorial to him.

After being Osawatomie for eight years, Walter E. McKinley moved to Gardner in 1945 to semi-retire, and eventually took over Reid’s office.

Gardner has grown in population since its early doctors, and the list of practices and doctors now is numerous.

More recent doctors since have included A. S. Reece’s children, A. T. Reece and Carol A. Reece.

KU grads

LAWRENCE — More than 900 students received degrees from the University of Kansas after the 2008 summer session, Registrar Cindy Derritt announced.

Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these graduates will return as members of the Class of 2009 to take part in commencement exercises May 17.

Graduates from this area include:

Erie — Levi J. Gahman, master of arts in geography; and Mackenzie J. Maxson, daughter of Mark and Kathy Clevenger, master of science in nursing.

McCune — Zachary L. Cooper, master of arts in geography.

Parsons — Annette L. Edmisten, bachelor of science in cytotechnology; Charlene C. Lava, daughter of Dr. Chirund and Prasertsri Lava, internal medicine professional I certificate; and Lisa A. Moore, daughter of Kevin and Marie Moore, bachelor of fine arts in design.
University presidents get raise

TOPEKA — Presidents of the state’s six universities will receive 2.5 percent pay increases, which the Board of Regents approved Thursday.

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway remains the highest paid, with a new state salary of $267,177. He also can receive additional privately funded compensation. The regents capped his total earnings at $340,352.

The new state salaries and compensation caps for the other presidents:
- John Wefald, Kansas State University, $255,298 salary, $315,962 cap.
- Don Beggs, Wichita State, $223,391 and $277,160.
- Ed Hammond, Fort Hays State, $202,593 and $223,860.
- Tom Bryant, Pittsburg State, $202,593 and $223,860.
- Mike Lane, Emporia State, $202,540 and $213,200.
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