Students graduate from University of Kansas

Times News Report
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Several area students graduated from the University of Kansas in the Fall 2009 semester.

Among the candidates for graduation were:
- Jennifer Mackay of Douglass, daughter of Marvin and Terri Mackay, who received a bachelor of fine arts degree;
- Ashton Martin of El Dorado, son of Jeff Myers, who earned a bachelor of arts degree in environmental studies;
- Heidi Mehl of El Dorado, daughter of Jerry and Jeanne Mehl, who earned a master of arts degree in indigenous nations studies; and
- Blake Entz of Whitewater, son of Harris and Verona Entz, who earned a bachelor of general studies degree in history.

Graduate and undergraduate degrees are conferred in December based on work completed during the fall semester. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many students graduating in the fall or summer terms will return for the traditional walk down the hill and into Memorial Stadium on May 17.
Local student graduates LeaderShape Institute

Justin Sailer a junior from El Dorado was among the 62 University of Kansas students who graduated from the 2009 LeaderShape Institute, sponsored and coordinated annually by the Student Involvement and Leadership Center.

The six-day intensive program to develop leadership abilities was held Jan. 8 through 13 at the Tall Oaks Conference Center near Linwood.

"This was the 12th anniversary of LeaderShape, which means we have just over 700 Jayhawks who have graduated through KU LeaderShape and 60 colleagues who have volunteered to be cluster facilitators," said Rueben Perez, director of the Student Involvement and Leadership Center and one of the lead facilitators for the institute.

KU has sponsored the LeaderShape Institute since 1998.

During training, KU students work in groups to create ideas for projects, then refine goals, plans and implementation strategies to accomplish those ideas within their own organization, living group, community or workplace. They learn about leadership styles and work through simulations of situations they could face.

Sailer is the son of Annette Sailer and graduated from El Dorado High School. He is majoring in strategic communications.
Area students earn distinction at KU

Eleven Independence students and eight Coffeyville students were among more than 4,600 undergraduates at the University of Kansas who earned honor roll distinction for the fall semester.

Independence students listed were Liane Eisenbart, Navreet Grewal, Dean Hayse, Bret Kelley, Rebecca Knox, Chelsea Laswell, Sabrina Long, Derek Meier, Benjamin Mitchell, Sumere Smith and Spencer White.

Coffeyville students listed were Katherine Caulkins, Lisa Cheng, John DeVore, Stephanie Irwin, Kerry Lee, Mike Shelton, Jeffrey Stevenson and Pekkei Wong.

Sarah Griffin, of Cherryvale, and Kelsey Lackey, of Liberty, also were listed from Montgomery County, along with Heather Simmons from Howard in Elk County and Libby Allen and Katheryn Presley from Sedan in Chautauqua County.

Wilson County students listed were Mary Dozier, Jill Ethridge, Aaron Joy, Jennifer Powers, Whitney Runer, Tiffany Wambagans and Megan Fowler, all of Fredonia; Ryan Carpenter, Rachel Hare and Bryan Schuessler, all of Neodesha, and Hailey Harding, of Altoona.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban design, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.
Kole Michael McEntire

Kane and Kristy McEntire, Wichita, announce the birth of their son, Kole Michael, on Jan. 5, 2009. He weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

Kole’s grandparents are Jeff and Debbi Kelsey and Kent and Kathleen McEntire of Wichita.

Great-grandparents are Jim and Lynn Ireland of Valley Center and Loretta Howell and Sam and Freda Howell of Wichita.

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Chelsea Rae Leatherwood, formerly of Valley Center, and Jesse Bales, both of Wellington, announce the birth of a daughter, Ava Rae Bales Leatherwood, was born Feb. 3, 2009, at Sumner Regional Medical Center in Wellington. She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces, and was 20 1/4 inches long.

Grandparents are Tammy Herrington of Wellington, Ronny Leatherwood of Valley Center, John Bales of Wellington and Janet Allen of Milan.

Great-grandparents are Verla Leatherwood of Stilwell, Okla., and Vickie and Allen Wilkerson of Valley Center.

Great-great-grandparents are Opal Leatherwood of Stilwell and Jean Neal of Valley Center.

Paulette and Richard Roberts

Richard and Paulette Roberts will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 15, 2009.

Richard Roberts and Paulette Dry were married at Midway Baptist Church in Wichita by the Rev. George Boston on Feb. 15, 1959.

Richard retired in 2003 from Chris Truck Lines where he was operations supervisor. Paulette retired from Kansas Nephrology in 2006 where she was a medical assistant.

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They have two daughters and sons-in-law: Beci and Greg Hiser of Wichita and Melinda and Richard Estes of Valley Center. They have one granddaughter, Madison Estes of Valley Center, and two stepgrandchildren, Ryan and Amanda Hiser of Wichita.

A card shower is requested. Please mail cards to the couple at 5802 N. Meridian, Wichita KS 67204.

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Two Valley Center residents were named to the academic honor roll for the fall 2008 semester at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla. Bradley Albert Schuessler, a freshman history major, and Derek M. Schuessler, a sophomore English major, were each named to the President's Honor Roll.

To be named to this list, a student must have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.7 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

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The following area students have been named to the honor roll for the fall 2008 semester at the University of Kansas.

Students either from Valley Center or graduates of Valley Center High School named were Audra Kaye Allen, daughter of Tonya Stephenson; Aaron Michael Babbidge, son of Chris and Lisa Babbidge; Ashlee Renae Bade, daughter of Tom and Cheryl Bade; Donovan Paul Carson, son of Kelly Carson; Clay Allen Foster, son of Michael and Terry Foster; Joseph A. Garvey, son of Ray and Teresa Garvey; Kevin Matthew Neslage, son of Tim and Valerie Neslage; and Landon Brian Plumer, son of Tracey Deese and Brian Plumer.

Heights High School graduates named were Corey Joseph Braet, son of Dana Braet; Jessica Diane Brewer, daughter of Jill and Jeffery Brewer; Evan Joseph Craft, son of Lillian Craft; Kristin Marie Deckert, daughter of Don and Angie Deckert; Samir Hussein Hamdeh, son of Hussein Hamdeh; Jordan Alexander Holt, son of Mia Mitchell; Nicole Margaret Hubbard, daughter of Scott
and Helen Hubbard; Wayne Thomas Larson, son of Mark and Nancy Larson; Tan Van Le, son of Lein Dao Nguyen and Tiet Le; Taylor Dawn Lies, daughter of Lawrence and Angela Lies; Emily S. Maness, daughter of Bill and Linda Maness; Taylor Denise McIntosh, daughter of Iris McIntosh; Amr Daniel Nagati, son of Mohammad and Donna Nagati; Thao-Linh Thi Nguyen, daughter of Quy and Linh Nguyen; Vincent Mark Santucci, son of Michael Monteferrante, Kelsi Rae Stoltenow, daughter of Michael and Leslie Stoltenow; and Jessica Ruth Thornton, daughter of Terri Thornton.

Bel Aire students named were Sadegh Eftekhari, son of Azam Mostafa and Ali Eftekhari, and Jordan Alexander McClain, son of Laura McMurray.

Park City students named were Shane Douglas Kentopp, son of Barry Kentopp, and Jonelle Desiree Truitt, daughter of Dale and Craig LeRoy.

Clarence Borger, former pastor at First United Methodist Church in Valley Center, will be honored by First United Methodist Church of Wichita and Southwestern College with “Clarence Borger Day” during the church’s 11 a.m. Feb. 15 worship.

A 1939 graduate of Southwestern, Borger began his ministry during his undergraduate years at the college. He served congregations throughout Kansas and Texas during the following half century. Borger also received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Southwestern in 1959.

The event also kicks off a drive to endow a scholarship at Southwestern. The Dr. Clarence and Willa Mae Borger Ministry Scholarship will be awarded in their honor to students pursuing careers in the ministry.

Valley Center High School students Kevin Diehl, Kelsay Foust, Emily Hutson, Brett Seidl, Karl Watson and Micah Winkley participated in the Wichita Area Model United Nations Conference on Jan. 16 at Wichita State University.

Students took on the role of diplomats from a foreign country in a simulation of UN committee meetings. They become experts on particular global issues and then meet with other “diplomats” representing countries around the world to write resolutions.

Valley Center High School students Emily Keimig, Erica Sizemore and Zach Banick were three of more than 270 students who recently competed for scholarships in Wichita State University’s Distinguished Scholarship Invitational in November. Keimig was a semifinalist in the competition and received a $10,500 scholarship. Sizemore and Banick each received a $4,000 scholarship.

Matt Robertson, a 2007 graduate of Valley Center High School, has received the Landon Unruh memorial Scholarship given as a $1,000 excellence award at Barton Community College. To earn an excellence award, a student must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0. Robertson, a sophomore at Barton majoring in architecture, is the son of Dick and Christy Robertson of Valley Center.

Four areas students have been named to honor rolls for the fall 2008 semester at Pittsburg State University. Hannah Hunsinger of Bel Aire and Karen Slater of Valley Center were named to the All A’s honor roll. Colin Sutter and Tiffany Martin, both of Valley Center, were named to the Dean’s Honor Roll.

To qualify for All-A Scholastic Honors, a student must complete at least 12 semester hours, receive a grade of A in all credit course work for the semester and have no grade of C in any course during the semester.

To qualify for Dean’s Scholastic Honors, a student must complete at least 12 semester hours, receive a grade point average of 3.6 for all credit course work that semester and have no grade lower than a B and no grade of C in any course during that semester.
KU announces students named to fall 2008 honor roll

LAWRENCE — More than 4,600 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2008 semester. These students, from KU's Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing in Kansas City, Kan., represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 40 other states and more than 40 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health; architecture and urban design; business; education; engineering; fine arts; journalism; nursing; and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Those students from this area named to the honor roll were:

Libby Ann Allen of Sedan, daughter of Ben and Sue Allen, Business and Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Senior

Kathryn Elisabeth Presley of Sedan, daughter of James Presley, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, Junior

Heather Nicole Simmons of Howard, daughter of Patrick and Debra Simmons, Education Undergraduate, Senior

Matthew Ryan Taliaferro of Severy, son of Christal and Dana Taliaferro, Pharmacy Professional, Prof 1
Man charged in traffic death

A 25-year-old driver was charged with involuntary manslaughter and driving under the influence after a 23-year-old University of Kansas graduate student lost his life in a traffic death at 3 a.m. Feb. 7 on Shawnee Mission Parkway over I-35 in Merriam. Steven Kyle Cummins, 25, was taken into custody after the incident.

As two men were pushing a car to the side of Shawnee Mission Parkway, a truck came from behind and struck the car and one of the students, who died at the scene, according to a preliminary investigation from the Merriam police. The student was identified by KU officials as Dimitri Mavridorakis, from St. Etienne, France. He was studying business administration.
Some Kansas advice on federal bailout

A bit of Jayhawk pride here, if you don't mind, while I comment on the latest direction of the monstrously expensive federal bailout.

It has been my fellow KU law grad Sheila Bair, former aide to Sen. Bob Dole, who has been arguing all along for creation of the “bad” bank that would be managed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. We have used our law degrees in similar fashion. I put money in banks insured by the FDIC. She runs the FDIC. My money, unfortunately, doesn’t seem to be faring as well as her public service career. But that’s another story.

Last fall, while Congress was leaping on solutions to the credit crisis like hopped-up kittens on mice, Bair kept her head about her. She argued that the federal government must buy up the bad loans.

But when Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson got the ball, he ran for a different goalpost without telling Congress. He just started giving money to the banks. Now, some $350 billion later, Congress is wondering where the money went.

It doesn’t take a close relative of Solomon to see where it went. Perhaps if members of Congress read the newspapers they would know as well. The stray corporate jet purchase aside, the banks have used the money to stay in business. They haven’t been making loans. They have been using it to protect themselves from the monster of bad debt that hovers over us like the Incredible Hulk. They know—and we should know—that until the Hulk goes away, trouble is ahead.

That’s what Bair has been saying all along. She says the feds should buy up the bad loans and lock them away until they learn to behave. Her idea is to keep the security of those loans, mostly homes, on the federal balance sheet until real estate markets recover, and then sell them off a little at a time to recover the money.

There are a couple of problems with this plan. First, the initial outlay could be as much as $2 trillion. That’s more than a Hulk. It is a Tyrannosaurus. It is four-fifths of the entire 2009 federal budget. It means either deficits
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rocketing out of the stratosphere, or virtually no money for anything else. What would be left, at today’s projected spending, would miss paying for the defense programs by about $175 billion. It would fall short of Social Security obligations by about $115 billion. There would be no money for education, none for promotion of American goods abroad. Smokey Bear would have to go on a seed and berry diet. Safe food and drug inspections would come to a halt. Congress might even have to take a pay cut.

Well, maybe there’s some good in the idea then.

The second problem is this concept of the bad bank. Can you hear yourself saying to your spouse, “I’ll be right back, honey. I’m just running a deposit down to the Bad Bank.” Clearly a national naming rights contest would be needed. Perhaps we could name it after Lehman Brothers. They don’t seem to need that name at the moment.

The final problem is figuring out how much to pay for the bad debt. This is the barrier that has Congress purportedly in a conundrum. The worry, they say, is that if the government paid too much, the burden on taxpayers would be unfair (as if there were anything fair about this situation in the first instance.) If it doesn’t pay enough, the banks will keep on failing and the $2 trillion will be money down the rat hole. (Sort of like the $350 billion already spent, perhaps?)

Bair has kept saying the question isn’t whether there is an easy or safe way to manage this Bad Bank, but whether there is a reasonable alternative. Clearly the bad loans are the problem. So, she says, put them in the Bad Bank.

Having not been able to persuade the Republicans of the Bush administration, will this savvy Republican be able to persuade the Democrats in the Obama administration? The winds seem to be blowing in her favor. Maybe it took getting the good ole boys out of the place before anyone was able to listen to a mere female from KU. Perhaps by the time you read this, the Bad Bank will be open for business. Maybe it will give away thermal blankets and toaster ovens, like the banks of yore.

The financial wizards trying to think outside of this box, however, have to be tough and Janus-faced. They have to look behind at the debt looming over us and thwarting all hope of recovery. Then they have to look at our consumer economy, and figure out how to replace it.

One of the best descriptions of the problem I’ve heard came last week from a British economist: The world is about to learn what happens when Americans stop buying things they didn’t need with money they didn’t have.

Maybe, instead of being the world’s bloated consumers, we will start producing things again. Do we remember how?
Ardery On KU Honor Roll

More than 4,600 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2008 semester. These students, from KU's Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing in Kansas City, Kan., represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 40 other states and more than 40 other countries.

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Listed on the honor roll from this area was Heather Ardery, business major, daughter of Bob and Janet Ardery, Harper.
Michelle Durham, communication studies senior, daughter of Tim Durham and Kerri Schwartz, was named among the sixty-two University of Kansas students who graduated from the 2009 LeaderShape Institute, sponsored and coordinated annually by the Student Involvement and Leadership Center.

The six-day intensive program to develop leadership abilities was held Jan. 8-13 at the Tall Oaks Conference Center near Linwood.
The budget remains the hot topic this week and the House passed its version of S.B. 23.

The conference committee will come up with a bill agreeable to both the House and Senate conferences and then we will vote on it. If it passes, it will go to the Governor for her signature or veto. Below is listed the affect this will have on the schools in the 80th District. These cuts will change in the new bill, but this will give you an idea of how bad the cuts will be.

Wellington - 178,412
Conway Springs - 69,283
Oxford - 50,322
Caldwell - 36,096
Argonia - 30,250
South Haven - 35,605
Anthony-Harper - 111,186

The Senate version made cuts of about $335 million and the House version was about $305 million. However this comes out, we face even deeper cuts in the 2010 budget which we start on as soon as this one becomes law. This is very serious and with more layoffs, we face cuts that no one could have imagined a few months ago.

House approves Guantanamo joint resolution

This week the House approved a joint resolution to voice opposition to placing war/terrorist detainees from Gitmo at Fort Leavenworth. Specifically, the Resolution outlines reasons why the Leavenworth community is not appropriate for this serious duty.

If this becomes a mission of the Fort, our capable military will do it; but the damage to the international officer program and, as a result, international relations, and the negative impact upon the CGSC mission to educate our military leaders and craft the military strategies for our nation will be a price paid for such a decision. We want the President, Vice President, our Congressional delegation and our Governor to know the particular problems with placing this mission in our midst.

Higher Education Committee considers legislation to attract out-of-state students

The House Higher Education committee was again very busy this week. On Tuesday we heard testimony from a panel of University of Kansas officials, representing the Kansas Board of Regents Universities. They came as proponents of House Bill 2007, which would grant the Board of Regents the ability to offer discounts or waivers to out-of-state legacy high school graduates. Currently, all of our neighboring states and many in the region have incorporated "legacy" programs. In Iowa, the state pays the entire difference between out-of-state legacy students and in-state tuition. While House Bill 2007 does not go that far, it does give the Board of Regents authority to offer a discount.

Proponents of the bill believe the legislation is extremely important to future success of the state universities of Kansas. Within the next ten years, there are projections that the number of graduating high school seniors in Kansas will decrease significantly. State universities need programs that not only helps keep the best and brightest in Kansas but also helps bring some of the best minds in the country to our state. The University of Kansas officials stated that this measure will be revenue neutral because they expect many more of the 90,000 alumni currently residing out of state will send their children to Kansas for college. Increased enrollment numbers will offset any cost to the state caused by the initial discount.

We will be voting on several energy bills in committee this week and some are very controversial. They are the pieces from the coal bill from last year. Also, on Tuesday we will present our annexation bill to the Local Government Committee. It is crucial to get it out of committee and onto the House floor for a vote.

It is getting very late on Sunday night so this will be all for this week. Next week's report will contain the votes on many tough bills.