Student News
Kansas University

Taylor D. Leibbrandt, a Cheylin graduate, and Sara B. Miller, a St. Francis Community High School graduate, are among 6,500 Kansas University students, who received privately funded scholarship support this year at Kansas University.

Virtually all scholarships, fellowships and awards at the university come from private contributions to the university's Endowment. Though Kansas University Endowment raises support for scholarships and other student aid, the university determines the distribution of available support.

Leibbrandt, the son of Sarah Clogston and Douglas Leibbrandt, a pre-law freshman, received the Christina M. Hixson Opportunity Award.

Miller, the daughter of Terry and Mary Beth Miller, a pre-business freshman, received the Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship and the Dr. Robert Ord Christian Memorial Scholarship.
Students receive KU scholarships for 2008-09

Marshall County students are among the more than 6,500 students at the University of Kansas who will receive an estimated $29.6 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2008-09 academic year.

This represents a $1.9 million increase over the 2007-08 academic year.

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KU divides many scholarships between the fall and spring semesters, and there are some students who receive scholarship support for the summer term as well.

STUDENTS:

Axtell — Kalin Holthaus, Fred and Betty Stocks Memorial Scholarship.

Baileyville — Amy Rottinghaus, Dorris Fair Carey-Myrtle Fair Scholarship, Charles W. Shipley Memorial, Vee Flinn Scholarship, Juanita B. Strait Scholarship; Kyle Strathman, Richard Randall Stucky Memorial Scholarship.

Blue Rapids — Kirk Duensing, Fred and Betty Stocks Memorial Scholarship; Alexander Gordon, Evah Frances Osborne Allied Health Memorial Fund.

Frankfort — Emily Boeckman, Jennie Maude Bryan Memorial Scholarship; Logan Jones, William J. and Dorothy L. Hula Scholarship, Michael H. Breeding Memorial Scholarship; Sheila Miller, Maude Landis Scholarship; Merica Schreiner, Fred and Betty Stocks Memorial Scholarship, Nannie Beisly Scholarship; Michelle Tiley, Gilbert E. Johnston Memorial Scholarship; Lazo K. and Esther L. Chont Scholarship.

Hanover — Ashley Doebel, Marta Bainum Nursing Scholarship, Medical Center Intercampus Scholarships.

Marysville — Darren Hain, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship; Courtney Holle, Jennie Maude Bryan Memorial Scholarship; Michael Huerter, Jennie Maude Bryan Memorial Scholarship; Alicia Ring, Jennie Maude Bryan Memorial Scholarship; Phillip Schmitz, Jennie Maude Bryan Memorial Scholarship; Derek Totter, George E. and Blanche Sterling Trust; Curtis Vineyard, William J. and Dorothy L. Hula Scholarship.

Marysville High School graduate — Fadra Mitchell, Baldwin City, William A. and Monte L. Murphy Social Welfare Scholarship, Teri Zenner Memorial Scholarship.

Summerville — Miranda Helmers, L. Darrell Staufer Memorial Scholarship Fund, Steven L. Jaquith Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy, J. Allen Reese Pharmacy Scholarship.

Vermillion — Gina Gerstner, Jennie Maude Bryan Memorial Scholarship; Randal Gerstner, Donald P. Young Sr. Memorial Scholarship in Business and Accounting.

Waterville — Lindsey Coggins, Janet Thompson Shirk Scholarship; Marjorie Coon, Janet Thompson Shirk Scholarship.
Increase in tuition has to slow down

The state's major colleges haven't been shy about asking for more funding in recent years.

The state Board of Regents did so as recently as September, recommending that the state increase funding for higher education by 4 percent despite the slumping economy.

Three months earlier, the board approved tuition increases for the state's six Regents universities. Nothing new there. College costs have risen sharply in recent years, so much so that a national study indicated the average family spent 28 percent of its income to send a student to a four-year school in Kansas in 2007 as opposed to 18 percent in 1999.

Now, though, it looks as if the university system may have squeezed students, their parents and Kansas taxpayers all it can.

Considering the state is facing a potential $141 million budget deficit by next June – a hole that could grow to $1 billion by June 2010 – the request for a 4 percent increase looks like a pipe dream. In fact, the Regents already have complied with a request by Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius for state agencies to submit proposals for budget cuts.

Meanwhile, the economic downturn is bound to leave fewer students and families able to afford current tuition and fees, much less support further increases.

For better or worse, the financial crisis is forcing major colleges to take steps they should have been taking to a much greater extent in better times – reducing expenses and finding other ways to keep down the costs of higher education.

Regents statistics show significant growth in operating expenditures at the state universities. Expenditures zoomed from $454.5 million to $620.9 million at The University of Kansas from fiscal year 2002 to FY 2007, an increase of 36.6 percent. At K-State, the increase was from $432.2 million to $564.8 million – 30.7 percent.

Why? It certainly wasn't because of a large influx of students. Head count at KU dropped 0.4 percent over those years, while K-State's enrollment rose 2.4 percent.

As the universities' budgets got bigger
while the size of their student bodies held steady, the proportion of the universities' operating expenses covered by the state declined.

To a large degree, the universities made up the gap with tuition increases.

None of this is to suggest the state's higher education system doesn't deserve support. It does for an array of reasons, from the educational and career opportunities it provides to thousands of Kansans to the money it pumps into the state economy.

For an idea of the potential economic development power of the system, look no further than the recent preliminary decision by government authorities to award the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Laboratory project to Kansas State University. K-State's animal research facilities and staff were a key calling card in the state's successful bid to land the $450 million project.

It's also worth noting that tuition and fees at KU and K-State are cheaper than the average at other major universities.

Still, the costs are rising much faster than inflation, and they must be reined in.

Taxpayers and those who pay tuition can only be expected to do so much.

Topeka Capital-Journal
The other day, a Ness County reader saw this article about a Ransom native on the KU website. Tony was born in Ransom. His parents are Steve and Helen Hoch, who were both school teachers there.

“It will be freezing and desolate. But the West Antarctic ice sheet holds scientific mysteries that University of Kansas graduate student Tony Hoch hopes to solve.

So this month the New Strawn native jets to New Zealand to stockpile provisions and get hold of a subzero wardrobe. Then Hoch will ride a C-130 military turboprop to McMurdo Station on Antarctica where he will double check equipment and undergo survival training. Next, he will fly to the West Antarctic Ice Sheet Base before setting out on a five-day trek across the bitter landscape - to be followed by a month of living inside a tent.

Hoch’s mission is to determine the precise depth of the ice sheet, because that ice could contribute one day to a boost in ocean levels worldwide.

“I’ll be operating a ground-penetrating radar in order to look at ice thickness and to see what’s at the bottom of the ice - and anything else we can see,” Hoch said. “A lot of people say they know exactly how much ice is down there, but until you actually measure it, we don’t know for sure. As far as sea level rise goes - until you know how much ice there is, you don’t know how much water there could be.”

While Hoch is competing his doctoral degree in geophysics, he works as a data analyst with the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets, a Science and Technology Center established by the National Science Foundation to measure and predict the response of sea level to changes in the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. CReSIS is headquartered at KU.

Hoch said he is focused simply on compiling useful, reliable information.

“I don’t really look at if the ice is melting or not,” said Hoch. “My research is dedicated to each individual field site where I work. Internationally, there are a large number of groups that work together to gather this data. Then, they put all the data together to determine if overall the ice is melting or not. But I just collect the data. I don’t form the opinions that are released.”

To measure the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, the KU student will operate an Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar, which provides a detailed picture of ice thickness and ice bed topography. The device includes a large computer that stays inside a tracked vehicle, with cables leading to antennas arrayed on a large sled.

Hoch will also deploy technology known as a “seismic streamer.”

“The seismic streamer is a concept where we take seismic cables and geophones connect them all in line, so you spend less time moving the geophones between different shot points,” Hoch said. “What is conventionally done now is that each geophone is individually buried into the snow. The streamer takes an idea borrowed from marine seismic surveys, where you should be able to just drag the sensors along and acquire data more quickly.”

The KU student cautions that when operating sensitive equipment at bone-chilling temperatures, sometimes things go awry.

“Machinery breaks down,” Hoch said. “Sometimes, we can fix it in the field. But Antarctica is not a very friendly environment for putting electronics back together. So we take spare parts and we’re well-trained on how to fix equipment in the field — but things do break.”

Whatever the outcome, Hoch said he is appreciative for the research opportunity in Antarctica that he has earned through his job at CReSIS and studies at KU.

“When I first came here I really didn’t know which department I was going to be in,” he said. “Geology was something that I always liked, so I picked it up as a study at KU. Originally I only intended on completing my bachelor’s degree. But the fact that I’m here doing Ph.D work really amazes me. It’s good work.”

The University of Kansas is a major comprehensive research university: University Relations is the central public relations office for KU’s Lawrence campus.”

The Ness County News thanks Myra Coker for telling us about this story!
Mullen and Rodriguez earn scholarships

KU awards $29.6 million in scholarship support to students for 2008-09

LAWRENCE — More than 6,500 students at the University of Kansas will receive an estimated $29.6 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2008-09 academic year. This represents a $1.9 million increase over the 2007-08 academic year, in which KU students received $27.7 million in scholarships, fellowships and awards.

Virtually all scholarships, fellowships and awards at KU come from private contributions to KU Endowment. So far, 8,555 scholarships have been awarded for the current academic year. Many students receive more than one scholarship. KU divides many scholarships between the fall and spring semesters, and there are some students who receive scholarship support for the summer term as well.

This year’s recipients represent 103 of the 105 counties in Kansas, 45 other states and Puerto Rico and 45 other countries.

"It's rewarding to look across KU and realize that thousands of our students are here because of scholarship support provided by donors," said Dale Seuferling, president of KU Endowment.

"Endowed scholarships span the generations, enabling students to earn degrees at KU and move on to productive careers. For many of these students, these accomplishments would not have been possible without scholarship support provided by generations of KU alumni and friends."

In the past five years, KU Endowment has provided more than $118 million in scholarships, fellowships and awards to KU students. Donors created 43 new endowed scholarships in fiscal 2008, with gifts totaling $12.3 million.

Though KU Endowment raises support for scholarships and other student aid, the university determines the distribution of available support. The figure fluctuates each year based on several factors, such as the number of students who apply for and receive them, the investment performance of endowed scholarship funds and new gifts for scholarships.

"Scholarship funds are managed by KU Endowment, the independent, nonprofit organization serving as the official fund-raising and fund-management organization for KU. Founded in 1891, KU Endowment is the first foundation of its kind at a U.S. public university.

Tyson Wade Mullen son of Kevin and Kathy Mullen, PharmacyPD Prof 1, received the Plough Pharmacy Student Scholarship; School of Pharmacy Scholarships and the Terry L. Merriweather Memorial Scholarship.

Alejandro Rodriguez son of Rosaura Ortega Professional Master of Arch received the William and Winifred Hoffmann Scholarship.
Area KU students earn scholarships

More than 6,500 students at the University of Kansas will receive an estimated $29.6 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2008-09 academic year. This represents a $1.9 million increase over the 2007-08 academic year, in which KU students received $27.7 million in scholarships, fellowships and awards.

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Scholarship recipients from Rossville were Jacob Brian Landis, biology senior, son of Alicia and Joe Vanatta, Coca Cola Scholarship; Sean Robert Reskey, aerospace engineering sophomore, son of Scott and Lisa Reskey, C. L. Burt Engineering Scholarship; Marc Thomas Roth, biochemistry sophomore, son of Gary and Tina Roth, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship; and Benjamin D. Sharp, juris doctorate student, Help of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Scholarship.

Students from Silver Lake who received scholarships were Joshua A. Baden, biology freshman, son of Kay and Andy Baden, Wayne Moody Scholarship; Brianna Rae Barnes, pharmacy senior, daughter of Susan Barnes, Golf Classic Rx Scholarship; Brian Christopher Hill, accounting sophomore, son of Cynthia and Michael Hill, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship; Nicolas Scott Miller, classical languages sophomore, son of Laura Miller, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship; and Michelle Ann Taylor, pre-law freshman, daughter of William and Janice Taylor, Zelma Edna McIlvain Scholarship.

Students from Maple Hill who earned scholarships were Nicole Dawn Niehues, architectural engineering freshman, daughter of Denis and Julie Niehues, Paul and Virginia Bassett Miller Engineering Scholarship and Allen Memorial Scholarship; and Charles Michael Stock, pre-pharmacy freshman, son of Sally Fox, John K. and Edna M. Cape Scholarship and Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship.

Hayley C. Hoithus of Basehor, a public health graduate student, received the Avis G. McPike Medical Scholarship. She is a Silver Lake High graduate.

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Phi Kappa Phi honor society announces new members

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas chapter of Phi Kappa Phi honor society has initiated 147 student members.

Among those initiated were Sarah Jean Mealiff Coughlan, daughter of Dave and Linda Mealiff, Beloit.

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere was the keynote speaker at the Dec. 2 ceremony at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Two faculty members also were inducted into the KU chapter: Arienne Dwyer, associate professor of anthropology, and John Gaunt, dean of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and largest all-discipline academic honor society. KU established its chapter in 1975. Today, there are about 300 members. At KU, only the top 10 percent of seniors, top 7.5 percent of second-semester juniors with more than 72 credit hours and top 10 percent of graduate students are asked to join.

Phi Kappa Phi's primary objectives are to promote the pursuit of excellence in all fields of higher education and to recognize outstanding achievement by students, faculty and others by election to membership and through various awards for distinguished achievement.

Chapter officers are Marlesa Roney, vice provost for Student Success, president; Angela Lumpkin, professor of health, sport and exercise science, vice president; Adolfo Matamoros, associate professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering, secretary; James Miller, associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, treasurer; David Darwin, the Deane E. Ackers Distinguished Professor of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, engineering scholarships and awards coordinator; Jill Hummels, public relations director for the School of Engineering, public relations officer; and Reta Solwa, senior administrative associate in the civil, environmental and architectural engineering department, administrator.
Colleges’ costs must be reined in

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— The Topeka Capital-Journal, via The Associated Press
The University of Kansas has announced the names of area students at KU who have been awarded scholarships. By town, the students are:

**Emporia**

Gail Denise Allen, senior, clinical laboratory science, daughter of Shirley Allen; Erica Elaine Bennett, freshman, pre-journalism, daughter of Brenton and Jennifer Bennett; Megan Ann Bollinger, junior, biology, daughter of Timothy and Lynnette Bollinger; Michael Christian Bourbon, senior, East Asian language and culture, son of Anita Bourbon; and Bethany Joanne Christiansen, sophomore, English, daughter of Dwight and Jeanine Christiansen.

Also, Amelia Anne Crowl, senior, pre-law, daughter of Leonard and Debra Crowl; Jesse Esparza, junior, sport science, son of Gerardo and Rosa Esparza; Angela R. Finch, freshman, undecided, daughter of Phillip and Dahlia Finch; Andrea Lynn Garritano Freeze, graduate, musical arts; Kaitlin Jena Henry, junior, nursing, daughter of Steven and Rebecca Henry; Kara L. Hoggatt, senior, early childhood, daughter of Jerry and Sabra Hoggatt; and David Andrew Kitchens, graduate, accounting, son of James and Lynn Kitchens.

Also, Alison Michelle Lindsay, nursing; Maizie Danae Main, freshman, pre-journalism, daughter of Imelda Main; Jennifer Marroquin, junior, human biology, daughter of Blanca and Guilmar Marroquin; Lucas F. McCormick, graduate, chemistry; Zahra Crystal Nasr-Azadani, senior, pharmacy, daughter of Grace and Mehdi Nasr-Azadani; Melissa Dale Reed, graduate, education; and Amanda Lyn Roberts, freshman, pre-journalism, daughter of Larry and Pamela Mechtley.

Also, Michael John Robinson, freshman, atmospheric science, son of Jim and Diane Robinson; Vivica Yvonne Snape-Stewart, graduate, social work; Sasha D. Sosa, pharmacy, daughter of Maria Sosa; and Tyler J. Thompson, sophomore, chemical engineering, son of Kenneth and Deborah Thompson.

**Burlington**

Alison Garrett Blevins, medicine MD, daughter of Terry and Lisa Garrett; Christine Elizabeth Fraker, sophomore, computer science, daughter of Elizabeth Anderson; Brande Marie Iseman, junior, pre-business, daughter of Jimmy and Diane Iseman; Samantha Jo Kuhlmann, junior, pre-pharmacy, daughter of Craig and Lisa Kuhlmann; Jessica Leigh Menard, sophomore, pre-sport, Jessica Leigh Menard; Lacie Rochelle Reed, junior, elementary education, daughter of Christopher and Jamie Menard; Brent Lucas Stull, sophomore, organ, Bruce and Annette Stull; and Beverly M. Wilson, medicine MD.

**Cottonwood Falls**

Noah A. Lock, junior, atmospheric science, son of Tony and Diane Lock; Brian Michael Palmero, freshman, human biology, son of Sandra Cahoone; Erica Dian Tanner, freshman, anthropology, daughter of Becky Crichton.

**Council Grove**

Molly Ann Aldrich, pharmacy; Amanda Leigh Collier, graduate, daughter of Becky Blosser; Abigail Joy Frese, freshman, fine arts and dance, daughter of Dan and Donna Frese; Benjamin M. Hornung, junior, biology, daughter of Joel and Jeannette Hornung; Tasha Rose Messer, freshman, psychology, daughter of James and Veronica Messer; Brenda Dawn Pracht, pharmacy, daughter of Randy and Tammy Pracht; Jacob Lee Smith, sophomore, English, son of Marc and Molly Smith; Kelsey Rochelle Smith, freshman, fine arts and dance, daughter of Marc and Molly Smith; Kaitlin Breanne Tyner, freshman, pre-fine arts, daughter of Tim and Carol Tyner.

**Hamilton**

Joshua Owen Barker, sophomore, pre-journalism, son of Troy and Linda Barker.

**Lebo**

Eric Scott Gourley, pharmacy, son of Doyle and Lori Gourley.

**Olpe**

 Lukas Charles Lahr, freshman, pre-medicine, son of Lynnette Miller and Jeffrey Lahr; Alex Michael Medency, freshman, pre-pharmacy, son of Charles and Carol Medency.
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Scholarship recipients include the following students:

Brandon Lee Koehn, son of Rick and Mary Koehn of Copeland, and a freshman in Pre-Pharmacy, received the Roland T. Beard Scholarship.

Rebecca Haddican, daughter of Michael and Connie Haddican of Satanta, a freshman, received the Frank G. Crowell Scholarship.

Bethany Evans, daughter of Kelly Evans of Sublette, a freshman in Chemical Engineering, received the James Schull Combs and Catherine C. Combs Memorial Scholarship and the Madison A. and Lila Self Engineering Leadership Scholarship.

Darcy Yunker, daughter of DeAnn Ricketts, a freshman in Mechanical Engineering, has received the Welch Family Scholarship in Engineering, the Emiel and Mary Kanehl Scholarship, and the Mechanical Engineering Scholarship.

Bethany L. Goodman, a graduate of Sublette High School and daughter of Sally and Mark Arnold of Holly, Colorado, is a junior in English. She received the Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship.

“It’s rewarding to look across KU and realize that thousands of our students are here because of scholarship support provided by donors,” said Dale Seuferling, president of KU Endowment. “Endowed scholarships span the generations, enabling students to earn degrees at KU and move on to productive careers. For many of these students, these accomplishments would not have been possible without scholarship support provided by generations of KU alumni and friends.”