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

Lawrence, Kan.: 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. To see the list of honored students, visit www.news.ku.edu/2008/december/19 scholarships.shtml.

“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 fundraising and fund-management organization for KU. Founded in 1891, KU Endowment is the first foundation of its kind at a U.S. public university.

- **Baxter Springs**: Cassie Elizabeth Carlson, Mae Rublee Scholarship in Nursing, NursingBSN; Casey Young Meek, Voss Kansas Law Scholarship, Juris DoctorJD, Prof 3.
- **Riverston**: Tiffany Renee Woods, Edna Maude Smith Scholarship, Henry A. Shenk Memorial Scholarship, William D. Atkinson Scholarship, Pre-Sport Sci/Comm Health; Kyle S Mock, Orlin A. Weede Scholarship, Biochemistry BS.
- **Columbus**: Michael William Aldrighetti, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship, Pre-Business; Jacqueline Dawn Bowin, Charles Buddy Rogers Scholarship in Theatre and Film HistoryBGS; Amanda Kay Carpenter Plough Pharmacy Student Scholarship, Morgan L Cheeseman, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship Communication StudiesBA DECL; Clinton Gaither Ellis, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship, ChemistryBS; Andrew L Fouts, Adrian W. Wallace Fund Juris DoctorJD, Help of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Scholarship, Juris DoctorJD; Timothy Allan Holding, Plough Pharmacy Student Scholarship, PharmacyPD, Holding Plough Pharmacy Student Scholarship.

**Galena**: Katie Leann Horner, Arthur S. & Helen May Johnson Fund for Women in Engineering, Chemical EngineeringBS; Amanda Jean Taylor, Chester L. Mize Memorial Scholarship, Chris and Marilyn Anderson Scholarship, Elementary EducationBSE; Stephanie Joan Watson, David and Emma Dunbar Scholarship, Pre-Pharmacy.

Scammon: Nicholas Jay Benedict, Howard Reed Sailors, Thelma Sophia Ally Sailors Scholarship, Strategic Communications BSJ; Nicholas Jay Benedict, Roger N. Wooldridge Journalism Scholarship, W. Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Comms. Schol., Strategic Communications BSJ.

**Wel**: Jesse Kaye Mitchell Nontraditional Undergraduate, PharmacyPD.
Wiley named to Phi Kappa Phi honor society

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

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.

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.

Named in the 147 students is Katherine Elizabeth Wiley, daughter of Paula Wiley, Leawood, Kan. Katherine is majoring in Chemistry and is a graduate of Shawnee Mission East High School.
Kansas preparing for projected nursing shortage

Sarah Green
KHI News Service
TOPEKA — While clinics and hospitals clamor for more nurses, so too do the state’s nursing education programs.

Prompted by a projected nursing shortage, the Kansas Legislature in 2006 awarded $30 million over 10 years for grants to the state’s nursing programs. The funds are to be used to upgrade teaching equipment and facilities and provide scholarships for nurses to return to school for a higher degree. Those areas were considered the top three obstacles to training more nurses.

Nurses with advanced training are in particularly high demand, said Karen L. Miller, senior vice chancellor and dean of the University of Kansas School of Nursing, because they have a variety of options.

A nurse with a master’s degree could work as a nurse anesthetist; a nurse-midwife; a nurse practitioner; specialize in a field such as oncology, or become an instructor.

Miller said it is hard for nursing schools to compete with clinical settings in luring nurses to faculty positions. The schedule may be better but the pay may not.

“There is such a high demand for advanced practice nurses in hospitals and other clinical settings that there’s sometimes a pretty significant difference in compensation,” Miller said. “To encourage someone to go into teaching, they would have to consider the long-term financial implications as well.”

A 2005 study by the Kansas State Nurses Association found that nursing faculty with masters’ degrees earned between $44,947 and $60,000 — well below the $70,642 average salary of a masters-level nurse practicing in a clinic.

The study also found that 123 nursing faculty with a masters or Ph.D. would retire by 2014.

If the nursing programs can’t replace them, said Debbie Hackler, director of nursing at Hutchinson Community College, they won’t be able to take on more students.

“If we have 40 positions for new students each year, but not the faculty to take care of them, then I can only take 30 of them,” she said.

According to the Kansas Board of Regents’ 2007 Kansas Nursing Initiative Annual Report, 53 scholarships were awarded in the first year of the education program.

But that might not be enough, the authors wrote.

“The growing popularity of this service scholarship program has a very real potential to ease the nursing faculty shortage by assisting with the production of new nurse educators,” the report said. “This grant does not, however, address the disproportionate salary differences between nurse educators and practitioners, which has contributed greatly to the shortage of nursing faculty.”

The University of Kansas is “competitive” in its salaries for faculty members with advanced degrees, Miller said.

“I would not say that’s true everywhere, for every university,” she said.

Miller said she was pleased with the steps the regents and Legislature had taken to address the nursing workforce needs but was concerned about what the state’s troubled budget situation might mean for the nursing grant program.

“Even though the Board of Regents was progressive in their support of the nursing workforce, the current economic times may be a negative factor that they didn’t count on,” Miller said. “Hopefully, the downturn will be short-lived, and it won’t have a long-term impact on the number of nurses we can educate.”
Baker University nursing student Michelle Clark, left, checks the pulse of fellow fourth-year nursing student Courtney Cox in the lab at the Baker University School of Nursing in Topeka. Both students will graduate in December and, like almost all the state’s nursing graduates, go immediately to work. Submitted photo
Alysha Phillips, a 2004 graduate of Mulvane High School, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Kansas on Dec. 12.

After receiving her master’s in December 2009, also from KU, Phillips will be employed with Grant Thornton LLP of Kansas City.

She is the daughter of Gina and Larry Stephens, and Shane Phillips and Barbara Blue; and granddaughter of Henry and Judy Human, all of Derby.
Stylist Melissa Brummel cuts the first of four 10-inch braids in Kenny Sweeney’s hair last week.

Fifth-grader donates locks to aid children

Professor impressed by student’s theories about naturally curing cancer

By Kristen Waggener
kwaggener@miconews.com

“My head feels fuzzy.”
Moments after dozens of tufts of his wispy, sandy brown hair floated to the ground inside Salon Broadway, Kenny Sweeney was running his fingers through the back of his head.

“Mom, feel it!” Kenny says, proud of his latest accomplishment.

The fifth-grader at Broadmoor Elementary School had just finished donating more than 40 inches of his hair to Locks For Love, a charitable organization that uses donated human hair to make wigs for children suffering from cancer. Kenny knows what he did will help somebody, maybe a child like him, cope with the reality of cancer.

SEE SWEENEY ON PAGE A3
SWEENEY: Youth strives to cure cancer

Continued from A1

Thank you to God

Last week was the third time Kenny grew out and cut his hair for Locks For Love. Each time, it takes about two years, but the time — and being called "Animal" from The Muppets by his mother — is all worth it when he knows the effort he is making is helping someone in need.

"It was his thank you to God that I survived," said Kelly Sweeney, Kenny's mother, who is a cancer survivor. "He didn't know how to thank God, and I mentioned to him about the children and Locks For Love."

Six years later, Kenny sat in Brummel's salon chair with four 10-inch braids in his hair, ready to be cut.

Cutting the first one seemed like an eternity. With each snip of Brummel's shears, Kelly winced, even though her son didn't seem phased by such a drastic change.

Snip. Snip. Snip. Fourteen snips later, the first braid was cut, and Kenny got his first look in the mirror of his new, much shorter hair.

More than just donating hair

Kenny's hair donation was about more than helping children with cancer, though that was a large part of it.

He wanted to show the other kids at school it's OK to be different, to grow your hair out long. And it's OK to wear glasses and be interested in other things besides sports.

Those are lessons Kenny learned from his hero, Kid Rock.

Cutting his hair was the culmination of a two-day experience, where Kenny was able to meet with representatives from the American Cancer Society to make a monetary donation and a professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo., to talk about his own natural theories about curing cancer.

Science project gone wrongly right

When Kenny was a fourth-grader at BES, he took a personal approach to the science project assignment. He tested the effect of citric acid and vitamin C on warts, which are benign tumors, on his own leg.

"At first, they shrunk, but then they grew even more," Kenny said.

"Tumors are just swollen white blood cells, so it shows vitamin C is good for the immune system ... The citric acid is what shrunk it, so I think pure citric acid could destroy it."

Those conclusions, combined with Kenny's curiosity about cancer and innate interest in science, led him to develop several theories about how to possibly cure cancer.

One of Kenny's teachers, Emily Schmidt, heard about Kenny's interest in curing cancer and contacted Matt Martinek, community manager for health initiatives for the Kansas City branch of the American Cancer Society, to meet with Kenny.

Martinek traveled to Louisburg in September to talk with Kenny about cancer.

"Little did I know he's not your random fifth-grade student," Martinek said.

"He's far advanced. I quickly learned in talking with him and Kelly, he needed more than general information I could provide him. I thought it would be good for him to meet with a doctor to talk to him on his level, since Kenny had so much information."

A visit with Professor Yankee

The day before he cut his hair, Kenny and his mother trekked to the city, where they met with Thomas Yankee, an assistant professor of immunology at KU Medical Center, to discuss Kenny's theories about how to naturally cure cancer.

While Yankee took Kenny on a tour of his labs and to meet his staff, Kelly and Martinek distributed stuffed animals to children who were staying in the hospital.

"They left, and first we went over what his theories were and what he's doing in his research," Kenny said.

Yankee also showed Kenny that scientists have fun, too.

Then, when Kelly and Martinek returned, the four sat down to talk about Kenny's theories.

Two theories

One of Kenny's theories about how to shrink cancer tumors came from his fourth-grade science project. He postulates that if citric acid is applied purely to tumors — without vitamin C — it would destroy the cancer completely.

The other theory, Kenny said, could be a little more controversial, using tetrahydrocannabinol, one ingredient found in marijuana.

"The main ingredient in marijuana is THC, which in recent reports in the U.K., THC has the ability to shrink leukemia tumors," Kenny said. "For its legal status and psychological side effects, it is not used that much. But if the THC is extracted correctly, and not smoked, it gives different results, possibly better."

After their meeting, it became evident Yankee was impressed.

"He's a real advanced kid," Yankee said. "I expect for him to do well and maybe I'll see him in 15 years here as a grad student or med student."

Kenny, too, was happy...
with the meeting. “I finally had someone who understood me, woohoo!” Kenny said.

**Spreading the message**

After being energized by their meetings, Kelly and Kenny wanted to encourage others to become involved by donating their hair for Locks for Love.

“Kenny was the first male I ever cut their hair for Locks for Love,” Brummel said after she finished Kenny’s hair.

The project was special for her because Kenny and her son, Ben, are good friends.

The salon, and the Sweeneys, are encouraging anyone who wants to get their hair cut for the organization, to come to Salon Broadway to do it.

Martinek and the American Cancer Society have given T-shirts for anyone who donates hair.

When his hair was finally finished, Kenny looked in the mirror and saw the ultra-short cut he was eager to display to his friends once school starts back in January.

“It looks cool,” he said.

And Kelly was a proud mother, knowing her son’s heart and head are in the right place.

Kenny Sweeney spent part of a day with Professor Thomas Yankee at the University of Kansas Medical Center discussing natural ways to cure cancer.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
K-State students earn academic scholarships for 2008-09 school year

More than 5,000 Kansas State University students have been awarded academic scholarships for the 2008-2009 school year. In all, students received nearly $14.8 million in scholarships. Most of the scholarships are made possible through donations and gifts to the Kansas State University Foundation.

Among this year's scholarship recipients are 66 K-State students who were selected as new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars through the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.

K-State students receiving scholarships totaling more than $1,000 include:

Delia: Kay Albright, William S. May Scholarship for Agricultural Finance; Ryan Anthony Kerwin, Leadership Scholarship; Adam James Lukert, Vet Training Program; Alison Lukert, Business Administration Dean's Scholarship and Kay Meggers-Siemons Corporation Management Scholarship; Esteban Maradona, DOW Chemical Company Foundation Scholarship for the Kansas State University Department of Mechanical Engineering, T. Jackson Mechanical Engineering Scholarship, NACME Scholarship and Kyle Glenn and Keith Ernest Smith Memorial Scholarship

Emmett: Kenny James Engholm, The Paulson Civil Engineering Student Excellence Award

Havensville: Samantha Beth Henderson, Joseph T. and Ann L. Davis Memorial Scholarship and Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship; Keely Danielle Koltermam, Foundation Scholarship; Christopher Lee Niehues, Achievement Award and Agricultural Enhancement Fund; Tracy Alexandra Reisinger, Adult Student Scholarship and American Association of University Women Scholarship; Daniel James Todd, Activity Scholarship; Kendra Dawn Vandonge, Hospitality Management Society Scholarship and Anna Maude Smith Fund for Students in Home Economics

Olsburg: Katie Laura Burklund, Activity Scholarship; Adron Doerr, Agricultural Enhancement Fund and Transfer Scholarship; Amber Lane Gude, Activity Scholarship; Taeltor Janell Howland, Achievement Award; Allison Joy Wilcox, Martha E. Brill Scholarship in Human Ecology and Gilbert A. and Martha Jane Lewis Ferguson Scholarship; Rachel Lynn Wilcox, Martha E. Brill Scholarship in Human Ecology

Onaga: Austin Lee Bosse, C.S. Broeman Scholarship; Katie Nicole Handley, Walter T.W. Poos Scholarship in Agricultural Engineering; Kelsey Marie Rezac, Joseph T. and Ann L. Davis Memorial Scholarship, Foundation Scholarship and Dr. J. E. McManis Memorial Scholarship; Nicole Renee Rezac, Walter E. Gilmore Memorial Scholarship in Agronomy, Albert P. Haeberle College of Agriculture Memorial Scholarship and The Lewis G. Mickelson Scholarship; Becky Zabel, Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship; Cody Wayne Zabel, Achievement Award

Saint George: Ronnie Dean Adkins, Edith A. Vohs Scholarship; Victoria Lynn Davidson, Dwight Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star Memorial Scholarship, Foundation Scholarship, June D. Hull Sherrod Cancer Center Scholarship and Education Fund and Ross W. Stice Scholarship; Chyann Kay Ebert, Achievement Award; Katherine Lynn Edwards, Vet Training Program; Colby Dennis James Helget, Leadership Scholarship; Bobbie Jo Horocofsky, Foundation Scholarship; Kayla Leann Keys, Activity Scholarship; Christopher Lee Miller, The Rene Buhler Memorial Scholarship; Amanda Anne Sixbury, Walter M. and Alice K. Bellairs Scholarship, Engineering Scholarship and The Edward L. Wilson Civil Engineering Scholarship; Brent Winter, Engineering Scholarship, Melvin G. Peterson Memorial Scholarship and Andrey A. Potter Memorial Scholarship in Engineering

St. Marys: Jose Antonio Armesto, DOW Chemical Company Foundation Scholarship for the Kansas State University Department of Chemical Engineering and Engineering Scholarship; Tyler Dean Brown, W. E. Long Scholarship; Miranda Sue Quintanilla, Memorial Scholarship Wamego: Melissa Jane Brazelle, Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship; Jared William Brooks, Engineering Scholarship; Mary Helen Hawks Scholars and Foster A. Hinshaw Memorial Scholarship; Paul Bossler Carnahan, Tointon Family Scholarship; Emma Ruth Cott, Martha E. Brill Scholarship in Human Ecology; Jacob A. Cox, FCI Constructors Inc. Construction Science Academic Excellence Fund; Ashlee Marie Davis, College of Education Scholarship; Elizabeth Ashley Douglas, W. E. Long Scholarship; Joleen Eisele, American Association of University Women Scholarship; Sean L. Gaulin, Opportunity Scholarship; Trisha Anastasia Grothe, Business Administration
Dean's Scholarship and W.F. and Lucille Farrell Scholarship Fund; Ashley Hanson, Ellen Warren Roberts Scholarship; Diego Kientz, Ralf E. Hockens and Alice M. Hockens Memorial Fund, John W. and Hazel M. Jenner Scholarship, Memorial Scholarship and John C. Peterson Scholarship; Clifford Lee Krebs, Achievement Award; Jarrod John Krebs, Achievement Award and Engineering Scholarship; Britney Ann Lindhorst, Transfer Scholarship; Kacee Ann McNally, Activity Scholarship; Megan Marie Morgan, Elvon G. and Lydia E. Skeen Education Fund; Jon Oakes, ConocoPhillips Spirit Scholars, The Lambda Chi Alpha Brotherhood and Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering Scholarship and Rathbone Scholarship; Brittany D Riffe, Foundation Scholarship; Mollie Kayelle Robbins, Business Administration Dean's Scholarship and W.F. and Lucille Farrell Scholarship Fund; Chelsea N. Rose, Clyde E. Minner Scholarship; Bethany Deanna Sanderson, Joseph T. and Ann L. Davis Memorial Scholarship and Fairchild Scholarship; Aaron Dean Sylvester, CHS Foundation Cooperative Studies Scholarship, Cobank Outstanding Student Scholarship, Kansas Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Scholarship, Gladwin A. Read Memorial Fund and stanley G. Wendland Memorial Scholarship; Hannah Elizabeth Vinson, Opportunity Scholarship; Andrea Lynn Vonfeldt, Elizabeth May Galloway Scholarship in Home Economics; Hannah Rose Watts, Nina M. Browning Memorial Scholarship and Anita K. Laurent Scholarship in Human Ecology; Benjamin Wesley Wileman, Veterinary Medicine Clinical Sciences

Westmoreland: Travis Dean Altenhofen, Activity Scholarship and Salina Scholarship-Flight; William Everett Brown, Haines Memorial Scholarship and Gaylord Munson Memorial Scholarship; Derek Fike, Engineering Scholarship and Leadership Scholarship; Jordan William Frank, Baeten Farm Scholarship and Leadership Scholarship; Adam Marshall Krause, Opportunity Scholarship; Daniel Lee Smith, K-State Trapshooting Club Officer Scholarship.

Wheaton: Bailey Jo Harder, Finance Advisory Board Scholarship; Samantha Kohman, Activity Scholarship, KSU Alumni Association Scholarship and Ardyce Hanson Pierce Memorial Scholarship Fund; Ashley Brianna Umscheid, Medallion Scholarship

Rossville: Kristin Marie Brown, Activity Scholarship; Matthew William Ebert, ConocoPhillips Spirit Scholars, Engineering Scholarship and Robert M. Kountz Scholarship in Engineering

Silver Lake: Aaron Blush, Kendell Aileen Sobering Memorial Scholarship; Austin Kenneth Blush, Charles A. and Nona B. Frankenhoff Scholarship Fund; Brian Donald Dieker, Harold and Gertrude Michaelis Education Scholarship and Elvon G. and Lydia E. Skeen Education Fund; Jennifer Dawn Girard, Benjamin Kurz Research Fund; Jaimie Renae Tosh, Achievement Award;
Alma: Larami Denise Garrison, Barbe Family Scholarship, R. E. 'Gene' and Mary Beth Bonnell Scholarship and The Student Finance Association Scholarship; Genna Gehrt, Mary Grace Hanson Scholarship; Joni Marie Gehrt, R. E. 'Gene' and Mary Beth Bonnell Scholarship and Bradley C. Heyka Memorial Scholarship in Finance; Kaylyn Noel Goodson, Opportunity Scholarship; Katrina Jodawn Faith Lira, Activity Scholarship and Agricultural Enhancement Fund; John Albert Teneyck, Activity Scholarship; Todd Curtis Wenderott, Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence and William Salero Scholarship

Maple Hill: Jacob Lowell Gleason, John M. Cranor, Jr. Memorial Scholarship and Transfer Scholarship

McFarland: Lisa Marie Erikson, Charles E. Billingsley Accounting Scholarship and Clayton R. Rock Memorial Scholarship

Paxico: Loretta Barthuly, Timothy Sprerier Operations Management Scholarship; Tyler John Heiman Achievement Award; Erin Marie Kraus, Leadership Scholarship Rebecca Short, Lois Stuwe Eagleto Memorial Scholarship in Human Ecology and Grace Dickman King Memorial Scholarship
University of Kansas awards scholarships

More than 6,500 students at the University of Kansas will receive scholarships worth 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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Area graduates include:
Ashley Beth Leonard, Belvue, daughter of Nancy Dekat; Nursing BSN Senior, Mary Hatheway Abell Memorial Scholarship in Nursing, Wamego High School graduate; Laura C Brunin, St. Marys, daughter of David and Kathy Brunin; Secondary Level Education BSE Junior, Frank G. Crowell Scholarship and Clara Rusk Hastings Scholarship, St. Marys High School graduate; Kenzie Colleen Cordt, St. Marys, daughter of Cynthia Mitchell; News and Information BSJ Sophomore, Coca Cola Scholarships, St. Marys High School; Jarrod Malcolm Smith, St. Marys, son of Diana Smith; Pre-Pharmacy Freshman, Targeted Scholarships, McManis Scholarship and Hartley Scholarship, St. Marys High School graduate; Janel Anne Wietharn, St. Marys, daughter of Douglas and Mary Wietharn; Pre-Business Freshman, Ellis D. Bever Undergraduate Scholarship, St. Marys High School graduate; Claire Nicole Marr, Social Work BSW Senior, Barton P Cohen Scholarship, St. Marys High School graduate; Jacob Brian Landis, Rossville, son of Alicia and Joe Vanatta; Biology BS Senior, Coca Cola Scholarships, Rossville High School graduate; Sean Robert Reskey, Rossville, son of Scott and Lisa Reskey; Aerospace Engineering BS Sophomore, C. L. Burt Engineering Scholarship, Rossville High School graduate; Marc Thomas Roth, Rossville, son of Gary and Tina Roth; Biochemistry BA Sophomore, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship, Rossville High School graduate; Benjamin D Sharp, Rossville, Juris Doctor JD Prof 3, Help of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Scholarship; Joshua A Baden son, Silver Lake, of Kay and Andy Baden; Biology BS Freshman Wayne Moody Scholarship Fund, Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School graduate; Brianna Rae Barnes, Silver Lake, daughter of Susan Barnes; Pharmacy PD Senior, Golf Classic Rx Scholarship, Hiawatha High School graduate; Brian Christopher Hill, Silver Lake, son of Cynthia and Michael Hill; Accounting BSB Sophomore, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship, Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School graduate; Nicolas Scott Miller, Silver Lake, son of Laura Miller; Classical Languages BA Sophomore, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship, Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School graduate; Michelle Ann Taylor, Silver Lake, daughter of William and Janice Taylor; Pre-Law Freshman Zelma Edna McIlvain Scholarship, Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School graduate; Hayley C Holthus, Basehor, Public Health MPH Graduate, Avis G. McPike Medical Scholarship, Silver Lake Junior/Senior High School graduate; Nicole Dawn Niehues, Maple Hill, daughter of Denis and Julie Niehues, Architectural Engineering BS Freshman, Allen Memorial Scholarship and Paul and Virginia Bassett Miller Engineering Scholarship, Mission Valley High School graduate; Charles Michael Stock, Maple Hill, son of Sally Fox; Pre-Pharmacy Freshman, John K. and Edna M. Cape Scholarship and Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship, Washburn Rural High School graduate.

County: Pottawatomie

32690-12-24_13001
Kansas Profile: Now that's Rural-Clay Center Dispatch

By Ron Wilson, director, Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

When someone says their family has been in their business since the early '80s, that doesn't seem particularly unusual. But when he clarifies that he was referring to the early 1880s, that gets my attention. Today we'll meet a journalist whose family has been publishing newspapers in the very same Kansas community since the early 1880s.

Ned Valentine is the publisher of the Clay Center Dispatch. He explains that the Dispatch was founded in 1871 as a weekly newspaper.

In 1916, it became a daily as it is today. In the early 1880s, the paper was purchased by Del Valentine, who was Ned's great-uncle.

Del's father was one of the first attorneys in Kansas and was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court. Del then moved to Topeka to serve as his law clerk. The Valentines sold the Dispatch and bought another local paper called the Times, which they published after that. Del's brother - Ned Valentine's grandfather - published the paper. In the 1940s, the Valentines bought back the Dispatch and have published it ever since.

The buyer of the paper in the interim was A.L. Runyan. His son was none other than Damon Runyan, who was born in Manhattan, Kansas and became a famous New York writer and newspaperman himself.

Meanwhile, the Valentines published the Dispatch in Clay Center.

After college at KU, Ned Valentine joined the paper in 1969. The years since then have brought remarkable changes.

Ned says, "I've seen more change in newspaper produc-
tion during my time here at the paper than did my father and grandfather together."

When Ned began, they were using a flatbed duplex press with lead type. He says, "It wasn't much different from the way they were printing newspapers back in the 1880s."

Now Ned has overseen three major overhauls in newspaper production.

First was the conversion to offset press, and then came the impact of computers.

Ned says, "The computer has had an application on absolutely everything we do. The bookkeeping was the last to change."

Nowadays, computer software is used to lay out and design the pages.

The Dispatch also created Community Media in K-State's School of Journalism and See Rural Page 10.
Mass Communications, says, "I think it's really great that Ned is the third generation Valentine to publish the Clay Center Dispatch and help his community. He also represents the third generation of Valentines to have served as Kansas Press Association president."

So when someone tells me that their family has been in the business since the early '80s - the early 1880s - then I take notice. The Valentine family has been in the newspaper business longer than many families in Kansas and more than most in the nation. We commend Ned Valentine for making a difference by using community journalism to sustain the newspaper business for well over a century.

The mission of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development is to enhance rural development by helping rural people help themselves. The Kansas Profile radio series and columns are produced with assistance from the K-State Research and Extension Department of Communications News Unit. Audio and text files of Kansas Profiles are available at http://www.kansasprofile.com. For more information about the Huck Boyd Institute, interested persons can visit http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/huckboyd.
Chamber to honor
Robert Brown

BY BRIAN SANDERS
Recorder Staff

To many of his students, he’s “Mr. B.” To others who appreciate his work beyond his teaching, he is “Jackson County’s music man.”

Robert Brown of Holton appreciates and acknowledges the things people say about him with a good dose of humility and an even greater sense of humor. But when he learned that he was among the latest inductees to the Holton/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame, it was the humble side that showed more.

“I was totally quiet and speechless, maybe with a tear in the eye,” said Brown, who taught music at Holton’s schools for more than a quarter of a century and has provided music at Holton’s First United Methodist Church for more than half a century. He will join Warren Bottenberg, Carolyn Koger and the Jackson County Friends of Hospice group in joining the Hall of Fame at a February induction ceremony.

Brown, who’s known throughout the county and the surrounding area for his work in the field of music education, is a former president of the Holton Chamber of Commerce, serving two terms in that office in the early 1960s. At that time, he also was co-owner of The Brown Shop on Holton’s Town Square with his mother, Gladys.

“We tried to be innovative,” said Brown of his days as a prominent member of the Chamber. The Brown Shop was open on the Square from about 1955 — the former Breckenridge store, occupying a space currently held by S&A’s Downtown Café — to 1967, when it was located in a space currently occupied by Sarah’s.

Brown recalled his work with Tom Shupe, remembering their work in attempting to promote new strategies for drawing people to the Square for the holiday season.

“Tom and I brought in a truckload of trees, and we went around the Square and tried to sell them to merchants, so they would put them up where the flagpoles would go,” he said.

Overall, though, his time with the Chamber was “tough,” and many of the innovative ideas that he and others had in the early Sixties were met with resistance from “a bunch of old fagies.”

“We were young enough to think that we were going to change things,” Brown said.

But what he didn’t do — or so he believes — with the Chamber, he did do with music. Born in 1930 in Holton, Brown graduated from Holton High School in 1948, going onto Bethany College for four years before a year’s stint in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. After that, he went back to the University of Kansas to get a master’s degree in music education, a goal he said was inspired by his respect for Holton music teacher L. Stanley Talbot.

His first teaching job after his Army service was at a school in Onaga. That, he said, was 1955.

“Back in those days, from here to Onaga was hills, and they cut all those hills out,” he said, remembering the daily commute from Holton. “I ruined I don’t know how many cars.”

Brown also taught at schools in Soldier and Havensville before coming on board as Holton High School’s vocal music teacher in 1967. At that time, as it remains today, his goal for teaching music to young people was to instill in them a sense of fun in music.

Continued to Page 3A
Former Holton High School music teacher and First United Methodist Church music director Robert Brown (seated) is among this year’s Holton/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce honorees. Shown here with Brown is his wife, Marilyn.

Photo by Brian Sanders
Brown...

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“I had wonderful experiences with those who excelled,” he said. “I really wanted to reach them all if I could.”

And reach them he did, teaching large groups of choirs and starting the Notables, HHS’ “show choir” group that, at the time, combined popular music with dance routines. His love for musicals went far beyond the HHS stage, assisting Edward Hayes with four summers worth of Broadway shows in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

“It was crazy,” he said of the “Fun City” shows put together with Hayes’ help. “But we had three successful shows in three years. The fourth year, we did a revue-type show that I composed and directed at the Arcada Theater. It was so successful that we had to turn people away.”

One of his favorite musical creations from that period, he said, was “Song Souvenirs of the Last 100 Years,” which was commissioned by then-Superintendent C.L. Riley. That involved a cast of about 150 performing two nightly shows, both of which were sold out, he said.

Others know Brown for his work as an organist and choir director at First United Methodist Church, where he has played the organ for more than 50 years, starting in high school, albeit non-consecutively. But Brown is quick to cite the help he has gotten from others in his quest to bring good music to the people of Jackson County, noting in particular Dolores Wright.

“She teamed up with me on one of the summer shows we did,” he said of Wright. “We’ve been a team ever since.”

But to Brown, the number one player on his team is his wife, Marilyn, who giggles when Brown suggests that “she’s been my assistant on everything I’ve ever done.” Married for more than half a century, the two of them have raised three children and helped welcome four grandchildren into their world.

Just as important, Marilyn said, are the many piano students Brown has had through the years.

“One thing that’s so rewarding to him is when they stop in and just thank him for what he’s done,” she said.

That sentiment echoed a statement made by Bill Mercer in 1988 when Brown was honored as Holton High School’s Alumnus of the Year.

“No one will ever know the many adverse consequences in young lives which had been avoided because he was available, interruptible and reachable — at the right time,” Mercer was quoted as saying about Brown at that time.

Brown’s other accomplishments include a 1986 Optimist Club education award (presented by previous Chamber Hall of Fame honoree Tom Davies), the 1988 grand marshal honors at the Jackson County 4-H Fair Parade, previous membership in Lions and Rotary clubs, a Paul Harris Fellowship in Rotary and an honorary membership in Holton’s St. Cecilia Music Club.

But to Brown, the most rewarding thing is how many friends he has made that are his former vocal music and piano students.

“Many of my church choir are my former students,” he said. “We’re just like family.”

The Chamber’s annual Hall of Fame dinner is set for 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5 at the EUM Family Life Center. Contact the Chamber office at 364-3963 for ticket information.
The chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the director of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, a world-renowned professor of biochemistry and a federal appellate judge have been selected as recipients of the 2008-09 Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award from the University of Kansas.

KU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences announced the winners of the award, the highest honor bestowed by the College on its graduates. "The achievements of the Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award recipients are inspiring to our students, gratifying for faculty members and a source of pride for alumni of the College," said Dean Joseph E. Steinmetz. "While these four extraordinary individuals have distinguished themselves in diverse fields, a broad liberal arts and sciences education provided the foundation for all of them to make a difference in their communities and in the world."

Recipients are Shelia Bair of Potomac, Md.; Jacqueline Z. Davis of New York, N.Y.; Robert Hill of Durham, N.C.; and Deanell Reece Tacha of Lawrence. Awards will be presented during the annual Deans Club Banquet at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2009, in the Kansas Union hallroom.