C'vale student attends KU music camp

LAWRENCE — More than 380 junior high and high school students from Kansas and 16 other states arrived at the University of Kansas this summer to attend one of four Midwestern Music Camps. Among those students was a Cherryvale musician: Katie Allison, who will be in the eighth grade at Cherryvale Middle-High School in the 2007-08 school year.

KU's School of Fine Arts and Department of Music and Dance offer the camps. David Clemmer, director of athletic bands and assistant band director at KU, leads the camps. The camps provide instrumental, vocal and keyboard students a variety of musical experiences, including opportunities to participate in full symphony orchras, choirs, bands, jazz ensembles and music classes.
Borchers Gets Master’s From KU

Jamey Borchers, daughter of Jim and Kathy McCoy and Mulvane High School graduate, recently received her Master’s of Science in Educational Leadership degree from the University of Kansas.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary/Middle School Education in from KU in 2003. She is currently employed as a 7th grade Communication Arts teacher at Monticello Trails Middle School in Shawnee. She is also a cheerleading coach and MTMS and teaches lyrical dance at All The Right Moves Dance Company. Borchers lives in Olathe with her husband, Chris.
College-bound migrant workers focus of grant efforts

LAWRENCE (AP) — A group of universities and community colleges has been collaborating in an effort to obtain federal funding for a program to help college-bound children of migrant workers.

Kansas State University will lead the effort, which will also include the University of Kansas, Emporia State University, Garden City Community College and Kansas City, Kan., Community College.

The $2.1 million grant request Kansas State submitted would be for five years, reach 148 students and provide tuition for 12 credit hours per semester and a living stipend.

The collaboration began after the U.S. Department of Education denied the University of Kansas' grant request to continue its College Assistance Migrant Program. The CAMP program had paid tuition for six credit hours and $750 in living expenses per semester for up to 24 students a year.

When the grant renewal was denied, a group of college officials started discussing how to collaborate and provide services throughout the state, Kansas State's Bob Fanning said. Fanning is director of a program that helps children of migrant workers finish high school and assistant director of Kansas State's English as Second Language program.

Under the proposal submitted in the spring to the Education Department, Kansas State would house CAMP and contract the service out to other schools with eligible students.

Fanning said at the same time the department denied Kansas' grant, the Education Department renewed a five-year grant for a Kansas State program that targets high school students.
Study: Number of brain tumors at KU hall a coincidence

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The number of brain tumors reported by employees at Wescoe Hall on the University of Kansas campus is a coincidence that was not caused by the hall’s inadequate air-handling system, a study concluded.

Employees said at least five people who work in the building have been diagnosed with brain tumors in the past eight years.

"The cause of the brain tumors is unknown," said Dr. John Neuberger, epidemiologist at the university’s School of Medicine.

Neuberger led a team of researchers who spent a year trying to determine if the 34-year-old building posed health risks. A 21-page report on their efforts was released Friday when Neuberger and other research team members met with about a dozen current and former staff members from Wescoe.

The study recommended that the building’s air-handling systems be replaced. Air tests in 2006 detected low levels of formaldehyde, but Wescoe was found to be environmentally safe. A $3 million project to replace the air system on Wescoe’s first three floors has begun and will continue into 2009.

The inadequate airflow system didn’t cause brain tumors, Neuberger said, but it could cause respiratory problems and eye irritation.

Betty Banks, a retired associate professor of classics, said she and other former staff members didn’t have much hope that the system would be fixed because previous attempts have failed.

"There have been so many tries before and it was an in-house operation," she said. "It was going to be a rare day when the university said it allowed people to live and work in substandard conditions for 30 years."
KU ups illegal downloading penalty

LAWRENCE — In an attempt to deter students from illegally downloading music or movies in University of Kansas' student housing, the school has instituted a zero-tolerance policy.

Beginning this fall, university officials said they will deactivate ResNet Network access for students in residence halls if they are notified of a copyright violation and an appeal is denied. Students could still access computers on campus labs and use their university e-mail addresses.

The previous policy used a three strike system, but with an increasing number of complaints from organizations and pressure from the Recording Industry Association of America, officials decided to make the change.

The association recently announced it had sent 408 pre-litigation settlement letters to 23 universities, including the University of Kansas. Association spokeswoman Cara Duckworth said illegal downloading is disproportionately high on college campuses.
Area students announced as Dole Scholars

LAWRENCE — The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas recently announced 128 new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year.

The recipients, all 2007 Kansas high schools graduates, represent the largest class of Dole scholars since the program began in 2005. Funded by NASA, the scholarships are distributed among the state's four congressional districts to ensure the broadest statewide participation.

"This year, the Dole Institute received a second federal grant, and we are able to offer nearly three times the number of scholarships in each of the previous two years," said Bill Lacy, institute director.

The scholarship program began with a federal grant that funded 40 scholarships each in 2005 and in 2006. With the addition of the 128 scholarships awarded this year, the total number of Dole scholars comes to 208.

The new scholars will enroll this fall at one of the six Kansas Board of Regents universities or Washburn University in Topeka. Regents universities are KU, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University and Wichita State University.

Aligned with the primary mission of the Dole Institute, the scholarship program encourages young Kansans to get involved in politics, government and community service.

"Dole scholars represent the best around Kansas high school graduates," said Barbara Ballard, director of the scholarship program and associate director of the Dole Institute. "Dole scholars are required to engage in 100 hours of civic activities annually. We hope that their experiences will influence them throughout their lives to become involved citizens."

Recipients receive a $1,000 scholarship, renewable for three years, and commit to completing 100 hours of civic activities annually. Kansas high school seniors who have volunteered in community and public service in their communities and who have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale are eligible.

The new scholars were formally announced during a June luncheon meeting at the Dole Institute. Area students receiving the scholarship were (listed by name, high school attended, university, major, Congressional District Representative):

Bethany Bohnenblust, Labette County High School, Kansas State University, Communications, 2nd District: Nancy Boyd.

Ashley Shaff, Cedar Vale High School, Kansas State University, Biology, 4th District: Todd Tiahrt.

Bailey Waugh, Labette County High School, Pittsburg State University, Biology, 2nd District: Nancy Boyd.

Jamie Zellner, West Elk High School, Kansas State University, Graphic Design, 4th District: Todd Tiahrt.
Area Students Make KU Honor Roll

FOR THE INDEPENDENT

LAWRENCE — More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and 37 other countries.

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

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units.

Local students on the list were: Stacy Lynn Burke, Burron, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, senior; Brianna Dahn Flickinger, Burron, daughter of Corey and Rae Ann Flickinger, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, senior; Aaron Jacob Keller, Halstead, son of Cecil and Valerie Keller, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, senior; Elizabeth Ann Major, Halstead, daughter of Terry and Joan Major, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, sophomore; Casey M. Miles, Halstead, son of Kirk and Shelley Miles, Journalism Undergraduate, sophomore; Lindsey Nicole Miles, Halstead, daughter of Kirk and Shelley Miles, Education Undergraduate, senior; Nicholas R. Degner, Sedgwick, son of Carol Elkins, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, senior; Crystal Lynn Leming, Sedgwick, daughter of Ron and Kelli Arrowsmith, Liberal Arts Undergraduate, junior.

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.
Study finds number of brain tumors at hall coincidence

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New director of development at KU Hillel

Mary Dees has joined the KU Hillel staff as its new director of development. She will be responsible for all aspects of KU Hillel’s fundraising efforts.

Dees comes to Hillel from the Jewish Community Foundation, where she held a similar position. Prior to that, she worked for seven years with the Heart of America United Way where she served as the director of Planned Giving.

KU Hillel’s Executive Director Jay Lewis said he is excited about the newest addition to the staff.

“We are all so thrilled Mary came to KU Hillel. Her talent, passion, and significant fundraising experience are going to help us continue our emergence as one of the most successful Jewish campus organizations in the country,” Lewis said.

Howard Cohen, president of KU Hillel’s board of directors, agrees. “Now all the pieces are in place,” he said. “We have a remarkable executive director in Jay Lewis and a top-notch program director in Matt Lehrman.

“Adding Mary in the development area makes the team complete. We are looking forward to a successful year and a very exciting future for KU Hillel.”

Dees started her position on July 5. She can be reached at (785) 749-5397 or mdees@kuhillel.org.
Summer interns help Jewish agencies, synagogues

By Rachel Seliger

Special to The Chronicle

The hardest part of every college student’s summer is finding a job to appease Mom and Dad. One program that’s helping to appease parents and helping train college students at the same time is the Learning for Life Internship program, run under the auspices of CAJE, the educational arm of the Jewish Federation.

The program was first developed by Karen Gerson, director of informal education at the Federation, to create an opportunity for students in Kansas City to improve their professional skills while learning from their Jewish identity. Now in its fifth year, the program has five interns this summer: Hannah Bolter, Evan Golden, Tara Block, Mark Kantor and Rachel Seliger, who were all selected and placed within different agencies associated with the Federation.

“The program was created to meet the needs of agencies and congregations while providing youth and young adults with a positive experience in the Jewish community,” Gerson said. Each intern is working in a full-time position with an agency or congregation, or in two part-time positions with different organizations.

Gerson is pleased with the growth of the program in its fifth year.

“The caliber of the interns this year has increased. They are more focused on graduation and their career paths,” Gerson said.

Hannah Bolter, a University of Indiana sophomore from Lenexa, is interning part-time at both Jewish Family Services and in the Department of Adult Education at the Jewish Community Center.

“Since I am planning to go into Jewish communal work, Learning for Life is providing me with invaluable experience and an inside look into my potential future,” Bolter said.

Evan Golden, a University of Kansas senior from Minneapolis, has been anxious about his internship at the Jewish Heritage Foundation.

“I am most nervous about interviewing people that I
Interns

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have never met before,” Golden said. “I tend to be shy around new people.”

“The biggest thing I am worried about is taking this internship for granted,” said KU junior Tara Block, an Overland Park native. Block is interning full-time in the JCC marketing department.

“I know what an amazing opportunity this is and I want to make sure I give it my all,” Block said.

Rachel Seliger, a KU senior from Seattle, is working full-time for the Jewish Federation.

Though first-time internships can be scary, these students dove right in to the work at hand.

“I jumped at the opportunity to work at Beth Torah, my own synagogue, where I would be sure to see the results of my work, even after the summer is through,” said Mark Kanter, a Colgate University sophomore from Leawood. Kanter is interning part-time at both Congregation Beth Torah and the Jewish Community Foundation.

“Having an intern here this summer in the JCC’s marketing department has been a wonderful experience for our organization,” said Jane Martin, the JCC’s director of marketing and public relations.

“Her energy and enthusiasm have brought a lot to the JCC, and so far, she has been a great help in getting publicity for our Kids Triathlon in June, and helping enhance membership marketing efforts,” Martin continued.

In addition to individual positions in various agencies, the interns meet once a week for an educational seminar led by Gerson.

Prominent figures in the Kansas City Jewish community volunteer their time to speak with the interns about their experiences. It is also a time for the five interns to socialize with each other.

The Learning for Life internship is funded by the Sam & Helen Kaplan Fund. Howard Jacobson is the trustee of the fund. Jacobson said the internship fulfills the requirements left by Helen Kaplan for how her wealth was to be invested after her passing.

For more information on these internships, contact Gerson, (913) 327-8144.

Rachel Seliger is the Learning for Life summer intern at the Jewish Federation.

Learning for Life interns meet with the trustee for their program. Shown are Karen Gerson, director of the Learning for Life Initiative (from left); Evan Golden, Hannah Bolter, Mark Kanter, Howard Jacobson, trustee of Sam and Helen Kaplan Fund; Tara Block and Rachel Seliger.