Smith receives Boren scholarship

Zachariah J. Smith was one of four University of Kansas students named 2007 David, L. Boren Undergraduate Scholars by the National Security Education Program, which supports the study of languages and cultures underrepresented in study abroad and critical to national security.

Recipients must commit to a year of service upon their return in the intelligence community or one of the following federal departments: defense, homeland security or state. Smith is majoring in political science with an international studies co-major. He will study at the University of Jordan in Amman through the Council on International Educational Exchange. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national leadership and honors organization. He is the son of Jeff and Lisa Smith, who have recently moved to Virginia, and is a Derby High School graduate.
New University of Kansas students and their parents from Sedgwick County and the city of Andover were welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic on Thursday, June 28 in Wichita. The following Derby students were invited to attend: Bryson Bennett, Christopher Brown, Leslie Carter Mills, Sarah Christians, Victoria Grandisoul, Jennifer Haworth, David Heckathorn, Adam Hefel, Bonnie Reynolds, Aaron Stables, Kevan Stout, Cameron Walker, Grant Warren, Emylisa Warrick.
Hesston College president Howard Keim has announced the appointment of Dr. Sandra Zerger as vice president of academics. She began serving in that role July 1.

For the past six years, Zerger served as Campus Supplemental Instruction Coordinator at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

"Zerger said she accepted the appointment for two reasons. "Throughout my career, I’ve always been involved in working with students as they access higher education," she said. "This job allows me to continue on that track."

"I’ve also been out of Mennonite higher education for six years," she continued, "so I’ve been anxious to return, since Mennonite education is my passion."

Zerger outlined several immediate goals, goals that involve building on strengths already present at Hesston College. "We want to continue promoting our strong career programs," she said, "such as nursing, aviation, early childhood education, and pastoral ministries, as well as several new unique programs, like disaster management."

"We also want to strengthen programs that help students decide on majors and careers," she said. "There’s a lot of interest among faculty and administrators. Last year, a task force did good work, and we want to build on that momentum."

Zerger noted a third immediate goal. "I want more fully to understand and help articulate to the public the uniqueness of the Hesston experience and her desire to learn to know the faculty, the various programs of study, current academic initiatives, and the place of Hesston College among Mennonite colleges."

The position became available when Dr. Marc Yoder retired after the 2005-06 school year. Bonnie Sowers, who served as interim academic dean for the 2006-07 school year, will continue as associate dean, with primary responsibility for institutional research and accreditation.

Zerger grew up in McPherson and graduated from McPherson High School. During her growing up years, she attended Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge.

Zerger earned a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction at the University of Kansas in 1992. She earned a master's degree in English at the University of Kansas, and a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in history from Bethel College, North Newton, Kan., in 1966.

From 1979-2000, she was a faculty member at Bethel College, where she served as Associate Professor of English and Director of the Center for Academic Development. From 1967-1970, she served as English as a Second Language instructor in Bogota, Colombia.

Zerger and her husband John live in Newton and attend Bethel College Mennonite Church. John works at AGCO in Hesston.

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FOR THE INDEPENDENT

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 school graduates, represent the largest class of Dole's 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.

Locally, Luke Thibault of Halstead High School, who will attend Kansas State University (business, Spanish) was selected.

“This year, the Dole Institute received a second federal grant, and we are able to offer nearly three times the number of scholarships as 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.

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.
K. Britney Jurgenson of Valley Center received the William M. Diedrich Award for outstanding student in speech-language pathology at the University of Kansas School of Allied Health.
Clinton Foundation experience helps student achieve career goals

KATRINA SEGERS
STAFF WRITER

Alex Treaster said he glimpses Hollywood from Harlem while working to change the world through marketing.

Near the Clinton Foundation, people sell music, incense and clothing among the mural-painted brownstones of Harlem’s 125th Street in New York.

"It’s an interesting thing to walk through a neighborhood like Harlem," Treaster said. "Then you walk into a building where celebrities are coming and going. It’s a lot of contrast."

Treaster, 21, Shawnee, interns this summer in the marketing department at the foundation.

President Clinton founded the William J. Clinton Foundation after leaving the White House. Treaster said the foundation works on global and climate initiatives.

Treaster, a visual communication major and history minor at the University of Kansas, said he focuses on promotional materials sent to donors and the Web site.

He discovered the opportunity after a fellow KU student completed an internship at the foundation.

"I didn’t think I’d get it because I heard they had several hundred applicants," Treaster said.

Treaster said his parents participated in political activities and surrounded him with politics.

"When President Clinton won the first time around I remember going to a victory party," he said. "I’ve always been interested in government and progressive political change."

Treaster said he revamped the "about us" page on the Clinton Foundation Web site and is working on the Clinton Library Web site.

"Career-wise, it’s obviously very helpful to say that you are associated with a place like the Clinton Foundation," he said.

I’ve had a couple of jobs where I’ve done graphic design, but those have been more general advertising. With the foundation it’s pretty exciting to know that even though I am a small part it’s global in its reach and that I could be contributing to help with problems around the world."

Treaster said celebrities including Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie visit the foundation to assist in the initiatives or, like Matt Damon, to speak at a lunch for the interns.

"You have celebrities going in and out, but you are working on big things," Treaster said. "It’s easy to get caught up in the celebrity, but it’s real. It’s definitely got a lot of layers to it."

Treaster said his goal while completing the internship that ends Aug. 11 is to see how he can combine design and politics.

"I had a class for design and I wrote a business plan for a firm to solely do design work for progressive political candidates and organizations," he said. "This is a very logical step in that direction."
Local educators recognized for service to Kansas

The School of Education at the University of Kansas has recognized more than 880 Kansas teachers with certificates honoring them for 25 years or more of service in education.

Two teachers honored this year each have more than 40 years of service in education in Kansas. Robert Runnebaum, secondary school principal from Kansas City, Kansas, was honored for a total of 42 years of service in Kansas. He is a principal in the Piper school district.

KU’s School of Education annually asks Kansas school district officials to recommend educators who should receive recognition. Certificates are issued based on responses from individual districts statewide; some school districts do not participate in the recognition program.

Other educators from the Kansas City, Kansas, area recognized by KU are: (from Turner schools) Anne Atkinson, Jean Bauman, Susan Klankley, Brenda Miller, Jena Rejba, David Vaugh, Linda Wolken; (from Piper schools) Rebecca Knetter, Kathleen Schaffer, Cecilia Trabert, William Warne; (from Bonner Springs/Edwardsville schools) Gail F. Berman, Susan E. Gash, John R. Letler, Michael A. Leonard, Deborah A. Nelson, Vicky L. Wheeler; (from Kansas City, Kansas, schools) Brenda Barnes, Marcia Cook, Jess Cornelius, Catherine Daly, Elaine Donovan, Mary Lou Feagan, Cindy Fields, Judy Fink, Brenda Diehl, Julia Gaunce, Joanne Hale, Cassandra Jackson, Pamela Jasiniskas, Ania Johnson, Debra Keltner, Cynthia Lake-Asfaw, Jeannie Long, Joann Madden, Herbert Matthews, Cheryl McDonald, Gloria Meredith, Barbara Novak, Francisch Nyakatura, Linda Orangkhadivi, Wanda Paige, Beverly Pierce, Mary Popchoke, Carol Shafer, Joan Sirokman, Delanna Toevs, Theresa Torres, Nancy Wolf and Carolyn Work.

“Teaching is such a vitally important career, that it is our privilege to recognize these individuals who have dedicated their lives to working with students,” said Rick Ginsberg, dean of the School of Education. “As an educator and parent, I know how significant teachers are in the lives of our children. It is an honor for the School of Education to offer this small gesture of appreciation to the fine teachers across the state of Kansas who have devoted their professional careers to the field.”
The Jewish Community Foundation has given more than $1.4 million in second quarter grants.

"It is gratifying to see the impact donors of all ages have on the community. In addition to the million dollars granted through our donor advised funds and the $350,000 through supporting foundations, the B’nai Tzedek participants, aged 13 and up, gave away more than $13,000. Also, our J-LEAD donors, ranging in age from their 20s to their 40s, gave away $40,000," said JCF President Mike Schultz.

The Community Legacy Fund awarded $79,404 in grants to support its goal of enhancing and maintaining the quality of Jewish life in the Greater Kansas City area including:

- The Guardian Society for Children (administered through the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City) received $19,404 to help send Jewish teens to Israel.
- The Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy received $50,000 for needs-based financial assistance.
- The Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City Jewish Arts Festival received $5,000 to support the biannual event which will take place this October.
- The Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City received $5,000 to research and create an umbrella health care plan to serve the staff of Jewish agencies and synagogues.
- The Flo Harris Foundation awarded $57,600 to support community wide programs for children, youth, outreach and Jewish identity including:
  - The Friends of Sheffield Cemetery received $15,000 for their campaign to restore the historic cemetery.
  - Harvesters, the Community Food Network, received $5,000 for their Backsnack program which provides food for children for the weekends when school lunch programs are not available.
- The Jewish Community Foundation received $6,100 to enhance its youth education program.

The Earl J. and Leona K. Tranin Special Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation awarded grants in its priority areas of cultural arts, community relations and education including:

- The Festival of Faiths presentation of keynote speakers Dr. Judea Pearl and Dr. Akbar Ahmed on November 13, 2007 ($4,000)
- The University of Kansas Hillel Jewish Cultural Arts Series ($3,000)
- Youth Symphony of Kansas City Guest Artist Program ($2,000)
- J-LEAD (Jewish Leadership, Education, Action and Development) is a program dedicated to encouraging young Jewish adults in Kansas City to join together to make a substantive impact on the Jewish community. The goal of J-LEAD is to provide a means of combining the resources of its members to achieve a greater good than any one member could do alone. The 2007 J-LEAD grants are:
  - Harmony NCCJ’s Anytown Summer Leadership Institute ($5,000)
  - Jewish Community Center’s Mother’s Circle: Non-Jewish Moms Raising Jewish Children ($7,600)
  - Jewish Vocational Services Career Management Program ($6,150)
  - KU Hillel’s Alternative Spring Break/Katrina Recovery ($2,400)
  - SAFEHOME, Inc. Jewish Outreach Program ($5,000)
  - The Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy’s Mitzvah Bus Project ($3,850)
  - The Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City’s Gesher Fund for Emergency Financial Assistance ($10,000)
  - The Louis and Frances Swinken Supporting Foundation provided $21,780 of funding for the arts. Grants were given to:
    - The Jewish Community Center’s Cultural Arts Department Center Season ($5,000) and Jewish Arts Festival ($2,500)
    - The Heartland Chamber Music Academy summer program ($2,000)
    - The Youth Symphony of Kansas City Guest Artist Program ($5,000)
    - The Bay View Music Festival Scholarship Program ($6,000)
    - The Coda Jazz Fund for mentoring high school musicians ($1,500)

For more information about grants at the Jewish Community Foundation, contact Beatrice Fine, director of funder services and education at (913) 327-4618 or via e-mail at bfine@jewishkc.org. Grant applications can be found on the Foundation’s Web site at www.jcfkc.org.