Mulvane High School Grads Receive KU Scholarships

More than 5,400 students at the University of Kansas will receive about $26 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2007-08 academic year. Many of those scholarship recipients graduated from Mulvane High School.

Scholarship recipients include Tamera Parman, daughter of Dena Parman. She received the Evelyn, Richard and Blanche Thompson Fund for her Juris Doctor. Matthew Phillips, son of Troy and Victoria Phillips, is a sophomore majoring in petroleum engineering. He received a Frank J. Black Petroleum Engineering Student Scholarship.

Gavin Snider, son of Tim and Rita Snider, is a senior majoring in architecture. He received KU Scholarships, Jeffrey and Janice Van Sickle Scholarship, Harold Otto Scholarship and Chancellors Club Scholarships.

Jordan Cox, daughter of Karen and Brent Iverson, is a freshman studying pre-education secondary. She received KU Scholarships. Sara Erh, daughter of Richard and Bobbe Erh, received a Mary Alice Smith Memorial. She is a junior majoring in Design. TJ McDaniel, son of Jennifer McDaniel, received KU Scholarships and Chancellor’s Club Scholarships. He is studying pre-medicine.

Maylene Morgan, daughter of Elsa and Colin Morgan, is a junior majoring in architectural engineering. She received an Arthur D. Clark Scholarship. Kara Schippers, daughter of Becky and Robert Schippers, received KU Scholarships. She is a freshman studying pre-architecture.

Daniel Schneider, son of Jeff and Brenda Schneider, received KU Scholarships. He is a freshman studying pre-pharmacy. Caitlin Wise, daughter of Jackie and Forrest Wise, is a freshman studying pre-business. She received KU Scholarships. Jason Swink, majoring in medicine, received an RM Gouldner Medical Scholarship and Office of Cultural Enhancement & Diversity NIH Scholarship.

Kara Carlson, daughter of Bruce and Kirsten Carlson is a freshman studying biology. She received a Homer B. Hunt Scholarship. Joseph Myers, son of Michael and Margaret Myers, is a freshman studying undecided engineering. He received a Roland T. Beard Scholarship.
Ethanol depletes water, increases cost of food

By Russell B. Mesler

If legislation requiring a fivefold increase in the use of ethanol is a bad idea — and it is — then the consequences of such a mandate would be even worse: Subsidies for the ethanol industry would soar, an increasing amount of corn would go for fuel instead of food, and wooded areas would be leveled to make way for more greenhouse gases than if we simply used gasoline.

But another problem looms, and it dwarfs the rest in its severity. If a biofuels mandate becomes law, there will be fierce competition for scarce water supplies needed to slake the thirst of ethanol producers.

The side effects of greatly expanding the production of ethanol cannot be simply sloughed off. If a biofuels mandate becomes law, there will be fierce competition for scarce water supplies needed to slake the thirst of ethanol producers.

The side effects of greatly expanding the production of ethanol cannot be simply sloughed off. Highly subsidized, ethanol is diverting corn away from the food table and driving up the price of many food products.

For that, much of the blame lies with a complacent Congress, which in 2005 mandated an increase in ethanol use to 7.5 billion gallons a year by 2012, up from 6 billion gallons this year. The House-passed plan being reworked in the Senate would push production to 36 billion gallons a year by 2022.

Backers of the bill say that about half of the ethanol would be made from cellulosic sources such as fast-growing switchgrass, poplars or willows that are more energy efficient and require less water and fertilizer. But producing ethanol from switchgrass and other plants is still not economical, despite years of research.

Before it commits to a major expansion of biofuels production, Congress might want to consider whether the hoped-for benefits from ethanol justify the risk of severe water shortages.

An expert panel of the National Academy of Sciences recently warned that expanding biofuels production into regions with little agriculture, especially arid areas, will greatly increase pressure on water resources in many parts of the United States. Ethanol distilleries consume four gallons of water to produce each gallon of fuel, but that is only a small part of ethanol's water needs.

Agricultural experts say that if you count the water needed to grow corn, one gallon of ethanol requires 1,800 gallons of water.

Some parts of the Midwest corn belt already are reeling from the adverse effects of the ethanol binge. Potable water is becoming scarce in some places, and legal battles involving ethanol producers have erupted over water rights.

Escalating diversion of water for ethanol production — and contamination of water supplies — is a serious and growing concern. But little or no monitoring of aquifers is being done at a regional level. Without immediate attention, the consequences will profoundly affect our environment for generations to come.

Right now, farmers are eager to get on the ethanol bandwagon, and many are abandoning crop rotations and other sensible farm practices to grow corn in the same fields year after year. But who is there to consider the big picture when corn production benefits from billions of dollars in farm subsidies and the government provides a tax cut of 51 cents a gallon for ethanol?

Russell B. Mesler is emeritus professor of chemical and petroleum engineering at the University of Kansas.
KU professor hopes to reuse material to help rebuild Greensburg

LAWRENCE (AP) — A University of Kansas professor and his architecture class are hoping to recycle some building materials from an abandoned ammunition plant for an environmentally friendly house they want to build for tornado-ravaged Greensburg.

For now, the biggest hurdle to the Studio 804 class building in Greensburg is the need to move quickly. The students want to have the house built, transported and hooked up in Greensburg by the first anniversary of the tornado that demolished the town — May 4, 2008.

But they also have to be done in time for graduation. The Studio 804 class is made up of architecture graduate students in their final semester before graduation.

“We operate at warp speed. People cannot understand how hard it is to construct a building in the time we do,” said Dan Rockhill, architecture professor.

Rockhill says they would like to take the building they make to Greensburg and show how others could use the same materials for other buildings there. They’re planning on using materials from the former Sunflower Army Ammunition plant southeast of Lawrence.

Rockhill said that if the studio can work through some political obstacles in Greensburg, the house they create will incorporate certain sustainable technologies that will make the house more environmentally efficient. Greensburg has set a goal to be a “green town” when it is rebuilt.

“This could conceivably be something that leads to a whole lot of material that can be used to rebuild Greensburg,” said Rockhill. “We’ve spent three months with lawyers and negotiations. We’re working hard to push through that and get in there.”

He said the house will be passively solar and will use green materials throughout the interior and exterior.

“We’re experimenting with a roof design that will cut the cooling costs measurably,” he said.

The studio is looking for sponsors or donors who might be willing to underwrite some of the costs of the house. Though the studio is affiliated with the university, most of the costs of building the house must be generated either by selling the house or by donations. In an area like Greensburg, where housing prices are low, it can be difficult to recoup the investment.

Rockhill said the governor’s office had made available a $50,000 loan for the project, if it’s done in Greensburg.
A Democratic star loses his luster

The future of Attorney General Paul Morrison is uncertain as support sags amid a sex scandal.

By DAVID KLEPPER and STEVE KRASKE
The Kansas City Star

TOPEKA | He was the Democrats' darling, a former Republican who beat Phill Kline by double digits, boxed for charity and once overcame a Doberman to save a smaller dog.
He was seen as a tough crime fighter of high integrity.
Now, in only two days, Attorney General Paul Morrison has gone from political powerhouse to tattered target amid a sex scandal that has prompted calls for his resignation.
His office said again Monday that Morrison is not considering resigning.
Even if he stays put, observers said that Morrison's troubles were certain to cripple his political future and potentially curtail the Democratic resurgence that Morrison helped start in Kansas.
Morrison has admitted having an affair with a former staffer in the Johnson County district attorney's office, but denied harassing her or meddling in the DA's office after leaving to become attorney general.
Boo Tyson, executive director of the moderate Mainstream Coalition, which endorsed Morrison, predicted that if the other allegations are true, Morrison may have no choice but to step down.

"I don't know that he'll make it through this, and I don't know if he should," Tyson said. "It certainly calls into question

SEE MORRISON | A5
whether we can trust his judgment, and whether we ought to trust his judgment.”

The allegations came from Linda Carter, a longtime staffer from the Johnson County District Attorney’s Office who revealed a two-year extramarital affair with Morrison that ended in September.

For slightly over half of the affair, Morrison was district attorney — and Carter’s boss. After Kline succeeded Morrison as DA, Carter alleges, Morrison unsuccessfully asked her for sensitive information about Kline’s investigation of an abortion clinic, and urged her to write letters on behalf of eight staff fired by Kline.

Morrison was working Monday, according to his spokeswoman, but wouldn’t speak with reporters about the scandal.

Brian Russell, an attorney who said he represents Carter, said she would not comment. Carter’s harassment complaint, filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, is not public.

A clear sign of Morrison’s sagging support came from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a key ally who helped persuade Morrison to switch parties.

On Sunday, Sebelius offered cautious support. On Monday, she said Morrison should resign if it’s proved he harassed Carter or meddled with investigations.

“It’s a huge setback for Kansas,” Sebelius said. “When people put their faith in a public official and feel that faith to be violated, it’s a huge disappointment and a shock for a lot of people.”

Sebelius’ comments probably mean that top Democrats want Morrison to explain himself, according to Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist.

He said Democrats probably would stand by him if the allegations of meddling and harassment turned out to be unfounded.

Still, Loomis said, the damage to Morrison’s future may be done.

“I don’t see how even if Morrison stays in office that he possibly wins re-election,” he said.

Also Monday, Johnson County newspaper columnist Steve Rose said on local talk radio that Morrison should resign because of the cloud hanging over him. Rose is a moderate Republican who endorsed Morrison for attorney general.

Most Democratic lawmakers, for now at least, stand by Morrison, though many expressed dismay at his behavior.

When top Democrats vetted Morrison before the attorney general’s race, insiders said, he was asked about potential personal issues and denied having any.

On the campaign trail, Morrison touted himself as the candidate with integrity. Supporters noted that he taught marriage preparation classes with his wife at church. Morrison featured his wife and children in campaign ads.

Some Republicans are already contemplating Morrison’s possible successors. If Morrison were to step down, Sebelius would pick someone to finish out his term.

As late as last week, Republicans quietly talked about how hard it would be to unseat Morrison. That’s changed, they say.

“Paul Morrison is now un-electable,” said Scott Schwab, chairman of the Johnson County Republican Party.

He said he expects the Democrats to seek Morrison’s resignation quickly so his Democratic successor could establish him or herself as the incumbent before the 2010 attorney general’s race.

“If they’re not asking him to resign it’s because they don’t have a good candidate,” Schwab said.

Allegations of sexual misconduct have dogged previous attorneys general, too.

In 1977, Curt Schneider, a Democrat, was organizing a race for governor when veiled allegations of marital infidelity splashed into the media.

A private investigator photographed Schneider outside a Joplin, Mo., motel and restaurant with a young woman described as a family friend. The photos were released to the news media.

Soon after, Schneider abandoned his bid for governor and sought a second term as attorney general. But in 1978, Republican Bob Stephan defeated him and eventually won a record four terms.

Stephan, now of Lenexa, endured his own troubles that began with a sexual harassment case filed by an employee he later fired. Fallout from that complaint eventually led to Stephan being charged with two counts of lying on the witness stand.

A jury acquitted him of perjury in 1995, a verdict that caused Stephan to burst into sobbing in the courtroom.

The case, though, was widely believed to cost Stephan a chance to be governor in 1986, although he twice won re-election as the state’s top law enforcement official despite the controversy.

But this scandal may well be different. Not only has Morrison admitted to an affair, but he also is accused of trying to use Carter to get information about the DA’s office.

If those allegations don’t hold up, and the scandal is limited to an extramarital affair, Morrison may be able to keep his job, Democrats said.

“We need to let the process work,” said House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney, a Greensburg Democrat.

State Republican Chairman Kris Kobach said if the scandal were limited to the affair, Kansans might be willing to forgive and forget.

But he said the allegations of harassment and meddling, and the fact that Morrison touted himself as the candidate with integrity, are probably too much for many. At the very least, he said, it could present a distraction that Morrison can’t ignore.

“It’s an abuse of power, and there could be many violations of the law wrapped up in it,” he said. “It’s damning.”

The Star’s Dave Helling and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

To reach David Kiepper, call 785-354-1388 or send e-mail to dkiepper@kcstar.com.
KU awards $26 million in scholarship support

More than 5,400 students at the University of Kansas will receive about $26 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2007-08 academic year. This is a 10.6 percent increase from the 2006-07 school year, in which KU students received $24.3 million in scholarship support.

So far, 7,603 scholarships have been awarded for the current academic year. Many students receive more than one scholarship. KU divides many scholarship awards between the fall and spring semesters, and there are some students who receive scholarship support for the summer term as well.

“Donors understand that without financial support, some deserving students would not be able to attend KU,” said Dale Seuferling, president of KU Endowment. “KU students are benefiting from the financial support provided recently and many generations ago by loyal alumni and friends.”

Though KU Endowment raises support for scholarships and other student aid, KU 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.

Students who are receiving scholarships and are graduates of Humboldt High School are Bonnie Clare Croisant, who is a Design BFA Senior, has been awarded the Mary Alice Smith Memorial scholarship. She is the daughter of John and Julie Croisant; Matthew Zachary Hudson, who is a Pre-Business Junior, has been awarded the Nunemaker College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Scholarship; Peter William Meier, who is a Pre-Sport Sci/Comm Health Junior, has been awarded the Adda C. McPherson Memorial Scholarship. He is the son of David and Sheryl Meier; Katherine Kemmerly Weber, a Psychology BA Junior, has been awarded the Elizabeth M. Watkins Scholarship and KU Scholarships. She is the daughter of Nan and Alan Weber.
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Jacob Paul Burghart, son of Timothy and Lynda Burghart, Offerle, is a sophomore at the University of Kansas. Jacob, who is a chemistry major, received the Ellie D. Bover Undergraduate Scholarship. He is a graduate of Kinsley High School.
Kaiser And Seymour Receive Scholarships From KU

FOR THE LEDGER

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Scholarship recipients include Matt Kaiser, Inman, who received the Flowers Memorial Trust and the W.E. Lundquist Memorial Scholarship this year and Katherine Seymour, Moundridge, who received the Harry F. and Christine H. Lose Medical Scholarship.
RODRIGUEZ EARNS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS

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Alejandro Rodriguez, Freshman is the son of Rosaura Ortega has earned three scholarships: KU Scholarships Scholarship, Architectural StudiesBA; LARGATED SCHOLARSHIPS, Architectural StudiesBA; and the William and Winifred Hoffmann Scholarship, Architectural StudiesBA.
Governors Column

by Governor
Kathleen Sebelius

Preparing our students for tomorrow’s working world

As the Kansas economy becomes increasingly global and highly competitive, we must prepare the children of Kansas with the training they need for the economy of the future.

Key to Kansas ability to succeed in the new technology-driven marketplace will be workers who excel in math, science, technology and engineering; and right now, our students are under performing compared to their peers around the world. Encouraging more students to focus on these fields and continue their education in math and science will help to ensure that we have the workforce for a prosperous future.

Quality teachers are essential to the success of our students; however, Kansas faces a shortage of math and science teachers. The Kansas State Department of Education recently reported that next year Kansas schools are likely to have over 680 vacancies for math and science teachers, but only 228 new math and science teachers are expected to graduate from Kansas schools.

Teachers have always had significant impact on the lives of their students, but now more so than ever, teachers dictate the future success of our economy as well.

Given the importance of these educators, it is essential the state produce not just more math and science teachers, but more effective math and science teachers. We can do this by encouraging math and science majors to enter the teaching profession and by supporting the development of highly qualified teachers in math and science fields. A new program at the University of Kansas will accomplish those goals.

UKanTeach is an innovative new program that allows students to earn degrees in math or science as well as a teaching license. The program, a collaboration between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Education, aims to double the number of math and science teachers graduating from KU each year, resulting in an additional 50 new teachers in Kansas classrooms.

Last week the University of Kansas was one of 12 universities nationwide to receive a National Math and Science Initiative grant. The $2.4 million grant funded by the ExxonMobil Corporation will be used to fund the UKanTeach program. We know it works, because this program has been in place at the University of Texas and the results are encouraging.

We are pleased that KU was able to secure one of these competitive grants, and I am confident the UKanTeach program will produce more of the teachers our state needs to help our students thrive in the subjects of math and science.

With programs like this and a continued focus on math and science, success in the classroom will no doubt extend to economic success in the future.
Kansas college to offer photography degree

LAURENCE (AP) — Pok Chi Lau has heard the question hundreds of times: Does the University of Kansas offer a major in photography?

Starting next semester, he can give a new answer. That's because KU is rolling out its new photomedia major in the spring, with a full-blown start in the fall.

"It's been so many years to make this happen," said Lau, a photography professor. "No one in the Midwest has anything close to what we're proposing."

The new major is actually two majors — a bachelor of arts in photomedia and a bachelor of fine arts in photomedia. The difference, in part, is the BA requires a foreign language.

The photomedia program has been a priority for Greg Thomas, who came to KU three years ago as chairman of the design department.

He said he found many area high schools that have strong photography programs, and he figures KU is losing out on 10 to 15 students a year from Lawrence's two high schools alone by not offering a photomedia major.

The response, so far, has been phenomenal. He says the department has done very little promotion, yet 15 to 20 students have signed up already, and alumni are contacting him every day wanting to know how they can help.

"It's kind of one of these, gee, why didn't we do this before?"

Thomas said.

He said the largest emphasis in the design department is visual communications, which has about 250 students.

"I think this has the potential to be larger than that," Thomas said.

The new major attracted Abbey Saathoff, a junior from Overland Park. She added photomedia to her majors, in addition to art history.

"I actually wanted to go to college for photography, but KU didn't have a program," she said. "I figured I'd major in art history, get all the art stuff and go somewhere else after KU. I was surprised that there weren't any big schools in Kansas with any sort of a photography major. There were a few courses, but nothing beyond that."

Ultimately, she said, she wants to be a fashion photographer.

Julianne Kueffer, a fifth-year student from Prairie Village, also decided to switch majors after hearing KU was offering the photomedia program.

She likes the multidisciplinary, liberal arts-based approach to the program.

"It's photography with a purpose," Kueffer said. "That interests me. I like to see photography in that light because it's career-worthy."

Thomas said photomedia will incorporate areas of fine art and commercial photography, photojournalism, videography and other derivatives.