Gomez receives outstanding award

Stephanie Gomez, senior at The University of Kansas, was awarded Outstanding Woman in Partnership award through the Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center. This award is given to a woman student who has made outstanding contributions to students through her collaborative work (paid or volunteer) and interactions with campus departments, services and organizations.

Women must be nominated for this award by a faculty or staff member and provide a detailed description of involvement on campus.

Gomez has been involved extensively in promoting Hispanic awareness at KU. She is 2007-08 president of the Hispanic American Leadership Organization, which seeks to promote cultural awareness of various Latin cultures. She is a HAWK link guide, which is a program sponsored by the office of Multicultural Affairs to recruit incoming freshmen to the HAWK link program, which provides free services and opportunities to students of color.

She helped coordinate and host the first annual Latina Leadership Summit at KU in which nearly 200 Hispanic and Latino high school students from Kansas City, Topeka and Lawrence attended. She also has been elected senior class treasurer for the 2007-08 school year.

Gomez is the daughter of Steven and Diana Gomez and is scheduled to graduate in May 2008 with a bachelor's degree in human biology. She hopes to attend chiropractic college in Dallas after graduation.
Fox named ‘Newcomer’

By Marcheta Jacobson

Tyler Fox, majoring in Athletic Training at Kansas University, was awarded the “Kansas Sports Medicine Department Newcomer Award” this spring. Fox, who has two years left in the Athletic Training Program, plans to continue his education in the Sports Science Field, either in Massage Therapy or Physical Therapy.

Inscribed on the plaque is “Kansas Sports Medicine Department Newcomer Award to Tyler Fox, Prospective Athletic Training. Student that demonstrates great potential in both the classroom and clinical setting. 2006 – 2007.”

Fox, a 2002 graduate of Larned High School, played basketball and ran track during high school. He is the son of Kevin and Jane Fox of Larned.
LAWRENCE — A group of graduate students at the University of Kansas School of Business have discovered firsthand why China is such a dominant player in today’s global economy.

From May 19 to June 1, the master’s of business administration students traveled in China and met with managers and executives at U.S.- and Chinese-owned firms in Beijing and Shanghai. Nineteen students toured textile manufacturing plants and listened in on the latest plans for Beijing’s Internet promotion of the 2008 Olympic Games. They visited with China-based executives of Kansas firms such as Black & Veatch and Invista, owned by Koch Industries, to learn about adapting U.S. businesses to Chinese corporate and social culture.

Students researched the firms they visited before traveling to China and gave presentations to fellow MBA students and KU faculty after they returned. The research, trip and subsequent presentations were all part of the Business in China class taught by Jane Zhao, assistant professor of management.

In addition to Zhao, who set up many of the corporate visits, Doug Houston, director of finance, economics and decision sciences, accompanied the students in China.

Among those traveling to China was Mark Best, of Larned, master’s degree student in business administration, son of Michael and Elizabeth Best. Mark graduated from Larned High School and received a bachelor’s degree in business from KU.
Smith receives 60-year award

Glee S. Smith, former Kansas Senator and Board of Regents member received the 60-year membership award from the Kansas Bar Association at its recent convention in Wichita.

Smith graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1947 and started the practice of law in Larned, in partnership with the late Judge Maurice A. Wildgen. That firm later included Donald L. Burnett and Jerry G. Larson, who are still practicing, with Smith being a member of the firm as “Of Counsel”.

In 1991, Smith and his wife moved to Lawrence, where he became associated “Of Counsel” with the law firm of Barber, Emerson, L.C. He continues in active practice with both firms, and has been an active member of the Kansas Bar Association. He has attended every Kansas Bar Convention during his 60-year career, as well as many annual conventions of the American Bar Association, where he served for 10 years as a member of the House of Delegates and the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors.
Parents try to help children cope

GREENSBURG — Lisa and Rod Schmidt are trying to keep their son Jeffrey busy. They have enrolled the 4-year-old in T-ball and karate programs, signed him up for a library card and are spending time at the park — all normal activities for a young child.

That normalcy is what the Schmidt's are seeking for their son, whom Lisa Schmidt has heard telling people how the family's house and his toys and books were sucked up by the tornado that ripped through town six weeks ago, destroying most of Greensburg and killing 10 people. She also has heard her son crying.

He asks her to call the “fixer man” so they can go home.

Children his age who have survived a tornado want life to go back to the way it was before the storm, Martha Barnard, University of Kansas professor of behavioral pediatrics, said.

“They think it’s a possibility that things can go back,” she said. “Even adults can’t fathom that it won’t be back to some type of normalcy.”
Proposal would make college expenses predictable, not cheaper

Chris Green
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — An effort to make college costs more predictable sounds intriguing to recent Ottawa High School graduate Sara Humm.

Set to begin her freshman year at the University of Kansas in August, Humm’s class could be the first at the school to receive what’s being called a “four-year tuition compact.”

Last month, KU officials announced a plan to hike tuition charges by about 16 percent for all incoming freshmen. But they would also freeze those charges at the same rate for four years.

The state Board of Regents is scheduled to vote on the proposal Thursday as it sets tuition and course fee rates for 2007-08 at all state universities.

Proposed hikes for Kansas residents were released last month and ranged from a 5.1 percent jump in tuition and fees at Fort Hays State to 9.5 percent at Emporia State.

The guaranteed tuition rate proposal has received positive reviews so far, KU spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said. At several recent orientations, parents reportedly burst into applause when told there might be no tuition increases for four years, she said.

“We’re taking that as pretty good feedback,” Bretz said.

Initially pushed by students leaders, under the tuition compact, resident incoming freshmen would pay a single tuition rate of $213 per credit hour for four years. Out-of-state students would pay $560 per credit hour.

The compact rate is the average of what students would pay over four years if the university increased tuition 6 percent annually.

However Humm, 18, said she doesn’t know how much the new plan would benefit her as she tries to figure out how to pay off her college bills.

If college costs rise faster than expected, the guaranteed rate could be a good deal. But the bargain might not be so good for students who transfer from KU prior to graduating or if yearly rates don’t rise as steeply as the guaranteed rate projects.

“You know, they could be making money,” said Humm, who has served on Ottawa’s City Commission since April.

On average, though, the university has seen tuition jump by an average of 9 percent a year over the past 30 years, Bretz said.

KU officials have also set out a four-year schedule for fees and plan to allow students to fix their on-campus housing costs for two years as a way of curbing year-to-year cost fluctuations.

“Our whole program is about bringing predictability back into college expenses,” Bretz said. “That’s what is so hard for families - not knowing what college costs are going to be over four years.”

Doing what it takes

In recent years, the most reliable thing about universities’ four-year tuition charges has been that they would go up significantly.

Tuition and fees for in-state residents attending KU and Kansas State University have more than doubled since 2002. Other state universities have seen annual increases averaging of 8-12 percent.

However, state officials said Kansas rates remain a deal compared to what students in surrounding states pay to attend similar institutions, averaging a discount of 15 to 23 percent in one comparison.

“Tuition rates have rapidly increased across the nation, but rates at our state’s universities continue to provide Kansans with an exceptional educational value,” state Board of Regents Chairman Nelson Galle said in
a written statement.

But for students such as Humm, the increases mean taking on an increasing debt burden in order to obtain a college degree.

At public universities, student-loan debt levels for 2004 graduating seniors nationally reached $17,250, a 65 percent increase from 1993 levels, when adjusted for inflation.

Forty-three percent of the undergraduate students expecting to graduate from KU in the spring of 2006 relied on loans. The borrowers carried an average load of $19,203, according to university financial aid data.

To pay for her schooling, Humm said she planned to depend heavily on student loans to finance her education.

She said also planned to work, hopefully keeping her job at an Ottawa Applebee’s restaurant, and receive some assistance from her mother, Barbara.

While the prospect of borrowing a significant amount to cover her education is a bit daunting, Humm said she hoped it would all pay off in the long run.

Colleges everywhere appear to be expensive, she said.

“I definitely considered how I am going to pay for this,” Humm said. “In going to KU, I know I’m going to a good school. Hopefully I’ll have a good job after I graduate to pay for the student loans and the other bills.”

Barbara Humm said she thinks that KU’s four-year guaranteed tuition plan could help out in paying for her daughter’s college education.

But even so, the substantial amount of money needed to pay for a college education remains a reality that she and her daughter will have to deal with.

“I think it’s just one of those things where you do what you’ve got to do,” Barbara Humm said.

For more information on KU’s four-year tuition compact:
www.tuition.ku.edu

---

Proposed 2007 tuition and fee increases

The following figures show what a resident undergraduate would pay annually in tuition and required fees to state Board of Regents institutions under proposals being voted on Thursday. The figures are based on the student taking 15 credit hours.

University of Kansas incoming freshmen, $7,144, up $992 or 16.1 percent from 2007 rate

All other KU undergraduates, $6,598, up $446 or 7.2 percent

Kansas State, $6,234, up $454 or 7.9 percent

KSU-Salina, $6,222, up $488 or 8.5 percent

Wichita State, $4,804, up $288 or 6.4 percent

Emporia State, $3,926, up $340 or 9.5 percent

Pittsburg State, $4,060, up $270 or 7.1 percent

Fort Hays State, $3,354, up $163.50 or 5.1 percent
Winfield band plans concert

The Winfield Municipal Band will present their fifth summer concert on at 8 p.m. on Friday.

The concert will include the following marches: Emblems of Freedom by Karl L. King, Sabre and Spurs by John Philip Sousa and The Foundation by R. F. Goldman. A member of the audience will select an additional march.

Other selections include Music From Pirates Of The Caribbean arranged by Michael Brown, Salute To America’s Finest arranged by Paul Lavender and The Birth Of The Blues arranged by Hugh Conrad.

Also on the concert will be three solo features. Charles Yingling, instrumental music teacher at Dexter and a member of the Winfield City Band for thirteen years will perform Soliloquy For Trumpet by John J. Morrissey.

Fred Humpert will perform a trombone solo Swing Low, Sweet Chariot also arranged by John J. Morrissey. Fred is a former member of the Abilene Municipal Band as well as the University of Kansas Concert and Marching Band. He began playing in the Winfield Municipal Band the summer of 1975.

The third soloist will be Marvin Estes performing Asleep In The Deep arranged by Harold L. Walters.

Marvin has played in the Winfield Band for nine years. He also is a member of the Southwestern College Band, the Winfield Regional Symphony, the South Kansas Symphony Orchestra, and the Classy Brass Brass Quintet. Prior to moving to Winfield, Marvin was the principal tubist in the Newton Mid Kansas Symphony Orchestra.

An Almighty Fortress arranged by David Shaffer will be the sacred selection. The band will also honor the St. John alums with Hail! Saint John’s College, Hail.

Members from the Southwestern College Concert Band will be selling refreshments during the concert with the proceeds going towards the trip to Italy in the Spring of 2008.

Park benches are provided for the concert. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged. If it’s raining, the concert will be held in Meyer Hall.
Three Leavenworth County residents recently received awards or scholarships at the University of Kansas English Department's awards ceremony.

Karen Louise, Lansing, received the Peedee Brown Scholarship; Michelle Loewenstein, Leavenworth, received the Prof. Edwin M. Hopkins Scholarship; and Chloe Cooper, Tonganoxie, received the Contoski Creative Writing Third Place Award for Fiction.

Students were recognized for outstanding academic performance, writing and teaching.
Jonathan Matteson, Leavenworth, will be on stage as part of Kansas Summer Theatre at the University of Kansas. The summer production, "Pageant," is a musical parody of beauty pageants and contestants. Performances will take place at 7:30 p.m. June 29 and 30, and July 6 and 7, and at 2:30 p.m. July 1 and 8, on Stage Too! in the Crafton-Preyer Theatre in Murphy Hall.

Matteson is a senior majoring in theatre. He is the son of Christine McNiell-Matteson and Wallace Matteson, and is a graduate of Leavenworth High School.
Brad Dutton of the Parsons Fire Department recently completed a one-week instructor class in Merriam. The class, which was conducted by the University of Kansas Fire and Rescue Institute, covered techniques for course preparation and instructional delivery in the classroom.