A University of Kansas journalism student is working as a news intern this summer for Miami County Newspapers.

Nathan Gill of Iola is a senior in the William Allen White School of Journalism. He worked last semester as a beat reporter covering the university administration and ROTC units for the University Daily Kansan, KU's student newspaper. During the fall semester, he will report for Jayplay, the Kansan's feature magazine. Gill worked last summer and during vacations at the Iola Register.

After graduation, he hopes to go into community journalism in a small city or large town, magazine reporting or multimedia, online reporting.

As an intern, Gill is writing news and feature stories and taking photographs for the Louisburg Herald, Miami County Republic, Osawatomie Graphic and Miami County Weekend. He also is working on assignments for the Miami County Fair Preview and the Roots Festival special section.

The internship is part of the Drew McLaughlin Jr. Scholarship, which was started in memory of the late owner and publisher of the Miami Republican and the Western Spirit, predecessors of the Miami County Republic. Gill started his internship June 11.

He is the son of Bob and Becky Gill of Iola and has one brother, Nicholas. His hobbies include frequenting coffee shops and listening to folk musicians.
The Kansas University Honors Program recognized graduating seniors during a ceremony May 19. The event honored students who completed the University Honors Program and the University Scholars Program.

Area students who completed both programs included Andrew Becker, Tonganoxie. Students who completed the honors program include Caitlinn Drouin, Linwood.

A Tonganoxie High School graduate was honored in June at a luncheon at Kansas University Dole Institute of Politics for his volunteer work. Michael Fonkert, a Lawrence resident and Tonganoxie High School graduate, received a $1,000 scholarship, which will be renewable as long as he completes 100 hours of community service a year during college.

He volunteered with various building projects at Westside Presbyterian Church in Lawrence. Fonkert plans to use his scholarship at Kansas University in the fall.
KU award

Carrie Havner Park of Linwood, Kansas is the recipient of the Marsha E. Melnick Research Award at the University of Kansas School of Allied Health. Carrie is a 2000 graduate of Little River High School.

Three students received this award. Faculty select students for their research project presentations. Criteria for the award includes a well-designed research project and review of literature, data analysis and results indicate that the students have good comprehension of the clinical significance of the results and the project’s contributions to the physical therapy body of knowledge.
LAWRENCE — Seven University of Kansas students have won national Freeman-ASIA scholarships for study abroad programs in Asia.

Among the recipients is Libby Allen of Sedan. A junior at KU, Allen will study this summer in China. She is majoring in accounting and earning a minor in Chinese. The daughter of Ben and Susan Allen, Libby will study at the Beijing campus of Princeton University where she will enroll in the Beijing Summer Intensive Chinese Language Program.

A total of 39 KU students have received the Freeman-ASIA scholarships since the program began in 2000. The goal of the program is to increase the number of American undergraduates studying in East and Southeast Asia.
LHS grad finds right chemistry in KU studies

BY ABBIE STUTZER
Special to the Current

A Lansing High School graduate is thriving as a student chemist at the University of Kansas.

Gwyndolyn Jones, who just completed her sophomore year at KU, was one of 12 recipients of a $1,200 Undergraduate Research Award from KU’s Honors Program.

Jones’ research project concerns inorganic chemistry, the study of chemical compounds.

“My group works with anion coordination chemistry,” Jones said. “There are a lot of different things you can do with anions.”

Anions are negatively charged atoms, she said, giving two examples as fluoride and chloride.

Jones plans to work with anions until she graduates and plans on going to graduate school and earning a Ph.D. in chemistry.

The Research Award is a boost for students that want to go to graduate school because it allows them to engage in research as an undergraduate, said Mark Nesbitt-Daly, associate director of the Honors Program, which provides enhanced educational opportunities to KU’s most academically talented undergraduates.

Jones grew up in Leavenworth and moved to Arizona with her parents and two sisters when she was about 10, but returned to Lansing at the end of 2000.

She graduated from Lansing High in 2005 as class valedictorian.

Ever since Jones can remember, she said she has wanted to study at KU.

“I have wanted to go to KU my whole life,” Jones said. “I think I was destined for it — and it’s close to home.”

Jones also wanted to study at KU because of its chemistry department. Though KU’s chemistry department is involved deeply with research, Jones said she never imagined she would get to conduct research this early in her undergraduate experience.

Jones applied for the Undergraduate Research Award because she needed money for her research.

“I was looking at different options and I realized that the Honors Program had money specifically for research,” Jones said. “I thought maybe I would have a good chance if I applied for it because I have been doing research since the beginning of last summer.”

The research Jones is working on now fits in with her long-term goals.

“I would like to continue working with this particular type of anion coordination chemistry,” Jones said. “I am sure I can find a (postgraduate) program somewhere that fits.”

While graduate school and a Ph.D. are years away, Jones struggles with the thought of leaving KU.

“It’s hard because I don’t want to leave KU, but I know I have to,” Jones said.

Attending graduate school somewhere else, though, doesn’t mean Jones would give up on being a Jayhawk.

“I would like to come back to KU and teach chemistry and continue to do research,” she said.

Jones plans on conducting more research this summer by participating in the Research Education for Undergraduates Program.

While Jones is deeply involved with her research, she goes home most weekends to attend church at the First Baptist Church of Leavenworth.

Jones, though, has made many friends since coming to Lawrence and is excited to continue her research.

“I’ve really learned who I am now that I am working toward my goals,” she said. “I can take classes that pertain to my future, and I have gained a lot of confidence in myself by doing so. It’s like I’ve found what I like doing and then I have to go to class on the side.”

Sue Lorenz, associate director of the University Honors Program, and Jones’ honors adviser, said she was pleased with how Jones has forged ahead in her chemistry major.

Lorenz said that KU has a decent number of female faculty members in chemistry that are good role models, including Kristin Bowman-James, a...
chemistry professor and Jones' chemistry mentor. Someday, Lorenz said, Jones "might give that little extra modeling to somebody considering a career in the sciences."
Some companies try to keep lid on too-personal chats

By Adrienne Harvey
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

"She calls in sick at least once a week." "... Did you hear that he is about to go bankrupt?" "... They always chat in the break room and never do anything productive."

Gossip.

It's everywhere. Even in the workplace.

"It's so normal," said Stephanie Stuart, executive vice president of New Century Credit Union, 707 S.E. Quincy. "It's kind of rampant, and I don't think you can stop it."

Even so, many companies have policies in place to discourage those with a superfluous tongue.

"We have a pledge and code that basically is a list of items about the work environment we want to have," Stuart said. "It's a workplace code of ethics."

Many of these policies aren't necessarily for gossip, but they protect employees from harassment and encourage them to respect others.

Kim Bolton, production manager at FedEx Kinko's Office and Print Center, 805 S.Kansas Ave., said the first step in preventing office gossip is keeping problems or concerns out in the open.

"If you have a problem with something someone is doing, you are supposed to go talk it out with that person," Bolton said.

If that is unsuccessful, Bolton said issues must go up the ladder to the managers and supervisors.

Bolton, who formerly worked in a setting with hundreds of employees, said she believes that being in a small office setting keeps gossip in check.

"We cover for each other, stay late for each other, work for each other," Bolton said. "We generally care for each other."

Bolton also believes that working with mostly men helps prevent gossip.

"Guys just tend to let go a lot easier than women do," Bolton said.

Stuart and Bolton said they see gossip in a variety of forms, but mostly it's people talking about such work ethics as vacation time, calling in sick or those who don't carry their weight. And often, people's finances come up in conversation.

So what constitutes gossip? Joann Keiton, professor of communication at The University of Kansas, defined it as, "Information about organizational matters distributed through informal networks."

Keiton said informal networks include face-to-face communication of people in personal relationships or through personal e-mails. Formal networks include memos, e-mails and letters from a director.

Keiton said gossip is "anchored from personal relationships" and "is not controllable."

She said this stems from people's need for an explanation of something and instead of waiting on the formal explanation, "people seek an explanation on their own."

"The formal communication networks are slow," she said.

And does gossip hurt or benefit the office? Shelley Ramos, branch man-
ager of USBank, said though gossip hasn’t been a problem in the offices she has worked in, it doesn’t benefit offices at all.

“It takes time away from work, and it can hurt people,” Ramos said.

Stuart and Bolton agreed.

“People will hold grudges and not want to help that person out like in the past,” Bolton said.

Stuart listed several reasons gossip is negative.

“I think there’s the obvious ... if someone’s repeating something that isn’t true,” Stuart said.

“Some things can be blown out of proportion. If it’s about a person, then it could get back to them and cause discord in the office.”

Adrielle Harvey can be reached at (785) 295-5617 or adrielle.harvey@cjonline.com.
KU Welcomes 1,564 New Students

New University of Kansas students and their parents will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 28 in Wichita. The picnic will be held at the home of Tom and Jill Docking, 125 Crestway. In addition to complimentary food and beverages, each new Jayhawk will also receive a free T-shirt.

Mulvane students who have been invited include Joel Aldrich, Jordan Cox, Thomas McDaniel, Kara Schippers, Daniel Schneider, Keeper Thompson and Caitlin Wise.
Pricey
Be cautious about more tuition hikes

Just in time for today’s scheduled approval of tuition hikes for the fall, the Kansas Board of Regents released a study this week indicating that a state university education usually costs less in Kansas than it does in five neighboring states. That’s good to know, though of limited comfort to price-sensitive wannabe students.

With the notable exception of research institutions in Colorado and Oklahoma — which charge less than comparable University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University — resident undergraduates in states next door could end up paying from 3 percent to 68 percent more for comparable college degrees, the study said.

Such comparisons remain valid and reassuring, as they were when Kansas’ universities got aggressive about tuition increases early in the decade. But they won’t ease the sting many families will feel this fall from the latest proposed increases, which range from 4.9 percent at Fort Hays State University to 6.5 percent at WSU to 9.7 percent at Emporia State University.

Regents chairman Nelson Galle clearly is right that “rates at our state’s universities continue to provide Kansans with an exceptional educational value.”

However, the regents and the institutions they govern cannot afford to be cavalier about tuition, one of the biggest investments a family can make. Seeing that tuition has gone up again, many potential students may decide the barrier to enrollment is impenetrable and not bother to explore the many aid options.

The specter of that scenario seems especially worrisome in Wichita, where WSU’s enrollment has been declining or flat in recent years. It wouldn’t be surprising if WSU’s many nontraditional students, who may work full time and support families, were especially affected by price hikes.

Of course, perhaps the most important factor in the tuition issue is the Legislature, which arguably has forced higher tuition on higher education by scaling back state funding of university budgets — from 49 percent in 1985 to 29 percent in 2005. That has put more pressure on institutions to cover costs through tuition, research money and grants.

One important new addition to the tuition debate comes from KU, which will ask the regents today to approve a “tuition compact” for all incoming first-time freshmen — a four-year fixed tuition rate based on 6 percent annual increases. The initial 16.1 percent increase for the fall seems like a lot, but parents attending orientation meetings have burst into applause when told of how the flat rate works. “It’s really about predictability, making the cost of college known and certain,” KU spokeswoman Lynn Breitzen told The Eagle editorial board.

Assuming the regents approve, other university leaders should pay attention to how the tuition compact affects enrollment and budgeting at KU and perhaps do likewise, as they continue to be creative on their own campuses about reaching out to those who need help paying for college.

Even if there are good reasons for tuition increases — and there are — every hike carries the risk of pricing taxpayers out of their own universities.

Even if there are good reasons for tuition increases — and there are — every hike carries the risk of pricing taxpayers out of their own universities.

— For the editorial board, Rhonda Holman
Regents freeze KU tuition

TOPEKA (AP) — Incoming freshmen at the University of Kansas will pay the same tuition rate for four years under a plan the Kansas Board of Regents approved Thursday.

Under the plan, which takes effect in the fall, tuition rates at the University of Kansas will increase nearly 16 percent over current levels, then stay at that rate for four years.

"Parents so far are liking it because they know what the rate is," said Todd Cohen, a university spokesman.

For other state universities, the regents approved a 7.9 percent increase in tuition and fees for in-state students at Kansas State; 6.4 percent at Wichita State; 9.5 percent at Emporia State; 7.1 percent at Pittsburg State; and 5.1 percent at Fort Hays State.

Under the University of Kansas plan, in-state freshmen enrolled in 16 credit hours, which is considered full-time, will pay a total of $3,785.75 per semester for tuition and campus fees. Out-of-state students will pay $9,337.75 per semester.

The total doesn't include course fees, which aren't charged of students in all majors or for the full four years.
Regents freeze KU tuition for 4 years

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