Alphild Amber Rees, Perry, received an award of excellence in Intermediate Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Languages when the University of Kansas Department of Slavic Languages honored 26 students at its annual awards ceremony this spring.
Sarah Hemme, Perry, and Michelle Goodrick, both from Meriden, were among the University of Kansas students recognized May 10 for completing the Global Awareness Program this spring.

The GAP recognizes those students who study abroad and take courses with an international focus.
KELLER GRADUATES FROM KU WITH MASTER’S DEGREE

IN BRIEF

LAWRENCE

Jennifer J. Keller of Wamego graduated from the University of Kansas on May 20 with a Masters of Social Work Degree. She was a member of the Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society.

She is a social worker at Mercy Regional Health Center in Manhattan.

Jennifer and her husband, Brian, reside in Wamego with their children, Abbie, Paige and Matt.
Amanda Spiker earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kansas School of Law. She was awarded her degree at the Annual Hooding Ceremony held Sunday, May 20 at the Lied Center. The 135th annual commencement ceremony was held later that day at Memorial Stadium on the University of Kansas campus. Spiker has accepted a position as an attorney for a firm in Kansas City, Mo. She is a member of the class of 2000 from Onaga High School. She is the daughter of Stan and Sharon Hartwich and Lonnie and Sandy Spiker.
Keller receives Master's Degree

Jennifer Keller, Wamego, graduated from the University of Kansas May 20, with a Master of Social Work Degree.

She was a member of the Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society. She is a social worker at Mercy Regional Health Center, Manhattan. She is married to Brian Keller and they reside at Wamego with their children, Abbie, Paige and Matt.
Teri Zenner event to raise money for student-athletes, social worker training

KEVIN SELDERS

A family event will take place Saturday morning to keep alive the memory of Teri Mathis Zenner.

The third annual memorial four-mile run/walk and Kids Dash will take place at 7 a.m. at the Heritage Park Marina and raise funds for scholarships and the education of other social workers in honor of Zenner, who was a social worker and case manager for Johnson County Mental Health.

“We anticipate having over 400 runners or walkers this year,” said Susan Peavier, a friend and co-worker of Zenner’s who helped organize the event. “That will probably take us close to the 1,500 mark for the three years.”

Zenner, a graduate of Olathe South High School and Missouri Southern State University, was studying for her master’s degree at the University of Kansas when she was killed Aug. 17, 2004, by a client, Andrew Ellmaker, during a visit at his home. Ellmaker was found guilty of first-degree murder May 18.

Her death, which took place two days before her 27th birthday, put a national spotlight on social workers’ safety.

The $26,000 raised at the two previous events allowed the Teri Mathis Zenner Foundation to create a scholarship in Zenner’s name for KU social welfare students. The scholarship provides financial assistance for three students each semester who are in the master’s program.

With the scholarship fully endowed, funds

The registration fee for the run/walk is $30 through Friday and $35 Saturday. Children’s activities are free. For more information, visit www.terizenner.com or register at www.active.com.

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Registration fee is $30 by Friday

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Raised at this year’s event will be split into two new categories. Some money will go to female student-athletes at MSSU pursuing bachelor’s degrees in education, kinesiology or psychology. Other funds will support training and education for social workers in violence awareness, assessment and prevention.

Matt Zenner, Teri’s husband, said it’s an honor to be a part of the event in honor of his wife.

“She has helped so many people, and for all the people that are not going to be getting help from her now . . . it’s not nearly enough, but it’s some way for us to continue on,” he said.

The event also will include a children’s carnival with face painting and an obstacle course. There will be a pancake and sausage breakfast after the event and an on-site cotton candy maker.

“It should be a good time,” Peavier said. “We really are wanting to make it a very family-oriented event.”

The registration fee is $30 through Friday and $35 Saturday. The children’s activities are free.

Matt Zenner said the event is about more than raising money.

“We look at it also as a way of getting the word out there that this is not a single instance,” he said. “It doesn’t just happen once. We really need to do something to protect social workers.”

He added that he’s looking forward to having fun and seeing families enjoy themselves at the event.

“We’re just extremely excited,” he said.

“To see everybody out there showing support is amazing.”

Peavier said supporting the event — not only the event itself — keeps alive Zenner’s memory.

“We’re just glad we can keep her memory alive by doing something for the community,” she said. “If this had happened to somebody else, Teri would be right in the middle of it helping somebody with this cause.”

Donations can be sent to the Teri Mathis Zenner Foundation, P.O. Box 3471, Shawnee, KS 66203.

For more information, visit www.terizenner.com or register at www.active.com.

— Contact Kevin Selders at 764-2211, Ext. 136.
Area Students Earn KU Degrees

The names of more than 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring - representing 97 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and 52 countries - have been announced by the KU registrar.

KU’s Class of 2007 numbered more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these candidates for degrees returned Sunday, May 20, for the university’s 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2007 were expected to participate.

The following is a list of area students who have earned their KU degrees:

**Andover** - Aaron Chase Burns, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting; Michelle Shea Krumrey, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; John Forrest McConeghey, Doctor of Medicine; Blake Jonathan Nelson, Juris Doctor; Nimal H. Patel, Bachelor of Science in Biology; Lindsay Elizabeth Pestinger, Bachelor of Science in Journalism; Trevor L. Phillippi, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance; Stephan G. Pizzola, Doctor of Medicine; and Andrea Lynn Wolf, Bachelor of Arts/Biology.

**Towanda** - Jon William Hecker, Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

**Benton** - Jason Horry Beury, Bachelor of Arts/Environmental Studies and Peace & Conflict Studies.

**Wichita** - Brittany Elizabeth Brown, Bachelor of Science in Education; Sadie Ann Razook Ellsworth, Doctor of Pharmacy; Aaron James Hilding, Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering; and Broc Wilson Penner, Bachelor of General Studies/Communication Studies.
The University of Kansas’ Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society inducted 103 new members - including Andrew R. Stangl of Wichita - May 19, at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Tara Welch, KU Phi Beta Kappa president and associate professor of classics, presided. Chancellor Robert Hemenway greeted initiates and their families and guests.

Election to Phi Beta Kappa recognizes a student’s high academic achievement while pursuing a broad and substantive liberal arts curriculum. To be eligible for consideration for membership, students must have senior status and a minimum grade-point average of 3.65 on a 4.0 scale.
KU Names Top Scholars

Gregory T. LaRue, of Andover, was among the more than 200 students the University of Kansas recognized as the Class of 2007's top scholars at commencement Sunday, May 20.

Each year, KU has awarded its most prized four-year scholarships to students whose academic records and other qualifications make them eligible for selection. These students are Chancellors Club scholars, Elizabeth M. Watkins-Emily Berger scholars, Solon E. Summerfield scholars, Endowment Meritorious scholars, National Merit scholars, National Hispanic scholars and National Achievement scholars. KU Endowment manages the funds for these scholarships.

The son of Rodney and Debra LaRue, the Wichita Collegiate graduate is a National Merit scholar. The National Merit scholarship is regarded as the most prestigious national award bestowed upon high school seniors. Fewer than 9,000 students of the 1.3 million who compete for the award, or fewer than 1 percent, receive National Merit scholarships. Recipients are chosen based on their academic abilities and extracurricular activities.
Stephen Owens and Delvin Wohlgemuth have each recently been promoted to the rank of captain of the fire division. They will join captains Chago Mendez and Duane Buller in leading four battalions of firefighters.

Each of the volunteer firefighters are EMT certified and have completed Fire I and II certification. Their training was done through the local fire department, with accreditation given by Kansas University or Hutchinson Community College.

Owens has been a volunteer firefighter for almost 10 years and Wohlgemuth has served seven years.

Hesston EMS director Russ Buller said, “It is difficult to find people willing to stay as long as these men have and to step up to this responsibility. To have two people of this caliber willing to fulfill this role is a huge benefit to this community.”