Deeds on KU honor roll

Rebecca Deeds, daughter of Doug and Rita Deeds of Little River, has been named to the Spring Honor Roll at KU in Lawrence. Rebecca is a senior engineering student.
TOPEKA — 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.

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.
Just in time for the tuition hikes to be approved for fall, the Kansas Board of Regents released a study 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 Gallie 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.

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.

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.

— The Wichita Eagle
During an annual spring exhibition and competition, the University of Kansas Department of Art recognized 53 students with approximately $225,300 in scholarships and awards.

A faculty committee judged the nominated students' art projects displayed on the third and fourth floors of KU's Art and Design Building from April 29 to May 3. Of the honored students, 41 received about $190,950 in scholarships of varying amounts, and 25 students received about $34,350 in awards in varying amounts.

Nicholas Allen Perry, son of Jean and William G. Perry, CW3 serving in Iraq, ArtBFA, senior, received the Pat J. Ellis Art Scholarship and Hollander Family Foundation Award. Nicholas is a graduate of St. Marys High School.
IKU Announces Spring 2007 Honor Roll

LAWRENCE — More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester. These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and 37 other countries. The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Saint George Mark L Stockham son of Steven and Marcia Stockham Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior 2007 Spring Honor Roll Manhattan

High School Manhattan KS

* Wamego Anna Kathleen Bailey daughter of Colleen Riley Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore 2007 Spring Honor Roll Wamego High School Wamego KS

* Wamego Tyra L Blew daughter of Kenneth and Cynthia Blew Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior 2007 Spring Honor Roll Wamego High School Wamego KS

* Wamego Jessica Marie Sain-Baird daughter of Janet Sain Liberal Arts Undergraduate Junior 2007 Spring Honor Roll Wamego High School Wamego K S

* Wamego Brandon Johnson Tackett son of Robert and Rebecca Tackett Liberal Arts Undergraduate Junior 2007 Spring Honor Roll Wamego High School Wamego KS

* Wamego Bethany Ann Wood daughter of Robert and Laura Owens Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore 2007 Spring Honor Roll Flint Hills Christian School Manhattan KS

* Wamego Chance Anthony York son of Shirley York Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior 2007 Spring Honor Roll Wamego High School Wamego KS
Parents Applaud Four-Year Compact

“Required campus fees, which will be $377.75 for the fall 2007 semester, are set by Student Senate and voted on by the student body.”

LAWRENCE — Parents and students have been overwhelmingly positive in response to a new University of Kansas plan that offers no tuition increases for four years to freshmen and sets fees four years in advance for all students.

KU’s Four-Year Tuition Compact, approved today by the Kansas Board of Regents, enables first-time freshmen and their families to plan financially for the true cost of tuition and fees for the time it takes to complete a bachelor’s degree program. Approximately 80 percent of college costs for Kansas residents and almost 90 percent for non-residents will be known and certain from the first day of class, said Marlesa Roney, vice provost for Student Success.

“Every time we discussed the proposal during new student orientation this month, the audience has burst into applause,” Roney said. “No tuition increase for four years is very welcome news to parents and students alike. They can now plan ahead with confidence.”

The tuition compact fixes the per-credit-hour tuition rate for first-time freshmen for four calendar years, the time it takes for a student taking 16 credit hours a semester to graduate with a bachelor’s degree. All but four KU bachelor degree programs can be completed in that time.

The compact, developed in collaboration with KU student leaders, also sets course fees for the next four years. Course fees are levied on a per-credit-hour basis in all of KU’s schools except social welfare and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Almost 65 percent of KU students are enrolled only in the College, and most won’t pay any course fees while earning a degree. Students who enroll in schools with course fees typically do so in their junior and senior years.

The university is also working to establish a four-year schedule of required campus fees, an annual charge students pay to support services such as the student health center, fitness and recreation center and the bus system. Required campus fees, which will be $377.75 for the fall 2007 semester, are set by Student Senate and voted on by the student body. The compact also includes an optional two-year fixed rate for student housing.

Returning and transfer students will pay the standard tuition rate, which is set every June by the regents. These students will pay the same set course fees as first-time freshmen. For more information about the Four-Year Tuition Compact and all tuition rates and fees, visit www.tuition.ku.edu.

A regents survey reported this week that tuition rates in Kansas are considerably lower than the rates in neighboring states. Kansans who attend KU pay $831, or 15 percent, less than residents in neighboring states to attend similar institutions each year.
Teachers use summer to get real-world experience

ARLEY HOSKIN  
staff writer

Most people never get the opportunity to make an eight-week career change.
But UpLink made that change possible for Olathe teacher Betsy Wilkin and nine other teachers throughout the Kansas City area.
UpLink, an initiative of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, connected area teachers with businesses to participate in an eight-week externship program called TeacherTech.
“The very first externships began the first week of June,” said Karen Grover, UpLink director of education. “The idea of the externship is to give teachers real-life experience in businesses, so they can provide relevant, real-life experience in the classroom.”
Businesses posted temporary positions through the program, and teachers applied for the positions. Participating businesses pay the teachers as though they were temporary employees.
Kansas University Physicians hired Wilkin as a policies and procedures coordinator. Wilkin taught fifth grade at Green Springs Elementary School for the last three years and will teach fourth grade at Meadow Lane Elementary School next year.
“I just thought it was an awesome opportunity to see what the business world was like,” she said.
Wilkin started her externship June 4. Her job responsibilities have included editing and revising the policies and procedures and general human resources tasks.
Wilkin said she already has thought of ways to incorporate her work experience into the classroom.
“The neat thing about this is that they offered us college credit through (the University of Missouri-Kansas City),” she said.
As part of the college credit, Wilkin had to write a lesson plan that includes her experiences in the program.
She said she plans to review the classroom policies and procedures with her students using the methods she used with Kansas University Physicians.
“I really believe that it is important for students to see how what they are learning in the classroom will apply to real life,” Wilkin said.
Ruth Pullins, director of human resources for Kansas University Physicians, said her business appreciates the work Wilkin has done.
“She’s able to work independently, but she is a great team player, too,” Pullins said.
Pullins plans to participate in the program in future summers.
“If I could budget for this type of project again I would absolutely do it,” Pullins said. “It’s a wonderful program.”

— Contact Arley Hoskin at 764-2211, Ext. 133, or ahoskin@theolathenews.com.
Blue Valley Northwest High School hosted more than 1,400 students during the 71st annual National Association of Student Councils meeting Saturday through Wednesday.

Participants came from throughout the United States and Puerto Rico for a week of learning and education.

Student government adviser Michele Boeding said Northwest prepared for the conference for three years.

Event activities included speakers and seminars, Special Olympics and a KU Leadership Day at the University of Kansas.

Blue Valley students organized many of the week’s events and served as guides for visiting students.

“It was a great experience for them,” Boeding said. “They get the chance to lead activities and lead sessions.”

Northwest graduate Colin Davidson, 19, Overland Park, said the arrival of the other students made all the planning worth it.

“I had no idea the magnitude of it. I knew some people who had gone to a conference before and they told me how big it was and how much spirit everyone had,” he said. “I never understood it. It’s a huge undertaking, but it’s also a lot of fun.”

Davidson said everyone benefited from networking and talking about their student councils.

“You are able to see what student councils in other states are doing,” Davidson said.

He served as one of three co-hosts who led general sessions.

“I’ve really learned to deal with the unexpected and learned that no matter what, you should spin it in a positive manner,” he said. “It got me to think of what if? and that will really help me out.”

Boeding said the conference allowed Blue Valley students to showcase their school.

“They are the moms and dads for the week,” she said. “They are responsible for making sure the students know where they are going for sessions. They are networking and making new friendships.”

Boeding said Blue Valley families who hosted visiting students had added benefits.

“When you are at a conference with this many students and you are able to break off with three or four students and lie around and talk to other students about what you learned; that’s one of those priceless items from this conference,” she said.

She said she hoped students would take information and ideas they discussed with one another back to their schools and implement them.

“Our goal is that students realize they are the future and what they do makes a difference to a whole bunch of people,” Boeding said.
NICE SHOT ... Danielle Wall, 14, a sophomore from East Rowan High School in Salisbury, N.C., gives a high five to Chase Williams, 10, Olathe, during a game of bocce ball at the Special Olympics games at the Blue Valley Activities Complex, 135th Street and Switzer Road.
Miege students attend Boys, Girls State

‘They’re learning the process of what it takes to change policy.’

Elaine Schmidtberger
Bishop Miege counselor

KATRINA SEGERS
STAFF WRITER

A group of Bishop Miege High School students attended Boys and Girls State June 3-8 and June 10-16 on the University of Kansas campus.

Counselor Elaine Schmidtberger, Overland Park, said students participate in a mock government while at the event.

“It’s not just fun, it’s work,” she said. “They’re learning the process of what it takes to change policy.”

Schmidtberger said boys and girls from every Kansas high school attend the event. She said the students must be in the top of their class and involved in some kind of leadership either inside or outside of school.

“The people at Boys State and Girls State are the ones that will be changing policies and running for offices,” Schmidtberger said.

Her 17-year-old son, Kent, participated in Boys State.

“I’m president of the senior class at my school, so it was really important learning the leadership skills and everything that Boys State taught so that I can lead the senior class,” Kent said.

Kent ran for governor and state treasurer while at Boys State. He ran a campaign with signs and participated in a “whistle stop tour,” giving speeches at the cities and counties created within the organization.

Kent said he lost the election, but received appointment to the board of education, where he and other members reformed the school system.

“It helped because I was thinking about being a lawyer,” he said. “As a lawyer I was going to try to get into politics and the whole government experience helped me know how the government works.”

Kent said students are recommended by their history teachers to attend.

“I thought it would be a good experience and my mom told me it looks really good for college,” he said.

He discovered the experience offers more benefits than sprucing up a resume.

“It’s important because I met a lot of people from all over Kansas,” Kent said. “I live in a big city and met people that live in really little towns and saw how we differ.”

He said the experience will help him appeal to everyone in Kansas if he chooses to go into politics later in life.

“I’m strongly thinking about it more and feel really educated in it,” he said.

Molly Salisbury, 17, Overland Park, said participants at Girls State learned by doing.

“We did different activities to learn how the government runs on the county and state level,” she said.

Molly said girls contact the local American Legion Auxiliary to interview for a position at Girls State.

“It’s a little different with the boys because they have to apply and we have to interview to get our spot,” she said. “I told (the interviewer) how I was interested in politics and writing things on education and healthcare.”

Molly said she will be senior class secretary and her stint as mayor of her city and state Senate vice president at Girls State will help her lead people and urge people to participate.

“It just helps with my leadership skills and how to work with different people and personalities,” she said.

Molly said she enjoyed learning about the experiences of students from rural areas, who have senior classes of 20 instead of 900.
“The way they interact with people and how they interact at home is different,” she said.
The Wichita Eagle on tuition hikes:

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