University of Kansas announces Spring '07 honor roll

The following students are among those listed on the Spring 2007 honor roll at the University of Kansas:

Lisa M. Minnis, daughter of Ted and Karen Minnis, Business Undergraduate Senior, a graduate of Bucklin High School;

LeAnn Marie Bell, daughter of Leona Naab, Pharmacy Professional, a graduate of Spearville High School; and

Stephanie Marie Temaat, daughter of Ronald and Beverly Temaat, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore, a graduate of Spearville High School.
A new University of Kansas plan 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 enables first-time freshmen and their families to plan for the true cost of tuition and fees for the time it takes to complete a bachelor’s degree program.

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 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.
Pastor's Daughter Honor Student at KU

Deborah Lee Fitzgerrel of Syracuse KS, the daughter of Bill and Pam Fitzgerrel, Pastor of the Methodist Church, was one of more than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

Deborah is a graduate of Syracuse High School and majored in English at KU. She graduated this spring. She has an older sister who also attended KU, Kelvie, who is married and lives in Kansas City. Her married name is Crabb.

Pastor Bill and Pam was transferred from Syracuse to Learned, KS this past month.

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 schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled.
Among the more than 4,600 undergraduate students who earned honor roll distinction at the University of Kansas this spring were ten local students.

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.

Local students and program/school include the following:

- Jacquelyn Dawn Bowin, daughter of Thomas and Mavis Bowin, junior in Liberal Arts from Columbus.
- Amanda Kay Carpino, daughter of Craig Carpino, pharmacy professional from Columbus.
- Ross Adam DeVoe, son of Steve and Debbie DeVoe, senior in liberal arts from Columbus.
- Jasmine Christine Pasmio, senior in liberal arts from Columbus.
- Brian David Phelps, pharmacy professional from Columbus.
- Christina Nichole Self, daughter of Debbie Pryor, senior in liberal arts from Columbus.
- Kyle S. Mock, son of Steven and Connie Mock, junior in liberal arts from Galena.
- Jessie Nichole Fazel, daughter of Kari Giroux-Clark, senior in nursing from Scammon.
- Abbie Nicole Gilmore, daughter of Tina Wydick, senior in liberal arts from Scammon.
- Jesse L. Trimble, daughter of Machelle Shouse, junior in liberal arts from Joplin, Mo.
Parents, students applaud KU’s Four-Year Tuition Compact for Freshmen

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.
WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — The first half of 2007 has been one to forget for many Kansans as blizzards, deadly tornadoes and now flooding have caused millions of dollars in damage, disrupted lives and put a dent in the state's economy.

Of the state's 105 counties, only three — Marion, Atchison and Jefferson — have escaped being designated a disaster area by local, state or federal officials this year.

"We are beginning to wonder what has brought Kansas to the focal point of severe storms," said Sharon Watson, director of public affairs for Kansas Emergency Management. "We have certainly gotten every type of storm you can have, with the exception of hurricane, and we hope we don't have one of those."

State officials are still tallying the damage from last week's floods, which affected 20 counties in southeast Kansas. So far, emergency management personnel have identified about 3,100 homes destroyed or heavily damaged in five counties, with a dollar figure to be determined later.

Winter storms that crippled western Kansas earlier this year and a rash of spring tornadoes, including one that largely destroyed Greensburg, have caused more than $1 billion in damage already, with the state spending at least half that for recovery efforts.

Much of the damage has occurred in rural areas, which have struggled in recent years because of drought and other economic obstacles.

Insurance companies are fielding claims for hundreds of millions of dollars, money that temporarily boosts local economies with the rebuilding of homes and the replacement of lost furniture and other property.

But that doesn't make up for the original damage.

"Any time wealth is destroyed, we're all poorer," said Art Hall, director of the University of Kansas' Center for Applied Economics. Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said on Friday she may call lawmakers back to the Capitol for a special session to pass a relief package for those affected by the floods. They crafted a similar bill for Greensburg residents.

The question is whether Kansas has any money left to cover the region's needs.

The ice storms and blinding snow of December and January caused an estimated $360 million in damage to roads, power lines and telephone poles — the costliest natural disaster in state history. President Bush later designated 44 counties as part of a major disaster area.

Five months later, on May 4, a swarm of tornadoes struck the state's midsection, including a 1.7-mile-wide monster that killed 10 people in Kiowa County and destroyed or damaged almost 1,000 homes in Greensburg. Three other people died in twisters the same day or the next day.

Insurance companies said the tornado in Greensburg caused more than $150 million in insured losses. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration have set aside $42.5 million to help those affected by the storms.

"Those two storms (the winter storms and tornadoes) alone have left an unprecedented mark on the state in terms of damage and destruction," Watson said.

The state then got a heavy dose of rain, bringing floods to central Kansas in May and southeast Kansas in late June and early July. The high water in Coffeyville brought floods to central Kansas in May and southeast Kansas in late June and early July. The high water in Coffeyville was made even worse by the release of thousands of gallons of crude oil from a refinery on the Verdigris River.

"All I can tell you is that I have my staff very busy researching the length of a cubit," said Randy Duncan, emergency management director for Sedgwick County, referring to the unit of measurement used in the Bible to build Noah's Ark.

Duncan said the disasters should remind Kansans that the
state is vulnerable to bad weather year-round and they should be prepared — especially if they’re in local or state government.

“You will see more local governments pay more attention to financing emergency management activities,” he said.

Economists said disasters provided the opportunity for struggling towns to get improved facilities, such as new city buildings and more technologically advanced homes. But any underlying economic weaknesses will likely remain a problem.

“If these were aging communities, shrinking towns, then the disaster is probably not going to change that,” said Robert Olshansky, a professor of urban and regional planning at the University of Illinois. “In principle, there’s a great opportunity to make a dramatic improvement, but usually after disasters, most of those things don’t happen.”

Meteorologists said there’s no one cause of this year’s weather mayhem, noting that the blizzards were caused by a strong jet stream while the tornadoes and flooding were driven by a weak jet stream. For the rest of the summer, forecasters predict weather to remain between the extremes.

Of course, it could be worse. The Legislature hasn’t had to deal with locust swarms since 1874.
Unofficial minutes by
Clerk Peggy Franken

The Board of County Commissioners met June 25 in regular session at 8:30 o'clock A.M., with Commissioner Artie Lucas, Chairman, calling the meeting to order. Commissioner J. D. Euler, Commissioner Jerry McKernan and County Clerk Peggy Franken were present. County Attorney Charles Baskins was present for a portion of the meeting.

Paul Stewart, The Kansas Chief, observed the entire meeting.

Commissioner Euler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting as written. Motion carried.

The agenda for June 25, 2007, was presented and approved by the Board.

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Euler, to approve the payroll and warrants for June 29, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

The Sheriff presented fee reports for the period of June 1-15, 2007, to the Board for their review.

Commissioner Euler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, to advertise for sealed bids to repair the remaining east half of the south side and the south half of the east side of the courtyard wall, with bid letting to be held July 9, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. Motion carried.

The 2006 Real Estate/Sales Ratio Study was presented to the Board for their review on behalf of the Kansas Department of Revenue Division of Property Valuation.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Euler, to hire Lloyd Smith and Randy Simpson as part-time seasonal help in the Road and Bridge Department at a rate of $9.00 per hour, effective July 9, 2007. Motion carried.

Randy Ivey met with the Board to discuss a clean-up notice for his property received from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Pam Wiedner, Solid Waste Coordinator, informed the Board she was working with Mr. Ivey on meeting the State cleanup requirements and any further issues Mr. Ivey may have.
6 of the project and would be working with Michels Directional Crossings to perform the horizontal drill across the Missouri River. Mr. Helms stated that the companies have some issues with the roads and routes they need to cross with their boring equipment and mud trucks, namely at 839 Sheridan Road. In order to get to their drilling location, Sheridan Road needs to be widened and the curve longer and more sweeping. Commissioner Euler asked representatives from Welded Construction and Michels Directional Crossings to drive an alternate route from K-7 Highway, easterly on 150th Road to Randolph Road, with 2nd District Road Foreman Danny Adkins, to determine if that route would be more suitable and easier access to the work location. Mr. Helms agreed and said he would get back with the County Commissioners after they met with Foreman Adkins. County Attorney Charles Baskins informed the Board and Rockies Express Representatives that the contractual agreement between Doniphan County and Rockies Express Pipeline would need to be amended to allow authorization to cross bridges located on 150th and Randolph Roads.

Martha Wiedmer, Road Engineer Secretary, reported that the Kansas Department of Transportation will meet with County Officials on July 9, 2007 at 9:30 A.M. to evaluate FAS Roads damaged by the heavy rainfall May 6, 2007.

Catherine Floyd, Health Department/Home Health Agency, presented the Board with bids for the purchase of a personal computer. Bids were presented as follows: Just For Fun Computers $1255.00; Laskco $840.00

Commissioner McKernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, to accept the low bid of Laskco. Motion carried.

Richard Blanton, Custodian, presented the Board with bids to purchase an X500, 25 horse power, 48" deck John Deere lawn mower, including blade, chains and wheel weights and brackets. Bids were presented as follows: B&D Equipment $5993.00; Hiawatha Implement $5290.00; Horizon Outdoor $6080.00

Commissioner Euler made a motion to accept the bid of Hiawatha Implement and to pay 1/3 of the cost from the Noxious Weed Fund and 2/3 of the cost from County General, with the current mowers to be transferred to the Noxious Weed Shop. Commissioner McKernan seconded the motion and it carried.

Kathy Tharman and Nathan Geiger, Doniphan County Extension Agents, Fred Meng and Neil Coufal presented the Board with the Doniphan County Extension Council 2008 budget request in the amount of $108,400. No action was taken pending preparation of the 2008 County budget.

Norman Meng, Doniphan County Fair Board President, presented the Board with the 2008 Doniphan County Fair Board budget request in the amount of $16,500. The Board took no action pending preparation of the 2008 County budget.

County Appraiser Dean Butrick and Mia Clark, Geological Student with the University of Kansas, requested permission for Mrs. Clark to use the 1985-1986 aerial photography of Doniphan County in order to complete a geological study of Doniphan County. Once the study is complete Doniphan County will receive a published map and have the aerial photography returned. Mrs. Clark agreed to furnish Doniphan County with a letter of receipt acknowledging possession of the Doniphan County aerial photography on loan to the University of Kansas. The Board made no objections.

Dean Butrick, County Appraiser, gave the Board the 2006 Neighborhood Revitalization Plan figures showing the amounts kept by each taxing unit in the County and the amount of refund given back to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Euler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKernan, to approve a request and petition for a buried telephone cable at 1740 Randolph Road in 2nd District. Motion carried.

There being no further business before the Board of County Commissioners, at 11:25 A.M., Commissioner Euler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKernan, to adjourn. Motion carried.
Jayhawks To Have An Area Picnic

New students planning on attending the University of Kansas next Fall and their parents can attend a “Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic” Thursday, July 12, in Wellington.

The event is hosted by the KU Alumni Association and its South chapter. The picnic will be held at Slate Creek Lodge, 411 S. West Rd. in Wellington. It will start at 6:30 p.m. next Thursday.

Students from Rose Hill planning on attending KU are among the new students expected to be welcomed at the picnic. They are Lindsey Hoy, Jacob Moore, Havilah Newman, Aaron Richardson and Samantha Vickers.

New students from six counties have been invited to the picnic, including all of Butler County.
History is not always pretty: That's what a group of University of Kansas students learned after a semester of researching the exodus of African-Americans to Kansas in 1879.

David Peavler, a doctoral student in history at KU, taught the class, titled History of the Peoples of Kansas. For the research project, the 54 students in the class each picked a Kansas newspaper from that time period and wrote papers on what the newspapers reported about the exodus.

At the time of the exodus, Kansas was known for being progressive and tolerant, but the students found articles that seemed to suggest otherwise.

Among the students was Luke Hosler, a business administration major and son of John and Karin Hosler, Valley Falls.

Danielle Bergeron, a senior studying to become a teacher from Pittsburg, Calif., said she was surprised by what she read in the Miami (County) Republican. Everyone hears the story of Bleeding Kansas, but they don't hear how Kansans did not want free men settling in their state. The Miami Republican stated there was an isothermal line, and Kansas was too cold for (African-Americans).'

Peavler said he assigned the labor-intensive project because there is little in current history books about the exodus, in which 10,000 to 20,000 African-Americans left the south after the Civil War to settle in Kansas. And what is available doesn't necessarily tell the whole truth.

"Textbooks tell a simple story, a happy story," Peavler said. "This was not always a happy story. In Atchison, they were lining up with rifles. They didn't want the African-Americans to come to Kansas."

The students spent hours reading the old newspapers on microfilm. Peavler said the Kansas State Historical Society and the Interlibrary Loan program were instrumental in the research project.

"Technology has made research more accessible, but that doesn't mean it replaces what can be found in a library," said Bergeron. "Manually looking through the microfilm made me feel like an actual historian."

Another notable thing the students discovered, said Peavler, was that the newspapers used the exodus to expound their beliefs. Opinions were hurled back and forth between rivals like a political football.

"I learned that the political views of the paper had a lot to do with the content," said Whitney Novak, a journalism student from Shawnee who researched the Daily Capital of Topeka. "I found an article that was somewhat of a disclaimer, saying that the Daily Capital was a Republican publication and would take on Republican views. They often had little wars with neighboring papers that had different views."

Peavler said that finding was disheartening. "The people themselves were being completely forgotten," he said. Although the research project was sometimes frustrating for the students, Peavler said the end product was enthusiastically supported by the class.

"The students liked that they were working on something that mattered," he said. "It will last. It wasn't just a grade."

Callie Penzler, a senior from Lawrence majoring in elementary education, said she was glad she enrolled in the class.

"I learned a lot about my hometown and state," said Penzler. "Not the glorified, sugar-coated version of Kansas history I was taught throughout my years in the public school system, but the straightforward truth."

The 54 research papers will be printed and bound together for distribution at local libraries and the state historical society. Peavler said he hopes someone will use the research to write a detailed, honest book about that time in Kansas history.

Peavler also said he'd like to repeat the project in future classes using other topics, such as women's suffrage.
Kansas University has hired an administrator to lead minority recruitment for faculty and staff.

Maurice Bryan, who has been provost at Ottawa University for three years, began work Monday in Lawrence as associate vice provost for diversity and equity.

Bryan is no stranger to KU, where he worked as director of equal opportunity from 1993 to 2001. He said his new position would be related to his previous one, but it would not involve compliance issues or discrimination complaints that were common in his previous job.

Bryan said he preferred to look at diversity in terms that transcend physical appearances and skin color.

“I think what is more difficult and more rewarding in the end is to get people who truly think differently than us and bring a different approach to issues, emotions or thoughts,” Bryan said. “In some situations, we're actually uncomfortable with that.”

He said attracting faculty and staff with different backgrounds and viewpoints would enrich classroom discussions and help existing faculty and staff grow as people.

“Sometimes people think just changing the physical bodies, without really changing ourselves, can work,” Bryan said. “What we really need to do is to change how we do things, how we think, and be presented with new ideas and new perspectives.”

KU Provost Richard Lariviere said in a news release that the university aimed to give students a mix of different viewpoints and backgrounds in its faculty.

“Maurice knows this university, he knows diversity matters and he has the knowledge and skills to lead this important effort,” Lariviere said.

In 1997, KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway set goals for minority and female faculty numbers. By 2006, the number of minority faculty had increased 75 percent and the number of female faculty was up 41 percent.

Bryan said that after three years at a smaller, liberal arts university, he would need to update himself in order to evaluate the diversity status of major research universities across the country.

But he said many people still lacked appreciation for the importance of diversity at educational institutions.

“We still have a long way to go toward people embracing what is, in my mind, crucial to a democratic nation,” Bryan said.