KU Welcomes 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.
Art students recognized at KU

LAWRENCE — During an annual spring exhibition and competition, The University of Kansas Department of Art recognized 53 students with about $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.

Local and area students included:

- Hesston — Travis J. Hagen, son of Gregory and Susan Hagen, Ray and Elizabeth Goetz Scholarship and Luella F. Stewart Art Scholarship.

- Hillsboro — Adam Wade Driggers, son of Darrell and Charlene Driggers, Hollander Family Foundation Award.
LAWRENCE — The Kress Foundation Department of Art History at The University of Kansas recently gave awards to 59 students for excellence during the 2006-07 academic year.

Raechell Smith, director of the H&R Block Artspace at the Kansas City Art Institute, was guest speaker at the recognition event in May at the Spencer Museum of Art. KU Endowment administers funds for the awards, which were presented by art history faculty members to their outstanding students.

Among those honored was Elizabeth Ann Major of Halstead, daughter of Terry and Joan Major. She received an Amsden Award.
John Tucker Allred has been named a United States Achievement Academy Award winner. He also has received scholarships from the Dave G. Hansen Foundation, the David H. Jett Memorial Society and the University of Kansas, where he will be attending classes in the fall.

Allred is the grandson of Margaret and Jack Fearey of Cheney. He is a graduate of Central High School in Salina.
Local 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 numbers 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 on 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.

Cheney students who earned degrees include: Whitney Helen Fasbender daughter of Kenneth and Arlene Fasbender, Bachelor of Science in Journalism, and Bethany Kay Brown, Graduate Master of Science in Education.
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University of Kansas students from 20 disciplines completed the Global Awareness Program this spring. They were recognized in a ceremony May 10.

Amy Bing, a senior majoring in Spanish, earned a global awareness program certificate. The Goddard High School alumnus is the daughter of Dale and Peggy Bing of Goddard.

The 150 undergraduates received GAP certification on their transcripts to inform future employers that they have completed a course of study at KU that fosters international understanding. More than 80 students completed the program in the fall.

GAP recognizes students for studying abroad, taking courses with an international focus, including foreign languages, and being significantly involved in international co-curricular activities. All undergraduates are eligible to participate.

Launched by the Office of International Programs in fall 2004, GAP has recognized more than 400 students in the past three years. More than 1,300 students are now participating.

"GAP’s unique program of pairing academics with experience helped to widen my perspective and increase my understanding of the world around me," said Michelle Goodrick, graduating senior in psychology. "This insight has served to further fuel my passion for helping humanity as I set off to serve in the Peace Corps. GAP offered an education that went beyond the classroom and insights that would stick with me long after commencement."
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.

Elizabeth Fowler, a Goddard High School graduate from Wichita, was a member of the research group. She is the daughter of Paul and Deena Fowler.

David Peavier, 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.

Peavier 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," Peavier 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. Peavier said the Kansas State Historical Society and the Interlibrary Loan program were instrumental in the research project.

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

Although the research project was sometimes frustrating for the students, Peavier 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."
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... Goddard students who earned degrees include: Chelsea Lea Curley; Bachelor of Science in Education; Andrew Craig Herndon, son of Mark and Jolene Herndon, Bachelor of General Studies/Human Biology; Dana Erin Brown, daughter of Steve Brown, Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science; Layla Habibi, daughter of Reza and Zeba Habibi, Bachelor of Science in Education; Linsey Marie Bahns, daughter of Kerry and Jackie Bahns, Bachelor of Arts/Human Biology; Lisa Kelly Eilers, daughter of Ronald and Linda Eilers, Bachelor of Science in; Valerie Michelle Preston, daughter of Diana Hoyt, Bachelor of Fine Arts; Lacey Julia-Ann Johnston, daughter of Holly Johnston, Bachelor of Arts/Environmental Studies; Dana Erin Brown, daughter of Kim Devlin, Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laborator; Amy Louise Bing, daughter of Dale and Peggy Bing, Bachelor of Arts/Spanish; Carissa Faith Pedigo; daughter of Tracy and Shelly Pedigo; Bachelor of Science; Carrie Beth Hillard, daughter of Gary and Jan Hillard, Master of Science/Journalism; Kasey Leigh Hagle, daughter of Merri Hagle, Bachelor of Arts/Applied Behavioral Science.
OSAGE CITY—The skies above Osage City are accustomed to precipitating bodies, but dozens of jumps on a Thursday morning are a little more than normal.

The increased activity was part of a joint effort between Skydive Kansas of Osage City and Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) in Topeka to raise abuse awareness. The skydives were executed by Jeremy Struemph, Lawrence, who jumped out a perfectly good plane 53 times in just over eight hours June 14, setting the Kansas record for the most skydives in a day.

"That's also how many incidents of domestic violence are reported every day," Jennifer Sharp, owner of Skydive Kansas, said.

Sharp and Struemph used that number to set the number of jumps for the day. They worked with the KCSDV to promote the event, and they began taking pledges and donations. By the time Struemph had completed his 53rd jump, more than $1,800 had been pledged and collected. When The Herald-Chronicle went to press Tuesday, that number had soared to more than $3,000 in monetary donations, and another $200 worth of donated items.

The jumpers got the idea from world record holder Jay Stokes, who holds the record for jumping out of a plane 640 times in one day. Each of his record jumps has raised money for charities, such as cancer and the Special Olympics.
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"There's a lot of good charities, but this is one that just doesn't get a lot of recognition," Struemph said. "With cancer, they raise money to find a cure," Sharp added. "With domestic violence, we already have the cure, we just need to get it out there. It's about how we treat each other, and that's so easy to fix. We just need some awareness out there, and some help and support."

With the monetary and material donation, the skydivers have definitely made a dent. The group is taking everything from diapers to ink cartridges. A list of items is available at www.skydivekansas.com/dropabuse.

"We're taking anything," Sharp said. "It's a long list."

Laurie Harrison represented KCSDV at the record jump. "We're thrilled that they did all this work on behalf of the coalition and that they chose us to spread the word about domestic and sexual violence," Harrison said. "It takes all parts of the community and a multifaceted approach to raise awareness. All kinds of people in the community need to be involved."

53 jumps later...

"I'm a little tired," Struemph said after having his feet on the ground for a while.

Struemph's Thursdays are usually spent at his desk in Lawrence, where he works as a grant administrator for the University of Kansas. He had spent most of his "workday" jumping on a plane, riding up to 2,200 feet, jumping out, landing, trading the used chute for a new pack, and jumping back into the plane again. The whole process could be repeated every six minutes. "If we figure in breaks, it was a little longer," he said.

The effort wasn't completed alone. In addition to Sharp, the Skydive Kansas staff, the pilo and more than a dozen jumpers donated time, equipment and packing.

"We had so much support from the skydivers," Sharp said.

Struemph rotated between seven packs, several borrowed, and all repacked by friend and fellow divers. One pack was re-stuffed at least a dozen times by a jumper who had only jumped eight times himself.

"It was a great experience," Struemph said. "I was able to be done because we had so many people volunteering. Without them, it wouldn't have happened; it wouldn't have even been close."

Skydive Kansas will continue to take donations through the end of the month. For more information on donation, visit www.skydivekansas.com/dropabuse or call (785) 840-JUMP (5867).

For more information on the KCSDV, visit the Web site at www.kcsdv.org/ksresources.html.
Jeremy Struemph carry back his last rig after an exhausting 53 straight jumps in just over eight hours.
Struemph lines up for one his last landings.