Forty-two University of Kansas students were recently initiated into Mortar Board, a senior honor society. Mortar Board members are selected based on distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Students must have a 3.0 grade-point average and hold senior status during some or all of the academic year.

What became KU’s Mortar Board chapter was founded in 1912 as the Torch senior women’s honor society. In 1924, it affiliated with the national Mortar Board women’s honor society. Mortar Board opened membership to men in 1975. This year, 85 applied for membership at KU.

Local students who were initiated into Mortar Board are Kayla M. Buehler, daughter of David and Lisa Buehler of Lansing; and Andrew Hartley Winetroub, son of Dale Winetroub of Leavenworth. Buehler is a graduate of Lansing High School and is senior sport science major. Winetroub is a junior international studies and political science major. He is a graduate of Leavenworth High School.
The University of Kansas Department of Political Science recently honored top students at its annual Pi Sigma Alpha initiation and awards banquet on April 19 at the Kansas Union.

Thirty-four students were inducted to the Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, a national political science honor society.

Three of the students are from Leavenworth. Jennifer Erin Farwell, daughter of Jay and Linda Farwell, was recognized and honored with the Pi Sigma Alpha Faculty Award; Andrea R. Vieux, daughter of Mike Vieux, was recognized and received the Walter Thompson Scholarship; and Andrew Hartley Winetroub, son of Elizabeth Winetroub, was recognized and honored for Pi Sigma Alpha Study Abroad.

Inductees must have at least junior standing in political science and a 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale in all political science courses. Cumulative grade-point averages for undergraduates must be at least 3.4. for graduate students at least 3.5. Neither may have a course grade lower than a 3.0.

Special award and scholarship recipients were recognized during the program. Awards provide cash prizes with no restrictions. Scholarships provide funds for tuition.
University of Kansas students chosen for the Freshman Leadership Council were recognized last month after completing an eight-week series of leadership enhancement training sessions that began Jan. 24.

The Freshman Leadership Council is limited to 20 to 25 students. KU freshmen interested in the program submitted applications in November and were selected based on their high school grade-point averages, involvement in high school activities, interest in leadership, participation in activities since coming to KU and answers to written essay questions.

Alison Elizabeth Pendley, daughter of Esther Smith, was selected to the FLC. Pendley is a Leavenworth High School graduate and is a freshman in majoring in psychology.

Among the opportunities for council members this year were dinners and discussions with Chancellor Robert Hemenway and Provost Richard Lariviere. In other meetings, Freshman Leadership Council participants heard KU seniors in campus leadership roles share their experiences and participated in group discussions and leadership scenarios.
More than 4,000 candidates for degrees to graduate in May 20 ceremony

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 will return Sunday, May 20, for the university’s 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2007 are expected to participate.

Faculty and candidates for degrees will assemble about 3:30 p.m. in case of inclement weather, participants should call KU Info, (785) 864-3506, or listen to local radio and television stations to learn the exact time of the commencement ceremony. Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available online.

Those area students graduating in May are:

From McCune, Travis Jay Goff, the son of Joyce Goff, with a PharmacyPD Prof 1 Doctor of Pharmacy degree. He graduated from Southeast High School, in Cherokee.

From Erie, Arinya Nikki Eller with a Latin American StudiesMA Graduate Master of Arts/Latin American Studies degree.

Ashley Renee Harlow, the daughter of Joe and Tina Knight, with a PharmacyPD Prof 1 Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She graduated from Erie High School.

From Galesburg, Chelsea Lynn Miller, the daughter of Daniel and Tammy Miller, with a degree in AccountingBSB Senior Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting. She graduated from Thayer High School in Thayer.

Bryan Edward Luttrell with a degree in Business AdministrationMBA Graduate Master of Business Administration.

Cody Joseph Vitt, the son of Robert and Donna Vitt, he graduates with a degree in PsychologyBGS DECL Senior Bachelor of General Studies/Psychology. He also is a past graduate from Erie High School.

Grace L. Ward, the daughter of Mark and Tina Ward, with a degree in Health Info ManagementBS Senior Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management. She graduated from Erie High School.

From Galesburg, Chelsea Lynn Miller, the daughter of Daniel and Tammy Miller, with a degree in AccountingBSB Senior Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting. She graduated from Thayer High School in Thayer.
Area students to take part in Duke TIP ceremony at KU

The University of Kansas will host a state recognition program for about 400 academically talented seventh-grade students selected for the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Johnathon L. Burris and Kyle L. Spielbusch, both of Erie, have been selected to take part in the event which takes place at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 3, at the Lied Center. Marlesa Roney, vice provost for Student Success, will preside. Robert N. Sawyer, founding executive director of Duke TIP, will deliver the special address to the students and their families and guests.

Selection to Duke TIP is based on college entrance-exam scores that students take while still in middle school. The top 5 percent are chosen for the program. Students participate by taking either the SAT or ACT national achievement tests. Working with host academic institutions such as KU, Duke TIP sponsors 33 state ceremonies in its 16-state talent search region.

Each Duke TIP student receives a medallion. The state recognition ceremonies honor seventh graders who have earned scores above the average scores of college-bound high school seniors. About 900 students qualified in the Kansas region. About 400 are expected to attend the ceremony.

The program is in its 27th year, and this is the ninth year KU has hosted the Kansas state recognition program. In addition to Kansans, additional students taking part in the ceremony at KU are Missouri residents from the Kansas City metropolitan area or towns near the Kansas-Missouri state line. Information tables to answer students’ and parents’ questions about KU programs and activities will be in the Lied Center lobby during the event.

Duke TIP is a nonprofit educational organization that identifies and helps cultivate the talents of academically gifted youth. Since 1980, more than 1 million students have taken part in the program that is supported by student fees and donations from individuals, corporations and foundations.