KU proposes tuition freeze for freshmen

The Associated Press

In an effort to make the cost of getting an education predictable, The University of Kansas has proposed a plan that would freeze tuition rates for incoming freshmen for four years.

If the plan is approved by the Kansas Board of Regents, first-time freshmen also would have the option of paying a fixed rate for student housing for two years.

The "Four-Year Tuition Compact" was presented Thursday to the regents, who will vote on tuition proposals next month.

Kansas State on Thursday proposed a 7.9 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident students; Wichita State, 6.4 percent; Emporia State, 9.5 percent; Pittsburg State, 7.1 percent; and Fort Hays State, 5.1 percent.

The University of Kansas plan, which would begin next fall for incoming freshmen, would increase tuition rates at the university to nearly 16 percent more than current levels but keep that rate the same for four years.

Freshmen also would get a schedule showing annual increases in course and campus fees, meaning they would know about 80 percent of their college costs in advance.

Under the plan, resident freshmen would pay $213 per credit hour, which is 15.9 percent more than the current rate of $183.75. For full-time, resident freshmen, tuition would be $3,408 per semester, $468 more than this year.

A full-time, out-of-state resident would pay $8,960 a semester.

"We want to get away from the whipsaw effect of tuition increases over the past 30 years," university Provost Richard Lariviere said.

The program has another goal: increasing the number of students who complete degrees in four years.

"Completing four-year academic programs in four years is a high priority," Chancellor Robert Hemenway said. "By offering no tuition increases for four years, we are giving students a powerful incentive to finish their degrees on time."

Lariviere estimated it would cost students who take more than four years to complete a degree an extra $1,000 per semester.

To protect against inflation, Lariviere said the university would ask for a new tuition rate for each incoming freshman class.

Hannah Love, student body president, said she supported the proposal.

"I think it is a solution to help stabilize those numbers and curb those increases that we continue to see," said Love, a junior from Dodge City.

For other students, the university is proposing a 7.3 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident undergraduates and 6.5 percent for nonresident undergraduates. And the university has asked for a 7.3 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident graduate students and a 6.6 percent increase for nonresident graduate students.
Trust us on this — college tuition is a bargain in Kansas.
Yes, we know tuition costs are going up faster than the price of gasoline.
We know over the past 10 years tuition and fees years have skyrocketed — a whopping 166 percent at The University of Kansas, 144 percent at Kansas State University and, closer to home, 82 percent at Washburn University.
We know college students are piling up debt as they grapple with ways to absorb those annual tuition increases.
We know Washburn already has approved charging students $10 more per credit hour for the 2007-08 school year, and we know KU and K-State are poised to raise their tuition, as well.
So, it's understandable that parents forced to dig deeper and deeper each year to sent their sons and daughters to college might be excused for asking:
What bargain?
The answer is relative. Compared to 10 years ago when in-state tuition was around $3,000, next year's projection of $5,500 at Washburn doesn't sound much like a bargain.
But compared to institutions in our neighboring states, as well as across the country, it is.
The national average for tuition during the current 2006-07 school year was $5,836, and both Kansas and Kansas State were significantly lower than their Big 12 Conference brothers in both resident and non-resident tuition.
Granted, that won't ease the pain when checks have to be written for the fall semester, but at least there won't be the feeling students are being gouged.
Besides, even with the higher tuition, a college education remains a proven investment. Studies show college graduates earn enough more in their lifetimes than non-college graduates to pay for their education many times over.
Studies also show, unfortunately, that most students incur a significant amount of debt paying for that education. Two-thirds of college graduates will leave school in debt — typically about $19,000 worth.
While the rule of thumb for college students is to not take on more debt than your expected first-year salary, the escalating tuition costs make that a daunting challenge.
That's where advance planning comes in. It has never been more important for parents to start putting away money early for college. The 529 college savings plan, which grows tax-deferred and is tax-free when withdrawn if used for qualified education expenses, is one of the most popular saving plans.
Likewise, students must do their share. College isn't a four- or five-year party. Students should live frugally at school and borrow as little as possible.
"Live like a student when you're in school so you don't have to live like a student after you graduate," says Ivan Nalibotsky, a financial adviser with Capital Solutions Group in Bethesda, Md.
Last week, when Washburn's Board of Regents approved the $10-per-hour hike, the lone dissenting vote was cast by Mayor Bill Bunten, who feared the increase would mean "some people will not be able to go to school."
Statistics show, however, the tuition increases the last decade have had little impact on enrollment.
Maybe students know a bargain when they see one.
I am a product of the Depression and was taught that you receive an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. Some people do better than this, and I usually say "good for you."

However, once in a while I see something that is so far out that I just have to comment. In this case it was an article in the sports section of the May 11 Capital-Journal stating that Bonnie Henrickson, women’s basketball coach at The University of Kansas, had been given a new contract running retroactively from April 2006 through March 2011 increasing her annual compensation to $635,000, including salary and other benefits, up from $130,000.

In 2006, Henrickson won 11 games and lost 20. I hate to think what her salary contract would have been if she had had a winning season.

I don’t blame Henrickson for taking the money from the taxpayers and student tuition, both of which are much too high. Further, I doubt that any professor, regardless of the number of degrees he has, makes anywhere this amount of money.

We all know that the educational system in Kansas is broke but maybe getting back to reading, writing and arithmetic might be a place to start.

JIM BLAIR, OZAWIDE

Priorities seem off
LIKE CHAMPAGNE
OPTIMISM FLOWS

University of Kansas medical school graduates spray champagne as their school is announced during commencement ceremonies Sunday at KU’s Memorial Stadium in Lawrence. More than 6,400 KU students were finished with course work as of Sunday.

‘We’re about to start another chapter of our lives, but a better chapter,’ one KU graduate says

By Taylor Atkins
THE CAPITOL-JOURNAL

In an oversized, yellow foam cowboy hat, Lawrence native Sean Hill made his descent. "All the graduates walk down to the stadium," Hill said about The University of Kansas’ traditional graduation ceremony, which took place Sunday afternoon on campus.

Members of KU’s class of 2007 paraded through the Campanile and into Memorial Stadium. Hill, a political science major, then paraded right out. "I don’t know if a lot people stay for the ceremony," Hill said. "KU doesn’t have a speaker or anything. Walking down the hill is really the point. It’s like a big symbol for being done."

More than 6,400 KU students were finished with their degree work as of Sunday — and a large percentage of them participated in the precessional.

And as with Hill, a large percentage of graduates accented their black robes with oversized hats, Jayhawk paraphernalia, fashionable belts and other colorful objects.

One student attached a sign to his back that read, "It’s all downhill from here," which spawned several high fives from students gathering at the top of the Campanile Hill before the ceremony began.

Graduate Annie Hagg, a communication studies major from Illinois, didn’t share the sign’s bleak outlook for life after college, but she said she understood where it came from. "It’s been too much fun. It’s been way too short. And it’s over," Hagg said. "We’re about to start another chapter of our lives, but a better chapter. I’m very optimistic."

Hagg’s friends also were optimistic about post-college life, even those without jobs. The
women estimated it was an even split between graduates starting careers right away and those without a clue about what was coming next.

Shaina Meyers, a psychology major from Nebraska, fit into the latter category.

“I’m going to move away, Colorado or Montana. I just need a change of scenery,” Meyers said. “I don’t know exactly what I’m going to do. I just want to go somewhere else for a while.”

Chris Jagoda, of Leawood, had more definite plans.

“I start work tomorrow,” the finance major said. “It’s for a firm in Kansas City. I’m excited. I’ll be trading stock options on commodities.”

Hill’s immediate plans after graduation included an even loftier challenge.

“We have to walk back up there,” he said, pointing to the top of the Campanile Hill. “That’s where we parked.”

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The Class of 2007 at The University of Kansas numbered more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. Commencement ceremonies were Sunday.

Graduates from northeast Kansas include:

**ATCHISON COUNTY**

Atchison: Benjamin Richard Anderson, MS, civil engineering; Raymond Phillip Anderson, BS, computer science; Myles Rory Bacon, MS, education; Amber E. Bhattner, MA, speech-language pathology; Megan Patricia Fitzgerald, MSW; Emily A. Gross, MS, dietetics and nutrition; Aaron Matthew Haug, M.D.; Jesse D. Haug, BA, economics, BA, French, BA, mathematics; Christian Renee Jones, MS, education; Lucas Patrick Miller, MA, mathematics; Anna Jo Rice, BS, nursing; Jennifer Erin Weaver, MBA

Cummings: Mary Z. Hoffman, BGS, applied behavioral science

Effingham: Rachel Bailey Duncan, BS, occupational studies; Nathan Lee Ladd, BSB, management, international studies

**BROWN COUNTY**

Hiawatha: Jena M. Allen, MA, speech-language pathology; Taylor Collins Lenon, BFA, design; Ian Christopher Ostrander, MA, political science; Megan Ann Persinger, BGS, theater and film; Brice Nathaniel Sanner, BSB, finance

Morrill: Kimberly Sue Clements, master’s, occupational therapy

Robinson: Allan Bennett Jackson, BS, computer science

**CLAY COUNTY**

Clyde: Erica Lynn Pierce, doctor of pharmacy

Concordia: Jennifer Michele Buller, BA, psychology; Jamie Sue Garver, doctor of physical therapy; Tad Jay Lewis, BGS, economics

Jamestown: Bernadette Kuhn, BA, environmental studies; Lindsey Danielle Petersen, BA, mathematics

Miltonvale: Sonia Rae Cote, MS, counselling psychology; Megan Marie Haliepeska, BS, nursing

**COFFEE COUNTY**

Burlington: John Thomas Cuffe Jr, BS, education; Kaylene DeAnne Devena, BS, education; Laura Ashleigh McMurray, BSB, marketing; Nicholas Troy Selwa, BGS, human biology; Jennifer C. Smith, BSB, accounting; Jennifer Lucene Walter, BS, education

LEBO: Travis Richard Wallace, BS, education

**CLAY COUNTY**

Cleve Center: Caylyn Marie Krizan, BME, music therapy; Benjamin Lucas Peterson, doctor of physical therapy

Morganville: Sharla DeAnn Shivers, BS, journalism, history minor

Waukefield: Austin Jerrand Elser, BA, anthropology; Cayla Jo Witty, BFA, history of art

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Baldwin City: Eric Michael Black, BA, communication studies; Andrea Christina Chavez, BA, sociology; Michael David Daniels, JD; James Franklin Ingram, BA, Latin American studies; Padra Andrews Mitchell, BGS, psychology; Nicholas Wesley Nelson, BS, journalism; Merrie Leah Crawford Skaggs, Ph.D., education/curriculum and instruction; Lori C. Smith, BS, physics; Erick Joseph Vaughn, MSW

Eudora: Sarah Glenn Abel, BSB, accounting, BSB, finance; Brenda Lee Brandon, MA, indigenous nations studies; Kelly Rose Campbell, BGS, history; Amanda Lynn Grosdidier, BA, biology; Ramsey Scott Hagan, BS, civil engineering; Peter Andrew Hickman, BA, political science; Mary E. Johnson, BS, journalism, communication studies minor; Matthew Scott Linzer, BSB, information systems

Kevin Lee McCormick, BA, human biology; Ethan A. Schmidt, PhD, history; John Paul Smolen, JD, Tammi Jaye Soileau, BA, speech-language hearing; Abbey Rochelle Vieux-Revell, MS, education; William Bradley Wilson, BGS, economics; Jill Lancee Woodward, BA, psychology; Nikolaus Anne Zula, PhD, education/special education

Lawrence: Christopher Scott Abrams, JD; Kevin Dana Adkins-Hejleson, BA, history; Kathryn Lucille Adolph, BS, health information management; Nazia Ahmed, MS, electrical engineering; Temidayo Bankole Ajayi, MS, computer engineering; Riazul Alam, BS, biochemistry, chemistry minor; Paul Michael Alderman, BA, psychology; Edward Alexander Alsop, BS, mechanical engineering; Weel M. A. Alioumi, BS, computer science; Wilhelmus A.J. Anemaat, PhD, aerospace engineering

Jeremy Scott Antley, MA, history; Teresa Fernandez Arab, PhD, English; Abena Askabe, BS, biology; Hilda Audardottir-Goulay, BA, biology, BA, political science, French minor

Candace L. Bailey, BME, music education; Angela Cristina Balderas, JD; Brett A. Barker, MS, computer science; Rebecca J. Baker, BA, communication studies, international studies; Nicholas Kyle Baik, BS, mathematics; Kelly Llwong Barah, BA, human biology

Amy Christine Barfield, BME, music education; Alycia Carey Barland, BA, Spanish, BS, journalism; Lindsay Lea Baxter, BGS, anthropology; BGS, psychology; Nathan Bruce Begley, MBA; Joseph William Bell, BSB, business administration, BSB, finance; Damon Esteban Benitez, BS, education; Karen M. Bentley, BS, journalism; Eli Beracha, Ph.D., business; Robert Thomas Berendt, MS, pharmaceutical chemistry; Jared Thomas Bertels, master of architecture

Lester Lee Big Grove Jr, BSW; Jeffrey Thomas Biller, JD; Samantha Eileen Birchfield, BA, history, BA, women’s studies; Michael E. Bird, MFA, art; Erica Sue Bittel, MA, history of art; Christine R. Blanchard, MSW; Erin Elizabeth Blocher, MA, communication studies; Paul David Bloom, MS, education; Laura Kathleen Bogart, MSW; Abigail L. Boone, BS, education; Robert A. Brewer, BS, geology

Jamie Lynn Brooksher, JD; Elinor Marie Brown, master of urban planning; Erika Lynne Brown, MA, speech-language pathology; Katylin Marie Brown, MA, speech-language pathology; Kimberly Ann Brown, BA, psychology; Jana R. Budde, JD; Brian Denniss Bungardner, JD; Jonathan Miles Bunch, BA, African and African-American studies; David Burnham, PhD, geology; Jacob Patrick Butler, BS, journalism

Erin Christine Burger, Ph.D., chemistry; Kristen Louise Byington, BSW; Melissa L. Byrd, MS, journalism; Mima Yanet Cabrera, MM; Kathryn Ann-Marie Capps, MS, education; Aron Christopher Carlson, MSW; Juan Jose Carrera Espinoza, PhD, chemistry; Shawna Lee Carroll, master of public health; Erin Elizabeth Carter, BA, human biology; Natalie Nadine Casagrande, BS, microbiology

Aubree Antoinette Cates Caston, BA, psychology; Betty Feri Chang, BA, communication studies; Erin Amanda Chaput, BSW; Cody Keith Charles, MS, education; Scott M. Chaussee, BA, anthropology; Wei Chuen Cheng, master of accounting and information systems; Ian Hio Chong, MSW; Elizabeth Toy Cioar, BFA, design, BFA, history of art; Joseph Bertie Coubam, M.S.
Topeka Capital-Journal
Topeka, KS
Circ. 48220
From Page: 8c
5/21/2007
32729

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University of Kansas

Continued from Page 8C

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Topeka Capital-Journal
Topeka, KS
Circ. 48220
From Page: 9c
5/21/2007
32729

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POMONA: Jessica Moore, BGS, psychology

PRINCETON: Paul Thoburn Dundee, BA, psychology

RAMTOL: Natalie Christine Burk-doll, BS, nursing

RICHMOND: Ashley Sutton Dunbar, MS, dietetics and nutrition

WELLSVILLE: Nathan Frederick Broshear, BS, atmospheric science, mathematics minor; Emily Renee Haas, BS, education; Derek Wray Wright, BS, education

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MILFORD: Rudolf Voiker Metzler, BA, theater and film

JACKSON COUNTY

DENISON: Angela Michelle Hinman, doctor of pharmacy; Wesley Adam Bickford, BA, psychology; Melissa A. Pagel, BS, education; Meghan Elizabeth Stockman, BS, atmospheric science; Carl A. Watkins, BS, journalism, women's studies minor

MAYETTA: Wesley Adam Bickford, BA, psychology; Jessie Diane Thomas, BGS, psychology; Ashley Rose Williams, BS, education; Johnny Lee Williams, MA, indigenous nations studies

JEFFERSON COUNTY

GRANTVILLE: Daniel Kaelson Shirley, M.D.

MCLOUTH: Laura Michele Combs, MS, education; Robert John Kabus, BS, civil engineering; Lauren Elizabeth Kirby, BA, humanities; Justin Charles Smith, BME, music education

MERIDEN: Michelle Renee Godrick, BA, psychology; Erin Brieane Wolfram, MS, counseling psychology

NORTONVILLE: Katherine Louise Blair, BS, journalism, theater minor

OSKALOOSA: Lindsay Ann Baker, BA, human biology; Tiffany Anne Cook, BS, clinical laboratory science; Derek J. Hanson, master of urban planning; JD; Stephanie Ann Scorto, MA, English

OZAWULKE: Stacia Ilene Pfau, MS, education; Melinda Leigh Stewart, BFA, art

PERRY: Alexander K. Harmon, BGS, geography; Kate E. Harper, BGS, anthropology, BGS, psychology; Erin Leigh Nix, BGS, religious studies

VALLEY FALLS: Jennifer Gayle Brevitz, BGS, psychology; Benjamin Robert Davidson, BS, education

WINCHESTER: Judee S. Herring, BS, nursing; Melynda M. Swoyer, BS, nursing

LYON COUNTY

ADMIRE: Audra Rochelle Jenkins, BA, theater and film

ALLEN: Jessica D. White, BFA, design

AMERICANUS: Jeffrey J. Commerford, BSB, accounting, BSB, finance; Benjamin I. Grother, BA, English; Melanie Renee Privat, MS, counseling psychology

EMPORIA: Mayra Aguille, JD; Kathleen Diane Ek, BS; Sarah Lindsay Gilreath, BA, history; Bonnie Lynn Horton, BA, literature, language and writing; Jennifer Leigh Hull, MS, education; Catherine E. Janssen, doctor of pharmacy; Beatrice S. Magathan, MSW; Kevin James Rabas, Ph.D., English; Samuel Nicholas Shepherd, bachelor of architecture; Trista Renee Taulu, BGS, economics, business minor

HARTFORD: Sarah Rebecca Hallinan, MS, education

READING: Sarah Jane Briggs, BA, history of art, dance minor; Curt Ryan Jones, BA, economics

MARSHALL COUNTY

BLUE Rapids: Dorothy Elizabeth Breault, M.D.; Kimberly Ann Duen-sing, BS, education; Heather L. Meiers, MA, anthropology

FORKSKI: Amanda Brooke Alexander, BFA, dance, business minor

MARYSVILLE: Debra Renee Baker, doctor of physical therapy; Matthew Jason Caffrey, BSB, marketing; Jasmy Elane Kracht, BA, psychology; Matthew J. Vogelsberg, JD; Patti Lee Yager, doctor of pharmacy

MORRIS COUNTY

Dwight: Aaron Bradley Oleen, JD; Amy Louise Reif, MS, education

WHITE CITY: Kora Kae Anderson, BS, biology

NEMAH COUNTY

Baileyville: Carla S. Feldkamp, doctor of physical therapy

CENTRALIA: Sarah Marie Olson, MSW

COMING: Rene Lynne Stalba-mer, BS, education

SABRETT: Paul Thoburn Dundee, BA, psychology; Brandon Lee Lukert, doctor of pharmacy; Taylor Elizabeth Simpson, BGS, communication studies; Tyler Marcus Simpson, BM, Voice; Callie Jo Strahm, BGS, human development, BGS, psychology

SENeca: Staci Jo Duryea, master of accounting and information systems; Debra Kay Olberding, BS, occupational studies; Mary Elizabeth Showman, BA, communication studies, English minor

OSAGE COUNTY

BURLINGAME: Ryan Michael Patrick, BS, microbiology

CARBONDALE: Heather Nicole Sleichter, MS, nursing

LYNDON: Dennis R. Knoenochond, BS, biology; Henry R. Kritikos, BA, psychology; William Victor Kritikos, MS, computer engineering

MELVIA: Casey D. Spencer, MSW

Osage City: William Thomas Donigian, master of public health; Jarod Scott Jackson, doctor of pharmacy

Overbrook: Maggie Elaine Apo-daca, BS, nursing; Carlene Morris, MS, education; Lindsey Nicole Sand, BS, education; Kyle M. Smith, BA, psychology, BS, journalism; Brandy Lee Wilson, BGS, applied behavioral science, African and African-American studies minor

QUENEMO: Suzette Kelee Runyon, BS, education

VASSAR: Matthew Merrill Arnold, MS, chemical engineering; Richard Christopher Bauck, BS, computer science; Mark Austin Harries, BM, organ
POTAWATOMIE COUNTY
Onaga: Amanda M. Spiker, JD
St. Marys: Michele Lee Diesel, BGS, economics; Regina Marie Klinges, JD; Renee Annette Klinges, BS, chemical engineering
Wamego: Jennifer Jill Keller, MSW; Terri Elizabeth Little, masters, occupational therapy

RILEY COUNTY
Leavenworth: Megan Amber Giesner, doctor of pharmacy; Thomas Ryan O’Leary, BS, biology
Manhattan: Jennifer Ann Arthur, BA, communication studies, BS, journalism; Christopher R. Borhani, JD; Leanne Coder, Ph.D., business; Edward August Epps, BA, French, BPA, art; Julie M. Goehring, BS, aerospace engineering; Mitchell Aaron Graham, BA, English, BA, political science; Holly Marie Hammerschmidt, BSB, marketing; Bridget Anne Hardy, BSB, accounting; Rebekah Jean Hartnett, BA, African and African-American studies, BA, anthropology; Micah Paul Hawkison, MA, English; David Austin Hill, BA, human biology
Lee Michael Iversen, BS, biochemistry; Jared Ray Jevons, BS, geology; Phoebe Suzanne Michels, BS, computer science; Helen Janet Miller, MS, education; Jessica Marie Schuler, BS, occupational studies; Amber Dawn Seba, M.D.; Adam Christopher Shaner, BS, microbiology; Lindsay Marie Smith, MSW; Matthew Harrison Taylor, BS, biology, BA, English; Robert Campbell Williams, BSB, business administration BSB, finance
Riley: David J. Brandenburg, doctor of physical therapy

SHAWNEE COUNTY
Auburn: Zachary K. Baiksh, BA, architectural studies; Sarah Elizabeth Benson, BS, journalism, film studies minor; Melissa B. Evans, BA, history, BA, Latin American studies; Shalyn P Oberle, BA, psychology; Trevor John Smail, BGS, economics, business minor; Tanner Wayne Sneed, BA, theater and film; Barbara Lynn Walker, BA, English, BS, journalism
Berryton: Katharine Lacey Beale, masters, occupational therapy; Zachary D. Holden, BGS, anthropology; Michael Lee Mummert, M.D.; Trent Jacob Overby, BGS, history; Eric Gregory Scott, doctor of pharmacy; David R. Weber, M.D.
Rossville: Danielle Marie Froelich, doctor of pharmacy; Jessica I. Lutakas, BS, journalism, English minor
Silver Lake: Dustin Lee Dick, MS, education; Blaine M. Folsom, master of urban planning; Erin Marie Gremmert, master’s, occupational therapy; Paul Anthony Nicoe, M.D.; Erin Rae Wiley, BS, journalism, geography minor
Topeka: Logan John Arkenberg, doctor of pharmacy; Jenna Lee Horton, BS, education; Darrel Dean Kniss, Ph.D., education; Angela Dawn McHardie, MPA; Sarah Michelle Moore, BS, education; Michelle L. Rissky, BA, biology, philosophy minor
Topek: Melissa Jean Aberle, BGS, psychology; Maggie Elaine Apodaca, BS, nursing; Nathapong Arunakul, M.D.; Michael Rand Bales, BA, theater and film, English minor; Jeremy Shaun Barclay, MPA; Joel Daniel Bartel, BGS, communication studies, sociology minor; Katherine Lauren Beam, BA, speech-language-hearing; Stacie Michelle Beardslee, BFA, design
Elizabeth Diane Brandsted, BS, education; Jennifer Gayle Brevitz, BGS, psychology; Tyrone Thomas Brown, BSB, accounting; Faith Madeline Butler, BA, biology, chemistry minor; Jessica Lynn Campbell, BS, occupational studies; Natalie Nadine Casagrande, BS, microbiology; Courtney Renee Cash, BS, English
Erin Marsh Castaneda, BA, English, BS, journalism; Jerry Joe Cavette, BS, education; Brian Christopher Cay, master of architecture; Camilla Wishkeno Chouteau, MSW; Chelsea Lee Coon, BA, communication studies; Hannah Elizabeth Cowell, BA, English, BA, French; Blake Jansen Curry, BS, journalism; Timothy Daniel Craig, MS, mechanical engineering
Fred A. Davis III, BS, journalism, English minor; Sherry Annette Davis, MHS, administration; Adam J. DeBacker, BS, mechanical engineering; Stacy Jo Duruya, master of accounting and information systems; Katherine L. Eichten, BGS, communication studies; Daniel Patrick Elsbury, BGS, psychology; Melissa Kaye Emerson, M.D.
Melissa Anne Erwin, BSW; Rebecca Kathleen Eschmann, BSW; Matthew Demetrius Escobar, BGS, theater and film; Jessica Lyne Fankhauser, BS, journalism; Caitlin S. Feighn, BS, education; Heather Laine Florez, BA, psychology; Bridget Dawn Franklin, BS, mathematics, French minor; John Anthony Freeman, BSB, marketing; Amy Leigh Geist, master of architecture; Walter Northrup George IV, BS, occupational studies; Thomas Allen Gish, BGS, theater and film; Jessica A. Gish, BFA, art, history of art minor
Tracy L. Glotzbach, BGS, applied behavioral science, BGS, psychology; Ryan Kirkpatrick Goldsmith, BA, history; Anna Monica Gonzales, BA, English; Michael Matthew Grimmer, BS, mathematics; Michelle L. Hagen, BGS, human biology, history minor; Laura Michelle Hale, BS, education; Michael Patrick Hall, BFA, design
Joan Marie Hamm, MSW; Sue Ann Hamon, doctor of pharmacy; Erika Leigh Hane, BA, political science; Michael Wayne Harding, BSB, finance; Sydney Gilbert Hayes, MBA; Cynthia Rene Hernandez, BS, journalism
Kristen Dianne Hight, BFA, design; Matthew Dale High, BSB, accounting; Christopher Michael Hund, doctor of pharmacy; Bertha Rose Jackson, MPA; Breda Helen Jenkins, BS, clinical laboratory science; Jennifer Leigh Jones, BGS, sociology; John J. Kary, BGS, theater and film; Jessica Ruerksen Keegan, BS, nursing
Nicole Lynn Kelley, BS, journalism; Reagan Anne Kemper, BFA, design; Chad Kurt Knappenberger, BS, journalism; Katherine Genevieve Knoll, BA, religious studies; Jordan Michael Lacore, BS, occupational studies; Matthew M. Landavazo, BS, aerospace engineering; Christina Heather Lane, master of urban planning; Jodi Elaine Lutfin, BA, English, BA, Spanish; Sara Elizabeth Little, BGS, communication studies, sociology minor; Jessica Rose Ludrum, BA, history of art

Continued on Page 1OC
University of Kansas graduates do the “Rock Chalk Jayhawk Chant” to end the commencement ceremony Sunday afternoon at Memorial Stadium on The University of Kansas campus in Lawrence.

Continued from Page 9C

Maria Ximena Maldonado Morales
BA, English; Nichole S. Mays, BSW;
Natalie Teal McAllister, BA, English;
German minor; Cole Jamison McEwen, BSB, accounting; Jacob G. McKee, BGS, anthropology, BGS, psychology; Stephanie R. Meador, BA, geography; Orlaniz Odet Medina, BA, sociology; Roger Theodore Moore, MPA
Andrew Cameron Murray, BA, history; Kristin Lee Myers, M.D.;
Beryl Ann New, doctor of education;
Denise Renee Nickell, MS, nursing;
Leslie Tyree Niswonger, MS, journalism;
Renita Janell Norman, BGS, communication studies; Kyle Emmett Olberding, BSB, finance
Patrice Jane O'Hara, MPA; Michael Patrick O'Toole, BS, chemical engineering; Brienne Denise Padgett, BGS, psychology, applied behavioral science minor; Alicia Ann Parkman, MA, sociology; Elizabeth T. Peterson, BGS, human biology; Victor Russell Petty IV, MS, computer engineering
Kenneth Lee Pingleton, BGS, history; April Pinon, BSB, accounting;
Kevin D. Pitts, BA, economics, BA, mathematics, BFA, music; Michelle C. Pitts, BSB, accounting; Paul Michael Prece, Ph.D., theater and film; Matthew William Prellwitz, MS, education
Sara Ann Quick, MS, education; Margaret Ann Ramberg, MFA, art;
Ian Joseph Ramirez, master of urban planning; Tony D. Rogers, MA, indigenous nations studies; Patrick Emil Ross, BS, journalism; Tod A. Roulette, BGS, women's studies
Sarah S. Sachs, MS, nursing; Erin Lynn Sanchez, BS, nursing; Erin Lynn Sanchez, BS, nursing; Kelley Breanne Sanchez, BA, anthropology; Gregory Arnold Schmidtmann, master of accounting and information systems;
Kenneth Ryan Scott, BSB, management; Karen A. Seck, BA, psychology, sociology minor; Kristan Rae Seibel, BA, Germanic languages and literature, co-major: international studies, BA, political science, French minor; Holly Christine Serk, M.D.; Erin Leigh Sevatson, BA, geography, BA, history
Christopher John Shepard, JD; Mark DeMane Simons, doctor of pharmacy; Timothy A. Simons, BS, education; Christy Lynn Skelton, MS, education; Jennifer L. Slagle, MPA; Angela Ellen Stalbaumer, JD; Amber Michelle Stich, BGS, psychology, anthropology minor; Justin William Strecker, BS, computer science; Megan Elizabeth Summers, BGS, communication studies, BGS, economics; Katharina Kristine Tallman, BS, education; Julia Christine Theis, BS, nursing; Robin Michelle Thomas, BFA, design
Kathleen Regina Thornton, BGS, human biology; Kristina N. Towle, BME, music education; Elizabeth Ann Tschetter, BA, English; Russell Edward Valentine, BS, mathematics; Aubrey Susanne Volz, master's, occupational therapy; Mark A. Volmut, BGS, anthropology
Thomasina Anna Maria Warfield, BS, education; Jessica Marie Wayner, BSB, finance; Heather Hanson Wherrill, MA, speech-language pathology; Sherree Evon Wilkins, BGS, speech-language-hearing; Erin Whitney Willard, BS, education; Ashley Grace Zahn, BS, journalism

WABAUNSEE COUNTY
Alma: Gretchen Rebekah Gehrt, master's, occupational therapy; Joshua J. Umbehr, M.D.
Maple Hill: Jennifer L. Truitt, BGS, sociology
Paxico: Michael Patrick Hund, BGS, philosophy

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Washington: Laura A. Dague, BA, economics, BA, mathematics; Kathryn Emelyn Kingston, BS, biology
The following students from northeast Kansas have received degrees from colleges and universities in Kansas:

Stephanie Powell, Topeka, master's degree, divinity, Christian Theological Seminary; Seth D. Simmons, Topeka, BA, John Brown University; Christa Yingling, Topeka, BS, Baker College; and Geoffrey Brandon Maddox, Topeka, BA, University of Missouri-Columbia.

Kyle K. Tindell, Auburn, BS, Pittsburg State University; Stacey Ann Scherschligt, Berryton, BS, nursing, Pittsburg State University; Nicole Lee Cooper, Carbondale, BA, Pittsburg State University; Tracee Nicole Brim, Tecumseh, BS, Pittsburg State University; Catherine Anne Voegeli, Tecumseh, BS, Pittsburg State University; Andrew Armstrong, Topeka, technical certificate, Pittsburg State University; Daniel T. Chavez, Topeka, BBA, Pittsburg State University; Grant S. Deters, Topeka, BS, Pittsburg State University; Meredith Anne Eden, Topeka, BA, Pittsburg State University; Michael Adam Eisenhut, Topeka, BS, Pittsburg State University; Mert Jane McNeese, Topeka, BA, Pittsburg State University; Jennifer Marie Nelswender, Topeka, BBA, Pittsburg State University; Ryan Quinlan, Topeka, BBA, Pittsburg State University; and Krista Jo Wells, Topeka, BS, Pittsburg State University.

Alan R. Levanduski Jr., Topeka, Garden City Community College; Scott Haverkamp, Auburn, diesel tech, Salina Area Technical School.

Bryan College, Topeka campus

Business administration:


Medical office assistant: Faye B. Barrand and Bobble Wallentine.


Computer programming: Matthew Arredondo, Brooke Estes, Justin Tyler Hewitt and Timothy A Kinker.
Students in the news
Local students earn degrees from KU

LAWRENCE - 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 May 20, for the university's 135th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium.

More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2007 participated.

Local students receiving degrees included Lance Justin Gillett, son of Pat Short and John Gillett, Juris Doctor; and Jordan Blake Johnson, son of Dr. Guy and Robyn Cleverley, Bachelor of Science in Biology, both of Fredonia.

Both Gillett and Johnson are graduates of Fredonia High School.
Members of the community are invited to Kehilath Israel Synagogue to enjoy a pre-Sabbath service presented by Rabbi Jeffrey Shron, KI's cantor, accompanied by the musical group Yachad — The Traveling Tefillah Band on Friday, June 1.

Services begin at 6 p.m. before candle lighting. Complimentary tickets may be reserved at (913) 642-1880, ext. 200, or by picking them up at the synagogue.

At the conclusion of services, attendees who have sent in paid reservations prior to the evening may stay for a Sabbath dinner catered by Linda Silver and friends. Adult dinners are $18 and youth are $10. Reservations can be made by visiting KI's Web site, www.kisyn.org; then send a check to Kehilath Israel Synagogue, 10501 Conser, Overland Park, KS 66212 by May 25.

For more information, call the synagogue.
Shavuot speaker to discuss meanings of myths

By Rick Heilman
Editor

LAWRENCE, Kan. — S. Daniel Breslauer has been retired from the faculty of the University of Kansas Department of Religious Studies for a couple of years now. But he continues to teach and win awards for it.

Breslauer, who was ordained as a Reform rabbi but who doesn't use the title, will be the featured speaker at Kansas City's annual, all-night Shavuot program Tuesday, May 22, at Kehilath Israel Synagogue. His topic will be “Creating Myths in Jewish Tradition from the Bible to Bialik.” (See box for more details on the all-night study and worship session, also known as a Tikun Leyl Shavuot)

Breslauer, who also holds a doctoral degree in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University, is the author of more than a dozen books, including his latest, “Decoding Religion in the Bible: Learning to Recognize the Diversity of Biblical Texts,” published in 2006 by Sloan Publishing Co.

“In the book, I show the variety of ways of looking at humanity, God, history and ritual in the Book of Genesis, in the prophetic literature and in the New Testament,” Breslauer said in an interview last week at his West Lawrence home.

He noted that some parts of the Hebrew Bible comport with passages in the New Testament, while other parts disagree both with the New Testament and with other portions of the “Old Testament.”

“Any religious tradition has a variety of ways of looking at the world,” Breslauer said. “My own specialties are Judaism, Christianity and Islam.”

He said these three traditions are often referred to as monotheistic. But in fact, he said, they hold that man is influenced by powers beyond our control, and sometimes they push one way, and sometimes another. For instance, there is a push both for justice and compassion; for beauty and for pragmatism.

“In Judaism, this found its expression in the sefirot of Kaballah. In Christianity, the Trinity helps bring that variety into focus. In Islam, the jinn or demonic forces helped...
explain the variety of forces in the world.”

Thus, Breslauer said, the term monotheism is “misleading.” He said he agrees with the notion that most people today practice “an effective polytheism.”

Moreover, the great world religions hold that “humans feel a variety of supernatural forces working on them, and they explain it in a variety of ways.”


He called the poet Bialik a “modern midrashist.”

“One reason people don’t understand what religious statements mean is they don’t read it as myth,” Breslauer said. “The narrative conveys ways to be human and to look at the world. Myth doesn’t mean that something is false, but that it may not be factually correct in order to communicate an idea whose truth is more subjective than objective.”

He cited the creation myth in Genesis. From the author’s viewpoint, Breslauer said, it is less important whether the world was literally created in seven days than for the reader to understand “that when things came into being, they did so in an orderly fashion; that that order was an order of increasing complexity and diversity, and that that order is one in which there is an increasing amount of participation by the creatures in the act of creation.”
By Rick Hellman

A KU professor and two of his students will discuss their plans to renovate a section of the West Bank Palestinian Arab refugee camp Aqabat Jaber at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at the Kansas City Artists Coalition, 201 Wyandotte St.

Their trip to the nearly 60-year-old refugee camp this spring was, like the discussion Saturday night, sponsored by the Lighton International Artists Exchange Program, a project of the Artists Coalition.

The design project is the result of three years of work by University of Kansas Professor of Architecture Philippe M. Barriere and several of his students, who have been cooperating with the United National Relief and Works Agency. In the wake of Israel’s War of Independence — or, as Arabs refer to it, the Nakba, or Catastrophe — UNRWA created and still takes responsibility for many facets of life in the camps. Aqabat Jaber is just south of Jericho.

William Bourne is one of the two freshly minted KU architecture graduates (Cassie Waddell is the other) who traveled to the Middle East this year with Barriere and who will join him at the discussion Saturday night. KCAC Executive Director Janet Simpson said Barriere applied for the Lighton grant, met the criteria and received money to further the project.

On his blog (http://archnebula.blogspot.com), Bourne writes that “(t)his is the third year of ongoing research that was started in 2004 by student Iman Ismael in collaboration with professor Philippe Barriere.” Bourne writes that the goal of the project is to “create sustainable, economical dwelling units for Palestinian refugees which provide an opportunity to express a sense of identity and ownership for a misplaced people.”

Bourne told The Chronicle he had been working on the project since September, trying to figure out nitty-gritty details like just what materials and labor would cost on site. The idea, he said, is to have cost estimates to present to potential donors who might fund the apartment buildings. They combine such old-fashioned, low-tech features as wind-catching tunnels that distribute fresh air throughout the units with the latest in “green roof” design.

Today, judging from photos on Bourne’s blog, Aqabat Jaber is a hodge-podge of low, mud-walled and reinforced-concrete-sided buildings, many of them original 1948 construction.

“We’re looking at creating a sense of a more urban environment that allows people to have some sources of income and enliven some of these areas that are not home to too much activity,” Bourne said.

In April, the KU trio traveled first to Istanbul and then to Amman, Jordan, where they met up with UN officials who accompanied them to the West Bank. They also met with engineering faculty and students at Bir Zeit University in Ramallah.

A Google search revealed a report of the Israel Defense Forces having slain an alleged member of Islamic Jihad in Aqabat Jaber in 2006. But Bourne said he got no sense of which Palestinian political faction the refugee camp residents favored.

“My sense of politics is that everybody is well informed,” he said. “Some Palestinians might know more about American politics than some Americans. We didn’t experience any militancy or protests. ... I saw the green, black, red and white of the Palestinian flags ... I saw posters of Yasser Arafat by his tomb in Ramallah.”
Philippe M. Barriere created this image of a proposed housing project in the West Bank.
By Rick Helman
Editor

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The first Beren Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Kansas, Jonathan Boyarin, is leaving KU after just two years for a teaching post at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies announced that Boyarin would join UNC’s faculty in the fall as Kaplan Professor of Modern Jewish Thought in the Department of Religious Studies.

Boyarin left Kansas last weekend for his home in New York City, which he has maintained all along. He was both a practicing attorney and a Judaic scholar before he took the job at KU.

“I want and I need to maintain a base in New York City,” Boyarin said. “For two years, I have been going back and forth a lot. And being 600 miles closer was a very important consideration for me. My wife, Elissa, is a real city girl, and she was intrigued by the slightly more urban environment of the Chapel Hill triangle.”

His colleagues say Boyarin made a significant impact on KU during his two years as Judaic studies professor in the Department of Religious Studies, which is a part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

“We think he did a terrific lot,” said Acting Department Chairman Tim Miller. “He basically took Jewish studies from just an idea when he came ... and turned it into reality. He organized a curriculum for the Jewish studies minor ... He began raising money, which you need to have a successful program, for things like (teaching) Hebrew and Yiddish language, programming, lectures, special events and conferences. He was terrifically energetic in seeing to those things.”

Dan Anderson, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said Boyarin “did a wonderful job helping to bring a new visibility to the program. He established a base on which we can build to the next level.”

Anderson said he has to consult with the Beren Foundation, which has endowed the Jewish studies professorship, but that he hopes to have a replacement for Boyarin at KU by the fall of 2008.

“The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is extremely committed to building our Jewish studies program,” Anderson said.

To that end, this past school year, the Department of Religious Studies added Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Serguei Dolgopol’skii and his wife, lecturer Lilia Dolgopolskaia. This past semester, Serguei taught “Living Religions of the West” and “Introduction to Judaism,” while Lilia taught Hebrew language. Boyarin also oversaw the addition of Kansas Citians Sari Havis and Shelley Rissien to the Hebrew-teaching cadre at KU.

And while the Beren Professorship will be vacant next school year, Boyarin said the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences “has authorized a search for a new position in Yiddish language and literature. This year, we weren’t able to fill it, but that will be reviewed. ... Dean Joe Steinmetz says his goal is to create a full-fledged Jewish studies program with an eventual major.”

“I’ll certainly be able to tell everybody I know that it’s a great opportunity for someone with creative ideas about how to structure a new Jewish studies program,” Boyarin said.

JONATHAN BOYARIN