Two former students from Sedan will receive their degrees. Jeffrey Stephen Sizemore, son of Mary Warren, will receive a graduate master of business administration. Perry Erin Leigh Nix will receive a bachelor of general studies in religious studies.

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Faculty and candidates for degrees will assemble about 2 p.m. along Memorial Drive for the procession, which begins at 2:30 p.m. The program begins 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 at www.commencement.ku.edu.
Naftzger winners announced; art hunt returns

BY CHRIS SHULL
The Wichita Eagle

The Naftzger Young Artists Auditions were May 4-5 at Wichita State University. The competition for university vocalists, pianists and instrumentalists attracted 74 applicants from Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Eight finalists performed in concert May 5.

The overall prize winner was soprano Angie Soloman, 27, who studies at the University of Kansas. She received $5,000.

“Best-of” winners from each of the competition’s divisions were soprano Julie Davis-Ramsey, 25, from the University of Oklahoma; violinist Yu-Fang Chen, 25, from Taiwan, attending the University of Missouri-Kansas City; and pianist Eunmee Song, 23, from Korea, studying at KU. Each division winner received $2,000.

The Naftzger Young Artists Auditions were founded in 1940. The Wichita Symphony Association oversees the competition.
Sebelius signs law to divest state pension fund from Sudan

By JOHN MILBURN  
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a law Friday ensuring that the state’s largest pension fund won’t be investing in companies doing business in Sudan.

The law requires the Kansas Public Employees' Retirement System to divest its holdings in companies doing business in the African nation. The measure is designed to pressure Sudan into ending violence in its Darfur region. The government has been blamed for atrocities in an ethnic conflict that has killed more than 200,000 people and displaced 2.5 million.

“The horrific genocide taking place in Sudan is well-documented, and we want to have nothing to do with companies that are doing business in that nation so long as its government does nothing to stop the killing,” Sebelius said in a written statement.

Pension officials have said the system has about $38 million invested in companies with ties to Sudan, the largest amount being $16 million in PetroChina, a Chinese oil firm.

In all, the governor signed 18 bills Friday and has approved 194 passed by the 2007 Legislature. She has vetoed four bills and one budget item.

KPERS is prohibited under the law from investing in certain businesses, as well as requiring the pension system to divest from direct or indirect holdings in companies with such operations. There’s an exception for passively managed funds in which the estimated cost of divestment exceeds a certain threshold.

Wichita high school and University of Kansas students were among those who lobbied for the bill this year.

Matthew Vines, a Wichita East High junior leading the student effort, said legislators should be commended for their actions.

“This is an issue that can be pushed aside in state legislatures because it doesn’t directly affect their constituents,” Vines said. “It’s not going to end genocide, but it is part of the overall international movement. It’s just one fund at a time.”

Numerous states have begun divesting their public pension funds from Sudan. The Kansas bill is modeled after legislation in California.

Other states, including Missouri, have divested from Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria, identified by the U.S. State Department as terror-sponsoring nations. Several executive orders already restrict U.S. companies from trading with or investing in Iran.
Matt Hudson, a 2005 graduate of Humboldt High School, has been doing well in classes at the University of Kansas, and has been offered a chance to attend a pre-law study in London, at Cambridge, this summer. Although he has been resourceful in getting most of the costs covered, he still needs the plane fare of about $1200. Any assistance you may be able to provide would be much appreciated. In a personal statement, he said:

"Hello, I am participating in the Cambridge Pre-Law Summer Institute this summer. I intend to go to law school after graduating college. This program would be beneficial to my future as it would give me important insights into legal traditions important to my professional and personal goals especially in regards to applying to law school.

This program is a once in a lifetime kind of opportunity. I grew up in a broken home, and spent a lot of my adolescence in foster care. Through that journey, because of the instability inherent in such a situation, I faced lots of barriers, particularly the lack of faith from those around me. For a long time people told me that I couldn't do a lot of things, including graduate from high school or go to college.

I did graduate from high school and at the top of my class. The best lesson I gained from that was not to be bitter, but to see the benefit from doing all that I can, including taking advantage of opportunities when they present themselves. I have discovered that doing so moves me toward the self-assurance born of accomplishment. When I first mentioned my interest in this program to a friend of mine he told me that I should not wait or pass on something like this because if I missed out I may never get that opportunity again. I fed off of peoples lack of faith for a long time. For this program I have received lots of positive support for the idea and feel this program would be beneficial not only to my educational career as well as help me meet other personal goals.

Participating in the Cambridge program would be a step toward my goal of law school, but it would also be another step toward self-confidence and independence."

He is also willing to speak in person to anyone about this opportunity.

If you have questions, contact Camie Russell at camiek@cableone.net or (620)212-1718, or Janee Umbarger at doug_umbarger@yahoo.com or (620)212-2408.

You may make checks payable to Neosho County Youth Coalition and mail to NCYC/DCCC Office, Attn: Janee Umbarger, PO Box 702, Chanute, KS 66720.
Chris Davis, son of Terri Fisher, Norton, won grand champion of the Architectural Floor Plan Hand-Drawn category in the Northwest Kansas Technical College Engineering Drafting contest on April 11. Chris is a senior at Norton Community High School and plays football. He plans to play football at Dodge City Community College.

X-Ray Rose”, a drawing by Kylee Witt, a sophomore in fine arts at Kansas State University, was chosen for the recent annual Commerce Bank Student Comprehensive Exhibit in Wichita. She graduated from Norton Community High School in 2005. Miss Witt is the daughter of Ed and Melba Witt and Deb Witt, Norton.

The Duplicate Bridge Club met last Wednesday evening at the Norton Manor for their regular weekly session. Winners were first, Dick Hemphill and Sam Manning; second, Norman Walter and Claudia Bridges; and third, Myron Veh and Jerry Moritz.

Local students receiving degrees from the University of Kansas include Steven Drullinger, Norcatur, son of Sharon Drullinger, a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering; Seth Lofgreen, son of Jon and Elaine Lofgreen, Norton, a Doctor of Pharmacy degree; John C. Worden, son of Charles and Sandy Worden, Norton, a Master of Science/Hospital Pharmacy degree; and Jaime Goddard, Logan, the daughter of Jerry and Ruth Goddard, a Senior Bachelor of Arts/Psychology degree.

Tim Sprigg, a political science major at Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa, graduated Saturday with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Mr. Sprigg is the son of Dave and Charla Sprigg, Norton.

Ian Conkey, Edmond, recently graduated from Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Mr. Conkey has been accepted into the master’s program. He is the son of Carl and Janel Conkey, Edmond.

Adam Myers, son of Jim and Jana Myers, Norton, won Grand Champion of the Beginning Mechanical Hand-Drawn Category in the Northwest Kansas Technical College Engineering Drafting contest that took place on April 11. Adam is a freshman at Norton Community High School where he is also a member of KAYS and Family Career and Community Leaders of America.
Financial aid officers respond to national inquiry

LAWRENCE (AP) — Financial aid officers at Kansas universities applauded investigations into student-lending practices after reports of kickbacks uncovered nationwide.

The $87 billion student-lending industry has been the target of prosecutors this year after allegations that schools have received compensation to steer students to particular lenders, even if it's not in the student's best financial interests.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, who has been leading the national investigation, found evidence that some colleges received a percentage of loan proceeds from lenders given preferred status by the schools and found college loan officers got gifts from lenders to encourage them to steer borrowers their way.

But at Baker University in Baldwin City, financial aid director Jeanne Mott said the school chooses “preferred” lenders based on the service they think students will receive. Baker students who apply for financial aid online see a list of four preferred lenders.

“We don’t get free trips,” Mott said. “I don’t serve on any boards with pay. None of the things that are the real hot topics that you’re hearing on the East Coast are true at Baker University,” Mott said.

Kansas University spokesman Todd Cohen also said Kansas doesn’t have any “preferred lenders” and participates in the federal direct-lending program, in which students get loans directly from the federal government.

Howard Fischer, the financial aid director at Ottawa University, said he believes the controversy has been overblown.

“In any industry the size of the student-lending industry, there are going to be a small percentage of individuals who are going to make some bad decisions,” he said.
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.

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KU graduates from Edwards County include Karen M. Wagner and Tara Beth Roenbaugh. Wagner of Belpre, will receive her Doctor of Pharmacy. Karen is the daughter of Elmer and Marlene Wagner and is a Lewis High School graduate. Tara Beth Roenbaugh will receive her Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science. She is the daughter of Greg and Denise Wood of Lewis.
Many students from the Emporia area are among 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring. Spring commencement will begin at 2:30 p.m. Sunday with the procession down the hill from Memorial Drive into Memorial Stadium.

Candidate from this area include:

Burlington: John Thomas Cuffe Jr., bachelor of science in education; Kaylene DeAnne Devena, bachelor of science in education; John R. Fletcher, bachelor of science in business and business administration; Laura Ashleigh McMurray, bachelor of science in business and marketing; Nicholas Troy Salava, bachelor of general studies in human biology; Jennifer C. Smith, bachelor of science in business/accounting; Jennifer Luvene Waller, bachelor of science in education.

Lebo: Travis Richard Wallace, bachelor of science in education.

Strong City: Shelly Diane Uhrun, bachelor of science in occupational studies.

Madison: Lisa Marie Turner, bachelor of general studies in communication studies with a minor in leadership studies.

Admire: Audra Rochelle, bachelor of arts in theater and film.

Allen: Jessica D. White, bachelor of fine arts in design.

Americus: Jeffrey J. Commerford, bachelor of science in business/accounting and a bachelor of science in business/finance; Benjamin L. Grother, bachelor of arts in English; Melanie Renee Privat, graduate master of science in counseling psychology.

Hartford: Sarah Rebecca Hallinan, graduate master of science in education.

Reading: Sarah Jane Briggs, bachelor of arts in history of art; Curt Ryan Jones, bachelor of arts in economics.
The University of Kansas
Graduation Sunday, May 20

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Burlingame Ryan Michael Patrick son of Cheryl Dubois MicrobiologyBS Senior Bachelor of Science in Microbiology Burlingame High School Burlingame KS

Auburn Zachary K Baksh son of Barbara Hoffer Architectural StudiesBA Senior Bachelor of Arts/Architectural Studies Topeka High School Topeka KS

Auburn Sarah Elizabeth Benson daughter of Terry and Patty Puett Film StudiesMINOR Senior Film StudiesMINOR&Bachelor of Science in Journalism Washburn Rural High School Topeka KS

Auburn Melissa B Evans daughter of Don and Coralee Evans HistoryBA Senior Bachelor of Arts/History&Bachelor of Arts/Latin American Studies Washburn Rural High School Topeka KS

Auburn Shalyn P Oberle daughter of Robert and Torey Oberle PsychologyBA DECL Senior Bachelor of Arts/Psychology Washburn Rural High School Topeka KS

Auburn Trevor John Smail son of John and Julee Smail BusinessMINOR Senior BusinessMINOR&Bachelor of General Studies/Economics Washburn Rural High School Topeka KS

Auburn Tanner Wayne Sneed son of William and Diane Sneed Theatre and FilmBA Senior Bachelor of Arts/Theatre and Film Washburn Rural High School Topeka KS

Auburn Barbara Lynn Walker daughter of John and Ruth Walker Strategic Communications BSJ Senior Bachelor of Arts/English * Bachelor of Science in Journalism Washburn Rural High School Topeka KS

Alma Gretchen Rebekah Gehrt - Occupational TherapyMOT Graduate Master of Occupational Therapy

Alma Joshua J Umbehr son of Keen and Eileen Umbehr MedicineMD Prof 1 Doctor of Medicine

Maple Hill Jennifer L. Truitt daughter of Sharon Casey SociologyBGS Senior Bachelor of General Studies/Sociology Frankfort High School Frankfort KS

Paxico Michael Patrick Hund son of John Hund PhilosophyBGS Senior Bachelor of General Studies/Philosophy Hayden High School Topeka KS
Adrienne Simone Ringer, Elementary Education BSE, Senior, Bachelor of Science in Education, Quinter, daughter of Roger & Carrie Ringer.

Tina Marie Sarber, Pharmacy PD Prof I Doctor of Pharmacy, Quinter, daughter of Rex & Ronda Kaiser.

RaLynn C. Schmalzried, Psychology MA Graduate Master of Arts/Psychology & Doctor of Philosophy/Psychology, Quinter, daughter of Rich & Rozan Schmalzried.