KU grads

Students from Emporia are among 6,400 set to receive degrees from the University of Kansas on Sunday. The students and their degrees are:

♦ Mayra Aguirre, daughter of Victor and Maria Aguirre, juris doctor;
♦ Kathleen Diane Ek, daughter of Jodi Ek, master's of social work;
♦ Sarah Lindsey Gilreath, daughter of Rod and Ilah Gilreath, bachelor of arts in history;
♦ Bonnie Lynn Horton, daughter of Warren and Maxine Horton, bachelor of arts in literature, language and writing;
♦ Jennifer Leigh Hull, master's in education;
♦ Catherine E Janssen, daughter of Colleen Janssen, doctor of pharmacy;
♦ Beatrice S Magathan, master's of social work;
♦ Kevin James Rabas, son of Lisa Moritz, doctorate in English;
♦ Samuel Nicholas Shepherd, bachelor's of architecture;
♦ Trista Renee Taulu, daughter of Patricia Taula, bachelor's of general studies with a minor in business.
Marji Coon receives 4-year Watkins-Berger Scholarship

Marji Coon, a senior at Valley Heights High School, has received a Watkins-Berger Scholarship from the University of Kansas. The scholarships are awarded to 50 incoming freshman women. Watkins-Berger Scholarships are for four years and are administered by the KU Endowment Association.

The scholarships are awarded to top students graduating from Kansas high schools and are in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement and record of community service.

The Chancellor’s Honor Scholarship Committee selects the recipients.

Students are eligible for consideration if they have a 3.5 cumulative high school grade-point average and an ACT score of 31 or higher.

Coon is the daughter of Lynette and Rick Coon, Waterville. She plans to attend KU in the fall and is undecided on a major.

Watkins-Berger scholarships for women at KU are financed by the estate of philanthropist Elizabeth M. Watkins, Lawrence, and an endowment in memory of Emily Berger by her younger brother, the late Arthur Berger, and his wife, Marie, of Dallas.
Nearly 50 University of Kansas faculty and staff members will visit sites in Marysville and Barnes on Monday, the first day of the 2007 Wheat State Whirlwind Tour.

This year marks the 10th year for the tour, which introduces participants to the history, landscape, economy and culture of Kansas.

Participants this year include professors, deans and staff members from the Lawrence campus and the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan.

The tour will begin in Topeka with a visit to the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site. In Wamego, the group will visit the historic Columbian Theatre and Oz Museum.

By noon, the bus will roll in to Washington County, where the group will have lunch at Our Daily Bread Shop in Barnes. The next stop will be in Marysville, where the group will tour the Landoll Corp. Don Landoll, president, chairman and founder of the company, will talk about the award-winning firm's design, production and global marketing of machinery used in transportation and agriculture.

The group will then go to Pony Express Home Station No. 1 and then will head to Belleville.
Kimberly Dunesing, Blue Rapids, and Sarah Schmidt, Marysville, are among the more than 150 graduating students at the University of Kansas who will be commended by the University Honors Program in a ceremony on Saturday.

Dunesing is the daughter of Dr. Ken and Zita Duensing, Blue Rapids. Schmidt is the daughter of John and Pam Schmidt, Marysville.

The ceremony recognizes KU seniors who have completed the University Honors Program and the University Scholars Program, a mentorship program students participate in during their sophomore years. During the ceremony, students will receive gold cords to wear during commencement activities.

Students participating in the honors ceremony include those who graduated in summer and fall 2006 and those who will graduate in spring 2007.

University Honors Program students must complete a freshman tutorial and a combination of honors courses and out-of-classroom experiences such as study abroad, internships, community service or undergraduate research to graduate from the program. Students must also maintain a minimum 3.25 grade-point average.

Located in Nunemaker Center, the program provides staff to advise honors students regarding academic opportunities at KU. Honors students may enroll in honors courses, which are small, discussion-based and emphasize writing and research. Honors students are encouraged to participate in cultural and social activities as well as community service.

Honors students also are encouraged to work on research projects and to apply for scholarships, internships or fellowships. Each year, undergraduate awards are available through the University Honors Program, providing funds for research projects conducted with a faculty mentor. Students compete twice a year for these undergraduate research grants.
LAWRENCE — The names of more than 4,280 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas — representing 97 Kansas counties, 44 other states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 52 other countries — have been announced by the University 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 former students 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 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.

Among the graduates are:

Aaron Bradley Oleen, son of Arden and Meg Oleen of Dwight, Juris Doctor JD Prof 3 Juris Doctor. Aaron is a graduate of Council Grove High School Council

Amy Louise Reif daughter of Kenneth and Lynn Reif of Dwight, Spanish BA Senior Master of Science in Education. Amy is a graduate of White City High School

Elizabeth Rose (Winder) Kahnt of Ottawa, daughter of Lester and Mary Winder of Troy and wife of Jay Kahnt, Master of Science in Education Educ-Phys Educ MSE Graduate. Elizabeth is a graduate of Troy High School and Washburn University.
A Rush County graduate was one of a team of University of Kansas students earning first place in a national competition. Jared Klenda, a graduate of La Crosse High School, was one of the team competing in the competition. He is the son of Mike and Janiece Klenda, La Crosse. The first-place achievement honors the work of more than 70 students from the spring 2006 and fall 2006 Applied Portfolio Management classes taught by Catherine Shenoy, assistant professor of business.

The Applied Portfolio Management class manages a real investment portfolio, currently valued at $2.4 million. The class started in 1993 with a $250,000 gift. The returns of the portfolio help fund an annual men’s basketball scholarship and an annual master's student scholarship.
Financial aid officers respond to inquiry

By The Associated Press

LAWRENCE — 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 students’ 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.

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.”

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.
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Included in this spring's graduating class is Spearville High School graduate LeAnn Marie Bell, who will receive her Doctorate of Pharmacy. LeAnn is the daughter of Leona Naab, Spearville.
Nathan Ladd earns KU’s Chancellor’s Student award

Special to the Globe

Nathan Lee Ladd, son of Ray and Cindy Ladd and a graduate of Atchison County Community High School, is one of nine KU seniors to earn a Chancellor’s Student Award.

Nathan’s Chancellor’s Award is the Agnes Wright Strickland Award. Due to being a recipient of a Chancellor’s Student Award, he will receive special recognition during graduation.

As part of the 135th commencement at KU, Chancellor Robert Hemenway will host a reception to honor the students on Saturday, May 19, at the Kansas Room in the Kansas Union.

The honorees also will sit on a platform with the chancellor during commencement on May 20 in KU’s Memorial Stadium, and their portraits will be in the commencement program.

Nathan is majoring in business management and leadership and international studies. He served three terms as president of Kansas Connections — Helping Small Town Students Succeed. He also was elected to the Student Senate for two terms and served as a proctor in Grace Pearson Scholarship Hall for two years. Ladd is a Solon E. Summerfield Scholarship recipient and a University Honors Program student.

He was a summer 2005 Kansas Asia Scholar to China and recently completed an overseas internship in Singapore doing market research for a food distributor. He works as an assistant for the Center for East Asian Studies. He is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society and of Phi Beta Kappa.

The Agnes Wright Strickland Award goes to graduating seniors in recognition of their academic records, demonstrated leadership in matters of university concern, respect among fellow students and indications of future dedication to service in the university. The award also recognizes the students, academic, volunteer and leadership accomplishments during their time at KU.

The Chancellor’s Student Awards committee selected the winners from universitywide nominations submitted by students, faculty and staff. The 15-member selection committee includes students, faculty and staff. Winners receive cash prizes, except recipients of the Agnes Wright Strickland Award, which comes with lifetime membership in the KU Alumni Association.

The Class of 1913 Awards annually go to a graduating man and woman who show evidence of intelligence, devotion to studies, personal character and promise of usefulness to society.
Kimberly Garrison, a Basehor-Linwood High School graduate and a senior at the University of Kansas, tends to some cats at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Angel Canyon, Utah. Garrison was among seven KU students who spent their spring break this year volunteering at the sanctuary.

Students ‘give back’ on break
BLHS grad among six KU students to volunteer at animal sanctuary

ERIN CASTANEDA
ecastaneda@theworldco.com

Typical spring break destinations such as Acapulco or South Padre, with their nonstop parties and sandy beaches usually beckon Kimberly Garrison, but this year she opted for change.

Garrison, University of Kansas senior and a Basehor-Linwood High graduate, and Holly Robertson, KU junior and a Lansing High School graduate, spent an atypical spring break cleaning up after pigs, horses and dogs.

They traveled with five other KU students to the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Angel Canyon, Utah, as part of the university’s Alternative Breaks program.

“I’ve been on typical spring breaks every year,” Garrison said. “I felt too old and too mature to do that again. I really wanted to go somewhere I hadn’t been and give something back and do something worthwhile instead of get drunk.”

Alternative Breaks is a student organization that sends groups of seven students across the country to participate in service programs. Each student volunteer spends approximately $200 for his or her own travel and food.

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary is the country’s largest sanctuary of its kind, home to approximately 2,000 animals that have been abandoned or have special needs. The volunteers cleaned and socialized with the animals.

Jill Simpson, volunteer coordinator for Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, said the KU volunteers were wonderful because they were motivated and excited to help.

Simpson said the sanctuary relies on the thousands of volunteers that help their staff of 200 throughout the year. She said Best Friends makes a lifelong commitment to the animals they adopt.

“If we can’t find a home for them, we will keep them here,” she said.

Robertson said she wasn’t excited about the trip at first, because she

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thought all she and her KU companions would be doing was cleaning up after the animals. As it turned out, there was plenty of time to play with the animals, too.

Garrison said she fell in love with an incontinent cat named Dribbles. When she returned to Kansas, she became the cat’s “guardian angel” in a program through the sanctuary. She donates money to his hospital care and sends him toys, she said.