Ten area students to graduate from KU

The names of more than 4,200 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas have been announced by the KU registrar. Ten of those candidates are from the local area.

The university’s 135th commencement will be held Sunday, May 20 at 2:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium on the KU campus.

Graduates include:

Allyn Michael Kaufmann of Baxter Springs will receive a Master of Science/Pharmaceutical/Chemistry degree. He is a graduate of Baxter Springs High School.

Thomas John Barnow of Columbus will receive a Bachelor of Science in Business/Business Administration degree. He is a graduate of Columbus Unified High School.

Brian David Phelps of Columbus will receive a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. He is a graduate of CUHS.

Christina Nichole Sell of Columbus will receive a Bachelor of Arts/History degree. She is a graduate of Girard High School.

Jana Dawn Simpson of Columbus will receive a Master of Social Work degree. She is a graduate of CUHS.

Andrew Martin Homer of Galena will receive a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering degree. He is a graduate of Galena High School.

Travis Jay Goff of McCune will receive a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. He is a graduate of Southeast High School.

Matthew Thatcher Tracy of Riverton will receive a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree. He is a graduate of Riverton High School.

Jessie Nichole Fazel of Scammon will receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. She is a graduate of Salina (Ks.) High School.

Abbie Nicole Gilmore of Scammon will receive Bachelor of Arts/French and Bachelor of Arts/Psychology degrees. She is a graduate of CUHS.
Deiter, Simpson and Spangler

to present free concert at Northridge Church, May 13, 2007 at 3PM

On Sunday, May 13, 2007, at 3 PM, Meaghan Deiter, Tyler Simpson and Shane Spangler will present a voice and piano concert at Northridge Church in Sabetha, Kansas. The concert is open to the public. A free-will offering will go to benefit graduating seniors from Sabetha High School who plan to pursue music studies at the university level this fall.

Meaghan Deiter is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Kansas. Also, she teaches voice lessons to music education and music therapy majors as a graduate teaching assistant for the University. She will be studying in Italy this summer, where she will also be participating in the Asolo Song Festival. This past fall she performed the leading role of Miss Todd in the KU Opera production of The Old Maid and the Thief. With KU Opera she also sang the roles of Mrs. Herring in Albert Herring (2005) and Meg Page in Falstaff (2006). In addition, she sang chorus for the Kansas City Lyric Opera’s 2006 presentation of Madame Butterfly. Equally interested in musical theatre, Ms. Deiter spent last summer performing in the New Theatre Dinner Restaurant’s production of Fiddler on the Roof, and she sang a leading role in the KU Theatre production of Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris (2005). In 2005, Meaghan received a B.F.A. in Theatre and Voice from the University of Kansas and was the recipient of the Carl Peyer Award for outstanding senior in voice.

Tyler Simpson is a bass-baritone currently studying with Dr. John Stephens at the University of Kansas. He will be graduating with a Bachelor of Music degree in May 2007, and will continue limited study at KU next year. Tyler is also a resident apprentice artist with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, where he has performed several roles, including The Imperial Commissioner in Madama Butterfly, Horatio in Hamlet, and Fiorello in Il Barbiere di Siviglia.

This spring, Tyler was seen at KU in The Tales of Hoffmann as Lindorf. He was also named a finalist in the Lotte Lenya Competition for Singers, at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. This summer, Tyler will be heading to New Mexico to participate in the Young Artist program of the Santa Fe Opera. There he will perform in four different shows over the summer, including La Bohème, Daphne, Così fan tutte, and Iear: A Mirror of Soul, the American premiere of a recent work by Chinese composer Tan Dun.

Both Deiter and Simpson are graduates of Sabetha High School.

Shane Spangler lives in Fairview, Kansas, and is working as a supply pastor for the Fairview and Bethany United Churches of Christ in Fairview and Hiawatha. Shane began his piano studies with Kathleen Haag of Hiawatha. In 1997, he received his Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Washburn University, studying with James Rivers. He continued piano studies at New England Conservatory from 2001-2002 while working on his Master of Divinity degree at Andover-Newton Theological School. Spangler is a published composer, and has given solo and chamber recitals across the United States. He has won awards and scholarships in various competitions, and made his solo debut with the St. Joseph Symphony in 1998 playing the Grieg Piano Concerto. He continues to study piano and composition with James Rivers, and is currently working on a new CD, which he hopes will be ready for release by autumn.
Three Troy High School journalism students placed in four events at state journalism competition sponsored by the Kansas Scholastic Press Association (KSPA), Saturday, May 5, at the University of Kansas.

Whitney Franken took first in caption writing and honorable mention in yearbook copy writing. Matt Doolan took third in sports photography with two pictures of Trojan track athletes. Jena Johnson received an honorable mention for yearbook sports writing.

Franken and Johnson were involved in in-site competition, while Doolan’s photography was a carry-in entry, one completed at the home school and then submitted.

Other students who competed from Troy were Jordan Libel, Lyndsi Christopher, Elizabeth Tharman, Kacie Fenley, and Madi Twombly. In all the students competed at state in 12 areas.

Students qualify for state journalism contest by placing at the regional contest in February. Their adviser is Martha-Jean Rockey, who accompanied them to the state contest. While the students compete, there is a state advisers’ meeting each spring to conduct the business of KSPA.
A pair of area students were honored recently at the University of Kansas Department of Political Science's annual Pi Sigma Alpha initiation and awards banquet.

Dennis Michael Chanay of Paola, a senior majoring in strategic communications, was inducted into the national political honor society. He also received a Gustafson Scholarship.

Jessica Lynn Bergman of Louisburg, a senior in pre-law, received a Nelson Family Fund Scholarship.
KU students to march down Mount Oread on May 20

LAWRENCE — More than 4,000 members of the University of Kansas’ Class of 2007 are expected to make the traditional walk down Mount Oread during KU’s 135th commencement May 20 in Lawrence.

Graduates will assemble along Memorial Drive at 2 p.m. They will march into Memorial Stadium at 2:30 p.m. Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway will offer remarks and confer degrees beginning at about 3:30 p.m.

About 6,400 students are candidates for degrees in the Class of 2007.

The tradition of a commencement procession began in 1907 when faculty and graduates walked from old Fraser Hall to the then-new Robinson Gymnasium, where Wescoe Hall is now located. The commencement procession moved in 1924 when Memorial Stadium, built in honor of World War I veterans, was completed.

The commencement ceremony will be shown live in Woodruff Auditorium on the fifth level of the Kansas Union.

Sign language interpreters will be available in the bowl of the stadium. Reserved seating also will be available for people who need special assistance, including people in wheelchairs.

Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available online at www.commencement.ku.edu.

KU Info is available at (785) 864-3506 or kuinfo@ku.edu.

If it rains the morning of commencement, an announcement will be made through KU Info and local radio stations, including KANU 91.5-FM, KLZR 105.9-FM, KJHK 90.7-FM, KFKF 94.1-FM, KMBZ 980-AM, WIBW 580-AM and KLWN 1320-AM.

If the weather begins to clear in early afternoon, the first attempt to hold a postponed ceremony will be at 4:30 p.m. Graduates will assemble on Memorial Drive at 4 p.m. If the weather does not begin to clear in time for a 4:30 p.m. ceremony, a second attempt will be made at 6:30 p.m. Graduates will assemble on Memorial Drive at 6 p.m.

If it’s still raining, the ceremony will be postponed until May 21, when graduates will line up at 8:30 a.m. for a 9 a.m. procession.
OHS Journalism Students Place Four At State

The journalism students at Onaga High School were among one hundred twenty-eight Kansas high schools who proved their journalism talents at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association State Contest. The contest took place Saturday, May 5, at the University of Kansas with a total of 1,020 entries.

Students qualified for the state contest by placing at one of six regional contests in February. At the state contest, students participated in 18 categories.

Onaga placed four students in the 1A/2A classification: Frankie Suther, senior, Feature Photography, 1st; Aaron Trippel, junior, Editorial Cartoon, 1st; Chelsea Kufahl, senior, News Writing, 3rd; and Chelsea Kufahl, senior, and Robin Helget, sophomore, team with Theme and Graphics garnered an Honorable Mention.
Talented trio of Deiter, Simpson and Spangler to present concert at Northridge Church

Submitted by Shane Spangler

At 3 p.m. Sunday, May 13, the talented trio of Meaghan Deiter, Tyler Simpson and Shane Spangler will present a voice and piano concert at Northridge Church in Sabetha.

The concert is open to the public. A free-will offering will go to benefit graduating seniors from Sabetha High School who plan to pursue music studies at the university level this fall.

Deiter is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Kansas. She also teaches voice lessons to music education and music therapy majors as a graduate teaching assistant for the University.

This summer, she will be studying in Italy, where she will also participate in the Asolo Song Festival. This past fall she performed the leading role of Miss Todd in the KU Opera production of The Old Maid and the Thief.

With KU Opera she also sang the roles of Mrs. Herring in Albert Herring (2005) and Meg Page in Falstaff (2006). In addition, she sang chorus for the Kansas City Lyric Opera’s 2006 presentation of Madama Butterfly.

Equally interested in musical theatre, Deiter spent last summer performing in the New Theatre Dinner Restaurant’s production of Fiddler on the Roof, and she sang a leading role in the KU Theatre production of Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris (2005).

In 2005, she received a B.F.A. in Theatre and Voice from the University of Kansas and was the recipient of the Carl Preyor Award for outstanding senior in voice.

Tyler Simpson is a bass-baritone currently studying with Dr. John Stephens at the University of Kansas. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Music degree in May 2007, and will continue limited study at KU next year.

He is also a resident apprentice artist with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, where he has performed several roles, including The Imperial Commissioner in Madama Butterfly, Horatio in Hamlet, and Fiorello in Il Barbiere di Siviglia.

This spring, Simpson was seen at KU in The Tales of Hoffmann as Lindorf. He was also named a finalist in the Lotte Lenya Competition for Singers, at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

This summer, he will be heading to New Mexico to participate in the Young Artist program of the Santa Fe Opera. There he will perform in four different shows over the summer, including La Bohème, Daphne, Così fan tutte, and Turandot.

Both Deiter and Simpson are graduates of Sabetha High School.

Shane Spangler lives in Fairview and is working as a supply pastor for the Fairview and Bethany United Churches of Christ in Fairview and Hiawatha.

He began his piano studies with Kathleen Haag of Hiawatha. In 1997, he received his Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Washburn University, studying with James Rivers.

Spangler continued piano studies at New England Conservatory from 2001 to 2002 while working on his Master of Divinity degree at Andover-Newton Theological School.

Spangler is a published composer and has given solo and chamber recitals across the United States. He has won awards and scholarships in various competitions, and made his solo debut with the St. Joseph Symphony in 1998 playing the Grieg Piano Concerto.

He continues to study piano and composition with James Rivers, and is currently working on a new CD, which he hopes will be ready for release by autumn.
The talented trio of (L-R) Shane Spangler, Tyler Simpson and Meaghan Deiter, pictured after Simpson’s senior recital Sunday, April 29, will combine their talents to present a vocal and piano concert Sunday afternoon at NorthRidge Church.
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KU to offer new class: Personal Finance 101

BY MARK FAGAN
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Freshmen and sophomores will get a chance to learn about real-life financial issues — avoiding credit debt, developing a budget, saving for retirement and more — as part of a new course to be offered this fall through Kansas University’s School of Business.

The class, FIN 101: Personal Finance, is intended to help nonbusiness majors avoid major financial problems that often can spiral out of control, even in college.

“It’s more or less a survival toolkit for young people in working through their financial matters,” said Doug Houston, a professor of business and director of finance, economics and decision sciences for the business school. “They’ll have an opportunity to work, in real time, on the financial matters that affect their own lives.

“It’s not just a theoretical course. It’s one where they get, actually, ‘Yes, you have to create a budget.’ And, ‘Yes, you’ve got to keep your money spending within that budget.’ Things of that nature are really important — it’s the acting that really matters.”

Samira Hussein, a professor of business administration at Johnson County Community College, will teach the class on the Lawrence campus. At Johnson County, she teaches a self-paced Personal Finance course.

At KU, the course — an elective carrying three hours of credit — will include 90 minutes of in-class time each week, supplemented with interaction and feedback using a dedicated Web site.

Instruction topics will include banking, insurance and property rentals and purchases. Students also will study a variety of investment options, to get them started in planning for retirement.

“It isn’t just a matter of laying the knowledge in front of them — we could always beat people over the head with more books — but really it’s the hands-on application, I think, that might bring some of this home,” Houston said. “It’s not brain surgery. We’re trying to improve the quality of the financial acumen of the average KU student, and I hope we do it in a way that makes their parents happy, too — because, seriously, they’re some of the people who were yelling loudest that we do this, and we’re responding to that.”

KU will offer two sections of the class, each with enrollment limited to 60 students.
Journalism students have winning entries

Jefferson West High School senior Alainia Moomau took first place at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association contest May 5 at Kansas University. Her winning entry was an editorial.

Senior Brittany Lewis received an honorable mention for an editorial cartoon.

Six regional contests are held in February at Kansas regents universities to determine who will compete at state. Three Jefferson West students competed at regionals, with Lewis and Moomau advancing to the state competition.

Lewis is a fourth-year journalism student and a fourth-year state KSPA qualifier. Moomau is the editor of the student newspaper, The Gamut.

Both will have their work published in a collection of Kansas's best journalism works.
Forty-two University of Kansas students were recently initiated into Mortar Board, a senior honor society.

The initiation ceremonies were April 15 at the Kansas Union, followed by a reception at the chancellor’s residence for student and alumni members and their families and invited guests.

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.

The new members include Tyra L Blew, daughter of Kenneth and Cynthia Blew, Wamego, senior in economics and international studies.