Mata takes home top prize in Puerto Rico

KCK resident came up with award-winning business plan after flipping through a phone book

A University of Kansas student and Kansas City, Kan., resident has won a national award for the business plan he developed for a bilingual tanning salon. His winnings include a $2,000 scholarship renewable annually for up to four years.

KCK’s Julio Mata Jr., a freshman majoring in business, earned first place for his presentation at the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s BizFest training workshop and competition held Sept. 19-22 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is the son of Julio and Araceli Mata and a graduate of Sumner Academy of Arts and Science.

BizFest teaches 17- to 25-year-old students a variety of business techniques. Experienced local and national business professionals instruct students in the process of building a business plan, networking skills, presentation techniques and how to identify business opportunities. Students work one-on-one with participating mentors at the regional and national levels during intensive business development and leadership training that lasts three and a half days.

In addition to the scholarship, Mata has been offered an eight- to 10-week summer internship with the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation in Washington, D.C., and a fully paid trip to the foundation’s Legislative Conference to be held March 11-13 in Washington. Mata was also presented with a Sprint internship by Ralph Reid, vice president of corporate and social responsibility for the Sprint.
Left, KCK resident Julio Mata Jr., a University of Kansas freshman, received an internship from Ralph Reid, vice president of corporate and social responsibility for the Sprint Foundation, Overland Park, as part of winning first place at the national BizFest in September in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Mata
Continued from PAGE 1

Foundation. Overland Park, Kan. National BizFest sponsors are Ford Motor Company Fund, Sprint Foundation and UPS.

To qualify for the national competition, Mata placed second at the regional BizFest held in April in Kansas City, Mo. It has been sponsored the last four years by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City and Greater Kansas City Hispanic Collaborative.

"We are really proud of Julio," said Carlos Gomez, president and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "This is the first time (someone from) Kansas City has won first place. To jump to first place nationally when he's competing against all the winners from other regions really shows how hard he worked."

The Kansas City event is the longest continuously running regional BizFest in the United States. This year, more than 36 students from 10 Kansas City area high schools were chosen to take part in regional competition.

Also among those making the trip to the national BizFest was sixth-place and alternate qualifier Susana Rodriguez, a KU freshman also from Kansas City, Kan., majoring in French and pre-medicine. She is the daughter of Mario and Mercedes Rodriguez and a graduate of Shawnee Mission North High School, Overland Park.

At the national BizFest, Mata and Rodriguez competed with about 30 regional winners including others from the Kansas City area plus Detroit, New York, Philadelphia and Dallas.

At the regional and national levels, Mata said he learned a great deal about the intense planning and work involved in being an entrepreneur.

"I would tell everyone who has a chance to attend BizFest even if you don't plan on going into business for yourself," said Mata, who hopes to pursue a career in international business.

Working with his trainers during the Kansas City regional event, Mata had a dilemma in picking a type of business. One trainer told Mata, "Grab a phone book. Open the pages and see what businesses pop up first." On the open pages were tanning salons — and off Mata went into late-night research to get his plan ready in time for the next morning's presentation. He perfected the plan for the business for nationals.

His national BizFest experience, he said, taught him the importance of being accurate with financial planning and being prepared to fully explain how he would repay the loan he had to take out to open his hypothetical business.

"You learn so much from so many people," he said. "The greatest experience came from the networking. We (every contestant) all helped each other. No one said, 'Oh, this is my plan. You can't see it or hear it.' We all just listened to each plan and helped each person be the best that he or she could be. I made friends that I will keep in touch with for a long time."
Sumner graduate wins national business award

A University of Kansas student has won a national award for the business plan he developed for a bilingual tanning salon to serve Kansas residents. His winnings include a $2,000 scholarship renewable annually for up to four years.

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For additional information about BizFest, including how to apply, go to www.ushccfoundation.org.
**KU To Honor 123 High School Seniors**

Students from 15 Kansas high schools will be honored Monday, Oct. 22, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 123 seniors from high schools in Butler, Elk and Greenwood counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 7 p.m. reception program at the El Dorado Civic Center, 201 E. Central.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regard-

ess of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Hea th Peterson, director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Kenneth Audus, dean of the School of Pharmacy, will speak to the students, parents and guests.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Scott Ennis of El Dorado will be the site coordinator and county coordinator for Butler County. Steven Ensign of Eureka will be the county coordinator for Elk and Greenwood counties.

The Kansas Honors Program has been made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Local honorees are listed:


- **Andover High School** - Austin Cederberg, Melanie Delimont, Laura Fritze, Taylor Herren, Gabriella Hook, Brice Huelsman, Amanda Just, Molly
Matt Pierson is accepted to KU School of Medicine

Matt Pierson has been accepted to the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He was selected as an early decision candidate for the 2008 class. Pierson received 2007 semester honors in the College of Arts and Sciences at Kansas State University for being in the top 10 percent of seniors, with a grade-point average of 4.00. He will graduate from KSU in May and is to start study at the KU School of Medicine in July. He plans to enter the field of surgery. Matt is the son of Steve and Denise Pierson, Hanover, and a 2004 graduate of Hanover High School.
Swedish theologian to offer forum on interfaith dialogue

LINDSBORG--The Rev. Dr. Hans Ucko, an internationally known Swedish theologian and expert in interfaith issues, will be part of a forum on interfaith dialogue Oct. 30 at Bethany College.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be at 7 p.m. at Lindquist Hall on the Bethany College campus.

Panelists will address the question “How do people of faith live in a pluralistic world?”, then respond to each other and to questions from the audience.

Panelists will include Margaret Rausch, assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Kansas and scholar of Islam; Rabbi Nissim Wernick of Ahavath Achim Hebrew Congregation in Wichita, Kan.; and Ucko, program executive for Inter-religious Relations and Dialogue at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ucko is the 2007 Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies at Bethany College. The Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies program is endowed by Gerald L. "Bud" Pearson of Okoboji, Iowa, a former member of the board of directors and longtime friend of Bethany College. Under the program, each year a key figure in Swedish culture, arts or scholarship assumes the professorship at Bethany College.
Bethany College forum scheduled for Oct. 30

LINDSBORG -- On Oct. 30, Bethany College will bring three experts in diverse religious topics together in dialogue.

Panelists will address the question, “How do people of faith live in a pluralistic world?” as part of a forum on interfaith dialogue.

Panelists are the Rev. Dr. Hans Ucko, an internationally known Swedish theologian; Margaret Rausch, assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Kansas and scholar of Islam; and Rabbi Nissim Wernick of Ahavath Achim Hebrew Congregation in Wichita.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be at 7 p.m. at Lindquist Hall on the Bethany College campus.

“Through interreligious dialogue I have come to appreciate the saying that ‘the pure and simple truth is rarely pure and never simple,” said Dr. Ucko. “This insight helps me realize that I am still on the way, still discovering what God is doing in my life and in the lives of others. It is my hope that the forum will help us realize the dilemma expressed in the words of Cardinal Newman: ‘O how we hate one another for the love of God.”

Ucko, program executive for Inter-religious Relations and Dialogue at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, is the 2007 Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies at Bethany College.

The Pearson Distinguished Professor of Swedish Studies program is endowed by Gerald L. “Bud” Pearson of Okoboji, Iowa, a former member of the board of directors and longtime friend of Bethany College.

Under the program, each year a key figure in Swedish culture, arts or scholarship assumes the professorship at Bethany College. The purpose is to discover ways in which contemporary Swedish culture and experience can illuminate and strengthen life in the United States.

Ucko was born in Sweden in 1946 and graduated from Lund University. Following his ordination as a minister for the Church of Sweden in 1971, he studied Jewish-Christian relations in Jerusalem at both the Swedish Theological Institute and David Hartman Institute.

In 2000, he received his doctorate in theology at the Senate of Serampore College, Calcutta, India, where he wrote his thesis on the concepts of “people and people of God,” as integral to the Jewish tradition and to the Minjung and Dalit theologies in Korea and in India, respectively.

From 1971 to 1981, Ucko worked in parishes as a curate in Helsingborg and Burlow, Sweden.
Firefighters and emergency personnel gather for training

The Minneapolis Raceway was the scene of a training session last Saturday for fire fighters and emergency personnel workers. The class, originally scheduled as a portion of Fire Fighter I training for the Bennington Fire Department, was expanded when K.U. certified fire instructors Brandon Cochran and Tony Swetson expanded the training session.

Personnel from Ada, Bennington, Culver, Delphos, Minneapolis, Tescott and several from Ellis and Saline Co. District 7 took part in the class.

Equipment sponsors from Hays and Salina provided Jaws of Life and new models of vehicle extrication equipment for the demonstrations. An Air Ambulance from Life Star of Junction City arrived at the Raceway and provided additional training.

Cochran said that although the training is usually for one department only, this venue provided an opportunity for additional training for a larger number of service providers. “We liked the results and will probably do it again,” Cochran said.

Area firemen prepare to work a simulated three car accident during last Saturday’s rescue training session. The training was directed by Kansas University certified instructors Brandon Cochran and Tony Swetson.

A car is literally cut apart as part of the training in extricating victims from a wrecked vehicle. Companies offering fire and rescue equipment were on hand to demonstrate their equipment.
An air bag was intentionally set off during the training session to demonstrate the power generated by the safety devise when deployed.

A Life Star air ambulance stationed out of Junction City arrived to give the trainees experience in selecting landing sites, instruction in giving landing signals to pilots and basic information about the helicopter and what is carried on the aircraft. The training was held at the Minneapolis Raceway facility.
PHS scholars recognized

The Kansas Honors Program, sponsored by Kansas University Alumni, recognizes outstanding academic achievement of high school seniors. To be nominated as a Kansas Honor Scholar, seniors must be in the top 10 percent of their class. Four P.H.S. students were recognized at the regional event held in Hays on Sept. 27. Students were: Aaron Becker, son of Keith and Amy Becker; Aubrey Frederking, daughter of Richard and Brenda Frederking; Deidre Jones, granddaughter of Charlene Jones; and Bretta Mick, daughter of Dennis and Susan Mick. Pictured are Deidre Jones, Aaron Becker and Bretta Mick. Not pictured, Aubrey Frederking.
John Conard

LAWRENCE — Funeral service for John J. Conard Sr., 86, Lawrence, was held Monday, at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lawrence. Graveside service, with military honors, will be 10:30 a.m., Tuesday at the Fairview Cemetery in Greensburg.

He died on Oct. 12, 2007, at his home in Lawrence. He was born June 30, 1921, at Coolidge.

He was a flight instructor at the end of World War II.

After completing doctoral studies in international law at the Sorbonne (University of Paris), he served in the U.S. Foreign Service in Paris from 1951 to 1954.

He worked one year for the government in Washington D.C., before returning to Kansas, where he was editor of the Syracuse (Kan.) Journal and later purchased The Kiowa County Signal at Greensburg, The Haviland Journal and The Mullinville News. He sold the newspapers in 1970, and the Conards then moved back to Lawrence.

Mr. Conard served as a state representative for 10 years and was Speaker of the Kansas House during his final term, 1967-1968. He was the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor in 1968. He served as chief of staff to U.S. Senator James B. Pearson in Washington D.C. in 1962.

In 1970, he became KU director of university relations and was assistant to three KU chancellors.

In 1975, he returned to state government as chief of staff and executive assistant to Governor Robert Bennett. In 1976, he was selected by the Board of Regents to become executive director for the board, a position he held until his retirement in 1982.

He married Virginia Powell on Sept. 13, 1947, in Olathe. She survives.

Other survivors include three sons; James P., Olathe, KS, Spencer D., Charlotte, N.C., and John J. Jr., Lawrence; a sister; Violet Conard, Skagway, Alaska; and eight grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Big Springs United Methodist Church, the Trees for Greensburg Fund or the Building Fund at Plymouth Congregational Church, in care of the Warren-McElwain Mortuary in Lawrence.

Online condolences may be sent to www.warrenmcelwain.com.
The University of Kansas has the Hixson Opportunity Award that is available to students who have faced significant challenges that may hinder their ability to attend college.

The Hixson Opportunity Award was established to provide the opportunity for students to attend KU who would otherwise not be able to because of financial restrictions or other personal hardships.

Each recipient will have the opportunity to receive up to $20,000 for their educational expenses ($5,000 per year for up to four years). Hixson Opportunity Awards are available to 10 entering freshmen attending KU who are residents of the state of Kansas. The application and additional information about the scholarship program are also available online at www.scholarships.ku.edu/hixson.shtml.