Haverkamp volunteers for a winter break program

LAWRENCE — Andrew Haverkamp of Hoyt, a freshman at the University of Kansas, is one of 49 KU students who will volunteer at seven Alternative Winter Breaks sites, assisting in the areas of public health, disabilities, education and housing repair and construction, KU officials reported.

Haverkamp, the son of Grace Haverkamp and William Haverkamp and a 2007 graduate of Royal Valley High School, is a chemical engineering major at KU. He will assist in the Teach for America site in Chicago, Ill., which is a national corps of college graduates committed to teaching for two years in under-resourced schools in urban and rural areas.

Participants will shadow teachers on the Teach for America team. Participants will have the opportunity to observe classroom dynamics and help with classroom, extracurricular and community activities in elementary grades and with middle- to high-school-age students.

KU’s student-run Alternative Breaks program centers on service-learning trips that offer students a unique opportunity to make volunteer efforts part of their educational experience. After students are selected for the program, they attend two-hour weekly class sessions to prepare for their trip. Students can participate in weeklong winter or spring breaks or in shorter weekend breaks.

Students in this semester’s Alternative Winter Break will work Jan. 6-13 with agencies in Florida, Illinois, North Carolina and Texas that address such issues as health care, environmental preservation and rehabilitation, education and help for people with disabilities. The program costs participants $250 ($215 for site leaders) and covers their transportation, housing and meals.

Participating in an Alternative Winter Break counts as one unit for the University Honors Program, which requires students who want to graduate with honors to complete one or two honors units outside the classroom.

Alternative Breaks was established at KU in 1995 with a spring break trip to El Paso, Texas. Since then it has expanded, with more sites and opportunities to volunteer being added every year. Alternative Breaks works in partnership with KU’s Center for Community Outreach, a student-run and student-funded organization that runs 15 volunteer programs and serves as a coordinating group for KU students interested in volunteer projects.
Samantha Raines, a 2005 University of Kansas graduate in theater and film and daughter of Susan Raines of Iola, is a finalist in the English Alternative Theatre "How My Parents Met" writing competition at KU. Finalists have been divided into three groups of eight and will read their entries at the upcoming performances of two new one-act plays by KU students Friday through Nov. 11 at the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire St. A cash prize will be awarded to a winner after each of the three performances.
Pelosi to speak at Dole Institute

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is scheduled to speak at the University of Kansas' Dole Institute of Politics next week.

The Democrat from California will speak at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 9.

"Nancy Pelosi made history when she became the first woman speaker of the house," said Jonathan Earle, interim director of the Dole Institute.

"It is a privilege and an honor to have her visit the Dole Institute."

The visit is co-sponsored by the College Democrats of Kansas and will be free and open to the public.
Parkinson's presentation scheduled

The Council on Aging, 109-A Delaware St., is sponsoring an educational presentation on Parkinson's disease from 1 to 2 p.m. on Nov. 16 with Linda Davis of Lawrence, Kan. Linda has an amazing story to share on her journey with Parkinson's disease and most recently her deep brain stimulation surgery. She will talk about Parkinson's disease and her decision to have this very delicate surgery. She is the spouse of Bob Davis — the voice of the University of Kansas.

There is no cost to attend but registration is requested by Nov. 15. Call 684-0777 to register.
Kansas universities hide info on business jets from prying eyes

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — When it comes to finding out where a business jet is headed, the University of Kansas and Kansas State University are more secretive than the governor's office.

Since January, the University of Kansas has participated in a service that shields real-time flight plan information from the public for trips taken by its Cessna Citation Bravo based at Lawrence Municipal Airport.

Kansas State has been blocking flight plan information for its two business jets from Internet tracking sites for six years.

"It is fairly common, for security, to not let the whole world know where your plane is going," said Todd Cohen, a spokesman for the University of Kansas.

But Gov. Kathleen Sebelius doesn't keep her flight plans secret.

"Our schedulers or security get on the flight tracking system and track the flights as they happen," said Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran.

Pilots regularly file flight plans with the Federal Aviation Administration prior to takeoff. Web sites then track the flights as they happen.

Federal law allows plane owners to request that information be blocked by the National Business Aviation Association.

"In the business community, some of the flights carry competitive and/or security concerns," said Dan Hubbard, a spokesman for the association. "There may be a reason why the party making the flight feels the flight should not be understood in real time."

The schools use their planes for a number of sensitive trips, including coaches recruiting players, performing government-funded research that officials would like to keep quiet or transporting controversial speakers to campus.

Kansas' Cessna seats about eight and is used by officials at both the Lawrence campus and the KU Medical Center campus in Kansas City, Kan.

The university does not block flight information on a King Air C-90B, of which the school is a part-owner. That plane, based in Kansas City, Mo., is used primarily for medical outreach reasons.

Kansas State uses its two planes for general business travel and developed the policy blocking the flight information since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"Part of that response was to make sure that we do not make available where the aircraft is going," said Dennis Kuhlman, dean of K-State-Salina. "That helps protect the university and the people who are on those planes."

The blocking policy doesn't cover the university's fleet of 40 aircraft used to teach piloting, maintenance and engineering, Kuhlman said.

The public can still find out where the planes went and when by filing a request under the Kansas Open Records Act, although the universities typically charge retrieval fees.

According to those records, Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway, Provost Richard Lariviere, Athletic Director Lew Perkins and men's basketball Coach Bill Self are among the university's most frequent fliers.

The school said it spends almost $700,000 a year on its aircraft, including salary and benefits for three pilots and a scheduler, maintenance, training and insurance.
Colleges keep flight plans secret

Associated Press

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The executive director of the Kansas Press Association will be among members of a board supervising development of a searchable Web site of state spending information.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius announced the appointment of Doug Anstaett, who has led the KPA since 2004, and three others to the board Friday, including state Secretary of Revenue Joan Wagon.

Denise Moore, the executive branch's chief information technology officer, and Charles Jones, director of the Public Management Center at the University of Kansas, also were named.

The Legislature created the board this year to oversee the creation of a new central computer system and a searchable Web Site for state agency expenditures and revenues, bonded indebtedness and other budgetary information.

Rep. Kasha Kelley, R-Arkansas City, and Alan Cobb, director of the Kansas chapter of Americans for Prosperity, are also among those who have been added to the 15-member panel.
Kansas universities hide info on business jets from prying eyes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LAWRENCE — The Dole Institute of Politics will host two programs this month to honor veterans.

Capt. James Wise will discuss stories of valor among U.S. sailors and Marines from his new book, "The Navy Cross: Extraordinary Heroism in Iraq, Afghanistan and Other Conflicts," at 7:30 p.m. Monday. Wise was a naval aviator and intelligence officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS America and commanding officer of various naval intelligence units.

The event will be in the Simon Media Room at the institute and is free and open to the public. A book-signing will follow the presentation.

"A Tribute to Veterans" program and reception will be at 2 p.m. Nov. 11 at the institute. Representatives from The University of Kansas' Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC programs will help with the event. The featured speaker will be World War II veteran and former Rep. Ken Hechler, D-W.Va.

Hechler served in the U.S. House from 1959 to 1977 and was secretary of state for West Virginia from 1986 to 2001. He is the author of "The Bridge at Remagen: The Amazing Story of March 7, 1945 — The Day the Rhine River Was Crossed" and "Holding the Line."