KU announces more than 900 summer 2007 graduates

More than 900 students, including Bradford Framke of Hiawatha, Bachelor of Science in Business, received degrees from the University of Kansas after the 2007 summer session. Registrar Cindy Derritt has announced.

Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these graduates will return as members of the Class of 2008 to take part in commencement exercises May 18.

The summer graduates represent 52 counties in Kansas, 37 other states and U.S. territories, and 24 countries outside the United States.
Local student graduates from KU

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A Columbus graduate was Jasmine Christine Pasimio, daughter of Roger and Julie Pasimio. She majored in Psychology, and received a Bachelor of Arts. She graduated from Columbus Unified High School.
Columbus girl designs costumes for theater

Cherokee County girl involved in KU play production. Jackie Bowin, daughter of Thomas and Mavis Bowin will be the costume designer for two KU productions. The University of Kansas' Department of Theatre and Film, University of Kansas Theatre and Theatre for Young People will stage public performances of Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There," adapted by Rosemary Nursey-Bray, at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, September 22 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, September 23 in the William Inge Memorial Theatre in Murphy Hall.

The production is directed by Dennis Christilles, associate professor of theatre and film, who also designed the sets and lights and composed incidental music for the production.

Costume designer is Jackie Bowin, a junior from Columbus and Goose Creek, S.C., and the puppet design is by Spencer Lott, a sophomore from Lawrence.

A memory play set in the early 1920s, the play opens as an elderly Alice Liddell, the real Alice in Carroll's books, reflects on the telling of the original story.

The Nursey-Bray adaptation is faithful to Carroll's story about childhood fears of growing up and keeps the Victorian charm and merriment by maintaining Carroll's scenes intact, Christilles said.

One sleepy afternoon, Alice, playing chess by herself, sees a real Red Queen through the looking glass. Stepping through the mirror, she meets the kings and queens of her chess set and discovers the whole world is marked out as a chessboard, across which she must travel as a pawn.

"She meets talking flowers, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, sees Humpty Dumpty fall from his wall, meets again the Mad Hatter and the March Hare, and witnesses the furious battle between the lion and the unicorn fighting for the crown," Christilles said. "Finally a gentle White Knight rescues her from the cruel Red Knight so she herself can become a queen."

"Through the Looking Glass" will be staged for area students in grades four, five and six at 1 p.m. September 17 - 21 and at 9:45 a.m. Sept. 26-28.
Tri-Valley annual gala reservations due Friday

TRIBUNE STAFF REPORT

Local residents are invited to attend an evening of fun, food and music next week — all to raise funds for an organization that has helped so many in Southeast Kansas, including Bourbon County.

The 3rd Annual Tri-Valley Developmental Services Gala Celebration, sponsored by the Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation, is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 18 at Mo Gedi’s Italian Steak House in Chanute.

A silent auction of items donated by Hollywood celebrities, athletes, authors, artists, universities and colleges, as well as area businesses, will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The auction will feature a wide assortment of items, ranging from a basketball signed by the 2007 University of Kansas basketball team, Kansas City Chiefs items, St. Louis Cardinals tickets, NCAA Big 12 Conference items, game tickets for the Kansas City T-Bones and Kansas City Wizards, passes for Shepherd of the Hills, the Sedgwick County Zoo, the Kansas Cosmosphere autographed books and compact discs, movie posters, and several other items, Tri-Valley Friends Foundation Director Jackie Witherspoon said.

"People will be able to own one-of-a-kind treasures," Witherspoon said.

The evening will also feature a live auction for a vacation trip to Breckenridge, Colo., as well as unique artwork created by clients served by Tri-Valley staff.

"Additions to this year’s event are items donated by area businesses, and we certainly appreciate their generosity and participation," Witherspoon said.

Other donated items include a stay at Tioga Suites with a gift certificate for dinner, a variety of home décor items, gift baskets, and other gift certificates.

"We really wanted to have something for everyone, and I feel like we’ve accomplished that this year," Witherspoon said. "The variety of items on the auction tables will be more diverse than in years past."

In addition to both auctions, guests attending the Tri-Valley gala will have an opportunity to enjoy rock and roll and classic rock music performed by area musicians John Gambell and Shawn Orton, both of Chanute. Both men are donating their time to the Friends of Tri-Valley.

A buffet meal of chicken strips, meatballs, pasta and more will be available throughout the evening.

"We’ve reserved both dining rooms at Mo Gedi’s, so we’ll have plenty of room for guests to view the silent auction tables and enjoy the music and food," Witherspoon said. "Hopefully, the weather will also be pleasant enough for guests to enjoy the patio. It’s such a great location for the gala."

Mo Gedi’s, (formerly the Chanute Country Club), is located on Country Club Road on the west edge of Chanute.

All proceeds from the evening will help the Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation build homes for people with developmental disabilities. The foundation has completed three houses that are currently

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Due

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homes to 12 people, and two more houses are planned. Reservations for the gala should be made by Friday.

“The Gala is an opportunity to truly make a tangible difference in the lives of people in our own community,” Witherspoon said. “To be able to drive by these beautiful homes and know we were able to work together to change lives is a wonderful thing.”

The cost to participate in the entire evening is $20 per person, or $100 for a table of six people. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Witherspoon at (620) 431-7401, extension 229 or 230.
Farm subsidies still vital

Aid began three-quarters of century ago

By AMY BICKEL
The Hutchinson News
HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP) — Earl Hayes was just a 17-year-old kid in 1933, working on his family's Stafford County farm for 25 cents a week amid the Great Depression.

Now 92, Hayes easily recalls those days, and remembers spending his wages in one night on 10-cent-a-gallon gas and 10-cent movie tickets before heading to the pool hall to blow the rest.

"I'd go home broke," he said, noting his weekly situation on a Saturday night signaled what most in the farm sector experienced at the time.

It was around that same period that Hayes and his father had wheat on the ground at 30 cents a bushel during the June harvest, then picked it up and took it to the elevator for 25 cents a bushel. The younger Hayes watched as banks and mortgage companies foreclosed on one local farm after another.

"Times were tough," said Hayes, who recently moved from his Zenith-area farmstead to a senior apartment. "You could buy farms at a bargain price."

It was a time of mass exodus from rural America. Hundreds of thousands of farms went out of business. Drought and dust storms hurt income, with the average farm household making half or less than nonfarm households.

Commodity prices plummeted due to a surplus of crops. Some farmers found it more profitable to burn corn for fuel than sell it at 10 cents a bushel.

Hayes said there were two banks in Stafford, and the

(Cont. page 6, col. 1)
Subsidies

(Continued from page 1)

one his parents had their money in went belly up.

Then, Franklin Roosevelt became president, Hayes said, and his administration's New Deal programs were aimed at saving America's farms and rural areas. The plan helped farmers recover from the economic collapse of the nation's heartland.

"He started putting his loving arms around the farm people because he knew they were important," Hayes said of Roosevelt. "He brought around some farm action."

But when Roosevelt signed the first farm policy into law in May 1933, he promised it would be a temporary measure.

Yet more than 70 years later, the plan — though tinkered with over the years — is still in place, and many farmers remain dependent on subsidies to aid their farm income amid a tough farm economy that includes high fertilizer and fuel costs.

This year, the farm bill debate continues as Congress works on its latest measure — expected to pass sometime this fall. But it's a different era than Roosevelt's New Deal period, or even a decade ago.

Most Americans are far removed from the land that sustains them, unlike the 1930s when 25 percent of the U.S. population lived on farms. Today, that figure is less than 2 percent.

The top two priorities for Roosevelt's administration were to save "the family farm and help rural America," said Troy Dumler, Kansas State University agriculture economist.

But one question looms for an industry where there are fewer producers farming the same amount of land: Does a program started amid the Great Depression still help those it was intended to help?

"That's the million dollar question, you can basically argue both sides of that," Dumler said. "Some say it helps a lot. Others say not much."

The government stepped in when successful farmers started losing their farms during the Great Depression. Programs established target prices for certain commodity crops, such as corn, wheat, cotton and rice. The program included payments for taking land out of production, as well as conservation efforts, said Donald Worster, a University of Kansas professor who wrote "Dust Bowl, The Southern Plains in the 1930s."

The government has spent $164 billion on farm programs in the last decade, he said, noting the farm bill of the 21st century is no longer a poverty program. "If you want to combat rural poverty, you give the money to the poorest," Worster said. "But the subsidies today are going to a relatively small handful of people. They tend to be the richest farmers."

Policy opponents, including the Environmental Working Group — an advocacy group that tracks farm payments — say subsidies aren't helping the rural communities or the small family farmers that the first farm policy intended.

Still, farm bill leaders, such as Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., say the policy means a lot to a state like Kansas that ranks No. 1 for wheat and grain sorghum production, 10th for soybeans and seventh for corn.

About a dozen farm bills have been passed since the creation of the first farm policy during the Roosevelt administration.

Stafford County's Hayes
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acknowledges he probably wouldn't have stayed with farming if it hadn't been for New Deal legislation and he'd argue with anyone that subsidies are vital to rural America. "Who pays the taxes in a rural community?" he asked. "It isn't the person with the two or three children who is working for the co-op."
Westphalia resident among KU summer 2007 graduates

LAWRENCE — One Anderson County resident was among the more than 900 students received degrees from the University of Kansas after the 2006 summer session, Registrar Cindy Derritt announced recently.

Ashton David Joseph Martin of Westphalia received a Bachelor of General Studies in Psychology. He is the son of David and Rhonda Martin and is a graduate of Burlington High School.

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Majority leader, Rep. Boyda tout college bill

By SARAH KESSINGER
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer joined 2nd District Rep. Nancy Boyda on Wednesday in touting passage of a bill that eases the load of rising college costs.

The Democratic lawmakers and Topeka schools Superintendent Terry Sandlin spoke of the new College Cost Reduction Act during a press conference before students and the media in Topeka High’s library.

“We need to remember that the benefits of a college education go beyond just the benefits to the individual,” Sandlin said. “Benefits to our society include longer life spans, higher earning rates, higher voting rates, greater community service and leadership and the list could go on.”

The bill cuts student loan rates in half and adds new funding to Pell Grants for low-income students. It’s estimated to benefit Kansas families by $282 million over the next five years, Boyda said.

The legislation still awaits signature by President Bush, who earlier threatened a veto.

A former member of the Maryland Board of Higher Education, Hoyer said college aid influences the U.S. economy.

“No society can remain very successful for very long if it does not educate its future generation.”

The bill’s funding comes by trimming federal subsidies to college loan firms and putting the savings into student aid. Several House Republicans and the Bush administration fought the bill, saying it would harm lending companies and didn’t do enough to cut the federal deficit.

Boyda

Hoye
KU to honor area scholars Sept. 19

Area high school seniors will be honored Sept. 19 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

Seventy-nine seniors from Marion, McPherson, and Rice counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at Holiday Manor Convention Center, McPherson.

Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans, or higher education goals.

Marion County honorees are Kristine Jirak, Julie Rzih, and Nikki Stenzel of Centre High School; Katie Fleming and Cameron Voth of Goessel High School.

Mathew Brown, Benjamin Heyen, Meghan Jost, Lauren Just, Jessica Klose, Amber Loewen, Jandi Nikkel, Grant Schneider, and Anna Woelk of Hillsboro High School; Brett Billings, Henry Collett, Lauren Helmer, Jessica Vogel, and Kristin Waner of Marion High School.

Jessica Gillet, Tabitha O'Neal, and Duane Unruh of Peabody-Burns High School.
Energy and economy

How does Kansas meet competing demands of energy and environmental needs while growing and maintaining its economy?

That question will be up for grabs at the 2007 Kansas Economic Policy Conference Oct. 11 at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

The conference again plans to offer an interactive video link with a site in Ulysses.

A Harlem Renaissance man from Kansas

**Exhibit will showcase the work of Aaron Douglas.**

**BY CHRIS GREEN**  
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — Considered the major visual artist of the Harlem Renaissance, Aaron Douglas hailed from Kansas but ventured outside the state to make his name.  
Like his fellow Kansas, poet and author Langston Hughes, Douglas migrated to New York to contribute to the cultural explosion that became known as the Harlem Renaissance.

In a roughly two-mile section of upper Manhattan, Douglas joined black artists putting their stamp on American culture through their contributions to visual art, literature, drama, philosophy and music.

A major exhibition opening Saturday and running through Dec. 2 at the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas in Lawrence represents a homecoming of sorts for Douglas, a Topeka native who died in 1979.

It is also the first-ever traveling retrospective of Douglas’ work — with future stops scheduled in Nashville, Washington, D.C. and New York — and features nearly 100 works of art by Douglas, plus several by his contemporaries and students.

The focus of the show is the artist’s career from the 1920s through the 1940s, bringing together many rarely seen works from public and private collections, exhibit officials said.

The artist’s signature efforts include his narrative murals, which fuse modern art styles with African and black American imagery and whose themes include overcoming racism and slavery.

There’s also a nod to the eclectic nature of the Harlem Renaissance with events that include a multidisciplinary national conference and a performance by the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Some seven years in the making, museum officials said they expect “Aaron Douglas: African American Modernist” to bring renewed and “richly earned” national attention to Douglas as one of the 20th Century’s greatest American artists.

Saralyn Reece Hardy, Spencer Museum of Art director and former director of the Salina Art Center, said the exhibition also offered Kansans the opportunity to rediscovers Douglas as well.

“There’s something about a museum for recollecting memories,” Hardy said.

Yet even for the Kansans putting on the exhibition, the question of where Douglas’ Kansas upbringing fits into his development as an artist outside the state remains perplexing.

“See, that’s a question that we’re still sort of wrestling with,” said Stephanie Fox Knapp, a Baldwin City resident who helped coordinate the exhibit and researched the chronology of Douglas’ life.

In fact, several Harlem Renaissance artists besides Douglas sprang from Midwest roots but became known for their participation in an urban, East Coast movement.

Born to laborer parents in Topeka, Douglas graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1922 and taught at Lincoln High School in Kansas City.

He migrated to New York in 1925 to join Harlem Renaissance, where he became known as “the father of Black American art” and the Renaissance’s “tastemaker.” Later on in life, he earned a master’s degree at Columbia University and taught art historically black Fisk University in Nashville.

Beside Hughes and Douglas, Kansas has links to other significant black creative figures. Seven of those individuals will be featured in a mural by artist David Lowenstein, which will be unveiled Sept. 26 in Lawrence as part of the Douglas exhibition.

They include Oscar Micheaux, who grew up in Great Bend and is widely recognized as the first black filmmaker; and photographer, author and film director Gordon Parks, who was born in Fort Scott.

Douglas’ Kansas upbringing may have influenced his outlook as an artist, which has been described as optimistic, Knapp said. That may spring from the fact that Douglas had to learn self-reliance to overcome obstacles to his pursuit of art.

Hints of Douglas’ Kansas
ties also pop up within his work in some instances.

Among the pieces featured in the show is the yearbook cover featuring a sunflower that Douglas designed while attending Topeka High School. The image of a sunflower shows up again in later years on illustrations Douglas did for the covers of books written black literary figures.

Knappe said it's clear that Douglas already thought of himself as an artist early in his life, prior to leaving Kansas.

While it took the cultural spark of the Harlem Renaissance to push Douglas into the spotlight, Knappe said: "I think he always had the fire."