KU Alumni Group To Honor Students

Students from area high schools will be honored on April 3rd by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 40 seniors from high schools in Barber, Harper, Kingman and Pratt Counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Park Hills Country Club at Pratt.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions presented by the Alumni Association.

Ron Giesen of Anthony was the Harper County contact for the event. Debra Meisenheimer of Kingman and Charles Holcomb of Cunningham were the Kingman County contacts.

Attending from Chaparral are Cricket Garancosky, Robin Goetz, Sarah Masenthin, Cooper Teel, Heather Watts, Dively Zarate. From Attica are Jessie Loreg and Megan White. From Norwich are Ian Graham, Lisa Poe, Theresa Boydston.
Kaitlyn Borden wins major KU scholarships

Kaitlyn Borden, daughter of David and Judy Borden of Augusta, has been awarded scholarships worth $30,000 over the course of four years of study at The University of Kansas. Kaitlyn, who has attended Augusta schools since kindergarten, has enrolled at KU in the School of Engineering, where she plans to dual major in Aerospace Engineering and Chemical Engineering with a concentration in Biomedical Engineering.

Kaitlyn was selected by the Chancellor's Honor Scholarship Committee as a Watkins-Berger Scholar for the 2008-09 academic year. This scholarship for women, along with the Summerfield Scholarship for men, represents the University's oldest and most distinguished awards. KU's Summerfield and Watkins-Berger Scholarships are awarded to the top 100 high school student scholars in the state of Kansas and is worth $18,000 over four years.

Kaitlyn also was selected by the School of Engineering as a Dean's Scholar for the 2008-09 academic year. The honorarium for the Dean's Scholarship is worth $12,000 over four years.

Kaitlyn has been a four-year member of the Augusta High School Girls Golf Team and the AHS band, as well as an officer with the National Honor Society.
Driven to Cure license plates help in funding breast cancer research

Kansans can now show their support for breast cancer research with a "Driven to Cure" license plate benefiting the University of Kansas Cancer Center (KUCC).

The breast cancer license plates are now available and can be purchased for a $50 annual fee in addition to normal vehicle registration costs.

Upon payment of $50 to the University of Kansas Endowment Association (KUEA) for the specialty plate, drivers will receive a certificate from KUEA showing proof of purchase.

With that proof of purchase and payment of regular state license fees, drivers will be issued their breast cancer license plate by their county treasurer.

Royalties from the specialty plates support a statewide coordinator for the Midwest Cancer Alliance (MCA), the outreach arm of KUCC.

The coordinator will serve as a liaison among the Cancer Center, hospitals, physicians and clinics across the state to ensure the latest information regarding cancer prevention, early detection and treatment is being shared with cancer care professionals and patients across Kansas.

University of Kansas Cancer Center Director Roy Jensen, MD, said the license plates are an important step in raising awareness about breast cancer.

Driven to Cure license plates can be purchased at www.kuendowment.org/licenseplate/Default.aspx or by calling 1-888-588-5249.

Once purchased from KUEA, plates may be picked up at the local county treasurer's office.
The Flint Hills Rodeo Association is sponsoring a "Tough Enough To Wear Pink" rodeo performance on Sunday, June 8, 2008. "Tough Enough To Wear Pink" focuses on fighting breast cancer.

To raise money for the fight, the rodeo has a two-part program. The first part is called "Tough Enough to Quilt Pink." A shaded pink quilt top in the broken star pattern has been donated by Mary Jones. That pattern was chosen because all women are stars, but sometimes breast cancer breaks up their lives. By participating in this event we hope to help give them the support they need to bring their lives back into a time of beauty.

The quilting will be done along the lines of other types of event like walk-a-thons. Everyone is invited to collect donations in honor of breast cancer survivors or in memory of breast cancer victims. Then they bring the donations to the quilting party and help quilt. If anyone wants to participate and is not a quilter, there will be designated quilters available to sit at the frame. Everyone is invited to come visit, sign the book and list those loved ones that they are honoring.

The quilt is set up at 14 Oak in Cottonwood Falls, Kan. It will be open on Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Tuesday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. If a group of quilters would like to come on another day, they are invited to contact Mary at 620-344-5563 and make some arrangements.

The second part of the program is to sell raffle tickets from the quilt. The winner will be drawn during the Sunday performance of the rodeo. You need not be present to win. More information on the raffle will be coming later in the month.

The monies raised in this effort will be divided between two places. Part of the money raised will go to the fund raising efforts of the Morris County Hospital to buy a new mammogram machine. The rest of the money will go to the Kansas Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. Seventy-five percent of the money donated there stays in the local area to provide mammograms for women who can't afford them. Twenty-five percent goes to national research in the fight against breast cancer. From those funds, KU was given a $2,000,000.00 grant recently to study breast cancer.

We hope that everyone who has had a friend or loved one who has battled breast cancer will get involved in this effort. It is an important cause and the quilting bees promise to be fund. If you have any questions, contact Mary Jones at 620-344-5563.
Scholarships available from Western Kansas Manufacturing Association

The Western Kansas Manufacturers Association, sponsor of the annual 3i Show, has announced the availability of scholarships to area colleges and vocational technical schools. These scholarships are for freshman students enrolling in industrial engineering, pre-engineering or business administration at Barton County Community College, Colby Community College, Dodge City Community College, Fort Hays State University, Garden City Community College, Kansas State University, North Central Kansas Technical School, Northwest Kansas Technical College, Seward County Community College, Southwest Kansas Technical School and the University of Kansas.

Qualifying students must be residents of western Kansas who have graduated from a western Kansas high school. Scholarship applications should be made directly through the individual school's financial aid or scholarship department. WKMA scholarships are funded each year by the sale of 300 individually numbered, limited-edition belt buckles commemorating the upcoming 3i Show.

Buckles can be ordered using the order form online at www.3ishow.com/3i/merchandise.htm, or by contacting the WKMA office directly at 1700 East Wyatt Earp Blvd., PO Box 1382, Dodge City, KS 67801. Call (620) 227-8082.
Students break for worthy causes

BY GEORGE DIEPENBROCK
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For some students, spring break is no easy, breezy day at the beach.

These days, area universities, colleges and even high schools offer students a chance to volunteer their time in addition to traveling across the country or even out of the country.

“One thing we try to do is set a standard and a passion for them to serve throughout their lives,” said Ben Berning, a Kansas University junior from Shawnee who is co-director for Alternative Breaks.

Alternative Breaks at KU started in 1995, and spring break is a busy time for the service program. Last week, 49 KU students spent time at sites working across the country in Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Washington, D.C. At KU, students pay $250 for travel expenses, and they attend a Special Projects in the Community Course before their trip to earn one course credit.

Co-director Ashley Bloom, a Hutchinson senior, said she talked to one student who volunteered for the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, D.C.

“She said her experience was life-changing,” Bloom said.

About a dozen Bishop Seabury students also gave up three days of

† See Students, page 8A

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

A handful of Kansas State University students spent spring break helping rebuild Greensburg, which was hit by an enhanced F5 tornado in 2007. One of those K-Staters is Megan Holton, pictured fifth from the left, a Tonganoxie High School graduate now a sophomore at K-State. Several local students bypassed Cancun and other party spots to help others this spring break.
Students spring into action

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their break this week to help social service organizations around Lawrence. The students have spent their days doing projects at the Salvation Army, Lawrence Community Shelter and Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen.

They’ve also camped outside the school, 4120 Clinton Parkway, at night. This is the second year students, led by teacher Bill Gollier, have participated in the project.

“It makes you more empathetic, and I think it really broadens your experiences,” said Julia Davidson, a Seabury junior.

Help for the South

Two Free State High School graduates and current KU students spent time last week in the South, working with blind children and helping rebuild homes that Hurricane Katrina destroyed.

“I decided instead of sitting here partying or doing what normal college students do, I would do something different,” said Aleese Kopf, a KU freshman from Lawrence.

Kopf helped rebuild homes for a school teacher and an elderly man through Rebuild Lakeshore in Lakeshore, Miss. And Elise Rock, a KU sophomore from Lawrence, spent her break driving to Spartanburg, S.C., with six other students to work at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind.

“I’ve never been in that kind of environment. It was a learning experience,” she said.

A group of 17 Baker University students, alumni and faculty headed to Baldwin County, Ala., where they helped with cleanup at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, which incurred heavy damage from Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina in 2004 and 2005.

The Rev. Ira DeSpain, campus minister at Baker University, and his wife, Barbara, sponsored the trip, which is in its 15th year.

“The trip is a way for students to have fun and contribute to society in some way,” DeSpain said. “It gives different impressions to people about how students spend their vacations.”

Brad Page, a senior at Baker University from Paola, said the trip — his second — was fun and productive.

“I liked being able to help while getting to be on a beach enjoying the warm weather at the same time,” Page said. “I’ve done all the partying before. This was much more rewarding.”

Across the ocean

As a member of the Oceans of Mercy mission trip to South Africa last week, Brigitte Clark said she already knows the experience will impact the rest of her life.

“The trip was pretty much life-changing,” said Clark, a junior at Mill Valley High School in Shawnee. “It was so amazing.”

It was the third year that Oceans of Mercy has taken students on a Spring Break trip to South Africa. A total of 32 Shawnee area residents returned Monday morning from the 12-day trip.

Oceans of Mercy, which was founded by Shawnee resident Schaum Colin, seeks to help children affected by the HIV/AIDS virus in South Africa. The main focus of the trip was a camp for 96 orphans in Jeffrey’s Bay, South Africa.

One day, the team visited the homes of people living with HIV/AIDS in the township of Motherwell. The group helped at an orphanage and worked in soup kitchens for orphans, all of which Oceans of Mercy helps support.

“I believe it was a consensus that the group received so much more than we gave,” said Traci Johnson, Shawnee, Oceans of Mercy volunteer. “The experience changed lives for both our group as well as the children we touched.”

Going green

For Megan Holton, a Kansas State University sophomore, it was a green spring break.

On March 16, Holton, a 2006 Tonganoxie High School grad, took a trip to Greensburg to help rebuild the home of 86-year-old Elma Helwig.

Helwig lost her home last May, when an enhanced F5 tornado destroyed more than 90 percent of the town. Since the disaster, city officials have decided to stay as environmentally friendly as possible during reconstruction.

Helton remembers seeing pictures of the town covered in debris after the storm. She said things look very different now.

“When you go there and see the town, everything is cleaned up, but there is still a bunch of empty lots with little bits and scraps here and there,” she said. “It’s pretty much empty.

Holton, along with six students from the university’s Ecumenical Christian Ministries and four from the K-State Office of Civic Leadership, rebuilt sections of the house.

David Jones, campus pastor for the ECM who also went on the trip, said getting Helwig’s home up and running would be a morale booster for the community.

“She has the reputation of making the best cinnamon rolls in the region,” he said. “That’s why this was kind of a high property to get her house built and get her back in the kitchen.”

Holton said when they arrived at Helwig’s house it was merely four walls, but by the time they left, it was starting to resemble a home — a home that could withstand 200 mph winds.
Kansas State University student James Gaunt makes a mark on a wooden board while fellow KSU student and Tonganoxie High School graduate Megan Holton, standing, holds one end of a tape measure with her foot as fellow KSU student Rebecca Bush holds the other.
The Kansas University campus has a few iconic locations, and Potter Lake is one. A group of students is looking at the possibility of cleaning up the lake and sprucing up the area around it. Given the many memories Potter Lake holds for generations of KU alumni, it seems likely that raising funds for such a project would be a popular effort in the eyes of many alumni.

Students first are concerned about pollution of the lake, which was placed on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s list of most polluted bodies of water in 1999. The primary problems are trash left by visitors to the lake and fertilizer-laden runoff, which encourages the growth of smelly algae in the water.

Students would seem to be the ideal group to spearhead an anti-littering campaign to address the trash problem. Volunteering to police the area and pick up trash on a regular basis would be an ideal project for a KU student group. The run-off issue would require working with the administration, but it is hoped KU officials would be amenable to reducing fertilizer, using more environmentally friendly products and/or adding native plants around the lake to filter draining water.

The students also would like to see additional benches and improved paths around the lake along with a gazebo where musicians could perform. All of these certainly would be in keeping with the traditional uses of Potter Lake.

Students have suggested that unused student fees that are sitting in a reserve account could be used to fund the improvements.

A number of alums generously stepped in to repair and improve Danforth Chapel — another KU icon — after it was seriously damaged in the 2006 microburst.

The deplorable condition of Potter Lake likely would strike a similar emotional chord with alumni who want to preserve the lake they treasured for future generations of KU students.

Potter Lake has been — and could be again — one of the most peaceful and scenic locations on the KU campus. It’s great to see a student group drawing attention and seeking plans to restore the lake’s natural beauty.
Participants in the 2008 Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) field school will excavate a portion of the Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, southwest of Republic.

The historical site is located on the bluffs overlooking the Republican River, in Republic County. From May 31 through June 15, the students hope to recover new and valuable information about this fortified village that was occupied by the Kitkahahki band of the Pawnee tribe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The 2008 KATP field school involves collaboration among the Kansas Historical Society, Kansas Anthropological Association, and the University of Kansas. Investigators will be Mary Adair, associate curator of archaeology, KU Center for Archaeological Research; Donna Roper and Jack Hofman, associate professor of anthropology at KU. Students enrolled in KU’s Kansas Archaeological Field School will join the KATP field school for about 10 days.

Site 14RP1 is known as the Kansas Monument Site or Pawnee Indian Village. The state historical society owns only part of the site. Possibly one-third to one-half of the site is in a privately owned field to the south that has been farmed and collected for decades. It is thought the house remains there likely have been destroyed. Professional archeologists have excavated 11 houses at 14RP.

Carlyle Smith, professor of anthropology at KU, excavated Houses 1 and 2 in 1949 and he put a trench through one house in the south field. From 1965 to 67, Tom Witty, then a Kansas State University archeologist, excavated Houses 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 22 and 23, along with several pit features and some burials. Witty also excavated Houses 24 and 25 in advance of roadwork in 1968. The interpretive center was built in 1967 over House 5. Surrounding the museum are surface features, including 21 lodges, numerous storage pits and borrow areas, and partial remains of a fortification wall around the village.

New investigations will focus on contemporary and innovative research topics. It is expected application of new recovery and documentation methods will enable re-evaluation and enhancement of existing interpretations of the site without disturbing the parts of the site that are currently interpreted for the public. A team of professional archeologists, and graduate and undergraduate students will analyze the artifact assemblages and will collectively provide a comprehensive report on the existing collections and those recovered by the 2008 excavations. Among the things the field school will address will be to excavate part of a newly discovered house, found when a geophysical survey was conducted in August, 2007.

The Pike Valley Junior High, Courtland, will be the project headquarters for registration, classes, artifact-processing lab, outdoor camping, and some evening programs. Registration forms must be submitted by May 2. Participants must be at least 10 years of age, those younger must work with a parent or other sponsoring adult at all times. The field school will offer a number of formal classes that can be taken to earn college credit through Emporia State University or simply to learn more about a particular topic.
KU announces 22 students selected to serve as 2008-09 orientation leaders

LAWRENCE — Twenty-two University of Kansas students have been chosen as assistants for KU’s new student orientation programs this summer.

Ten of the students are returning for another year as orientation assistants: Hali Baker, Council Grove senior; Elizabeth Bartkowski, Basehor senior; Matt Enriquez, Topeka junior; Jacque Lumsden, Wichita junior; Nathan Mack, Lawrence senior; Darian Nave, Kansas City, Kan., senior; Arnold Phommavong, Springdale, Ark., senior; Leslie Fischer, Jefferson City, Mo., senior; and John Brendan Shdw, Milwaukee, Wis., senior.

Orientation assistants are hired through a process that includes essay writing, group interaction activities, a five-minute speech and final interview. The assistants prepare for orientation sessions by attending three weeks of training that covers KU academic and student services, public speaking, interaction with the public and diversity issues.

New student orientation programs, which are tailored to students’ fields of study, offer information about KU to first-time freshmen, transfer students and readmitted students. The programs are designed to help students with their academic, social and personal transitions to KU and to reduce anxieties about attending college.

Summer and fall orientation dates will be announced in April. During the summer, the schedule will include 13 freshman sessions, two transfer sessions and one transfer and re-admit session during the summer. The two fall sessions will offer one for freshmen and another for both freshmen and transfer students.

Orientation assistants are listed below by hometown, major, parents’ names and high school or equivalent.

Steven Elliott, junior in music education, son of Gregory and Vicky Elliott, Abilene High School, was named an orientation assistant.
Kansas BIO honors K-State graduate students' energy research

K-State News Service

Two Kansas State University graduate students received accolades from Kansas BIO for their search for chemistry solutions to alternative energy production and targeted cancer drug delivery.

The Kansas BioScience Organization selected the poster presentations by Pubudu Siyambalagoda Gamage and Matthew Basel for recognition during the Capitol Graduate Research Summit at the Kansas statehouse March 13.

Both chemistry doctoral students are conducting their research with chemistry Professor Stefan Bossmann as adviser. K-State Professor Deryl Troyer, anatomy and physiology, is co-adviser to Basel’s studies.

* Siyambalagoda Gamage’s work is directed at developing new catalysts for alternative energy sources.

He explains in his abstract that measurements from the experiments show it is possible to thermodynamically oxidize water and reduce carbon dioxide by using chemical complexes with superior reactivity as sensitizer-relay-assemblies.

* Matthew Basel’s research is on developing very potent and highly selective chemotherapy agents that also have lower toxicity. He is investigating a new method for targeting cancer cells selectively combined with an incredibly potent toxin found in mycobacteria.

In lab studies using breast cancer cell tissue, he determined that very low concentrations of the new agent disrupted vital cell membrane gradients and thus caused total cell death.

Annually in March the research summit convenes for a day in Topeka. The forum is designed for the interested public, legislators and state officials and showcases current research from graduate students enrolled at K-State, the University of Kansas, KU Medical Center and Wichita State University.

Kansas BIO recognized the top poster presentations from each university.