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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 and to traveling across the country or 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 and 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 for 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 their break this week to help social service organizations around

“I decided instead of sitting here partying or doing what normal college students do, I would do something different.”
— Aleese Kopf
Lawrence. The students have spent their days doing projects at the Salvation Army, Lawrence Community Shelter and Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen.

"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 Shaunn Cohn, 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, 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.

Holton 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.

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.

— Caroline Boyer, reporter at the Shawnee Dispatch, Adam Mowder, reporter at the Baldwin City Signal, and Estuardo Garcia, reporter at the Tonganoxie Mirror, contributed to this report.
Standing in a Victorian mansion’s parlor, complete with a hand-carved fireplace, parquet hardwood floors and a Chickering square grand piano circa 1889, Joanie Soukup, the newly hired curator of the Carroll Mansion in Leavenworth, remarked on her surroundings, “It’s not a bad place to work.”

“It’s not Monticello,” she said, “but it’s something.”

Soukup, a University of Kansas graduate student in museum studies, was hired on full-time this spring as the Carroll Mansion’s curator after serving over a year in the position on a part-time basis.

She has more or less been responsible for the everyday operations of the 16-room mansion at 1128 Fifth Avenue since then.

As well as giving tours, going through the museum’s collections and putting together exhibits, Soukup helps to catalogue, archive and store the museum’s historical photographs and documents. She noted that, as the main repository of the history of Leavenworth County, there’s a lot more to the historical society than just antique furniture.

Soukup said the society has several requests each week from genealogists, historians and Leavenworth County residents wanting to conduct research.

Many requests, in particular, have focused on the museum’s Everhard Collection, what Soukup called “one of our proudest collections definitely.”

The collection of over 20,000 glass-plate negatives, dating back to the 1850s, features portraits of Leavenworth County residents through about 100 years of history.

Soukup and members of the historical society have been working diligently to preserve and catalogue all of the negatives so they can be made available to researchers and Leavenworth residents wanting old prints of their relatives.

The hope is that folks nationwide will be able to eventually view the plates and search through them online, Soukup said.

Exhibits planned for this year at the mansion are a one-room schoolhouse exhibit beginning April 15, a quilt exhibit scheduled for June 24 and a military exhibit set for November.

Those wanting to learn more about the Carroll Mansion or the Leavenworth County Historical Society can call (913) 682-7759 or visit www.leavenworthhistory.org.

NAME: Joanie Soukup
ADDRESS: Lawrence
OCCUPATION: Curator, Carroll Mansion
FAMILY: Karl Soukup, husband, and two cats
WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT LEAVENWORTH COUNTY? “I think being a history person, the history portion of the area is very interesting.”
WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN? “I like to go to museums, and I like to read.”
WHAT MIGHT SURPRISE PEOPLE ABOUT YOU? “I’m a Harry Potter fanatic.”
WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED? “Someone told me once to make sure your job is something you love to do.”
WHAT CLUBS OR ORGANIZATIONS DO YOU BELONG TO? American Association of Museums, American Association of State and Local History, Leavenworth County Historical Society
Parks program is Monday

The Iola Reads program continues Monday with J. Edgar Tidwell of the University of Kansas talking about “Gordon Parks’ Learning Tree Experience.”

The Kansas Humanities Council event will begin at 7 p.m. in the Allen County Community College Theatre. Tidwell will tell how Parks navigated the color line to success.

Tidwell, a native of Independence, joined the KU faculty in 1999. His research specialties are African American and American literature. He has edited the memoirs and collected poems of Kansas-born writer Frank Marshall Davis and directed “Reading and Remembering Langston Hughes” in Iola and four other sites around Kansas in 2001-02.

Following Tidwell’s presentation, the ACCC Theater Department will present selected scenes from “The Learning Tree,” under the direction of Tony Piazza.
Sara Shannon, Ottawa, is one of nine University of Kansas students who are working in the nation's capital through KU's Washington Intern Program.

Shannon, a senior in political science, is assigned to the office of Senate Majority Leader Henry Reid.

She is the daughter of Daniel and Patricia Shannon.

She graduated from Ottawa High School.
LAWRENCE — Doris Meissner, former commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, will address national policy issues associated with immigration at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Spencer Museum of Art auditorium at The University of Kansas.

Her lecture — "Immigration and America's Future: Where are we going? Where should we be going?" — is open to the public, but seating is limited.

Meissner served from 1993 to 2000 in the Clinton administration as commissioner of the INS and then in the U.S. Department of Justice.
University of Kansas debaters Nate Johnson and Christopher Stone took second place at the Cross Examination Debate Association national tournament held March 21-24 at Wichita State University.

The KU team won 13 consecutive debates at the tournament before Towson State University of Maryland won the championship. Towson's coaches, Chris Baron and Beth Skinner, are KU alumni.

"It is the best performance ever for a KU team at the CEDA national tournament," said debate coach Scott Harris.

In two days of debates, the field of 182 teams was narrowed to 64 for single-elimination debates. Six KU teams advanced to the round of 64: Johnson and Stone; Brett Bricker and Andrew Jennings; Kyle Shernuk and Christopher Thomas; Ronnie Press and Dylan Quigley; Joel Kasten and Sean Kennedy; and Andrew Jack and Mathew Petersen. Jennings of Silver Lake, senior in political science, is the son of Joe and Kathy Jennings.

Shernuk and Thomas advanced to the round of 32. Bricker and Jennings advanced to the Sweet 16 before losing to the Towson team that won the tournament.

Johnson and Stone and Bricker and Jennings went 8-0 in the preliminary debates and were the top two seeds heading into elimination rounds.

In addition, several KU debaters earned individual awards and were named to All-American debate teams.

Four KU students finished among the top eight individual speakers at the tournament from a field of 364 debaters. Johnson was the second place individual debater, Stone was fourth, Jennings was fifth and Bricker was eighth.

Erum Shah and Shernuk, Bricker, Johnson, Press and Jennings were named to the academic All-American debate team. Quigley and Jennings were named to the All-American debate team.
KU School of Business gave ethics award to six students March 26, including Larned native

LAWRENCE — Six University of Kansas students were to receive awards from the School of Business for their outstanding personal and professional conduct. The awards were presented at the opening of the 2008 William S. Sutton Ethics Lecture, Wednesday in the Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Mark R. Best, Kimberly L. Elliott, Jake Messersmith, Rachel Sanner, Kirk Smith and David Wise received the annual RESPECT Award from Douglas May, professor of business. KU faculty, students and staff nominated the students.

Best, of Larned, is a master's student in business administration and the son of Michael and Elizabeth Best. He earned a bachelor's in business from KU in the spring of 2005.

"These students exemplify the Positive Code of Conduct established by the KU School of Business," said May. "The positive attitude and behavior they have developed as students provides them with the foundation for success in their professional careers."

The RESPECT Positive Code of Conduct was developed in 2006 by students in May's Ethical Decision Making in Business class. The award honors top students who follow the seven principles of the code: responsibility, enthusiasm, self-esteem, professional integrity, equity, compassion and teamwork.

"The KU School of Business values ethical behavior and this new code of conduct helps celebrate individuals who serve as role models by striving for exceptional levels of professionally virtuous behavior," said May.

This year's Sutton Ethics Lecture featured Ray Anderson, a leader in the sustainable development movement. It was sponsored by KU's School of Business and International Center for Ethics in Business.
Admissions representatives dispel rumors about application process

**Myth:** Students with poor grade point averages in high school won't make it into college.

**False**

Scholarships may be more difficult to get for students with lower GPAs, but several schools, including Washburn University, accept all applicants as long as they have a high school diploma or GED and an ACT score. At Washburn, high school students with less than a 2.9 GPA will be put on academic probation and can only take 12 credit hours until they get their GPA up.

**Myth:** Scholarships are only for the very smart or the very athletic students.

**False**

University scholarships are typically merit- or athletic-based but University of Kansas admissions representatives said plenty of community organizations, churches and employers offer outside scholarships for incoming freshmen. More information can be found at scholarships.ku.edu or by contacting the financial aid department at a student's school of choice.

**Myth:** Most college scholarships go unclaimed by students every year.

**True**

This is true, with some exceptions. Outside scholarships for college come from an array of sources, as mentioned above. Some, however, have very specific qualifications, such as certain heritage, volunteer service hours or intended major. They go unclaimed because no one fills the specific. A student's best bet is to keep an eye out for scholarships that fit him or her.

**Myth:** A student can't be too honest during admission interviews or in admission essays.

**False**

Students shouldn't lie about or embellish life events in order to stand out in an essay or interview, but it is OK to leave the unnecessary details, especially if they could hurt the chances of acceptance. At Washburn, the admissions application doesn't require personal details, so whether a student was a teacher's pet or has a criminal record won't come into consideration.

**Myth:** Extracurricular activities and volunteer service hours look good on a college application.

**False**

It's a cliché, but it's false for students heading to most of the state schools. Kansas State University, USD and Washburn applications don't require resumes, letters of recommendation or personal details — just academic information. Strong school and community service can help students who are borderline for being accepted or who are applying for scholarships.

**Myth:** College admission representatives look at Facebook and MySpace profiles.

**False**

Since social networking sites began, counselors have warned seniors about their profiles being viewed by colleges. But Washburn, USD and K-State representatives said they don't bother with the sites for admissions purposes. Washburn representatives do, however, look at the profiles of college students applying to work in the admission office.

**Myth:** If a student misses the admissions deadline, he or she still has a chance of getting into the college.

**True**

Admission representatives say always go ahead and send in the application even after the date has passed. Situations vary from year to year and school to school, but in some cases there may still be open spots in the freshman class.
Brokaw at KU on April 10

LAWRENCE — Former NBC Nightly News anchor Tom Brokaw will give the 2008 Dole Lecture at The University of Kansas.

“An Afternoon with Tom Brokaw” will feature the veteran newscaster’s observations from his new book “Boom! Voices of the Sixties: Personal Reflections on the ’60s and Today.” The event will be at 1 p.m. April 10, at the Dole Institute of Politics.

“As the author of ‘The Greatest Generation,’ about men and women like Sen. Dole who came of age during the Great Depression, fought the second world war and went on to serve their country in countless other ways, Tom Brokaw is ideal to deliver the Dole Lecture,” said Jonathan Earle, interim director of the Dole Institute.

The afternoon lecture is free and open to the public. Seating will be first come, first served. Signed copies of “Boom!” will be available for purchase. The institute will open as usual at 9 a.m.

Brokaw was the anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News from 1983 until he retired in 2004.
Free tickets for Roberts

Tickets to a lecture by U.S. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. at The University of Kansas will be available at 11 a.m. today at the Lied Center box office, 1600 Stewart Drive. There is no cost for the tickets.

Roberts will give the 1008 Vickers Memorial Lecture, presented by the KU School of Business in cooperation with the KU School of Law, at 6 p.m. April 30 at the Lied Center. Tickets also can be reserved by calling (785) 864-2787.