University of Kansas announces Graduates

The University of Kansas has announced the names of more than 1,600 candidates for degrees for the fall semester of 2007.

Graduate and undergraduate degrees are conferred in December based on work completed during the fall semester. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many students graduating in the fall or summer terms will return for the traditional walk down the hill and into Memorial Stadium on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

Five of KU’s 13 colleges and schools conducted recognition programs or hooding ceremonies earlier this month to honor those planning to graduate at the end of the semester: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Engineering, the School of Law and the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Matthew Peterson Nyquist, son of Robert and Janie Nyquist, is scheduled to receive a Bachelor of General Studies/Religious Studies. Benjamin Arnold Pera, son of Stephen and Ruth Pera, is scheduled to receive a Master of Arts in Mathematics.
Candidates for degrees for the fall 2007 semester from the University of Kansas included Andrew Wayne Hauth of Burlington, bachelor's degree in general studies and psychology, son of Larry and Paula Hauth; Laura Ashleigh McMurray of Burlington, bachelor's degrees in marketing and psychology, daughter of Jim McMurray; Jennifer C. Smith, master's degree in accounting and information systems, daughter of Brad and Colleen Smith, all graduates of Burlington High School; and Pamela Sue Old of Allen, bachelor's degree in business and accounting, daughter of Richard and Josie Old, graduate of Alma High School.
Area students enrolled in service learning classes as part of a tax research class at the University of Kansas are Jennifer C. Smith of Burlington, daughter of Brad and Colleen Smith, Burlington High School; Thomas Scott Mitchell of Eureka, son of Mike Mitchell, Eureka High School; Jeffrey J. Commerford of Allen, son of Jeff and Rae Jean Commerford, Northern Heights High School. All are master's degree students in accounting and information systems.
Open-meetings training

LAWRENCE — City commissioners have scheduled for next week their state-mandated training session on how to comply with the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

Mike Kautsch, a Kansas University Law School professor and former dean of KU’s School of Journalism, will lead the training session from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Jan. 15 at City Hall, Sixth and Massachusetts streets.

The training session will be open to the public, and City Manager David Corliss said the County Commission and the school board also have been invited to attend. Several key city staff members also will be attending, Corliss said.

“We’re committed to making it a good, productive session, and I know Mike is as well,” Corliss said.

City commissioners are required to go through the training session as part of a settlement agreement reached with the Kansas Attorney General’s Office. The attorney general found that city commissioners violated a portion of the open meetings law by conducting a closed-door executive session to discuss a package of economic development incentives for Deciphera Pharmaceuticals.

— The Lawrence Journal World
www.ljworld.com
Bus service considered

HAYS — At Monday’s Ellis County Commission meeting, commissioners discussed the possibility of ACCESS Transportation developing fixed bus routes within the county.

Transportation Manager Ron Straight said students from the University of Kansas will be research consultants to further explore the possibility.

“I have seen some of their results. I think it's very impressive,” Straight said. “They would like to do that for Hays and Ellis County.”

This issue initially was brought before the county commission at November’s joint meeting with city commissioners.

Students are interested in meeting with local representatives soon after classes resume at KU, he said.

Straight asked commissioners if the county would be interested in having representation on the committee being formed.

Commissioners agreed to ask Ellis Mayor David McDaniel to represent Ellis County on the committee. McDaniel also had served on a previous ACCESS committee.

ACCESS makes regular stops in Ellis and Victoria, but if additional needs are identified in the upcoming studies, more fixed routes could be added.

— The Hays Daily News

www.hdnews.net
Universities target nursing shortage

**New programs:**
Wichita State, KU to offer doctorate degrees.

By EMILY BEHLMANN
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Nurses seeking to reach the next level of education in their field have a new opportunity at two Kansas universities.

Wichita State University and the University of Kansas are adding a Doctor of Nursing Practice program, making the degree available in the state for the first time.

A graduate of the program may be prepared as a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse educator or nurse administrator, according to Wichita State.

Helen Connors, associate dean of academic affairs for KU's School of Nursing, said the new degree fits in with a recommendation by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to increase the level of preparation advanced practice nurses need, from the master’s to the doctorate level. The association's goal is for schools to make the move by 2015.

"With the complex health care that people need, we were hearing from graduates, "We need more preparation. This isn’t enough,” Connors said.

That was the case, even though it takes 48 to 50 credit hours to earn a master's degree for advanced practice nursing, well beyond the requirements of most master’s programs, she said.

Alicia Huckstadt, director of graduate nursing programs at Wichita State, said she expects the new programs will help the state’s health care industry.

There is a "tremendous nursing shortage," she said, and the need stretches across all levels.

The Kansas Department of Labor projects that registered nurses will add the most jobs of any occupation between 2002 and 2012.

"The growing nursing shortage is impacting every aspect of the U.S. health care delivery system and contributing to diminished patient care,” the department states in its 2007 Nursing Occupational Outlook.

Huckstadt said she thinks a higher level of preparation for advanced practice nurses will result in a better level of care for patients.

The need for nurses is definite in southwest Kansas, according to Lenora Cook, Garden City Community College’s director of nursing education. One hundred percent of nursing students who graduate from GCCC and choose to begin practicing are employed, she said.

There also is a need for nurse educators, which the new degree program would help prepare, Huckstadt said.

Cook said a person with a doctor of nursing practice degree would meet GCCC's instructor requirements, though the college also can hire people with master’s degrees.

The college is short one instructor now, with the vacancy covered by adjunct instructors from St. Catherine Hospital, and Cook said she knows of no nursing program that doesn’t need educators.

The state is requesting that schools increase their nursing graduates by 25 percent, which means more instructors are necessary, she said.

A class of eight post-master’s degree students will begin the 29-credit-hour Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Wichita State this month. In the fall, the university will start a 74-credit-hour post-baccalaureate program in which students can earn the same degree.

KU is accepting applications now for its post-master’s program, which is set to begin in the fall.
See Mr. Lee . . .

Attention sophomores and juniors: It's not too late to apply for the Night
engale Experience at Fort Hayes State
February 20 and 21. Call 1-800-684.-
2242.

The SELF program offers a four
year financial package paired with an
enrichment program for engineering
and computer science students at the
University of Kansas. A passion for
technology and a desire to make a dif
ference are what KU is looking for, not
your test scores. The deadline to apply
is January 15, so go to
www.engr.ku.edu or call Lucy
McGillie at 785-864-2945.

The Kansas Society of CPAs will
award almost $7,000 in scholarships to
students going to a Kansas school and
majoring in accounting. The initial
application process involves sending
in your ACT scores by March 3.
Questions may be answered by Tony
or Connie at 800-222-0452.

Monsanto will award $150,000 as
part of its Commitment to Agriculture
Scholarship program. Applications
are available at www.monsanto.com
or www.ffa.org.

The Wichita State Physics depart
ment allows students to explore areas
of individual interest through special
projects, or connect with other sub
jects such as chemistry, mathematics,
engineering, or computer science.
Visit this department on-line at
www.wichita.edu or call 316-978-
3190 for more information.

The Otis Summer of Art program is
now accepting applications for stu
dents interested in animation, architec
ture, digital media, design, illustration,
and related areas. Visit
www.otis.edu/soa or call 800-527-
6847.

The University of Dayton has four
levels of scholarships available. An
ACT score of as low as 24 could be
worth up to $45,000 as part of its
Dean's Merit Scholarship, while the
Trustees' Merit Scholarship (at least a
KU students complete certification for service learning for fall 2007

LAWRENCE — The Center for Service Learning at the University of Kansas has recognized 50 students in 19 disciplines for completing certification in service learning during fall 2007.

Students who completed the certification process this fall receive a designation on their transcripts and will be recognized in a ceremony in spring 2008. The notation will inform future employers and graduate and professional schools that the students have dedicated significant time to classes and activities that foster civic engagement, community involvement and leadership.

Among those receiving certification was Annie J Sanko, Great Bend, daughter of Kenton and Anita Sanko. She is a senior majoring in applied behavioral science. She received KU Center for Service Learning certification.

KU’s Center for Service Learning allows students to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings, gain experience and serve their community. The certification process consists of four components: completion of a service learning course; an independent service project; a set of directed civic engagement and leadership readings; and a reflection. All undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for certification.

During the fall 2007 semester, KU students participated in more than 60 service learning courses in departments as diverse as anthropology, business, music therapy, architecture and political science. Projects within these courses ranged from performing surveys for local community organizations in a sociology class to teaching English to native Spanish speakers in a Latina/o literature course. For their independent projects, many of the students volunteered with local service groups such as Headquarters, Up 'Til Dawn, Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club and Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

The Center for Service Learning was established in 2005 to create meaningful learning opportunities for students. Since then, more than 300 students in 30 majors and four graduate programs have been certified in service learning, aiding more than 42 community-based organizations and partnering with them for more than 5,725 hours.

Students who participate in the certification program say service learning provides a chance to make their course content more meaningful but also guides their future academic and career interests.
LARNED — Alex Tauscher, winner of the Kansas City Symphony Young Artist Competition, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Jordaan Club Room, 502 Broadway in Larned. "Tauscher, 18 years old and a resident of Overland Park, studies with Jack Winerock at the University of Kansas. He is the grandson of Eldon Tauscher and Betty Tauscher of Larned. Tauscher began playing at the age of 3. He has been performing in concert halls, auditions and competitions for many years. He was runner-up for the Spire Concerto Competition as well as in the Spire Solo Competition, and was the winner of the 20th Century Amadeus Young Artist Piano Competition. In both the 2005 and 2006 Starr Young Artist Piano Competition he received second prize. He was one of six finalists in the International Institute for Young Musicians International Piano Competition in 2006. Most recently, he won the Kansas Music Teachers Association 2007 Senior MTNA competition and will represent Kansas in the West Central Competition held in Ames, Iowa, on Jan. 18.

This event is sponsored by the Larned Music Club. Tickets are $5, and benefit the club’s scholarship fund. Violinist Kim Vratil will play during the serving of refreshments around chocolate fountains following the program.

For more information, call Marilyn Bell at 620-285-2245.
Hart places third in Miss Kansas Teen

Courtney Hart, age 16, of Olathe recently competed in the Miss Kansas Teen USA scholarship pageant held December 14-16 at the Lied Center on the campus of the University of Kansas in Lawrence. The Miss Kansas Teen USA pageant is a preliminary competition to the Miss USA pageant.

Thirty-three contestants, ages 15 through 18, competed in the preliminary competition on Saturday evening. The competition included evening gown, swimsuit and an interview with a panel of five judges. During the coronation show on Sunday, Hart was named as one of the top 15 semifinalists based on scores received in all preliminary categories.

At the end of the evening, Hart was chosen as one of the five finalists and received third runner-up in the competition. Hart is a sophomore at Olathe Northwest High School, a member of the Raven Dance Team and Olathe Youth Congress, where she serves as senator.

Hart is the daughter of Todd and Maleah (Roe) Hart. She is the granddaughter of Gary and Evelyn Roe of Downs.