21 college scholarships available through community foundation

By the Salina Journal

The Greater Salina Community Foundation has scholarships available through 21 different funds for area high school seniors and college students. Scholarship applications are available from counselors at area high schools or on the foundation Web site at www.gsfc.org.

For more information, call Michelle Griffin, affiliate/scholarship coordinator at the foundation at 823-1800.

A list of available scholarships follows:

- The Wally Beets-John Marino Scholarship is for employees who are or have been employed by the Salina Country Club and will attend accredited postsecondary institutions.
- The Betts Family Scholarship is for students of Decatur Community High School who are attending accredited postsecondary institutions.
- Booker T. Washington Scholarship is for African American students from the Salina area who are attending accredited postsecondary institutions.
- C.L. Clark Scholarship is for students currently enrolled at the University of Kansas School of Law or Washburn University School of Law and who graduated from a high school in Saline County.
- Decatur Community Scholarship is for students graduating from U.S.D. 294 and are attending accredited postsecondary institutions.
- The Erik Erickson Memorial Scholarship is for students graduating from Decatur Community High School who are attending accredited postsecondary institutions.
- The First Bank of Kansas Scholarship is for students who are currently enrolled in good standing at Kansas Wesleyan University — with preference to students working toward a degree in business.
- The Jody Fredrickson Nursing and Health Scholarship is for students graduating from Decatur Community High School who are attending accredited postsecondary institutions to major in nursing or another health-related field.
- The Brian C. Garnett Scholarship is three $1,000 scholarships for graduates of Salina Central High School.
- Mary Olson and Viola Olson Gustafson Scholarship is for students currently attending or who are planning to attend Cloud County Community College and will work toward a degree in nursing or another medical field.
- Hale Family Sunflower Promise Scholarship is for Kansas community colleges students who have completed two years of course work and will be completing their degrees at a four-year, postsecondary institution in Kansas.
- Kelling-Tomlinson Scholarship is for students from Smith Center High School who are attending accredited postsecondary institutions.
- Evelyn R. King National Honor Society Scholarship is a scholarship that is selected by committees at Sacred Heart High School, Salina Central High School and Salina South High School. They look at all senior members of the National Honor Society and select two students from their respective schools to receive this scholarship.
- Kansas Federation of Republican Women Scholarship is for female students currently attending a Kansas college or university, with a declared major of political science, history or public administration, entering their junior or senior year of undergraduate study or who are attending graduate school.
- Glenn L. and Edna M. Mott Memorial Scholarship is for students graduating from Decatur Community High School attending accredited postsecondary institutions.
- James L. Ogden Memorial Scholarship is for K-State or KU civil engineering students.
- Alma Olson and Michael T. Olson Scholarship is for students currently attending or planning to attend North Central Kansas Technical College working toward a degree in the building trades.
- David and Marguerite Parker Scholarship is for students of Tescott High School who are academically solid and have community involvement but most likely will not be recognized as salutatorian or valedictorian of their graduating class; for postsecondary, accredited education.
- Gayle and Evelyn Richmond Scholarship is for students of Plainville, Stockton, Natoma or Palco High schools with plans to attend an accredited postsecondary institution.
- Florence Evelyn Westhoff Scholarship is for students who are connected with, but not necessarily members of, the University United Methodist Church, Salina, or students attending Kansas Wesleyan University.
LAWRENCE — As a follow-up to a successful program in early 2007 on political Weblogs, the Dole Institute of Politics will host a panel discussion about another growing community on the Internet — military blogs, also known as milblogs.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Dole Institute at The University of Kansas. It is free and open to the public.

Blogs from the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan have allowed readers at home to connect with troops, contractors and civilians stationed there. Military blogs began to appear shortly after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 and saw a dramatic increase after the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

(The Capital-Journal)
Since June 2007, Alyssa has been driving throughout Kansas in her 2007 Pontiac G-6, often embarking as early as 4:30 a.m. to make speeches at public schools and appear at public and corporate sponsored events. She appears at an average of three to four events a day, six or seven days a week.

As might be expected, Alyssa’s car has become a mountain of piled luggage, tangled clothing, strewn paperwork and fast food wrappers.

Sandwiches from Subway, she said, are my best friends.

But Alyssa doesn’t mind her hectic schedule — in fact, she said she loves everything about her job.

She’s not a salesperson, public speaker or spokesmodel — though all of those can be considered part of her job description.

No, Alyssa’s job is more unique. After all, most salespeople don’t carry around a sparkling crown in a box.

Alyssa’s job? Being Miss Kansas.

On June 9, Alyssa, 22, was selected Miss Kansas 2007 during the annual pageant in Pratt. It was her third shot at the crown — in previous attempts in 2004 and 2005, she hadn’t even cracked the top 10. As Miss Kansas, Alyssa is paid for each personal appearance and is supplied a place to live, a cell phone, a credit card, a clothing allowance and her car, courtesy of the Miss America organization.

On Saturday, she’ll join 51 other contestants at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas to compete in the Miss America pageant. The nationally televised, live program begins at 7 p.m. on the TLC network (Salina cable channel 49).

“I’m excited and looking forward to it,” said Alyssa, who left for Las Vegas last Thursday. “I think I’m prepared.”

Between demanding duties as Miss Kansas, Alyssa has continued to exercise, tries to maintain a healthy diet (although Sonic burgers are a temptation) and practices the piano whenever she has the chance (the Miss America pageant has a talent portion along with swimsuit and evening gown competitions).

Alyssa, a classical pianist, plans to perform a Hungarian piano piece during the Miss America broadcast — the same piece that helped her win Miss Kansas.

As if she weren’t busy enough, in early November, Alyssa spent several weeks in Los Angeles with the other contestants filming a reality show, “Miss America: Reality Check.” The series premiered on TLC on Jan. 4.

“It’s a great way for people to get to know some of the 52 contestants before the pageant,” Alyssa said. “It was good for the contestants, too. Miss Mississippi and I developed a really close friendship.”

**Always been competitive**

Between the reality show and the reality of preparing for Miss America, Alyssa has been back in her home state being Miss Kansas. This has included making public appearances and meeting with consultants and Miss Kansas pageant sponsors.

She also has traveled to dozens of area schools presenting her Miss Kansas platform issue on the adverse affects of bullying.

Despite the pressures, Alyssa insists the last six months haven’t at all stressed her out.

“I came into this job very prepared, knowing what I wanted to do,” she said.

Alyssa was never one to let pressure affect her even as a child, said her mother, Mary Beth George, Minneapolis.

“She’s always been driven to succeed,” said Mary Beth, who works in Salina at the Smoky Hill Education Service Center.

“She’s been competitive in everything she does, whether it’s piano, sports or dance. Any kind of competition motivates her.”
Alyssa is the oldest of three children. Her sister Hayley, 19, is a freshman at Kansas State University. Her brother Grayson, 15, is a freshman at Minneapolis High School.

At Minneapolis High School, Alyssa was on the basketball and track teams. At one track meet in her senior year, she earned four medals—all second places, much to her displeasure.

She played guard on the basketball team and averaged 15 points a game, said John Darrow, her former basketball coach.

"She was very dedicated and did whatever we asked her to do," Darrow said. "She was a very hard worker. I always used her as an example for the younger kids. She's certainly been a role model for my daughter (a senior this year)."

### Bullied and harassed

It was in high school that Alyssa began developing what would become her Miss Kansas platform issue—the devastating effects of bullying. While in eighth grade, Alyssa said, she was bullied and harassed so severely that she considered transferring schools.

Like everything else in her life, Alyssa eventually overcame that obstacle and ended up turning the issue of bullying into a speech for her high school forensics team.

"It was an issue everyone could relate to in some way," she said.

Although Alyssa has become a veteran of several beauty pageants, she was never a typical "pageant girl," said Jayme Resnick, a former counselor at Minneapolis High School.

"When she smiles, it's real, not plastic," said Resnick, who now lives in Michigan.

"She genuinely cares about people and is always giving a helping hand. Her experiences with bullying have helped her understand and be sympathetic to others."

Resnick said she'll be going to Las Vegas to watch the pageant, with tickets provided by Alyssa's parents.

"I wouldn't miss it for the world," she said. "I'm sure she'll represent Kansas well."

### What would mom wear?

During Saturday's live broadcast, 15 finalists will be chosen by a panel of judges, with one more to be selected through an Internet vote. Parents of the 16 finalists then will be invited to a special seating area on stage, where they will be able to watch the rest of the broadcast and be interviewed between individual competitions.

"If she makes it that far, my issue will be what I'm going to be wearing," Mary Beth said. "I've been so concerned for her that I haven't thought about what I was going to wear at all."

Alyssa's father, Ron, said it's probably best to try to stay out of the way.

"I'll try to do what I can not to embarrass her," said Ron, a loan officer at Bennington State Bank in Minneapolis.

Ron said he's not worried about how his oldest daughter will do in the competition. "She's a very capable gal," he said. "She's really comfortable speaking before large crowds—she doesn't get intimidated at all."

### Then, back to KU

As far as Alyssa is concerned, whatever happens at the Miss America pageant, she'll still be Miss Kansas and will continue traveling the state until she relinquishes her crown this summer. Then she'll probably return to the University of Kansas, where she had been a business administration major before taking a year off to be Miss Kansas.

But if she does happen to win the Miss America crown, this year's Miss Kansas first runner-up, Lindsey Hoover, Anthony, will inherit Alyssa's crown. Alyssa and Lindsey, Anthony, have been good friends since early childhood.

"I love Lindsey," Alyssa said. "I hope things turn out great for both of us."

### Salina Journal

TOM DORSEY / Salina Journal

Alyssa George talks to elementary school students during one of her many appearances across the state.

Reporter Gary Demuth can be reached at 822-1405 or by e-mail at gdemuth@salina.com.
Alyssa George, Minneapolis, Miss Kansas 2007, plays the piano for Garfield Elementary School students during an assembly in Abilene.

LEFT: Alyssa George eats a quick breakfast in a classroom at Bennington High School. RIGHT: Alyssa talks to high school students in Bennington.
Miss Kansas, Alyssa George, has been traveling the state as part of her duties.

Alyssa talks with elementary school students during an assembly in Abilene.

“She’s always been driven to succeed. She’s been competitive in everything she does, whether it’s piano, sports or dance. Any kind of competition motivates her.”

MARY BETH GEORGE, mother of Miss Kansas, Alyssa George
There's been no shortage of political intrigue lately in Kansas, but a scandal that really buried the needle on the Richter scale happened 52 years ago this month when Fred Hall was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court.

Let's count the ways this was a wild one:
1. Hall was a lame-duck governor at the time of the appointment, having been defeated earlier in the year in the Republican primary.
2. The appointment was made shortly after Chief Justice Bill Smith stepped down and only a few days before George Docking was sworn in to replace Hall as governor.
3. Smith had been quoted as saying, "You can rest assured I won't let George Docking appoint my successor."
4. The appointment was made by John McCuish, Hall's lieutenant governor, who took over governorship after Hall's resignation. It was McCuish's first and only significant official act in his 11-day tenure as governor.

The coup became known as the "Triple Play," and it changed the way Kansas chooses its justices. Instead of allowing the governor to appoint replacement judges between elections, the Legislature adopted the nominating commission procedure that remains in place today.

But 52 years after the changes were adopted, is it time for another change?

Stephen Ware, a University of Kansas law professor, has produced a study showing Kansas lawyers have more say in judicial selection than any other state. Under the current system, the state's nine-member commission includes five members from the bar and four appointed by the governor. The commission sends three nominees to the governor, who must pick from among the finalists.

Ware proposes a system in which the commission's nominees would be confirmed by the Senate. While critics say Senate confirmation creates the possibility that the process can become overly politicized and deter worthwhile candidates from seeking seats on the high court, Ware said that hasn't been a major problem in other states that have adopted the process.

"And our current system is no better than keeping politics out of the process," he said. "What we have is just a different kind of politics, more of an insider form of politics."

By changing to Senate confirmation in Kansas, he said, the process would be more open to the public.

It's great food for thought, especially in light of public outrage over the role the courts played in school finance in recent years. Five decades after the Triple Play made the political landscape tremble, perhaps it's time to consider another change.

Legislators have broached the subject a few times in recent years, and it's a debate worth continuing.

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Magical Chamber dinner planned

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The De Soto Chamber of Commerce’s growth has forced a change of venue of its annual dinner.

“We just outgrew The Crossing,” Chamber director Sara Ritter said of the downtown site of the last four annual meetings. “I’ll miss The Crossing and everything they bring to the meeting.”

But with 175 members signed on to attend the event, Ritter said the chamber had to find a larger site. This year’s meeting will be De Soto VFW Post 6654.

“We’re very lucky to have the VFW,” Ritter said. “It offers a place we can use and grow.”

The meeting will start with a social hour at 6 p.m. Saturday at the post. Dinner will be at 7 p.m. with the business and awards presentation to follow. Magician Tom Brogoon will take the stage at 8 p.m.

Those who come early to the social hour will have an opportunity to view the items in the silent auction. They include four paintings by Gil Rumsey, who opened a gallery and frameshop in downtown De Soto last month. Two of the paintings will appeal to fans of Kansas State or Kansas University, Ritter said. Rumsey will make a painting for De Soto Middle School (the current City Hall) available for the auction.

The silent auction features a number of sports artifacts, including George Brett and Derrick Jeter autographed baseballs, a Paul Pierce autographed basketball, a Vince Lombardi photo with a collage of two of his motivational speeches, a picture of Willie Mays making his famous running toward the wall.
Numbers spurs chamber dinner move

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catch in the 1954 World Series signed by the Say Hey Kid himself, and a photo of Elvis with Muhammad Ali.

The meal will once again be prepared by Bernadette’s Cakes and Catering. Although the same caterer has been a mainstay at chamber dinners, one thing will be different this year.

“Rather than a buffet line, the meal will be served this year because we have a little more room,” Ritter said.

The evening’s magical entertainment comes with the recommendation of Chamber President David Moore.

“Dave saw him and said he’s very good,” Ritter said. “He likes to get the audience involved — maybe someone not so outgoing or obvious. So that should be fun.”
(Board wants to discuss)

state tuition increases

By CHRIS GREEN
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TOPEKA (HNS) — The state Board of Regents could discuss next month whether to cap tuition increases to keep Kansas universities affordable.

Several board members expressed concern Wednesday that costs to students and their parents were rising too steeply and too rapidly.

However, they also worried that any new restrictions on such tuition charges could rob the state’s six public universities of the funding they need to excel.

The board scheduled a discussion of tuition charges for its Feb. 13 and 14 meetings. Board members also invited university leaders to offer their insights on the issue.

“This isn’t about looking back and making judgments,” said Regent Gary Sherrer of Overland Park. “It’s about looking ahead to the future.”

Each May, the state Board of Regents hears tuition and fee proposals from leaders at all six universities. The board then finalizes them the following month, which recently has meant endorsing each university’s proposal.

However, Regent Janie Perkins of Garden City said board members want to look at whether they need to set more definite parameters to guide schools in making their rate proposals.

Since 2002, tuition and fees at state universities have more than doubled at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. Increases at the state’s other schools have averaged at least 8 percent a year.
Authorizy announces grants, scholars

By SARAH KESSINGER
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TOPEKA (HNS) — The Kansas Bioscience Authority announced new planning grants Wednesday to develop centers of innovation in medical research and in marketable uses for Kansas grains.

Nearly $580,000 will aid in the planning of three new Kansas Bioscience Centers of Innovation, which are to be established to help commercialize bioscience research and help attract and expand related industries.

“They will define what it will take for Kansas to be a leader in these areas,” said Authority President Tom Thornton, during Kansas Bioscience Day at the Kansas Statehouse.

The grants include:
• $200,000 for planning the Kansas Center for Biomaterials Innovation and Design that includes the University of Kansas, Wichita State University, Pittsburg State University, Via Christi Health systems and over 20 other private industries and educational institutions and public organizations.
• $180,000 to help plan a Kansas Biosciences Innovation Center in Drug Delivery at the University of Kansas. The center would focus on pharmaceuticals and how to achieve desired effects.
• $200,000 to aid in the development of the Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design, which focuses on commercial opportunities for wheat, sorghum, small grains and native plants and prairie grasses. The center would be based at Kansas State University collaborate with the Kansas Wheat Commission and research programs at KU.

“We believe this can develop industrial uses for wheat, soybeans and other plants,” Thornton said.

Thornton said the centers would seek to develop new business opportunities both in urban and rural Kansas. He also said the Bioscience Authority wants to continue hearing the public’s ideas at upcoming stakeholder meetings in Kansas communities.

“We get very, very excited about getting out and listening to what priorities are around the state,” he said.

The authority, a $581 million initiative, is funded by a tax on bioscience firms. It was created by the Legislature’s Kansas Economic Growth Act in 2004 to expand research, support bioscience start-ups and expand and attract existing industries.

The authority also introduced its first two “eminent scholars” Wednesday. The researchers accepted invitations to Kansas to conduct bioscience studies with potential to become new enterprises in the state.

The new scholars are Blake Peterson, a professor of medicinal chemistry who joined the University of Kansas from Pennsylvania State University and Juergen Richt, who will join Kansas State University this spring as an animal health researcher.

Peterson develops synthetic cell receptors as a new tool for drug delivery and studies small molecule-protein interactions to generate potential therapeutic leads. At KU, he will focus on developing anti-cancer drugs and delivery systems. Funding for his work will total $5 million over five years.

Richt comes from the National Animal Disease Center and Iowa State University. His recent research includes emerging viral diseases of swine and prion diseases, such as mad cow disease. His expertise is in diagnostics and vaccinations, which he will apply at K-State’s Biosecurity Research Institute.
Courtney Hart, 16, competed recently in the Miss Kansas Teen USA scholarship pageant Dec. 14 at the Lied Center on the campus of The University of Kansas. Out of 33 contestants Courtney was chosen as one of five finalists and received third runner-up in the competition. She is a sophomore at Olathe Northwest High School.
Six named AG

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius appointed Douglas County District Judge Stephen Six attorney general Friday to replace Paul Morrison, who’s leaving office because of a sex scandal.

Six, from Lawrence, specialized in civil litigation with a Kansas City-area law firm before Sebelius appointed him to the bench in January 2005. His father, Fred, is a retired Kansas Supreme Court justice.

In picking the 42-year-old Six, Sebelius passed over other candidates who were better-known politically or who had served as federal or local prosecutors. When he ran successfully for attorney general, Morrison stressed that he’d served almost three decades as a prosecutor in Johnson County.

Morrison plans to leave office Jan. 31, having acknowledged in December that he’d had an extramarital affair with a former subordinate. She also accused him of professional misconduct, which he denies.

Six will fill the remaining three years of Morrison’s term and is expected to seek a full, four-year term in 2010. His new job also comes with a pay cut of nearly $22,000: the salary for a district court judge is $118,297, compared to $96,489 for the attorney general.

Six received his law degree from the University of Kansas in 1993 and then served as a clerk for Judge Deanell Tacha of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The following year, he joined Shamberg, Johnson and Bergman. The firm specializes in lawsuits "dealing with defective products, transportation accidents, medical malpractice, health care fraud and environmental issues.

His wife, Betsy, is a professor at the University of Kansas law school. He was an instructor as well in 2006.

Sebelius cited his experience as a litigator when she appointed him to fill a newly created judgeship in Douglas County.

In December, shortly after Morrison announced he would resign, Six said the idea of being appointed attorney general was "intriguing" but added, "I’m pleased where I am."

His father served on the Kansas Supreme Court from September 1988 until January 2003, having been appointed by Republican Gov. Mike Hayden.
Douglas County judge Six named Att’y General

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer


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“He has answered the call of public service again, and is ready to lead the people’s law firm effectively, responsibly, with character and integrity,” Sebelius said.

Morrison plans to leave office Jan. 31, when Six is sworn in, having acknowledged in December that he’d had an extramarital affair with a former subordinate. She also accused him of professional misconduct, which he denies.

Six said his grandfather taught him that a person’s word is their bond and that his father is known as a man of integrity and high ethical standards.

“I tried to follow these examples and live my life according to these standards,” Six told reporters. “I promise to serve with integrity as an independent representative of the people of Kansas.”

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Sebelius said she talked to the applicants about the job having both a professional and political role, but that wasn’t her only consideration.

“I’m eager to establish some continuity in the office. It’s been through a lot of turmoil,” she said. “I was really looking for somebody with a broad range of experiences and smart, capable and ready to step up and do the job as the head of the people’s law firm.”

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His father served on the Kansas Supreme Court from September 1988 until January 2003, having been appointed by Republican Gov. Mike Hayden after a lengthy private legal practice.

As other potential replacements for Morrison, Democrats had mentioned at least 15 other people. They included Securities Commission Chris Biggs, a former Geary County prosecutor, who narrowly lost the 2002 attorney general’s race; two former U.S. attorneys for Kansas, Randy Rathbun and Jackie Williams, and District Attorneys Nola Foulston, of Douglas County, and Charles Branson, of Douglas County.

Morrison’s downfall occurred because of his affair with Linda Carter, formerly the director of administration for the Johnson County district attorney.

She has said it began in September 2005, when Morrison was district attorney and her supervisor. According to her account, it lasted two years â€“ while Morrison ran for attorney general in 2006 and after he took office in January 2007. At the urging of Sebelius and state Democratic Party Chairman Larry Gates, Morrison switched to the Democratic Party to challenge Republican incumbent Phill Kline in the attorney general’s race. After Morrison defeated Kline, state law allowed Republicans to fill the county job â€“ and they chose Kline.

Carter continued working for Kline until the end of November. Before leaving, she filed a claim with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The state board that reviews allegations of misconduct against attorneys also is investigating Morrison’s conduct, and Kline has said he will appoint a special prosecutor for a criminal investigation.

Carter alleges that Morrison tried to use her to influence a federal lawsuit filed by eight former employees of the district attorney’s office who were dismissed by Kline. She also alleges that Morrison tried to get her to provide sensitive information about Kline’s activities. He denies those allegations.