Alison Nicole Owens was one of more than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas which earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester. These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City represent 101 of 105 Kansas counties, 42 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare. Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top ten percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum grade-point average for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

KU names Alison Owens as honor student for spring

Alison Nicole Owens was one of more than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas which earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester. These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City represent 101 of 105 Kansas counties, 42 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and
Nursing student finishes degree in Iraq

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — A University of Kansas student finished his nursing degree while tending to patients in a makeshift hospital in Iraq.

Robert Hafner was deployed in 2007 as a registered nurse with the Army Reserve. While he treated Iraqi soldiers, police and women and children who were caught in the crossfire, Hafner worked online to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Hafner worked in a hospital in Al Asad, Iraq, helping patients who suffered burns. He had to deal with heavy gusts of wind that would send fine particle dust into what the nurses had hoped would remain a clean room. The nurses also lacked the plethora of bandages most burn units use.

Hafner was one of two burn specialists in his unit. Most U.S. servicemen and women would be automatically airlifted if injured, but nurses at Al Asad treated Iraqi forces and civilian casualties.

Between bursts of patients, a fellow soldier served as Hafner's proctor as he completed the last eight hours for his degree.

Hafner, who returned to the U.S. three weeks ago, was surprised Tuesday with a hospital ceremony where School of Nursing Dean Karen Miller gave him his diploma.

His wife, Janelle, and 7-month-old daughter, Anya, watched as Hafner greeted a line of supporters and well-wishers.

Rita Clifford, associate dean of student affairs, said Hafner was the first to finish his bachelor's degree while on active duty.

Hafner said the two major things he gained from the experience were serving in a leadership role and the ability to translate techniques he was studying in his textbook into usable information.

Hafner will resume work this week at the Burnett Burn Center at University of Kansas Hospital, where he was employed before he was called up. In the fall, he plans to begin work on a master's degree.

Janelle Hafner said she was proud of the work her husband did.

"It's great," she said. "He worked hard. His lab partner here had a completely different schedule, so they had to figure out who would get what part of the project done when."

Although there's a chance Robert Hafner may be called back for another tour, he said he was simply happy to be home.

"I mostly like to spend time with my daughter," he said. "I'm really liking that."
Artists Flock To Scenic Flint Hills For Vistas

By JAN BILES
The Topeka Capital-Journal

BAZAAR (AP) -- Dale Hartley bends over her wet oil painting lying in the tall grass at the side of a gravel road southeast of Bazaar. She adds streaks of colors to the canvas to recreate the motion of the grass as it bends in the wind and the sunlight reflecting off the deep-green blades.

Hartley, a painter-potter who grew up in Wichita and now lives in Saffordville, has grown to love the rolling Kansas prairie and joins other plein air artists nearly every week in setting up their portable easels and paint boxes in an attempt to capture the horizon-filling landscape.

"It takes your mind off everything else," she said.

Judith Mackey began painting the Flint Hills on location in 1966. That year she moved to Topeka with her husband, Kenneth, who was stationed with the military in the capital city. By 1972, they had purchased land near Cottonwood Falls and four years later built a home on that property.

"I can look out my front door and see prairie fires at night," she said, adding wildflowers grow outside her front door and creeks cut through their land. "I rarely go outside of Chase County (to paint). I don't need to."

Mackey recalls one day, during a snow shower at sunset, she watched five eagles playing in the wind currents over the Cottonwood River. She translated what she had seen into an oil painting that hangs in her Flint Hills Gallery, which opened in 1987 in downtown Cottonwood Falls.

"When you're out there and hear the birds, smell the flowers and feel the heat, and hear the wind blowing through the grasses, it's more inspirational," she said.

Dana Hassett, of Auburn, met Mackey at a ranch near Burns a few years ago and began joining her on plein air excursions in the Flint Hills.

Hassett and her husband showed quarterhorses throughout the United States for 38 years. After suffering a head injury, Hassett, who earned a degree in design from The University of Kansas, switched her interests to painting.

"Being on location "teaches you to see," Hassett said. The panoramic view of the prairie must be edited to a segment that will fit a canvas. Colors must be analyzed to determine their subtleties, and the light must be documented before it changes.

"It's never the same day to day," she said. "You have no luck coming back the next day to recapture the scene you were painting."

Hassett said the greatest challenge to a plein air painter in the Flint Hills is the environment. "It's your glory and your albatross at the same time," she said.

In addition to the heat, the wind can tip over the tripods holding the easels. Varmints — snakes, bugs and reptiles — can be unnerving.

"When you come to paint, it's extremely intellectual and takes a lot of energy," she said. "You have to stay hydrated and be healthy."

Debbie Schroer, of Strong City, hauls her portable paint box, packed with brushes and oil paints, and tripod easel to the Flint Hills up to four times a week. If the temperature is too cold, she'll paint from the cab of her truck.

During a plein air trip, the artists will paint from 7:30 a.m. to about 6 p.m., with about an hour to 1 1/2-hour break for lunch.

"The light is perfect in the morning."

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ing and evening — that’s the best
time to paint," she said.

Schroer’s favorite thing to paint is
prairie fires. This spring, she rode on
the hood of a truck so she’d have a
close look at the flames and smoke
as ranchers burned the old vegetation
off their pasture land.

"It was so hot and sparks were fly-
ing," she said. "I love the play of
color and the shapes it gets and how
it takes on a life of its own. I love to
paint the smoke because there’s so
many colors in it."

Mackey said she can tell the dif-
ference between a plein air painting
of the Flint Hills and one that’s
based on a photograph of the land-
scape because a plein air painting’s
color values are more correct.

She also sees a difference in pain-
tings finished on location and those
started there but then brought in-
doors to finish. Those painted in-
doors end up "darker than they
should be," she said.

Mackey says painting the Flint
Hills is a "spiritual thing" for her.

"I love being there. It’s like where
I’m supposed to be," she said. "It’s
kind of mystical."
Survey Report Saturday On City Lake Bottom

A report on a biological survey of the Council Grove City Lake, conducted on May 8, by a team from the University of Kansas, will be presented during a City Lake Association meeting at 9 a.m., Saturday, at the Community Christian Church. The public is invited.

The meeting also will include comments by the two candidates for county commissioner in District 2, and a brief summary of the USD 417 school bond issue, followed by a question and answer session. Voter registration also will be available at the meeting.

The team of scientists will report on the city lake biological survey, and distribute maps of the lake at Saturday's meeting.

Funded by the Kansas Water Office, the Kansas Biological Survey's Applied Science and Technology for Reservoir Assessment team employs state-of-the art bathymetric mapping sonar that creates 3-D color-coded depth maps of reservoirs and highly detailed maps of lake bottom contours and sediment thickness.

Maps resulting from the survey will be of interest to boaters, fishermen, lake residents and city officials. The bathymetric survey also creates tables that show the capacity of the lake.
Several area students are among the more than 4,900 undergraduates earning honor roll distinction for the spring semester at the University of Kansas.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade point average and others raise the minimum grade point average for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Area students on the honor roll are:

Council Grove -- Aric Aldrich, Liberal Arts junior; Molly Aldrich, Pharmacy; Hali Baker, Liberal Arts senior; Benjamin Hornung, Liberal Arts junior; Brenda Pracht, Pharmacy; and Kaylee Sarratt, Liberal Arts junior.

Alma -- Chase Boucher, Liberal Arts junior; Carolyn Haller, Liberal Arts sophomore; Amanda Lasswell, Education senior; and Jenny Wilson, Allied Health senior.

Northern Heights -- Stuart Symmonds, Business senior, and Justina Mollach, Liberal Arts sophomore.

Cottonwood Falls -- Carl Black, Pharmacy; Jordan Kline, Pharmacy; and Noah Lock, Liberal Arts junior.

Herington -- Brian Blackwell, Engineering sophomore, and Taylor Erickson, Liberal Arts junior.
LAWRENCE (AP) -- By the time police found the body of a slain University of Kansas student last week, the man suspected of killing her was already more than 1,000 miles away in New Jersey, according to a timeline released by the Lawrence Police Department.

Police found Jana Mackey, a 25-year-old University of Kansas law student, dead Thursday night at the home of ex-boyfriend Adolfo Garcia-Nunez, a 46-year-old artist who also went by the name Fito Garche. According to police, Garcia-Nunez hanged himself in a holding cell after being arrested Friday in Elizabeth, NJ.

In a timeline released Monday, Lawrence police said Mackey, a second-year law student from Hays, was likely killed Wednesday between 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Mackey was last seen leaving class at the start of that time window. At its end, someone spotted Garcia-Nunez at a Lawrence convenience store before he apparently left for New Jersey.

After Mackey didn't show up to class the next day, a friend reported her missing at 4:36 p.m., police said. About two hours later, police found Mackey's vehicle in a hospital parking lot near Garcia-Nunez's home. Police said they found her dead around 11 p.m. in his home.

Lawrence police Capt. Dan Ward wouldn't provide specifics on how Mackey died, citing her family's wish not to know. But Ward did indicate that there was a struggle. "There was a physical altercation between the two of them," Ward said. "During that altercation, Mr. Garcia also received some injuries from Jana fighting back."

By the time police found Mackey's body, Garcia-Nunez had been in New Jersey for about five hours, according to the police timeline. He had brought his 18-year-old son and 19-year-old daughter with him to New Jersey, where his children's mother lives.

"The son and daughter were not privy to what had occurred, fortunately," Ward said. "They were not involved."

On Friday morning, authorities found the suspect's Ford F-150 pickup truck in Elizabeth, NJ. About 12 hours later, with cooperation from Garcia-Nunez's family, Elizabeth police found Garcia-Nunez at a New Jersey home and arrested him on a second-degree murder warrant from Douglas County, Lawrence police said.

Garcia-Nunez's was found in a holding cell early Saturday morning.
LAWRENCE — Lawrence police are searching for a 46-year-old man charged with second-degree murder in the off-campus death of a University of Kansas student.

Twenty-five-year-old Jana Lynne Mackey was found dead Thursday in a home near Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

According to police, Mackey was reported missing around 4:30 p.m. Her car was subsequently found in the hospital parking lot, and her body was found later.

Police have issued an arrest warrant for Adolfo Garcia-Nunez, who lives in the residence where Mackey was found.
Dean's honor roll

Danielle M. Costello of Emporia was named to the Fort Hays State University spring 2008 Dean's Honor Roll. To be eligible, students must have enrolled in 12 or more credit hours and have a minimum grade point average of 3.60 for the semester.

On KU honor roll

Emporia students named to the University of Kansas spring 2008 honor roll included Emporia High School graduates Luke S. Arndt, liberal arts undergraduate senior, son of Steven and Donna Arndt; Megan Ann Bollinger, liberal arts undergraduate junior, daughter of Timothy and Lynnette Bollinger; Nicholas P. Canales, liberal arts undergraduate senior, son of Victor and Barbara Canales; Bethany Joanne Christiansen, liberal arts undergraduate sophomore, daughter of Dwight and Jeanine Christiansen; Kaitlin Jenae Henry, liberal arts undergraduate junior, daughter of Steven and Rebecca Henry; Kara L. Hoggatt, liberal arts undergraduate senior, daughter of Jerry and Sabra Hoggatt; Chelsea D. Hudson, education undergraduate senior, daughter of Craig and Lori Hudson; Anne Catherine Kretsinger, liberal arts

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undergraduate senior, daughter of W. Brock and Mary Kretsinger; Josie Dawn Mead, liberal arts undergraduate junior, daughter of Joe and Dana Witten; Katherine Ann Moneymaker, liberal arts undergraduate sophomore, daughter of Richard and Cynthia Moneymaker; Derek Matthew Moore, liberal arts undergraduate senior, son of Mike and Margaret Smith; Devin Conn Sleezer, liberal arts undergraduate senior, son of Dave Sleezer; Bethany Anne Stanbrough, journalism undergraduate senior, daughter of Mark and Wendy Stanbrough; Jonathan Edward Starr, pharmacy professional prof 1, son of James and Bonnie Starr; Tyler John Thompson, engineering undergraduate sophomore, son of Kenneth and Deborah Thompson.

Also, Noah Andrew Lock, liberal arts undergraduate junior, son of Tony Lock, graduate of Chase County High School in Cottonwood Falls; Justina Marie Mollach, liberal arts undergraduate sophomore, daughter of Steven and Tamara Mollach, graduate Northern Heights High School in Allen; Jillian Marie Strobel, fine arts undergraduate sophomore, daughter of Anne Strobel, graduate Great Bend High School in Great Bend.
Area students named to the University of Kansas spring 2008 Honor roll included those from Burlington: Nicholas Andrew Cherry, Jennifer Lynne Hoover, Wyatt Edward Meriwether and Bethany Lauren Scothorn.

From Cottonwood Falls were Carl Robert Black, Jordan Elizabeth Kline and Noah Andrew Lock.

From Council Grove were Aric Westin Aldrich, Molly Ann Aldrich, Hali M. Baker, Benjamin M. Hornung, Kaylee Ann Sarratt and Brenda Dawn Pracht.

From Lebo were Ashley Nicole Edwards and Eric Scott Gourley.

From Neosho Rapids, Greg Kevin Wellnitz.

From New Strawn, John Culbertson.

From Olpe were Megan R. Cole, Nicole Leann Schmidt and Matthew R. Torres.

From Reading, Stuart Nelson Symmonds.
Darren Haag of Olpe, a senior studying geography at the University of Kansas, was recognized in a May ceremony for "outstanding achievement at the Kansas Geological Survey" based at KU, according to a news release. Haag received the Norman Plummer Outstanding Student Award.

In the Survey Cartographic Services unit, Haag helps produce new geologic maps and has created Geographic Information Systems geology data for 45 Kansas counties from historical geologic maps.