Those from this area who were among 4,900 undergraduate students named to the spring honor roll at the University of Kansas were Travis Castle, son of Brian and Pam Simonsson, and Joe Castle, Pharmacy Professional; Serina Heikes, daughter of Nita Lavielle, Liberal Arts, senior; and Danica May, daughter of Richard and Delayne May, Liberal Arts, junior; all graduates of Decatur Community High School; Michelle Juenemann, daughter of Daniel and Delores Juenemann, Pharmacy Professional; and Kristin Wark, daughter of Vicki Allison, Liberal Arts, senior, Golden Plains High School.
KU announces honor roll for spring semester

More than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester.

Students from Marion County were: Chelsey Harmon, Durham, daughter of Tom and Carla Harmon; Emily Arnold, Hillsboro, daughter of Don and Gayla Ratzlaff; Megan Vogel, Hillsboro, daughter of Stanley and Joanne Vogel; Karson Craig, Marion, daughter of Kevin and Debbie Craig; Shawna Johnson, Marion; Amy Tajchman, Marion, daughter of Charles and Kay Tajchman; Kari Tajchman, Marion, daughter of Charles and Kay Tajchman; Krista Heiser, Ramona, daughter of Mark and Katherine Heiser; and Nathan Craft, Goessel, son of John Craft.
McMullen, KU students soar into space

The flight began like any other, after nearly a day of delays students from across the United States were shuffled aboard the large passenger jet waiting on the runway. Once aboard a member of the flight crew reminded us to have our seatbelts locked and seats in the upright position. The emergency exits were located and emergency procedures were reviewed. Once the plane taxied down the runway and took off everyone was anticipating the moment the fasten seatbelts light disappeared from the overhead view panel. When the light finally dimmed everything about the flight ceased to be normal. For the next hour and half the collection of students, journalists, and NASA personnel would alternate between being forcefully pulled to the bottom of the aircraft, and trying not to float away.

EFFORTLESS - Connor McMullen performs a one-handed push-up in zero gravity on a NASA education flight program.

See KU, Page 5
The flight portion of the NASA Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunity Program (RGSFOP) is the pinnacle of nine months of preparation and work done by undergraduate students, who in October of 2007 entered a paper to compete for a spot on the reduced gravity airplane, often labeled the Weightless Wonder. Of the fifty open slots, three teams from the University of Kansas won the chance to participate. During the first two weeks in June, the first of these three teams traveled to Houston to participate in the program. Lead by Plainville alumnus Connor McMullen, a sophomore Aerospace Engineering major at KU, Team ASSEMBLE began the trip of a lifetime. Jessica Snyder, Mark Stockham, and Ryan Shaffer, rounded out the rest of the team. This four member team was finally rewarded for the months of work put into this project.

To be accepted into this program, students must design and build an experiment for a zero gravity environment. This involved the writing of two papers, the first a proposal of the experiment including experiment goals, setups, and outreach plans. This is the competitive portion of the project, teams from universities around the United States write these papers and only fifty are selected each year. After being selected, the team begins the daunting task of completing the second paper. The Technical Equipment Data Package (TEDP) is a catch-all of safety calculations, procedure documentation, and emergency guidelines. During the completion of the second paper, the teams also construct their experiment, being careful to follow the over 1000 pages of NASA design guidelines.

Team ASSEMBLE designed their project around the well proven scientific fact of electromagnetism. The team name Assembly of Spacecraft Systems by ElectroMagnetic Binding and Locking Equipment (ASSEMBLE) provides a basic description of the theory behind the experiment. The electromagnetic system is being researched as a replace for the current gas thruster system used during docking procedures. On June 4th with a nearly complete experiment loaded into the back of their rental car, the four KU students head for Houston.

Upon arrival NASA’s Ellington Field, the team spent the first day receiving briefings and greetings from various NASA personnel, working on fine tuning the experiment, and meeting the other teams participating in Flight Week 2. Representatives from other notable schools including Purdue, Michigan, Texas A&M, as well as relatively small schools such as Michigan Tech, Lamar, New Jersey, and Missouri S&T. The teams all spent the evening getting to know each other over dinner at Fuddruckers that evening.

Friday was the first day the team really began to feel the NASA experience. After arriving at Johnson Space Center at 7:00 am and meeting adjacent to Mission Control, the students began five hours of briefings. The researchers, as they were now labeled by NASA, were being briefed on the effects of motion sickness, disorientation, and hypoxia, the effect of oxygen deprivation on the brain. After lunch the team headed out to the Sonny Carter Training Facility, home of the Neutral Buoyancy Lab (NBL). The NBL is a 6.2 million gallon pool used by astronauts to train for space walks, as the water simulates some effects of weightlessness. After a brief tour, the team sat in on more briefings, and prepared for their first taste of being an astronaut.

Each student was fitted with their very own pilot’s cap and mask, spurring more than one student to comment on how much they looked and felt like Tom Cruise in “Top Gun”. The excited group of students were then lead into one of the two pressure chambers located on site. Once inside the door was locked and the room began to depressurize. Immediately, the air inside the room dropped nearly twenty degrees, and rolling fog momentarily filled the enclosure. The air pressure was slowly being dropped to represent the atmosphere at 25,000 feet. For reference, the cabin pressure inside the typical passenger is representative of a comfortable 8,000 feet. Once the target pressure had been reached, half of the students were asked to drop their masks, which had been pumping 100% into their lungs during the pressure change. Two KU students, Connor and Jessica, were in the first group to go off oxygen. The first deep breath, and the second, all felt normal. At the one minute mark the students were then asked to begin to fill out a worksheet located beside their seat. The first line, your name and birth date minus twenty years, went by without a hitch. Then came the math problems. What a normal engineering student would consider child’s play became next to impossible in the oxygen depleted environment. Out of the four KU students there were four correct problems out of the twenty. For example, Connor McMullen computed four times twelve to be 328. Obviously, the students were experience the mental problems associated with oxygen deprivation.
At the three minute mark Jessica began to feel nauseas, another side effect of hypoxia, and donned her mask. Seconds later, Connor had to be assisted in putting his mask back on. His reaction after leaving the chamber, “I knew I needed to put my mask on. I stared at it for what seemed like eternity, but I just couldn’t seem to get my hands to do what I wanted.” This is typical of hypoxia, loss of motor function and a feeling of apathy take control of the subject, and by the time they realize there is a problem it is too late. The second group, containing the other KU students, Mark and Ryan, fared equally well. Mark’s movements became extremely sluggish, and the math problems required his full concentration, something Ryan lacked as he spent long stretches of time staring at nothing. Within seconds of donning their masks with 100% oxygen, the students regained full motor and mental capacities. After a short debrief, the students headed back to the hotel for the weekend. The weekend offered little relaxation in the air-conditioned confines of Minute Maid Park. The team went to bed early Sunday evening, knowing that on Monday they had the Test Readiness Review (TRR) to check out the flight suits, and Ryan, waited along with the other students for their first weightless experience.

Once the students had settled in around their flight suits donned ready to fly. There was only one problem, the plane, was not as ready as they were. Mechanical problems and an afternoon thunderstorm grounded the day’s planned flight. Luckily Wednesday weather promised looking morninging.

The next morning the teams gathered in the now vacated hangar, a good sign as the plane was now parked on the runway and filed into the morning briefing. After a short medical briefing, and final bathroom pressing heaviness of twice the normal gravity resumed. After adjusting for the first few segments of zero gravity, Connor and Ryan began experimentation. As with any experiment, the team had planned for the conditions they expected, the only problem was, there was no way to anticipate what they would feel in weightlessness. That went for the experiment as well. Where in a normal gravity environment the movement of the test electromagnets was predictably down, in a zero gravity environment their movements became erratic and unpredictable. This lead to unforeseen problems with the experiment, and data gathering on their flight was impossible. The flight was not a total loss however, as the students still had several zero gravity sessions to experience weightlessness. Ryan performed a front flip and Connor did his best Superman flight impression in zero gravity sessions. The flight ended with a lunar gravity segment. Both Connor and Ryan took advantage of this one sixth gravity environment to perform several one-handed push-ups. “The hardest part of doing the one-handed push-ups was trying not to fly away.” Ryan reminisced.
Mark and Jessica got their crack at the Weightless Wonder later that afternoon. After some lunch time troubleshooting, their experimental results were better, but still less than expected. "We had the same problems as in the first flight, but were able to get a few good trials in; hopefully we have something on video." Mark recalled shortly after getting off the airplane. The entire experiment was recorded and the team is now sifting through the visual data, hoping for something to use for their final report in June.

The trip in Houston was wrapped up with a visit to Mission Control and other parts of Johnson Space Center, including the original Apollo control room, where the real mission control was during the Apollo missions, notably the moon landing of 11 and the drama of 13. When asked if they would like to return with an experiment for next year, the team replied with a resounding yes. Each team member had an incredible experience on the trip. The pressure chamber, exclusive NASA tours, networking, and of course, the flights were all part of the best two weeks of the year. Even though the project took several months to formulate, design, and build the end result was a once in a lifetime opportunity. For more information on the Reduced Gravity Flight Opportunities Program, the team's experiment, or the University of Kansas, School of Engineering, please contact Connor McMullen at lefty80@ku.edu or (785) 550-9793.

Connor is a graduate of Plainville High School '06 and is a junior at the University of Kansas majoring in Aerospace Engineering. He is the Activities Chairman for the School of Engineering Student Council, the Experimental Balloon Society Treasurer, and a Microgravity Team Leader.
KU announces its honor roll

More than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas 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, Kan., 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 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 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.

Students from our area listed on the honor rolls are:

**Stacey Leigh Canton,** daughter of Jay and Kim Canton of Ashland. She is a senior in Liberal Arts.

**Adrianne Victoria Odermann,** daughter of Barbara Odermann of Ashland. She is a sophomore in Liberal Arts.

**Bruce Alan Romans,** son of Julie and Lonnie Sarver of Ashland, is a junior in Engineering.

**Meghan Breanna Lem,** daughter of Mark and Becky Sherman of Coldwater, is in Pharmacy.

**Kaci A. Rietzke,** daughter of Tim and Marilyn Rietzke of Coldwater, is a senior in Nursing.
Two Coldwater girls were among more than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester.

Those two were Meghan (Sherman) Lem, 1997 graduate of Coldwater High school and daughter of Mark and Becky Sherman of Coldwater, and Kaci Rietzke, 2004 graduate of South Central High School and daughter of Tim Rietzke and Marilyn Rietzke of Coldwater.

Those 4,900-plus students 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 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 10 per cent 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.
Westport music guru-turned-
KU mascot finds true love

David Klepper
The Kansas City Star

LAWRENCE (AP) — White Owl has found his spring chicken, and we’re all invited to the wedding.

“I’m blessed,” said the Vietnam veteran-turned-free-spirited campus character. “Too blessed to be depressed.”

Local music aficionados know White Owl as Jim “Saul” Tucker, the longtime music guru at Pennylane Records in Westport. After an apartment fire prompted a move to Lawrence last year, the 61-year-old reinvented himself as a tie-dyed mascot to the University of Kansas football and basketball teams.

And just over a month ago, he found love in the form of 22-year-old Julia Lee, a university student from Lawrence. The two met after White Owl, who now goes by that American Indian name, spoke in one of Lee’s classes. She approached him afterward, and they’ve been inseparable since, both said.

“She wants to be Ms. White Owl,” he said. “She’s the greatest friend to me. God has granted my prayers.”

He said a few people had questioned the couple’s age difference, but “love is love.”

For her part, Lee said she felt an immediate connection to White Owl. She said she’s unsure why so many people are interested in the engagement. The couple’s love story has been written up in the student newspaper, and it’s big talk around campus.

“I don’t know why there’s so much interest, but it’s wonderful,” Lee said.

Save the date: The wedding is at 2 p.m. July 27 at the Loose Park Rose Garden. White Owl said he’s serious when he says “everyone” is invited. He’s also serious about the dress code. “I want everybody to dress comfortably,” he said. “It’ll be hot.”

The happy couple plans to roost in Lawrence. Citing the phrase, “Bloom where you are planted,” White Owl said, “I’m planted.”

Before he took root in Lawrence, White Owl was a familiar face in Westport for the many years he dispensed musical advice to enthusiasts. Since Pennylane Records closed, he worked at other record stores and disc jockeyed at local bars. He worked on a book about the chemical Agent Orange, which he blames for disabling him during Vietnam.

“People down here in Lawrence think they know me the best,” he said. “But Kansas City has known me for years.”

White Owl said he now feels at home on the KU campus where, thanks to his age, he can audit classes, whichever ones he wants on any given day for free. After befriending student athletes, he became a regular at football and basketball games. White Owl’s dances were featured on ESPN, YouTube and in countless photos this year as the Jayhawks won the Orange Bowl and then the national championship in basketball.
University of Kansas students studying bees

LAWRENCE (AP) — Bees. They can be a nuisance, hovering around picnics and menacing pets and children. But researchers at the University of Kansas think they might be the key to harnessing new types of engineering technology.

Rudolf Jander, professor of animal behavior, and two students, Jason Palikij and Daniel Najera, are studying how European honeybees find their way back to their hives when disoriented. It’s research that could produce a new generation of unmanned space vehicles or safer firefighting techniques.

“If they can close some of the knowledge gap about bee orientation, it would be quite helpful for the engineers,” Jander said. He said engineers are fascinated by how insects use their tiny brains, and so they look to scientists for explanations.

The research is being done in a field near the Dole Institute of Politics.

Palikij, a graduate student in entomology, is hoping to “train” honeybees to find their way back to their hives. Studying a theory he calls the Peripheral Correction Area, Palikij spends his days observing the bees’ travel patterns. He began the experiment in mid-June.

“Bees have been studied for a long time,” said Palikij, 26, noting that Aristotle observed bees in ancient times. But the type of work he is doing is unlike anything the Greek philosopher could have imagined.

“In terms of entomology and them with a cotton swab tipped with water-based paint.

“I’m not Picasso, but it does the job,” he said.

This leg of the experiment will be complete by Friday. The next phase is to disorient the bees by taking them about 150 meters away from the hive, then moving them to a feeding area 15 meters from the hive.

Bees might be pesky, but they deserve to be researched, Jander said.

“It is very difficult to over-

Overstate the importance of honeybees in agriculture, economics and scientific insight,” he said.

“There is no other insect in the world that has had more scientific research than honeybees.”

Insect behavior, it is groundbreaking,” he said.

Palikij uses two tables, spaced 15 meters apart, and two jars with an enticing licorice-smelling syrup, to observe the bees as they feed on the liquid, then fly off to their hives. Periodically, he will move the jars to different tables, confusing the bees. He can then watch to see whether they find their bearings.

He observes for five minutes at a time, or for 15 bee departures, taking notes on a voice recorder about where the bees go after feeding.

The researchers have had one problem: Other bees joining for dessert.

To differentiate between his bees and others, Palikij dabs his with green paint, gently tapping
Making a Difference

New doctor and family return to Chanute

Dr. Martin Dillow said he and his wife Tricia have always wanted to come home to Chanute

Stu Butcher
Executive Editor

Two familiar faces, and three not-so-familiar little faces, are moving back to Chanute in August.

Martin Dillow, M.D., will serve Ashley Clinic and Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center.

Dillow and his wife, Tricia, grew up in Chanute, and they want to raise their family here.

“When I decided to go into medicine, I was pretty sure that I would return to Chanute,” Dillow said. “My wife and I have always wanted to return to Chanute. We both have such fond memories of growing up here. Because of this, we can’t imagine raising our children anywhere else.

“Our journey has exposed us to many towns and cities. Very few are as friendly and welcoming as Chanute. We are very excited about the growth that we have seen in Chanute since we left about 10 years ago and can’t wait to reestablish our home here.”

Trained in family medicine, Dillow’s college education began at Neosho County Community College where his focus was athletic training. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology at Emporia State University. Then came two years at KU Med in Kansas City, two years at KU Med-Wichita, and a three-year residency at Via Christi Family Medicine in Wichita.

When asked when he first wanted to be a doctor, he said, “I don’t recall when I first realized that I wanted to be a physician. When I was at Emporia State, I was made aware of a Summer Mentor program through KU Med. This enabled me to shadow Dr. (Mark) Wendt for a summer (in Chanute). This is when I realized that I not only wanted to be a doctor, but that I wanted to do family medicine.”

He said he enjoys all aspects of family medicine, with special interests in Sports Medicine, Pediatrics and OB.

Wife Tricia is a Registered Nurse. She trained at Emporia State after graduating from Chanute High School. She has worked on the cardiac floor at St. Luke’s in Kansas City, Mo., and in radiation oncology at Via Christi in Wichita.

“She stopped working after the birth of our most recent child, Kiley,” Dillow said. “She currently stays home to take care of our three children. She would like to return to nursing once all the children are in school.”

Boys Brayden and Trey are 5 and 3, while Kiley is 10 months.

Both sets of grandparents are Chanute residents, Ernie and Judy Dillow, and Craig and Phyllis Thompson.

“We anticipate that this will be our last stop,” Dillow said.
LAWRENCE (AP) — Lawrence police are searching for a 46-year-old man as part of their investigation into 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 are looking for Adolfo Garcia-Nunez, who lives in the residence where Mackey was found. Police are calling him a person of interest in the case.

He was last seen driving a white Ford F-150 pickup truck.
KU spring honor roll announced

Oscar Cuevas, Altamont, Fine Arts Undergraduate; Karen Rochelle Mowder, Altamont, daughter of Lynn Mowder, Liberal Arts Undergraduate; and Jodi Elizabeth Heins, Edna, Allied Health Undergraduate were on the Kansas University spring honor roll.