Richmond volunteers during spring break

Marion High School graduate Amber Richmond is among 49 University of Kansas students who will work March 15-22 with agencies across the country.

Instead of basking on a beach during spring break, Richmond will volunteer with the Extra Hands for ALS organization in Dallas, Texas.

Students will learn about ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's disease) and work with people who have the disease. The experience also will include working at an ALS clinic.

Richmond is a junior majoring in pre-pharmacy. She is the daughter of Rodney and Diane Richmond of Marion.
Coldwater Graduate Earns Place on KU Honor Roll

More than 4,540 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2007 semester.

Among those on the list was 1997 Coldwater High School graduate Meghan (Sherman) Lem, daughter of Mark and Becky Sherman of Coldwater.

These students, from KU’s Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing in Kansas City, represent 96 of 105 Kansas counties, 43 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the various schools within the university.
Marmon takes position at KU

LAWRENCE — To help keep the University of Kansas prepared for any natural or manmade disaster, KU officials have named a law enforcement veteran with experience in Homeland Security Operations as its emergency management coordinator.

John Marmon, who spent 27 years with the Kansas Highway Patrol, began his new role with KU’s Public Safety Office in January.

“Safety is a priority for the university,” said KU Police Chief Ralph Oliver. “John’s position represents part of our continual efforts to ensure a safe, responsive environment.”

Marmon’s responsibilities will include helping the university meet National Incident Management System standards developed by the Department of Homeland Security. NIMS establishes a uniform set of procedures that emergency responders at all levels of government will use to conduct response operations. Marmon has been an instructor in NIMS-related courses for law enforcement personnel.

Such standardization is key in a major event that brings together more than one agency, said Marmon, noting he used his NIMS expertise while assisting in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

“If we’re standardized, I can walk into an incident in Mississippi, and I know what to do,” he said.

Such consistency will lead to a safer campus and quicker response time in emergencies, Marmon and Oliver emphasized. Marmon will work with officials campuswide to better prepare the university. He also will work to update and streamline KU’s plans for emergencies.

“An emergency plan is a living, breathing document,” he said. “Revisions will be ongoing.”

In the highway patrol, Marmon was an instructor on critical incident command and response to domestic terrorism. He also has taught classes on weapons of mass destruction and the incident command system. In addition to aiding Hurricane Katrina recovery, he was deployed to Greensburg after a tornado devastated the community. He also responded to major flooding and an oil spill in Montgomery County in July 2007.

Before joining the patrol in 1980, Marmon was a patrolman in his hometown of Garnett. He joined the Kansas Highway Patrol in 1980 and was assigned to road patrol duties in the Emporia area. In 2000, Marmon transferred to the patrol’s Emergency Operations division. He joined Homeland Security Operations in 2004, the year the division was formed.

Marmon earned an associate’s degree in police science from Allen County Community College and a bachelor’s in business administration from Baker University.
Sunflower Gymnastics to be honored at Business of the Year ceremony

HAYS—Nineteen businesses will be recognized for their accomplishments at a ceremony in the state Capitol at 3 p.m. on March 11, when the Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC) presents its fifth annual Emerging and Existing Businesses of the Year Awards ceremony.

Among the emerging businesses to be recognized is Sunflower Gymnastics LLC, Osage City, Emporia and Burlington, owned by David and Stacie Doemland.

Each of the eight KSBDC regional centers selected at least one emerging and one existing business in its region for the award. The businesses will be recognized with their local Kansas legislator presenting the award. These businesses were selected from more than 2,000 businesses that received KSBDC services in 2007.

The event will open with remarks from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius; Dr. Edward H. Hammond, president of Fort Hays State University; and Wally Kearns, state director, KSBDC. Antonio Doss, associate administrator of the Office of Small Business Development, U.S. Small Business Administration, will be the guest speaker.

This is a special year for the Kansas Small Business Development Center as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. The KSBDC has been an integral player in economic development in Kansas since its inception in October 1983. KSBDC clients create new wealth in Kansas by starting and growing businesses, creating and saving jobs, and accessing capital. Since its inception, KSBDC has consulted with 82,000 Kansas entrepreneurs. In addition, 82,452 Kansans have participated in 4,863 KSBDC workshops.

2007 award recipients and their businesses:

Existing businesses — Senset Salon, LLC, Emporia; Gary and Marilina Poff, owners; The Western Times, Sharon Springs, Julie Samuelson, owner; Protow Glass & Body (2006 recipient), Protection, John and Patricia Gean, owners; Sunflower Home Health Inc., Garden City, Christa McKinney, owner; CHC Creative Remodeling, Lenexa, Kevin and Judy Transue, owners; Front Row Sports, Garnett, Roger and Sandy Sample, owners; Chavez Restoration, Lawrence and Topeka, Dan, Trinidad and Richard Chavez, owners; Smith Audio Visual Inc., Topeka, Larry Heilman, owner; A Box 4 U, Wichita, Jeff Lange, owner; The Feathered Nest, Tibbetts Brothers Inc., Belleville, Lynette Beam, manager.

Emerging businesses — Sunflower Gymnastics LLC, Osage City, Emporia and Burlington, David and Stacie Doemland, owners; Fox Pavilion, Hays, Brooks Kellogg, owner; KC Cippi Salsa, Hugo ton and Kismet, Kimberly and Christopher Sandoval, owners; Johnny Brusco’s New York Style Pizza, Overland Park, Mike Gleason, owner; The Decorum, Pittsburg, Judy Dugan, owner; Wheat State Pizza LLC, Lawrence, Ryan Murphy, owner; Cocoa Dolce Artisan Chocolates, Wichita; Beth Tully, owner; Pony Express Service Center LLC, Hanover, John L. Diederich, owner; JC Mortgage & Title Company, Junction City, Brenda Gentry, owner.

The Kansas Small Business Development Center Network is a statewide network of business assistance centers that provide free, confidential, one-on-one consulting designed to find practical solutions to business problems. The KSBDC is administered by Fort Hays State University and is a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Regional centers are at Emporia State University; Fort Hays State University; Garden City Community College; Johnson County Community College; Pittsburg State University; University of Kansas Washburn University; Washburn University in Topeka; and an outreach center in Manhattan; Wichita State University (Wichita State University in Wichita and an outreach center at Cloud County Community College in Concordia).

Two new outreach centers recently opened at Allen County Community College, Iola, and Independence Community College, Independence. These are a collaborative partnership with ESU and PSU. The community colleges are part of the Southeast Kansas SYSTEM of Higher Education, which also includes Coffeyville Community College, Fort Scott Community College, Labette Community College, and Neosho Community College.
Babcock to participate in Alternative Spring Breaks through KU

LAURENCE—For spring break this year, 49 University of Kansas students took their pick of seven getaway spots for a hurricane relief, language, and culture acquisition, conservation, health care, and a free vacation. Their sandy beach might be a Hurricane Katrina recovery site, and their night on the town could turn into a 48-hour homeless and covers their transportation and lodging expenses. 

KU students will work March 18-22 with agencies in alternative Breaks program centers in Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, and South Carolina, Texas, and Washington, D.C. Their experience will include providing part of their educational experience. After students are selected for the program, they are required to attend the Special Projects in the Community course to prepare them for their trips.

An Alternative Spring Break counts as one unit for the University Honors Program, which requires students who want to graduate with honors to complete one or two honors units outside the classroom.

KU Junior John Babcock, a Holton High School graduate, will be one of the site lead-
ers for the alternative Spring Break trip to the Newcomer Center in Arlington Heights, Ill. Babcock will work in the classroom with the high school students to help them learn English and adjust to American high school life. Babcock is the son of Paul Babcock, formerly of Holton, and is a fine arts and music major at KU, established in 1995 at KU with Alternative Breaks was founded in 1995 at KU with runs 15 volunteer programs and serves as a coordinating group for KU students interested in volunteer projects. The Newcomer Center is a spring break trip to El Paso, for high school students who have recently arrived in the United States and have limited opportunities to volunteer and gain language. With a full schedule of academic classes, students acquire the knowledge needed to transition into their new high schools. They need to transition into recovery, a student-run and student-funded organization that
Kansas University Honors

On February 27th, six Horton High School Seniors joined other students from Brown and Doniphan counties, as they attended a ceremony sponsored by the Kansas University Alumni Association. The banquet was held in honor of their academic accomplishments through their 1st seven semesters of high school. The students were treated to a catered supper, followed by musical entertainment provided by KU music students and then listened to a short presentation from a Kansas University law professor. Each senior was then presented with a collegiate dictionary, as well as a certificate. Seniors honored at the event from Horton High School were: Nathan Britt, son of Tracy and Alisa Britt; Natalie Pederson, daughter of Tim and Stacy Pederson; Kelsey Rice, daughter of Dean and Brenda Rice; Erin Ross, daughter of Tim and Jana Ross; Mark Ross, son of Dennis and Lynda Ross; and Melbien Tinio, son of Benny and Ami Tinio. Accompanying the students and parents was Dave Norman, HHS principal.
LAWRENCE — Leaders at Kansas University are concerned that not offering benefits to domestic partners of faculty and staff may end up costing the university the ability to recruit some of the most talented candidates.

On Monday, the University Senate Executive Committee received a report on the possibility of extending benefits to domestic partners. Paul Farran, president-elect of KU's Unclassified Staff Senate and an advocate for the proposal, said several peer institutions already extend benefits to domestic partners.

Farran said the Faculty Senate committee on compensation has been examining the issue of domestic partner benefits for about a year and presented the report, though the meeting did not produce concrete action.

— Lawrence Journal-World
New reporter hired to cover Spring Hill

Jennifer McDaniel, an award-winning veteran journalist, will succeed Dustin Kass as the Miami County Republican's Spring Hill reporter.

Kass, who joined the Republic staff in February 2007, has been promoted to managing editor of the Osawatomie Graphic, where he will begin his new duties on Thursday.

McDaniel rejoined the Miami County Newspapers staff on Monday.

She received her bachelor's degree in print journalism from the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Kansas State University in 1993. Before joining the Osawatomie Graphic in 1998, she worked at newspapers in Colorado Springs and in Kansas at Independence, Cherryvale and Caney. Her experience has included coverage of all types of news and photography. During her time in Osawatomie she served as news editor and was later named editor in 2004.

While at the Graphic, she had won nearly 40 awards from the Kansas Press Association, including first-place awards for news writing, in-depth writing, investigative writing, feature writing, spot news, feature package and sports photography, as well as many second- and third-place awards for photography and writing. She was part of the reporting and editing team that led the Graphic to two Kansas Press Association Sweepstakes awards, numerous KPA News Writing and Excellence awards, the Burton W. Marvin Kansas News Enterprise Award from the University of Kansas and the Kansas City Press Club's Heart of America Award.

"I'm really excited to be returning to the newspaper in a new capacity. Dustin has done a tremendous job in increasing the Republic's coverage in Spring Hill, and I'm looking forward to continuing to strengthen our coverage," McDaniel said. "Spring Hill is a growing community, and it's really exciting to be given the opportunity to not only report on how that growth is shaping the city, but it's also an honor to have the chance to tell the stories of its residents."

McDaniel, and her husband, Jason, and their three children live in Paola.

"I'm excited to have Jennifer back with us and focused on Spring Hill," Republic managing editor Brain McCauley said. "Her knowledge of Miami County and award-winning writing will allow us to continue to provide in-depth coverage of Spring Hill and the surrounding areas."

Kass takes over the helm of the Graphic from Paola native Jeff Gulley, who has accepted a position as community outreach coordinator for the city of Raymore, Mo.

"I've had a great experience in Spring Hill, and I'm grateful to everybody I've worked with," Kass said. "I know Jennifer will continue our great coverage of the city."
KU students will provide volunteer help during spring break

For spring break this year, 49 University of Kansas students, including a local woman, took their pick of seven getaway spots — but not exactly for a carefree vacation. Their sandy beach might be a Hurricane Katrina recovery site, and their night on the town could turn into a 48-hour homeless experience.

KU students will work March 15 to March 22 with agencies in Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Washington, D.C. Their roles will include providing volunteer help with issues such as children’s services, conservation, health care, hurricane relief, language and culture acquisition, environmental preservation and people with disabilities. The program costs participants $250 ($210 for site leaders) and covers their transportation, housing and meals.

Brittany C. Barney, graduate of Paola High School and daughter of Andrew and Christy Barney of Louisburg, will spend her spring break at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind in Spartanburg, S.C. The school, a specialized instructional and resource center with outreach centers throughout South Carolina, works with deaf, blind and sensory-disabled individuals of all ages to provide educational, vocational and developmental services. KU students will work with visually impaired students 5 and older and also will help with indoor and outdoor projects designed to aid developmental abilities of the visually impaired individuals.

The student-run Alternative Breaks program centers on service-learning trips that offer students a unique opportunity to make volunteer efforts part of their educational experience. After students are selected for the program, they are required to attend the Special Projects in the Community course to prepare them for their trips.

An Alternative Spring Break counts as one unit for KU’s Honors Program, which requires students who want to graduate with honors to complete one or two honors units outside the classroom.

Alternative Breaks was established in 1995 at KU with a spring break trip to El Paso, Texas. Since then, it has expanded, with more sites and opportunities to volunteer being added every year. Alternative Breaks works in partnership with KU’s Center for Community Outreach, a student-run and student-funded organization that runs 15 volunteer programs and serves as a coordinating group for KU students interested in volunteer projects.
Capital gain — Topeka leads NE Kansas in donation dollars

BY JONATHAN KEELING
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Many Lawrence residents will declare with pride their status as the lone patch of blue in the big red state of Kansas. And they'll toot their horns when it comes to telling the rest of the state just what they think.

But when it comes to transforming those words into candidate donations, Lawrence isn't quite the lone ranger.

According to a Lawrence Journal-World analysis of election contributions in northeast Kansas since the last congressional election, Lawrence has one of the highest rates of donations per person of any community in the state, $2.04 per person. And it donates more in raw dollars — $163,353 — than most Kansas communities.

But Topeka, among all of the large communities in northeast Kansas, donates more in raw dollars and more per person than any other community, including the wealthy Kansas City suburbs in Johnson County. Residents of the nearly 40 ZIP codes that make up Topeka donated more than $420,564, or about $3.44 per person using 2000 census estimates.

Kansas University political science professor Allan Cigler said whether people make donations is often based simply on whether they're asked.

"A high proportion of the people who donate are activists themselves," Cigler said. "But (presidential candidate Barack) Obama has contributions from 1 million people. The Internet has really helped make that possible."

And while Topeka and Lawrence donate more, Manhattan holds its own in terms of donations per person. Manhattan residents donated about $1.85 per person. In Lawrence, the lion's share of recent presidential donations went to Barack Obama: $23,650, compared with $7,750 to Hillary Clinton. $4,600 for John McCain and $1,000 for Mike Huckabee.

A lot of the donations came in small amounts, from individual donors. Cigler said these types of donations are usually given by people who truly believe in the candidates.

Sending money away

Ernest Pogge, of Lawrence, donated $300 to the Republican National Committee, but also nearly $1,000 to U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole in North Carolina, someone who neither represents him nor does he know personally.

"I've been a fan of hers in the past, even before she got involved with running for the Senate," Pogge said. "I'm also a fan of her husband," former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas.

Pogge said he has to feel a connection to a candidate in order to send a donation. Cigler said that philosophy is common.

But sometimes the choice to contribute to a distant candidate is less personal than professional.

Michael Massey and Darrell Pavelka, high-ranking executives at Payless ShoeSource in Topeka, both made $1,500 contributions to the re-election campaign for U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y. The company's political action committee also made a $1,000 donation to each of his last two re-election campaigns.

Rangel, a Democrat, is chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means committee, which is considering a proposal to reduce tariffs on imported shoes, something very important to Payless.

Another local candidate who has benefited in money from outside state lines is Jim Ryun. Ryun is trying to retake the seat he lost to Nancy Boyda in 2006.

Cigler said Ryun has received a lot of money from wealthy donors in Texas.

"The parties develop a list of races they think will be com-
petitive and then they pass that around, seeking donations," Cigler said.

Escalating expenses

In recent elections, the amount of money donated and the number of donors has increased dramatically.

"It's far outpacing inflation," Cigler said.

Donald Chambers, a retired Kansas University professor, said he started giving money only recently because he felt the country was on the wrong path. The encouragement of his friends didn't hurt, either.

"I've never been so politically active and eager to donate to a candidate than I was to Nancy Boyd, Chambers said. In November 2006, Boyd claimed the Kansas 2nd District congressional seat that had been held for 10 years by Ryun.

Chambers cited dissatisfaction with the incumbent and a desire to see change nationally for his sudden interest in giving money to a politician.

"Among the people I spend time with, there was an urgency in the last election that everyone felt," Chambers said. "There was a lot of peer pressure. I participated in that."

Cigler said that while the big increases are visible at the presidential level, the same patterns are leading to more expensive races all the way down to the state Legislature.

He predicted that the competitors for the 2nd District congressional seat would each spend $2 million to $3 million this year, and he said there are already state legislative races where candidates are spending $100,000 or more.

Concerns raised

The biggest obstacle facing the American election system, Cigler said, will be finding a way to reduce the amount of influence money has on elections.

"The trick is to make money not talk as decisively as it does in elections now," he said.

No presidential campaign has been financed entirely by public money, Cigler said, and it's unlikely that one will be if the current system remains in place. Candidates who accept federal funding are limited in how much they can spend.

"There's not enough money to run the type of campaign the candidates want," Cigler said.

And even if more were pumped into the federal election financing system, there are two major concerns: whether voters would tolerate what is often viewed as welfare for political candidates, and whether it could stand a Supreme Court challenge.

Cigler thinks no on both counts. In fact, he doubts the current campaign finance laws would stand a challenge with the existing justices.

And that would be OK with Pogge, the Lawrence Republican.

"I'd just as soon the campaign donations were not government controlled, but people were free to contribute all they want to the person they'd like to see in office. That's part of democracy."