Tyler Brewer, professional studies lead instructor for criminal justice and Augusta Department of Safety Chief, saved a 15-year-old boy from drowning in late May when he jumped into a spillway to rescue a teen. The popular swimming spot on the Walnut River was swollen with recent rains and the boy (who had intended to show off his strong swimming skills) could not escape the undertow. A certified rescue swimmer who also teaches scuba diving in Wichita, Brewer was able to do a rescue vest, tie a rope around himself and swim into the river to rescue the teen.

Ken Cran dall, head football coach, was a presenter at the Kansas High School Activities Association annual meeting in Topeka in July.

Bill DeArmond, professor of mass communications and film, is an author of several poems and short stories published in three anthologies during the summer: Ceremony Collected, Writings to Honor and Cherish, and Breaking Silences. He also had works published in the journals Pointed Circle, Talking River Review, Off the Coast, and The Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry.

David Hofmeister, professor of teacher education and head of the division of education, was nominated and appointed to the state-level teacher education Evaluation Review Committee. It is a sub-committee of the KSDE Professional Standards Board which provides oversight to teacher education programs throughout the state. Hofmeister also was nominated to the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Board of Examiners. Hofmeister one of about 100 participants from a four-state area invited to participate in the June 5, 2007, U.S. Department of Education Regional Summit in Kansas City.

Jean-Gabriel Jolivet, assistant professor of political science, spoke to McConnell Air Force Base officers July 27 about the history of insurgencies and post-conflict operations as part of the ARW guest speaker series. He discussed the different forms of insurgencies and the strategies to deal with insurgencies through post-conflict and counter-insurgency operations.

Dawn Pleas-Bailey, vice president for student life and dean of students, will become co-state coordinator for the Kansas Chapter of the Office of Women in Higher Education. The group is a part of the American Council of Education. Pleas-Bailey will serve with outgoing coordinator Kathleen McCluskey of the University of Kansas during the coming year and will take over the coordinator’s role next year.

Christopher Schmitz, assistant professor of music, was awarded the 2007 Sammy Nestico Award for New jazz composition. His composition, “Transformation,” was written for big band. In November, he will fly to Washington, D.C., to receive his award. At the ceremony, the U.S. Air Force big band Armano of Nasa will perform an additional piece by Schmitz and also play “Transformation.”

David Gardner, assistant professor of music, performed both as soloist and conductor in Wichita Grand Opera’s season-closing gala performance June 2 at Bradley Fair. During July Gardner presented a reading session at the Kansas Choral Directors Association Western Summer Convention in Topeka.

Stephen Ran kin, professor of religious studies and campus minister, presented a paper at the Oxford Institute for Methodist Theological Studies at Oxford University, titled “Re-balancing the Cognitive Legacy: the Religious Affections in Christian Formation.” Rankin also did a video segment for the Wesley Minstry Network, which brought together scholars from around the globe to provide teaching materials in video format for Methodist pastors and preachers who are not able to get to a college or seminary. His segment was on the conversion of Charles and John Wesley in 1738.

Summi L. Sheets, graphic designer, and Heather Kesterson, professional studies coordinator of military education, earned master of business administration degrees from Southwestern College in August.

Michael Tessmer, associate professor of chemistry, participated in an advanced workshop on Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) in St. Paul, Minn., June 21-23, 2007. The workshop was part of the National Science Foundation-funded POGIL Project which focuses on increasing student engagement and data analysis throughout the chemistry curriculum.


A son, Jackson Craig, born June 1, 2007, to Bryan and Julie (Pettye) Davis ’93 ’97. He joins siblings Gyanie, Aly, Emma, Landon, Kaitie, and Isaac.

A son, Adam James, born March 19, 2007, to Jim and Jennifer Garrett ’94 ’97. He joins a brother, Noah.

A daughter, Bennett Lynn, born April 26, 2007, to Michael and Kerrie (Bennett) Pleasants ’95. She joins sister Maddox Macy.


Ada (Kopye) Wiedmann ’46, Lakewood, Colo., Aug. 19, 2007, after a long illness. Ada worked as a bookkeeper and accountant in Denver following completion of raising her children. She volunteered many thousands of hours at her church, started a Lupus support group for young women, and supported local shelters for battered women as well as other charities. Ada’s husband of 57 years, Bob, died this past April. Ada’s survivors include brothers Charles ’44, Kansas City, and Earl, Albuquerque, and sons Bill and John.

Paul D. Bowserock ’58 died March 26, 2007, at the age of 85. Paul enlisted in the U.S. Navy in December 1942 as a musician first class. He served during World War II aboard the U.S.S. Bunker Hill aircraft carrier. He played the tuba and the string bass in the Boston Pops Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic orchestra while he was enlisted. Paul also was a math and science teacher and later principal of Wayverly High School. He retired in 1984. Survivors include his wife, Esmee.

Dorothy (Hankins) Van Nus ’54 died July 1, 2007. Survivors include her husband, Robert, and two sons, Mark and John. Her husband was the band director at Southwest College in 1953 and 1954.

Jack O. Hearns ’57 died May 6, 2007, at the age of 71. Survivors include a son, David, and a daughter, Virginia.

Mildred (Sismore) Nolan ’57 died May 4, 2007. She was a retired educator.

Cliff L. Walker ’71 died in a recreational accident. At the time of his death Walker was Commander, U.S. Army Veterinary Command. Survivors include his wife, Meette, and four children.

Stanley Gibson Hammer ’43 died July 12, 2007, at the age of 86. Survivors include his wife, June, and sons Timothy ’77, daughters, Merriam Wombacher, Allisa Gaeth, and Leah Hammer-West, brother Gene; and sister Evelyn ’58.OUSE.

Alan E. Moore ’69 died May 16, 2007. A former SC employer in the Campus Information Center, he was 59. Survivors include his wife, Leslynn.

Do you have news? Contact the alumni office at (620) 259-6334 or e-mail information to southweste@ks.edu.

"NEW TO THE STAFF"

BRADLEY J. NEWELL ‘02 was one of nine students from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy chosen to participate in a summer elective clinical rotation that took him to Iquitos, Peru. The one-month rotation covered subjects ranging from holistic medications to culture and life in the Amazon Basin. Newell is a 2008 doctoral of pharmacy candidate at KU. The experience allows students to learn how medicine is practiced in South America, and to meet experts at the Hospital de la Luz and the National Institute for Traditional Medicine as well as attending workshops on medicinal plants and agronomy at the National University of the Peruvian Amazon’s Institute of Research. In addition, students learned about rituals and spirituality of the Peruvian people from shaman Xusona Nasimitos. The program is hosted by the Global Awareness Institute.

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Clements ’99 ’97. He joins brothers Alex, 59, and Nick, 19.

A daughter, Chloe Madely, born June 19, 2006, to Brian and Karissa (Wright) Boyd ’98.


A daughter, Katie Aspen, born May 1, 2007, to Jonathan and Melissa Conrad ’02 ’02.

A daughter, Susanna Linn, born June 15, 2007, to Layne and Rachel (Copeland) Knight ’02.


A daughter, Madelyn Ruth, born Aug. 27, 2006, to Raph and Abriel (Levit) Wussler ’02.

A daughter, Madysyn Avery, born May 15, 2007, to Mark and Denise (Nicholas) Garrett ’92.

friends