Chancellor addresses KU ‘family,’ shares in grads’ journey

It was an afternoon of traditions, both legendary and new. Cameras, cell phones, decorated hats, balloons, mortar boards and tassels filled Memorial Stadium as more than 4,000 graduates – including 700 from our campus – and their families celebrated the University of Kansas’ 138th commencement May 16 in Lawrence.

For KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, PhD, giving the commencement address marked an important step in her own journey as a Jayhawk. Focusing her remarks on the strengths of tradition, family and a good education, she reminded graduates to carry with them the things they’ve learned as they take on new challenges.

She urged each graduate to remain devoted to service and to continue learning and growing – to continue their “journey as scholars.”

The University of Kansas Medical Center

Graduates from the KU Schools of Allied Health, Medicine and Nursing and the Graduate Studies program numbered among the graduates taking the traditional walk down Mount Oread, through the campanile and into Memorial Stadium.

In the days leading up to commencement, graduates were the guests of honor at hooding and awards ceremonies, luncheons and recognition ceremonies to honor their accomplishments.

‘The walk down the hill symbolizes the journey you are on – a journey you began even before you thought of attending KU, and one that will continue long after you walk out of the stadium and into the world.’

– KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, PhD

KU School of Allied Health

With the conclusion of the 2009-10 academic year, the KU School of Allied Health has recognized students and faculty members for their exceptional accomplishments by awarding the following scholarships and awards.

Allied Health Honors

Dr. Louise de Schweinitz Darrow Awards
Andrea Rose Boyd
Kelli Jean Murphy
Lynelle Marie Penner
Mary Lela Power
Miyuki Shimizu

James P. Cooney Leadership Award
Jacob Thomas Neece

Stata Norton Distinguished Teaching Award
Patricia Kluding, PT, PhD

Academic Honors

The Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions 2009 Scholarship of Excellence Award
Jill Dene Windscheffel

Phi Kappa Phi Initiates
Cary Annette Breidenthal
Randall D. Davis
Kendra Leigh Gagnon
Charles Eugene Herring
Sarah Jo Mediavilla
Melissa Dawn Wiehe

Dean’s Scholarship Recipients
Andrea Rose Boyd
Dustin Cain Bozwell
Shea Marie Goodwin
Katherine Elizabeth Harvey
Daniel Jeremy Kasparek
Zachary F. Miller
Megan Michelle Nissim

Mallory Erin Smith
Kristine Nicole Steinert

Allied Health Alumni Association Scholarship Recipients
Allison Leigh Cheers
Juliann Margeaux Gardner
Lynelle Marie Penner

David A. Junge Memorial Scholarship
Dustin Cain Bozwell, 2007
Allison Leigh Cheers, 2008

Lawrence Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship
Bethany Marie Stadalman, 2009

Visiting Nurse Association Scholarship
Elizabeth Nicole Kinate
Gregory Alan Kristoff

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The KU School of Medicine honored graduating students for their exceptional accomplishments during its annual hooding and awards ceremony, Saturday, May 15, in the Lied Center in Lawrence.

**Merck Manual Awards**
- Stephanie Dobler, MD
- Timothy Fendler, MD
- Robert Legler, MD
- Luke Spencer-Gardner, MD

**Janet M. Glasgow – Rubin Certificate of Commendation**
- Bridget Harrison, MD
- Bethany Enoch, MD

**Janet M. Glasgow – Rubin Achievement Citations**
- Sara Latif, MD
- Erica Red Corn, MD
- Stephanie Dobler, MD
- Emily Stevens, MD
Ryan LaSota enjoyed a moment among fellow School of Medicine grads during the ceremony in Memorial Stadium.

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At the end of the 2009-10 academic year, the KU School of Nursing recognized students for their exceptional accomplishments, as well as faculty for their contributions to nursing education.

**Preventive Medicine and Public Health**
- Master of Public Health – Kansas City Campus
  - Excellence in Public Health Teaching Award
    - Nicole Nollen, PhD
  - Analee E. “Betsy” Beisecker Public Health Excellence Award
    - Ashli Owen
    - Rachel Frische

**KU School of Nursing**

**Graduate Awards**
- Hester Thurston Award
  - Amanda Gartner
- Colleen P. Kosiak Graduate Student Clinical Excellence Award
  - Julie Tan
- Sigma Theta Tau Award (Master’s)
  - Melissa Wiehe
- Melba Carter Award
  - Stephanie Dallam
- Sigma Theta Tau Award (Doctoral)
  - Sharon Bailey

**Faculty**
- Jayhawker, RN Clinical Award
  - Jenny Beerman, RN, MN, LNCC, clinical assistant professor
- Jayhawker, RN Lecture Award
  - Anita Wingate, RN, PhD, associate professor
- Phyllis Keeney Lawrence Teaching Award
  - Karen Wambach, RN, PhD, associate professor
- Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence
  - Vicki L. Hicks, RN, MS, ARNP, clinical assistant professor

**Undergraduate Awards**
- Outstanding Senior Award
  - Kaitlin Henry
- Kay Schlicter Award
  - Lindsay Abbott

Nodding their hats at tradition, School of Nursing graduates were all smiles on the big day.

Frank Redondo (left) and Mathew Waweru celebrated their accomplishments at the School of Nursing recognition ceremony before commencement.

Prakash Raghavan Clinical Student Award
- Bruce Bowser, MD

The Willard J. Smith, MD Award for Academic Achievement
- Bridget Harrison, MD

Mahlon H. Delp Award, Wichita
- Michael Hagan, MD

Roscoe Falls Morton, MD, FACP Memorial Fund Award
- Michael Hagan, MD

The Daniel K. Roberts Medical Student Award for Excellence in Women’s Health Care
- Megan Jones, MD

Karl E. Becker, Jr., MD Award
- Jamie Iverson, MD

Drs. Richard and Diana Guthrie Excellence in Pediatrics Award
- Deborah Holland, MD

Conrad Osborne, MD
- Family Medicine Award
  - Bridget Harrison, MD

Distinguished George E. “Ned” Burket, MD Family Medicine Award
- Ryan LaSota, MD

The George J. Farha Award for Excellence in Surgery
- Bridget Harrison, MD

The Ronald L. Martin Clerkship Award
- Danae Goerl, MD

Health Policy and Management
- Master of Health Services Administration
  - Bret G. Hammig Award
    - Megan Cline
    - Kelly Harris
  - Noelle King-Whitlow
  - Professional Development Award
    - Susan Brown
  - JHAWK Student of the Year Award
    - Patrick Mc Craney
  - JHAWK Faculty Appreciation Award
    - Robert S. Bonney, JD, FACHE