

# Collegiate Life

Fall 2004 Topeka Collegiate School Alumni Newsletter

Topeka Collegiate: An independent school grades Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth

## *Laura Straus leaves legacy of excellence*

*What constitutes the teacher is the passion to make scholars.*

GEORGE HERBERT PALMER

by Allison Atwood '00



*Dr. Roberts says goodbye to Laura Straus.*

CURRENT TOPEKA COLLEGIATE students, alumni, teaching colleagues, school parents and friends honored teacher Laura Straus at a farewell reception at school on May 16. Straus, who taught for 13 years at TCS, moved to Altadena, California, where she is participating in the PhD program in education at Claremont Graduate University.

Straus says her educational background is “an interesting mix. I obtained a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Chicago, then decided I was interested in teaching at the elementary school level, so I entered a post baccalaureate program at the University of Minnesota, where I obtained a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. I taught for two years in an “open school” in Minnesota, then took some time off to raise a family. I returned to full-time teaching at TCS when my youngest son (Alex '00) was in first grade. I’ve had experience with grades four through eight at Topeka Collegiate, spending most of my time at the seventh/eighth grade level, teaching American history, language arts, and study skills.”

Straus is going back to school full-time to complete her doctorate and would then like to teach education undergraduates. “I think one of the reasons I love teaching is because I love school,” she says. “I’m captivated by the very idea of a classroom – a place of learning, discourse,

*story continued next page*



*Reed Underwood '01, Shruti Challa '01 and Robit Paulkar '01 wish Mrs. Straus well.*

and, hopefully, fun! I also enjoy teaching because of the contact I have with my students. I really do learn from them all the time.”

Straus said she'll miss several things about TCS, including “all the special projects, like directing the school play, or helping students with History Day. While it's true that I'm really eager to begin the job of being a student again, what I'll miss the most is working with all the incredible middle school students I've had the pleasure to teach. I'll miss their energy, their jokes, their curiosity, just everything about them. And I'll miss my colleagues, and the wonderful work environment I've been in for so long.”

Over the past several years, Straus says she has “gained a great deal from working at TCS. One benefit is the great faculty. My colleagues are truly among the best, and that establishes a vibrant, supportive educational climate in which to work.” Head of School Dr. Michael Roberts adds that she “will be sorely missed because she has been such a good teacher for so many young people. But more than that, Mrs. Straus has raised the bar of excellence for all of us. She has taught us that

students can achieve at levels higher than they ever thought possible. She has taught us that both good humor and hard work pay off in the end. She will be missed because she has demonstrated the rare ability to teach with her intellect and to teach with her heart.”

### *Messages from current and former students:*

#### **ATIMA LUI '04**

*You have transformed me into a more confident person and a more dedicated student. You have given me the tools I need to leave home...I wish I could take you to Andover with me.*

#### **SARAH BELLOWS-BLAKELY '01**

*Thanks for all that you taught me, thanks for your friendship, and best wishes for the future.*

#### **SHRUTI CHALLA '01**

*You always show passion for teaching, and we have always admired that.*

#### **CAITLIN FITZPATRICK '04**

*Thank you for being the greatest teacher I ever met.*

#### **EMILY WALLACE '04**

*One of my most enduring memories of my early education took place in your classroom. I remember you teaching us a precise style of outlining...Thanks so much for giving us a life-long skill.*

#### **EMILY HERONEMUS '01**

*Thank you for opening me up to theater. I loved discovering the theatrical side of myself.*

#### **KATIE FREEMAN '93**

*You truly embody what it means to be an amazing, stand-out teacher, mentor and friend.*

#### **AUSTIN GIDEON '04**

*I love your teaching style. I have learned so much.*

#### **MONTE PARRISH '04**

*You have been an inspiration to me. I will treasure the times we shared and remember you always.*

#### **THE KENNEDY FAMILY**

*You will always be in our hearts.*

*Dear Friends,*

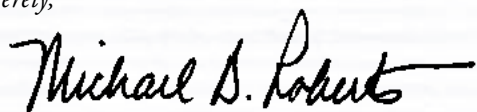
*Fall is in the air a little earlier than usual this year. As school gears up to a new beginning, our summer plans are quickly becoming a reality. We have four new teachers this year. They represent approximately 45 years of collective experience and will be a wonderful addition to our already-great faculty.*

*Our faculty members are as eager to learn as they are to teach. They have been busy learning the newest and best ideas about teaching. They have taken workshops in teaching math and reading. Mr. Shinn, our middle school science teacher, has traveled to Wisconsin for his second summer to study the exciting Jason Project. In the spring, three of our faculty members traveled to Chicago to the National Middle School Conference and came back with renewed enthusiasm and great ideas for enhancing the middle school program. Our faculty believes in education - both for their students and for themselves. What better way to model the role of lifelong learner for our students and their families?*

*The entire school community is excited about the Native American theme we are doing this year. The faculty and staff are constantly reading books and taking advantage of the best that has been thought and said about education. This fall we will have a visit from Wilma Mankiller, former chief of the Cherokee Nation and Jonathan Kozol, perhaps the most provocative and compelling national scholar on the importance of all of our nation's young people getting a quality education. The quick "sound bite" nature of sharing information in today's world resists taking the time to read and think deeply about issues. We have all concurred that there is no substitute for reading books, reading current events and looking to our history to inform our future. Teaching our students to read, discuss, think deeply and question is one of our greatest responsibilities as a top-tier school.*

*It has been fun to see our alumni come back to visit TCS. Samantha Crow '95 delivered a fine graduation address in May, and Adam Obley '95 is our first alumni member of the TCS Board of Trustees. It is especially affirming to hear about all the exciting things our alums are doing in high school, college and in their jobs. Please come visit your school any time.*

*Sincerely,*



*Michael B. Roberts  
Head of School*



# Atima portrays Hurston to win History Day gold

*I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, nor lurking behind my eyes. I do not mind at all...I do not weep at the world. I am too busy sharpening my oyster knife.*

Zora Neale Hurston



Photograph: Topeka Capital-Journal. Atima Lui '04 takes first place at History Day.

**A**TIMA LUI '04 OPENS HER HISTORY DAY performance with those words. For her, they embody the spirit of Zora Neale Hurston, the Harlem Renaissance author, anthropologist and feminist. The words were familiar to Atima. Her mother gave her that quote in a frame when she was a little girl. Little did she know how profoundly those words would affect her life.

As an eighth grader searching for a History Day topic on the theme of "Encounter, Exploration and Exchange in History," Atima read the Hurston essay from which the quote is taken. "It really struck a chord with me," she says. Atima came to admire Hurston to such a degree that it became "almost a mission" for her to tell her story. And what a magnificent job she does! She "becomes" Zora Neale Hurston in her performance.

History Day judges at College Park, Maryland rewarded Atima with first place in the junior individual performance category. That's triumph enough, but it's all the more remarkable because Atima shared a gold medal with two fellow TCS students in the group performance category at last year's competition. Back-to-back first place wins are unprecedented even in the proud annals of Topeka Collegiate History Day accomplishments. Atima's history teacher Laura Straus says, "One of the things that made this work for her is that she is extremely bright, she is a good scholar and she is a good actor."

Success at National History Day is a Lui family tradition. Atima says her older sister Asona '00 paved the way with third place and first place finishes when she was a TCS student. In fact, says Atima, "I decided to do it (History Day) because of her."

Sixth graders Haden Beardmore, Blake Hamilton, and Cyrus Wittig won the Outstanding State Entry award for their junior group exhibit *Lewis and Clark: 146 Days with the Mandan & Hidatsa Indians*.

A DVD of Atima Lui's winning performance is available for checkout in the TCS library.

# Alumni news

(T) indicates students who transferred before graduation

## 1986

**ALLISON HILL TANNER** completed her PhD program in educational psychology, measurement and evaluation and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the spring. She's continuing her work at Westat, where she conducts contract research for the U.S. Department of Education. Allison and her husband Dave plan to stay in Durham, North Carolina.

## 1988

**KIM CARKHUFF** (T) is working as an account executive for all regional and national car manufacturers at *The Arizona Republic* in Phoenix. She loves it because there's always something to learn about the automotive industry, and she's able to travel to Los Angeles and Detroit several times a year as part of her job. Kim is chairing the fall fundraiser for the Junior League of Phoenix and has been asked to sit on the board of CAPA (Child Abuse Prevention Arizona), which raises money to help abuse prevention programs. For fun Kim travels, visits family and plays golf.



*Tyler '01 and Kansas Waugh '90 with a friend at the Tour de France.*

**JON RUPP** joined the firm of K.B. Moll & Associates after law school and is enjoying his work on health issues. He is engaged to be married in October to Angelina Ristanovic, also an attorney.

## 1990

**MATT GARLINGHOUSE** spent our fall enjoying the spring in the southern hemisphere while traveling in South America and the South Pacific. Since then he's been consulting with various small technology companies in the San Francisco area while he looks for the right, more permanent opportunity. He and **Nick Waugh '92** see one another from time to time and Matt is helping with Nick's campaign for San Francisco's Board of Supervisors.

**SARA RUPP PENGSGARD** has a new job at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia as a research librarian.

**KANSAS WAUGH** is living in Brooklyn, building a free-lance Web design business. He's a bike enthusiast and a regular recreational rider. Now he's been inspired

to take up bike racing. The source of that inspiration? A trip to the Tour de France with little brother **Tyler '01** and a college friend. (see photo) The trio followed the racers through the Alps and the Pyrenees and into Paris, where

they saw Lance Armstrong win his record sixth consecutive Tour. Kansas is already making plans to return to France for next year's race.

## 1991

**BRIDGET ELMER** is living in Brooklyn, working as a free-lance grant writer for non-profits. She returned to New York in April after recovering from a serious back injury suffered in a November car accident in Colorado. *(photo and story page 7)*

**MICHAEL HAZLETT** and his wife Stephanie joyfully announce the birth of their daughter Gillian Abigail Hazlett, born April 19 *(photo below)*. Typical of new fathers, Mike reports



*Mike Hazlett '91 with wife Stephanie and daughter Gillian.*

that “life is proceeding in a sleep-deprived manner.” The Hazletts are living in Ft. Collins, Colorado and Mike is working for a marketing research company. He landed the job about the same time Gillian was born but “thankfully, my boss is a father from way back and could understand my baby-upchucked-upon clothes and sleepy looks.”

**MEGAN MCBRIDE FRANZ** (T) was married to Alex Franz in July. He’s a cargo plane pilot. The couple is living in Kansas City.

## 1992

**NICHOLE GRIM** (T) and her family moved to Wilmington, Delaware while she was in middle school and they’ve been there ever since. Nichole recently bought a house and works as a nanny for a wonderful family in West Chester, Pennsylvania. She plans to stay with the family for the next couple of years until the children start school.

**KATIE MCBRIDE-JENSEN** and her husband Brian bought a house in Denver and have been working on the backyard. They’ve finally completed the patio and the sod. No new additions, says Katie, except they’re contemplating adopting another beagle! Katie is back in school this fall. She’s studying construction management with an emphasis on sustainable building. In addition to going to school, she’s a teaching assistant and is teaching three computer labs for construction scheduling and cost control.

**BETSY WALTON HOOGE** is an artist living in Portland, Oregon. Her work was recently on exhibit at a gallery there. The news release announcing the show described it: “Dolls flying in bird costumes, pigs with wings and glasses, and strange owl-meets-duck characters wander through shimmering clouds...Betsy Walton has conjured up these and other wonders for Imaginary Places.” Betsy draws, sews, paints and makes prints. See some of Betsy’s work at [morningscraft.com](http://morningscraft.com).

**NICK WAUGH** is running for San Francisco city supervisor in a crowded field *(photo and story page 10)*. He’s taken a leave of absence from BSR (Business for Social Responsibility) to campaign. Nick says he’s running for office because he believes it’s the strongest thing he can do to contribute to positive social change. He’s one of 90 candidates around the nation to receive an endorsement from Vermont Governor Howard Dean’s Democracy for America – the political action committee for whom younger brother Walker ’94 works.

## 1993

**MICHAEL BONEBRAKE** is beginning his second year of medical school at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. This summer he served a five-week medical clerkship with a family practice physician.

**KATIE FREEMAN** is heading up new business development and marketing as a partner in Odds & Ins, an event planning and gifting business in Chicago. The company has found a niche market among real estate agents, developers and mortgage brokers looking for stylish, upscale gifts to give clients at closing. This summer Katie traveled to The Netherlands with her family to see the musical her uncle wrote and directed – *Eternity*. They enjoyed seeing the show and traveling by boat on a two-day trip along Holland’s rivers and canals. In July, Katie visited her brother John ’98 on the east coast, where he had a summer internship. The two had fun exploring New York together and then heading to the Jersey shore to spend time relaxing with friends at the beach.

**EMMA KUNTZ** has completed two years of law school at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. This summer she enjoyed working at a Washington DC law firm. “The work was pretty diverse and interesting,” she says, “for example, energy regulation, corporate law, environmental law and litigation.” Emma even worked on a case headed for the Supreme Court. This fall she’s back at the University of Maryland for her final year of law school.

## 1994

**EMILY FRANKLIN** graduated from KU in the spring with a bachelor’s degree in biology.

**NICOLE HOHERZ** has been an on-air news anchor in Flint, Michigan since graduating from Boston University, using the air name Nicole Hunter. (*photo right*). She just landed a job at a much larger station in a bigger city – KUTV in Salt Lake City, where she is anchoring and reporting. KUTV is the number 1 station in Salt Lake, “a total powerhouse” in the market, says Nicole. “I just fell in love with the newsroom during my interview. So it’s bye-bye Flint, hello sunshine and skiing!”

**KARLIN KELLER** is living her dream in New York, working for a dance supply shop, studying dance with famed instructor David Howard and going to audition after audition. Dance has always been an important part of Karli’s life. She studied for years with June Landrith at Topeka’s Metropolitan Ballet. In the spring, she came home to Topeka,

at Landrith’s invitation, to star in the company’s spring production of *Fascinating’ Rhythm*. (*photo page 14*). Karlin graduated in ’03 from the University of Kansas, with a degree in political science. She eventually plans to go to law school. But for now, law school will have to wait while she pursues her dream.

**PARKIN KENT** (T) reports that he used the Topeka Collegiate network to find a new job. His former TCS classmate **John Van Sickle** ‘94 introduced him to a friend who works at Kaiser Associates, an international strategy consulting firm. Parkin recently moved to Washington DC from Spain and is now working as an associate consultant at Kaiser.

*Nicole Hoherz ’94 leaves her Flint, Michigan TV news anchor post to take a similar job in Salt Lake City.*



**JOHN VAN SICKLE** (T) is an economist working for a private equity firm called Castle Harlan in New York City. He lives in Greenwich Village and gets to see several TCS alums living in the New York area.

**WALKER WAUGH** is living and working in Vermont for Governor Howard Dean’s Democracy for America political action committee. Walker

has had an exciting ride this past year, working on Dean’s energetic young presidential campaign staff (*photo and story page 9*), even appearing in *GQ* in a photo accompanying an article about campaign manager Joe Trippi.

## 1995

**SAMANTHA CROW** recently switched jobs. She is now a product marketing manager at Google in Mountain View, California. Before beginning work at Google, Samantha took a solo trip to Thailand where she visited friends, toured several of Bangkok’s canals and Buddhist temples, and ate lots of sweet mango with sticky rice. She spoke at Topeka Collegiate’s graduation (*photos and story page 22*) beginning what the school hopes will be a continuing tradition of inviting alumni to be commencement speakers.

**STACY ELMER** graduated from Colorado College in the spring with a bachelor’s degree in neuroscience and a minor in philosophy. She spent the summer in New York City where she lived in the financial district and finished her last two philosophy credits at NYU. Last winter Stacy was a source of strength and comfort to her family when they were seriously injured in a car accident in Colorado (*photo and story page 7*). Stacy’s father Tim suffered a traumatic brain injury. Stacy’s knowledge of neuroscience helped her understand the nature of the injury and its treatment. Currently, Stacy is doing part-time work in New York City both as a bicycle courier and at Billy’s Bakery. The world-famous bakery in the Chelsea district has been featured in numerous Kansas

newspapers due to the fact that its successful owner is a Kansan! Stacy has moved to Brooklyn to be close to her sister **Bridget '91**. This fall, she has begun EMT (emergency medical technician) training.

**JIM MCBRIDE** (T) is back in school after a hiatus. He's very excited and anxious to discover if the world of archaeology is for him.

**ADAM OBLEY** is working in the governor's office, focusing on education, (particularly higher education) health care and bioscience/economic development issues. He's applying to medical schools and graduate programs. Adam also joins the Topeka Collegiate Board of Trustees this fall as the first-ever alumni representative.

**MEGAN PETTY** is living in Topeka "until I decide on what I want to do with my life." She's working for the Kansas Highway Patrol as the program director for a federal grant. The grant allows state and local law enforcement agencies to purchase equipment and supplies through federal procurement channels. Megan is the point of contact for Kansas, mediating those transactions. Her official title is "economic development representative" and she travels throughout the state speaking to Kansas law enforcement agencies. Last year, Megan helped a pair of current Topeka Collegiate students with their History Day project on Genghis Khan. Then sixth graders **Quentin Chediak** and **David Gast** interviewed Megan about her travels in Mongolia. (photo above left) Megan spent time there as part of a nine-month study abroad program during her senior year at the University of Puget Sound.

**BEN STRAUS** and his wife, Emily Rice, welcomed a baby into their lives.

*Little Sophia is the apple of her dad's (Ben Straus '95) eye.*

*Megan Petty '95 helps sixth graders Quentin Chediak and David Gast with their History Day research.*



She is Sophia Caitlin, born on January 29. (photo above right) The young family lives in St. Paul. Sophia's maternal grandmother, longtime TCS history and language arts teacher Laura Straus visited soon after Sophia was born and, as you might imagine, is quite taken with her first grandchild.

**ZACH YORKE** (T) returned to the U.S. in late July after a year in South Africa. He traveled on a Watson Fellowship after graduating summa cum laude from Amherst College. His project focused on the intersection of art and race in the "new" South Africa. After taking some time to recover from culture shock, he has begun a Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Pennsylvania.

## 1996

**LESLEY ASH** graduated from Hastings College in the spring with a degree in studio art and a dual emphasis in painting and drawing. That, after she completed her thesis project. She reports that fellow Topeka Collegiate alums **Zach Baksh '96** and **Julia Franklin '96** made the trip to Nebraska to see her art exhibition. Lesley is living in New York and was recently hired as a preschool teacher for a school in Manhattan. She plans to stay for a while because she is "loving big city life!"

**CARMEN BROOKS** graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a bachelor's degree in the spring,

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# Grateful for every day

ON NOVEMBER 26, THE DAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING, Tim Elmer, his wife Jett and their daughter **Bridget '91** were on their way to a holiday gathering in Vail. Tim was at the wheel. Just this side of the Eisenhower Tunnel, the weather turned bad and the Elmers' lives changed forever. A car in front of them spun out of control and across the median into an 18-wheeler which careened into the westbound lanes directly in front of the Elmers' Subaru. They hit it going about 55 miles an hour. The driver's side of the car went under the front corner of the trailer and Tim's head slammed into it. "I do not recommend this," Tim says. He remembers nothing of the next two months.

Tim suffered a serious traumatic brain injury and a skull fracture. Every bone in his face was broken except his nose. Jett suffered compression fractures of two lumbar vertebrae, broken ribs and a collapsed lung; Bridget, a concussion and compression fractures of three thoracic vertebrae. **Stacy '95**, then a senior at Colorado College, was the only member of the family not in the car at the time of the accident.

Doctors at St. Anthony's Hospital in Denver didn't think Tim would live through that first night. "They didn't tell me that," says Jett, "but they didn't have to." Tim did survive the night, of course, beginning a pattern of exceeding doctors' expectations. He was in a coma for a week. Stacy stayed in his room most of that time, talking to him. "That may have been part of what helped me recover so quickly," Tim says.

After facial surgery and nearly three weeks of intensive medical care and physical and cognitive therapy, Tim recovered enough to be moved to Denver's Craig Rehabilitation Hospital. Jett, Bridget and Stacy moved into adjoining family housing provided by Craig. Craig is nationally known for its work with spinal cord and brain injured patients. The Elmers believe the reputation is deserved. "For us to have landed at Craig was a miracle," says Jett. "By the time we left, we felt we were leaving a part of the family." Tim concurs. "We cannot say enough highly positive things about that hospital."

Tim spent the next three months working on his recovery with a staff that was at once supportive and

*story continued  
next page*



*Bridget '91, Tim, Stacy '95 and Jett Elmer celebrate Stacy's graduation from Colorado College.*

tough. The one time he tried to skip a therapy session, the therapist came and got him. He didn't try that again. Tim says his worst physical impairment was the loss of balance. His left eye and ear were damaged. Both are critical to balance. In therapy, Tim found he couldn't stand on one leg or walk in a straight line. But his personality was unchanged. That is not always the case. Brain injuries can cause permanent personality changes. Some patients become aggressive or depressed. Tim did neither. Nor did he lose his unique sense of humor. That's something for which he and his family are grateful. They believe it helped him recover.

"We learned that people with brain injuries perseverate – they say the same thing over and over again," says Jett. For Tim, it was a silly Chihuahua joke he'd read on the Internet just before the accident. He told it again and again. To everyone. When the patient is well enough, you're supposed to say, "You just told me that," says Jett. "So I'd tell Tim these people have heard that joke 25 times. Five minutes later, he'd begin telling what started like a new story but always ended up being the Chihuahua joke." It got to the point where the nurses would see Tim coming and say, "Please don't tell us the Chihuahua joke again!"

Jett wore a back brace for 12 weeks, Bridget for 10. Both required physical therapy. Eventually, Stacy returned to school in Colorado Springs. At the end of February, Tim moved to the patient and family housing apartment with Jett and continued his therapies as an outpatient. On March 20, he, Jett and Bridget came home to Topeka. Jett remembers, "It felt strange, going from a highly structured environment where all of our energy was focused on Tim getting better to being completely on our own." These days life has settled into a routine. Bridget is back in New York. Stacy graduated on time in the spring. Tim is doing high level physical and cognitive therapy five half-days a week and continuing to improve.

*Tim can't make the annual ski trip so his friends Kent Garlinghouse, Bob Ihrie and Dr. Michael Roberts bring the ski trip to him.*



Tim and Jett say one of the most positive things to come from their ordeal was the way their family, friends and the entire community enveloped them in love and concern. They want to express their deepest appreciation for those gifts. Tim says, "The individual support, the letters, the calls, all the contacts we had from our family and friends had a tremendous, uplifting, encouraging effect on me. I never realized it could be that way, but it played a significant role in our recovery." "The support and love that we felt from our community was just incredible," says Jett, "really helpful, healing and wonderful."

Not long after returning home, Tim observed, "Everything is the same as when we left, but we're not." Jett agrees they'll never be the same as before the accident. "I learned how to live with ambiguity and uncertainty," she says. "We didn't know how far Tim would recover or how long it would take. We knew he was receiving the best care available and we simply had to wait and see. It may sound trite, but the four of us truly did learn to live in the moment and to be grateful for every day we spent together."

# On the campaign trail with Howard Dean

By Allison Viola '98

*Walker Waugh '94 worked for the Howard Dean presidential campaign in the early days when it looked as if Dean might be the Democratic nominee. Walker still works for Dean, on the Democracy for America staff.*



WHEN WALKER WAUGH started working for Gov. Howard Dean in April, 2003, he thought Dean was the only Democrat capable of articulating the progressive platform Walker advocates. “People remember Dean was the first and loudest voice of opposition to the Iraq War,” Walker points out, “but they often forget he was also talking about the need for universal health care, a federal balanced budget amendment and crackdowns on corrupt corporations.”

“On most days, I was either the first person in the office in the morning or I never left from

the night before,” says Walker of the time he spent working for Dean’s presidential campaign. He was one of four staffers who put together morning briefings for Dean, his traveling staff, and the top campaign staff in Dean’s Burlington headquarters. Walker and his co-workers were constantly glued to the news networks and the newspaper wires throughout the day. They were the Dean campaign’s rapid response to breaking news. “The day the US captured Sadaam Hussein, a Sunday,” remembers Walker, “I saw the report on an Irish newswire at about 6:30 am, an hour before the domestic news began reporting it. I had to wake up Governor Dean and most of the campaign staff that December morning.”

*story continued next page*

One of Walker's most memorable moments along the campaign trail was driving 120 mph on the New York Thruway with Gov. Dean in the passenger seat, late for an event at the Avalon nightclub in New York City. Although rushed, they made it to the event where eventually Dean danced onstage with Gloria Gaynor while she sang *I Will Survive*.

Although Dean's bid for the presidency didn't survive the primary season, Walker continues to live in Burlington, Vermont and works for Dean's new organization, Democracy for America (DFA). About a month after Dean dropped out of the presidential race, he started DFA as a political action committee designed to support socially progressive and fiscally responsible

candidates running for every level of government, from school boards to U.S. Congress. Governor Dean and DFA are endorsing some 90 candidates in the November election including Walker's older brother Nick '04, who's running for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. (*story below*)

With his candidate no longer in the presidential race, July still proved to be a busy time for Walker as he had to prepare his boss' schedule for the Democratic National Convention. "The nature of my job keeps me in close contact with Governor Dean regularly," says Walker. "He is a kind, thoughtful man, and as hardworking as anyone I've ever known."

## Nick Waugh running for office



*Howard Dean endorses Nick Waugh '92 for San Francisco Board of Supervisors.*

**N**ICK WAUGH '92 is running for an open seat on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors. Nick believes that public service is where he can have the greatest impact on society. He wants to improve the world in whatever way he can. "It's something my parents stressed," says Nick. "It was stressed at Topeka Collegiate, as well, and it's a Kansas thing. You take care of your neighbors."

At 27, Nick would be the youngest current city supervisor, but not the youngest ever. His top three issues are: creating more opportunities for middle income people to purchase housing in San Francisco, improving public school education and encouraging more businesses to come to the city.

Searching for a reason to explain that two of the Waugh brothers are now active in politics, Nick jokes, "There must be something in the water in Waubunsee County (site of their boyhood home)!"

## Alumni news

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then was offered and accepted a spot in a six-year master's/PhD history program at the university.

**JULIA FRANKLIN** graduated from the University of Kansas in the spring with two bachelor's degrees: Slavic languages and literatures and theater and film.

**BENJAMIN HALL** (T) graduated from KU in May with a bachelor's degree in pre-med and history with the distinction of membership in Phi Beta Kappa. He has now begun studying for his MD at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. In the spring of his junior year, Ben studied at the University of Bonn in Germany. He attended Shawnee Country Day School, as Topeka Collegiate used to be called, from pre-k through first grade.

**MASTIN KIPP** (T), whom you may remember as Matt, is now living in Los Angeles, California and going by his middle name, Mastin. He moved to L.A. in 2001 to pursue a BS in music business at USC. He landed an internship at The Firm, a large entertainment management company. It wasn't long before The Firm put him on the payroll and he became involved in day-to-day work with artists like KoRn, Limp Bizkit and Puddle of Mudd. Other artists on The Firm's roster include the Dixie Chicks, Linkin Park and actors Leonardo Di Caprio and Cameron Diaz. Mastin left that job to become, at the tender age of 21, Vice President of A&R (artists and repertoire) at Flawless Records, whose roster includes the band Puddle of Mudd. Earlier this year, Mastin, now 22, launched his own artist management and devel-

opment company called Around The Clock Entertainment. He's working hard for his three clients and traveling a lot but, although he doesn't have a girlfriend, he says he does manage to carve out time for a social life. While busy with his new business, Mastin is also finishing up his last few hours toward his degree at USC.

**JAVIN MARTIN** (T) graduated from Willamette in the spring with a degree in philosophy. He plans to return to school in January to pursue a master's degree in a specialized research program for what's called "leadership in sustainable communities" at New College of California, located in Santa Rosa. "If I get the grant that I want," says Javin, "I'll use it to travel in the States and abroad studying various social structures and creating a think tank geared toward designing and evaluation of alternative community structures." Meantime, Javin hopes to travel to Latin America with a fellow Willamette grad who has a fellowship to study the music of mountain peoples. Her first stop is Quito, Ecuador, where Javin lived last summer, so he hopes to go along as a "quasi guide/translator and use it as an excuse to travel."

## 1997

**LAURA ADAMS** is a senior at KU majoring in civil and environmental engineering. After two summers working in Salida, Colorado as a white water rafting guide on the Arkansas river, she spent this summer in Basalt, Colorado as an intern at the Permaculture Institute, learning what she could about their research.

**BEN BAMMES** is the first in his class (that we know of) to take the plunge! He married Stephanie Hodges in June, (*photo below*) and they honeymooned in St. Lucia. The couple is now back in Lawrence, where Ben is a KU senior majoring in physics, math and computer engineering; Stephanie is a junior in education. Ben is still working for a Salina environmental management company. He also continues his research with a physics professor.



*Ben Bammes '97 and his bride, Stephanie Hodges at their June wedding.*

**KATHERINE GARLINGHOUSE** spent a full semester back at the University of Pennsylvania after her semester abroad last year. She is chair of the Wharton School of Business Undergraduate Alumni Relations Council and active in her sorority, Chi Omega, where she's one of the social chairs. She gives tours for the university and she helped organize a fashion show for the Wharton Women, one of the

largest student groups on campus. Katherine says she can't believe she's a senior! She has declared her majors. They are marketing and global analysis, which, she explains, means international marketing with finance and management influences. This summer Katherine was an intern in San Francisco with ChevronTexaco's global marketing department. She worked with a group of interns from all over the world - everywhere from South Africa to Iceland, Honduras and Nigeria - even another Kansan.

"I've been having an amazing time learning all about the company and the industry as a whole," says Katherine. "I'm one of the younger interns (most are graduate students and MBAs) so it is quite a learning experience. I love what I am doing!"

**JENNY HOYT** (T) is off to France and Florence to study with a group from KU during the fall of her senior year. In Paris, she'll live in a dorm; in Florence, in an apartment. She is a psychology major, but still finds time to take dance classes at KU, something she plans to continue while she's in Europe. She also teaches ballet at a studio in Kansas City and works at a Lawrence restaurant. This summer she taught a dance class as part of Topeka Collegiate's Summer Adventures.

*(photo right)*

**ELIZABETH JAKLE** spent the summer living with friends in Baldwin City, taking summer school

classes at Baker University and commuting to suburban Kansas City for an internship at a large marketing firm. This fall, she began her senior year and her term as vice-president of Baker's student body. Second semester, she will serve as president of her sorority. During the interterm in January, Beth plans to take scuba diving lessons, then travel to Puerto Rico for a two-week dive trip. After she graduates in May with a double major in business marketing and mass communications, Beth will live at home for a few months while she finalizes plans for her September '05 wedding.

**STACIE KOSSOY**, a senior at Grinnell College, is majoring in sociology with an emphasis on gender and women's studies. This summer, she stayed in Iowa and worked for the college's sociology department. This fall she is embarking on a MAP, or Mentored Advanced Project for the Grinnell history department about

the rise of women rabbis across the three strands of American Judaism. She is also captain of the Grinnell swimming and diving team. Stacie is looking forward to graduation in the spring, after which she's planning to apply to Teach For America or the Peace Corps.

**JARED NANCE** earned a scholarship to work in a biophysics lab at Northwestern University this summer. Now he's back on the Beloit College campus where he's a senior with an interdisciplinary major in physics and math.

**JEFF NOLDE** (T) is following his dream. After two years of working in a bike shop and living in Manhattan, he has moved to California to study cinematography at the Brooks Institute of Photography in Ventura. He plans to complete the three-year bachelor's program, then find work in the movie industry.

**NIKHIL PARULKAR** (T) is majoring in anthropology at Washburn University where he is the president of the campus anthropology/sociology club. He is a member of the campus Greens, a club that tackles issues like insuring that the university serves fair trade coffee and that it doesn't buy clothing items from companies that use sweat shops. In November, Nikhil attended the American Anthropological Association's national convention in Chicago and will attend this



*Jenny Hoyt '97 teaches young dancers in her Summer Adventures camp.*

year's national conference as well. Nikhil ran for write-in president of Washburn's student government last semester and while he didn't win, "mainly because people could not spell my name" he says "it was a fun time and allowed me to talk with people who share similar concerns and hopefully create a stronger coalition of students with global interests." The highlight of Nikhil's summer was a ten-day trip to Cuba on a Washburn-sponsored trip. He returned with definite opinions about the U.S. embargo of Cuba: "Since the country's major export is tobacco (famous Cuban cigars) and sugar, it depends mainly on trade from foreign countries to help supply the country with its food. However, the U.S. has placed an embargo on Cuba, not allowing any U.S. currency to travel directly to Cuba. Thus, any trade opportunity is out of the question, which is only hurting Cuba's people. For the poor living conditions the Cubans deal with, they are the most happy and free people out of the 15 countries I have visited." Nikhil also interned at the Kansas State Historical Society's archaeology lab, researching medical care at Fort Hays State since he's interested in medical anthropology.

**ALEXIS ROWE** is a senior at Marquette where she has been accepted into Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology majors; she is serving as its secretary. This summer Alexis worked at Topeka's Family Service and Guidance Center, although she claims it wasn't really work. "I get to go out and do all sorts of fun things with a little boy in the afternoon," she says, "and I get paid for it!" After this year, Alexis plans to attend graduate school.

**ZACH STRAUS** is a senior at KU. This summer he worked for his dad rehabbing a 68-unit apartment building in Kansas City. He is also able to boast that he has driven a 17-foot panel truck from Washington DC to San Francisco via Chicago and Lawrence, Kansas - a job he undertook for a friend. This fall, Zach is working at a Lawrence restaurant and welcoming his younger brother Alex '00 to KU.

**SARAH TEMPLE** is back at KU for her senior year. She's laying the groundwork for a medical career: working in a genetics lab, shadowing an internist in Lawrence, volunteering in Lawrence Memorial Hospital's emergency room and applying to medical schools. This summer Sarah traveled to England and Wales with her boyfriend and was treated to a bit of local color at a "hen party" which is like a bachelorette party for a bride-to-be. In May, Sarah joined a group of women from Lawrence who traveled to Washington DC as part of the march in support of women's rights. Even though the bus trip to the nation's capitol was less than luxurious, Sarah was exhilarated by the company of so many other like-minded women.

## 1998

by Allison Viola '98

**CLAIRE ADAMS** is attending Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee and studying music business with the goal of being a musician and a sound engineer. She spends her spare time enjoying the music scene in Nashville, playing in a band, and working in a gourmet grocery and coffeehouse. This summer she took classes in Nashville.

**ALEXANDRA BIXLER** continues her quest to triple major in biology, business and voice at Washburn where she completed 24 hours last semester. As if school were not enough, she also serves as the Vice President of Membership for her sorority, Delta Gamma. She continues to volunteer with the Topeka Children's Showchoir and also teaches water aerobics at the YMCA. **NATALIE BONEBRAKE** took design and drawing classes this year for her industrial design major. Several of her pieces that were based on the design principles of Gestalt were displayed at KU. Natalie volunteers with Natural Ties, an organization that helps mentally disabled people.

**JACQUELINE CASTEL** interned with the New York Underground Film Festival and recently finished a short documentary project that has been nominated to be included in a student film festival this fall at NYU. She spent part of the summer in Prague as director of photography on a five-week film shoot. She also co-wrote and art directed the film. She and her colleagues were able to shoot the project at a chateau and botanical garden on the outskirts of Prague. While in the Czech Republic, Jacqueline also crewed on four other projects, acting as assistant director and assisting with camera work. After the shooting was complete, she took a class on the history of Czech cinema, and when time allowed, explored the city and other parts of the country. Afterwards, she traveled with a friend throughout Europe: to Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris and London. Amsterdam was her favorite city. Now that she's back in New York at NYU she continues work on various art,

film and photography projects, and is excited about her first apartment. Another artistic side she's developed is her knack for DJing. She is a third year DJ at NYU's student-run radio station, working as promotions director for the station and booking all on-air giveaways and shows throughout all of New York's various clubs and music venues.

**KATHLEEN DAUGHETY** has an interest in politics that keeps her busy and involved. She serves as the Deputy Finance Director of the Kansas Democratic Party. During the spring semester of her sophomore year, she interned with Rep. Annie Kuether in the state legislature. She was recently elected president of KU's Young Democrats for the current school year. Last year, she traveled to New Zealand to visit relatives and went to Salt Lake City to work with the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual) community, through KU's Alternative Break Program and is serving as public relations coordinator for the organization this year. During the summer she spent seven weeks in Mexico traveling and studying Spanish. At summer's end she headed to Boston to attend the Democratic National Convention. Kathleen's mom, Laura Kelly, is running for the state senate and says, with a laugh, that although she is not officially part of the campaign team, Kathleen "assumes the role of campaign advisor." Kathleen is also a member of Chi Omega sorority and continues her interest in ballet by taking classes at KU where she is a junior this year.

*Karlin Keller '94 returns from New York to headline the Metropolitan Ballet's spring production.*  
*Photograph: Topeka Capital-Journal (see page 5)*



**DAVID DUNIVEN** is a junior at Notre Dame this fall. He has changed his major five times, but he is "90% sure" that he'll stay with his current premed/anthropology double major. He recently studied abroad in Costa Rica (*photos pages 36, 37*), which reignited his interest in photography. He hopes to study abroad again next summer.

**KATIE FARMER** finished her sophomore year at KU and is leaning towards studying social work and psychology. She's working at Family Service and Guidance Center in Topeka. As a junior, Katie is living with several other students at the Ecumenical Christian Ministries, a campus organization open to all religions. The building is supported by several churches in the Lawrence

area. In order to live there you must commit to community service. "I'm really excited because I think it will help me give more to the KU community," says Katie.

**JOHN FREEMAN** had barely finished his sophomore year at KU when he and his family flew to The Netherlands to see the musical *Eternity*, written and directed by John's uncle. After the show, the Freeman clan spent two weeks touring Holland. They visited Amsterdam and several small villages, including Edam (famous for its cheese) and Breukelen (which, despite the difference in spelling, is the namesake of Brooklyn, New York). John spent the rest of the summer interning for a communications and marketing firm in New Jersey, working on projects for clients as diverse as the New York Stock Exchange, Seton Hall University and Sony. He took advantage of his close proximity to New York by exploring that city, visiting Ground Zero, Wall Street, SoHo and FDR's home and library in Hyde Park. John hosted his sister and friends who came to visit in July and his parents, who came in August. John closed out the summer with a few relaxing days on the Jersey shore with a longtime pal before returning to begin his junior year at KU.

**DAVID KELLY** (T) has been heavily involved in the Marquette television station, MUTV, working behind the scenes. This summer he spent three weeks in Switzerland with a friend from high school and also traveled to Germany and the Czech Republic. When he returned, he took summer

classes at Marquette. David has now begun his junior year.

**RICHIE KENT** (T) is serving as an Airborne Infantryman in the Army's 82ND Airborne Division, 325TH Airborne Infantry Regiment in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He is currently on Defense Ready Force One, which means his unit can parachute into any conflict zone in the world in 18 hours. His unit is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan or Iraq in November of this year.

**JONATHAN SCHMIDT** is a junior at the University of Georgia at Athens, where he continues on a swimming scholarship. He stayed in Georgia this summer to teach swimming to children. He also worked in a Mexican restaurant and, with his knowledge of Spanish, acted as a translator for some of the employees. Late this summer, Jonathan finished second (by two hundredths of a second) in the 100 butterfly at the Phillips-Conoco National Swim Meet in Palo Alto. Fellow TCS alum **Samantha Crow '95** watched him compete, "He's soooo fast!" she says. Had Jonathan recorded that fast a time earlier in the year, he would have qualified for the Olympic trials. After the meet Jonathan recovered by spending some time in sunny Santa Barbara with friends.

**ALLISON VIOLA** is back at KU for her junior year. She is the Panhellenic delegate and head of public relations for her sorority, Pi Beta Phi. Last year she worked as a page designer on the University Daily Kansan and was editor of the Greek newsmagazine *The Oracle*. She recently celebrated her two year anniversary with her "little sister" through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County. In March Allison

took what she describes as "a not-so educational trip to Acapulco with friends and brushed up on my Spanish with taxi drivers and cabana boys." This summer she "barbeque stained five pairs of jeans working at Buffalo Bob's Smokehouse in Lawrence and took a Spanish class. I also enjoyed being back in the halls of Topeka Collegiate" working as an intern on this edition of *Collegiate Life*. (photo and story page 44)

**WESLEY WEST** is a junior at MIT. He stayed in Boston this summer to assist a professor with research that will bear Wes' name when it's published. He is examining public opinion surveys gathered during World War II and recoding them to fit with modern statistical programs. The end result, says Wes, "will be to 'fix' the datasets so that they adequately reflect modern day standards for randomness." Wesley has taken on some administrative duties and is in charge of training new staffers for the MIT suicide hotline. He is also researching and designing a new curriculum for a class on rape, suicide and depression. He and a friend are teaching the class this year and students will receive MIT credit. So Wes has become an MIT professor by his junior year! His goal is to make the class a freshman requirement.

**BLAKE WHITAKER** is in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M as a junior after attending Air Force Officer Training School this summer in Panama City, Florida. He has been involved in The Theater Company of Bryan/College Station and has performed roles from Barnaby in *Hello Dolly* to Tobias in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. He has been onstage several times at the George Bush

Presidential Library, twice as George in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* and now as a member of the newly formed group that will become a permanent fixture at the library, The George Bush Presidential Library Troubadours. The group performs short original musical productions on literacy and other issues. This year Blake is also serving as the Public Relations Sergeant for his Corps of Cadets squadron.

**CHRIS YORKE** is a junior at Williams College. As a sophomore, he took seriously the idea of a liberal arts education, with courses ranging from sculpture and art history to differential equations and astronomy. In December he visited his brother **Zach '95** in South Africa. Chris used his savings to take an art history course in Italy over spring break. This summer he taught middle school students at the Summer Institute for the Gifted at Amherst College, his brother's alma mater. He's now back at Williams, considering going abroad during his junior year.

## 1999

**RACHELLE ANDERSON** is beginning her sophomore year at the University of Kansas. She worked during the school year and this summer.

**NATHAN BMMES** is now a Wildcat, switching from KU to Kansas State for his sophomore year. That makes his mom, Collegiate second grade teacher Ruth, happy, as she earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Kansas State. Nathan is switching his major to pre-med and was attracted to a Kansas State program that allows undergraduates to participate in cancer research.

*continued page 18*

# Boarding School Bound

## CASSIDY CARPENTER '04

*Phillips Academy. Andover, Massachusetts*



Cassidy has been interested in boarding school since fourth grade, longer than any of her classmates. She and her family began visiting schools when she was in seventh grade. Asked what she was looking for, Cassidy says, "Actually, I wanted a place like TCS." Specifically, she was seeking small classes, academic rigor, and a personal relationship with teachers because "I learn better when I can ask questions." What finally prompted her to choose Andover? "I felt more energy from the teachers there," Cassidy says, particularly the physics teacher who is also the volleyball coach. Cassidy has been recruited to try out for the varsity volleyball team that went undefeated last year.

As fall approached, Cassidy was excited; her parents a little anxious. "My mom's just starting to realize that I'm leaving," she laughs. Cassidy feels that the difficulty of leaving family and friends is more than outweighed by "the opportunities I'll have, the people I'll meet, the experiences I wouldn't have here (Topeka)."

## CAITLIN FITZPATRICK '04

*Choate Rosemary Hall. Wallingford, Connecticut*



Caitlin's father is an Exeter alumnus, so she bucked a family tradition by choosing Choate. Dad did want her to follow in his footsteps, says Caitlin, but she found Exeter a bit stuffy. At Choate, "everyone seemed warm and friendly." Caitlin has been intrigued by boarding schools since she was a sixth grader. Her father's friend, a faculty member at Andover, visited Topeka and "talked about how much fun all the kids at Andover were having." Caitlin is looking forward to a "really good educational experience, meeting new people and having a quality school on my résumé so I can get into a really good college and become a writer."

It's tough to leave her parents, who vetoed camp for Caitlin so they could spend the summer together, and her friends, including best pal since third grade **Tess Wilson '04**. But Caitlin is excited and has been talking to **Kathy Heflin '03** a lot so she'll know what to expect. Kathy is a sophomore at Choate. Caitlin says of her parents, who are now empty nesters, "They threatened to pull me out (of Choate) if I don't call every night!"

# Boarding School Bound



## **DANIEL GROSS '04**

*Thomas More Prep. Hays, Kansas*

Thomas More is something of a family affair for Daniel Gross, who counts two cousins among the students there, as well as a cousin who's on the faculty as the band and orchestra teacher. He's heard about the school all his life, since his grandparents (his father's parents) live in Hays. But Daniel made the decision to go there himself. He was impressed by Thomas More Prep's reputation for academics, by the campus and by the new soccer field they just built. Daniel says he's not particularly anxious about leaving home, probably because he will be spending his weekends with his grandparents.



## **ATIMA LUI '04**

*Phillips Academy. Andover, Massachusetts*

Even though Atima's older sister Asona '01 went away to boarding school three years ago, it wasn't a foregone conclusion that Atima would follow. "I used to hate the idea of boarding school," she remembers. "When Asona left, I said, 'I'm never going to do this!'" Looking back, Atima thinks she felt that way because she missed her sister and because "I thought I'd always want my mom around." When she started visiting schools in seventh and eighth grades, however, Atima changed her mind. "I loved them - the people as well as the atmosphere - watching kids do so many different things." Atima looked carefully at her sister's school, Lake Forest Academy, but decided she wanted "my own place; my own atmosphere."

Atima attended a five-week camp at Andover this summer, which helped confirm that she'd made the right choice. She loved the diversity. "Half the kids in the summer session were international students," enthuses Atima. It turns out the most intimidating part of the whole summer was flying by herself and changing planes with all her luggage. The education will be more than worth the pain of leaving her friends, says Atima, "because it will help mold who I am after high school, who I am as a young adult." She is confident she will gain things she couldn't find at home, including "diversity in relationships and an incredible sense of independence."

*An unprecedented four  
members of the Class  
of '04 have chosen  
boarding school for  
high school.*

*continued from page 15*

**BRANDON BARNETT** has begun his junior year at the University of Kansas, majoring in art history. Several months ago Brandon was awarded the Jon O'Neal Award in the History of Photography. The citation reads, "This award recognizes and honors the passion and excellence of your work in the history of photography." The award is given to only one undergraduate a year at KU. Brandon has applied to study film media at the University of Scotland. He took two summer school classes this summer and is keeping up with his music, playing some coffee shops in Topeka and Lawrence with a small combo.

**SONJA BROOKS** is a sophomore at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska but has not yet declared a major. As a freshman, Sonja was a walk-on for the rowing team, competing as part of both the four oar and eight oar teams. She's looking forward to her second crew season.

**BRIANNE BURNETT** had a great first year at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor where she is now a sophomore. She joined the Alpha Delta Pi sorority and holds an officer position. She is continuing her pre-med studies and will probably major in communications. Brianne was home this summer taking a 5-week psychology course at Washburn. Then her family moved to East Lansing, Michigan, home of Michigan State University – Michigan's arch rival!

**EMILY EINSPAHR** is a sophomore at Drake University in Des Moines where she's planning a triple major in English, writing and business. She has joined the Alpha Phi sorority and has coordinated a couple of events there.

**EDDIE FONNER** is a sophomore at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where he's serving as a computer trouble shooter for fellow students.

**LISA GREENE** had a great first year at the University of California at Berkeley, both academically and socially. She's back there now as a sophomore and a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She's majoring in mass communications. Lisa spent the summer in Newport Beach taking summer school classes and babysitting. She has several clients and reports that you can make a lot more money babysitting in California than in Kansas.

**MARIA MALDONADO** is a sophomore at KU, living in a scholarship hall and loving it. This year, she's the social chair. Maria is unsure of her major but leaning toward pre-med. This summer, she spent two weeks in Guatemala.

**BRAD NOLDE** (T) is a sophomore at KU where he is undecided on his major, but would quickly decide if they offered something with the word "skateboard" in it. This year he's trying out apartment life, with all the freedoms and responsibilities that go with it. During the summer, he was a counselor at a skateboard camp, attempted to paint houses and did yard work.

**SURAJ PARULKAR** is a sophomore at St. Louis University where he's in a pre-med scholars' program. He's enjoying St. Louis and volunteers regularly at the Barnes and Jewish Hospital.

**ANDREW VAN SICKLE** (T) is in his sophomore year at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott,

Arizona. Because he began taking classes the summer before his freshman year, he'll be classified as a junior by January. The most exciting news, however, is that Andrew is certified to start his commercial flight courses this fall. Normally, they're put off until senior year. Andrew loves what he's doing and is on the dean's list.

**BETSY WANLESS** is a sophomore at the University of Puget Sound. Her freshman year was "amazing, although it was a little hard being away from my mom and friends, but I would not have done anything differently. I have had so much fun being in the Pacific Northwest. The weather is actually great, a little rainy but I guess that is better than snow!" Betsy joined the Pi Beta Phi sorority and is the assistant secretary. She is treasurer of the Resident Student Association and a member of SPURS, the honor society. She is also choreographer for RDG (repertory dance group). "I make up dances and teach them to people," says Betsy, "just like I did as captain of the drill team at Topeka High." This summer she stayed in Tacoma and worked as a tour guide for her school, as a nanny and at a tanning salon. She also tries to make time for herself. "I love Tacoma because it is so close to Seattle, so lots of my friends and I take trips for the day up there to shop, eat, hang out, go to concerts. It's just amazing!" Betsy has come up with her own list of tips for college students. The top four are: 1) take all types of classes. Don't decide your major from the first class you take or by what your parents think you should do; 2) take classes from professors you like; 3) try out new things; and, 4) try to meet someone new each day. For the rest of the list, e-mail Betsy at [bwanless@ups.edu](mailto:bwanless@ups.edu).

## 2000

**ANNA ANGEL** lettered in varsity debate for the third year as a senior at Washburn Rural High School and received the NFL (National Forensics League) degree of superior distinction. She participated in Seminary (a before-school religious program) and Model United Nations, and lettered in band where she played 1st chair oboe. She was an active member of STAT (Students Taking Action Topeka), which develops anti-smoking, drinking and drug programs which they present to elementary school students. Anna was also president of Young Woman's Laurels, a church program which requires its members to complete 25 goals and 20 hours of charitable service each year. In the Angel household, accomplishing these goals is a prerequisite to having a driver's license! Anna graduated from Rural in May and is a freshman at Kansas State this fall.

**ALLIE ATWOOD** has been accepted into the honors program at KU where she's a freshman this fall, planning to major in exercise science and hoping to eventually attend medical school. Allie ran cross country in the fall of her senior year and was one of only eight girls named to the All-City team. She served in student government and was advertising editor for the yearbook. Allie began free-lancing for *The Topeka Capital-Journal's* Southwest Neighbors section during the school year, writing about six articles a month. She continued reporting for the paper this summer, in addition to teaching swimming at her home and writing for this publication as a *Collegiate Life* intern. (photo and story page 44)

**ABBY BROWNBACK** is one of only 27 graduating seniors from the entire state to be named to *The Topeka Capital-Journal's* 2004 All-State Academic Team, chosen from among 233 nominated students. Abby is a National Merit Scholarship finalist, one of only 15,000 nationwide. (see page 29) She won four scholarships to Kansas State, where she is a freshman this fall. One is a National Merit Scholarship. Abby is majoring in journalism after serving as editor of Washburn Rural's newspaper *The Blue Streak*. As senior class president, she was chosen to speak at graduation. Closing out her tennis career at Rural in style, Abby and her doubles partner placed sixth at state, second at regionals and first at city. This summer, Abby worked as a lifeguard and taught swimming lessons at a Topeka pool.

**ASHLEY GIROUX** is a freshman at Kansas State after graduating with superior honors from Topeka High as a member

of the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society. She plans to major in interior architecture as part of a five-year program at Kansas State. This summer, Ashley worked at a local gallery, enrolled in an English class at Washburn, took a road trip to Colorado, traveled to Chicago with her mom and generally spent as much time as she could with her family before heading off to college. Last fall, Ashley was nominated for homecoming queen by her fellow students at Topeka High. (photo below)

**WHITNEY HAMILTON** has accepted a tennis scholarship to Truman State, a liberal arts college in Kirksville, Missouri. As a freshman there, she plans to major in biology, minor in Spanish and pursue a master's degree in marine sciences. Whitney says her dream is to own and operate a dive shop in the Caribbean! In the fall of her senior year Whitney was nominated for homecoming queen at Washburn Rural High School (photo page 20).



Three members of Topeka High School's homecoming royalty are TCS alums: Ashley Giroux '00, Tyler Schmidt '00 and Breana Tutuska '00.



*Whitney Hamilton '00 is a candidate for homecoming queen at Washburn Rural High School. (story page 19)*

**KAITLYNN HEFLIN** is a freshman at Bryn Mawr in Pennsylvania this fall on an academic scholarship. She graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall in the spring after finishing several term projects. In her social psychology class, for example, she researched what's called the "fundamental attribution error." Kaity explains, "That's what happens when society stops treating people like people after they commit crimes, attributing their bad actions to personal characteristics without regard to situational factors."

**JONATHAN HERRERA-THOMAS** is a freshman on KU's Lawrence campus this fall. This summer he worked at a Topeka clothing store.

**REBECCA HOLMES** is a University of Kansas freshman who plans to major either in nursing or psychology. She graduated from Topeka High with superior honors in the spring, after serving as co-editor of the *Topeka High World* her senior year. She also "graduated" from the dance studio where she's studied for many years, performing in her 15th and final recital. Rebecca waited tables at a popular Topeka restaurant this summer.

**LYNDSEY KENEFICK** is a freshman at Washburn University this fall. She graduated from Topeka High in the spring after working on the yearbook. She was also active in the STRAPP group and in reviving the Coffeehouse Club. She's learning guitar from a friend and spent the summer working at a store and babysitting for her brother and sister.

**BECKY KOPP** graduated in June from The Key School in Annapolis, Maryland and is beginning her freshman year at St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Becky plans to live at both St. John's Annapolis and Santa Fe campuses during her four-year college career. This summer she traveled back to Kansas to see friends, help her parents settle into their new home, attend concerts and create art.

**ALEXANDRA KOSSOY** was the valedictorian of her Topeka High School class (*see page 29*) and graduated with superior honors. This fall, she joins older sister **Stacie '97** at Grinnell College in Iowa, where she earned an academic scholarship. Like Stacie, Allie will continue to swim at the collegiate level. Allie's senior swim season at THS was an extremely successful one. She was captain of the girls' team which won city and I-70 league championships. As an added bonus, Allie was named to the All-City team for the fourth time – the first swimmer ever to accomplish that – and to the All I-70 team.

**BEN LEIFER** is attending the University of Missouri-Kansas City on a trio of scholarships, one from UMKC's jazz department, another from the Topeka Jazz Workshop and the third an academic scholarship from the university which, according to Ben, is "weird,

since I never remember applying for one." Ben is excited about the year. "I will be studying with the great Bobby Watson and two of the adjunct faculty bass players, equally as great, Bob Bowman and Gerald Spaits, and the faculty classic bass teacher Sue Stubbs. I hope it will work out, and I'll need to keep the e-mails of everyone on your list so when I am a starving musician someday I can write them and beg for money."

**TYLER SCHMIDT** is attending the University of Minnesota on a swimming scholarship after graduating with superior honors from Topeka High School. The university also awarded him an academic scholarship. Tyler had a terrific senior swim season. He was named an All-American in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle. That makes him a three-time all American since he achieved that distinction in the 100 butterfly as a junior. Tyler became only the third swimmer in state history to win four gold medals in four different swimming events. The state record in the 200 freestyle now belongs to Tyler. (The 100 butterfly record still belongs to brother **Jonathan '98**). Tyler was named the Kansas Athlete of the Year for the second year in a row by the state high school swimming coaches. This is the third consecutive year that a Schmidt has won the award, as Jonathan won it in 2002. Tyler is a three-time Academic All-American and won the 2nd quarter Tower Award for business. As a senior, he continued his work on the Heritage Panel, enjoyed giving tours of High through Trojan Treasures and was nominated for Homecoming King. (*additional story and photos page 30*)

*continued page 23*

*Congratulations!*

*The Class of 2004*

*and the high schools*

*they've chosen to attend*



Erin Elizabeth Atwood	<i>Washburn Rural</i>
Daiana Michelle Barber	<i>Topeka High</i>
Elizabeth Mary Brownback	<i>Washburn Rural</i>
Cassidy Elaine Carpenter	<i>Phillips Academy, Andover</i>
Paige Alexandra Conlin	<i>Washburn Rural</i>
Peter Andrew Ebeling	<i>Topeka High</i>
Caitlin Noller Fitzpatrick	<i>Choate Rosemary Hall</i>
Austin Reilly Gideon	<i>Washburn Rural</i>
Daniel Christopher Gross	<i>Thomas More Prep</i>
Christal Leigh Hannigan	<i>Topeka High</i>
Kristopher Lynn Huff	<i>Washburn Rural</i>
Jane Young Lee	<i>Washburn Rural</i>
Atima Jacqueline Lui	<i>Phillips Academy, Andover</i>
Kirsten Anne Marples	<i>Topeka High</i>
Erika Scarlett O'Shea	<i>Bishop Seabury</i>
James Montgomery Parrish	<i>Shawnee Heights</i>
Blair Elise Paxson	<i>Washburn Rural</i>
Morgan Ann Peacock	<i>Topeka High</i>
Katrina Marie Ramirez	<i>Bishop Seabury</i>
Rebecca Ann Rosacker	<i>Topeka High</i>
Tess Kimball Wilson	<i>Topeka High</i>
Kandace Michelle Yee	<i>Washburn Rural</i>
Steven Inhwon Yoo	<i>Washburn Rural</i>
Samuel Raymond Zlotky	<i>Washburn Rural</i>

*Congratulations!*

*Congratulations!*

*Congratulations!*

*Congratulations!*

*Congratulations!*

# Alumna Delivers Commencement Address

*Board of Trustees President Scott Hamilton introduced this year's graduation speaker, alumna Samantha Crow '95, by comparing her to the Class of '04. Both, he said, "exemplify what TCS is all about - the best of the best." With humor and insight, Samantha passed along eight nuggets of advice to the graduates, culled from her own experiences, advice she's been given and wisdom from some of the people she admires most.*



*Samantha Crow '95 is the 2004 graduation speaker.*

1. "Unless you're taking the SATs, don't settle for multiple choice. That's my interpretation of a gift one of my own Topeka Collegiate teachers gave me when I graduated from eighth grade. It was a framed quote: 'Do not follow where the path leads. Rather, go where there is no path and leave a trail.'

2. Start something. Being president of the science club is cool, but starting a quantum mechanics club/donut eating club is even cooler. You'll have a greater sense of accomplishment for having done it, you'll remember it longer, you'll learn a bit about leadership, and most importantly, you'll have fun doing it.

3. Don't worry too much about your grades. In other words, take classes you enjoy even if they're off the beaten track or you're not very good at them.

4. Be an exchange student. Going abroad while you're in high school gives you a perspective on the world that no other experience can provide - not to mention the opportunity to learn a foreign language.

5. Fail. If you ace everything you try, you're not trying challenging enough things.

6. Talk to strangers. Seriously. Don't necessarily trust them, but do talk to them. Sometimes the people you're least likely to encounter in your own circles of friends and family have the most interesting stories to tell.

7. Volunteer.

8. Read for pleasure and take debate class.

*Make friends; be silly; enjoy high school; have fun!*

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(Read Samantha's entire speech on our Web site: [www.topekacollegiate.org](http://www.topekacollegiate.org). Click on "2004 Commencement Speech" on the left side of the home page.)

## Alumni news

*continued from page 20*

**JULIA SCHWINN** is beginning her college career at KU, where she is undecided on a major. This summer she worked full-time at a video store and went to a week-long church camp in Colorado.

**SARAH SELLERS** is beginning her freshman year at Northwestern University after earning *USA Today's* All-USA High School Academic Team honorable mention for Kansas. Sarah won a \$10,000 scholarship from AXA Financial, for academics and extra-curricular activities. (*photo page 29*) She was awarded a check in June in the Topeka High School library and recognized in the April 19 issue of *US News and World Report*. Sarah was also named a National Merit Scholarship Program commended student and was recognized as a winner of the Kansas Scholarship Examination in English. Sarah worked as a lifeguard at a Topeka pool this summer and traveled in Europe with her parents for two weeks. She continues to play her harp for parties and community events.

**ALEX STRAUS** has chosen KU for college after graduating with high honors from Topeka High School as a member of the Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society and the National Honor Society. As a senior Alex was a starter on High's varsity soccer team and layout editor for the literary magazine *Mandala*. He also spent time every other week reading to children in Topeka elementary schools.

**BREANA TUTUSKA** is a freshman at Emory University in Atlanta this fall. She was voted by the Topeka High School faculty as the outstanding senior member of the National Honor

Society and was one of only three seniors invited to speak at graduation. (*photo page 29*) Bre graduated with superior honors and served as president of the National Honor Society her senior year. In June she traveled to Salt Lake City and the national forensics tournament. She came home with a top-30 finish in duo interpretation. Earlier at state, she took first place in dramatic interpretation and second in duo, helping the Topeka High team win the 6A tournament. In October Breana was one of three TCS alums to be nominated for homecoming royalty at Topeka High. (*photo page 19*) She also played the role of the Giant in the February musical *Into the Woods* and served as liaison officer at Model United Nations in March.

## 2001

**ROB ADAMS** closed out his junior year at Topeka High by being inducted into the National Honor Society and Quill and Scroll. He also lettered in tennis and marching band. He was a photographer for the *Topeka High World*. As he begins his senior year, he takes on the duties of photo editor at the *World*. This summer Rob was a lifeguard for the city and took two courses at Washburn. One of the year's highlights for Rob was getting his braces off in October!

**SARAH BELLOWS-BLAKELY** traveled to the national forensics tournament in Salt Lake City in June and came away with some very impressive results. She finished in the top 30 in the nation in domestic extemporaneous. Sarah placed first in that event at the state tournament and second in informative

speaking, results that helped her Topeka High School team win the state 6A championship. This year, Sarah is president of THS's National Forensics League chapter. Last year, as a junior, Sarah was inducted into the National Honor Society and won honorable mention in the Kansas Scholarship Examination competition in both English and chemistry. She was also on the math team and participated in Heritage Panel and Fearless and took home the first quarter Tower Award for rhetorical arts.

**TOBEY BILLINGER** placed first in the state at Level 3 of the National Concours Français French test last year as a junior, and seventh in the nation. Tobey had a piece published in *Mandala*, the Topeka High student creative writing publication. This summer Tobey volunteered at Hospice and at Serenata Farms, helping handicapped kids with horseback riding.

**SCOTT BOND** played varsity basketball and tennis at Topeka High his junior year, finishing the tennis season with a seventh place finish at the 6A state championships. (*photo page 24*). He was named to the All-City Tennis Team and continued playing this summer in several Missouri Valley tournaments. He also prepared for his senior basketball season with summer weight training, conditioning and shooting practice. In June Scott traveled to Germany with other Topeka High students and his German teacher who is also his basketball coach. Scott extended his stay with a visit to Belgium to see his sister and her family. He tried a new sport – slow-pitch softball – filling in for a few games with his brother-in-law. His two nieces and nephew were

*Scott Bond '01 wins the singles title at the 6A regional tennis tournament. Photo: Topeka Capital-Journal*



sorry to see him leave, but Scott had to squeeze in a trip to Paris before heading home. Back in Topeka, Scott worked as a waiter at a steakhouse before beginning his senior year.

#### **MATTHEW BONEBRAKE**

made quite a splash in swimming in his junior year and achieved a dubious distinction in soccer. First, swimming: Matt was named to the All-City and All I-70 League teams and finished 11th at state in the 50 freestyle. In soccer, he suffered a stress fracture of the foot just before play began in the fall and had to sit out most of the season. When he finally got back on the field in the last game of the season, an opposing player tackled him from behind, and he broke the other foot! He had better luck in tennis, rounding out a three sport year. Matt also performed emcee duties for the popular Mr. THS competition. This summer he worked as a lifeguard at a city pool.

**RACHEL BUCK** traveled to Salt Lake City for the national forensics tournament in June. There she distinguished herself by finishing in the finals (top 30) in the international debate event and the semi-finals in student congress. Earlier in the year she helped boost Topeka High to a 6A state championship in forensics with a third place finish in international extemporaneous speaking and a fifth

in original oratory. In the fall she and fellow TCS alum **Sarah Bel-lows-Blakely '01** teamed up as debate partners, and Rachel won the second quarter Tower Award for rhetorical arts. She also represented her junior classmates as a representative to student government. Rachel continues her piano studies, serves on Heritage Panel at Topeka High and is active in Fearless and Project Interact. She's been visiting colleges and Duke is an early favorite. Rachel observes that it's "academic but fun – a grown-up Topeka Collegiate." This summer Rachel and her brother **Elliot '03** spent two weeks in Mexico studying Spanish, visiting ruins and soaking up the sun on the beach at Playa del Carmen near Cancun.

**SHRUTI CHALLA** is beginning her term as senior class president, elected by her classmates at Topeka High. This summer she qualified for the National Forensic League tournament in Salt Lake City and did very well there, finishing in the top 30 in the nation in original oratory. She was inducted into the National Honor Society in the spring and played varsity tennis, qualifying for state and being named

to the All-City and All I-70 League teams. Shruti is working on a volunteer project with the Hyderabad (India) Rotary Club to raise money for children in the government school in that city. She's a member of the Kansas group that has been raising awareness of the Bill of Rights and has worked as a youth member of

the Indian Association of Topeka on the India Fest that raised \$2,000 for battered women. This summer Shruti attended a camp for Indian dancing (Kuchipudi) to help her prepare for her graduation from dance – a big honor called an "Arangatrum."

**MOLLY DAUGHETY** was inducted into the Topeka High chapter of the National Honor Society as a junior last year. This summer she joined the food and nutrition services staff at St. Francis Hospital. She continues her dance studies at Metropolitan Ballet and performed in *The Nutcracker* over the holidays. She appeared in the Helen Hocker production *Swing* in the spring. This summer and fall she's helping her mother campaign for the state senate.

**WILL FRAGER** is a senior at Topeka High School. This summer he was one of a group of Topekans who joined a mission group for a nine-day trip to Haiti. (*story and photo pages 37, 38*)

**EMILY HERONEMUS** made her mark in two sports as a junior at Topeka High, playing junior varsity volleyball (*photo page 41*) as a defensive specialist and junior varsity softball as a left fielder. Emily was named to the All I-70 League second team at

the close of the softball season. She was co-president of the Gay Straight Alliance, which promotes tolerance, and a member of the Heritage/Bully Panel. Emily also did a lot of volunteer work with her scout troop. This summer, in addition to babysitting two children Monday through Friday, she played on three softball teams. One of the summer's highlights was traveling to Las Vegas with one of the teams, Kansas Power, for a shootout tournament.

**SPENCER KNOLL** spent part of his summer in Chicago at the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, which allows students to get a preview of life in the medical field. Like many of his classmates, he has been visiting colleges. He played quite a bit of soccer this summer in preparation for his senior season and is taking a class at Washburn on top of an already difficult slate of classes at Topeka High.

**KATE LAND** worked behind the scenes, specifically on lights, for the February musical *Into the Woods* at Topeka High and helped build sets for *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. She worked at TCS this summer, sharpened her pool playing skills with friends and is sporting new body art! Now she's back at High for her senior year.

**ASONA LUI** is a senior at Lake Forest Academy in Chicago. She spent last year's spring break in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands with a group from her school studying biology and Spanish. The trip was to last ten days, but the students' flight out of Quito was cancelled, so they had a bonus couple of days in South America. During the first semester of her junior year, Asona

completed an independent study in vocal music with the chairman of her school's music department. She sang classical songs in Cuban Spanish, French, Italian and German, first translating them into English and then learning to play the melodies on the piano. She gave her first solo concert in November and her proud parents, brother and sister were in the audience. *(photo below)* As president of the Cultural Diversity Club, Asona helped organize and lead Multicultural Celebrations Day, a day during which all students took part in seminars on religion, sexual orientation, physical and mental disabilities, racism, sexism and various cultures. She also served on a student and teacher diversity committee for her school's re-accreditation self study. This summer Asona traveled to Spain for four weeks in a language immersion program, living part of the time with a Madrid family. Like most 11th graders, Asona is busy taking



*Asona Lui '01, performs a solo recital as part of her independent study in vocal performance.*

tests, visiting colleges, and filling out applications - a process she'll continue throughout the fall. As she begins her senior year, Asona has been re-elected to the student council for a fourth year and is serving as a senior proctor in her dorm.

**ANN MOENIUS** continues her competitive swimming. Last year, she was junior co-captain of the Topeka High team and swam on the 400 freestyle relay team that broke the school record. She qualified for state both as a member of the relay team and as an individual. She lettered in swimming and was named to the All-City team. Ann was inducted into the National Honor Society in the spring of her junior year and was active on the Heritage Panel and in Fearless. This summer Ann worked in the school district's human resources department.

**JILL MEONIUS** ran cross country in the fall, earning spots on the All-City and All I-70 teams. She was co-captain of her Topeka High team, lettered in the sport and qualified for state. She was inducted into the National Honor Society this spring and was nominated for the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy. She attended the week-long forum in Washington DC this summer. As a junior, Jill was active on the Heritage Panel, Fearless and Project Interact and remains active in her senior year,

**ROHIT PARULKAR** was inducted into the National Honor Society in the spring

Alumni news

of his junior year at Topeka High. He was part of the third place winning Russian delegation at Model United Nations and in March was named a Kansas Scholarship Examination winner in English, spelling and current affairs. The U.S. Achievement Academy, which administers the scholarship exams, honors fewer than 10 percent of all American High School students. In the fall, Rohit was on the debate squad, medaling in several tournaments with partner and fellow TCS alum **Shruti Challa '01**. The forensics season brought further success. Rohit competed in the domestic extemporaneous event on the team that brought home the first place trophy from the state 6A tournament. Rohit played violin in the Topeka Youth Symphony first semester and as part of the pit orchestra for *Into the Woods*. This summer Rohit attended a conference in Chicago for students exploring medicine as a career and spent several weeks at a camp on the Northwestern University campus, where he studied modern political thought among other things. In his senior year Rohit is serving as junior assistant literary editor for Topeka High's *Mandala* and as a feature writer on the *Topeka High World*.

**ABBEY SEIDL** spent part of this summer as she did part of last summer, working with poor gypsy villagers in Romania. (story and photo pages 38, 39). In the fall of her junior year, Abbey played doubles tennis for Washburn Rural. She and her partner didn't lose a single match during the regular season. In the spring she competed in forensics, making the semi-final round



in informative speaking at the state tournament with a speech about – of all things – s'mores! Abbey is active in drama at Rural and a member of Thespians Club. She was on the crew for the spring musical *Grease*, helping to sew and alter costumes. Her busy summer included not only the trip to Romania, but a church group outing to Iowa where she and other teens served as counselors for mentally and physically handicapped adults at a day camp called "Exceptional Persons." Abbey also found time to do some career research, spending a week at a law firm and another week shadowing a speech and audio pathologist. She enjoyed that so much she's decided she may want to become a speech pathologist and work with children.

**REED UNDERWOOD** is one of TPAC's (Topeka Performing Arts Center) 2004 Young Artists of the Year, recognized for her work in ballet, lyrical and modern dance. In an interview with *The*

*Topeka Capital-Journal*, Reed said, "I feel as though the many lessons that I have acquired through my classical ballet studies have allowed me to not only grow as an individual but allow me to become an artist as well." Reed finds artistic expression in theater, too. In January she starred in *In Black and White*, a play at Helen Hocker Theater. (photo above) She's also been a reporter for Topeka High's television production *The Edge*. She competed at the national forensics tournament in Salt Lake City in June and took third place in humorous interpretation at the state tournament in the spring. Reed continues her dance studies at the Metropolitan Ballet and appeared in its production of *The Nutcracker* in the winter and *Fascinatin' Rhythm* in the spring. Over spring break she participated in a high school journalism day at the University of Southern California and returned to USC this summer for a month-long writing

seminar. This year, as a senior, Reed is co-editor of the yearbook and director of emcees for SRO, the student-produced talent show at Topeka High. She also volunteers for the March of Dimes and the Capper Foundation.

**KELLEY VAN SICKLE** (T) is a senior at Topeka High, news editor of the *Topeka High World* and a member of the varsity cheerleading squad. She was inducted into the National Honor Society in the spring. This summer Kelley was admitted, with 14 other students, to the Savannah College of Architecture and earned an academic scholarship to attend. She took the first level of architecture college courses and enjoyed her summer in Georgia very much. This fall she's back at THS and choreographing SRO, the fall student talent show.

**TYLER WAUGH** is a senior at Topeka High School and still part of the marching band drum line. Tyler worked at a local movie theater this summer, but the highlight of his summer was his two-and-a-half-week trip to France to watch the Tour de France. Tyler traveled with older brother **Kansas '91** and a friend. (*photo page 3*) They rented a car, loaded up camping gear and moved from stage to stage of the race, positioning themselves to see the racers speed by. Tyler says on the straightaway the cyclists flew by at speeds of 35 mph or more. Was he able to spot American phenom Lance Armstrong? Yes, five or six times, says Tyler, but each time was fleeting. Still, there's plenty to see. An hour or so before the racers come, Tyler says, a caravan of sponsor cars parades by, throwing free gifts, "cool stuff", to the crowd. Tyler, his brother and friend camped out and stayed in hostels

as they followed the racers through France, including the Alps and the Pyrenees. They did get lost a few times and the nights were cold in the mountains. But Tyler had a wonderful time. The best part, he says, was picnicking on French bread, cheese and meat, waiting for the racers, then feeling the excitement in the crowd as they approached and, "Everyone gets crazy" watching them whiz by. The traveling companions saw few Americans in the early stages of the race, but by the Paris finale and Lance Armstrong's record sixth win, Tyler says more than half of the crowd was American.

## 2002

**AISLYNN BARNETT** is a junior at Topeka High, where she is singing with the elite Madrigals ensemble. Last year she performed at the state capitol in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Americans with Disabilities. This fall, Aislynn teams up with fellow TCS alum **Kelsey Wills '02** as assistant director of SRO, the student-produced variety show. Last year, Aislynn placed seventh in the state and ninth in the nation on Level 2 of the national Concours Français French exam. She served as an officer of the French Club as a sophomore and was elected its president this year. Aislynn's interest in French has been helpful as the Barnetts hosted a French foreign exchange student in their home last year. Aislynn also received an award from Topeka High's business department for students in the top ten percent of their consumer skills class. This summer Aislynn took a creative writing course at Northwestern University.

**ANDREW BROWNBACK** is beginning his junior year at Washburn Rural High School. He spent part of his summer in Pisa, Italy on a Young Life mission trip. When he returned, he went to Young Life camp in Frontier Ranch, Colorado. During his sophomore year at Rural, Andy and a friend tutored students at French Middle School. He played doubles tennis in the spring. Andy's still playing the drums, and he and two friends have formed a band called *Hoodwinked*.

**JEAN-PAUL CASTEL** (T) is a junior at Reno High School where he's keeping up his interest in gymnastics. He trains four hours a day and recently took sixth place in the open optionals class of a regional gymnastics tournament. Jean-Paul is also working with an actors' conservatory in Reno and recently returned from a week of classes in California with an agent! Still, he's focused on gymnastics and doing well in school, where he excels in math and science.

**SAMANTHA COPELAND** (T) is a cheerleader at Topeka High. Last year, she helped her squad earn a Division One rating at the Kansas Cheerleading Festival. Samantha continues her dance studies at a local studio. She traveled to Orlando this summer to compete in a national dance competition.

**ADAM COULON** spent a week this summer in Huntsville, Alabama at NASA Space Training Camp for Astronauts where he also had a chance to do some ocean diving, using the scuba certification he earned a year ago. That came in handy again later in the summer when Adam and his family went on a dive trip to Grand

Cayman in the British West Indies. Last year, as a sophomore at Topeka High, Adam played varsity tennis, placing third at regionals in doubles and qualifying for the state tournament. Adam played tenor sax in both the jazz and marching bands, traveling to Disney World in Orlando on a band trip over spring break. He was nominated for “Who’s Who Among American High School Students” and worked at a movie theater during the school year. When he wasn’t traveling this summer, Adam found time to play tennis in the Sunflower State Games.

**ANDREW HERRERA-THOMAS** has been elected all-school vice-president at Topeka High, which is very unusual for a junior. Andrew jokes that this will be his first student government experience since serving as fifth grade representative at Topeka Collegiate! Andrew played singles tennis last year as a sophomore, mostly varsity, and joined Spanish Club. This summer he worked at a local ice cream shop.

**CASEY LEEDS** is starting her junior year at Washburn Rural where last year she was on the debate squad and the swim team, competing in the 50 and 100 freestyle events. She’s a member of the Gay Straight Alliance, which works for tolerance and understanding. This summer, Casey worked as a nanny for current TCS second grader **Reed Benson**.

**IAN MARPLES** traveled in Germany for ten days in June with fellow Topeka High students, visiting Munich, Dresden, Berlin and the Dachau concentration camp. Ian is continuing his German studies this year as a junior. This summer he was nominated for the National Youth Leaders Confer-

ence in Washington. He’s a member of Mu Alpha Theta, the math honorary society and is taking guitar lessons.

**AMELIA MAXFIELD** worked as a lifeguard at a city pool over the summer and still swims with the Topeka Swim Association, although she’s not competing. This year, her junior year at Topeka High, she is sports editor of the *Topeka High World*. Last year, Amelia was named to the All-City swim team and helped her Lady Trojan team to a first-ever undefeated season as well as city and I-70 League championships and a top ten finish at state.

**ELISE MONACO** played varsity soccer for Topeka High her sophomore year and junior varsity volleyball. (*photo page 41*) She is playing on the Kansas Soccer Academy club team for KU’s assistant soccer coach. This summer Elise was invited to a medical forum in California and will likely attend next summer to research the gastroenterology field.

**DANIEL PLENKOVICH** is starting his junior year at Hayden High School. This summer, he took an English class at Washburn before heading to Croatia for a three-week visit. He continues to volunteer at both Stormont-Vail and St. Francis Hospitals.

**PATRICK SARGENT** (T) is a junior in high school in Texas, where last year he was on the debate squad and active in Spanish Club.

**KELSEY WILLS** is beginning her second year singing with the elite Topeka High Madrigals. Last year, as a sophomore, she was the starting point guard on the junior varsity basketball team and suited up for every varsity game. Kelsey was part of the women’s ensemble in SRO, the fall talent show,

and played Granny in the THS production of *Into the Woods* in February. This year she and fellow alumna **Aislynn Barnett** are sharing SRO assistant director responsibilities. Over the summer Kelsey played basketball and traveled out of town for five weekend tournaments. She went to Colorado with her youth group, working at a church camp and doing yard work for senior citizens. She stayed on in Boulder for a fun four-day visit with her brother Ryan.

**KRISTEN YEE** is a varsity cheerleader at Topeka High this year. Last year she cheered on the junior varsity squad and was part of the team that earned a Division One rating at the Kansas Cheerleading Festival. Kristen was elected a sophomore class representative last year and this year, she’s been chosen junior class treasurer. She performed in the women’s and full ensembles in Topeka High’s SRO student talent show in the fall. This summer Kristen traveled to a ten-day camp in Houston that allowed students to get a preview of the medical field by visiting hospitals, colleges and medical schools. She also worked as a hostess at her family’s restaurant.

## 2003

**AUBRIE ANGEL** is beginning her sophomore year at Washburn Rural High School. As a freshman, she was active in debate and forensics, earning her novice debate number and the NFL (National Forensics League) Degree of Honor. Aubrie played in the marching band and on the junior varsity soccer team, attended Seminary (a before-school religious program) at

*continued page 31*

# Members of Class of 2000 Honored

**T**HE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM has honored two members of Topeka Collegiate's Class of 2000. **ABBY BROWNBACK** is a National Merit Finalist, meaning she scored in the top one percent of the nation on the PSAT (Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test). Each October more than one million high school students take the test, which gauges their math, verbal and writing skills. National Merit recognizes 50,000 students for their high scores, but only 15,000 of them are named finalists. Abby has been awarded a National Merit scholarship from Kansas State University, where she is planning to major in journalism.

Abby was one of only 27 high school seniors from across Kansas to be named to the Topeka Capital-Journal's 2004 All-State Academic team. As president of her senior class at Washburn Rural High School, she was chosen to speak for her classmates at graduation. She urged her classmates to "focus on the positives, the lessons we've learned, the friends we've made, people we've become and apply those positive experiences toward living a fuller and more complete life."

**SARAH SELLERS** received a National Merit Scholarship Letter of Commendation. She received *USA Today's* All-USA High School Academic Team honorable mention for Kansas. Sarah also won a \$10,000 scholarship from AXA Financial, for academics and extra-curricular activities and was recognized in the April 19 issue of *US News and World Report*. She is a freshman at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

Two of the three speakers at Topeka High School's graduation were members of Topeka Collegiate's Class of 2000. As valedictorian, **ALLIE KOSSOY** expressed her belief that "most importantly, more than any of the homework I've done, are the moral values I've

learned. And I learned how to become a good student as well as a better person." Allie is a freshman at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa.

**BREANA TUTUSKA** delivered the closing remarks at her Topeka High School graduation, having been named the National Honor Society's outstanding senior. She said in part, "Life does not come with a set of instructions. Life is not something we have the right to take for granted. None of us would be here today if we hadn't overcome adversity and summoned the strength to face life's challenges."

*Abby Brownback '00*



*Sarah Sellers '00*



*Breana Tutuska '00*



*Allie Kossoy '00*

# Schmidt Swimming at Minnesota

by Allison  
Atwood '00

FOR TYLER SCHMIDT '00, swimming is more than just a sport – it's a way of life. And that lifestyle is ultimately what led him to choose the University of Minnesota, located in the Twin Cities, for college. "Swimming was the main reason for choosing Minnesota. I liked the team and the coaches, and the school had the major that I might be interested in," he says.

This year he is training to become a sprint freestyler, which means he will swim nothing over 200 meters in the freestyle stroke. That should come easily to Schmidt, who not only won the 200 and 100 meter freestyle events at the

2004 state meet, but also set a new state record in the 200 meter freestyle. Those wins, along with other performances, helped Tyler win the distinction of Speedo Athlete of the Year, an award given by the Coaches Association.

"Breaking the state record this year in the 200 freestyle was definitely a highlight of the year," recalls Tyler.

My family and friends were all there to watch. Also, all the spaghetti dinners with the team and the good times we had at the meets were always fun. We had a pretty interesting group of guys this year that made every trip fun."

In addition to the partial athletic scholarship he won, Tyler will also be on a partial academic scholarship, and he qualified for the Midwest Student Exchange Scholarship, which he said "all worked together nicely." Although he is currently undecided about a major, Tyler said that he's "going in with a chemistry background," and considering a medical or engineering career.

*Photo: Topeka Capital Journal*



*Photo: Topeka Capital Journal*



## Alumni news

*continued from page 28*

5:30 am and received a perfect attendance award for the year. Away from school, she participated in Olympic Development Program soccer and completed her third season of STAT (Students Taking Action Topeka), the high school version of the Citizens' Academy that Aubrie attended while at Collegiate. This summer, she attended a week-long engineering talent search camp at KU where she studied architectural conservation and design and is playing fast pitch softball and soccer.

**STEPHANIE ATWOOD** volunteered at Topeka Collegiate's Summer Adventures camps last summer. During her freshman year at Topeka High she participated in both debate and forensics. She won a first place medal in original oratory for her speech about having too many choices, and three medals in the domestic extemporaneous event. She was elected and served as freshman class secretary. Her peers apparently liked the job she did, since they elected her sophomore class secretary, as well - a job she began this fall. Stephanie won the fourth quarter Tower Award for science, nominated by her honors biology teacher. As a ninth grade member, she also helped the TCS Science Olympiad team take first place in regional competition and seventh place at state. Stephanie ran track until an injury prevented further participation. She was active on Topeka High's Heritage Panel. This summer she went to a two week debate camp at KU and again volunteered at Summer Adventures camps.

**BEN BOUTON** spent part of his summer near Estes Park at a Wilderness

Education Institute leadership camp. This was Ben's third year at the camp, which he enjoys very much. Part of his experience this year was helping with younger kids' wildlife camps. Ben is a sophomore at Topeka High this fall. He had a great freshman year and enjoys the diversity at THS. Outside of school, he's kick boxing at a local martial arts studio.

**ELLIOT BUCK** (T) served on Topeka High School's Heritage panel as a freshman and played on the golf team in the spring. This summer he traveled to Mexico and spent two weeks living with a host family in Playa del Carmen, studying Spanish in the mornings and soaking up the sun on the beach in the afternoons. This fall he is a sophomore at High.

**JORDAN CARTER** volunteered at TCS Summer Adventures camps last summer and played league softball. During her freshman year at Topeka High, she was a dancer in the girls' ensemble of SRO, the student-run talent production. She also competed in the oratory event during forensics season and joined the AFS (American Field Service) Club, getting to know THS's foreign exchange students. This summer, Jordan helped out again with Collegiate Summer Adventures, then headed north to Macalester College in St. Paul and a psychology camp.

**ELIZABETH COULON** received her scuba diving certification in Grand Cayman last summer after graduating from TCS. As a freshman at Topeka High she was active on the Heritage Panel, played clarinet in the marching band, traveling with the band to Orlando for a spring break appearance at Disney World, and made the varsity softball team as a pitcher.

Elizabeth qualified to go to state in gymnastics, but an injury prevented her from competing. She did compete as a ninth grade member of the TCS Science Olympiad Team, which took first place at regional competition in February and seventh at state, where Elizabeth helped win a gold medal in one event and bronze medals in two others. This summer, with Elizabeth on the pitcher's mound, her softball team went to the state championship in Wichita. Elizabeth rounded out her summer with a trip to Grand Cayman and scuba diving with her family.

**CATHRYN CURTIS** (T) is a sophomore at Hays High School. As a freshman, she performed in the fall musical. She enjoys teaching herself to play the piano and occasionally plays her flute and clarinet.

**CELINA GARAY** enjoyed her freshman year at Topeka High School where she played on the freshman volleyball team (*photo page 41*), served on the Heritage Panel, was on the high honor roll, and made principal 2nd violin in the Topeka High orchestra. Celina received 1 (superior) ratings at regional and state competitions in ensemble and solo performance. She received a total of four medals and lettered in orchestra. She also played in the pit orchestra for the Topeka High musical *Into the Woods*. During the fall and spring Celina played in the Topeka Youth Orchestra. This summer she was accepted at the Steven and Larissa Elisha Music Academy at Washburn and also attended the Senior High Midwestern Music Camp at KU for two weeks. The balance of the summer Celina spent volunteering at the Fiesta Mexicana and Topeka Col-

legiate's Summer Adventures program. In her spare time she enjoys hanging out with friends at coffee houses and going to movies.

**CHRISTINA GITTO** completed her freshman year at Topeka High but moved with her family in July to Miller Place, Long Island, where she's attending Miller Place High School. Christina worked at TCS Summer Adventures camps both last summer and this. Last summer her family took a vacation to Florida. This summer, in addition to preparing for the move to the east coast, they added a new Corgi puppy named Lily to the family. During the academic year, Christina continued her piano lessons and sang in the freshman girls' chorus Choraliers. The Gitto family's chinchilla Basil isn't making the move to Long Island, but has come to live at Topeka Collegiate in Mr. Shinn's science lab.

**CHASE HAMILTON** played varsity golf and freshman soccer during his first year at Topeka High, along with saxophone in the school band. This summer he went to Spanish camp in Minnesota for the third year and vacationed with his family in Colorado. Chase also wrote a Father's Day tribute to his dad titled "Thanks for being class act, Dad" which was published in *The Topeka Capital-Journal*. It read in part, "Recently while learning to drive, I drove through the garage, and my dad managed to crack a joke or two, which led to everyone smiling instead of frowning."

"Even at his age," Chase continues, "he has been trying to learn the art of riding a unicycle from me."

**KATHY HEFLIN** is a sophomore at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut this fall. Her freshman year there was a busy one. In addition to a challenging schedule of honors classes and dean's list standing, Kathy participated in debate, worked in a soup kitchen, spent part of every Sunday with a "little sister" assigned to her through Big Brothers Big Sisters, was an active member of the Young Democrats, volunteered at a telephone bank for John Kerry, helped with "Fill the Bag" (a project for homeless people) and performed with other members of the Break Dancing Club in a talent show. Kathy's newly-discovered passion is crew. It's highly unusual for a freshman to make the varsity crew, but Kathy did. It's even more unusual for a freshman to be in the first boat, but she did that too. She

and her teammates won the coveted Founder's Cup for the first time in Choate history, (*photo below left*) and posted an undefeated season until nationals, where they placed fifth in New England. Kathy says her success comes from being strong but still light, mentally determined and "able to push my body to its full extent." She received a varsity crew letter and the Coaches' Crew Award for dedication and outstanding improvement.



*Jackie Hoyt '03 is a basketball standout at Topeka High.  
Photo: Topeka Capital Journal*



*Kathy Heflin '03 (left) and her team with the Founder's Cup for women's varsity crew at Choate*

*Jordan Carter '03, Pablo Kennedy '03 and Celina Garay '03 are among the alums who volunteer at Summer Adventures.*



**MARC HERONEMUS** kept busy with three sports as a freshman at Topeka High last year: freshman football, where he played on offense, defense and special teams; freshman basketball, on a team with several other TCS alums that took the city championship; and junior varsity baseball, where he played in the outfield. For relaxation, he was active in High's Ping Pong Club. Marc honed his hoop skills this summer at a 5-Star Basketball Camp in New York where he placed second among all the campers in free throws. He also played on a baseball team that competed in the state tournament.

**JACKIE HOYT** made quite a splash at Topeka High as a triple threat athlete. As a freshman, she played on the varsity volleyball, basketball and soccer teams (*photo page 32 right*). She was named City Newcomer of the year by *The Topeka Capital-Journal* in both volleyball and basketball and was honored as the Cap-J's Athlete of the Week during basketball. That honor

was accompanied by a television interview in which she said, "I guess I was born to play basketball." Apparently so. Jackie scored 31 points and 12 rebounds in one game, after which her coach said, "Of course she's exceeded my expectations because you don't think a freshman would -or should - be able to do what she's done." Jackie also played trumpet in the band and was on the honor roll.

**PABLO KENNEDY** was one of several TCS alums helping with Summer Adventures camps the past two years. (*photo above*) He also found time last summer to serve food at the Topeka Rescue Mission. On weekends during the school year, he was a volunteer helper with Special Olympics. As a freshman at Topeka High, Pablo placed fourth in the state on the national Concours Français French test at Level 1. He also played freshman soccer, was featured as part of the marching band's drum line and joined the AFS (American Field Service) Club. This summer, Pablo went to the Heart of America

Basketball Camp in Salina with some Collegiate friends, and was one of two TCS alums to make the All-Star team. Pablo traveled with his family to Florida over spring break and to St. Louis this summer before beginning his sophomore year at High.

**CHARLES LEE** played freshman soccer and basketball at Topeka High, reuniting with several of his TCS classmates on both teams. He also worked on academics and joined the Ping Pong Club. This summer he volunteered at The Capper Foundation, helping children in the pool.

**TAYLOR OBLEY** played tennis as a Topeka High freshman, playing junior varsity singles and doubles and competing in a couple of varsity meets, as well. This summer Taylor kept up his tennis, playing in a league at the Kosover Tennis Center. He also played in a summer basketball league. Taylor vacationed with his family in Seattle and Vancouver this summer. As a sophomore, Taylor has been tapped to be a sports writer for the *Topeka High World*.

**RYAN PATRICK** sang in Topeka High's Robed Choir as a freshman and lettered in track. He auditioned for and made Madrigals - the elite singing group - for this year and is running cross country.

**MEGAN REYNOLDS** auditioned for and was chosen to be part of the Kansas Choral Directors' Association Women's High School Honors Choir this summer, joining singers from all over the state. As a freshman at Topeka High, Megan performed with the women's ensemble in SRO, the annual talent show and had a small solo. She also sang with the

*continued page 40*

# College choices



Following is the list of colleges and universities members of the class of 2000 have chosen and the scholarships they've been awarded. (T) indicates students who transferred before graduation.

**ANNA ANGEL**

Kansas State University: Manhattan

**CHELSEA ARMSTRONG**

Washburn University: Topeka

**ALLISON ATWOOD**

Kansas University: Lawrence

**LAURA BIXLER (T)**

Washburn University: Topeka

*Manuel Pusitz Scholarship*

*TPAC Young Artist of the Year Scholarship*

*Bryden Scholarship – Washburn University*

*Garvey Scholarship – Washburn University*

*Wiseman Scholarship – Washburn University*

*Academic Scholarship – Washburn University*

*Music Scholarship – Washburn University*

*Business Scholarship – Washburn University*

**ABBY BROWNBACK**

Kansas State University: Manhattan

*National Merit Scholarship – Kansas State*

*Kassebaum Scholarship – Kansas State*

*Presidential Scholarship – Kansas State*

*Journalism Scholarship – Kansas State*

**PERE GARLINGHOUSE**

George Washington University: Washington DC

*Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas Scholarship*

**ASHLEY GIROUX**

Kansas State University: Manhattan

*New Nebraskans Scholarship – University of*

*Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Academic Scholarship – University of Nebraska-*

*Lincoln*

**NICK GUFFEY**

Emporia State University: Emporia

**WHITNEY HAMILTON**

Truman State University: Kirksville, Missouri  
*Tennis Scholarship – Truman State*

**KAITLYNN HEFLIN**

Bryn Mawr College: Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania  
*Academic Scholarship – Bryn Mawr*

**JONATHAN HERRERA-THOMAS**

Kansas University: Lawrence

**REBECCA HOLMES**

Kansas University: Lawrence  
*Presidential Academic Scholarship – Baker University*  
*Academic Scholarship – John Brown University*  
*Academic Scholarship – University of Saint Mary*

**LYNDSEY KENEFICK**

Washburn University: Topeka

**BECKY KOPP**

St. John's College: Santa Fe, New Mexico

**ALEXANDRA KOSSOY**

Grinnell College: Grinnell, Iowa  
*Manuel Pusitz Scholarship*  
*Association for Women in Communication Scholarship*  
*Topeka Alumnae Panhellenic Scholarship*  
*Katherine "Kem" McHugh Scholarship*  
*Academic Scholarship – Grinnell College*

**BEN LEIFER**

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
*Topeka Jazz Workshop Scholarship*  
*Jazz Scholarship – UMKC*  
*Academic Scholarship – UMKC*

**JONATHAN SARGENT**

Bard College: Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

**TYLER SCHMIDT**

University of Minnesota: Twin Cities, Minnesota  
*Manuel Pusitz Scholarship*  
*Young Entrepreneurs of Kansas Scholarship*  
*Athletic Scholarship – University of Minnesota*  
*Midwest Student Exchange Program Scholarship –*  
*University of Minnesota*  
*Floyd and Ardola McCammon Award –*  
*Indiana University*  
*National Scholars Award – University of Iowa*  
*Presidential Academic Award – Emporia*  
*State University*  
*Hays City Silver Award – Fort Hays State*  
*University*

**JULIA SCHWINN**

Kansas University: Lawrence

**SARAH SELLERS**

Northwestern University: Evanston, Illinois  
*Watkins-Berger Scholarship – Kansas University*  
*TPAC Young Artist of the Year Scholarship*  
*American Heritage Magazine & Pearson Prentice*  
*Hall Scholarship*  
*State of Kansas AXA Achievement Scholarship*  
*Merit Scholarship – Boston University*

**ALEX STRAUS**

Kansas University: Lawrence

**BREANA TUTUSKA**

Emory University: Atlanta, Georgia  
*Whittaker Leadership Scholarship – Kansas*  
*University*  
*Ruth Hawes Eubank Fine Arts Scholarship*  
*SMU Scholar – Southern Methodist University*

# Alums Travel the Globe

*Our alumni travel far and wide to study, to help people and to learn more about the world around them. Here, in their own words, are the experiences of three alums who've recently returned from Latin America, Haiti and Eastern Europe.*

## DAVID DUNIVEN '98 – COSTA RICA

This summer I studied abroad for one month in Costa Rica with the School for Field Studies, which is run by Boston University. This program gave me the opportunity to live in Costa Rica, to understand what life is like for typical Ticos (Costa Ricans), and to see the incredible wildlife and national parks that Costa Rica has to offer. Of course, this was all bundled into a study abroad program, which means I wrote quite a few papers when I wasn't doing something fun. Fortunately, I especially loved studying Costa Rica's culture and its natural wonders.

Tico (Costa Rican) culture is incredible. My favorite aspect is their laid back personalities. First, Costa Rica doesn't have an army, and all Ticos generally avoid conflict, which I really admire. Second, the people I lived around made less than \$100/month; and amazingly, they thought their life was perfect! In Costa Rica, for the first time in my life, I could lie in a hammock and think "there's nothing in the world that I need." It's a surreal feeling. Just about every American (me included) goes through life constantly thinking about what to do next; and even when we relax, we're still concerned, on some level, with what the future holds. In Costa Rica, I experienced life without constantly thinking about what I need (only for brief amounts of time, I had



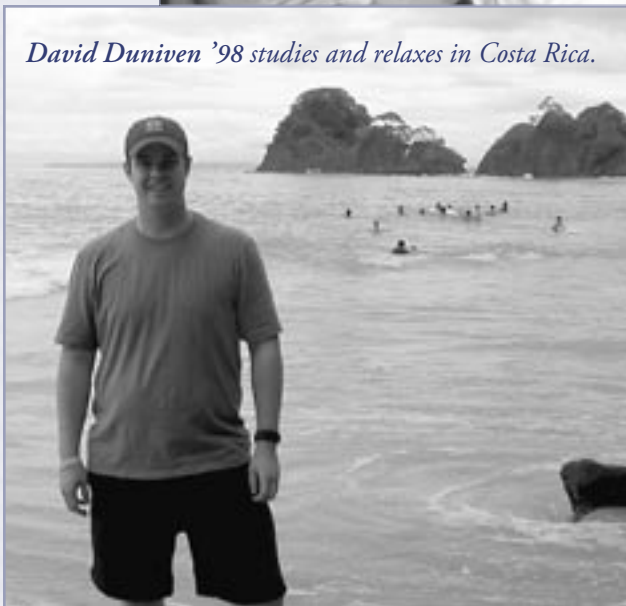
David Duniven '98

homework), but it's a state of mind that not many Americans have and one I'm glad to have learned.

One cannot talk about Costa Rica without talking about the land and wildlife, which are unmatched. Biologists and ecologists from all over the world study the spectacular wildlife; 50% of America's PhD biologists have spent some time in Costa Rica. Costa Rica's natural wonders consistently made me feel like I was seeing the most beautiful whether forest, volcano or whatever. I saw and observed incredible wildlife. My favorite experience was watching a flock of wild Scarlet Macaws feed in an almond tree. Most patient travelers have similarly grand experiences, which is why so many people (approximately one million a year) visit Costa Rica.



*Will Frager '01 (far left)  
with friends in Haiti. Photo:  
Topeka Capital-Journal*



*David Duniven '98 studies and relaxes in Costa Rica.*

Unfortunately, deforestation is a very real problem, and Costa Rica is working to protect its best resource. Twenty-five percent of the land in Costa Rica is protected in some way, which will hopefully ensure that its natural wonders will not be destroyed. In addition to the government's efforts are the countless scientists who study in Costa Rica. In my program, I had the pleasure of working with many of these scientists who not only taught me about Costa Rica, but also about the research process in general. I left the program knowing that I played a small part in the protection of the beautiful wildlife and parks that I saw; plus, I made some really great friends and learned how to write a decent science paper. I hope to carry with me the memories of my experiences there throughout my life.

### WILL FRAGER '01 – HAITI

On the short drive to Miami International Airport, I pressed my face to the glass of the hotel shuttle's backseat window to drool over a car dealership selling Italian sports cars. These cars are characterized by a few traits that make them ever so desirable: They rise only to waist level, making it difficult to enter; they have engines the size of refrigerators yet seat only two people; they have a ground clearance of 5 inches; and they are exorbitantly expensive. Vehicles such as these are an unmistakable display of a nation's wealth and developed infrastructure.

Two hours later, from Haiti's Port-au-Prince International Airport, I saw my first Haitian police officer. These officers do not have badges; their irregular assortment of assault rifles suffice. My fellow travelers and I piled into an SUV and quickly became submerged in Third World driving.

Our own customs such as right of way and not driving head-on into traffic were long gone. The occasional stop sign or traffic light did not give orders, but rather raised questions of the reasoning and conditions that originally brought about its construction.

Any vehicle on the streets of Haiti would not be recommended for people shorter than 42 inches, pregnant or with a history of chronic back pain. Five inches of ground clearance wouldn't cut it for

*story continued next page*

a Haitian, but a sports car isn't an issue where the average annual salary is \$370.

So here Haiti is. One might think that because of its location -- only a few hours from Disney World -- that the US government and aid organizations would have Haiti whipped into shape by now. But most everything about helping a Third World country develop is difficult. Financial aid ends up in the wrong hands. Food and clothing packages, while sustaining people who would otherwise die, hurt the local economy, which consists of farmers and seamstresses. When we asked the supervisor of one of Haiti's "better" hospitals what he needed, he replied, "Where do I begin?"

Half of Haiti is unemployed, yet mobs recently destroyed factories, causing the loss of thousands of jobs. Hundreds of people line the streets without the security of a roof to sleep under or meal for the day, but use of birth control is rare because the men feel it is emasculating. Where there is electricity, it flickers on and off, but recent construction of a power plant was abruptly stopped.

The United States' answer seems to be: Where there is a problem, establish a democracy! However, there are requirements for a democracy, most importantly that the people must be educated. Even though President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was "democratically elected" (the authenticity of his election is disputed), the country was not on the fast track to stability. If the Haitian people are illiterate and suffer from malnutrition, how can they be expected to have an active political awareness necessary for a democracy?

Then is there no hope for Haiti? Like any nation, its future depends on its children. Most work being done for Third World children sensibly emphasizes basic necessities for survival. Though this helps to keep the Haitian children alive for future generations and must be continued, it doesn't fix any of the country's difficulties.

Haitian children must become educated about their country's problems, and Haiti must develop its own

professionally educated class of citizens to help run the country. While foreign aid and professional help is needed, no one feels more patriotism or will work harder for Haiti than the Haitian people; they just need the means and education.

As the Haitian proverb goes, "Pise marengwn ogmante la rivye," or "The piss of the mosquito widens the river." In other words, every little bit counts, and if you are interested in helping Haiti, go for it. Do your research, make sure to target the areas that truly need help, and be mindful of your own safety.

I observed a great deal of humanity's ability to persevere in the most difficult conditions. Going to Haiti was an incredible experience, even without Thunder Mountain or 200 mph sports cars.

#### ABBEY SEIDL '01 – ROMANIA

That morning found us in the gypsy village void of electricity, plumbing or potable water. This was the second missionary trip my mother and I have taken to Romania, and yet I was still shocked to discover the living conditions the men, women and children just like us were consistently struggling with every day.

The team of ten ascended the hill leading to the isolated gypsy village of Pericei where smiles and waves greeted us as children ranging from infancy to teenage years crowded around the car, speaking in their native tongue about the newcomers. Mud streaked across their faces, their clothes were ripped or nonexistent and their rounded stomachs served as evidence of their struggle with hunger. Emerging from the small, one-room school located in the basement of the single-room village church, hand-in-hand with the children, were the two female teachers, both bilingual and both barely older than 19 years of age.

As our interactions with the children continued, I was distracted from my own fears by those that the children were living with every day. With outstretched arms and open palms, the children constantly tugged on our clothes and looked at us with their big eyes, begging for food and attention. Later we discovered the children eat only once in nearly two days, with a small supplement of bread and water. Holes dug in the dirt, surrounded by mud walls and plastic sheeting for roofs were called home by these villagers. Through our regular visits with the students, I became immune to my needs and grew ever more concerned about theirs.

We grew even closer to the children as the week continued, and as the end of our trip neared we knew each of the 21 children by name, background, and family situation. As the educational team spent days bonding with the children and providing the love for them that they failed to receive at home, the clinic team was providing their expertise in the medical field. The clinic team visited the state hospital and saw the desperate and insubstantial conditions the Romanian babies were enduring. There were no attendants to be found, and as a result the babies no longer wept when they were hungry, needed their diapers changed, or were in pain. The newborns were left malnourished and inadequately fed. There-

fore, their adoptions were closed and they were to be held in the hospital.

One particular child will always remain in my memory as the main reason and rationale as to why we were called here. The first day of kindergarten, my eyes were instantaneously drawn to the smile of a little girl sitting in the corner. Her eyes glowed and her dimples peeked as she looked each one of us in the eye and waved shyly and giggled. Upon rising that morning our team was surprised by the sudden cold weather and the need for five layers of clothing, poncho and boots. Little Eva, on the other hand, wore a ripped and soiled sleeveless dress and walked around barefoot. We soon discovered that Eva had just turned six

years old and was taking full care of her two-year-old brother David. Eva and David were likely to be left for days on end to bathe, feed and take care of themselves while their parents took off for the week. The strength, courage and responsibility exhibited by this little girl to constantly provide protection, care and love not only for herself but for someone else was enough to show me exactly what I was called to do. As we prepared to leave I noticed Eva waving goodbye, and I could see a genuine smile across her face. That is when I truly felt the difference we made in someone's life.



*Abbey Seidl '01 (in hat) makes balloon animals for Romanian children.*

*continued from page 33*  
freshman girls' Choraliers, performed a solo, and sang with a small ensemble at the regional music festival. All three performances earned 1 (superior) ratings. At the Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy, Megan was in the cast of *Schoolhouse Rock Live* and *Music Man Junior*. She worked behind the scenes on Topeka High's production of *Into the Woods* and loved it. She also volunteered to work on the light crew for TCS's spring production of *Charlotte's Web*. Megan took home three awards from the regional Future Business Leaders of America competition: second in Introduction to Business Communications, third in Sales Presentation and fourth in Networking Concepts.

**CAITLIN SEALS SCHWANKE** is beginning her sophomore year at Topeka West where she performed in the musical *Cabaret* as a freshman. Caitlin continues her dance training at Ballet Midwest where she dances every day of the week and helps teach. She performed in *The Nutcracker* in December and *Cinderella* and a dance revue in the spring. Caitlin volunteered at TCS Summer Adventures last year and this year, assisting this summer with Nature Camp and Holes and Shoals. She finished out both summers with backpacking trips to Colorado.

**MIKE SNYDER** is beginning his sophomore year at Washburn Rural High School after volunteering at a couple of Collegiate Summer Adventures camps. He's just one merit badge short of his Eagle rank in scouting,



*Eric Wang '03 (back row, 3rd from left), Stephanie Atwood '03 (middle row, left) and Elizabeth Coulon '03 (middle row, 2nd from left) help the TCS Science Olympiad team to a first place regional win.*

For his Eagle project, Mike cleared land at an area church for a sacred garden, laid mulch for a trail, and dug a fire pit. At Rural, Mike got his start in theater by taking a tech class and joining the Thespians Club.

**RYNE TUTUSKA** played freshman soccer and basketball with a handful of other TCS alums at Topeka High. His keyboarding teacher nominated him for a business award which he was given at Washburn in a ceremony this spring. This summer, Ryne went to the Heart of America Basketball Camp with some of his buddies from TCS days.

**ERIC WANG** was one of five Collegiate alums in the Class of '03 to play on the freshman basketball team at Topeka High. He also played fresh-

man soccer and junior varsity tennis. Eric was one of three alums who competed as ninth graders on the TCS Science Olympiad team, winning first place at regional competition and seventh at state (*photo above*). Eric helped win a bronze medal for the team in an event called Wheeled Vehicle. At High, Eric served on the Heritage Panel. He volunteered on weekends during the school year, helping challenged athletes through the Special Olympics program. This summer Eric attended the Summer Institute for the Gifted at Caldwell College in New Jersey, taking classes in physics and writing among other things. He also joined several TCS

classmates at the Heart of America Basketball Camp in Salina, where he made the All-Star team. He can't get enough basketball, it seems. Eric also played summer league basketball with some Collegiate friends.

**DAVIS WITTIG** played on the freshman basketball and soccer teams at Topeka High along with several other TCS alumni, and served on High's Heritage Panel. This summer he pursued his love of basketball at two competitive basketball camps; the 5-Star camp at Fordham University in The Bronx, New York, and Hoop Mountain in Rhode Island. He even got up early while his family was on vacation to shoot hoops at the local rec center beginning at 6am! Davis also played tennis this summer and ventured into the rough ocean water off the New York coast.

**ALEXANDRA WOODBURY** made the junior varsity volleyball (*photo below*) and basketball teams as a freshman at

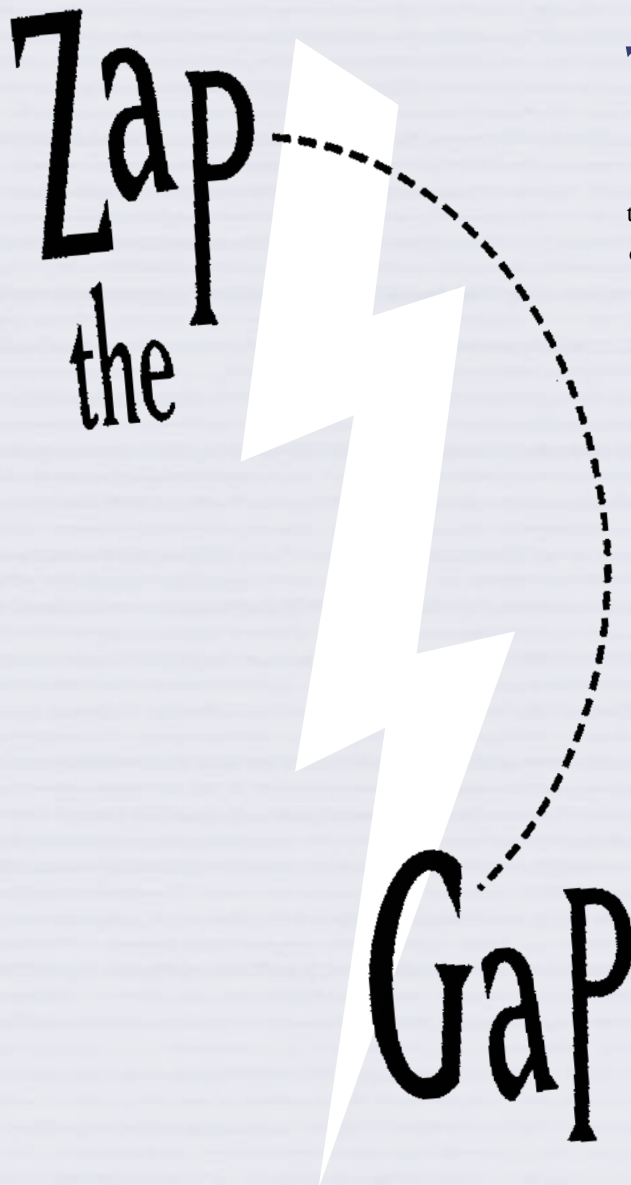
Topeka High. She swam for the varsity swim team which won both the city and the I-70 League and placed ninth in the state - the highest ever - and was one of only three freshmen to swim at state. Alex sang with the freshman girls' Choraliers and a six-person ensemble. Both earned a 1 (superior) rating at the regional music festival. She also played club volleyball for the Kansas Networks and was a member of the Heritage Panel. But perhaps best of all, Alex won the Tower Award in math. She was the only freshman to do so. The award is given for leadership, honesty and positive attitude. This summer, Alex went to Camp Birchwood in Minnesota where she sailed, swam and, as a senior camper, helped with the dance program. She also participated in the Heart of America basketball camp in Salina and played volleyball in the Sunflower State Games.

*Left to right:  
Courtney McManus (T) '02,  
Emily Heronemus '01,  
Michelle Neis '02,  
Aly Woodbury '03,  
Elise Monaco '02,  
Jackie Hoyt '03,  
Celina Garay '03*



# SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

## *Zap the Gap*



THE 2003-04 ZAP THE GAP campaign brought in more than \$140,000. Chairperson Kris Chanay has overseen several innovations in the annual effort to bridge the gap between tuition and the cost of a year at Collegiate. One involved our students. We invited them to write about what they want to be when they grow up. The children's hopes and aspirations touched us and made us realize the truly boundless scope of their dreams. (Examples: "I want to be an astronaut. I will visit Mars in a spaceship. I will wish upon a star." "When I grow up I want to be a veterinarian. I also want to be a doctor of kids. I will do checkups on kids.")

Another groundbreaking development in this year's campaign: the first-ever matching gift offered by two anonymous alumni to encourage fellow alums to support TCS. This generous match is an indication that many of our graduates have reached the stage where they're gainfully employed; making their way in the world and deciding what role philanthropy will play in their adult lives.

The matching gift amount is \$2,000. We don't want to leave even a penny of that generous gift "on the table." If you're an alum who would like to make a gift to Topeka Collegiate and get twice the "bang for your buck" in the form of a dollar-for-dollar match, please send your contribution to us here at TCS.

# The Collegiate Auction

The casino-themed *Betting on Your Child's Future* auction turned out to be a sure bet. It was the most successful auction in school history, with net proceeds topping \$127,000. Co-Chairperson Bill Padgett kept repeating that he didn't know what he was doing, having never worked on the auction before. Yet his hard work, humor and fresh ideas helped inspire a couple of other "rookies" – Acquisition Co-Chairpersons Sue Badsky and Cheryl Kingfisher. The trio at the top had wonderful support from many, many volunteers and from the business community. The topper was a generous gift from the Security Benefit Group of Companies which boosted the professional development section of the auction to just over \$12,000 for faculty education.

Our joy at the success of the auction was tempered by sadness at the death of one of its co-chairpersons, Kelly Douglass. Dr. Douglass was a tireless volunteer and supporter of Topeka Collegiate School, serving on the Board of Trustees and the board's finance committee as well as on the auction leadership team. He was also a lunchroom volunteer who never failed to greet the children with a smile. The Douglass family requested that memorial gifts be made to TCS. Those gifts go into the Kelly Douglass fund, which is part of the school's permanent endowment fund.

*Dr. Kelly Douglass*



*Auction Co-Chairperson Bill Padgett flanked by Acquisition Co-Chairpersons Sue Badsky and Cheryl Kingfisher.*

# Interns Help Write Collegiate Life



*Allison Atwood '00*



*Allison Viola '98*

**W**e welcome two alumnae interns who helped gather information and write this edition of *Collegiate Life*. Coincidentally, both are named Allison!

**Allison Atwood '00** is a freshman at KU where she is planning to major in exercise science. But she's a veteran writer. She free-lances for *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, and several of her articles have appeared in the Southwest Neighbors section.

**Allison Viola '98** is a junior at KU where she works on the *University Daily Kansan* and a news magazine documenting sorority and fraternity life. As a Topeka High senior, she was editor of the *Topeka High World*.

Thanks to both Allisons for their help with this project.



# KEEPING IN TOUCH

**P**ARENTS: While your son or daughter is in college, we will continue to mail *Collegiate Life* to them at your address. Once they have a permanent address, we will send it there. You may e-mail your son or daughter's permanent address to: Development Director Mary Loftus at [mloftus@topekacollegiate.org](mailto:mloftus@topekacollegiate.org).

**A**LUMNI: Your news may be e-mailed to either your class agent (*right*) or Mary.

## Collegiate Life

Fall 2004

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