

Graduation event begins finale for seniors

By Monica Springer
Editor in chief

Graduation. Seniors are excited and anxious for May 4 to arrive.

But before that date gets here, seniors are encouraged to attend an event called the Grad Finale. Consider the event a one-stop shop for all things graduation.

On Feb. 27, seniors will have a chance to go to the Java Jinx for the Grad Finale. The event begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m.

Each senior can expect to spend about 30 minutes at the event. Jostens will be there, so seniors can order

their cap and gown, as well as their announcements. Students can also meet with financial aid and college services to make sure their bill is paid.

There are two other Grad Finale dates for professional studies students. They are 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 27 at the professional studies Wichita East Center, and 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Wichita West Center.

More than 100 seniors attended last year's Grad Finale, which was a majority of the graduating class, said Stacy Townsley, registrar.

"It's a one-stop shop to get everything done for

graduation. It's provided for your convenience," Townsley said.

Students can also meet with a laptop manager if they want to buy their laptops after graduation and can also set up a time to complete exit counseling.

Last year a bachelor's cap, gown, and tassel cost \$31. A master's cap, gown, and tassel cost \$48. A plain tassel was \$4.50 and a souvenir tassel, which is purple and white and has the graduation year on it, was \$6. Shipping for the items was \$6.95.

Seniors also need to apply for graduation, which can

be done on the registrar's website at <http://www.sckans.edu/registrar>. The deadline to apply for spring graduation is April 1.

A representative from the graduate studies program will be available to meet with students to discuss further education.

Stephanie Humphries, graduate admissions adviser, will provide information about the three master's degree programs at the Grad Finale. Currently, Southwestern offers three degrees. They are Master's of Arts in Specialized Ministry, Master's of Science in Leadership, and a Master's

of Business Administration.

Humphries said about 40 students are in the master's degree programs on campus.

"Seniors can get everything done in one stop. They don't need to run all around campus to get it done," Humphries said. "They can get their final bill all figured out and look into future programs. They can get it done all at one time."

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days until graduation

Arkansas City radio station offers alert services

By Samantha Gillis
Staff reporter

How nice would it be to have weather, news, concerts or school closings sent directly to your cell phone free of charge? There would be no need to even turn on the television, all the breaking news would be at your finger tips.

KSOK has teamed up with William Newton Hospital to offer a free notification system through a text message sent directly to cell phone.

Brian Cunningham is the business and operation manager

for KSOK. He said, "Our job is to bring to you fast and accurate information."

The service is easy to sign up for. Just visit the radio station's website at www.ksokradio.com and click on "KSOK on the way" at the top of the page. All you have to do is register your phone number, choose the notifications you want and then verify your number, by replying to a text they will send. Cunningham said, "The purpose of the verification is to make sure it is your number."

Pam Miller, sales manager for KSOK, thinks the service

is convenient and necessary for college students.

Miller said, "Say you wake up and want to know if class is canceled. You don't need to call anyone or even turn on your computer because you've already gotten a text telling you if it is canceled."

There is no catch, it is completely free, and you never have to renew it. Cunningham said, "The only restriction is if you do not have text messaging on your phone then the service will not work or your phone company will charge you for the texts."

The station just recently updated the service by teaming up with National Weather Service.

The NWS sends their alerts right when they are informed of the severe weather alert that way it arrives quicker than going through the station.

This service was brought to the attention of Sara Weinert, communications director, after the snow day when KSOK called her. Weinert said, "They told me to let the students and staff know they had the option of signing up for school closing notifications."

Miller said, "It is especially nice for students who are not from around here, and need to know when a road is closed."

About 20 people a month sign-up and the station has been offering the program for about eight months. The service works through an off base contact which takes the typed message from the online system and then transmits it to the cell phone numbers. Anyone at the station can log on and send out notifications. Each message comes with an introduction which states, "Brought to you by William Newton Hospital

and KSOK."

All subscribers may cancel their service at anytime or change the notifications they receive. Cunningham said, "We don't profit from the service it just gets our name out there."

Miller said, "If nothing else you can know when concerts are and we are always giving away free tickets, like \$200 tickets. So it is nice to know when that happens so you can actually win some great stuff."

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