

*Learning to sing in harmony*



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School  
Tori Fringer (from left), Emmy Fringer, Rebecca Bange and Tayler Petersen performed in the girls chorus during the Western Kansas Liberty League Vocal Clinic at Golden Plains High last Tuesday. This was the first year that both middle school and high school clinics were held at the same time and place. The concert included performances from both groups.

# Colby native on winning team for Fort Hays State leadership

A team of Fort Hays State University leadership studies students, including one from Colby, has taken second place in the sixth annual International Leadership Association Student Case Competition in Denver.

Laura Dougherty, a Colby senior; Jill Moeder, a Hays senior; and Megan Rinckenbaugh, Augusta junior, competed against schools including the University of San Diego, the eventual winner, and the University of Pittsburgh, the third-place team.

Washburn University, Topeka; Kansas State University, Manhattan; and Marietta College from Ohio also fielded teams. Dougherty, a 2008 graduate of Colby High School, is the daughter of James and Rosanne of Colby.

The competition included a written case-study analysis, a poster session and a final presentation connecting the case study to conference presentations at the association's 14th annual global conference.

"The Department of Leadership Studies is incredibly proud of the work that these students did, not only to prepare for the contest, but to represent themselves, the department and the university throughout the competition and conference," said Dr. Jill Arensdorf, department chair.

Each student received a one-year ILA membership as a prize. "I was grateful to have the opportunity to listen to and learn from leadership scholars, academics and practitioners from all over the world," said Moeder. "Being able to represent Fort Hays State University ... was an honor."

"I learned a lot, not only from the conference but from Laura and Jill as well," said Rinckenbaugh, praising her teammates.

Arensdorf said preparation began about the middle of September when the students received the case-study information. All 14 teams in this year's undergraduate competition worked the same case, which involved a real-world children's learning center that was facing problems in organizational structure and with employees. The identity of the company was concealed, said Arensdorf, but the situation was real.

Dougherty, Moeder and Rinckenbaugh then prepared a brief with their recommendations and solutions. They analyzed the situation and proposed solutions based on theoretical framework and what would work in that specific situation.

"They had to use the content from their leadership studies classes in their work," she said. "It was exciting and rewarding to see

them making the connection from the classroom to these real experiences."

The team submitted its brief before the conference in Denver. The first night of the conference, the team exhibited its poster at the poster session. The final stage of the competition was a presentation to the three judges, who had evaluated the written brief and the poster session. The students not only had to present their case, but they were also expected to work into their case what they had learned at the conference itself.

"It was about a month-long process for them," said Arensdorf. "Going through the process and competing was worth a lot for them and for Fort Hays State, to have our team show so well and to be ranked so highly at the closing."

## Protests of ad tax runs on billboards

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A nationally known billboard firm is turning to — what else? — its billboards to speak out against a Pittsburgh City Council plan to tax the message board.

Lamar Advertising of Baton Rouge, La., is targeting the council members who are proposing the 10-percent tax, Natalia Rudiak

and Darlene Harris. One billboard lambasting Rudiak says, "Worst Economy In 50 Years. Natalia Rudiak Says: Let's raise taxes."

The company's attorney, Jonathan Kamin, says Lamar paid more than \$60,000 in permit fees for its billboards last year, not to mention real estate taxes and donates free ad space to nonprofits.

The council members, however, are undeterred and getting a kick out of the ads.

Rudiak almost drove off the road laughing at one sign targeting her that says, "Politicians all want free advertising. Thanks, Lamar."

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