FRANKFORT — From a thrilling performance by the Mighty Marching Thorobreds’ drumline to informative tours led by student ambassadors, Kentucky State University (KSU) impressed more than 680 prospective students and their families at Open House on Saturday, October 29 at the Exum Center.

The Open House’s program kicked off with welcome messages from Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Ms. Francene Gilmer, Kentucky Region Alumni Association President Dr. Margaret Bell Davis, Miss KSU Natalie Grace Berry and Mr. KSU Jalen Jajuan Brown after the continental breakfast.

Members from some of the Greek organizations regaled the crowd with their history and a brief step show. Open House participants also could visit several academic and organizational exhibits between their tours and lunch. Interim President Dr. Aaron Thompson encouraged students to learn more about the University and its various programs during the visit. “Just hanging out with all of the kids and families made my day,” Thompson said.

Students, whose ages ranged from elementary to high school, traveled from states such as Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Georgia and Michigan, to get a glimpse of KSU student life.

Troy Christian, who lives in Michigan, attended the Open House with his wife and son. He sent an email to Dr. Thompson praising the University for its “well-mannered student body,” “immaculate landscaping,” “helpful security,” and “friendly faculty.”

“As a parent of a prospective out of state student, I feel very comfortable with the way this university operates. … The total experience was something my family and I will not forget, and we look forward to him becoming a freshman Thorobred!”
FRANKFORT -- Kentucky State University (KSU) biology major Hailee Wilson has always dreamed of traveling to other countries. However, the graduating senior read an email in October that combined both of her goals: education and travel. Wilson will head to Cape Town, South Africa, on June 14 to participate as a volunteer with One Heart Source.

The California-based One Heart Source is an organization that has designed and operated volunteer programs for university students who seek to broaden their context of humanity and the world through results-oriented service learning.

After Wilson graduates from KSU in May, she will teach mathematics and reading to students at an academy in South Africa for a month.

“This will allow me to do something more, become more worldly and experience other perspectives. This seems like the perfect opportunity for me,” Wilson said. “There will be people from all over the world in this program, so I will learn their perspectives.”

Although the Las Vegas native has applied to dental schools such as Howard University, University of Louisville, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the University of Michigan and Detroit Mercy, she anticipates that her volunteer work will be life-changing.

“The organization focuses on cultural immersion, so we’ll get a chance to talk with local activists, artists, and politicians,” she said. “I think it will be eye-opening, and it might even change my path. I’m planning to attend dental school, but I kind of think that I’m meant to do more.”

Wilson said that her parents are supportive and have been instrumental in fundraising through her web page. She will need to raise $4,200 to cover her expenses in South Africa and get several vaccines to prepare for her trip.

The link to Hailee Wilson fundraising page: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTE4ODg=

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