TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Joe Harkins, a 40-year veteran of state government, has been appointed to the Kansas Corporation Commission by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

Since February, Harkins, 68, of Lawrence, has been director of the Kansas Energy Office, a position to which he was appointed by Sebelius after serving as a special assistant to the governor.

He replaces Robert Krebsiel, whose term expires Aug. 1. Sebelius wants the Kansas Gaming and Racing Commission to name him as the state’s gambling czar to help oversee the development of state-owned resort casinos and slot machines at racetracks.

"Joe is someone who has committed his life to public service," Sebelius said in a statement. "He has a wealth of knowledge on the subjects handled by the commission as well as a vision for where this state can go in terms of renewable energy."

The other two commissioners are Chairman Tom Wright, appointed by Sebelius last year, and Michael Moffet, named by the governor in 2004. The commissioners serve four-year terms but can be reappointed.

The KCC regulates the energy, transportation and telecommunications industries within Kansas, including the setting of utility rates throughout the state.

As energy office director, Harkins worked on renewable energy projects such as solar and wind power, which has been a priority for the governor. The office also works to develop greater energy efficiency and conservation.

Sebelius has said she wants renewable resources — mostly wind — to represent 10 percent of the state's generating capacity by 2010 and 20 percent by 2020, goals she has been pushing since January.

His appointment is subject to Senate confirmation next year but must be approved by the Senate Confirmation Oversight Committee before he can be sworn in. The committee recommends appointments when the Senate isn't in session.

Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, the committee chairman, said the committee will meet either this month or next month and will consider Harkins' appointment if it has received the paperwork from the governor's office.

Schmidt, R-Independence, didn't want to predict the outcome, but noted, "It's been a long time since the Senate has turned down a nominee."

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, the committee vice chairman, said the governor made a good choice with Harkins and sees no problem with him winning confirmation.

"He's well known and well respected around this building," Hensley, D-Topeka, said at the Statehouse.

Harkins has held various jobs, including secretary of the Department of Health and Environment and director of the University of Kansas Public Management Center.

After his retirement from the university in 2003, Sebelius asked him to serve as director of the Kansas Water Office, dealing with such issues as protecting and restoring the state's watersheds and developing regional water supply strategies throughout the state.

The governor then asked him in 2004 to serve as a special assistant focusing on natural resources and energy issues.
Chase County Alumni

KU announces spring 2007 honor roll

LAWRENCE — More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and 37 other countries.

On the roll from Chase County were: Jordan Elizabeth Kline, daughter of William and Kelley Fowler, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1; Noah Andrew Lock, son of Diane Lock, Liberal Arts Undergraduate; and Shelly Diane Unruh, daughter of Diane Unruh, Allied Health Undergraduate.
Stevens attend Leadership Institute

The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas hosted 48 high school seniors from across Kansas in the Youth Civic Leadership Institute that ends Friday. It is designed to foster appreciation and involvement in public service.

Junction City High School students attending were Brad Foster and Brandon Ramos.

The program focuses on civic engagement and practicing civic skills. The students work in groups to discuss a range of issues that affect them in their schools and communities and present solutions.

Today, Chuck Berg, professor of theatre and film, will lead the students in a discussion of the 1939 Frank Capra movie "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington." Friday, speakers will include retired U.S. Navy Capt. Buck Newsom, a civic leader in Lawrence, and Brett Ballard, a former KU basketball player from Hutchinson who graduated with a degree in secondary education in 2003 and is now on the men's basketball team staff.

Newsom will share his view on "Civic Participation from the Greatest Generation." Ballard will address "Teamwork and the KU Basketball Team's Civic Involvement."
KU announces Spring Honor Roll

More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school.

Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Among the students who were on the honor roll was Hally Grace Crangle of Lincoln, daughter of Robert and Jeanne Crangle, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore 2007 Spring Honor Roll Lincoln High School, Lance Antone Cheney of Hunter, son of Darrel and Bonnie Cheney, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1 2007 Spring Honor Roll Sylvan Unified High School and Chelsea Rae Nitsch, Hunter, daughter of Bradley and Tracy Nitsch, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore 2007 Spring Honor Roll Sylvan Unified High School.
New area KU students invited to welcome picnic

New University of Kansas students and their parents from Marshall, Clay, Dickinson, Geary, Pottawatomie, Riley and Washington counties will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6:30 p.m. July 26 in Manhattan.

The KU Alumni Association and its Flint Hills chapter will greet the next generation of Jayhawks at Advanced Dental Arts, 4201 Anderson Ave. Area alumni, new students, students interested in learning more about KU and parents are invited to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages. Each new Jayhawk will also receive a free T-shirt.

Chapter members coordinating the event are Larry and Nancy Stoppel of Washington, president and board member, respectively; Steve Pierson of Hanover, vice president; and Ellen Remsing of Manhattan, student recruitment chair.

Alumni association staff will arrive with the signature KU trailer full of grills, burgers and brats for the festivities. Current KU students, alumni and university representatives will mix and mingle with students to answer questions and offer advice.

Alumni association representatives and guests planning to attend are: Jennifer Alderdice, director for student programs; Sarah Blaney, assistant director for student programs; and Heath Peterson, director for Kansas programs.

For information or to make reservations, people can visit www.kualumni.org, call the KU Alumni Association at 800-584-2957 or e-mail kualumni@kualumni.org.

The alumni association invited incoming students whose enrollment deposits were received by the Office of Admissions and Scholarships by May 1.

AREA STUDENTS INCLUDE:

Axtell — Monica Holthaus, Kalin Holthaus.
Beattie — Melissa O’Neil, Robin Rohrs.
Frankfort — Emily Boeckman, Logan Jones.
Hanover — Adrienne Meyer, Anthony Bennett.
Marysville — Alice Chan, Kelsey Hampel, Ariel Heckel.
Vermillion — Annie Caffrey, Gina Gerstner.
Waterville — Marjorie Coon.
KU releases honor rolls

LAWRENCE — More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

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**Medicine Lodge**
Ryan Thomas Soper son of Paralee Soper

Matthew Benjamin Booth son of D Kim Booth

**Cunningham**
Derek Michael Setter son of Christopher Setter

**Greensburg**
Stephanie Lynn White daughter of David and Kathy White
Zachary Glenn White son of David and Kathy White

**Pratt**
T'Lane Balue Briggeman daughter of Stuart and Teri Briggeman
Christopher James Dino son of Andrea Fea
Tyson Ray Eisenhauer son of Rob and Cindy Eisenhauer

**Kansas**
Katie Dawn Fisher daughter of Vickie Fisher

**Coffey**
Jessie Trece Garrett daughter of Michael and Kimberly Garrett

Jamie Lynn Hearn daughter of Richard and Janell Hearn
Kelli Lynn Martin daughter of Denise and Kris Dover
Megan Elizabeth McCusker daughter of Barbara Cudney
Megan Diane Jarmer Olson daughter of Frank and Trish Jarmer;
Katie Lynn Pinkall daughter of Bruce and Rita Pinkall

**Preston**
Kaci L Austin daughter of Kyle and Cindy Austin
Amber Dawn Bortz daughter of Berry and Carla Bortz

**Saint John**
Casey Elizabeth Cornwell daughter of Rick and Gayle Cornwell
Area students named to KU Honor Roll

La Crosse High School graduates Justin Martin Klenda and Rhonda Marie Meitl are among more than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas who earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

Klenda is a junior at KU majoring in Business. He is the son of Mike and Janiece Klenda of La Crosse.

Meitl is a junior at KU majoring in Liberal Arts. She is the daughter of Duane and Nancy Meitl of Rush Center.

Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.
Robert Craig III
Named Dole Scholar

Robert Craig III, Scandia named Dole Scholar. The Dole Scholarship program recognizes students who have demonstrated leadership and community involvement. Drawing upon the spirit and experiences of Senator Dole’s career, the Dole Institute emphasizes public service by helping students to understand the challenges and rewards of public life.

Robert was one of 128 Kansas high school graduates recognized at a luncheon on June 20 at the Dole Institute of Politics on the campus of the University of Kansas. As a scholarship recipient, the scholarship is renewable up to three years, on the basis of satisfactory academic performance and community service.

Robert Craig III, a graduate of Pike Valley High School, is the son of Bob and Becky Craig of Scandia. He will be attending Kansas State University, majoring in Biological and Agriculture Engineering.
Kansas University announces spring 2007 Honor Roll

The students, from KUs Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the medical center represent 99 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and 37 other countries.

Patricia Lee Barker daughter of Steven and Pamela Barker Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior 2007 Spring Honor Roll Minneapolis

High School Minneapolis KS
Stacie Michelle Lee daughter of Steven and Sandra Lee
Pharmacy Professional Prof 1 2007 Spring Honor Roll
Minneapolis High School
Minneapolis KS
Megan Marie Halepeska daughter of Brent Halepeska Nursing Undergraduate Senior 2007 Spring Honor Roll
Doctor speaks to group about stroke prevention

By PHYLLIS J. ZORN
HAYS DAILY NEWS

Preventive steps to ward off a heart attack aren't necessarily the right steps to ward off a stroke.

That was one of the key points made by Dr. Gary S. Gronseth, associate professor and vice chairman of the KU Department of Neurology, when he spoke to the Hays Kiwanis Club on Thursday.

"One thing that's very important to emphasize is, it's cerebral vascular disease," Gronseth said. "It's not a 'heart attack' of the brain."

Gronseth spoke while he was in town for a two-day conference on issues of aging for health-care professionals.

"Stroke is important," Gronseth told Kiwanis members. "It is the No. 1 leading cause of disability in the world."

Gronseth said that while patients who have heart attacks are good at knowing what is happening to them and getting to the emergency room, stroke patients have had an incident that affects their brain, thus they often do not realize they need rapid medical care.

"The brain is our most important organ because it's what makes us who we are," Gronseth said.

Gronseth said the most common cause of stroke is that a blood vessel becomes blocked. That kind of stroke is likely to result in lifelong disability.

A blood vessel rupture causes a different kind of stroke, Gronseth said.

"That's a very dangerous kind of stroke because the patient is more likely to die; but if they live, they are more likely to recover," Gronseth said.

Symptoms of stroke depend on the location of the damage to the brain, Gronseth said. Double vision, memory problems, weakness or paralysis on one side of the body can all be symptoms of stroke, Gronseth said.

Lowering cholesterol levels is good for reducing risk of a heart attack, but lowering cholesterol levels too far can increase the risk of a stroke, Gronseth said.

"What's good for preventing stroke is not necessarily the same thing that is good for preventing a heart attack," Gronseth said.

Gronseth encouraged his listeners to practice good stroke prevention. The No. 1 stroke risk factor is high blood pressure, so keep blood pressure low, Gronseth said.

Smoking, diabetes and cholesterol levels are all controllable stroke risk factors, Gronseth said.

Aspirin therapy doesn't appear to reduce the risk of stroke, he added.

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