By JOHN HANNA
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Records discarded at the University of Kansas were mailed anonymously to three newspapers, prompting a campus investigation Wednesday. It was the second report in two months of such a breach of students’ privacy.

The records included what appeared to be graded exams, job applications, change-of-grade forms, class rosters, seating charts and copies of health insurance cards and immigration forms, according to editors at the newspapers. Some of the documents contained credit card numbers, Social Security numbers and student identification numbers, they said.

The records were mailed in manila envelopes, with a letter in each packet. Each letter said the papers had come from the university’s math department or its recycling center. The letter’s writers claimed to be former math teaching assistants or current employees of the recycling center, and they were critical of how the math department handled its records.

“Our No. 1 concern is protecting these individuals from any compounded exposure and launching an investigation,” university spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said.

Bretz also issued a statement asking news organizations that had received the documents to return them. She said doing so would protect patients’ privacy and allow the university to contact students whose records were mailed. Also, she said the university needed the documents as evidence in its investigation.

In July, The University Daily Kansan, the campus newspaper, reported that documents were left in vacant offices in Wescoe Hall, which was being renovated. The documents included graded exams, student essays and schedule-changing forms. Earlier this month, university officials announced a new program to improve the protection of private information.

“Obviously the sorts of records that are in these packets are private and should have been protected,” Bretz said. “Safeguarding personal information is a priority at KU.”

The Kansan and the Lawrence Journal-World received their packets Tuesday, and The Kansas City Star received documents Wednesday, their editors said.

“They looked like they came straight from a filing cabinet,” said Erick Schmidt, the Kansan’s editor.

The Kansan planned to return what it received in the mail to the university but was keeping a single copy of each record in a locked safe. He said the newspaper needed a copy of the records for its reporting.

“We’re just trying to tell a story and get the word out to people that this kind of stuff is going on,” Schmidt said.

Dennis Anderson, the Journal-World’s managing editor, said the newspaper would allow the university to review what it had received, but not make copies or retrieve the originals. He said the paper’s attorney concluded the documents were its property; they were locked in a filing cabinet.

Later, in a story on its website, the Journal-World said it would destroy the documents.
after its reporting was finished. He said the newspaper wouldn't make any information in the documents public.

"The story's not us," Anderson said. "The biggest concern is that the documents must be taken care of."

The Star hadn't decided Wednesday whether it would return the documents or destroy them after its reporting was finished, editor Mark Zie- 
man said. He also assured students that information in the records wouldn't be made public.

"These documents weren't disposed of properly originally, and we will certainly make sure they are this time," Zie- 
man said.
Markley is a student housing leader at the University of Kansas

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas' department of student housing has named its 2007-08 student leaders.

The leaders include resident assistants for KU's eight residence halls, proctors and food board managers for 11 scholarship halls and top officers for the five university housing organizations.

Chapman High School graduate Emily Elizabeth Markley is serving as a resident assistant for Ellsworth Hall. The daughter of Joe and Sheila Markley, she is a sophomore at KU.

"We are thankful for and proud of the outstanding leadership that these students provide in their various roles," said Diana Robertson, director of the department of student housing.

"Their willingness to serve their peers in these capacities is testimony to their character and personal achievement. They truly make a difference in the lives of so many students."

For the 146 students chosen as live-in resident assistants, proctors or food board managers, duties include serving as role models, handling administrative and programming duties and performing paraprofessional advisory functions for residents. Food board managers coordinate menu planning and food purchasing for their assigned halls.

Housing organization officers are elected to represent their fellow student residents and organize and facilitate shared social, intellectual and cultural concerns and activities.

Approximately 5,000 people live in KU's student housing facilities, Robertson said. The top one percent of these students, based on community leadership, are eligible for membership in the KU chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary.
Going statewide

With the power of technology, statewide events are actually becoming more statewide in their reach.

This year’s Kansas Economic Policy Conference, set for Oct. 11 at the University of Kansas, will also have links for participants at two satellite locations.

They include Ulysses, which has been connected to past KU conferences through a video link, and Norton, which is a new addition this year.

Norton will utilize the video conference facilities at the Northwest Kansas Library System, 2 Washington Square.

Pioneer Communications will serve as host of the conference in Ulysses at the video conference room, 129 W. Kansas Ave.

This year’s conference, entitled “Kansas E3: Energy the Environment and Economics” will be a day of panel discussions and speakers focusing on the state’s economy and new energy challenges.

Registration is available at http://www.ipar.ku.edu/con-
University of Kansas
More than 900 students received degrees after the 2007 summer session, from the University of Kansas, Lawrence.
Area graduates include: Hoisington, Sura Goetz, Master of Science in Education; Garden City, Eric Fry, Ophthalmology Prof 1 Certificate, Megan Koerperich, Master of Science in Education, Travis Laubach, Bachelor of General Studies, George Martinez, Internal Medicine Prof 1 Certificate, Andrew Payne, Bachelor in Economics; Holcomb, Jennifer Simmons, Bachelor of Science in Business; Bucklin, Lisa Minnix Bachelor of Science in Business; Quinter, Samantha Machen, Master of Public Health, Charity Zeigler, Graduate Specialist in Education; Hanston, Mindy Salmons, Doctor of Education; Harper, Alissa Reid, Master of Science in Education; Heston, Philip Schmidt, Master of Science in Education; Newton, Brittany Claassen, Bach of Science in Business; Deerfield, Luke Johnson, Bachelor of Arts; Kingman, Nathan Clark, Bachelor of International Studies, Becky Harbert, Bachelor of Social Work; McPherson, Rachel Crist, Bachelor of General Studies; Lyons, Bethany Barrientez, Bachelor of History; Sterling, Trisha Jackson, Graduate Master of Arts; Rush Center, Charles Keener, Family Practice Prof 1 Certificate; Haven, Emily Matteson, Bachelor of History; Hutchinson, Charlotte Dower, Bachelor in Education, Kathryn Graves, Bachelor of Human Biology; Kim Swafford, Doctor of Pharmacy, Chelsea Wilson, Bachelor of General Studies; Russell, Amanda Rogers, Bachelor of Microbiology; Scott City, Margarita Harper, Bachelor of Biology; Mount Hope, Miranda De Luna, Family Practice Prof 1 Certificate; Liberal, Daniel Diepenbrock, Bachelor of English; WaKeene, Aaron Nilhas, Bachelor of Microbiology.
Enrollment sets a Kansas record

Tally of students attending the state's six public universities is up 557 over last fall.

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

Total fall enrollment at the six public universities in Kansas has topped 90,000 for the first time in the state's history.

The Kansas Board of Regents on Thursday reported an overall enrollment increase of 557 students this fall, up 0.6 percent from the 89,506 students enrolled at those universities at the same time last year.

The enrollment data for the first 20 days of classes shows, however, that the number of students who are Kansas residents dropped by 243, while the number of out-of-state students has increased by 800.

Some universities' enrollments rose this year while others dipped, and the reasons vary, said Kip Peterson, spokesman for the Board of Regents.

Emporia State University and the University of Kansas showed a decline of 1.8 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Jill Jess, a KU spokeswoman, said, "The decline is so slight we really count that more as being stable." KU fall enrollment reached a record high in 2005, when it climbed to 29,624 students. It dropped slightly each of the next two years.

KU officials attribute much of this year's decline to a change in the probation and dismissal policy in the university's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Last year, 884 students were dismissed because their grades were not up to par, about 350 more than the year before, Jess said.

The university, however, recorded a 1 percent increase in minority enrollment and a 2.6 percent increase for international students.

Chancellor Robert Hemenway said he expected the university to see growth in enrollment "as word gets out about the Four-Year Tuition Compact," which locks in tuition costs for freshmen for four years. The compact was approved by the Board of Regents in June.

Emporia State officials said the university planned to beef up recruitment efforts and scholarship opportunities to turn around its fall semester enrollment numbers for next year.

Among universities where enrollment rose this fall, Fort Hays State University showed the largest increase — more than 5 percent from the previous fall semester. Enrollment at Wichita State University is up primarily because of an increase in international students and new freshmen from Sedgwick County, where the university has done intense recruiting.

A slight enrollment bump at Kansas State University gave it a record fall enrollment of 23,332. President Jon Wefald said the enrollment data also show "this year's student body is K-State's most diverse ever." He said the university set records with 608 African-American students and 547 Hispanic students enrolled this year.

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Private student info in open?

An anonymous letter alleges a KU department employee has not shredded documents.

By LAURA BAUER
The Kansas City Star

The University of Kansas is investigating an allegation that a math department employee routinely has thrown out personal student information where anyone could have retrieved it.

In an anonymous letter to three newspapers, including *The Kansas City Star*, the writers allege that the employee has been mishandling student information for years. Instead of shredding sensitive documents, the employee either throws them out or puts them in recycling bins, or instructs others to do the same, the letter alleges.

Each media packet included a stack of personal information, including graded exams, job applications with Social Security numbers, health insurance cards and a receipt with a credit card number. The information reportedly was retrieved from trash bins in the last few weeks.

Those sending the letter say they are former math department teaching assistants and a "few" employees of the university recycling center.

"She has stated many times to her co-workers that large amounts of paper work need to go in the garbage and not recycled because it 'contains sensitive information,' " they write. "We feel there is no difference between the two routes, each is just as dangerous."

"... a lot of this we dug out of the dumpster behind Snow Hall, just to show how serious this problem is."

University officials launched an investigation and asked for the return of documents sent to *The Star*, *The Lawrence Journal-World* and *The University Daily Kansan*.

"Clearly this information was not properly handled; we're in full agreement with that," said Lynn Bretz, director of university communications. "The improper disposal or use of information, we take that very seriously. ... We want to know where they came from. Did they need to be disposed of?"

SEE RECORDS [BL]
RECORDS: College urges protecting files

FROM BI
How old are they? What kind of records? We can't track that if we don't have the evidence.”

The female employee accused of mishandling the information said in a phone interview she didn't do what the letter accuses her of doing. When asked whether she ever told anyone not to shred a document, she said, "Heavens, no."

“We have a shredding machine in the main office located by mailboxes,” she said. “Everyone is instructed what's confidential ... We have people hired to shred. Some of our office staff, that is their duty.”

The employee met with university officials investigating the incident on Wednesday.

Jane Rosenthal, KU’s privacy officer is among those investigating. “We’re trying to be objective until we determine what, if anything, occurred,” she said.

The university's provost office sent an e-mail to faculty and staff Wednesday reminding everyone of the need to protect personal and private information.

"... all documents containing personal information, including Social Security numbers, grade information, health care records, and financial information, must not be discarded in the trash but must be either shredded or filed or destroyed in accordance with University policy and state and federal law...”

University officials don't know how many students' records were included in the mishandling.

Star Editor Mark Ziemian said that the newspaper would allow university officials to review the documents to confirm their authenticity and to help them fix this problem in the future.

But he said The Star was wary about returning the records because it didn't want to unwittingly aid any investigation that might expose potential whistleblowers. He said the newspaper will destroy the documents once its coverage is completed.

“We have an obligation to our readers to fully report this story. And we have an obligation to the students whose records were mishandled to make certain those documents remain private and are properly destroyed,” Ziemian said.

“We intend to assist the university mostly through our coverage, not by handing over the documents or partnering in its investigation. Sometimes the press is a last resort for people seeking to expose possible misconduct, and we take that responsibility — and neutrality — very seriously.”

The Lawrence Journal-World also did not hand over the information, Bretz said, but allowed a university employee to look at some of it and read part of the letter sent with it.

The Kansan turned over the documents to the university on Wednesday.

“We would hope that any source that improperly or accidentally obtained confidential information would return it to us," Rosenthal said. "So we can address the maintenance and handling of those documents."

Although the university has conducted an “education campaign” regarding handling of information, it hasn't issued uniform training for all departments, said Denise Stephens, vice provost for information services and chief information officer.

But training faculty and staff on what information they are responsible for and how to manage it, including what needs to be shredded, is part of a new university initiative in the works for the past year.

For the past decade, Stephens said, the focus has been on technology and digital information. “We've all let a blind side develop: the paper side," she said. "We need to build up the same scrutiny with that.”

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