TOPEKA — Public university students in Kansas will pay higher housing costs next year and the University of Kansas' main teaching hospital will get more money under measures approved Thursday by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Regents voted to raise the cost of room and board at the state's six public universities as a way to offset inflation, pay for maintenance and upgrade services for students.

On average, students will see their room and board costs increase 5.4 percent, or $330 a year, at the University of Kansas and 6 percent, or $364 a year, at Kansas State.

Average housing costs at Fort Hays, Emporia, Pittsburg and Wichita State universities will increase by between 4 percent and 6 percent, or from $276 to $306 more per year.

The actual rates for university housing and meal services vary by student, based on meal options and the type of facility where a student lives.

Also Thursday, the regents approved a five-year deal that will increase — from $31 million this fiscal year to $46 million next year — the amount of money the University of Kansas Hospital gives to the University of Kansas Medical Center and a physicians group.

The money will go toward such things as research, physicians and medical residents.

One of the main goals of the spending increase is to win federal designation as a comprehensive cancer center.

The agreement also calls for a new outpatient facility and more cooperation among the physicians, hospital and medical center.

The University of Kansas Hospital Authority, the hospital's governing board, agreed to the deal Tuesday. The physicians group was to consider the agreement at a meeting Thursday night.

Completion of the deal comes two months after the University of Kansas Medical Center agreed to a separate partnership with St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

The talks that led to the earlier deal had raised concerns that the University of Kansas Hospital was threatened. But tensions between the hospital and medical center have since eased.

The medical center, which comprises the University of Kansas schools of medicine, nursing and allied health, split from the hospital in 1998. However, they continue to share a campus in Kansas City, Kan., and University of Kansas Hospital is the medical center's main teaching hospital.
Boyda, freshman Democrats not shy about setting aside funding

Rep. Nancy Boyda, D-Kan., is cautious on the topic of congressional "earmarks."

The term, which refers to funding set aside for projects in the U.S. House or Senate spending bills, has both negative and positive connotations.

"There are good earmarks and bad earmarks," said Thomas Seay, spokesman for Boyda. "As far as the congresswoman is concerned, the federal budget will be spent anyway. Her role is to see the people in Kansas District No. 2 are taken care of."

Senators and representatives consider earmarks to be good because they provide funding aimed at benefitting people living in their districts.

Earmarks are considered to be bad by critics who believe they lead to wasteful spending.

This year, freshman Democrats were the No. 1 sponsors of "earmarks," according to a USA Today analysis. The report said Democratic leaders set aside money for vulnerable freshman Democrats, meaning those who beat out Republican incumbents or won in districts carried by President Bush, to use on appropriations for their districts.

Earmarks from freshman Democratic lawmakers added up to $351 million, according to USA Today.

Seay said it would be inappropriate for Boyda to consider whether sponsoring such projects would benefit her re-election campaign. Accountability for appropriations, he said, is what she finds important.

New rules this year required all earmarks to be accompanied by the name of the sponsor. Seay said Boyda went a step further by including a list of all of the projects she sponsored on her Web site, boyda.house.gov.

Following is a list of earmarked projects Boyda sponsored or co-sponsored in the 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, totaling more than $190 million.

Bob Beatty, assistant professor of political science at Washburn University, answered a few questions about congressional appropriations and their effect on re-election campaigns.

What is the earmark controversy for politicians?
The earmark controversy is one that's been going on for years. Constituents love their congressperson but hate Congress. Earmarks are a part of that.

If you were to ask a citizen what they think of Congress, they would say, "Oh, I can't believe how much money they spend!" Then if you went back the next day and said, "Congress appropriated $5 million to fix the bridge!" that same person would say, "It's about time we got some money!"

Do senators and representatives benefit from sponsoring earmarks?
of course it helps a congressperson during re-election to tell their district, "This is the money I got for you." They're being rewarded at election time for those earmarks. That's the conundrum for Congress. It's a tightrope.

How has Rep. Nancy Boyda, D-Kan., dealt with the issue?
I think Nancy Boyda has been trying to walk that tightrope. I think she's tried to get some light shown on the earmark process. You can't get rid of earmarks...
completely. Voters still like them. I think she's tried to split the difference.
She campaigned on a platform that Congress is out of control. Her challenge is to find the right number of earmarks that is enough to keep voters satisfied but not too much that she would be a hypocrite.

Story by Taylor Atkins:
(785) 295-1187
or taylor.atkins@cjonline.com
Bright ideas

Academy for top students is an A-plus idea, but more steps are needed to halt brain drain

Proponents of the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science deserve credit for trying to give talented students a place to see how brightly they can shine.

That said, however, it would be unwise for anyone to oversell the proposed academy as a solution to the state's much-discussed brain drain. It's certainly a step in the right direction, but it's just one of many that need to be taken towards developing academic talent and keeping it within the state's borders.

More on that later — let's first accentuate the positives.

The academy, which received developmental funding from the Legislature earlier this year, would offer accelerated math and science instruction to 50 high school students, with 40 of those enrollment slots reserved for students from Kansas public schools. Students would attend the academy for the last two years of their high school education, and graduates would earn not only high school diplomas but associate degrees.

The Kansas Board of Regents announced Wednesday that Fort Hays State University would be the home of the academy.

Now, it's up to the Legislature to approve funding for operations. The regents are requesting $4.3 million in state funding over the next six years to help run the academy, but proponents say part of the operating costs will be paid by private donors.

We think the academy is an expense well worth discussing in the Legislature, but in terms of nurturing students and giving them reasons to stay in Kansas, the academy is only one piece of a much bigger puzzle.

While it's well worth the effort to create a special program for elite students, work also is needed to ease the state's well-documented struggles in recruiting and retaining faculty in its public schools — especially math and science teachers. During an appearance in Topeka late last month, for example, University of Kansas provost Richard Lariviere said Kansas was expected to lose 680 math and science teachers at the end of this school year. In contrast, he said, the state's colleges and universities are turning out only 228 new math and science teachers each year.

KU is hoping to help improve the situation through a program that allows students to earn teaching credentials along with bachelor's degrees in math or science. The program, which recently got a boost in the form of a $2.4 million federal grant, is aimed at speeding the
although we can’t resist the urge to voice a quibble about the site. Nothing against Fort Hays State, but we wish the academy could have been situated closer to Topeka. That said, there certainly is merit in an initiative that gives students a chance to go beyond what they might learn in a regular classroom, especially when the program will be partly funded from private sources.

Meanwhile, both House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, and Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, have said the Legislature needs to find other ways to address the overall teacher shortage. Good. The more innovative, effective programs, the merrier — and not just for the top achievers.
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS FALL 2007 GRADUATES

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas conferred more than 1,600 degrees to students completing their studies in December. Candidates for fall graduation from northeast Kansas include:

ATCHISON COUNTY
Atchison: Myles R. Bacon, MS, education; Jessup Wade Kenyon, BA, biology

BROWN COUNTY
Hiawatha: Jordan Isaac Sanner, BS, cognitive psychology; Charles Robert Stinson, BA, history

Horton: Joshua Cole Oaks, BGS, history

CLAY COUNTY
Clay Center: Lance Howard Mall, BS, business/accounting

CLOU D COUNTY
Concordia: Crystal Denise Lassen, BA, English

COFF EY COUNTY
Burlington: Andrew Wayne Hauth, BGS, psychology; Laura Ashleigh McMurray, BA, psychology; Jennifer C. Smith, master of accounting and information systems

DICKINSON COUNTY
Abilene: Casey Matthew Guccione, BS, biology; Shannon Leigh Hilton, J.D.

DONIPHAN COUNTY
Troy: Sean Ryan McIntosh, BA, political science with history minor

DOUGLAS COUNTY
Baldwin City: Mark Anthony Crumley, Ph.D., education; Ryan Reeves Jensen, MA, international studies; Rachael M. Bixler, BS, business/accounting; Deborah D. Ogden, BGS, English; Glen Lowell Stansberry, BGS, history; Caleb Michael Stemberl, BS, business/finance

Eudora: Debbie J. Elder, Ph.D., education; Ramsey Scott Hagan, BS, civil engineering; Jodi Ann Holopirek, MS, journalism; Nicole Marie Price, MS, education; Andrew Johnathan Williams, BA, mathematics

Lawrence: Sarah Allen, BS, journalism with history minor; Joseph Scott Arnyx, BS, education; Lukas Dale Andrud, J.D.; August M. Baker, BGS, English; Brett A. Barker, MS, computer science; Emily Grace Baucom, BA, English; Bree Ashley Beasley, co-major: international studies and BA, sociology; Kimberly Michele Begert, BS, education; Jennifer J. Biery, MS, medicinal chemistry

Nathaniel W. Blum, BGS, geography; Kathleen Emily Boncella, MBA; Brandon Michael Bowman, BME, music education; Michael A. Breen, J.D.; Aaron Britton Brown, BGS, theater and film; Nelson Andrew Brown, MS, aerospace engineering; Patrick Ian Bukaty, MA, education; Darcie L. Callahan, MS, counseling psychology; Karen Jean Campbell, BA, speech-language-hearing

Kwan Yee Cheng, BS, geology; Olena Chervonik Bearden, MA, Slavic languages and literatures; Stephen Cia, BS, architectural engineering; Kristina A. Clement, BA, French with history of art minor; Jessica Melayne Corkill, BGS, applied behavioral sciences; Michael Sheldon Cram, BS, computer engineering with philosophy minor; Nina Frances Dahmen, BA, history of art; Megan Elizabeth Davis, BS, business/finance; Nicole Christine Davis, BFA, design

Sean Douglas DeCoursey, MBA; Bailey Ann DeReus, BA, political science, BS, journalism; Helen K. Dee, MA, indigenous nations studies; Jessica Krische Dee, BS, biology; Stephen F. Deplazes, Ph.D., chemistry; Nancy Ann Dodik, J.D.; Sergey Alexeyevich Dremin, BS, computer engineering with German minor; Justin Dean Eakes, BFA, design; Jonathan Dale Ewing, BA, anthropology; Zacharias Nathaniel Fellers, BS, chemistry and BS, electrical engineering; David L. Flannery, BA, mathematics with English minor; Nkie Epake Forsac, BA, human biology; Victoria Elena Frehe, MS, counseling psychology; Rebecca L. Fritz, BS, journalism with history of art minor; Johnnie J. Gallagher, BS, biochemistry; Bryn M. Gardner, BS, chemical engineering; Remon Linda Ginsburg, BA, psychology; Mary Eleanor Givens, MS, counseling psychology

Michael D. Gomez, MA, clinical child psychology; Blair Kristine Gordon, BA, English; Owen Andrew Grieb, J.D.; Joy Kristine Grisafe, MA, communication studies; Shelby Ann Guillen, BS, education; Nicholas Joseph Hale, J.D.; Matthew Aaron Hall, BA, psychology; John Hiltom Hamilton, MBA; Dawn Lea Hardy, BA, history of art; Kevin Laaron Harrell, MS, education

Paola S. Hatton Negron, MS, education; Cole A. Hawker, J.D.; Amanda T. Hearst, MS, counseling psychology; James J. Henderson, BGS, psychology; Chandler Mitchell Hess, BS, education; Darianne Patrice Hixson, BGS, sociology; Miriam G. Hillmer, MME, music therapy; Nicholas S. Hilpman, BGS, English; Troy Joseph Hinkel, Ph.D., history; Candice Marie Hogan, BGS, economics

Megan Lynn Holroyd, MA, international studies; Ji Hong, BS, business/accounting; Tisha Prudence Hysten, BGS, sociology with communication studies minor; Justin Owen Johnson, BS, biology; Matthew Thomas Johnson, BA, political science and
| BS, journalism; Eric S. Jorgensen, BS, journalism with history minor; Irene Karimi Kang, BA, human biology; Vitaliy Y. Karakuts, BS, computer science and East Asian languages and cultures minor; Sergey Kardash, BS, computer engineering; John Thomas Karr, BS, education |
| Donald W. Keillogg, Ph.D., education; Jacob Aaron Kennedy, BGS, sociology; Jonathan Avery Kendler, MS, computer science; Hyun Chul Kim, Ph.D., philosophy; Orion Raymond Kinkaid, BFA, design; Samuel Cyrus Knowlton, BS, journalism with English minor; Dyana Lynn Lawrence, BGS, psychology; Grace Lee, BA, history of art and BA, history; John Patrick Lee, MS, geology |
| Justine David Lee, BS, economics; Geoffrey Jonathan Legler, BGS, psychology; Jeffrey Michael Lehman, BGS, environmental studies; Daniel Keith Lenz, BGS, public administration; Xiaobo Liu, Ph.D., mathematics; Eleanor G. Lloyd, BS, business/accounting; Kenneth David Lord, BS, mathematics; Adrian Ralf Ludwig, BS, education; Maritza Machado-Williams, Ph.D., education/curriculum and instruction; Sarah Jane Manske, BS, education |
| Damon Eugene Mar, BS, mechanical engineering; Katy Elizabeth Martin, MA, English; Joshua Donato Massoni, BA, political science; Kelley Lea Massoni, Ph.D., sociology; Bethany Ruth Maynard-Moody, BA, anthropology with religious studies minor; Brandon Royce McAnderson, BGS, history; Erin M. McGrogon, MA, geography; Bryce James Mcmichael, BS, education; Ashley Elaine Menaugh, BA, psychology and BS, journalism; Margaret Catherine Michaelis, master of urban planning |
| Sean Michael Miller, J.D.; Shelby Lynn Miller, MS, civil engineering; Morgan Joseph Minnis, BGS, American studies; Tristan Chamberlin Moody, MS, mechanical engineering; Lori Jean Morel, MS, counseling psychology; Linsey Ann Morningstar, BGS, communication studies; Virginia Lynn Mowery, BGS, history of art; Kate Elizabeth Myrick, BA, linguistics; Brooke Louise Nash, MS, education; Shelly Lynn Nemecheck, BS, microbiology |
| Annie Lee Nerli, MA, religious studies; Jaime Paige Netzer, BS, journalism; Dejon Raquel Neugebauer, BS, business/finance and BS, business/management; Amanda Jo O’Hare, MA, psychology and Ph.D., psychology; Jennifer Louise O’Neill, BGS, American studies and BGS, sociology; Jessica Leigh Pownell, J.D.; Joseph Darrell Presswood, BS, civil engineering; Ritchie Lee Price Jr, BS, communication studies; Amy Diane Quin, BA, Spanish; Stanley Wayne Redwine Jr, BGS, psychology |
| Silvia Reshmee, BS, architectural engineering; Mariah E. Richardson, BS, business/management; James Dean Rose, MA, French; Kimberly Pearl Rosen, BS, business/business administration and BS, business/marketing; Catherine Elizabeth Ross, BS, civil engineering; Jennifer Ann Rovel, MS, education; Scott Justin Rowland, BGS, psychology; Richard Nathaniel Ryting, MA, speech-language pathology |
| Galo Arturo Salcedo, BS, business/finance; Stefany Lynn Samp, master of accounting and information systems; Lorena Sanchez, BS, civil engineering; Shannon William Savoe, BA, psychology; Deena Leigh Schaumburg, BFA, design; Blake Raymond Schmidtberger, BA, theater and film; Brian Stephen Segebrecht, BS, business/finance; Brian Piller Seymour, BS, business/finance; Ryan Michael Shepard, MA, communication studies |
| Hanhar Shivakoti, MS, civil engineering; Anurupa Shrestha, MS, medicinal chemistry; Aaron C. Siebert, MS, education; Ashley Marie Smarker, BA, history of art; Jon Jay Smith, Ph.D., geology; Hee-Yeoun Son, MS, counseling psychology; Ian Warren Staples, BA, political science; Amanda Ann Stebbins, BS, education |
| Laura Elizabeth Stephens, BA, history; Sara Mae Stonecipher, BA, political science with African and African-American studies minor; James Micah Thomas, BS, business/accounting; Jeffrey Richard Thomas, MS, architectural engineering; Matthew Stephen Thompson, master of music; Shane Aubrey Thompson, BS, civil engineering; Constance Tieghi, Ph.D., behavioral psychology; Diane Rose Traiger, Ph.D., pharmacy; Ryan William Walkiewicz, J.D.; Xin Wang, Ph.D., medicinal chemistry |

Melissa Lee Ward, BGS, political science; Ruth Helen Warner, Ph.D., psychology; Alicia Ann Waymster, BS, business/marketing; Rebecca Christine Welch Weigel, BA, history; Kathryn Elizabeth Williamson, BA, psychology; Andrew Alexander Wilson, BGS, environmental studies; Jeremy Michael Winfrey, BGS, English with history minor |
| Kristin Lindsey Woo, Ph.D., chemistry; Charles Jack Woods, BS, civil engineering; Annaika J. Zeisig, co-major: international studies and BA, political science; Hua Zhao, Ph.D., physics |
| LeCompton: Shawn Gregory, Howard, BS, journalism; Matthew Eric Lewis, BFA, art |

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

**Ottawa:** Hall A. Alexander, BS, business/finance; Karen Lynn Barnwell, BGS, American studies; Daryl Justine Bugner, BFA, design; Jennie M. CMI engineering; Shannon Christine Daniel, Ph.D., education; Desiree Natural Daniel, MS, English; Jefferson David Lee, BS, economics; Stanley Wayne Redwine Jr, MS, geology; Hee-Yeoun Son, MS, counseling psychology; Ian Warren Staples, BA, political science; Amanda Ann Stebbins, BS, education; Laura Elizabeth Stephens, BA, history; Sara Mae Stonecipher, BA, political science with African and African-American studies minor; James Micah Thomas, BS, business/accounting; Jeffrey Richard Thomas, MS, architectural engineering; Matthew Stephen Thompson, master of music; Shane Aubrey Thompson, BS, civil engineering; Constance Tieghi, Ph.D., behavioral psychology; Diane Rose Traiger, Ph.D., pharmacy; Ryan William Walkiewicz, J.D.; Xin Wang, Ph.D., medicinal chemistry; Melissa Lee Ward, BGS, political science; Ruth Helen Warner, Ph.D., psychology; Alicia Ann Waymster, BS, business/marketing; Rebecca Christine Welch Weigel, BA, history; Kathryn Elizabeth Williamson, BA, psychology; Andrew Alexander Wilson, BGS, environmental studies; Jeremy Michael Winfrey, BGS, English with history minor; Kristin Lindsey Woo, Ph.D., chemistry; Charles Jack Woods, BS, civil engineering; Annaika J. Zeisig, co-major: international studies and BA, political science; Hua Zhao, Ph.D., physics.
Hull, BGS, psychology; Randy Eugene Oliver, Ph.D., education; Christopher H. Proctor, BGS, environmental studies; Kelsey Amberie Taylor, BS, business/accounting; Erica Michelle Watts, BGS, applied behavioral science

Pomona: Jessica Moore, BGS, psychology

GEARY COUNTY

Junction City: Curtis Brock Glessner, BS, business/accounting

Hollon: Annie Len Hundley, BA, psychology; Nathan Martin Schneider, BFA, design

Mayetta: Johnny Lee Williams, MA, indigenous nations studies

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Grantville: Jessica Dawn Hildreth, BS, education

McLouth: Justin Charles Smith, BME, music education

Nortonville: Katherine Louise Blair, BS, journalism with theater minor

Ozawide: Mark Allen Meyers II, BA, history of art

Winchester: Aaron L. Norris, BS, civil engineering

LEAVENWORTH COUNTY

Easton: Michael W. Adams, BGS, political science

Lansing: Mark Alan Boedeke, BGS, sociology; Kayla M. Buehler, BS, education; Daniel Sumner Roper, BA, political science; Ryan C. Sister, BGS, theater and film with sociology minor

Leavenworth: Joseph M. Bristow, MBA; Stephanie K. Chenoweth, master of accounting and information systems; Mindy Ann Edgar, BS, business/accounting; Samuel Aaron Froetke, BS, biology; Lucinda A. Koenig, BA, theater and film; Brian M. Lechner, BFA, theater design; Charlene Jeanette Littlefield, MS, education; John David McCollum, BS, business/finance; Joseph Luciano McEvoy, BGS, psychology; Karen E. Smith, BA, mathematics

Unwood: Cailinn Summer Drouin, BA, French

Tonganoxie: Gretchen Marie Christianson, BS, mechanical engineering; Jonathan Ryan Griepka, BA, architectural studies; Robert John Harnden, BGS, English and BGS, history; John Charles Wickey, BGS, economics

LYON COUNTY

Allen: Pamela Sue Old, BS, business/accounting

Emporia: Karley Trae Ast, MA, history of art; Cory J. House, MBA

MARSHALL COUNTY

Blue Rapids: Heather L. Meiers, MA, anthropology

Bremen: Joni A. Bruna, BS, education

Marysville: Derek James Keller, BS, education; Justin Tracy Keller, master of accounting and information systems; Justin Lee Kracht, BGS, theater and film

NEMAH COUNTY

Sabetha: Halli Ann Leuthold, BA, human biology

POITAWATOMIE COUNTY

St. Marys: Christopher Simecka, master of public administration; Dempsey John Rianigan, BGS, psychology; Christopher Simecka, master of public administration

RILEY COUNTY

Manhattan: Marilyn Sue Calvin, master of construction management; Elizabeth Mingchu Chou, BGS, psychology; Jessica Janelle Funk, BA, English with sociology minor, BA, women's studies; Jennifer Galland, BA, psychology with business minor; Cameron J. Hawk, BA, English; Troy Phillip Morgan, BGS, psychology; Russell B. Porter, BGS, economics with business minor; Hui-Chi Yang, Ph.D., education

Riley: Kyndra June Myers, MS, education

SALINE COUNTY

Salina: Anton Robert Bengtson, BA, environmental studies; Elizabeth Marie Blomquist, BA, psychology; Darren M. Eddy, BGS, anthropology with history minor; Nathan Aaron Hardesty, BS, business/finance; Travis Nguyen Haugh, BFA, theater design; Kevin Joseph Jaquay, BS, astronomy with physics minor; Jeffrey B. Kelley, BGS, geography and BGS, political science; Cortney J. Lehmann, BGS, literature, Language and cultures; Andrew David Peterson, BGS, theater and film; Steven M. Ramsey, BS, economics; Tyler J. Soldan, BS, business/management; Danielle Marie Wittman, BS, education

SHAWNEE COUNTY

Rossville: Matthew Paul Prior, BGS, sociology

Tecumseh: Zachary Denver Langford, BS, cognitive psychology; John Kenneth Weller, BS, civil engineering

Topeka: Javier Antonio Ahumada, BGS, environmental studies; Rachel Rose Appelhanz, BS, education; Chad Edward Bergman, BS, business/accounting; Jheri L. Bermudez, BA, psychology; Orville Wiles Bobo IV, BA, communication studies; Natalie Virginia Bonebrake, BFA, design; Rebecca D. Burns, BGS, applied behavioral science; William Jay Carter III, BFA, design; Michael W. Christie, MS, geology

Teresa Elizabeth Cuevas, BA, communication studies with Latin American studies minor; Woods J. Denny, BS, electrical engineering; Annemarie Claire Deslauriers, BS, journalism with French minor; Nicholas James Dorman, BGS, English; Jeffery D. Dutton,
BA, Slavic languages and literatures; Paul Scott Fernkopf, BA, history and BA, political science; Troy James Frost, BFA, design; Jaime Christine Gaggero, master of public administration; Kristie Marie Gardiner, BFA, design

Anissa Ghali, BA, psychology; Elizabeth Alexandra Ghali, MA, education; Blair Kristine Gordon, BA, English; Keegan J. Han, BGS, theater and film; Kerri Ann Henderson, BFA, design; Erica D. Hill, MS, nursing; David Lee Holland, BGS, psychology; Ashley R. Holm, MS, education; Jennifer Leigh Jones, BGS, sociology

Linda Louise Merillat, Ph.D., education/curriculum and instruction; Heather N. Meyer, master of accounting and information systems; Beryl Ann New, Ph.D., education; Warren John Newcomer, BS, business/accounting; Bradley Scott Nolde, BGS, theater and film with communication studies minor; Lindsay Marie Ohse, master of music; Andrew Michael Otto, BGS, theater and film; Zachary Edward Parr, MS, computer science; Erin Marie Pater, BA, speech-language-hearing

Victor Russell Petty IV, MS, computer engineering; Tyrian Ross Phagan, BS, computer science; Catherine Sarah Provost, BGS, theater and film; Jennifer Joyce Richard, BME, music education; Tony D. Rogers, MA, indigenous nations studies; Theresa M. Rohfs, BS, civil engineering

Breanne Marie Russell, BA, applied behavioral science; Christopher Kent Schornick, BGS, sociology; Adam Michael Schreiner, BS, Engineering physics; Maggie Holt Thompson, master of public administration; Dianne Dolores Vidmar, master of social work

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Clifton: Laura J. Wurtz, BS, business/accounting
POLSKY PRIZE — This year’s Joel Polsky Prize, given by the American Society of Interior Design educational foundation, will go to a book encouraging better design of adult and dementia day care centers co-authored by an architecture professor at the University of Kansas, Keith Diaz Moore, associate professor and chair of architecture at KU, and Lyn Geboy and Gerald Weisman of Milwaukee wrote “Designing a Better Day: Guidelines for Adult and Dementia Day Services Centers,” published in 2006 by the Johns Hopkins University Press. Geboy is an architectural researcher, and Weisman directs the Institute on Aging and Environment in the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The Polsky prize, which recognizes the most significant contribution to design research and literature, will be presented at the March 2008 ASID Conference on Design in New Orleans. Joel Polsky was the son of Norman and Elaine Polsky who died in 1982 at age 26, not long after he joined the family’s chair-making business.
More than 500 people attended KU Hillel's Midwest premiere showing of the documentary film "The First Basket" on Nov. 29, at the Lewis and Shirley White Theatre. The bulk of the proceeds will go to build Hillel's endowment. The rest of the money will be held in reserve to meet needs as they arise and to help fund new and exciting programs for Hillel students. Pictured are Esther Stein (from left), program co-chair; Danny Schayes (behind Stein), former NBA basketball star; David Vyorst, documentary filmmaker; and Stewart Stein.
Dr. Stephanie L. Lawhorn, cardiologist, will be the guest speaker for the Brandeis University National Women’s Committee Listen and Learn program at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, at St. Luke’s South Hospital, 123rd and Metcalf, in the Wellness Conference Room located on the main floor of the main building. (Parking is located on the west side of the building.)

Dr. Lawhorn’s topic will be “Women’s Heart Disease” — causes, symptoms and prevention. When it comes to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease, men have traditionally garnered more attention than women. This is not because men are more susceptible to cardiovascular disease than women. The reality is that each year more women than men die of cardiovascular disease. In fact, women are six times as likely to die of heart disease as of breast cancer, and it kills more women over 65 than all cancers combined.

Dr. Stephanie Lawhorn is an undergraduate and graduate of the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas School of Medicine. She is board certified in both internal medicine and cardiology. She initially spent six years on the faculty at the University of Arkansas. At the University of Arkansas, she was director of the Cardiac Cath Lab and a transplant cardiologist.

In 1995, Dr. Lawhorn entered private practice and joined Cardiovascular Consultants, where she now practices general cardiology.

For reservation availability for this program, call Ellen Soltz, (913) 766-0274. For further information or directions, contact Roselle Poisner, program coordinator, (913) 317-8237.
The grand jury convened to investigate Planned Parenthood Thursday was appointed its own special counsel.

According to court documents, at the grand jury’s request, District Judge Kevin Moriarty appointed retired Johnson County Judge Larry McClain and Rick Merker, a civil defense attorney with Wallace, Saunders, Austin, Brown & Enochs in Overland Park.

McClain and Merker will assist the grand jury with its duties, the
Special counsel will assist grand jury in its duties

The grand jury was convened Dec. 10 after the Life is for Everyone coalition submitted a petition signed by more than 3,800 registered county voters. The petition alleged that Planned Parenthood performs illegal late-term abortions and violates other Kansas abortion laws.

According to state law, abortion is illegal after the 22nd week of gestation unless the fetus is not viable or a continuation of the pregnancy puts the mother’s life in danger or could cause irreversible impairment to a major bodily function.

A grand jury is comprised of 15 people who will investigate or examine evidence against the clinic to determine if an indictment should be brought.

Kansas law allows grand juries to investigate other crimes outside the scope they originally were formed.

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO BE HIRED

Last week, Johnson County District Attorney Phill Kline was authorized by the County Commission to hire a special prosecutor to examine evidence of telephone harassment, blackmail and other potential crimes within his office.

Kline didn’t say who would be the target of an investigation. County commissioners confirmed the allegations targeted Paul Morrison, who resigned Dec. 14 amid reports he had a two-year extramarital affair with Linda Carter, who resigned Nov. 30 as director of administration for the district attorney’s office.

In addition to the affair, Carter, in a signed statement, accused Morrison of sexual harassment and of trying to interfere with pending litigation in the district attorney’s office, The Topeka Capital-Journal reported.

Kline’s prosecutor, whomever it may be (Brian Burgess, a district attorney spokesman, said Thursday there was no update or timetable on the hiring of the special prosecutor), could ask the grand jury to investigate Morrison.

“It’s an interesting concept,” Jerome Gorman, the Wyandotte County district attorney, said of the special prosecutor asking the grand jury to investigate allegations against Morrison. “It’s certainly possible.”

Like Johnson County, a grand jury was convened in Wyandotte County during the summer to investigate obscenity in area businesses.

If a special prosecutor asked the Johnson County grand jury — convened to investigate Planned Parenthood in Overland Park — to investigate allegations against Mor-
It probably would, Gorman said.

In her statement, Carter said on Oct. 31, Morrison made 22 phone calls to her. During one of those calls, Carter said, Morrison said he would prevent her from finding a job in another state. Some of the calls were heard by other members of the office, she said.

A month prior, Carter said in her statement that Morrison placed five calls to her Lenexa home about 4 a.m. asking whether she had gotten a tattoo symbolizing her commitment. She didn't, even though Morrison had gotten a tattoo, she said in the statement.

Shortly after Morrison was elected attorney general, Carter said, he told her the revelation of their affair would cost Carter her job and cause her public humiliation.

If the special prosecutor turned over the investigation to the grand jury, it might help to further distance Kline from Morrison, said Bob Beatt, a Washburn University political science professor.

"At this point, Kline and Morrison — whether they like it or not and they probably don't like it all — their political careers are so intertwined that it would be best for Kline to distance himself," he said. "Perception wise, he'll never be able to distance himself from Paul Morrison."

David Gottlieb, a University of Kansas law professor, said grand juries typically help gather information that otherwise would be difficult using their power of subpoenas to force witnesses to testify.

"It doesn't appear to me that would be necessary in this case," he said.

Gottlieb said, however, it was important Kline hire a prosecutor who's truly independent of him.

"Ultimately, that's almost as much of a political as it is a legal question," he said.

Currently, there are three investigations into the allegations against Morrison.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is investigating the sexual harassment claim.

The Kansas Office of the Disciplinary Administrator, an investigation called for by Morrison, is looking into whether Morrison tried to influence the federal case involving Kline and the eight district attorney's office employees Kline fired after taking office. It also will explore whether Morrison tried to use his relationship with Carter to obtain information about Kline's case against Planned Parenthood.

And Kline's special prosecutor will investigate criminal accusations raised against Morrison.

Prior to his resignation, Morrison admitted to the affair but denied any wrongdoing.

If the grand jury has questions, the attorneys appointed to assist them have plenty of experience.

Prior to a nearly 20-year career as a judge in Johnson County, McClain was an assistant district attorney in the county for more than eight years.

Merker has been a civil defense attorney locally for more than 36 years. He also serves as a judge pro tem in the county.

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Regents raise housing costs, funding for medical center

Associated Press

TOPEKA — Public university students in Kansas will pay higher housing costs next year and the University of Kansas' main teaching hospital will get more money under measures approved Thursday by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Regents voted to raise the cost of room and board at the state's six public universities to offset inflation, pay for maintenance and upgrade services for students.

On average, students will see their room and board costs increase 5.4 percent, or $330 a year, at the University of Kansas and 6 percent, or $364 a year, at Kansas State.

Average housing costs at Fort Hays, Emporia, Pittsburg and Wichita State universities will increase by between 4 and 6 percent, or from $276 to $306 more a year.

The actual rates for university housing and meal services vary by student, based on meal options and the type of facility where a student lives.

Also Thursday, the regents approved a five-year deal that will increase from $31 million this fiscal year to $46 million next year the amount of money the University of Kansas Hospital gives to the University of Kansas Medical Center and a physicians group.

The money will go toward such things as research, physicians and medical residents.

One of the main goals of the spending increase is to win federal designation as a comprehensive cancer center.

The agreement also calls for a new outpatient facility and more cooperation among the physicians, hospital and medical center.

The University of Kansas Hospital Authority, the hospital's governing board, agreed to the deal Tuesday. The physicians group was to consider the agreement at a meeting Thursday night.

The deal comes two months after the University of Kansas Medical Center agreed to a separate partnership with St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

The talks that led to the earlier deal had raised concerns that the University of Kansas Hospital was threatened. But tensions between the hospital and medical center have since eased.

The medical center, which comprises the University of Kansas schools of medicine, nursing and allied health, split from the hospital in 1998. However, they continue to share a campus in Kansas City, Kan., and the University of Kansas Hospital is the medical center's main teaching hospital.
Regents increase cost of dorms

Inflation, maintenance and new services prompt higher prices at Kansas colleges.

By DAVID KLEPPER
The Star's Topeka correspondent

TOPEKA | The cost of dorm life is going up for students at Kansas' public universities.

The Kansas Board of Regents on Thursday approved a series of increases to the cost of campus food and housing at the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and the four other Regents' schools. For most students living and eating in campus facilities, the increases come to about $300 more per year.

The new rates will go into effect for next year's fall semester.

The universities said the increases were needed to keep up with inflation, pay for maintenance and add new services for students.

Kansas State students will see the biggest increase. For a typical student, rates for room and board will go up by $364, or 6 percent, to $6,448.

For a typical student at KU, room and board costs will go up about $330, or 5.4 percent, to $6,474 a year.

Fort Hays, Emporia, Pittsburg and Wichita State universities will see their rates for typical students go up by 4 percent to 6 percent, or from $276 to $306 more per year.

The actual rates for university housing and meal services vary by student, based on their meal options and which dorm or facility they choose to live in.

Members of the Board of Regents acknowledged that the increases were higher than they would like to see. But they noted that students living and eating on campus demanded new services that were at least partially responsible for the increases.

"Six percent; that's high," commented Regent Dan Lykins, referring to increases at K-State. But he said students apparently were willing to pay the increase if it meant better computer, recreational and living and eating facilities and services. "If that's what they want, it's going to cost more."

Regent Gary Sherrer was the lone vote against the increase. He said the universities had not adequately shown to him why the added costs were necessary.

Even with the higher rates, a review of average rates at other public universities shows that Kansas still compares well.

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