KU studying bees

LAWRENCE (AP) — Bees. They can be a nuisance, hovering around picnics and menacing pets and children. But researchers at The University of Kansas think they might be the key to harnessing new types of engineering technology.

Rudolf Jander, professor of animal behavior, and two students, Jason Palikij and Daniel Najera, are studying how European honeybees find their way back to their hives when disoriented. It's research that could produce a new generation of unmanned space vehicles or safer firefighting techniques.

"If they can close some of the knowledge gap about bee orientation, it would be quite helpful for the engineers," Jander said. He said engineers are fascinated by how insects use their tiny brains, and so they look to scientists for explanations. The research is being done in a field near the Dole Institute of Politics.

Palikij, a graduate student in entomology, is hoping to "train" honeybees to find their way back to their hives. Studying a theory he calls the Peripheral Correction Area, Palikij spends his days observing the bees' travel patterns. He began the experiment in mid-June.
Bees’ travel patterns subject of KU research

Associated Press

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“In terms of entomology and insect behavior, it is groundbreaking,” he said.

Palikij uses two tables, spaced about 49 feet apart, and two jars with an enticing licorice-smelling syrup, to observe the bees as they feed on the liquid, then fly off to their hives. Periodically, he will move the jars to different tables, confusing the bees. He can then watch to see whether they find their bearings.

This leg of the experiment will be complete by Friday. The next phase is to disorient the bees by taking them about 500 feet away from the hive, then moving them 49 feet from the hive.
KU Alumni Association to host picnic

The Southern Kansas Chapter of the KU Alumni Association will be welcoming soon-to-be KU students and their parents at a Jayhawk Generations picnic. The event will held at 6:30 p.m. July 10 at Slate Creek Lodge, 411 Southwest Rd., Wellington.

The picnic is designed to welcome new students to the KU family and to help them get a head start on their KU experience by providing useful insight and information from alumni in their area, KU representatives and association staff.

The picnic will also be an opportunity to meet other students who will begin their KU years in the fall. The association will provide free food and beverage as well as a special Jayhawk T-shirt.

To make reservations, call or e-mail Sarah Blaney, (800) 584-2957 or lingeman@kualumni. org. Please include T-shirt size (S, M, L, XL) and residence hall information. For more information call Bob Bourdette, president of the South Kansas Chapter, 221-1186.
KU Honor Roll

The University of Kansas spring semester honor roll includes: Reba Liggett, Mankato, daughter of Michael and Phyllis Liggett, senior, liberal arts undergraduate; Sasha Roe, Mankato, daughter of Keith and Bethany Roe, senior, liberal arts undergraduate; Shawna Doane, Cawker City, daughter of Lee and Denelle Mick, prof. 1, pharmacy professional; Keah Cunningham, Glen Elder, daughter of David Cunningham, senior, business undergraduate; Amanda Walker, Republic, daughter of Allen and Barb Hurley, prof. 1, pharmacy professional.
Hermreck’s bill passes at girls state

In spite of a tornado destroying most of her belongings on May 29, Kirsten Hermreck, daughter of Kim and Rod Goff, Jewell, attended the 66th annual session of Sunflower Girls State on the University of Kansas campus, Lawrence, June 1-6. The theme: “Learning By Doing” involved 465 high junior girls in activities which simulated the political system of the Kansas government. The girls registered to vote, filed nomination papers, conducted political campaigns, and prepared and presented speeches. Hermreck ran and won offices for city council woman and the House of Representatives. She also lobbied for a “bill” on colon cancer which “passed.”

Sunflower Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. Hermreck attends Jewell High School.
High energy prices impact Kansans

By Congressman Jerry Moran
R-Hays

Kansans remain frustrated by the high cost of energy, including gasoline, and the lack of progress toward finding solutions. Like Kansans, I am bothered by the partisan politics that prevent Congress from finding solutions to these critical problems.

House Passes Fixes for Pharmacies, Medical Providers

I supported House passage of legislation this week to improve Medicare regulations for patients and health care providers. The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act includes several important fixes for health care providers in Kansas. As a founder of the Congressional Community Pharmacy Caucus, I am especially pleased with the provisions of this bill that help community pharmacists. The legislation requires pharmacies to be reimbursed in a timely manner for prescriptions already dispensed to patients. The bill also delays the implementation of the Average Manufacturing Price payment system, which would reimburse pharmacists for less than what it costs to fill Medicaid prescriptions. In addition, the bill suspends the current bidding program for Durable Medical Equipment. The current program could compromise Kansans’ access to equipment and create more overhead costs for equipment providers.

It also suspends for 18 months a reduction in Medicare payments to physicians, establishes new grants for mental health services to Iraq war veterans in rural areas and begins a demonstration program for integrating care in rural communities. These changes will help keep health care professionals on a level playing field whether they are serving patients in rural or urban areas. It will also help keep the doors open to local hospitals, doctor’s offices and pharmacies. The Senate now needs to quickly pass this bill.

Disaster Declaration Requested for Chapman, Manhattan and Other Communities

On Thursday, Gov. Sebelius formally asked the federal government to provide disaster assistance to 49 Kansas counties that suffered damage from severe storms and tornadoes beginning May 22 and ending June 16. I have urged President Bush to quickly approve the assistance so that public buildings and infrastructure can be repaired.

The day after tornadoes and strong storms rolled through central and northeast Kansas, I visited Chapman and Manhattan to view the damage. I returned to Chapman the following day to encourage residents. The destruction was great in these two communities, but many other Kansas towns have also suffered. The request for federal assistance is welcome news to Kansans that live in these storm-damaged communities.


Pressing Air Force Officials to Rebid Tanker Contract

After upholding Boeing’s protest last week of the Air Force’s decision to award the aerial refueling tanker contract to Northrop Grumman and Europe’s EADS, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) said Wednesday that Boeing would have likely won the bid had significant errors not been made. The findings of the GAO report are disturbing. It is critical the Air Force start this competition over and work to make it right.

Together with other members of Congress, I asked the Air Force Acting Secretary to take into account all of the GAO findings and re-open a fair competition in a manner that corrects the significant errors identified by the GAO. According to the GAO report, the Air Force failed to judge the competitive bids based on the Air Force’s own evaluation criteria, made significant mistakes in considering the life cycle costs of each of the two aircraft and “conducted misleading and unequal discussions with Boeing.” I also joined Congressman Todd Tiahrt this week in introducing legislation that directs the Department of Defense to begin a new competition on the tanker contract if the Air Force fails to award the contract to Boeing. The legislation calls on the Department of Defense to take into account national security, industrial base concerns and foreign subsidies in the new competition.

Supporting the Americans with Disabilities Act Restoration Act

This week, I supported House passage of legislation that will ensure the right for all people to be evaluated on their job performance. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Restoration Act restores the law to Congress’ original intent by harmonizing the ADA with other civil rights laws and requiring the courts to interpret the law fairly. Overly broad court interpretations have
weakened the law by allowing employers to say a person is “too disabled” to do the job but not “disabled enough” to be protected by the law. The ADA Restoration Act will correct this problem.

I spoke on the House floor about the need for these reforms and was able to share the thoughts expressed by former Senator Bob Dole, a true disability rights advocate, on the passage of the original ADA in 1990.

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I was in Wichita on Monday to participate in the ceremonial signing of state legislation that will allocate $20 million in bonds plus an additional $39 million for the expansion of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. The funding will also allow the School of Pharmacy to conduct more pharmaceutical research. With the expansion of the school, nearly 200 more students will be able to enter the pharmacy program at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita and at a new building on the main campus in Lawrence. At a time when pharmacists are struggling to keep their doors open, the pharmacy expansion is a ray of hope for the profession and our state.

KU has a strong record for retaining graduates within our state. Sixty-three percent of KU Pharmacy graduates live and work in Kansas. Increasing the educational capacity will give more students an opportunity to learn and will also help address the pharmacist shortage in Kansas. I would like to commend the leadership and faculty at KU and the Kansas State Legislature for having the foresight to invest in such a worthwhile project. Being with KU officials also allowed me the opportunity to encourage additional enrollments within the School of Medicine in order to better help Kansans meet the need for physicians, especially primary care doctors. Before attending the ceremony, I attended a meeting of the Downtown Rotary Club in Wichita. It was good to join fellow Rotarians for a discussion of current issues.

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I participated in an Agriculture Committee hearing on Tuesday about energy markets. Many Americans are concerned that speculation in energy futures markets is driving up the cost of oil. The Agriculture Committee has jurisdiction over the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), which is responsible for preventing fraud and manipulation. Later in the week, the House passed legislation strengthening CFTC’s authority in its oversight of trading in the oil futures market.

In the Office

Steve Johnson of Overland Park was in with ONEOK Partners, Inc. to discuss challenges facing natural gas businesses. Julie Hirons and John Rakos of Overland Park were in with Advantage Metals Recycling to tell me about the recycling industry in Kansas. Haley-Davee of Hays was in with the Kansas Credit Union Association to update me on legislation important to credit unions in our state. Robert Cerda of Olathe was in with Crop Insurance Systems, Inc. to update me on his firm’s development of a new crop insurance administration product.

Judi O’Grady of Eudora and Cathryn Hamilton of Overland Park were in with CureSearch to talk about the need to fund childhood cancer research. CEO of Mercy Regional Health Center Dick Allen of Manhattan and Matt Hickam with Kensinger and Associates of Topeka were in to discuss health care issues and express concern over reimbursement rates for the Tri-Care program. Reed Martin of Leawood was in with Nuteerra to explain the need for quality outpatient health care facilities.
June 30, 2008

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." Kansans remain frustrated by the high cost of energy, including gasoline, and the lack of progress toward finding solutions. Like Kansans, I am bothered by the partisan politics that prevent Congress from finding solutions to these critical problems. Click here to read about efforts I support to reduce the cost of energy and click here to vote in my online poll. I hope you find this newsletter of interest.

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**Emergency Grazing of CRP Acres Approved for Kansas Counties:**

Producers in eight Kansas counties received good news this week when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved a request for emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. Producers in Grant, Hamilton, Haskell, Morton, Sherman, Stanton, Stevens and Wallace Counties are now eligible to begin sign-up for emergency grazing of CRP acres. Producers in these Kansas counties are enduring months of drought. Allowing producers to graze CRP acres will help maintain their herds during this time of extreme conditions.

Emergency grazing is allowed through September 30, 2008. All livestock must be removed by the end of the grazing period. According to the Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA), producers must not graze at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields or graze no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate. Producers participating in the emergency grazing will also face a 25 percent reduction in the annual rental payment for the grazed acres. Producers should visit their local FSA office for information about the restrictions on use and to begin the sign-up process.

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Click here to view my remarks before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.

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Sue Boldra of Hays, John Ross of Pleasant Ridge, Bill Wilson of Tribune and Diane Becker of Lenora were in with the Center for Civic Education to bring me up to date on programs in the state and share success stories from Kansas students and schools. Philip Bradley and Tammy Davis of Lawrence were in with the Kansas Licensed Beverage Association to discuss efforts to prevent underage drinking. Spencer Boone of Timken was in with the National Young Leaders Conference to tell me about his experience in our nation's capital. Ken McCauley of White Cloud also stopped by to visit.

Several Kansans stopped by my Washington, D.C., office for tours of the United States Capitol this week, including Alan and Trevor McDonald of Olathe, Glenn Seaver and Lori Davenport of Topeka, Kent and Lisa Colwell of Hays and Floyd and Mildred Colwell of Nebraska. Ciera Nelson of Little River, the winner of the Congressional Art Competition for my district, was in with her father David and sister Amara. They were joined by Little River High School art teacher Beth Myers. In from Hays were Lyle Lohrmeyer and Janet Affentranger with their children Jordan and Tessa and in from Leavenworth were David and Tammy Warren with their children Morgan and Zach.

**Contact Me:** It is an honor to serve you in Washington, D.C. Please let me know how I can be of assistance. To send me an email, click here. You can also click here to contact me through one of my Kansas offices or my Washington, D.C., office.
Fashion design grad

Kathryn L. Balkenhol, daughter of Ricci Balkenhol of Emporia and the late Barry Balkenhol, graduated June 14, 2008, with a bachelor’s degree in fashion design from the Art Institute of California-San Francisco. Balkenhol also participated in a Portfolio show on June 12 at the Hotel Whitcomb. Her designs were featured in the Student Fashion Show, “Light, Camera, Fashion,” on June 14 at the San Francisco Design Center. She is a 2004 graduate of Emporia High School.

Emporians who attended all of the events were her mother; sister, Lyndsey Balkenhol; brother and sister-in-law, Ryan and Jennifer Balkenhol; and her grandmother, Norma Stinnett; along with her uncle and aunt, Mike Ryer and Adele Stark of Wichita. Kathryn Balkenhol is also the granddaughter of Jake and Lois Balkenhol.

Girl Scout awards

Girl Scouts were recognized May 28 for their achievement in Girl Scouting and received Gold, Silver and Bronze awards.

Those who received the Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Senior may receive, were Jennifer and Laura Knickerbocker, Hannah Stair and Jenika Wheeler. As part of the award requirements, the girls created and developed a fun program for fourth grade Girl Scouts “to ease the transition in the Emporia schools from a neighborhood school to fifth grade,” said the news release. Monthly activities were held for the girls.

Brittany Rees and Ashley Wheeler were presented the Silver Award, the highest award that may be earned by a Girl Scout Cadette.

Wheeler helped design sets for a Late Night Reading program at the Emporia Public Library and Rees helped coordinate childcare activities for the building of the Peter Pan Park playground.

Bronze awards were given to Chantal Gomez, Bailey Lane, Emily Lauxman, Abby Maycock, Amber Schaefer and Ashley Storrer. The girls volunteered services at Plumb Place, which included painting, doing repairs needed and sorting through donations.

Special guests at the ceremony included state representative Peggy Mast and Lynn Smith, former Girl Scout of the Flint Hills CEO, along with family and friends.

Faculty award

Dorian Fay Logan of Emporia was recently recognized by the University of Kansas School of Allied Health with the Joan Mills Clinical Excellence Award. Logan was selected by faculty for “superior clinical performance in combining the art and science of physical therapy during full-time clinical experience, effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills, professionalism, integrity and initiative,” said the news release.

New doctor, officer

Emporian Rishelle Dawn Meyer Greenlee received the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences during commencement ceremonies May 17, 2008, at Kansas City, Mo. Dr. Greenlee also was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Navy. She will complete a postdoctoral residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Portsmouth Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Va.

On May 16, at the KCUMB Honors and Award Convocation, she received the Glasgow-Rubin Academic Achievement Citation, which recognizes female students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class. A magna cum laude graduate, she is a member of Psi Sigma Alpha, the national osteopathic scholastic honor society.

Dr. Greenlee, the daughter of Howard and Sharon Meyer of Lenexa, graduated from Emporia High School in 1994 and from Emporia State University with a bachelor’s degree in 2003.

And another

Emporion Benjamin Evan Stone received the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences during commencement ceremonies May 17, 2008, in Kansas City, Mo. Dr. Stone also was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Air Force and will complete a postdoctoral surgical internship at Keesler Medical Center at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi.

On May 16, at the University Honors and Awards Convocation, he received the Mathews’ Military Honor Graduate Award as “the military graduate who best exemplifies the qualities sought in a Military Medical Corps officer,” said the news release.

Dr. Stone, the son of Dr. Chester and Susan Stone of Emporia, graduated in 1998 from Emporia High School and from the University of Kansas in Lawrence with a bachelor’s degree in human biology in 2003.

Semester honors

Emporians who received the Kansas State University spring
Geography honors

David Haag of Olpe, a senior studying geography at the University of Kansas, was recognized in a May ceremony for "outstanding achievement at the Kansas Geological Survey" based at KU, according to the news release. Haag received the Norman Plummer Outstanding Student Award. In the Survey Cartographic Services unit, Haag helps produce new geologic maps and has created Geographic Information Systems geology data for 45 Kansas counties from historical geologic maps. Norman Plummer was a survey employee from 1936 to 1969. Haag is the son of Sylvia Haag and a graduate of Olpe High School.
KU students find tools at Kanorado

By Tom Betz

University of Kansas graduate students spent 10 days this month scraping away layers of dirt at historic paleoindian sites south and east of Kanorado, unearthing ancient tools, chert flakes from tool making and bison bones left from their hunts.

This is the fifth year KU students have been at the sites near Kanorado with Dr. Rolfe Mandel, executive director of the Odyssey Archeological Research Program for the Kansas Geological Survey and a professor of anthropology at KU.

He said Thursday he had 13 students working the sites this year. They arrived at Kanorado on Tuesday, June 17, for the 10-day field school, finishing up on Thursday. A smaller group was on site working for about two weeks earlier this summer, and most came back.

Some students camped out at the Briggs Park on the south side of old U.S. 24 at Kanorado while others stayed in a dorm at the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Mandel said two students tried an experiment with ground-penetrating radar, but it did not appear to be as useful as the students had hoped. Mandel said it does appear the students were able to map the area south of the dig site south of I-70 and east of County Road 3, and had found what appears to be the south side of the old bed of Middle Beaver Creek.

He said the radar did not find any specific archeological formations, however.

"It is hard to pick up specific points," Mandel said, "because the land is so homogeneous and there are not large bones or areas like hearths to find."

Most of the students worked at the dig site where the radar experiment was going on over the hill, digging up some ancient tools.

One nice scraper was found Thursday afternoon, the last day of the dig for this year.

Nick Kessler, a University of Kansas graduate student (left), held a pan as Dr. Rolfe Mandel dug out a soil sample at one of the Kanorado paleoindian sites. The soil samples will be checked for land snails to help read changing climate conditions over the life of the site. This stone hide scraper (right) was found Thursday at a site southeast of Kanorado. Based on where it was found, Dr. Mandel said he thinks it is possibly 10,000 to 12,000 years old.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
KU students find tools at Kanorado

KANORADO, from Page 1

year. Mandel said the crew found several nice specimens at the site this year which will be examined and maybe carbon dated over the next several months.

At a site north of I-70 on the east side of the creek, visible from the highway, diggers opened new units just of where students found mammoth and camel bones in previous digs.

Hai Huang, a fourth-year graduate student from Shanghai, China, found a small bone fragment Thursday. This is Huang’s last year at KU, he said, and his last summer digging at Kanorado. He plans to go home at the end of July to begin looking for a job in China.

He and Mandel discussed the level on the creek bank where they could expect to find the evidence of ancient people who camped in the area. Mandel said the beginning of the layer is down about four feet, adding that how far down the digging goes would depend on what they find.

Mandel said the Kanorado dig is the first Clovis-era site in the state and the second with Folsom-era artifacts. Early native Americans, known as paleoindians, roamed the High Plains thousands of years ago, and some of the earliest were called Folsom for the fluted points they made about 10,000 years ago, found near Folsom, N.M.

Clovis paleoindians were on the High Plains well before the Folsom people, and evidence collected at Kanorado is pushing that date back towards 14,000 years ago. Points made by these tribes came before the invention of the bow and arrow.

At the site where the crew found mammoth and camel bones before, Mandel was taking soil samples from a column of the whole depth of the site. He said he would send the samples to a colleague at Wisconsin University where they will be analyze to see if land snails can help determine the climate changes in the area over the past 10,000 to 12,000 years.

Mandel also gathered these samples at the other site. He said the snails from lower down should show the kind of climate with existed when paleoindians first came the area.

Mandel said he feels the land was lush with deep grasses, lots of trees and lots of open pools of water. He thinks the snail evidence will show the average annual moisture near Kanorado back then was around 34 inches.

At the bison site on the north side of the creek and a little east, the students found another skull and nose piece this year.

Mandel said the bison bones found earlier date back to about 10,800 years, and feels that is close to when the Indians were around.

Mandel said he was not sure if the students would be back next year, but that he is certain excavation at the Kanorado sites will continue.

"I feel one could spend a lifetime digging here," he said. "There are not a lot of large pieces, but every small piece we find gives us"
more clues to the people who were
here.”
Mandel said the tools being found
are from stone deposits not typically
present in northwest Kansas, and
in some cases they rock came from
more than 1,000 miles away.

Dr. Rolfe Mandel (left) and Hai Huang, a fourth year graduate stu-
dent from China, talked about the relative ages of the levels being
evacuated at one of the units along the east bank of Middle Beaver
Creek, north of I-70. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News