The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas has announced 128 new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2008-09 academic year. Named from Jefferson County are Dillon Robbins, Oskaloosa, 2nd District; Nancy Boyda, Kansas State University, Business; and Jayme Barnes, Ozawkie, 2nd District; Nancy Boyda, Washburn University, Biology and Pre-Medicine.

The program recognizes graduating Kansas high school students who have volunteered in their communities and maintained a 3.0 GPA. The 2008 recipients received a $1,000 scholarship, renewable up to three years with a commitment of completing 100 hours of civic activities annually.
KU to sponsor welcome picnic for new students

New University of Kansas students and their parents from Clay, Dickinson, Geary, Marshall, Pottawatomie, Riley and Washington Counties will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 22, at 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 and new students and their parents are welcome to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages. Each new Jayhawk will receive a free T-shirt.

The event is being coordinated by Larry Stoppel, Washington, president; Steve Pierson, Hanover, vice-president; Ellen Remsing, Manhattan, student recruitment chair; and alumni association representatives: Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs; Jamie Winkelman, assistant director of alumni programs; and David Johnston, director of marketing and internet services.

Students from this area invited to attend include Courtney Schooler, Blaine; Aaron Trippel, Onaga; Janel Wietharn and Jarrod Smith, St. Marys; Audrey Peterson, St. George; and Aaron White, Westmoreland.
Bioscience company not committed to Olathe park

BY JACK WEINSTEIN
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A Lenexa company's relocation to the Kansas Bioscience Park in Olathe is not definitive.

XenoTech LLC, a contract research firm that conducts in-vitro drug interaction studies, was granted in January eight acres to expand at the park. The company said then it would invest nearly $10 million to build a 54,000-square-foot facility next year that would nearly triple the size of its existing location at 116th Street and Renner Road.

"It's not a definite move (to the park) now, but we will stay in the area," said Kammie Settle, a company spokeswoman.

Settle said the company's building deal at the park was put on the back burner when the company engaged in talks to be acquired by a Japanese chemical company.

This week, Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd. announced its agreement to purchase XenoTech. The acquisition will strengthen Sekisui Medical Co., a division of Sekisui Chemical, by establishing a U.S. presence and serving as the platform for it to deploy pre-clinical services internationally, according to a statement from the company.

To close the deal, Settle said, some of the company's resources had to be diverted away from relocating to the park.

"Obviously, there's so many people involved in these talks, and their time is limited," she said. "They had to focus on one thing or the other. They had to focus on the Sekisui acquisition, not the building deal."

The 92-acre research park at College Boulevard and Valley Road is a collaboration among Olathe, Kansas State University and the Kansas Bioscience Authority. The park is expected to generate $150 million in public and private investment and create 3,000 jobs in the next 20 to 30 years.

Fort Dodge Animal Health has committed $40 million to relocate its Overland Park headquarters to 150,000 square feet on 30 acres at the park.

Chad Bettes, a spokesman for the KBA, said that a formal deal for XenoTech to locate at the park never was concluded, but that the company and the park were still involved in talks.

Settle said XenoTech likely will relocate in 2010. She said that should give the company enough time to find a site and construct a new facility.

Settle added that the company still planned to nearly double the size of its 100-employee work force in the five years after expanding.

XenoTech was founded in 1994 by Andrew Parkinson, a professor at the University of Kansas. He will remain XenoTech's chief executive after the cash transaction closes later this month.
African-American Archivist Receives Distinguished Librarian Award at KU

Deborah Dandridge

Deborah Dandridge also Researcher for Brown Foundation’s national traveling exhibit ‘Brown v. Board of Education’

Lawrence, Kan.—The University of Kansas announced that Deborah Dandridge, a highly respected archivist and expert in African American history, is the recipient of the 2007-08 Budig Distinguished Librarian Award. She was recognized for achievements in professional service and scholarship, as well as reputation among professional colleagues.

“Deborah’s energy and passion enables her to successfully connect with the African American community in the area. Such outreach is directly responsible for the continued growth of this outstanding collection. Additionally, Deborah’s dynamic teaching style encourages students, faculty and visiting scholars to make use of these materials in the classroom and in their research efforts locally and internationally,” said Lorraine J. Haricombe, dean of KU Libraries.

Since 1986, Dandridge has served as the archivist for the African American Collections in Spencer Research Library’s Kansas Collection at KU. These collections document diverse aspects of African American experiences in the Kansas region.

“This award should also be recognized as a tribute to the generosity and foresight of many African American leaders, families, churches, organizations and businesses who donated archival materials to our archival outreach program to insure that the concerns, experiences and achievements of African Americans would be a part of the region’s permanent historical record for future generations to know and understand,” Dandridge said.

Dandridge is an active member of numerous archival professional organizations including the Society of American Archivists, the Midwest Archives Conference and the Kansas City Area Archivists. In 1998, she and Professor William Tuttle of KU’s American Studies Department wrote the article “Against the Odds: A History of African Americans in Kansas” which was published in the second edition of Kansas Revisited: Historical Images and Perspectives.

She also served as researcher and writer of the Brown Foundation’s national traveling exhibit “Brown v. Board of Education, In Pursuit of Freedom and Equality: Kansas and the African American Public School Experience, 1855-1955.” In 2002, she was appointed to the Brown v. Board 50th National Anniversary Commission. She later served as chair of the conference planning committee for The Legacies and Unfinished Business of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka Conference held at the University of Kansas.

Dandridge, who received her B.A. in history from Washburn University in 1968, an M.A. in history from Atlanta University in 1970, completed her Ph.D. exams in history from the University of Kansas in 1977. She also served on the faculty of Washburn University and as bibliographer for KU’s American Studies Department.

For more information on donating archival material for the African American collection contact Deborah Dandridge at ddandridge@ku.edu.
Middle school students to benefit from science grant

Middle-school classrooms in Kansas City, Kansas, may benefit from a National Science Foundation Grant awarded to University of Kansas researchers.

The $2.9 million, five-year grant was awarded recently to the Kansas Partnership for Graduate Fellows in K-12 Education program.

The program will bring hands-on science experiences and cooperative learning into middle school classrooms in Topeka and Kansas City, Kansas, according to KU officials. Doctoral students in engineering and science will work with sixth through ninth grade students and teachers. Active learning and science research based on curriculum standards for those grade levels will be used, according to KU officials.

Specific aims include "improving the science achievement of at-risk middle school students in two of the largest urban school districts in Kansas," Dennis Lane, the program's leader, said. Lane is the N.T. Veatch Distinguished Professor the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering at KU and associate director of research and education for the KU Transportation Research Institute.

The program also will work to establish a sustainable outreach partnership among participating school districts and KU's Transportation Research Institute and Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets.

Faculty from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Center for Research on Learning will be closely involved in the project. Steven Case of the Center for Science Education; Joseph Heppert, professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry; and Bozenna Pasik-Duncan, professor of mathematics, have roles in the project.
Obama, Sebelius T-shirt causes concern for KU

A picture of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius holding a T-shirt with the words "Barack Chalk Jayhawk" across the front has caused a bit of a stir with the University of Kansas.

The university is concerned that it might look like it is supporting Barack Obama. The words are a play on the university's "Rock, Chalk, Jayhawk," chant.

The T-shirts came about after the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee referred to University of Kansas supporters at a campaign event in Kansas City, Mo., as "Barack Chalk Jayhawks."

The university, which owns the trademark on the "Rock, Chalk, Jayhawk" slogan, gave the Young Democrats club permission to print 100 shirts in support of Obama — as long as only members of the group received the shirts.

"I was honestly thrilled they let us print the shirts," said Marc Langston, who organized the T-shirt printing and had sought the university's permission.

The problem came when Sebelius, at a campaign event in May, was photographed with the shirt. Langston said there was a moment of panic when he realized someone outside the club had received a shirt, violating the original agreement.

The university's athletics department, which monitors trademarks for the school, stepped in and told the Young Democrats not to print any more shirts.

Associate athletics director Jim Marchiony said Monday the group had wanted permission to print additional T-shirts and that a line needed to be drawn lest it appear the university was endorsing a certain presidential candidate.

Marchiony said he couldn't recall the number of additional T-shirts the group wanted. However, he said, "It would have greatly widened the scope of this beyond the membership of the Young Democrats. It went beyond a few T-shirts."

He noted that state law prohibits universities from using their trademarks to endorse political candidates or positions.

"We're a state university," he said. "We should never be used to further a political candidacy."

In retrospect, he added, permission for the shirt probably shouldn't have been given.

"In trying to accommodate a small group of students, we gave permission we shouldn't have given in the first place," Marchiony said.

Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran confirmed Monday that the governor was given the T-shirt.

"As a supporter of Barack Obama and KU, she's proud to have it, though I can't say for sure if she's actually worn it yet," Corcoran said.

Alice Lieberman, a university professor and adviser to the Young Democrats, wondered why the university would block student groups from using the slogan.

Lieberman said students should have some leeway when it comes to using the university's trademarks.

"She also wasn't sure the shirts might imply a university endorsement."

"If someone could work (John) McCain into Jayhawk or KU or Rock Chalk, I would fully support that," she said. "I actually tried, without any success."

In a separate case, a federal jury in Topeka ruled last week that Lawrence clothing store Joe-College.com must pay the university $127,000 for trademark infringement for selling unlicensed Jayhawk-related merchandise.

The award was well below the $500,000 the school had sought. The jury also ruled that about 75 percent of the 206 shirts Joe-College.com sold did not violate any trademark.

Law professor Mike Hoeflich, a copyright expert, said it could be argued that the Obama shirts were both a copyright violation and an issue of political speech.

"This differs from the recent Joe-College issue," Hoeflich said. "These Obama shirts are expressly political."
TOPEKA, Kan. — The Kansas Board of Regents wants the state's universities and community colleges to tighten their belts, and the provost of the University of Kansas says any cuts will be felt by students.

Regents President Reggie Robinson said Tuesday that the board asked the state's universities, community colleges and vocational technical schools to cut spending by 7 percent over the next two years. The regents are seeking 2 percent cuts this year and 5 percent in 2009-2010.

However, the provost at the University of Kansas, Richard Lariviere said the cuts would require universities to reduce or eliminate programs and services. The university gets about 24 percent of its budget from state sources and he expected most of the cuts to be in administrative functions.

"Even when setting out to protect key instructional programs, it isn't possible to make cuts of this magnitude without affecting students."

The university has asked departments at the Lawrence campus to cut total operating expenses by $5.5 million in the current year and $14.7 million in 2009-2010. However, those figures include the cuts for the regents and money that the university is setting aside to cover anticipated increases in energy costs — $2.6 million this year and $4.5 million next year.

Regents want to review the cost-cutting proposals from the universities and colleges at their annual retreat on Aug. 19 in Wichita. Robinson said it was too early to tell how the regents would react to reduction plans by each campus.

The need for cuts in state budgets emerged when figures were released June 30 showing a $61 million shortfall in anticipated tax revenues. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has asked state agencies to trim their planned spending for the new fiscal year by up to 2 percent.

Robinson said the regents' request was prompted by a July 11 memo from state Budget Director Duane Goossen saying that the universities and colleges must prepare budgets for 2010 anticipating revenues will be tight, at best. Robinson said it was the first time in several years that higher education was asked to make such reductions in advance.

"It's hard for organizations that do work like universities do, that are focused on services to students, to cut budgets that totally insulate students," he said. "They try to preserve the core of what they do."

Robinson noted that other state education systems are bracing for similar reductions, many of which can't be replaced by private sources because the endowments are earmarked for specific purposes.

"It's clear that there will be at least belt tightening across the United States. It's more than Kansas," Robinson said.

Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran noted that both the Board of Regents and Goossen would have to approve the trimmed budgets.

"Though the Kansas economy is in better shape than many other states, the governor believes we must make targeted, pro-active adjustments in budgets where we can, maximizing savings and minimizing the negative impact on those we serve," Corcoran said.

She reiterated the governor's desire that no cuts affect student learning but that all higher education institutions "consider ways to find efficiencies and make reductions where possible."

In addition, legislators are trimming their budget and the budget for their research and auditing divisions by close to $600,000 by reducing printing, travel and hirings.

This is the second spending reduction for higher education since 2000.

In 2002, then-Gov. Bill Graves cut $33.7 million from higher education budgets, including community colleges and vocational technical schools. The cuts were ordered to close a budget shortfall caused by the recession after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Lariviere said he told university deans and vice provosts to find cuts that won't have a ripple affect on federal research grants, which have a multiplying effect when matched with state funding sources.

University spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said Lariviere told campus leaders that cuts would not come from utilities, library acquisitions or student financial aid.

Bruce Shubert, associate vice president for administration and finance at Kansas State University, said officials in Manhattan asked deans and administrators to outline their proposed cuts by Aug. 6.

"In the meantime, we've asked the university community to delay hires and major purchases wherever possible," Shubert said.

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On the Net:
Board of Regents: http://www.kansasregents.org
Governor's office: http://www.governor.ks.gov
Regents seek cuts

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The Kansas Board of Regents wants the state’s six universities to tighten their belts, and the head of the University of Kansas says any cuts will be felt by students.

University of Kansas Provost Richard Lariviere said late Monday that the state has asked regents universities to cut spending by 7 percent over the next two years. He said the regents are seeking 2 percent cuts this year and 5 percent in 2009-2010.

The university has asked departments to cut total operating expenses by $5.5 million in the current year and $14.7 million in 2009-2010. However, those figures include money that the university is setting aside to cover anticipated increases in energy costs — $2.6 million this year and $4.5 million next year.

Lariviere said cuts would require universities to reduce or eliminate programs and services. The university gets about 24 percent of its budget from state sources and he expected most of the cuts to be in administrative functions.

“Even when setting out to protect key instructional programs, it isn’t possible to make cuts of this magnitude without affecting students.”
KU dean: Teacher salaries lacking

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — The state’s universities will face an unenviable task of fighting a looming teacher shortage, said University of Kansas School of Education Dean Rick Ginsberg.

The lack of competitive compensation is pushing more teachers away from the craft while creating a larger problem without a surefire solution, Ginsberg said.

“The numbers are so vague in this state,” Ginsberg said. “We don’t know how many teachers are truly needed everywhere.”

Record numbers of teachers are nearing retirement age. Long-term vacancies are rising in rural and inner-city school districts. Fewer college students are training to become teachers.

According to the National Education Association, about 20 percent of new teaching hires in the U.S., often overwhelmed and underpaid, leave the classroom within two years.

Ginsberg said the real shortage starts in the math and science classrooms.

The average starting annual salary for a teacher in Kansas is about $29,202, while the average salary for a chemical engineer in Kansas is around $80,000.

Kent McDonald, a former geologist who teaches science at Lawrence High School, said he felt that money was a big factor in turning people off to teaching science.

“I could make three to four times as much as I do now if I wanted to go back into, say, petroleum geology,” he said.

With a weak economy, Ginsberg said it has become harder to convince the younger generation to enter the teaching field. The University of Kansas School of Education had accepted more students this past year than in recent years, but he said the situation was far from ideal.

The university recently launched a program called UKanTeach, a joint venture between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Education that allows students earning a bachelor’s degree to also earn a teaching license.

Some rural Kansas school districts are offering financial help with continuing education and English-as-a-second-language certification.

Although these initiatives might lure more people to earn teaching certificates, it doesn’t necessarily mean they will have sustained teaching careers.

“There’s something like 75,000 licensed teachers in the state of Kansas,” Ginsberg said. “We only have around 33,000 actually teaching. That should tell you something.”

Alan Gleue, physics teacher at Lawrence High School and science department chairman, said that even though they’re underpaid, many teachers have stayed out of a sense of duty.

“I still have the quixotic feeling that I make a difference,” he said. “Most teachers who stay with teaching have the feeling they’re contributing something to society outside of receiving a paycheck.”
Danny Rodriguez, Humboldt police officer, was graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in a July 18 ceremony in the 4-H Encampment Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson. The training center is a unit of University of Kansas Continuing Education.

Graduates receive certificates of course completion and Kansas law enforcement certification from the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers’ Standards and Training, the state’s law enforcement licensing authority. The training course fulfills the state requirement for law enforcement training.