LAWRENCE (AP) — By the time police found the body of a slain University of Kansas student last week, the man suspected of killing her was already more than 1,000 miles away in New Jersey, according to a timeline released by the Lawrence Police Department.

Police found Jana Mackey, a 25-year-old University of Kansas law student, dead Thursday night at the home of ex-boyfriend Adolfo Garcia-Nunez, a 46-year-old artist who also went by the name Fito Garche. According to police, Garcia-Nunez hanged himself in a holding cell after being arrested Friday in Elizabeth, N.J.

Lawrence police said Mackey, a second-year law student from Hays, was likely killed Wednesday between 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Mackey was last seen leaving class at the start of that time window. At its end, someone spotted Garcia-Nunez at a Lawrence convenience store before he apparently left for New Jersey.

After Mackey didn’t show up to class the next day, a friend reported her missing at 4:36 p.m., police said. About two hours later, police found Mackey’s vehicle in a hospital parking lot near Garcia-Nunez’s home. Police said they found her dead around 11 p.m in his home.
Kansas nursing student finishes degree in Iraq

Burn specialist earned degree online

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — A University of Kansas student finished his nursing degree while tending to patients in a makeshift hospital in Iraq.

Robert Hafner was deployed in 2007 as a registered nurse with the Army Reserve.

While he treated Iraqi soldiers, police and women and children who were caught in the crossfire, Hafner worked online to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Hafner worked in a hospital in Al Asad, Iraq, helping patients who suffered burns.

He had to deal with heavy gusts of wind that would send fine particle dust into what the nurses had hoped would remain a clean room.

The nurses also lacked the plethora of bandages most burn units use.

Hafner was one of two burn specialists in his unit. Most U.S. servicemen and women would be automatically airlifted if injured, but nurses at Al Asad treated Iraqi forces and civilian casualties.

Between bursts of patients, a fellow soldier served as Hafner’s proctor as he completed the last eight hours for his degree.

Hafner, who returned to the U.S. three weeks ago, was surprised Tuesday with University of Kansas Hospital ceremony where School of Nursing Dean Karen Miller gave him his diploma.

His wife, Janelle, and 7-month-old daughter, Anya, watched as Hafner greeted a line of supporters and well-wishers.

Rita Clifford, associate dean of student affairs, said Hafner was the first to finish his bachelor's degree while on active duty.

Hafner will resume work this week at the Burnett Burn Center at University of Kansas Hospital, where he was employed before he was called up.

In the fall, he plans to begin work on a master's degree.

Janelle Hafner said she was proud of the work her husband did.

"It's great," she said. "He worked hard. His lab partner here had a completely different schedule, so they had to figure out who would get what part of the project done when."

Although there's a chance Robert Hafner may be called back for another tour, he said he was simply happy to be home.

"I mostly like to spend time with my daughter," he said. "I'm really liking that."

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KU announces Spring 2008 Honor Roll

More than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester.

These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., represent 101 of 105 Kansas counties, 42 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

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

The students are listed below by hometown in the following format: first name, last name, school or college, level, gender, parents or guardians, and high school. For students in the School of Allied Health, a level in school is not always listed.

From Erie: Janelle Lynn Buskirk, daughter of Timothy and Connie Buskirk, a Nursing Undergraduate Senior, 2008 Spring Honor Roll, a graduate of Erie High School; and Tracy Renee Spielbusch, daughter of Edward and Kimberly Spielbusch, an Education Undergraduate Senior, 2008 Spring Honor Roll, an Erie High School graduate.

From Thayer: Erin Jean Cox, daughter of Gene and Susan Cox, a Social Welfare Undergraduate Senior, 2008 Spring Honor Roll, a graduate of Thayer Attendance Center; and Garrett Allen Welch, son of Sherry and Jeff Welch, a Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior, 2008 Spring Honor Roll, received a GED from the State of Kansas.
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 Associated Press
Kansas fans might call him the Man of the Year, and Time magazine isn’t going that far. But that doesn’t mean the magazine isn’t high on Kansas athletic director Lew Perkins. Time named him one of the 35 best sports executives in the world. Perkins is the only college administrator to make the list.

“It is a great honor to be included on this list,” Perkins said. “It is a reflection on the University of Kansas, Chancellor (Robert) Hemenway and all of our coaches and student-athletes.”

Time lauded Perkins for his direction of the second program in history to win a basketball national championship and a BCS football game in the same academic year and increasing the athletic budget from $24 million to $55 million in four years.

Time is asking for voters to help name the No. 1 overall sports exec. To vote, go to Time’s Web site. Among the current leaders in the Time poll are Sir Alex Ferguson, manager of Manchester United; John Henry, principal owner of the Boston Red Sox; Danny Ainge, general manager of the Boston Celtics; Jerry Reese, general manager of the New York Giants; and Perkins.
State universities hopeful
budget cuts won’t happen

7 percent would equal $14.7 million for KU

By Mike Hall
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Colleges and universities all over Kansas are at work preparing plans for budget cuts they hope won’t happen.

Bruce Shubert, vice president for administration and finance at Kansas State University, said K-State administrators and deans have been asked to come up with individual plans for their areas of the budget to accommodate a possible 2 percent spending reduction this year (2008-2009) and another 5 percent in 2009-2010.

Recommendations from the administrators and deans are due Aug. 5, then a total plan for K-State is to be submitted to the board of regents office in Topeka by Aug. 15.

But he added that school officials all over the state are hoping the cuts won’t be necessary.

"I’m not telling anyone here these figures are definite," he said. A 2 percent cutback for K-State would amount to $3.7 million, he said. That includes costs at the main campuses in Manhattan and Salina, the extension and agriculture research program and the veterinary medicine center. A 7 percent cut would equal $12.9 million.

At The University of Kansas, a 2 percent reduction would mean $5.5 million this year. A 7 percent reduction would be $14.7 million.

In addition to KU and K-State, the universities under the control of the Kansas Board of Regents are Wichita State University, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University and Pittsburg State University.

However, budgeting for Topeka’s Washburn University and the state’s community colleges and technical schools also is subject to a consolidated budget coordinated through the board of regents.

At KU, provost Richard Lariviere said 24 percent of his university’s budget is from state sources. He thought most of the proposed budget cuts would come from administrative functions.

Shubert said he couldn’t rule out a tuition increase as part of the solution, but he added two caveats: a tuition increase is always a sensitive matter and schools are reluctant to use that option, and the first 2 percent cut is being considered for this year and a tuition increase in the middle of the year is particularly distasteful.

"I’m not going to remove anything from the table," he said.

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Fifty-four graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center were congratulated Friday in a ceremony at the 4-H Encampment Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

The graduates, who began their training course Feb. 4, represented 49 municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies from across Kansas. They were the 197th basic training class of graduates.

The center trains the majority of municipal, county and state law enforcement officers in Kansas, and oversees the training of the remaining officers at seven authorized and certified academy programs operated by local law enforcement agencies and the Kansas Highway Patrol.

The center is a unit of University of Kansas Continuing Education.
White right to be worried

The Joe College T-shirt case was a skirmish over free speech and trademark infringement, but it also pulled back the curtain on big-time college athletics. Ultimately, the issue at stake was who gets to pocket profits on merchandise that fans buy, in this case T-shirts bearing sometimes tasteless graphics.

When KU athletic officials painted a target on shop owner Larry Sinks' back, they argued, straight-faced, that his T-shirts were easily confused with clothing items sold under university license. In fact, not even the most near-sighted, inebriated postgame celebrant would assume KU had sanctioned Sinks' irreverent merchandise.

Last week's murky verdict offered little guidance for Sinks or KU. It decreed that Sinks could continue to sell three-fourths of the 206 shirts in dispute, with little rhyme or reason for the distinction.

What did become clear, however, is that Kansas Athletics Inc. is a money-making steamroller. With a budget — now more than $55 million — that has risen 125 percent in five years and a director who has an incentive-laden contract, in addition to a base salary more than double that of the chancellor, the athletics department is a corporate Godzilla in the midst of a public educational institution.

In the recent history of KU athletic profiteering, the Joe College lawsuit is just one installment, alongside the 2004 priority seating plan, which displaced from Allen Fieldhouse longtime basketball fans who could not pony up tens of thousands of dollars in "contributions"; the decision to move the 2007 KU-MU football game to Arrowhead Stadium, forfeiting a home field advantage for a $300,000 revenue boost; and the $6,400 bill sent to Lawrence economic development organizations that had dared to host a community parade celebrating the national basketball championship at the same time athletic officials had scheduled a closed-door event for big donors.

The relationship between college academics and athletics has always been prickly, as many eggheads and other taxpayers, even those who cheer loudest at games, believe athletic resources would be better spent in the classroom. Kansas Athletics Inc. seems determined to widen that rift.

As the Joe College case unfolded, I was reminded of a nugget I stumbled across in the Library of Congress a few years ago. In 1927, legendary editor William Allen White, of Emporia, became so concerned that the overstressing of athletics at KU would cripple it that he fired off a letter to basketball coach Phog Allen.

White wondered that KU was amassing disproportionate athletic staff and threatened to run for the Legislature to introduce a bill prohibiting intercollegiate sports, if athletic excesses weren't curbed.

"What is the difference whether the University wins or not, so far as the scholastic standing of the University is concerned?" White asked.

Maybe Larry Sinks should print that on a T-shirt.

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New KU Student Picnic

New University of Kansas students and their parents will be welcomed at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic Thursday in Salina. Area alumni, new students, students interested in learning more about KU and parents are invited to attend. Each new Jayhawk will receive a free T-shirt. Among those invited are Kira Odell, Courtland; Vaughn Kresin, Glen Elder; Ethan Wilcox, Jamestown; and Lauren Hoops, Republic.
WICHITA (AP) – A new statewide program to fight diabetes will depend in large part on convincing Kansans to take better care of themselves.

State health officials unveiled the Kansas Diabetes Plan on Friday, an effort to reduce diabetes or stop its onset in the next five years.

About 151,000 Kansas adults have been diagnosed with diabetes and another 65,000 Kansans likely have the disease and don't know it, according to the Kansas Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Diabetes Advisory Council, made up of more than 40 agencies across the state, took several years to craft the five-year plan.

Its goals include increasing awareness of how to prevent and control diabetes; improving organizations' ability to address diabetes control and prevention; increasing Kansas health care workers' knowledge of standards of care and influencing public policy to support the fight against diabetes.

The plan unveiled Friday will coordinate evaluation efforts and track successes.

One of the keys is convincing people to eat better and be more active, said Rod Bremby, secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

As part of the plan, the University of Kansas School of Medicine will add 20 positions related to diabetes research during the next 10 years, said physician David Robbins, medical director with the university.

The plan also includes efforts to promote diabetes education and awareness in minority communities.

About 37 percent of African-Americans in Kansas are obese, compared with 24 percent of Hispanics and 23 percent of white people, according to a 2007 report from the Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Faith- and community-based organizations must be used to reach minority groups, said Kate Watson, director of the state diabetes prevention and control program.

"The places they live, work and play may differ from where Caucasians live, work and play," she said. "We're going to target resources to where those people are."

If trends in obesity and Type 2 Diabetes continue, American children born in 2000 will face a one in three chance of developing diabetes, the state health department reports, based on findings by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That means Hispanic children have a one in two chance to develop the disease, the CDC reports.