KU chancellor issues statement on area student's recent death

University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway released the following statement on May 13 regarding the death of KU student Christopher Wempe of Seneca: “On behalf of the entire KU community, I offer my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Chris Wempe. Our hearts go out to them at this difficult time.”

Wempe, 20, died May 12 after an acute illness. He was a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering.

Mass of Christian Burial was Friday, May 16, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Seneca.
Kaitlyn Kelly gives a speech to the graduating class of the University of Kansas School of Engineering during the graduate recognition ceremony Sunday. Kelly was honored as one of the school's outstanding graduating seniors and was the recipient of the Sammie and Carl Locke Award. Kelly earned her degree in chemical engineering and graduated with a 3.95 grade point average.

“She epitomizes KU engineering; intellect, leadership, dedication, integrity and friendship,” wrote associate professor Colin Howat in a letter of recommendation for the outstanding senior nomination.

Kelly was a 2004 graduate of Tonganoxie High School and class valedictorian.
Law school a family affair for father, daughter

By Tim Carpenter
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

LAWRENCE — It isn’t a misprint in the commencement program at The University of Kansas. Two students — neither sibling nor spouse — with the same last name residing at the same address graduated at the same time from the same academic school at the same university.

Divided by a generation but united in purpose, Earl Richardson, the father, and Aimee Richardson, the daughter, pulled on a cap and gown Sunday at the hooding ceremony for recipients of a School of Law diploma and marched with thousands of graduates down Mount Oread into Memorial Stadium at the all-university commencement.

The Lawrence residents are the first parent-child combo to simultaneously endure three years of law school at KU.

“A lot of my classmates didn’t know this was my daughter,” Earl Richardson said.

Aimee Richardson said students aware of the family connection eventually took the novelty in stride. Her fiancé, Ryan Walkiewicz, adjusted to the state of affairs while finishing his law degree.

“It was awkward seeing your girlfriend’s dad in school,” he said.

The Richardsons were among 7,000 members of the university’s Class of 2008 who were eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. About two-thirds were expected to take part in the commencement procession, a hallmark of KU graduation that began more than a century ago.

Graduates were clustered by academic specialty and differentiated by tassel color.

Each degree candidate passed through the Campanile on a serpentine parade route past family and friends. The ceremony ended about an hour later with KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway conferring degrees to the freshly minted alumni.

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The Richardson duo has seen it all before. Earl Richardson, 47, earned a journalism degree at KU in 1983 and went on to become a photographer at The Topeka Capital-Journal and Lawrence Journal-World. Aimee Richardson, 25, finished a dual degree at KU in English and sociology in 2005.

Their journey to Green Hall wasn't part of a grand scheme for the man in midlife to align with his first-born child to jointly conquer contracts, property, torts, evidence, trusts and all the rest.

After more than two decades in the newspaper business, Earl Richardson said he was convinced it was time to let his camera batteries run down.

"I wanted to make a change," he said.

The Law School Admission Test was his first academic assessment — other than the periodic driver’s license exam — in a long time. He was probably the oldest guy in the testing room, but age didn’t prove to be a limiting factor. His score was high enough for admittance to KU.

Aimee Richardson made a snap decision later that year to take the LSAT. She reasoned that it was prudent to have a graduate school option if the real world didn’t beckon. Her score also was high enough, so she filed into her first law class at KU, taking a seat next to Dad.

First-year students are placed in small study groups to smooth transition to a higher academic plateau. The linkage with peers was a useful tool.

"Law school is such a strange environment," Aimee Richardson said.

Both had early doubts about whether they made the right decision. They were driven, in part, by fear of failure. It would have been tough if one had excelled while the other was humbled.

It helped, the Richarsons agreed, to have someone close to talk with about twists and turns of their legal education.

"You can cry on a shoulder," Earl Richardson said. "Things happen."

They are both eager to put the grind of law school behind them. It is time to prepare for the bar exam and take their place in Lawrence’s legal community. They have accepted jobs at separate law firms but depart KU with a unique bond.

"People talk of being in the Army — the experience, friendships, shared challenges," Earl Richard-son said. "To a certain degree, law school is like that."

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University of Kansas Class of 2008

More than 4,450 students are candidates for degrees at The University of Kansas this spring. Commencement ceremonies were Sunday.

Following are candidates for degrees from northeast Kansas, listed by hometown.

**ATCHISON COUNTY**

Atchison: Matthew Paul Buckley, BSB, accounting; Patrick Vincent Domann, BGS, communications studies; Nicole Danielle Forbes, BA, sociology; Timothy P. Hoffman, BS, education; Lilll Ann Johanning, BA, education; Courtney Marie King, M/Arch., BA, Spanish, Latin American studies minor; Reid Aaron Mason, BA, architectural studies; Laura Elizabeth Schneider, BGS, psychology; Shelby Ray Scholz, BGS, psychology; Elizabeth Ann Weinmann, MSW

**BROWN COUNTY**

Hiawatha: Blake George Paul Barret, BGS, psychology, BGS, sociology

Hiawatha: Todd A. Barrett, M.D.

Horton: Whitney Nicole Ryan, BS, education

Morrill: Richard Charles Kidwell, DPT

Robinson: Clarence Wayne Hall, BA, psychology

**CLOUD COUNTY**

Concordia: Seth Alan Vernon, M.D.

**COFFEE COUNTY**

Burlington: Susan Elizabeth Paxson, MUP; Bethany Lauren Scothorn, BS, education

Lebo: Emily Nichole Bobo, Ph.D., English; Ashley Nicole Edwards, D/Pharm.

**CHASE COUNTY**

Cottonwood Falls: Jordan Elizabeth Kline, D/Pharm.

**CLAY COUNTY**

Clay Center: Joseph H. Hawkins, M.D.; Caylyn Marie Krizan, BME, music therapy; Lauren Danielle Mail, BS, nursing; Matthew R. Peterson, D/Pharm.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Baldwin City: Daniel Alan Beuthen, BS, electrical engineering; Pamela Sue Dixon, MS, education; Anna E. Gillispie, BSB, accounting; Leslie A. Gillispie, BSB, accounting; Jeffrey Thomas Hill, BSB, accounting, BS, business/finance; Patrick K. Hinshaw, BS, mechanical engineering

Erica Renae Johnson, BS, education; Rachel K. Miles, BSB, accounting; Colleen Kay Riley, MSW; Nicholas Daniel Schau, BSW; Glen Lowell Stansberry, BGS, history; Adam Ross Todd, M.D.; Brian Scott Wendt, BS, business/information systems; Ryanna Sybilia Whaley, BA, English; Jessica Marie Young, BFA, art, BFA, dance

**Eudora:** Robert Cody Adams, BS, education; Debbie J Elder, doctor of education; Emily Katharine Garratt, MA, English; Gordon J Geldhof Jr., MA, psychology; Kimberly Annette Grosdidier, BS, nursing; Beau Philip Hewins, M/Arch.; Ryan G. Kell, MBA, J.D.; Beth Lawson Loney, M.D.; Angela Kinney Murray, Ph.D., education/educational psychology; Priyadarshani Selvan, BS, journalism; Dallas Wayne Smith, BS, atmospheric science

**Lawrence:** Abdel Magid S. Abdel-Magid, BS, molecular biosciences; Ayesha Ahmed, BS, clinical laboratory science; Mark Allen Anderson, MUP; Joel J. Angeline, BS, computer science; Angela Lee Angotti, J.D.; Michael J. Appleby, BA, public administration; Deena M. Amont, MA, visual arts education; Christopher Neil Armstrong, BA, history; David Michael Arndt, BSB, accounting; Najeh Asisian, MA, Russian and East European studies

Kimberly Catherine Atchinson, BA, political science, BA, religious studies; Cody N. Ayers, BGS, communications studies; Benjamin Charles Baer, MM; Maria Emilia Barbosa, BA, Spanish; Jason E. Barr, D/Pharm.; David J. Beals, BGS, theater and film; Jacob Robert Beaumont, BA, political science, history minor; Stephenson John Beck, Ph.D., communication studies; Ree Ann Belhemeur, MS, education; Matthew Craig Berner, BGS, history; Michael Lee Berry, BS, education

Chelsea Dawn Beshore, BA, history, BA, women’s studies; Ryan Scott Bisel, Ph.D., communication studies; Steven Loren Bistricky, MA, psychology; Timothy A. Blackstock, doctor of musical arts; Ima Ester Blair, BS, education; Clinton T. Bland, MA, religious studies; Pearl Ann Bloom, BA, biology; Brandon Joseph Botbyl, BGS, geography; Amanda R. Boyer, BS, history; Chelsea Marie Braden, BA, Spanish, co-major international studies

Mark Fredrick Bradford, MPA; Tanay Nicole Brewster, BSB, accounting; Koan E. M. Briggs, BS, mathematics, physics minor; Eric Warren Brinkman, MS, education; Jessica Marie Britt, BS, business/information systems; Sarah Laurel Brokieneg, BSW; Phoebe Michalska Brow, BSW; Daniel Lee Brown, MSW; Sheri L. Brune, BS, architectural engineering; Jessica K. Buechler, M/Arch.

Gary W. Burdette, MM; Drew P. Burks, MA, Russian and East European studies; Lynne Frances Pantaleon Burnham, BA, human biology; Kristen Elise Bushhouse, BA, communication studies; Kevin Cates Butler, BA, Germanic languages and literature; Mary Claire Butler, BA, psychology, classics minor; Sarah Elizabeth Callan, BSB, accounting; Jennifer L. Calvert, J.D.; Sharon O’Connell Campbell, doctor of musical arts; Susan Rae Campbell, Ph.D., social work

Christopher Paul Cardwell, BA, history of art, French minor; Daniel J Carey, MUP, MA, American studies minor; Sean Thomas Paul Carver, J.D.; Gabriel Scott Casner, MA, economics; Ken Ying Chang, MBA; Megan Leah Chapman, J.D.; Seong Bae Cheon, BS, journalism, East Asian languages and cultures minor; Tam Thanh Chieu, BS, nursing; Abderrahmane Chouaraia, MA, French; Tae S. Chung, J.D.

Andrew James Clemens, BGS, theater and film; Joseph Bertie Coburn, MSW; Hilda Cokrojooyo, MS, education; Keith A. Coleman, Ph.D., philosophy; Alisha Denise Colgan, BA, anthropology; Erin Elizabeth Ann Collins, MS, education; Rachel Marie Combs, MSW; Matthew C. Cook, MBA; Veronica Lee Cooper, BS, nursing; Elizabeth Diane Cope, Ph.D., chemistry; Christopher David Cording, BGS, history

Nancy Ellen Corkins, D/Pharm.; Rachel Mae Creek, BS, education; Laura B. Crowe, BSB, accounting; David A. Curry, BGS, communications studies; history minor; Tasha Danielle Dare, BA, history of art; David James Davidson, BS, atmospheric science; Adam Steffen Davis, J.D.; Megan Elizabeth Davis, BA, Spanish; Lisa Marie Davison, BGS, applied behavioral sciences

Lisa Katherine DeGraff, MSAW; Catherine Manzanares Decena, J.D.; Jessica Kirschke Dee, BS, biology; Brandon William Deines, J.D.; Jeff G. Deters, BS, journalism, history minor; Oliver Daniel Devlin, BGS, geography, business minor; William R. Dietz, MS, civil engineering; Aaron Andrew Dopf, MA, philosophy; Walker G. Douglas, M/Arch.

Matthew J Drake, MS, education; Jeffrey Alan Dressel, Ph.D., psychology; Kirsten M. Drickey, Ph.D., Spanish; Thomas Richard Duemeier, BA, psychology; Russian Tarasovich Dun-duchenko, BSB, accounting; Molly Alleene Easyler, BA, English, B/Phyrology; Erika Siobhan Nicole Ellingson, BA, English; Daniel Scott Elistworth, BS, biology; Albert Christian Elser III, doctor of musical arts; Eric Anthony Elisenghorst, MPH

Susan D. Enneking, BS, computer science; Jill RaeAnne Enseley, BFA, art; Matthew James Enyart, MS, education; Abigail Reese Estes, BSW;
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Sunghan Jo, BS, chemistry; Andrew Michael Johnson, J.D.; Boyd Leigh Johnson, M.Arch.; Chad A. Johnson, Ph.D., chemical and petroleum engineering; Matthew Thomas Johnson, BA, political science, BS, journalism; Reka Stubendek Justis, BS, journalism, communication studies minor; Benjamin Nicolaas Kaan, MS, civil engineering
Jamie Leigh Kahn, BA, humanities; Yusufu Unisa Kamara, MA, economics; Daniel J. Kasparek, MA, linguistics; James E. Kilpatrick Jr., Ph.D., education/curriculum and instruction; Min Jung Kim, MA, education; James Michael Kerkendoll, doctor of musical arts; Julian M. Kissmann, MS, pharmaceutical chemistry; Rikki Endsley Kite, MS, journalism; David A. Klima, M.D.
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Christopher Daniel Laing, BGS, economics; Damian Michael Lair, J.D.; Jonathan C. Lane, BS, journalism; Matthew Ross Lane, BS, business/management; Kathryn Patricia Lange, BME, music therapy; Jessica Marie Rodriguez Larsen, MS, education; Amy Rajaya Lavaveshkul, BA, human biology, BA, psychology; Pamela Jean Lawrence, BS, history of art minor; Dustin Ray League, BS, physics; Caroline Elizabeth Legler, BS, journalism; Sarah E. LeGresley, MA, mathematics
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Benjamin William Maples, BS, mechanical engineering; Aaron Paul Markham, MS, pharmaceutical chemistry; Christy Lynn Marlett, J.D.; Sarah Elizabeth Marlow, MS, education; Mary Frances Marshall, BS, education; Aftan Sue Martin, BGS, applied behavioral sciences; Jackson Tyler Martin, MPA; Kathy Elizabeth Martin, MA, English; Alan P. Martinez, BGS, human biology
Lea M. Martinez, BS, biochemistry; Brittany Lynn Maynard, BS, education; Meghan Ann McColllister, BA, history, Latin American studies minor; Amelia Erin McConnell, MS, education; Steven Robert McDonald, doctor of musical arts; Molly Ann McDuffie, BS, education; Kirby Rae Ann McGovern, BFA, dance; Erin M. McGrogan, MA, geography; David Tracy McMahan, BA, psychology; Michael James McPherson, BS, health information management; Beth M. Meis, BS, business/management
Tamara H. Melton, BS, microbiology; April May Merino-Bramell, BA, speech-language-hearing; Leah Sue Mero, BA, economics; Kailey Ann Mesler, BS, nursing; Amber Sue Messersmith, Ph.D., communication studies; Jake G. Messersmith, Ph.D., business; Alison Janet Miller, MA, history of art; Timothy J. Miller, Ph.D., history; Cara May Milligan, J.D.
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Laure R. Murphy, MA, anthropology; Jesse Branch Nelson, BS, biology; Timothy R. Newman, Ph.D., electrical engineering; Reuben Don Noah Jr., MA, indigenous nations studies; Rebecca Anne Nofsinger, Ph.D., pharmaceutical chemistry; Brooke Louise Nash, MS, education; Andrea Elizabeth Nelson, J.D.; Christy Marie Nichols, BA, psychology; Steven Lewis Noble, BGS, sociology; Kwamie Wriedi Nji-Addae, Ph.D., pharmaceutical chemistry; Adriano Montecinos Nunez, BA, Latin American studies, BA, political science
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Christopher Boyd Swain, BSB, accounting; Joel Edward Sweeney, MS, education; Jonathon Adam Szumny, J.D.; Damon L. Talbott, MA, American studies; Lucas Matthew Tappan, MM; Sommer Leann Taylor, BS, education; Brian Grant Teefy, BSB, accounting; Matthew Stephen Thompson, MM; Maria B. Thorson, MS, pharmaceutical chemistry.

Kai-Chien Tien, Ph.D., education/special education; Betsy Jo Timmer, MA, art; Christopher Touoboun Tsotsro, BS, biochemistry; Stefanie M. Tracy, BSW; Quynh Anh Tran, BA, biology, BA, chemistry; Christine Nicole Traner, BA, economics; Loyola Oboazue Ukpokodu, MBA; Mimi Marie Unish, Ph.D., neuroscience; Kristin Renee Vernon, BSW; Timothy Moses Vickers, BGS, theater and film.

Alejandro Villamar, BS, journalism, communication studies minor; Robert Petargue Villoria, MBA, J.D.; Frederick Reed Vinograd, BS, computer science; Carey Randolph Voeller, Ph.D., English; Joshua D. Waetzig, Ph.D., chemistry; Elizabeth Ann Wagner, BFA, dance; Beth R. Wagstrom, director of musical arts; Jared Wayne Walker, D/Pharm.; Dustin Dylan Walker, BGS, theater and film.

Carrie Dawn Wallace, BGS, sociology, BS, journalism; Victoria A. Walsey, BGS, environmental studies; Jenifer L. Walsh, BA, communication studies; Jon David Warnock, BGS, communications studies; Janita Coleen Warrington, MA, indigenous nations studies; Chelsea Lynn Washington, BGS, applied behavioral sciences; Matthew James Watters, BS, biology; Kyle Skully Waugh, MA, American studies; James Robert Waymire, BS, electrical engineering.

Cassie Elizabeth Weatherwax, BA, mathematics, business minor; Diana Jean Weaver, BGS, English; Scott Christopher Weber, MAIS; Brandon W. White, MS, education; Lindsey M. White, BA, communication studies, Italian minor; Mark D. Whittemore, BSB, accounting; Roxie Renee Wiesner, MA, English; James Todd Willkins, BGS, political science, BGS, religious studies; Ginger Diane Williams, BSB, accounting, Busin.

Sarah Ann Wilson, BS, business/marketing; Elizabeth Boyd Winter, BFA, art; Noah Robert Winter, BGS, theater and film; Phillip Charles William Ryan Wirgley, BA, anthropology, BA, history; Janet Kay Wisdom, MSW; Brandon Lee Womack, BS, architectural engineering; Kristin G. Wong, M.D.; Lillian Genevieve Wright, BA, psychology; Phillip Charles William Ryan Wirgley, BA, anthropology, BA, history.

Elena Bert Yazzle, MA, indigenous nations studies; Sampson Bedru Yimer, BS, education, business minor; Tyler Bruce Yeakey, BS, business/marketing; Nickolas Albrecht Zacharias, BA, anthropology; Amanda Marie Zimmermansch, BA, political science, BS, journalism; Ashley Brooke Zung, MA, geography.

**DICKINSON COUNTY**

Chapman: Lauren B. Markward, MA, communication studies.

**Solomon:** Jay A. Montgomery, M.D.; Evan Michael Riordan, D/Pharm.; Brandt Suzanne Taylor, BS, psychology, applied behavioral sciences minor

**DONIPHAN COUNTY**

Bendena: Laura M. Albers, BA, chemistry.

**Highland:** Angela Kay Stewart, BS, nursing.

Troy: Brett Andrew Johnson, BA, biology.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Lane: Genevieve Linville, BA, communication studies; Brandon Lee Walker, D/Pharm.

**Ottawa:** Karen Lynn Barnwell, BGS, American studies; Dennis Michael Chanay II, BA, political science; Erin R. Dunlap, BA, psychology; Melissa M. Fuller, BA, psychology; Andrew Jacob Garcia, BA, psychology; Justin Chase Grist, BGS, geography, business minor; Imagene Eleanor Harris, BS, environmental studies.

Charlie Ryan House, BS, business/finance; Lisa Katherine Ketchum, BS, mechanical engineering; Andrea Katherine Lawes, BA, English, BA, theater and film; Lisa Marie Morrissey, BA, communication studies; Randy Eugene Oliver, doctor of education; Heather Dawn Roberson, doctor of musical arts; Drew Ryan Waldron, BS, business/finance; Taylor Lee Wiles, BGS, political science.

**Pomona:** Buck Allen Bradley, BS, business/finance; Daniel Graham Duda, BS, computer engineering; Christopher Wayne Harris, BA, history; Kyle MacKenzie Kost, BS, education; Christina Marie Terry, MA, microbiology.

**Princeton:** Jan Lauren Coons, MS, nurse anesthesia.

**Rantoul:** Jeffrey Kyle Gray, BS, journalism, English minor.

**Wellsville:** Katie Lynn Higberger, BSW; Codie Ann Zickel, BA, psychology.

**Williamson:** Rachael Lynn Johnson, BS, education.

**GEARY COUNTY**

**Junction City:** Danielle Crystal Bega-Silva, MSW; Troy Joseph Cowan, BS, business/marketing; Jaimie Marie Heldstab, BS, nursing; Joseph Andrew Pinaire, BA, communication studies, leadership studies minor; Cynthia Rodriguez, BGS, history of art.

**JACKSON COUNTY**

**Holton:** Travis Eugene DeVader, M.D.; Christine Lynn McNicholas, BGS, communications studies; Johnathan Frank Schloeder, D/Pharm.

**Hoyt:** Mariel Elaine Metzenthin, BA, applied behavioral sciences.

**Mayetta:** Olivia M. Pewamo, MA, indigenous nations studies.

**Netawaka:** Whitney P Bachamp, BS, journalism, leadership studies minor; Kristen Nicole McKee, BS, occupational studies.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**McLouth:** Alexis McKinley Doane, MA, speech-language pathology; Matthew Royce Foster, BA, English, BS, journalism; Erik Stephen Garcia, BGS, sociology; Lisa Ann Semelser, BFA, design; Justyn Ray Smith, BGS, environmental studies, BGS, geography; Tyler William Smith, BS, electrical engineering; Mandolin R. Veerkamp, MS, education.

**Nortonville:** Stephanie Dawn Oxendale, BS, nursing; Ryanna Sybella Whaley, BA, English.

**Oskalooza:** Jessica Anne Anderson, MS, nursing; Kelly Rae Bell, BA, biology; Kimberly Ann Brey, M.D.; Patricia Marie Gaines, BFA, history of art; Tammy Lynn Gonzales, BGS, speech-language-hearing; Miriam Sandina Lee, BSW.

**Ozawkie:** Dustin Lee Hothon, D/Pharm.; Elle Loree Pottorf, BS, education.

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**Perry:** Erin Lea Easum, MBA; Kelsey Pope Gowin, MPH; Alphildie Amber Rees, BA, English, Slavic languages and literature minor; Aaron Elliott Swaggerty, BS, journalism

**Winchester:** Joshua Ryan Pannella, BS, business/finance; Kimberly Ann Squire, DPT

**LEAVENWORTH COUNTY**

**Basehor:** Tiffany Marie Bates, BGS, psychology; Kristoffer Johnson, BGS, political science, history minor; Brian Matthew Lane, BME, music education; Benjamin Michael Mustain, MSW; Mara M. Norwood, BGS, accounting; Abby Jo Page, BA, communication studies, business minor; Stephen Michael Rutledge, BS, business/finance; Holly Lynne Sembree, D/Pharm.; Megan Lindsey Tannery, BGS, speech-language-hearing

**Easton:** Devon B. Ezell, BGS, applied behavioral sciences

**Fort Leavenworth:** Adam F. Chura, BS, computer science

**Lenexa:** Russell Phillip Baldwin Jr., MS, education; Emily Richele Bogard, BME, music education; John Douglas Carlton, BGS, economics; Blake Stephen Deere, BS, education; Nicole Lynn Kowalewski, BS, business/management; Kelly Glen MacDonald, MA, Russian and East European studies; Jennifer A. Mitchell, MAIS; Kathryn Elizabeth Mooney, BA, psychology, business minor; Dennis Partee Jr., BS, respiratory care; Brooke Ann Raasch, BA, human biology; Stacy N. Schwind, BS, journalism, sociology minor, business minor; Brinton David Thrasher, BA, theater and film

**Leavenworth:** Jessica Elizabeth Adkison, BA, political science, co-major international studies; Emily Nicole Birk, BS, education; Ryan Michael Bogner, BME, music education; Eleanor L. Burke, bachelor of architecture, history of art minor; Joshua James Cain, BA, economics; Julia Kay Cordes, MS, education; Stephanie Nicole Durmolt, BGS, biology; Thomas William Gregor, BS, computer engineering; Hilary Anne Holland, MS, education; Andreae Denice Jackson, BGS, communications studies; Melissa Maria Johnson, BGS, psychology, BGS, theater and film; Tonda Lavedetta Jones, MS, education; Kaitlyn D. Kelly, BS, chemical engineering; Abigail Amber Krieger, BWS; Randall James Lord, BGS, theater and film; Leonel Martinez, M.D.; Jonathan Foster Matteson, BGS, theater and film

**Pittsburg:** Philip Ryan Mears, BS, education; John Andrew Meier, BGS, economics, business minor; Joseph Merritt Melton, BGS, accounting; Mary C. Melton, BA, psychology, communication studies minor; Kelli Lynn Munsterman, BS, journalism; Sunita Gadhadar Rao, M.D.; Ashley Corinne Rieck, BA, theater and film; Steven Graham Ringel, BGS, theater and film; Richard L. Schilling, BS, education; Shelly Renee Schloer, BSW; Rebecca Jordan Shepard, BS, nursing; Aaron Robert Simmons, BGS, communications studies; Tara Lynnette Skaggs, BFA, art; Andrew Hartley Winetroub, BA, political science, co-major international studies

**Linwood:** Derrick Kenneth Betts, BA

**Tonganoxie:** David Matthew Barnes, BA, economics, BA, philosophy, Serina F. Cox, BS, nursing; Jonathan Ryan Gipka, BA, architectural studies; Ross Franklin Low, BA, history; David Lloyd Roddy, MBA; Melissa Lee Ward, BGS, political science; John Charles Wickey, BGS, economics; Stephen D. Wool, doctor of education

**LYON COUNTY**

**Admire:** Jessica Kate Bitter, BS, business/finance

**Emporia:** Elizabeth JoAnn Dorsey, J.D.; Brian Steven Dyer, MSW; Chelsea D. Hudson, BS, education; David Andrew Kitchens, BGS, accounting; Todd Michael Kitchens, MAIS; Anne Catherine Kretsginger, BA, communication studies; Alison Michelle Lindsay, BS, nursing; Dorian Raye Logan, DPT; Shawna Leianne Loomis, M/O/T; Jason Maxfield, M.D.; Jennifer Lynne Meier, MSW

**Abigail Marion Mosley, BS, biology; Anne C. Neuer, DPT; Nichdi Patel, BGS, microbiology; Thomas R. Resch, M.D.; Erik J. Runge, BS, aerospace engineering; Brianna Raye Sosa, BS, psychology, applied behavioral sciences minor; Bethany Anne Stanbrough, BS, journalism, communication studies minor; Jonathan Edward Starr, D/Pharm.; Kelly R. Taylor, BS, business/management

**Neosho Rapids:** Greg Kevin Wellnitz, BS, education

**Oppe:** Nicole Leann Schmidt, BS, business/management

**MARSHALL COUNTY**

**Axtell:** Amy L. Mathewson, BA, psychology, BSW

**Beattie:** Ketura Mary Katherine Dunlap, M/O/T

**Blue Rapids:** Alexander R. Gordon, BS, occupational studies; Joseph Allen Whitesell, DPT

**Prineford:** Nathan Walker Urbauer, J.D.

**Marysville:** Janell Nichole Runnebaum, BA, communication studies

**Summerville:** Ashley Jean Herman, DPT; Tyler Joseph Stock, BPA, theater design

**Vermillion:** Randal Joseph Gerstner, BBS, accounting, BS, business/finance

**MORRIS COUNTY**

**Council Grove:** Jamie Renee Zerbe Cunningham, Ph.D., molecular, cellular and developmental biology; Cindy R. Heilmann, BSW; Marla Suzanne Mayberry, MBA; Janae Nicole Stockwell, M/O/T; William H. White Jr., MBA, J.D.

**NEMAH COUNTY**

**Bolivar:** Laura A. Rottinghaus, BGS

**M. Marin
Centralia: Rachel Ann Feldkamp, BS, occupational studies; Carl Alan Nordhus, BS, biology

Sabetha: Anna Elizabeth Aberle, BA, economics, business minor; Tyler Wayne Cook, BS, journalism, film studies minor; Bradley David Gitron, BS, education; Rachell Sue Huber, M/OT, Richard Charles Kidwell, DPT, Samantha Jo Remmers, BGS, psychology; Erin ONeill Ross, BFA, history of art; Tyler Marcus Simpson, BM, voice

Seneca: Jamie Lynn Bergman, BA, psychology; BSW; Austin William Carr, BS, education; Maggie Reid Jones, BA, Latin American studies, BA, Spanish; Julie Ann Lueger, MS, education; Maggie L. Taylor, BGS, communications studies, sociology minor, business minor

OASIS COUNTY

Buriname: Casey Marie Montgomery, BA, psychology
Lyndon: Theodore C. Kritikos, MFA; Jamie M. Schmitz, BS, nursing
Melvern: Kristen Kay Lichtenaue, BA, chemistry, history minor
Oak City: Cordell Lee Privat, M.D.
Overbrook: Case J. Corts, M.D.
Quenemo: Corey S. Russo, M/Arch.
Vassar: Keaton M. Krell, BS, education

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

Onaga: Mary Melinda Boren, BS, nursing; Meghan R. Weiser, BS, nursing
St. Marys: Gregory M. Brunin, BA, biochemistry; Michele Lee Diesel, BGS, economics; Nicholas Allen Perry, BFA, art
Wamego: Christy Leanne Arter, BFA, theater design; Tya L. Blew, BA, economics, BA, political science; Margaret Elizabeth Pugh, BS, journalism

RILEY COUNTY

Manhattan: Matt C. Brunner, BS, business/finance; Dale Lee Behringer, BGS, theater and film; Owen Alexander Carnes, BS, computer science; Jessica Ruth Courser, MSW; Tisha Sharon Croslan Parter, J.D.; Polina Demina, BA, philosophy, Italian minor; Kelsey R. Fullerson, BA, theater and film; Allison Elizabeth Green, BA, history, BA, political science; Emily Edna Hall, MFA; Kelly Lauren Heavey, BS, journalism

Lauren Anne Henderson, BM, voice; Susan Rebecca Jones, MSW; Elizabeth Helen Kerling, MS, dietetics and nutrition; Holly Joelle Mady, MSW; Troy Phillip Morgan, BGS, psychology; Kyle P Ostrem, BGS, sociology; Amanda R. Petrik, MS, counseling psychology; Aaron Daniel Swenson, BA, classical languages; Melissa Renee Velazquez, MA, Latin American studies; Hui-Chi Yang, Ph.D., education

Rawni Ann Anderson, BA, psychology; Shanee Ben-Arieh, BA, speech-language-hearing; Calley Rae Crisman, BA, human biology, BA, Spanish; Ashley Renee Durkee, BGS, English, BGS, history; Julie Cox Gebhardt, MSW; Andrew Craig Harms, BGS, human biology; Vanessa Kristin Hoosier, BS, education; Mehrdad Hosni, BS, chemical engineering, German minor; Anne Michael Mosher, BA, psychology; Elspeth K. Pearce, BS, biology

Amanda F. Poell, BS, occupational studies; Lacey Elizabeth Thompson, BS, nursing; Darcy Lee Troyer, M.D.; Meredith Leigh Uthoff, BS, nursing; Rebecca Johanna Wehmuller, DPT; Lindsey Ann Westbrook, M.D.

Riley: Elizabeth A. Copeland, BA, political science, BA, Spanish, co-major international studies, women's studies minor

REPUBLIC COUNTY

Belleville: Jade Elise Holloway, BGS, psychology; Kimberly Vel Lape, MSW
Republic: Amanda Corinne Walker, D/Pharm.

SALINE COUNTY

Assaria: Amanda S. Ziegler, BS, architectural engineering
Brookville: Christopher Lynn Pettitjean, BSB, accounting; Danielle S. Wright, BSW
Carleton: Adam Burke Reel, D/Pharm.

Gypsum: Ashley Suzanne Unruh, BS, business/management

Salina: Dustin E. Alkire, BS, business/management; Benjamin Richard Alsop, M.D.; Courtney Mariessa Ash, M/HSA; Tyler Russell Babb, BGS, geography; Kent Jeffrey Bahr, BGS, psychology; Sophie Anne Blackwell, BGS, communications studies, business minor; Sandra Kay Bremerman, BSB, accounting; Michaela Eve Catlin, BA, speech-language-hearing, French minor; Joshua Steven Coup, BA, anthropology

Matthew Brian Dupy, MAIS, Adam Charles Engel, D/Pharm.; Zachary Rowland Randers, BA, history; Kelli M. Haug, BGS, communications studies, sociology minor; Travis Nguyen Haugh, BFA, theater design, BS, business/management; Marlin Elizabeth Hoffman, BGS, psychology; Adria Marie Jerkovich, BA, human biology; Ross Michael Kimball, M.D.; Sarah Gail Lovitt, BSW; Jade Brooke Martens, BS, education, applied behavioral sciences minor; Lori Elizabeth McGinley, BGS, psychology

Matthew Edward Maginley, BGS, public administration; Leah M. Meier, BS, biology; Ryan J. Mize, BA, political science; Paul J. Myers, BFA, design; Andrew David Peterson, BGS, theater and film; Hayley Anne Redden, BS, nursing; Kyle Mathew Sheacon, BS, education; Allison Christine Smith, MS, nursing; Katie L. Soldan, BS, biology; Kaitlyn Jennifer Syring, BS, journalism; Carly C. Tomlinson, BS, education; Jeffrey Addison Tower, BGS, economics, business minor; Kole Michael Weiser, BS, education; Elizabeth Ann Wilson, BA, communication studies

SHAWNEE COUNTY

Auburn: Edgar Ronald Austria.
Veteran makes case for GI Bill reform

Measure would take inflation into account

By Tim Carpenter
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Former Marine Sgt. Dan Parker is fighting for a new GI Bill.

The 25-year-old veteran of deployments to Iraq and Liberia is a semester away from earning degrees in political science and English at The University of Kansas. He attributes discipline and maturity drawn from years in uniform to making him a solid college student.

Financial support through the existing GI Bill helped pave the way for Parker's education, but inflation has compromised a benefit created for veterans of World War II. Parker and many of his peers find it necessary to hold jobs to make ends meet. Others take on massive loan debt.

"Veterans want a more comprehensive education benefit package," said Parker, president of the Collegiate Veterans Association at KU.

Under a row of flags at Topeka High School on Monday, Parker stood with active-duty and retired soldiers, high school ROTC students and Rep. Nancy Boyda, D-Kan., to express support for GI Bill reform legislation passed by the House and pending in the Senate.

"The GI Bill was what actually took our family into the middle class," said Boyda, who represents the 2nd District that includes Topeka. "I don't think the American people understood how the benefits had eroded."

The federal legislation would guarantee a full-ride scholarship to any in-state public university, a monthly housing stipend and money for books.
**Veteran: Bill passes House**

Continued from Page 1A

and living expenses for individuals with at least three years of active service.

Benefits would be available to veterans for 15 years rather than the current 10 years. Veterans could expend a portion of the funding for tutors, continuing education, and license and certification tests. A mandatory $1,200 buy-in fee, which Parker paid along with a $600 supplemental charge to broaden benefits, would be dropped.

The House-passed bill would allow National Guard and Reserve forces with service after Sept. 11, 2001, to accumulate GI Bill benefits following three months of active duty.

"These benefits are absolutely essential for recruitment purposes and retention," said Paul Cope, a specialist in the Kansas Army Guard and law student at Washburn University.

Gunner Kelley, who coordinates the ROTC program at Topeka High, said the GI Bill led him to a career in education after 20 years in the Marines.

"Had I not been able to complete my degree," he said, "I would not be standing on this platform today to speak about the importance of educating our veterans who have served." If a new GI Bill survives the Senate, it is possible President Bush could veto the legislation. Among possible objections is a House plan to finance increases in college aid with a surcharge on taxpayers earning more than $500,000.

Parker, who grew up in McPherson, advised the commander in chief to update incentives for veterans to attend college. About one-third of veterans draw upon GI Bill benefits, he said, but less than 10 percent earn a college diploma.

"It would be a politically devastating mistake if the president were to veto it," said Parker, a Marine from 2000 to 2005. "Nobody is going to get rich off the GI Bill."
These names were omitted from graduation lists published in Monday's Topeka Capital-Journal.

**UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

Topeka: Kathryn M. Ault, BA, biochemistry; Mark Russell Becker, BS, business/finance; Michael G. Briggs, MS, civil engineering; Adam R. Burnett, BGS, theater and film; Stefanie Nicole Carter, BS, education; David Judson Cowser II, BS, education; Bryce J. Dietrich, MA, political science

Janet Lynne Droge, MSW; Anna Kathryn Roerster, BA, philosophy; African and African-American studies minor; Megan Lenore Foster, doctor of pharmacy; Danielle Jovan Frederick, BGS, psychology; Aaron Michael Frits, MS, civil engineering; Toni Monique Garvin, M.D.; Kyle E. Gonyinski, BS, geology; Lauren Jane Gunn, BGS, speech-language-hearing, applied behavioral sciences minor

Karen Jeah Hammond, BS, business/accounting; Mindy Marie Hodson, BGS, communication studies; Monica Bernadette Holderbach, master of occupational therapy; Nathan Ashley Hunt, BA, economics; James Ryan Johnson, BS, computer engineering; Brian Kevin Jones, BSW; Maria R. Kown, BS, journalism, film studies minor; Alexandra E. Kohake, BS, journalism, communication studies minor

Mark W. Kohls, doctor of physical therapy; Adam Phillip Landavazo, BA, human biology; Thomas O. Langar, master of public administration; Mandy E. Marling, BA, English; Benjamin James Martin, BGS, history, sociology minor; Stephanie Lynn Meehan, BA, English, BA, speech-language-hearing; Amber Dawn Mendoza, BS, occupational studies; Lindsey D. Moore, BS, business/accounting

Christy Jo Moormann, doctor of physical therapy; Richard Girard Muknian, BGS, theater and film; Teal Lee Navarro, BGS, communication studies, sociology minor; Warren John Newcomer, master of accounting and information systems; Rory Elizabeth O’Callaghan, doctor of pharmacy; Chris M. Owens, BGS, geography, BGS, political science; Waki Oyelari Oyedemi, J.D.; Elizabeth Jean Phelps, doctor of physical therapy

Marissa Kay Pinkston, BA, psychology; Randall L. Schumacher, M.D.; Zachary K. Shaffer, M.D.; Elizabeth Nicole Smith, BS, occupational studies; Alyson L. Stock, BS, mechanical engineering; Itefan Dean Thompson, BA, East Asian languages and cultures, BA, linguistics; Adaryl Lamont Wakefield, MBA; James Charles Walker, BS, geology, French minor

Katherine Dorothy Ward, BA, psychology; Sage Elizabeth Warren, BA, anthropology; Janelle C. Wheeler, BS, education; Nicholas Grant Willis, BS, chemical engineering; Julia Jeanne Wood, BA, economics

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Topeka: Kyrie Cherrell Graves, BS, family studies and human services

Topeka High School — Christina Booth
HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Turnpike replacing bridges at Lawrence

Work projected to have minimal effect on motorists

By Mike Hall
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

LAWRENCE — For most motorists traveling on the Kansas Turnpike to or through Lawrence, work to replace the existing bridges over the Kansas River will just be a distraction — something to look at as they pass by.

For most of the three-year construction period, traffic will continue flowing over the river as well or nearly as well as it does now, according to Kansas Turnpike Authority officials.

The project was explained at a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday just to the north of the bridges, on the east bank of the river — the same place a groundbreaking took place on Dec. 31, 1954, to kick off construction of the entire turnpike.

At $140 million, the bridge replacement project will cost more than the entire construction of the turnpike in the 1950s, KTA officials said. Michael Johnston, the KTA’s chief executive, called it “the mother of all projects.”

There will be a few periods of minor inconveniences during the construction. David Jacobson, chief engineer for the KTA, said the

Please see BRIDGES, Page 6A

STAY UP-TO-DATE

For more information about the bridge replacement project, go to www.spanningthefuture.com either directly or through the KTA’s main Web site, www.ksturnpike.com.

To receive updates as changes occur, register your e-mail address with the Web site.

From left, Scott Thompson, Rick Slade and Paul Shirey, employees of the Kansas Turnpike Authority, remove dirt used in a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday next to the Kansas Turnpike bridges that span the Kansas River in Lawrence. The first phase of the bridge replacement project will involve construction of a new three-lane bridge north of the current bridges.
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The first sign of construction will be the closure of the westbound on- and off-ramps of the west Lawrence interchange.

That closure will last about six months as the existing bridge connecting the toll plaza with the westbound lanes is replaced.

During that period, driving from Topeka to Lawrence will be unchanged. It will still be possible to exit at the west Lawrence interchange.

However, the return trip to Topeka will require using the east Lawrence or Lecompton interchanges to get onto the westbound turnpike lanes.

Bob Thom, partner of Finney & Turnipseed Transportation & Civil Engineering, explained that the sequencing of the work will cause minimal disruption to traffic. The ultimate goal is to replace the original 1950s-era two-lane bridges with new three-lane bridges over the river.

The first phase, which will begin about June 16, will involve construction of a new three-lane bridge immediately north of the present bridges, Jacobson said.

When that is completed in late 2009, the existing bridges will be removed and construction of the new three-lane eastbound bridge will begin.

The entire project is expected to be completed sometime in 2011.

Finney & Turnipseed designed the new bridges and planned for the replacement work.

"That was one of the first decisions we made," Thom said. "We knew we couldn't shut down the turnpike."

The most recent KTA annual report states that an average of 30,224 vehicles a day pass over the bridges.

Even traffic going to and from events at the University of Kansas will be minimally affected, officials said. Rachel Bell, a communications specialist for the KTA, said turnpike officials have been working with the university to get the word out to students, parents and alumni about the construction work.

Mary Turkington, chairwoman of the KTA board, was among the dignitaries attending Thursday’s ceremony.

Turkington noted she already had been working for the Kansas Motor Carriers Association for eight years when the original dedication took place.

In all, she worked for the KMCA for more than 50 years and was executive director from 1968 until her retirement in 1997.

She quoted from a statement made at the 1954 ceremony by Gov. Ed Arn, who described the new highway as “this beginning of a new era of Kansas progress.”

To which she added, “Although we are not beginning a new era with this construction project, we recognize the value the roadway has created for the economy of Kansas and are investing our continued effort to move people and goods across this great state.”

Mike Hall can be reached at (785) 295-1209 or mike.hall@cjonline.com.
KU has new leader for Jewish Studies program

By Rick Heilman
Editor

Lynn Davidman’s new title is Robert M. Beren Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Studies at the University of Kansas. But, like her predecessor, Jonathan Boyarin, Davidman says she will stress a post-modern approach as she tries to build KU’s Jewish Studies program.

Davidman told The Chronicle that means examining both the stories people tell and what may have influenced them in the process of “identity construction.”

The sociologist and former Brown University professor of Judaic Studies said she hopes to put KU on the map of Jewish studies programs across the country. She arrives in Lawrence July 1 and begins teaching in the fall semester.

“It’s an amazing opportunity to have a chance to build a department,” she said. “A typical department has people from various disciplines together, but nothing holds them together besides the fact that they all study Jews. ...

“What I have in mind to make this department distinctive, and the place to go if you want to do this kind of work, is to build a program around the basic idea of narrativity and subjectivity; so that if a person studies Jewish thought, the person would think of Jewish thought within that framework. And an expert in history, then, is interested in the narratives of history.”

Post-modern analysis, Davidman said, “is a way of thinking about history or social science in terms of a self-reflexivity, in terms of what you are telling is not necessarily the objective truth, but a constructed narrative, a representative.”

Just as post-modernism challenges the idea of objective truths, Davidman said, “Disciplines themselves no longer have strict boundaries. I want to pull together people from different academic disciplines who recognize the permeability of disciplinary boundaries.”

Davidman said the KU professors with whom she has already met — Henry Bial in Jewish and theater studies, Cheryl Lester in American studies. Tamara Falcov in film studies and Sergey Dolgopolskii, whose specialty is Talmud — thought their work “would fit in well with the concept of narratives.”

WORKING WITH NARRATIVES

Davidman has worked with narratives in her two books, “Motherloss” (University of California Press, 2000) and “Tradition in a Rootless World: Women Turn to Orthodox Judaism” (U. Cal. Press, 1993).

“In Tradition in a Rootless World,’ I focus on how people make sense of and rebuild their lives after experiencing a major, unanticipated biographical disruption,” Davidman said. “In focusing my research on projects of disrupted biographies, narrative has to do with how the person tells the account. When I interview someone about how they became Orthodox or how they lost their mom, I can’t expect that it’s the gospel truth. They are ... constrained by memory and who they are telling the story to. ... In my work, narratives produce identities. You don’t have an identity that exists apart from all the ways you represent it. Narratives are the accounts shaped by memory, filtered by people’s current events.”

Currently, Davidman is writing a new book titled “Dancing at Two Weddings: On Leaving Orthodox Judaism,” which she said is “about people who grew up Orthodox and left Orthodox communities.” She said she has interviewed 60 people in the United States and Israel for the book, which she aims to complete by January. She hopes the University of California Press will then publish it about a year after that.

BUILDING INTEREST

In addition to Davidman, KU has hired another teacher who will work in the Jewish Studies program starting in the fall. Renee Perlmutter will be the new assistant professor of Yiddish Language and Jewish Secular Culture.

“She’s a folklorist who is being brought in to teach folklore as well as Yiddish-language classes,” Davidman said. “I’m very excited to be one of the few major research universities to offer Yiddish language. She is coming from Cal-Berkley, and will be located in the

see Professor, page 8.
Slavic Studies department. ... Her appointment is partially funded through the Posen Foundation, which is a center interested in cultural, as opposed to religious, Judaism.”

Davidman said Perlmutter and all the professors who teach in KU’s Jewish studies program will meet monthly to discuss the research papers they are constantly working on and to build unity of purpose and camaraderie.

The Beren Professorship was established in 2003, at which time Jewish studies was established as a minor field of study within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Boyarin held the chair during the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years before leaving for a similar position at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The post was vacant this past school year.

Davidman said she hopes to present regular lectures at the Lawrence Jewish Community Center to keep local folks apprised of program activities and to continue bringing national and international speakers to campus with her program budget.

Cheryl Lester, who chaired the search committees that brought both Davidman and Boyarin to KU, said Davidman “brings to this position an excellent and creative record of interdisciplinary scholarship and a commitment to teaching and mentoring students and junior faculty.”

“She studies Judaism and Jewish life as a sociologist, and she studies people who change their Jewish identity — by joining or by leaving orthodox Jewish communities — and in examining how they tell their life stories.

“Lynn brings national and international prominence to Jewish Studies at KU and will interest and excite people about the study of Jewish life. ... To the leadership of Jewish Studies at KU, Lynn brings energy, commitment and curiosity.”
Hey KCK: It’s time to boogie

The correlation between obesity and child inactivity has intensified in recent years. As video games, cell phones and PC’s become more popular, it appears that our children’s waistlines are growing at an even greater rate. Nationally, Kansas is the 27th fattest state in the country with over 75 percent of the population overweight.

Bill Self, Kansas University’s head basketball coach, plans to do his part to reverse these numbers. On June 7th, Self will bring his championship resume to our very own Kansas Speedway for the inaugural “Bill’s Basketball Boogie.” Before I get started, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Kansas Jayhawks on their historic run to the 2008 NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship. With a record of 37-3, this collection of Jayhawks will go down as the greatest team in the program’s storied basketball history. Mario Chalmers’ “The Shot” ranks right up there with Dwight Clark’s “The Catch” and “The Drive” by John Elway, as one of the greatest moments in U.S. Sports History.

Ok, I am rambling. Let me get back to the task at hand. The goal of “Bill’s Basketball Boogie” is to encourage physical activity and create more sports opportunities for children. Self, and his Assists Foundation Board, have approached several architects to help build a campus where children can participate in variety of sports. This includes basketball, baseball, tennis, softball, volleyball, soccer, etc. “I rode my bike everywhere. I played outside until dinner, and I’d go back outside and play,” said Self. Unfortunately, advancements in technology have made bicycles as ancient as dinosaurs. It is not uncommon for a kid to get out of school and spend six hours on a video game. “My kids are active and they don’t do anything,” said Self. “It’s unbelievable. You go home and you get on the computer...
and you play a video game. It's a joke. " As parents, why are we allowing this to happen? The answer is painfully simple: Video games and PCs serve as excellent babysitters! It is very convenient for a parent to let his or her child spend hours on the computer after a long day at work. Seriously folks, everything is convenient today. Meals are thrown into the microwave instead of being cooked on a stove. Because of remote controls, people don't push the buttons on their televisions anymore. Heck, I once broke up with my ex-girlfriend through a text message (please don't hold this against me, I was young). In other words, our laziness rubs off on the children.

Look, this column is not intended to offend anyone who is obese. Trust me, I am not a lean machine by any means. I have a hard time putting down the cookies and milk sometimes. However, it is foolish to underestimate the important relationship that exists between the mind and body. When an individual is happy with his or her appearance, the confidence level rises.

This is particularly true with kids because they can be harshly honest at times. Constant pranks and name-calling can be very demoralizing to a child, particularly one with fragile confidence. "My concern is the less active you are, the poorer you do from an educational standpoint and from a self-esteem standpoint. Statistics show that," said Self. "Childhood obesity is up. Kids are lazier now. What we want is kids to outlive their parents. This would be a great start."

Some people believe there are sizable advantages for individuals who are physically fit. I am not kidding! According to Donald Trump, physical beauty is the key to success. "If you are running a business or even conducting a meeting, here's the ticket to success: Have a lot of attractive people around," said Trump. "We already knew that better-looking people tend to be promoted at a faster rate and often get hired with larger salaries than their more average looking counterparts. Now we know that they often inspire their coworkers to put in the extra effort and to work harder."

Personally, I believe Trump's assessment is pretty shallow and flat unfair. There are some people that would even label this type of team-motivational tactic as discrimination.

However, we should make a priority to encourage our youth to participate in some sort of physical activity everyday. Coach Bill Self is doing his part; now, KCK, let's do ours.
KCK native Wayne Hodges is a columnist for the Kansas City Kansan. He can be reached at whodges@reeceandnichols.com.
Why Moore will pick Obama

Let me make one thing perfectly clear. Our U.S. Congressman Dennis Moore has not divulged to me whom he will support as one of the eight superdelegates from Kansas for the Democratic nomination for president of the United States.

Moore is one of only 75 Democrat Congressmen, all superdelegates, who remain uncommitted to either Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton.

But I have known Dennis Moore for three decades, and after knowing someone well for that long, I think I can make a near-certain prediction: Dennis will vote for Barack Obama.

There are several reasons for this supposition.

First and foremost, a vast majority of Kansans voted for Obama in the Democrat primary caucus. And although Dennis Moore has said publicly that he thought the caucus process was a travesty, it still is what it is. The popular vote of Kansas and the 3rd District went for Obama. To go against that outcome would be very, very unlike anything Dennis Moore has ever done and likely will ever do.

To override the people’s wishes, Congressman Moore would have to have a compelling reason that would trump all other considerations. He almost has those reasons, given the implosion of the Obama candidacy over the outrageous remarks of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright. But that is not enough for Dennis Moore to abandon ship. Yes, surely it has given Dennis pause for thought, but not enough to overturn the will of his constituents.

Why not?

There are other considerations which lead me to conclude that Dennis Moore will support Barack Obama.

Obama has attracted huge numbers of Democrats who have not been registered to vote. The youth and the African-American community have registered in extraordinary numbers, because of Obama. We see those increased numbers right here in Johnson County.

Democrat registration rolls have risen by 4,000 since the Democratic caucus, while Republican registration rolls declined by 1,000.

And that phenomenon is also happening in Lawrence, which includes the University of Kansas and its thousands of students; and it also is happening within the large African-American community in Wyandotte County. Moore’s district includes all of Johnson, all of Wyandotte, and the university part of Douglas County, where Lawrence is located.

Were Obama not to receive the nomination, it is almost certain the throngs of young supporters and the monolithic movement of the African-American community would be snuffed out. And if these voters were to stay home, it would result in fewer votes for Dennis Moore in his quest for re-election to his sixth term against Republican Nick Jordan.

A vote for Hillary Clinton by Dennis Moore would be viewed as treason. He would stir up anger in his ranks, and that would be costly, even if Obama won the nomination.

In contrast, Dennis Moore has nothing to lose by casting his superdelegate vote for Barack Obama. Moore can merely state he is following the wishes of his district.

The last thing Dennis Moore or any other Democrat wants is a floor fight at the August convention, where superdelegates officially make their choices. But I do not think it will come to that. Not even the self-destructive Democrats will allow themselves to commit suicide. Dennis Moore, along with all other superdelegates, I believe, will cast their unofficial votes before the end of June.