The University of Kansas announces spring graduates

LAWRENCE — The names of more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring — representing 95 Kansas counties, 48 other states and the District of Columbia and 44 other countries — have been announced by the University Registrar.

KU's Class of 2008 numbers more than 7,000, including 2,555 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2007. Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many of these candidates for degrees will return Sunday for the university's 136th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium. More than 4,000 members of the class of 2008 are expected to participate.

Local and area students are, with the exclusion of Burrton, Halstead and Whitewater (because those graduation candidates were listed on the Southern Neighbors page Monday):

Hesston — Travis J. Hagen, bachelor of fine arts/art and history of art minor; Kelli Elizabeth Krase, doctor of medicine; Benjamin C. Lancaster, bachelor of general studies/history and sociology minor; Tyler Norton Skidmore, bachelor of general studies/history; and Stephanie L. Sowers, juris doctor.

Newton — Jennifer Lee Bachman, doctor of pharmacy; Christopher Wade Brenneman, bachelor of science in business/management; Sarah Lauren Dickinson, bachelor of science in biochemistry; Tiffany Lynn Edwards, master of arts/sociology; Mark Alan Froelich, doctor of pharmacy; Joel R. Harvester, bachelor of arts/environmental studies, bachelor of arts in the fine arts; Maxx Alyn Krueger, bachelor of general studies/communication studies; Danielle Nicole Lawrence, bachelor of general studies/psychology; William Richard McCullough, bachelor of arts/French, bachelor of science in journalism; Gabriel Micheal Metzler, bachelor of science in microbiology; Jerrod Michael Mitchell, bachelor of science in business/finance and bachelor of science in business/marketing; Brian Thomas Ratzlaff, bachelor of arts/psychology; Dustin Brent Redger, bachelor of science in business/finance; Chee-Chee H. Stucky, doctor of medicine; Le M. Tran, bachelor of science in education; and Matthew Neal Vogt, doctor of pharmacy.

Marion — Karson Lynelle Craig, bachelor of science in education.

Peabody — Nicholas Grant Conquest, bachelor of science in electrical engineering; and Sarah Lynn McLeod, master of social work.

Moundridge — Kelli Elizabeth Krase, doctor of medicine.
LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas Department of Political Science honored top students at its annual Pi Sigma Alpha initiation and awards banquet April 24.

Thirty-four students were inducted into the Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, a national political science honor society. Criteria for induction include at least junior standing in political science and a 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale in all political science courses. Cumulative grade-point averages for undergraduates must be at least 3.4, for graduate students at least 3.5. Neither may have a course grade lower than a B.

Special award and scholarship recipients were recognized during the program. Awards provide cash prizes with no restrictions. Scholarships provide funds for tuition. The awards and scholarships offered were:

Halstead — Aaron Jacob Keller, son of Cecil and Valerie Keller, Sigma Alpha Honor Society.

Moundridge — Linsey Ann Moddelmog, daughter of Stuart and Beverly Moddelmog, Walter Thompson Scholarship and Joseph P. Harris Fellowship.
Jobs are waiting for Wichita grads this year

BY DAN VOORHIS
The Wichita Eagle

It's a great year to be a Wichita college graduate. Wichita companies are hiring them at a rapid clip, although demand in some fields is stronger than others. The hottest majors include engineering, teaching, accounting, nursing and other health professions, and geology.

That's not the case nationally, as a cooling economy and damaged financial sector have slowed growth in college hiring, according to a national employee survey.

But that doesn't seem to be the case here, said David Gaston, director of University Career Services at the University of Kansas.

"We're holding our breaths to some degree," he said. "We keep hearing the economy is slowing down, but we really haven't seen it yet."

About half of students seeking jobs had one by April, according to a recent survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

One of those is Kevin Mims, who is graduating in a few days from Wichita State University with a bachelor's degree in economics.

Others start looking only after they graduate, said Jan Mead, assistant director of the office of career services at WSU. These students often are already working full time and feel little pressure to find a new job, she said.

But some graduating students don't have jobs in their fields because those jobs are hard to find, even now.

Greg Gillenwater is a communications major at WSU. He works part time at Entercom Wichita, which owns several radio stations, and at KPTS, Channel 8.

He has sought a full-time job in radio, but hasn't been offered anything. He's also looking at public relations and advertising.

He has networked heavily at his jobs. He also has posted his resume on Monster.com, Kansas.com, Craigslist, and ShockWorks, the WSU career services site, and consulted the career office.

He's confident he'll get something in his field in the near future.

"Honestly, I'm not sure what it is that I want," he said.

"But I'm really excited to get in the working world. I've been in this college life for five years and it's time to clock out."

A strong Midwest

The Midwest and the Northeast saw healthy growth in the number of graduates hired, according to the association survey.

Companies said they would hire about 12 percent more Midwestern graduates than last year. That comes despite a sharp national downturn in the finance and construction sectors. Nationally, the survey showed companies would hire 8 percent more graduates in 2008 than 2007.

Particularly strong has been hiring in computer science and engineering.

"Really, all of the technical majors are very strong," Koc said.

One surprise is that the performing and liberal arts majors, such as theater, English and political science — usually the ones with the weakest job prospects — are faring relatively well this year.

The really good news for graduates, Koc said, is that two-thirds of employers in the survey said they plan to hire the same amount of or more graduates next fall.

Reach Dan Voorhis at 316-268-6577 or dvoorhis@wichitaeagle.com.
KU student endures cancer without insurance

By CHRISTINE METZ
Lawrence Journal-World

LAWRENCE — When Tracie Revis started her fight against cancer more than two years ago, she didn’t expect to take on a health care system ill-equipped to handle an uninsured 20-something.

After rounds of chemotherapy, radiation treatment and a stem cell transplant, it’s still one of the few battles Revis has yet to win.

In fall 2005, as a newly enrolled Kansas University law student, Revis was forced to withdraw from class after doctors discovered a large mass in her chest. On Christmas Day, the now 30-year-old Oklahoma native’s illness was diagnosed as Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

As a student, Revis didn’t have health insurance. So she fell back on Indian Health Service, federally funded care provided to American Indians. But Indian Health Service didn’t have the resources to cover her medical needs. She didn’t qualify for Medicaid, was told she had the “wrong type of cancer” to receive assistance from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and heard from hospitals that they had already taken their quota of uninsured patients. Letters to senators and state representatives didn’t help, either.

The results were that Revis was denied care, had her treatment put on hold as her tumor grew and eventually took on more than $150,000 in medical debt to avoid compromising her health.

“I don’t have parents to cover my bills. I don’t have a lasting employer to cover my bills,” Revis said, “and the system doesn’t allow for someone of my age and my status to be covered.”

Now in remission, with freshly grown black hair, sparkling blue eyes and an easy laugh, Revis could have been the poster child for National Cover the Uninsured Week. The campaign — a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation — recently ended.

The event has received little attention in the past. But this year, with recession in the air, a presidential race in full swing and gathering grass-roots support for universal health care, a series of events was conducted throughout northeast Kansas.

Among them were three presentations at the Kansas University Medical Center, made possible through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Recently, Corrie Edwards, executive director of Kansas Health Consumer Coalition, stood before a lecture hall full of doctors and nurses in training.

She mapped out the landscape of Kansas’ uninsured. There are nearly 300,000 of them, or roughly 10 percent of the population. And, like Revis, almost half of the state’s uninsured are between the ages of 19 and 34.

Armed with recently published statistics from Families USA, Edwards said more than three working-age Kansans die each week because of a lack of health insurance.

The uninsured are likely to become more ill and die sooner than those with health insurance, she said.

“We all know it is unsustainable to continue down the path we are on. We can’t continue to do this,” Edwards said.

Without a doubt, a lack of health insurance compromised her health, Revis said.

After the tumor was discovered in Revis’ chest in November 2005, she had to negotiate with Indian Health Service before a biopsy was performed. Then, it was finding an oncologist and coverage for chemotherapy. It was a hard task without proof of insurance to back her. Finally in March — more than three months after the mass was found — she began treatment.

By that time, 75 percent of
the tumor that was cut out in December had grown back and her cancer had hit Stage III — it had spread into her lymph nodes on both sides of her diaphragm.

Eventually, Indian Health Service agreed to cover the biopsy and the first few rounds of chemotherapy.

Insurance through a job at the University of Oklahoma's Health Sciences Center and Indian Health Service helped cover part of her treatment when her cancer relapsed and she underwent a stem cell transplant the following year. But she also had to pick up a substantial tab.

And by the end of last summer, after a 30-day stay in the hospital to recover from the transplant, Revis' work had ended, and she was planning to return to KU.

Then came the call from her doctor that not all the cancer had left. Revis decided to push ahead with school — juggling radiation treatments at Lawrence Memorial Hospital with classes at KU. She wore a wig and

informed her professors of her health.

This time around, she decided to forgo the bureaucratic dealings for fear it would delay care. So she took on the cost of radiation and follow-up treatment. To date, her medical bills range in the $150,000 to $200,000 zone. That's on top of debt from student loans.

With a recent checkup that showed she was cancer-free, Revis is heading to Washington, D.C., this summer as a Native American Congressional Intern with the Morris K. Udall Foundation.

Among her areas of interest will be working on the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

With bachelor's and master's degrees and her work on a law degree, Revis said she had the education and drive to fight the system.

"And, I still had to suffer, I still had to endure the constant fighting, the self-advocating, the waiting," Revis said.
Area students to receive degrees from KU

LAWRENCE — Area residents are among the more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas on May 18 during commencement exercises at Memorial Stadium. The graduates represent 95 Kansas counties, 48 other states and the District of Columbia and 44 other countries.

Faculty and candidates for degrees will assemble about 2 p.m. along Memorial Drive for the procession, which begins at 2:30. The program begins about 3:30. In case of inclement weather, participants should call KU Info, (785) 864-3506, or listen to local radio and TV stations to learn the exact time of the commencement ceremony. Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available online at www.commencement.ku.edu. Candidates include:

Douglass
- Kasie Danielle Knoll, daughter of Beth and Lany Knoll, Occupational Studies. Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies, Bluestem High School, Leon.

Arkansas City
- Georgia Marie Leake, daughter of Henry Leake, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Arkansas City High School.
- Michelle Christine Moeder, daughter of Gina McKaun, Master of Science in Counseling Psychology.
- Jonathan Parker Taylor, son of Fred and Marilyn Taylor, Doctor of Pharmacy, Arkansas City High School.
- Larabeth Ann Thompson, daughter of Joe and Dianna Thompson, Bachelor of Architecture, Arkansas City High School.

Burden
- Ruth Leann Seeliger daughter of Michael and Carolyn Seeliger, Bachelor of Science in Biology and Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, Winfield High School.

Winfield
- Jaden Dean Bailey, son of Kerry and Shelley Bailey, Bachelor of General Studies in Human Biology, Winfield High School.
- Danielle Kaye Fickler, daughter of Ronald and Mona Fickler, Bachelor of Science in Education with an emphasis in athletic training, Chaparral High School, Parker Colo.
- Kelsi Elizabeth Grow, daughter of Kevin and Christi Grow, Bachelor of Science in Biology, Winfield High School.

- Eric Eugene Lowery, son of Mark Davis and Cassandra Davis, Master of Social Work.
- Autumn R McPherson, daughter of Billy and Penny McPherson, Bachelor of Science in Biology, Central Jr.-Sr. High School, Burden.
- Steven Kurt Schoon, son of Scott and Michelle Schoon, Bachelor of Science in Education with an emphasis on sports science.
- Onalisa Dianne Winblad, daughter of John and Christine Winblad, Doctor of Medicine, Winfield High School.

Oxford
- Danielle M. Totten, daughter of Kaffy Totten, Doctor of Pharmacy, Oxford High School.
- Kristina N. Wittenborn. Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies.

South Haven
- Jarod Justin Bryant, son of Charles and Rita Bryant, Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Science, South Haven High School.

Lawrence
- Jeffrey Duane Russell, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies, Winfield High School.
Riders give K-10 bus line a thumbs-up

Passengers on the commuter service between Overland Park and Lawrence have more than doubled in a year.

By BRAD COOPER
The Kansas City Star

In a region where buses are shunned for cars, this one isn't.

With gas prices soaring, riders toting backpacks, briefcases and laptops eagerly line up for the daily bus ride on K-10 between Lawrence and Johnson County.

Many are students. Others are faculty.

Some are commuting professionals.

"It gets really packed sometimes," said Steve Sobczak, a Kansas City, Kan., resident who has been a rider on the route since its inception.

A little more than a year old, the route —
**BUS: K-10 Connector is metro’s hottest route**

**FROM AI**

known as the K-10 Connector — is the hottest in the metro area. Ridership has more than doubled in a year. Only the downtown rapid bus line known as MAX comes close to such a high-profile explosion in ridership.

An ironic outgrowth of a highway study, the K-10 Connector is tapping a demand for transit that has been eyed for years. And it could be a lesson for building bus ridership in other parts of the metro area.

It demonstrates what can happen when you identify popular destination centers and where the people are who want to get there, transportation planners say.

Then, if it’s fast and convenient, people will ride.

“The lesson is, you have to do some homework behind the services you’re planning,” said Mell Henderson, director of transportation for the Mid-America Regional Council.

Transportation planners did that three years ago when they explored the market along the K-10 corridor.

They came up with a route that fills a niche market connecting two cities that share students and workers.

They found that about 8,000 people commute to work between Douglas and Johnson counties each day, and 1,300 Johnson County Community College students call Douglas County home.

The study, done when gasoline was significantly cheaper, is proving to be prophetic. And now a route designed with students in mind is serving working commuters as well.

It’s not uncommon for commuters to rely on their co-workers to pick them up and then drop them off at the community college so they can catch the bus back to Lawrence.

Others drive to Johnson County on Monday, leave their vehicles at the community college after the workday, and take the bus between Lawrence and Overland Park all week. On Friday, they drive home.

“They could double the ridership if they added a few more buses and changed the route a little bit,” said Robert Priest, who takes the bus to his job at Honeywell in Olathe.

Priest is among those who park at the community college so they can take the bus.

“The focus was for the students, but it’s very advantageous for the commuter who works here but lives in Lawrence,” Priest said.

The number of boardings on the route has more than doubled during the first part of this year, and there’s little mystery why.

“The final incentive was the price of gas,” said Casey Shook, who just started using the bus a week ago to get to his architecture job at Black & Veatch.

From February to April, the number of trips increased to 27,942, compared with 13,721 during the same period last year. Last month, the bus averaged 499 rider trips a day. The first month the route started, January 2007, it averaged 225 rider trips a day.

Already, requests have come in for the bus to stop in De Soto and Eudora. But Johnson County transit officials say making those intermediate stops could diminish the K-10 express service.

“This route is as direct as we can make it,” said Chuck Ferguson, Johnson County’s deputy transportation director. “When people get on the bus, they feel that for the majority of the bus ride they are expressing on the highway just like they would do if they were driving.”

Transit planners say the route has unique aspects that might be hard to duplicate in other parts of the metro area:

- The route covers 34 miles and makes only five stops. Riders say the route saves them wads of cash in gas money. The fare is $2.50 a trip.
- “It’s a good price for what you get,” said biology student Katie Howard.
- The route connects three colleges with thousands of students: Johnson County Community College, the University of Kansas’ Edwards Campus in Overland Park and KU’s main campus in Lawrence.
- Riders see the bus line as competitive with a car in terms of cost and convenience.

Mike Santos rides the bus daily to his job as an assistant city attorney at Overland Park City Hall. He doesn’t think he loses any expediency leaving his car behind.

“If you drive the whole way, you have to work your way through all the stoplights and traffic in Overland Park and all the stoplights and traffic in Lawrence,” Santos said.

There are outstanding issues, however. Some riders complain about the lack of good bus connections once they arrive in Johnson County.

“It’s getting from here to anywhere else that’s the problem because it’s so decentralized,” said Shook as he prepared to board the bus outside the com-

---

**K-10 CONNECTOR**

**Cost:** Riding the bus route costs $2.50 one way. A 10-ride pass is available for $15. Passes can be purchased from the bus driver or by writing to Johnson County Transit, 1701 W. 56 Highway, Olathe, KS 66061.

**Schedule:** Buses generally run about every hour during peak periods early in the morning and in late afternoon during the workweek. Service starts about 6:30 a.m.

**Stops:** North entrance of Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College, KU Edwards Campus, and in Lawrence at Clinton and Crestline, 19th and Naismith, and Haskell University, north of the stadium.

Community college.

Others complain about gaps in service. The buses generally run an hour apart except at midday, when they’re two hours apart.

And then there’s the crowding. Some riders say the bus is popular enough that it can be cramped at times.

Ferguson acknowledges those issues and said he would love to address them but is limited by money.

The K-10 service costs $364,000 a year, of which $200,000 comes from a federal grant that runs out in 2009. Af-
After that, Johnson County will have to find a way to sustain the service. "I can't throw out the kind of service that would be more supportive of that system, although that is in our plan for the future," he said.

The early success of the K-10 Connector is instructive for how transit planners across the region might fill unmet demand for bus service. "We know there is untapped demand in other parts of the community as well. It's just having to finance it to put the service out there," said Dick Jarrold, chief engineer for the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority.

Some of those markets include connecting the rapidly developing Shoal Creek area in the Northland to downtown. Another possibility might be service to the jobs at the freight center and intermodal hub at the former Richards-Gebaur Airport.

To reach Brad Cooper, call 816-234-7724 or send e-mail to bcooper@kcstar.com.

Passengers taking off on Thursday for a return trip to Lawrence from Johnson County Community College relaxed for the ride while saving on the cost of gasoline.

Then there are the ongoing efforts to find a way to get people to jobs from downtown Kansas City, Kan., out to the Village West retail complex in western Wyandotte County.

Jarrold agrees that the K-10 route has unique features, but he thinks the lessons learned could be applied to transit in some untapped markets.
Student loan lenders back out

But so far, the federal student loan program has not been badly damaged, experts say.

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

That's when they and their families could discover that a lender they used this school year is no longer available to help them cover the cost of a college education.

Jon Copeland, a third-year dental student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, already learned a few weeks ago that the lender he had used since 2006 had opted out of the student loan business.

"It's crazy," said Copeland, who already owes more than $100,000 in federally-guaranteed loans, and has a year and $55,000 in tuition and fees to go before finishing school. With help from UMKC, Copeland found a new lender but now worries about higher interest rates.

The national credit crisis has hit college campuses, leaving students wondering whether the credit crunch will keep them from finding loans.

But they shouldn't worry too much, college financial aid experts say. So far, the federal student loan program has not been too badly damaged by the credit crisis, they say.

On Wednesday, President Bush signed the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008.

The new law, which increases the amount students can borrow, is designed to reduce dependency on private lenders. Getting a loan from a private lender may cost more, take longer to get, require near-perfect credit or a co-signer with great credit. Lenders also are more apt to shun risky investments.

Experts say there are still plenty of lenders loaning money to students and their families.
LOANS: The credit crisis hits campuses

Allesandra Lanza, spokeswoman for American Student Assistance, a nonprofit organization that helps students manage their financial obligations, said loans that are funded by private lenders and guaranteed by the federal government “still, by and large, are readily available. Approximately 2,000 lenders remain in the program.”

Federal Direct Student Loans, which are provided directly from the U.S. Treasury, “will not be affected by the credit crunch,” Lanza said.

And while across the country some schools have reported that a few students have been turned down for loans, colleges and universities in the Kansas City area said they are not seeing a serious problem.

The Kansas City Art Institute recently sent parents and students notices that some lenders their students are doing business with have bowed out of the college student lending arena, said Larry Stone, vice president for enrollment management. The Art Institute sent those students a list of available lenders and Web sites for scholarship opportunities.

Financial aid officials at the University of Central Missouri and UMKC said they also had drawn up a list of new lenders, scholarships and grant opportunities for students whose lenders had left the student loan business.

Most University of Kansas students get direct loans, said Joan Weaver, associate director of KU’s financial aid office. “Our students have had no trouble getting loans,” she said.

Kansas State University in March moved away from the Federal Family Education Loan Program and now, like KU, only offers students Federal Direct Student Loans, which are not affected by the credit crisis.

To reach Marã Rose Williams, call 816-234-4419 or send e-mail to mdwilliams@kcstar.com.
Ironic that Scott J. Bloch gave a lecture at Washburn University in 2006 titled "Is There a Fourth Branch of Government? Independent Agencies and the U.S. Office of Special Counsel."

Ironic because Bloch, a University of Kansas alum who also graduated from its law school, is under investigation for possibly destroying evidence, abusing his authority, retaliating against employees and dismissing federal whistleblower cases without investigating them.

Fourth branch of government, indeed.

Bloch remains at his post as U.S. special counsel, even though FBI agents raided both his Washington office and his suburban Virginia home last week. They carted away computers and documents, looking for evidence that Bloch may have obstructed justice and lied to Congress.

The raids were "the latest twist in what critics describe as Bloch's bizarre tenure at the head of the federal agency responsible for protecting the rights of federal workers and ensuring that government whistleblowers are not subjected to reprisals," The Associated Press reported.

Bloch's tenure as special counsel has been controversial from the outset. In October 2004, five Democratic members of Congress accused him of refusing to enforce anti-discrimination protections for gay and lesbian workers in the federal workforce.

In 2005, a group of Office of Special Counsel employees accused Bloch of intimidating and involuntarily transferring workers who opposed his policies.

In December 2006, he paid Geeks on Call, a tech company, to scrub his government laptop computer. He later told a House committee that he had the work done to protect government and personal information on the computer.

Before joining the Justice Department, Bloch practiced law for a decade at Stevens & Brand, a general-practice firm in Lawrence. According to his bio on the Office of Special Counsel's home page, he practiced in the areas of civil rights, employment law and legal ethics.

The bio said that as chairman of the Douglas County Bar Ethics and Grievance Committee, he investigated cases of ethical violations by attorneys. For five years, it said, he was also an adjunct professor at KU's law school.

Before he was appointed by President Bush in 2003 to the Office of Special Counsel (he was confirmed in 2004), Bloch was associate director and then deputy director of the Justice Department's Task Force for Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

An April 2002 profile in the Lawrence Journal-World said that Bloch was born in New York, where his father, Walter, was a writer for Broadway and New York television. When Bloch was 3 years old, the family moved to Los Angeles, where his father contributed to such TV shows as "Gilligan's Island," "Hawaii Five-O," "Adam 12," "Bonanza," "Jonny Quest," "The Flintstones" and "The Jetsons," according to the profile.

Bloch's grandfather, Albert Bloch, was a noted expressionist painter who became head of KU's department of painting and drawing in 1923. He remained at KU for 24 years. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art held a retrospective of his work in 1997.

Bloch's 2006 talk at Washburn was hosted by the law school's chapter of the Federalist Society, a legal organization with a conservative and libertarian bent. In the talk, Bloch explained the role of his office, saying it was meant to be a watchdog over other administrative agencies and to ensure that those agencies obeyed the law, according to a news index put out by the law school.

"In fact," the index cited Bloch as saying, "these agencies are literally running the everyday lives of Americans, but are not accountable to the American people."

To reach Dan Margolies, call 816-234-4481 or send e-mail to dmargolies@kcstar.com.
The names of area candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring have been announced by the university registrar.

Burlingame: Casey Marie Montgomery, daughter of Don Montgomery, Psychology BA DECL, Senior, Bachelor of Arts/Psychology.

Lyndon: Theodore C. Kritikos, Creative Writing MFA, Graduate Master of Fine Arts, and Jamie M. Schmitz, daughter of Galen and Denise Schmitz, Nursing BSN, Senior Bachelor of Science.

Melvern: Kristen Kay Lichtenauer, daughter of John Lichtenauer, Chemistry BA, Senior Bachelor of Arts/

Chemistry and History.

Osage City: Cordell Lee Privat, Medicine MD, Doctor of Medicine.


Vassar: Keaton M. Krell, son of Shane and Raeann Krell, Secondary Level Education, BSE Senior Bachelor of Science in Education.

Degrees will be presented 2 p.m. May 18, at the university's 136th commencement at Memorial Stadium.
Whatever problem the Kansas University athletic department has with a bill it received from the Lawrence Holidome, it has nothing to do with the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce or Downtown Lawrence Inc.

Asking the two community groups in an e-mail, no less to take the athletic department off the hook for $6,400 it reportedly owes the Holidome for a canceled basketball banquet, is both arrogant and unfair.

The athletic department’s rationale apparently is that it canceled the intimate banquet for players and select donors in favor of a parade and public celebration at Allen Fieldhouse. While it’s true that the downtown and chamber groups supported having a parade to honor the championship basketball team, it was the athletic department’s decision to allow the parade and to tack on the fieldhouse celebration.

The decision to cancel the more exclusive basketball banquet also was made by the athletic department, not the community groups. Their names weren’t on the contract with the Holidome. They didn’t plan the banquet. They didn’t cancel it.

The attempt to pass this bill along only feeds the money-driven image of KU athletics. A $6,400 bill is a drop in the bucket compared to what the KU athletic department spent on travel, salaries and other expenses for the tournament, but it would be a major expense for the chamber or Downtown Lawrence. Is the athletic department’s attempt to stick those groups with this bill a way of expressing lingering anger at the community for pressing for a parade to celebrate the Jayhawk victory?

Any way you look at it, trying to pass this bill along reeks of pettiness. The Holidome bill is the athletic department’s responsibility. If department officials were unaware that the cancellation would cost them $6,400, that was their mistake, a mistake for which they — not the chamber or Downtown Lawrence — should pay.