Eight students at the University of Kansas have received 2009 undergraduate research scholarships through the Kansas IDEa (Institutional Development Awards) Network of Biomedical Research Excellence program.

The undergraduate scholarship program at the Lawrence campus is funded through $25.6 million National Institute of Health grant to the Kansas IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence. Joan Hunt, vice chancellor for biomedical research infrastructure at the KU Medical Center and University Distinguished Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, is principal investigator.

The Lawrence campus is one of 10 participating campuses that receive support. James A. Orr, professor of molecular biosciences, serves as the Lawrence campus coordinator for the program.

The scholarships encourage students to pursue careers in science and, ultimately, promote biomedical research in Kansas. The spring 2009 scholarships provide up to $2,000. Scholarships are awarded based on merit and as well as the quality of an applicant’s research proposal. Scholars are selected by a multidisciplinary committee made up of faculty members from molecular biosciences and chemistry.

Scholars present their research results at the annual Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium on campus and at the K-INBRE statewide symposium in January.

Typically, the Kansas IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence has provided spring and summer funding for six to 10 undergraduate scholars a year. This year, 22 students applied and eight received the scholarships.

The Kansas IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence program was funded in 2001. The first scholarships were issued to KU undergraduates in summer 2002. Since then, the program has provided support to 65 KU students.

The participating network partners are Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Haskell Indian Nations University, Kansas State University, KU’s Lawrence campus, KU Medical Center, Pittsburg State University, Washburn University, Wichita State University and Langston (Okla.) University. More information about the program is online at www.kumc.edu/kinbre/

From Ulysses and Liberal, Katelyn N. Deckert, senior in biochemistry, daughter of Jerry Deckert of Ulysses and Ronald Deckert of Liberal. Deckert graduated from Liberal High School.
Martin Robinson of Garnett one of them

Four KU students competing for national Goldwater scholarships

Four University of Kansas students, all involved in undergraduate research at KU, have been nominated to compete for national Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, regarded as the premier undergraduate award to encourage excellence in science, engineering and mathematics.

KU’s 2009 nominees are: Brandon DeKosky, Overland Park, chemical engineering; Rebecca Marie Getman, Chesterfield, Mo., chemistry; Christopher Blake Martin, Manhattan, physics and mathematics; Richard Z. Robinson, Garnett, mathematics.

Two of the nominees, Martin and Robinson, have

See Robinson Page 8
Robinson from Page 1

worked in Switzerland with physicists and mathematicians on research related to the Large Hadron Collider.

Goldwater scholarships provide up to $7,500 for tuition, fees, books and room and board. Winners will be announced in late March or early April. Winners who will graduate in 2010 receive one year of support; those graduating in 2011 receive two years of support. Three of the KU nominees will graduate in 2010: DeKosky, Getman and Robinson. Martin expects to graduate in 2011.

A total of 45 KU students have been selected for Goldwater scholarships since they were first awarded in 1989. Congress established the program in 1986 to pay tribute to the retired U.S. senator from Arizona and to ensure a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers.

Goldwater scholars have impressive academic qualifications that have garnered the attention of prestigious postgraduate fellowship programs, including 70 Rhodes scholarships, 94 Marshall scholarships and numerous other distinguished fellowships.

Only students who plan to graduate in 2010 or 2011 and who were judged to have outstanding academic records, significant research experience and high potential for a research career in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering were eligible for nomination by their universities. Nominees submitted applications that included an essay related to the nominee’s career and faculty recommendations.

Richard Z. Robinson plans to teach mathematics at a university and conduct research in harmonic analysis and partial differential equations. Robinson was one of the first recipients of KU’s Perfect Achievement Scholarship offered to graduating high school seniors earning a perfect score on their college entrance exams. He also is a National Merit Scholar. Since 2007, he has worked as a student researcher with math professors Estela Gavosto and Rudolfo Torres on projects funded by the National Science Foundation. In his first project with Gavosto and Torres, Robinson traveled to Switzerland in summer 2007 to perform data analysis for the particle detector known as the Compact Muon Solenoid, which is part of the Large Hadron Collider. Robinson worked with an NSF-funded team led by Alice Bean, KU professor of physics and astronomy. He designed software to monitor the status of the silicon strip detectors that form a major part of the larger detector. Robinson reported the results of his analysis to a national meeting of physicists and is co-author of an internal paper on monitoring silicon strip detectors. Since summer 2008, he has been working with Gavosto and Torres, who have an NSF grant to develop a mathematical tool to study ordered geometries using Fourier analysis. Robinson is working to create novel graphic representations of four-dimensional nonperiodic tilings and their Fourier transforms. He also received an undergraduate research grant for summer 2008 to support his research of nonperiodic tilings. He is the son of Richard and Jerry Lou Robinson. His memberships include the KU Experimental Balloon Society, the Math Club and the Society of Physics Students. He is a graduate of Anderson County High School, Garnett, and attended Neosho Community College.
University of Kansas honors Atchison County students

- Special to the Globe
- Students from three Kansas high schools will be honored Wednesday, March 25, by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.
- A total of 19 seniors from high schools in Atchison County will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at the Atchison Heritage Conference Center.
- Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.
- Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $13 each.
- Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Chad and Carri Ball of Atchison are site coordinators.
- Students receiving the honor are as follows:
  - Atchison County Community High School
    - Michael Brown, Allegra Gigstad, Gentry Linscott and Mary Schletzbaum.
  - Atchison High School
    - Derek Bauman, Daris Calhoon, Lillian Cooper, Margaret Denton, Kyle Downing, Jordan Hefner, Devvon Ochoa, Christian Payne and Nathaniel Pickman.
  - Maur Hill-Mount Academy
    - Zhangxiaowen (Andy) Gong, Misha Irfan, Megan Klebb, Amelia Lutz, Laura Prohaska and Makinzie Vowels.
University of Kansas names interim provost

LAWRENCE (AP) — The University of Kansas has named its dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences as interim provost.

Chancellor Robert Hemenway announced Monday that he is appointing Joseph Steinmetz to replace departing provost, Richard Lariviere.

Lariviere is the finalist for president of the University of Oregon. Hemenway is also expected to leave his post on June 30 and a national search is under way to replace him.

The provost oversees the Lawrence campus' academic and operational issues. Steinmetz will also continue to serve as dean.

Steinmetz has led the college of liberal arts and sciences with 17,000 students and 53 departments since 2006.

Steinmetz is also a behavioral neuroscientist and maintains a neuroscience lab.
AG: Rapes in 2 college towns may be linked

John Milburn
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — The attorney general’s office announced Wednesday that it is investigating the link between 13 rapes that occurred over eight years in two college towns.

Attorney General Steve Six said there are enough similarities between the college-age victims, time of attack and manner of attack to suspect the rapes are connected.

Eight of the rapes were in Manhattan, which is home to Kansas State University, and five were in Lawrence, about 85 miles to the east and home to the University of Kansas. The 13 rapes happened from 2000 to 2008, and none was committed on campus.

Police in Lawrence and Manhattan have been investigating the crimes separately, but authorities only recently determined they had enough information to link the two cities’ cases and share the findings with the public. Now, the attorney general is coordinating the investigation, which includes the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, said Six spokeswoman Ashley Anstaett.

Investigators say the attacker appears to be a white male in his mid-20s, weighing 180 to 220 pounds and is 5 feet 9 inches to 6 feet 2 inches tall.

In each Lawrence rape, the attacker has been armed, but police haven’t given other details, such as how he entered the home, what he wore or how he chose his victims. In the Manhattan cases, the attacker broke into the women’s homes while they slept. He covered his forearms with dark clothing, used gloves and wore boots.

Six announced the possible connections in a written statement that also advised residents to be vigilant during spring break next week. He noted that when universities are not in session, apartments and other student housing areas may be targeted by criminals.

“We’re encouraging Kansans to take extra safety precautions and report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement immediately,” he said.

Lawrence police spokesman Bill Cory said information about the rapes has residents paying more attention to their surroundings.

“I believe the community’s concerned. Everyone’s concerned when you have a crime like this,” Cory said.
KU announces Research Award winners

LAWRENCE — Sixty-nine University of Kansas students have received Undergraduate Research Awards for spring 2009.

The awards support original, independent research by undergraduates enrolled on the Lawrence campus. The University Honors Program administers the awards with funds from the offices of the provost and vice provost for research and graduate studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Faculty on the University Honors Research Committee used the following selection criteria: overall quality of the proposal, student’s academic record and ability to complete the proposed research project, project’s potential contribution to knowledge and educational value of the research to the student.

More awards were given this semester than have been given in previous spring semesters.

Among the recipients was Austin Lea Oder, Chanute, senior in speech-language-hearing, daughter of James and Jackie Oder; Effects of Dialect on Vowel Acoustics and Intelligibility.
KU pharmacy students volunteer at dental clinic

LAWRENCE — Nineteen pharmacy students from the University of Kansas will be volunteers at the seventh annual Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation's Kansas Mission of Mercy, which provides free dental care to individuals who do not have access to dental care or lack resources to pay for it.

The event took place Feb. 20-21 at the National Guard Armory in Manhattan. Organizers estimated about 2,000 people received dental care valued at about $1 million.

Since the program began in 2003, nearly 15,000 patients of all ages have received dental care valued at approximately $6.5 million at sites in Garden City (twice), Pittsburg, Salina, Topeka and Wichita.

For the past three years, KU pharmacy students in the six-year doctor of pharmacy program have volunteered for the event, assisting Kansas pharmacists who help out at the clinic.

Volunteering for the clinic is a community service project of the KU student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association. All student volunteers are KU pharmacy students but not all are chapter members.

Southeast Kansas students who participated were, Neil F. Young, Erie, second-year PharmD student, son of Frank and Sharon Young; Bryan Lewis Schuessler, Neodesha, third-year PharmD student, son of Jim and Judy Schuessler.
KU frat could face penalties in student's death

LAWRENCE. (AP) — The Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Kansas could face penalties in the death of a 19-year-old member at the fraternity house on campus last weekend.

The fraternity’s national and local organizations are investigating the death of Jason Wren, of Littleton, Colo. A spokesman for the fraternity’s national office on Wednesday declined to say how the fraternity could be punished.

Lawrence police say Wren was found dead at about 2:30 p.m. Sunday in his bed at the fraternity house.

Police say toxicology test results are not yet available and they are not discussing what may have caused Wren’s death. But his father, Jay Wren, says excessive drinking killed his son.

Wren’s death is also being investigated by the owners of the fraternity’s property, Kansas Alpha House Corp., a group of about eight alumni from the KU chapter.
Kansas Honor Scholars

Students from seven Kansas high schools were honored March 4 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 22 seniors from high schools in Brown and Doniphan counties were recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a program held at Hiawatha High School.

Those honored that night were:

**Hiawatha** — Rebecca Barnes, Lindsy Brobst, Tiffany Lammon, Grant Stoner, Alayna Tanking and Megan Tryon.

**Doniphan West** — Paul Becker, Amanda Cauthon, Katelin French and Danielle Rush.

**Elwood** — Amanda Mc Coppin.

**Horton** — Joshua Burns, Joseph Chadwell, Kayla Dishon, Andrew Jensen, Kirsten Morgan and Michael Tinio.

**Kickapoo High School** — Kathryn Wabnum.

**Troy** — Sarah Greub and Jesse Marriott.

**Wathena** — Cara Johnson and Aleatra Mitchell.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students who rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals. The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

Photo by Bobi Dozier
KU honors Jeremy Vitt

Members of the Marching Jayhawks band at University of Kansas have been honored. Among those honored was Jeremy Michael Vitt, son of Chris and Michelle Vitt of Hiawatha, as a Section Leader and Outstanding Woodwind Performer. He plays tenor saxophone and is a junior at KU, majoring in pre-sport science/community health.