KU students plan ‘Israel Week

By Beth Lipoff
Staff Writer

When Matt Rissien studied at the
Parde Institute of Jewish Studies in Je-
rusalem last year, the Israeli observance
of Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) left a
lasting impression on him.

“The entire state of Israel is in mour-
ning, but then it does a complete (turn-
around) the next day for Yom HaAtzmaut.
(Ed. note: Israel Independence Day) When
I came back to KU, I wanted to figure out
a way to have that feeling on the campus
of KU,” said the 22-year-old religious
studies major.

So back in January, Rissien first
brought together a group of fellow Uni-
versity of Kansas students to brainstorm
on how to observe both holidays. The
group decided that, as long as they were
planning for two days, they might as well
celebrate Israel for an entire week. Thus,
KU’s inaugural “Israel Week” was born.

The week’s events, which take place
from April 26 to May 2, will steer clear of
Israeli-Arab relations and focus only on
the culture of the Jewish state. Rissien
and his ad hoc organizing group, called
Hatikvah: The Hope, have consulted with
members of KU’s Muslim Student Asso-
ciation and with KU Provost and Execu-
tive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere in
hopes of avoiding the conflict that posi-
tive mention of Israel seems to cause on
some other college campuses.

“They said as long as it stays cultural
and not political, it shouldn’t be an issue.
We’ve really been trying to have as little
confrontation as possible,” Rissien said.

Rissien found widespread support on
campus for Israel Week, garnering funds
from the traditionally Jewish fraterni-
ties (AEPi and ZBT) and sorority (SDT),
KU Hillel, Chabad at KU and others.
KU’s Student Senate approved the plan
to the tune of $5,500 — about a third of
the senate’s total remaining budget for
the school year. KU Israel Week also has
financial backing from the national pro-

KU Israel Week schedule

• Sunday, April 26 — Sports with the KU Mac-
cabi Games from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The location
is still to be determined.
• Monday, April 27 — “Hookah on the Hill”
from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the lawn of Stauffer-
Flint Hall. Falafel will be available for $3.
• Tuesday, April 28 — Yom HaZikaron service in
Woodruff Auditorium at the Kansas Union.
• Wednesday, April 29 — “Chabad presents:
Israel Unleashed” from 7 to 9 p.m. at the KU
Chabad House, 1203 W. 19th St., with various
Israel craft activities and music.

see Israel, page 20

• Thursday, April 30 — “Tea Time @ 3” from 3
to 4 p.m. in the Kansas Union, with Israeli teas,
baklava and other desserts.
• Friday, May 1 — “Hillel presents: Israel Shab-
bat” with Israeli food at 6 p.m. at the Kansas
Union.
• Saturday, May 2 — Strong Black Coffee
performs at the Granada Theatre, 1020 Mas-
sachusetts St. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. The
performance is free for KU students and $5 for
others.
Israel Week' showcases Israeli culture with on, off campus activities

from page 8

Israel groups Stand With Us and The David Project and from Wichita's Jewish Federation and Midwest AIPAC.

Rissien said about 40 students have been involved in the planning.

Nir Gad, the Israeli emissary to Kansas City's Jewish Federation, has been on hand for every Hatikvah planning meeting. He said he has contributed ideas, but is thrilled to see the students take such initiative.

"It really shows the leadership of the students and the passion they have for Israel," Gad said. "If it comes from them, and they are passionate about it, that will make it more successful than any other staff person can make it."

The headlining event will be a concert starring the Ethiopian-Israeli hip-hop group Strong Black Coffee. Gad suggested the band to the committee.

"We wanted something that all the students could enjoy," Rissien said. "Ethiopian-Israeli hip-hop is something that everyone can relate to, and that way we can involve the Black Student Union and all these other organizations."

A step dance group and the Unity Hip Hop Dance Troupe from the Black Student Union will open for the band.

Another student group, called Bar Recycling, will also set up shop at the concert to help students recycle bottles and other items.

**YOM HAZIKARON**

Like Rissien, 18-year-old KU freshman Amy Koonin had an experience in Israel that moved her to get involved in Israel Week planning. Koonin heads the Yom HaZikaron committee.

She spent five months in Israel last year, including a month living on an Israeli Defense Forces base and working with soldiers, as part of an early-graduation program from her Jewish day school.

On Yom HaZikaron, she said, "I got to see them remembering the soldiers from that base."

The service Koonin's committee is planning will contrast the lives of KU freshmen with first-year IDF recruits. Both the soldiers and the students are the same age, but, of course, their worlds are vastly different.

"There's a whole different array of emotions that Israeli kids our age have that we've never experienced. I think (the service is) going to be very successful and very inspirational," she said.

Koonin's parents have been key sup-

porters of the event. Steve Koonin, CEO and general manager of Turner Entertainment Networks, and Eydie Koonin, an Atlanta Jewish Federation volunteer, gave the group $2,000, plus advice on how to network and pull off such a big event.

Rissien said the variety of activities makes Israel Week inclusive for the entire campus, Jewish and not.

"We want this to be an annual thing that we can do to show students the culture of Israel. A lot of students who didn't want to get involved with Chabad or Hillel wanted to get involved in this. Israeli culture is something everyone relates to and enjoys," Rissien said.

"We wanted something that all the students could enjoy. Ethiopian-Israeli hip-hop is something that everyone can relate to...."

— Matt Rissien
KU moot court team to compete in international finals

A team from the University of Kansas School of Law will head to Taipei in May to compete in the international finals of the European Law Students' Association Moot Court Competition.

Four students guaranteed their spot in the finals by advancing to the final round of the North American regional March 12 in Washington, D.C. Christina Elmore, Ben Sharp, Carrie Bader and Beau Jackson - all third-year law students - were members of the first KU team to make it to the world level of the seven-year-old competition.

The son of Courtley and Kristen Jackson of Wichita, Beau Jackson graduated from Andover High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from KU in spring 2003.

"This was a terrific student effort," said Pam Keller, clinical associate professor and director of the law school's moot court program. "The team wrote two lengthy briefs and practiced tirelessly for the oral rounds. Their hard work paid off, and the KU School of Law is proud of their success."

Raj Bhala, the Raymond F. Rice Distinguished Professor of Law, coaches the team.

The ELSA Moot Court Competition is a simulated hearing in the World Trade Organization dispute settlement system. Competitor teams represent both parties to the case by presenting oral submissions in front of a panel, which consists of World Trade Organization law experts. The 2008-09 case deals with a hypothetical dispute about trade and regulatory measures aimed at addressing climate change.

KU joined teams from Duke University, the University of Ottawa in Canada and George Washington University in the semifinals. After defeating Ottawa to advance to the final round, KU lost a close match to Duke. The top two teams will move on to the international finals to square off against the winners of regional contests around the globe.

"It was an honor to represent KU and to compete against teams from some of the best law schools in North America," Jackson said. "Our success is a testament to the world-class education we've received at KU, particularly the guidance of Professors Raj Bhala and Pam Keller. We're looking forward to the international finals in Taiwan."

Participation in the ELSA Moot Court Competition has become an important component in the KU School of Law's International and Comparative Law Program, along with the International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition and the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. KU teams in the Jessup competition have advanced to the international level six times and been crowned champion twice.
By JON RUHLEN  
• Hutchinson News

HUTCHINSON (AP) — In some ways, the newest addition to the Reno County district attorney's office is much like any other new prosecutor — fresh out of law school, he's learning the ropes of his new job while adjusting to life in Hutchinson.

But for 39-year-old Wakil Oyedemi, the path to the local DA's office has been anything but typical.

For one thing, the native of Nigeria has been to law school twice.

As a law student in Nigeria, he faced pressure from the military regime because of his human rights activism.

Once in the United States, Oyedemi served a stint in the Army with the 1st Infantry Division, including a yearlong deployment to Iraq as a legal affairs specialist, before attending the University of Kansas law school to be able to practice law in the U.S.

"He's a very enthusiastic and eager individual, which was one of the things that attracted me when I interviewed him," said Reno County District Attorney Keith Schroeder.

"He has a presence that I believe will make him a good prosecutor."

For his part, Oyedemi said he hopes to serve the interests of justice no matter which side of the aisle he is working — be it from a human rights law firm in Lagos, Nigeria, the Paul E. Wilson Defender Project at KU or prosecuting traffic offenses in Reno County.

Oyedemi also said the warm welcome he has received from Reno County residents has encouraged him to put forth his best efforts as a fledgling prosecutor.

Oyedemi grew up in Oyo, a village of about 130 people in the southwestern part of Nigeria. The son of a food trader and grandson of a Yoruba tribal chieftain, Oyedemi said he graduated at the top of his class in high school but couldn't afford to attend college in a country where academic merit scholarships are virtually unheard of.

Oyedemi entered an apprenticeship program as a carpenter, building furniture and other items for several years before a family friend and eventual stepfather who owned a shipping company, Isaac Jolapamo, stepped in as a benefactor.

Jolapamo paid for him to enter the Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile, Nigeria, to study English. Oyedemi said he initially wanted to be a journalist and write political opinion columns.

"I loved to write, and I wanted to find out what was going on," Oyedemi said.

By his second year, however, he was encouraged by friends and professors to enter law school — a five-year program in Nigeria. Once again, Jolapamo supported his decision.

"He said he would support me 100 percent," Oyedemi said.

Jolapamo was eventually driven into exile and his shipping business ruined by the military government, which accused him of financing pro-democracy groups in Nigeria.

It's been a common theme in Oyedemi's life. As president of his law school's student body, he was expelled for his human rights activism and for fighting to maintain student elections at the school.

"The military didn't want to see any form of human rights activity," Oyedemi said.

After graduating from law school in 1998, he went to work conducting legal research for a human rights law firm in Lagos. His boss, Fred Aghaje, was subject to frequent harassment from the military authorities, who were constantly trying to arrest him.

"Almost every prominent lawyer in Nigeria at the time got sent to jail or exile," Oyedemi said.

Despite the challenges, Oyedemi looks back fondly on his time with the firm.

"I felt happy about it because we were helping a lot of clients," he said. "The human rights situation in Nigeria was extremely bad at the time."

Oyedemi and his wife immigrated to the U.S. in 2001 after his wife received a green card. Their arrival in the states was somewhat delayed by unfortunate timing — they were in the air on Sept. 10, 2001, and were diverted to Canada after the Sept. 11 attacks, where they languished for about a week before being allowed into Dover, Del.

Oyedemi soon joined the Army, which he saw as a way to continue...
to work in the legal field. His Nigeria law degree did not allow him to practice in the U.S., but he could work in the military as a legal assistant — while also earning enough to support his wife and two children.

Oyedemi served from 2002 to 2006, including a yearlong deployment with the Big Red One in 2003, where he not only served as a legal assistant but also acted as a liaison between military lawyers and the Iraqi lawyers who were charged with shaping the new government’s legal structure.

Oyedemi, who eventually attained the rank of sergeant, said he looked at his duties as a way to continue his human rights work. He was responsible for reimbursing Iraqis for vehicles and property that were damaged by military actions, as well as compensation for deaths and injuries to noncombatants.

As an added benefit, Oyedemi came away from his deployment with his U.S. citizenship. Foreign nationals who serve in the armed forces are sometimes eligible for an accelerated citizenship process, and both Oyedemi’s battalion commander and brigade commander played an active role in making sure he was granted citizenship before the unit was deployed.

“That’s one reason I work hard — people appreciate it when you work hard for them,” Oyedemi said.

Upon his discharge from active duty, Oyedemi began law school at the University of Kansas, influenced in large part by the friendly reception he received from the school, as well as a shortened, two-year program of study the school has in place for students with a foreign law degree.

He participated in several projects and clinics while at KU, including the Paul E. Wilson Defender project, in which law students represent state and federal prisoners in the appeals process.

As a new prosecutor, Oyedemi said he is responsible for ensuring the fair and just application of the law.
Midwest Research Institute expanding to K-State

By MARGARET STAFFORD

Midwest Research Institute plans to open a subsidiary in Kansas to bolster research efforts in such areas as animal health, biosecurity and renewable energy.

The Kansas City-based agency announced recently that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Midwest Research Institute-Kansas, will be housed on the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan.

The announcement comes about three months after Kansas State was chosen as the site for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, a federally funded lab that will conduct research on deadly plant and animal diseases.

The institute's decision to move into Kansas was partly related to the NBAF decision, but it also will strengthen already existing ties between the institute, Kansas State and other Kansas researchers, said Linda Cook, a spokeswoman for the agency.

The institute specializes in applied research and commercialization of the basic research done by many universities, government organizations and businesses, Cook said.

"There are so many synergies between the basic research work done by universities and what MRI provides that it's just a really good relationship," Cook said. "They support everything we do."

The new Kansas subsidiary will open by the end of the month and be housed at the Manhattan/Kansas State Innovation Center. Initially, researchers will travel between Kansas City and Manhattan with permanent staff added in Manhattan as research projects progress, Cook said.

"Establishing a physical presence in Kansas in addition to the Institute's strong and historic presence in Missouri will enable MRI to significantly strengthen its support of vital scientific research in our bi-state region," James L. Spigarelli, president and CEO of the institute said in a written statement. "We look forward to many new opportunities ahead."

Michael Helmstetter, the institute's executive vice president and director of research operations, was named president of the Kansas subsidiary. He also will become president and CEO of the institute in October, when Spigarelli retires.

One focus of MRI-Kansas will be animal health research, which is expected to boost efforts to attract researchers and related businesses to the Animal Health Corridor. The corridor stretches between Manhattan and Columbia, Mo., and includes more than 120 animal health companies and the University of Kansas and University of Missouri.

The institute and Kansas State also are forming a new collaboration to accelerate research coming out of the NBAF labs, when the facility opens in 2015, as well as Kansas State's existing Biosecurity Research Institute, MRI said in a news release. MRI also will provide biosafety containment management and operations services under an agreement with the Kansas Bioscience Authority.

A third focus of MRI-Kansas will be advanced energy research and commercialization of related technology.
“By collaborating and working together, we will have the capability to seamlessly move new discoveries, whether they are in animal health, biosecurity, or energy from basic research through development to the commercialization and deployment of new technologies and products that will protect and benefit society,” Ron Trewyn, Kansas State’s vice president for research said in a statement.

The institute also has labs in Palm Bay, Fla., and Rockville, Md., and has managed the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colo., since 1977.

—AP
Sebelius signs $13 billion budget, vetoes Legislature’s proposal

CARL MANNING
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed the $13 billion budget to finance state government after July 1, but legislators expect they will have to rewrite it because of expected declines in state revenues.

In signing the budget Monday, the governor vetoed the Legislature’s proposal to spend federal stimulus money for higher education solely on deferred maintenance.

Sebelius said her veto would allow the state Board of Regents to use the estimated $40 million in federal funds both to finance deferred maintenance and to help underwrite a proposal to freeze in-state tuition in the 2009-10 school year.

In her veto message, Sebelius said the veto “will allow the Board of Regents to become a partner with the state in these challenging times.”

Regents Chair Donna Shank said the governor’s decision “will allow the board to allocate federal stimulus dollars for both campus deferred maintenance projects and tuition cost mitigation.”

In-state undergraduate tuition per semester currently ranges from $3,098 at the University of Kansas to $1,370 at Fort Hays State University.

Shank said the flexibility in using the federal funds means a tuition freeze still is possible. Last month, the board suggested freezing tuition for the next academic year if the budget didn’t cut more than 7 percent and if it could use some of the federal funds. With Monday’s veto, both conditions have been met.

Legislators expect to reopen debate on the fiscal year 2010 budget when they return April 29 from their spring break.

They will work from a revised consensus revenue estimate being issued Friday.

If the new forecast is significantly more pessimistic, then the budget must be reworked to meet the constitutional mandate that it be balanced.

One sign of the state’s struggling economy is tax collections. Tax revenues for the current fiscal year were at $3.83 billion, or $135 million below the official estimate made last November. For March alone, the state had expected to collect $427 million in taxes but received about $374 million.
Sebelius signs $13 billion budget

From Page 1

“Based on what we heard for March, it’s a harbinger on the consensus revenue estimates Friday which means we will have to relook at what we do for 2010, no doubt about it,” said Senate Ways and Means Chairman Jay Emler, a Lindsborg Republican.

Emler said about two-thirds of the $5.8 billion state general fund budget is off-limits because further cuts could endanger the state’s expected $400 million in federal funds. He said that includes public and higher education and mandated payments for social services caseloads. The

remainder of the budget comes from federal and other funds.

“If you can’t do anything with that, then it is going to be absolutely devastating for everything else,” Emler said.

The Democratic governor criticized the Republican-led Legislature for not accepting more of her proposed budget which she said had more in savings. She said there’s still some uncertainty about the minimum threshold in funding that the state must maintain to access the stimulus money.

“I encourage the Legislature to reconsider the revenue enhancements they have chosen to ignore, before further slashing education and other vital state services,” she said.

Democrats advocate freezing estate and corporate franchise taxes at current levels, rather than phasing them out by 2011, as previously planned. They also say legislators should consider “decoupling” Kansas from the federal tax code to boost revenues. Because the Kansas and federal codes are tied, state revenues fluctuate as the federal tax code changes.

The stimulus package included tax breaks, and state officials estimate those breaks will cost Kansas almost $66 million during the next fiscal year.

Last week, House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat, said legislators will have to consider tax proposals to boost state revenues.

Sebelius also blocked funding for the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp., recommending that the agency be closed and some of its functions transferred to the Department of Commerce.

“KTEC, under its current organization and operation, has struggled to produce a solid return on our investment in recent years,” she said.
Volunteer Sharon Steele (left) handed a dictionary to Lauren Bethell, one of eight top Colby High School seniors to be recognized, at the annual Kansas Honors Scholars night on Wednesday in Goodland. The event is sponsored by the University of Kansas.
Governor Signs State Budget

CARL MANNING
Associated Press Writer

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Elizabeth, Bob Dole scheduled to speak together

LAWRENCE (AP) — Former North Carolina Sen. Elizabeth Dole will join her husband, former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, to speak at an annual lecture series in Kansas next month.

The couple will deliver their speech, "Unlimited Partners," on May 3 during an event sponsored by the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.


The lecture series is held to commemorate Bob Dole's recovery from the serious wounds he suffered in April 1945 during World War II.
Conservation tour makes stop in county

By Katie Stockstill
and John Ward

Farming and agriculture have been the backbone of the Kansas economy for more than a century. And while the crops harvested and animals raised remain largely unchanged, farming practices have evolved significantly. Many of the areas newest and most popular forms of agriculture technology were on display Tuesday and Wednesday as part of 1st District Congressman Jerry Moran’s ninth annual Partners in Conservation Tour.

The tour, which started Tuesday morning in Hutchinson and made stops in Reno and Marion counties, made its way to McPherson County Tuesday evening. After two stops, Moran and others on the tour briefly visited the McPherson Valley Outdoor Education Center before staying the night at the Double E Pheasant Ranch north of McPherson. The tour continued Wednesday morning with a stop outside of Lindsborg before moving into Saline County late Wednesday morning.

Moran said he uses the annual tour to help himself and others in the agriculture industry get a better feel for new conservation practices and the impacts of state and federal-level agriculture programs.

Conservation projects help control erosion and allow the use of surface water for human consumption by lowering sediment and dissolved minerals in the run-off water.

Moran said the tour has highlighted counties across Kansas and that this year the focus was on the central section of the state.

“This is the ninth time for the tour and each year we take a couple of days and look at conservation practices, mostly as they relate to agriculture,” Moran said Tuesday afternoon during a

McPherson County farmer Larry Dahlsen listens to Congressman Jerry Moran speak during a tour of Dahlsen’s farm Wednesday.

County: McPherson

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Tour

From page 1

stop at land north of McPherson.
“During this tour we are looking at a number of practices. I also use the
tour to talk with people in the industry
about what’s important to them,
what is working and what is not.”

Topics and observations during the
tour included controlled burning with
the use of fire as a range management
tool, water quality issues, grass strips
to control erosion, subsurface irri-
tation, wildlife habitat improvement,
stream bank stabilization, no-till
farming and residential water con-
servation.

The tour also gave farmers, farm
agency personnel and members of
the media an opportunity to speak
with Moran about the state’s agriculture
industry, his efforts in Washington, on
behalf of the agriculture industry, and
learn how the new farm bill will affect
agriculture in Kansas.

Tuesday afternoon’s tour stops in
McPherson County started with a
brief stop at land in the Continuous
Conservation Reservation Program.
Owners of the 80 acres north of
McPherson planted grass strips to
help control soil erosion and improve
wildlife habits on the land.

The land was seeded with a native
grass mixture including. A Kanlow
variety was also added to the mixture
because of its tendencies to clump,
which provide excellent cover for birds
during the winter months.

District conservationist Baron Shively
did the grass strips were a cost-
effective method of controlling soil
erosion and once planted, the grass is
requires minimal maintenance.

Shively explained to tour partici-
pants that the grass was planted in
two strips parallel to the road way.
Since planting the original strips, the
grass mixture has also been added to
the drainage areas to prevent the ero-
sion of soil through small streamlets.

The tour then moved west of town
to land owned by the Elsie Dossett
family.

Shively and McPherson County
farmer Johnnie Dossett described the
sub-surface drip irrigation system
used on the approximately 75 acres
planted adjacent to Dossett’s home.
The irrigation system delivers
moisture to crops below the surface
Shively said, increasing efficiency and
water usage while decreasing labor
and water loss.

Water is pumped from a well and
through a filtration system before

being distributed through a buried,
six-inch plastic emitter or “tape” line.
The line is buried at the bottom edge
of the crop root zone. The emitters are
located every two feet along the line
and control the water delivered by the
tape.

Shively said clogging can become
an issue if the water is not properly
filtered before being run through the
system. Small plastic pipes are con-

nected to the tape lines to collect the
water when the system is periodically
flushed.

Dossett said his 75-acre field is
divided into three zones. Each zone,
or about 25 acres, is watered for about
22 hours before water is moved to the
next zone.

The Wednesday morning stop high-
lighted soil and water conservation
practices at the Larry and Edie
Dahlsten farm southwest of Linds-
borg. The Smoky Hill River flows
through the farm and had been a
problem due to stream bank erosion.
In 2003, the Dahlstens joined neigh-

bors and with the help of the McPher-
son County Soil Conservation service
devised a plan to stabilize the eroding
river bank.

After shaping the banks with earth-
moving equipment, rock weirs were
put in place to control normal water
flow as released from Kanopolis
Reservoir. Willow trees were planted
along the weirs to provide stabiliza-
tion through root systems. The
changes have proven very effective in
controlling bank erosion and has pre-
vented further loss of valuable farm-

ing land for the Dahlstens.

There are over 100 similar projects
in Kansas and more being planned
including cooperative developments in
adjacent states where rivers cross
boundary lines. Various government-
tal agencies help fund the projects
through cost-sharing programs, with
land owners usually responsible for
about 10 percent of the total.

The Dahlstens also explained their
no-till cropping system.

The Dahlstens converted “cold
turkey” from conventional tillage to a
no-till cropping system in 1999 after
hearing about incentive payments
available to farmers who converted to
no-till cropping. The Dahlstens
obtained a 1,000-acre contract with
EQIP for fiscal year 2000 through
2005. During that time, the Dahlstens
received an average per-acre payment
of $4.75 for a three-year period.

Moran’s final stop was a press con-
ference held in Salina Wednesday
morning. The press conference focused
on water supply and water usage in central Kansas, Moran and officials at the press conference discussed agriculture's impact on the area's water supply and measures that are and can be taken to both decrease water usage and conserve water in the area.
Legislative Unite To Highlight KS Bioscience Benefits

Legislative leaders from both chambers and from both political parties united in a news conference to highlight the many benefits realized through the Kansas Bioscience Authority and the potential for even greater positive results in the future. Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton; Speaker of the House Mike O’Neal, R-Hutchinson, Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka; and House Minority Leader Paul Davis appeared at the joint news conference to tout successes realized by the Authority and to generally brief the media on upcoming events, on the recent trip to Washington D.C. regarding the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and on the continuing efforts to secure National Cancer Institute designation for the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Sen. Morris outlined some of the successes Kansas has enjoyed this year. At the top of his list was the fact that in a very competitive bidding process, Kansas won out to be the site for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility which will be located at Kansas State University.

He announced that a bidding conference will be held by the US Department of Homeland Security on April 7 to educate Kansas companies on the bidding process for projects associated with the construction of NBF.

The construction phase will provide an estimated 1,500 jobs; even more jobs will be created as a result of NBF research and innovations. He closed his comments by saying, “The good news is that, in these difficult times, bioscience innovation can help lead Kansas’ financial recovery and serve as a solid foundation for a strong 21st century economy.”

Sen. Hensley, D-Lawrence, accompanied by Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, and House Minority Leader Paul Davis, appeared at the joint news conference to tout successes realized by the Authority and to generally brief the media on upcoming events, on the recent trip to Washington D.C. regarding the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and on the continuing efforts to secure National Cancer Institute designation for the University of Kansas Medical Center.

As National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility designated by the federal government, the University of Kansas Medical Center will receive $250 million to construct and operate a 100,000-square-foot research facility on the campus.

Giving an overview of the budget and personnel needs for the facility, Sen. Hensley said, “We are pleased to have been chosen by Congress to develop and operate the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility at our University of Kansas Medical Center.”

He added that the facility will be a “national asset” to advance research and development in the biosciences. The facility is expected to open in 2012 and will be home to 500 employees.

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He concluded by saying, “We are proud to have been chosen by Congress to develop and operate the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility at our University of Kansas Medical Center.”

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Other invited officials who attended the news conference and who were available for questions were: Dr. Roy Jensen, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center; Dr. Rob Denell, director of the Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research, Kansas State University; Dr. Ron Trewyn, vice president for research, Kansas State University; Dr. Sue Peterson, director of governmental relations, Kansas State University; Kathy Damron, director of state relations, University of Kansas; Chad Bettes, and Lindsay Holwick.
Kansas Bioscience Authority.