There is no doubt that having the state's two largest universities working together greatly enhances all kinds of research and commercial activities in Kansas.

It seems a bit odd, though, that the top administrators at Kansas State University and Kansas University had to sign a formal agreement this week to work together on obtaining a National Cancer Institute designation for the KU Cancer Center.

If such an agreement was necessary, why hadn't it been signed long ago? And was the memorandum of understanding broad enough to ensure cooperation between the two universities on other research and projects?

All those involved seemed in high spirits when the agreement was signed. KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway called it "an important day," and KSU President Jon Wefald joked that "When Wildcats and Jayhawks get together, good things happen."

Dr. Roy Jensen, director of the KU Cancer Center, said the agreement "synergizes" the KU Cancer Center and Kansas State's Terry Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research, making it easier for researchers at the two centers to work together on projects.

This is, indeed, a positive development, but one has to wonder why it took the two schools so long to take this step. It is known that KSU leaders did not think the KU administration was as helpful as they had hoped. In fact there were concerns that KU didn't want to give its full support to the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility at Kansas State because the project would handicap KU's drive for an NCI Cancer Center designation.

The rivalry between the schools has always been lively, especially in athletic competition. Most people who grew up in Kansas have at least some emotional attachment to one school over the other, but that shouldn't stand in the way of the two schools working together on projects of importance to the physical and economic health of Kansas and its residents.

Oh, well. Better late than never. The benefits of having the state pull together on projects like the NCI designation for KU and the NBAF at Kansas State are obvious...
Andra awarded scholarship

Based on their academic achievements in math studies, 18 undergraduates in the mathematics department have earned scholarships for the spring semester at the University of Kansas. Derby student Aaron Matthew Andra, junior in mathematics, son of Michael and Tina Andra, was awarded the Rollin S. Wade Memorial Scholarship. The $200 scholarship is renewable and designated for Kansas residents or graduates of Kansas high schools.
Sixty-two University of Kansas students have graduated from the 2009 LeaderShape Institute, sponsored and coordinated annually by the Student Involvement and Leadership Center.

Among those attending LeaderShape Institute were two Mulvane High School graduates. Jordan Cox, daughter of Karen and Brent Iverson is a sophomore in pre-secondary education. Caitlin Wise, daughter of Jackie and Forrest Wise is a sophomore in pre-business.

The six-day intensive program to develop leadership abilities was held Jan. 8-13 at the Tall Oaks Conference Center near Linwood.

During training, KU students work in groups to create ideas for projects, then refine goals, plans and implementation strategies to accomplish those ideas within their own organization, living group, community or workplace. They learn about leadership styles and work through simulations of situations they could face.
Pat Maloney of 116th District writes to constituents

As Dennis McKinney’s replacement for the 116th District, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative in Topeka.

Last Monday I was sworn into the House in a most impressive ceremony, and I was deeply moved and humbled as I suddenly faced the unique and momentous responsibility that has been placed in my hands. Very few have the opportunity to serve in this manner, and I hope to fulfill this responsibility with integrity and good common sense.

I would like to provide a brief synopsis of my background for those of you who are not familiar with me. I am a fourth generation farmer/rancher in this southern part of Kansas. My son has formed a partnership with me, becoming the fifth generation of the Maloney family in this business. My roots in this area run deep, as you can see. I am a product of all that this area represents, and I am proud of my heritage. I am committed to my business, my family, my community, my church and the many, many friends and acquaintances with which I have had contact both in the past and the present. I look forward to enlarging that circle of those whom I know.

I graduated from Kansas University with degrees in education and business, and prior to farming and ranching, I taught school for seven years. I have served as a member of the board of directors for such establishments as various coops, the local hospital, Horizon Mental Health, Citizens Bank, Farm Bureau, FHA, and financial and building committees for my church. I currently serve on the State of Kansas Agricultural Advisory Board. I hope that this background will help prepare me for the many difficult issues with which we will be dealing in the state legislature.

My first week in Topeka was a busy one and especially for a freshman representative. The Capitol renovation is in process. Therefore all legislators have been moved to the Docking Building for office space. Our committee meetings occur in both the Capitol Building and the Docking Building which requires a lot of walking. I have been placed on two very important committees for the 116th District—agriculture and transportation. However, during the first week most of the attention has been focused on the budget problems the State faces. This issue is the most important issue I think we will face. The outcome of the budget affects all other issues that will come before the legislature. On Monday the Governor announced her plan of selective cuts to balance the budget. The response was a 15% across-the-board cut. This has to be a bipartisan approach to solve our problems. This coming week bills will start surfacing and more information will be forthcoming.

As you can see, we have our work cut out for us over the next few months at the Capitol. The time has come to lead a real conversation about the challenges and responsibilities we face in Kansas. Vigorous debates lie ahead, but our most passionate debates are usually the most important. I welcome your feedback on these important issues or any other issue that impacts you and your family. This is the time for legislators to put aside political labels and do what’s best for Kansas. With hard work and dedication, we will transform the challenges of 2009 into new opportunities for 2010 and beyond.

It is a special honor to serve as your state representative. I value and need your input on the various issues facing state government. Please feel free to contact me with your comments and questions. My office address is room 761, Docking State Office Building, Topeka, KS 66612. You can reach me at (785) 296-7647 or call the legislative hotline at 1-800-432-3924 to leave a message for me. Additionally, you can e-mail me at pat.maloney@house.ks.gov. You can also follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org.
Seventeen area students are among the more than 4,600 undergraduates at the University of Kansas earning honor roll distinction for the fall semester.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Area students earning honors are:

Council Grove – Aric Aldrich, junior, Liberal Arts; Molly Aldrich, Pharmacy; Hall Baker, senior, Journalism and Liberal Arts; Abigail Frese, freshman, Liberal Arts and Fine Arts; Jacob Frese, senior, Liberal Arts; Benjamin Hornung, senior, Liberal Arts; Sara (Schamberger) Lansing, senior, Liberal Arts; Tasha Messer, freshman, Liberal Arts; Brenda Pracht, Pharmacy; Kaylee Sarratt, junior, Liberal Arts; and Jacob Smith, sophomore, Liberal Arts.

Alma – Chase Boucher, junior, Liberal Arts.

Cottonwood Falls – Carl Black, Pharmacy, and Noah Lock, junior, Liberal Arts.

Herington – Luke Brunner, sophomore, Liberal Arts; Ashlee Erickson, junior, Liberal Arts; and Taylor Erickson, junior, Liberal Arts.
TOPEKA (AP) — Former House Speaker Melvin Neufeld is defending his decision late last year to name himself to a key board overseeing the state’s biotechnology industry.

Neufeld, R-Ingalls, set a precedent in December when he nominated himself to the Kansas Bioscience Authority’s board. He did it shortly before giving up his appointment powers as House leader.

Now, he's working on legislation that would require give the Legislature greater power over the independent body's spending.

He said both his bill and his nomination are intended to remove political influence from the bioscience authority and other agencies in state government that support job creation. He also said neither move is linked to his claims that the authority is biased in favor of the University of Kansas and against Wichita State University.

"I’m trying to protect the economic development side because it’s being attacked severely by the governor," Neufeld said.
Suspected Drunk Driver Charged In Death

MERRIAM (AP) — Prosecutors have charged a 25-year-old suspected drunken driver in the death of a University of Kansas graduate student who was hit while helping push a disabled vehicle.

Merriam police have not released the name of the student.

Steven Cummins, of Shawnee, was arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter and driving under the influence shortly after the incident Saturday morning.

Police say the man and a friend were having car trouble and pushing the vehicle in the right hand lane when he was hit from behind by a Dodge Dakota pickup truck near Interstate 35 on Shawnee Mission Parkway.

The 23-year-old victim was declared dead at the scene. The other man in the car was taken to the hospital with minor injuries.
TOPEKA (AP) — Former House Speaker Melvin Neufeld is defending his decision late last year to name himself to a key board overseeing the state’s biotechnology industry.

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Area students named to KU fall honor roll

LAWRENCE—More than 4,600 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2008 semester. These students from KU's Lawrence campus and the schools of Allied Health and Nursing in Kansas City represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 40 other states and more than 40 other countries.

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

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled; some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Students from this area earning honor roll distinction include the following:

CLYDE—Sherlynn A. Calteux, daughter of Kerry and Gilda Calteux, Liberal Arts undergraduate junior, Fall Honor Roll Cairo American College APO AE; Jamie George, daughter of Michael and Barbara George, Education undergraduate senior, 2008 Fall Honor Roll; Jesse Lundquist, Liberal Arts undergraduate Senior 2008 Fall Honor Roll.

CONCORDIA—Spencer Brown, son of Bruce and Irene Brown, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1 2008 Fall Honor Roll; Jonelle Forshee, daughter of John and Debra Forshee, Education Undergraduate senior, 2008 Fall Honor Roll; Devin A. Lowell, son of Jim and Lori Lowell, Liberal Arts, undergraduate senior, 2008 Fall Honor Roll; Jamie R. Paul, daughter of Mark and Elaine Paul, Business undergraduate senior, 2008 Fall Honor Roll; Melissa Peltier, daughter of Max and Ladonna Peltier, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, 2008 Fall Honor Roll; Nicholas Sprague, son of David and Kimberly Sprague, Fine Arts undergraduate senior, 2008 Fall Honor Roll.

MILTONVALE—Eileen Remley, daughter of Patricia and James Remley, Liberal Arts undergraduate sophomore, 2008 Fall Honor Roll.
Area KU students make honor roll

LAWRENCE — More than 4,600 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2008 semester. These students, from KU’s Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing in Kansas City, Kan., represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 40 other states and more than 40 other countries.

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McPherson County students named to the fall 2008 honor roll:

- Canton: April Diane Westbrook, daughter of Marvin and Darla Westbrook, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Canton-Galva High School
- Inman: Bryce A Martens, son of Jerry Martens, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, Inman High School; Meredith June Sourk, daughter of Linda Sourk, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Freshman, Buhler High School
- Lindsborg: Rachel Ann Norland, daughter of Gretchen and Randy Norland, Fine Arts Undergraduate, Sophomore, Smoky Valley High School; Megan Jill Amos, Female - Allied Health, Undergraduate Senior; Elena Anne Larson, daughter of Lee and Kim Larson, Education Undergraduate Senior, Smoky Valley High School; Thea Catherine Perry, daughter of Mark and Nancy
Ohlde, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Junior, Smoky Valley High School; Chantz Palmer Thomas, son of Greg and Lorye Thomas, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Junior, Smoky Valley High School

*McPherson Anna Archer, daughter of Richard and Jill Archer, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Freshman, McPherson High School; Lindsay Dawn Bohonik, daughter of Nick and Virginia Bohonik, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Andrew James Claassen, son of Samuel Claassen, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore, McPherson High School; Emily J. Copeland, daughter of Bill and Sheri Copeland, Fine Arts Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Meghan Dianne Cotton, daughter of Kenneth and Michelle Cotton, Business Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Brady Scott Crist, son of Jeff and Dani Crist, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore, McPherson High School; Jamie D Crist, son of Jeff and Dani Crist, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Amy Jennifer Do, daughter of Trung and Mai Lam Do, Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, McPherson High School; Julia Michaela Johanna Groeblacher, daughter of Michaela Groeblacher, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Brianna Lauren Hambley, daughter of Michael and Teresa Hambley, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Junior, McPherson High School; Hunter Michael Hess, son of Gary and Fern Hess, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore, McPherson High School; Michelle Ann Khan, daughter of Sal and Jauna Khan, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Jacey Kate Krehbiel, daughter of Ken and Cheri Krehbiel, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Freshman, Moundridge High School; James Gregory Loving, son of James and Dawn Loving, Engineering Undergraduate Sophomore, McPherson High School; Renee N. Morgan, Female - Nursing Undergraduate Junior, McPherson High School; Joshua Zev Nathan, son of Kirsten Zerger and Sandy Nathan, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Junior, Moundridge High School; Jill Marie Nowak, daughter of Brett and Debbie Nowak, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Sophomore, McPherson High School; Callie Elizabeth Reber, daughter of Brett and Kathryn Reber, Business Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Joseph E. Reber, son of Brett and Kathryn Reber, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Freshman, McPherson High School; Kiya Nicole Richter, daughter of Allison Gullborg and Matthew Richter, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Wiley Lewis Shearhart, son of Jerry Shearhart, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Dale Joshua Snell, son of Glen and Kerri Snell, Business Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School; Alison Thanh Vo, daughter of Muoi Ly and Tim Vo, Pharmacy Professional Senior, McPherson High School; Joel David Wagoner, son of Bruce and Barbara Wagoner, Fine Arts Undergraduate Junior, McPherson High School; Ethan Sheppard Walker, Male - Nursing Undergraduate Senior, Max D. Wick, son of Robert and Connie Wick, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior, McPherson High School

Moundridge: Holly Nicole Parry, daughter of Dennis and Linda Parry, Pharmacy Professional Junior, Ellsworth High School

To see the list of students, visit www.news.ku.edu/2008/february/5/fall8honor.shtml