New Kansas treasurer faces questions on governor’s race

Greensburg native said he gained greater appreciation for compassion and faith from 2007 tornado experience

John Hanna
AP Political Writer

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He sought to avoid speculation about whether he’ll try to succeed Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a fellow Democrat, and focused instead on the treasurer’s office. Even one supporter who’d been promoting him for governor said McKinney should try to remain treasurer instead.

McKinney, from Greensburg, was appointed by Sebelius to fill a vacancy in the treasurer’s office after serving nearly six years as Kansas House minority leader. The treasurer’s office had been held by Republican Lynn Jenkins, who won a seat in Congress last year.

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McKinney also discussed the May 2007 tornado that destroyed most of Greensburg, including his home. He said he’d grown up in a “pull yourself up by your own bootstraps” climate but recalled standing in a gym full of neighbors who’d lost their homes in the tornado.

“And we had to admit to ourselves and admit to others that we had to have help,” he said.

“From that lesson, I gained a much greater appreciation of compassion and faith.”

But the ceremony for McKinney was overshadowed by last week’s announcement by Lt. Gov. Mark Parkinson that he wouldn’t run for elective office in 2010. Many Democrats had considered Parkinson their leading candidate for governor.

Sebelius, serving her second term, is barred by the Kansas Constitution from running again. Many Democrats assumed she picked Parkinson for her re-election ticket in 2006 to groom him for governor.

She told reporters that she didn’t know in 2006 that Parkinson wouldn’t run for governor in 2010.

“And I don’t think he did either,” she said. “It’s evolved over time.”

Parkinson was a former Kansas Republican Party chairman who switched parties to run with Sebelius.

“I knew I was interested in being lieutenant governor, and I didn’t know if I would run for governor or not,” he said Monday.

Parkinson doesn’t command as much loyalty within the Democratic Party as Sebelius because of his party switch. Last year, some Democrats were talking up McKinney as a candidate.

Rep. L. Candy Ruff, a Leavenworth Democrat, is a strong admirer of McKinney. On Monday, she praised his work as House minority leader and called him “the future of our party.”

But Ruff said many McKinney supporters want him to run for a full, four-year term as treasurer in 2010.

“These things take time,” she said. “Whether we like it or not, running for statewide office, especially running for governor, is all about the money. Those things aren’t easily pulled together.”

Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist who formerly served on Sebelius’ staff, was skeptical of McKinney’s prospects as a gubernatorial candidate, particularly in vote-rich Johnson County.

Loomis said a Democratic candidate probably will need to raise between $6 million and $7 million. On the Republican side, Sen. Sam Brownback has formed a gubernatorial campaign committee and Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh is seeking the GOP nomination.

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Christian Morgan, the state GOP’s executive director, also was skeptical.

“We’ve got to see how he does as treasurer,” Morgan said.

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And McKinney himself said: “My first job is to be a good state treasurer.”

“If I don’t do well in this job, then I don’t run for anything later on,” he said after his swearing in. “I’m worried about doing a good job now with the job I have.”

County: Neosho
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KU announces fall candidates

The University of Kansas’ Office of the Registrar has released the names of more than 1,600 candidates for the fall 2008 semester.

Because KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year, many students graduating in the fall or summer terms will return for the traditional walk down the hill and into Memorial Stadium on Sunday, May 17, 2009.

Students from the local area that received their degrees based on work completed during the fall semester were:

Keegan Andrew Begley, Andover High graduate, bachelor of arts in biology.

Lauren Brooke Siemens, Circle High graduate, bachelor of arts in human biology.

Jennifer Lynn Mackay, Douglass High graduate, bachelor of fine arts.
Area students receive scholarships

More than 6,500 students at the University of Kansas will receive an estimated $29.6 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2008-09 academic year. This represents a $1.9 million increase over the 2007-08 academic year, in which KU students received $27.7 million in scholarships, fellowships and awards.

Scholarship recipients from this area include:

Lenora:
- Annette M. Becker, daughter of John and Ann Becker, English BA, Sophomore, Howard Reed Sailors, Thelma Sophia Ally Sailors Scholarship, Bill and Alice Smiley Scholarship Fund, Dane G. Hansen Fund
- Mathew James Lawrence Shepard, son of Paul Shepard, Economics BA, Sophomore, Edwin Emery Slosson Scholarship in Science, Dane G. Hansen Fund;

Norton:
- Kayleigh Jo Brooks, daughter of Dennis Brooks and Debbie Graham, Pre-Pharmacy, Sophomore, Emily V. Berger Scholarship
- Regan Charles Lofgreen, son of Dennie and Joyce Lofgreen, Pharmacy PD, Prof 1, George Guy Hall Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy;
- Maggie Lynn Nielsen, daughter of Jeff and Kathy Nielsen, Pre-Medicine, Sophomore, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship
- Amie Leanne Richard, daugh-

of honored students, visit www. news.ku.edu/2008/december/19/ scholarships.shtml.

"It's rewarding to look across KU and realize that thousands of our students are here because of scholarship support provided by donors," said Dale Seufferling, president of KU Endowment. "Endowed scholarships span the generations, enabling students to earn degrees at KU and move on to productive careers. For many of these students, these accomplishments would not have been possible without scholarship support provided by generations of KU alumni and friends."

In the past five years, KU Endowment has provided more than $118 million in scholarships, fellowships and awards to KU students.
Atchison receives private scholarships

Special to the Globe

More than 6,500 students at the University of Kansas will receive an estimated $39.6 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2008-09 academic year. This represents a $1.9 million increase over the 2007-08 academic year, in which KU students received $27.7 million in scholarships, fellowships and awards.

So far, 8,555 scholarships have been awarded for the current academic year. This year’s recipients represent 103 of the 105 counties in Kansas, including Atchison and bordering counties.
KU awards $29.6 million in scholarship support to students for 2008-09

In the past five years, KU Endowment has provided more than $118 million in scholarships, fellowships and awards to KU students.

The following local students received scholarships: Lori Kay Yearout, Lake City, Kansas, daughter of Keith and Eva Yearout, Biology BS, Freshman; Ellis D. Bever Undergraduate Scholarship; Rachael Dawn Brungardt, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, Medicine MD Prof 1 School of Medicine Scholarships; Alexandra Rae Ferguson, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, daughter of Gail and Max Ferguson, Unified Early Childhood BSE, Sophomore; Lester Suhler, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, Memorial Scholarship; Mattie Layne Sheldon, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, daughter of Miles and Linda Sheldon, Pre-Journalism, Freshman, C. R. Krimminger Scholarship; Kolton Wade Stimpert, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, son of Renee Ricke Mechanical Engineering BS, Freshman; Edward W. Lehnhoff, Jr., Medicine Lodge, Kansas, Engineering Scholarship; Kelli J. Swayden, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, Nursing MS Graduate; Melva Jean Hatfield, Medicine Lodge, Kansas, - John Wettig Scholarship in Nursing; Shawn Joseph Schaller, Nashville, Kansas, son of James and Cynthia Schaller, Pre-Journalism, Freshman, Clark A. Wallace Scholarship.

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Virtually all scholarships, fellowships and awards at KU come from private contributions to KU Endowment. So far, 8,555 scholarships have been awarded for the current academic year. Many students receive more than one scholarship. KU divides many scholarships between the fall and spring semesters, and there are some students who receive scholarship support for the summer term as well.

This year’s recipients represent 103 of the 105 counties in Kansas, 45 other states and Puerto Rico and 45 other countries. To see the list of honored students, visit www.news.ku.edu/2008/december/19/scholarships.shtml.

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In the past five years, KU Endowment has provided more than $118 million in scholarships, fellowships and awards to KU students. Donors created 43 new endowed scholarships in fiscal 2008, with gifts totaling $12.3 million.

Though KU Endowment raises support for scholarships and other student aid, the university determines the distribution of available support. The figure fluctuates each year based on several factors, such as the number of students who apply for and receive them, the investment performance of endowed scholarship funds and new gifts for scholarships.

Scholarship funds are managed by KU Endowment, the independent, nonprofit organization serving as the official fundraising and fund-management organization for KU. Founded in 1891, KU Endowment is the first foundation of its kind at a U.S. public university.


Other countries represented: Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Vietnam.
Area students earn scholarships

More than 6,500 students at the University of Kansas will receive an estimated $29.6 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2008-09 academic year. This represents a 81.9 million increase over the 2007-08 academic year, in which KU students received $27.7 million in scholarships, fellowships and awards.

From Moscow receiving scholarships are Brandi Laura Broaddus for PharmacyPD Prof 1 from Roland T. Beard Scholarship, Nontraditional Undergraduate Student Scholarship, Lillabelle and John Burroughs Stahl Scholarship, James L. and Gladys B. Sharp Scholarship, Florence Hague Memorial, Daniel Seward Lashelle Fund, and Bonnie Barnes Ware Scholarship.

From Hugoton receiving scholarships are Trista M Nordyke daughter of Stachia and Derrick Nordyke Senior School of Nursing Scholarships; and Savannah Thomas daughter of Alan and Rhonda Thomas Pre-Education Secondary Freshman Rock Chalk Ball Academic Excellence - Alumni Association.

From Rolla is Chelsea Marie Gallagher daughter of Debora and Thomas Gallagher ChemistryBS Freshman James R. Ketchum Scholarship.

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KU awards scholarships to Scott City, Leoti students

Ten area students are recipients of scholarships from the University of Kansas for the 2008-09 school year.

Scholarship recipients from Scott City include:

  - Clinton Gechter, senior, architectural engineering; Ethan Gecher, freshman, pre-sport science/community health; Logan Numrich, freshman, pre-pharmacy; Aaron Steele, pharmacy; Ragen Strube, senior, pharmacy; Ross Strube, sophomore, petroleum engineering; Jennifer Thomas, senior, social work; and Zach Winter, general practitioner.

  Scholarship recipients from Leoti are:

  - Tyson Mullen, school of pharmacy; and Alejandro Rodriguez, sophomore, architecture.

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Melissa Rosin is among 147 new members initiated into Phi Kappa Phi honor society at the University of Kansas.

At KU only the top 10 percent of seniors, top 7.5 percent of second-semester juniors with more than 72 credit hours and top 10 percent of graduate students are asked to join.

Majoring in occupational therapy, she is the daughter of Dr. Robert Rosin and Kristi Schmitt, Scott City.