Students included in honor society

The Kansas University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi honor society has initiated 147 student members, including several from the Shawnee area. Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviére was the keynote speaker at the Dec. 2 ceremony at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest and largest all-discipline academic honor society. KU established its chapter in 1975. Today, there are about 300 members.

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.

New student members from the area include Lauren Hartmann Foster, Lake Quivira; Bennett J. Berning, Shawnee; Elizabeth Kirwan McClain, Shawnee; Erin M. Racki, Shawnee; Amanda Leigh Stasi, Shawnee; and Holly Joann Tenute, Shawnee.
Attorney General To Host Student Consumer Workshops

Attorney General Steve Six will host two student consumer workshops for Kansas high school students during National Consumer Protection Week in early March. The workshops will educate students about consumer issues before they head out on their own.

The first workshops of this kind hosted by the Attorney General’s Office—one at the University of Kansas and one at Kansas State University—will focus on teaching students financial skills to succeed in life.

"Consumer protection is a priority for the Attorney General’s Office," Six said. "During National Consumer Protection Week in March, my office will host two workshops for students to teach them the skills necessary to become smart consumers when they leave home."

Each workshop will consist of multiple presentations from public speakers, including Attorney General Six.

"It is important that our children learn the ins and outs of being a smart consumer early," Six said. "Hopefully, these workshops will make students better equipped to make important financial choices, protect their identities, and maintain good credit throughout their adult life."

The workshops will be held at KU on March 3 and at KSU on March 6. The topics will include: the ABC’s of personal finance, Contracts: a foreign language, Student Loan Practices, Protecting your Identity and other issues affecting today’s students.

"I encourage students to join me for this learning opportunity," Six said. "I also encourage teachers and school officials to share this opportunity with their students. By teaching students more about financial literacy early, we can protect their credit in the future."

Information on the workshops has been disseminated to all high schools across the state. The registration information is also available online at www.ksag.org.
On first day as treasurer, McKinney asked about future bid for governor

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Dennis McKinney took office Monday as state treasurer but immediately faced questions about whether he’s now the leading Democratic contender for governor in 2010.

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.

Dozens of family, friends, legislators and other state officials, including Sebelius, watched McKinney take the oath of office. It was administered by the magistrate judge of his home county.

“If we stand together as neighbors, if we keep our faith in God and make our decisions with compassion, then we can say with the Apostle Paul that we may be hard pressed, but we are not crushed,” he said.

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 to run 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.

"I just think it's a very hard sell," Loomis said of McKinney.

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

"We've got to see how he does as treasurer," Morgan said.
"Arguably, he's already biting off more than he can chew."

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."
Steffen initiated into KU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi

LAWRENCE — Alyssa Lane Steffen, a junior strategic communications major from Winfield, has been initiated into the University of Kansas chapter of Phi Kappa Phi honor society along with 146 other students.

Steffen, a graduate of Winfield High School, is a daughter of Rodger and Marcie Steffen of Winfield.

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere was the keynote speaker at the Dec. 2 ceremony at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Two faculty members also were inducted into the KU chapter: Arienne Dwyer, associate professor of anthropology, and John Gaunt, dean of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

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Phi Kappa Phi’s primary objectives are to promote the pursuit of excellence in all fields of higher education and to recognize outstanding achievement by students, faculty and others by election to membership and through various awards for distinguished achievement.

Chapter officers are Marlesia Roney, vice provost for Student Success, president; Angela Lumpkin, professor of health, sport and exercise science, vice president; Adolfo Matamoros, associate professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering, secretary; James Miller, associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, treasurer; David Darwin, the Deane E. Ackers Distinguished Professor of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, engineering scholarships and awards coordinator; Jill Hummels, public relations director for the School of Engineering, public relations officer; and Reta Solwa, senior administrative associate in the civil, environmental and architectural engineering department, administrator.
LAWRENCE

KU ANNOUNCES FALL GRADUATES

The names of more than 1,600 candidates for degrees for the fall 2008 semester at the University of Kansas have been announced by the Office of the Registrar.

Graduate and undergraduate degrees are conferred in December based on work completed during the fall 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 May 17.

Those from the area to graduate are Kelsie DeNaze Clark of Chapman, Bachelor of General Studies/Theatre and Film, and Matthew Brett Hoover of Junction City, Bachelor of Science in Education.

Clark is the daughter of Debby and James Clark. Hoover is the son of Ann and Justin Hoover.
KU awards $29.6 million in scholarship support to students for 2008–09

LAWRENCE — 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. 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.

“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 Seufertling, 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. 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.

Wichita County was represented alongside several other counties, states, and countries. Students honored from Wichita County include:

Tyson Wade Mullen, son of Kevin and Kathy Mullen, Pharmacy PD Major; Prof 1, Plough Pharmacy Student Scholarship; Terry Merriweather Memorial Scholarship and School of Pharmacy Scholarships.

Alejandro Rodriguez, son of Rosaura Ortega, Professional Master of Arch Major, Sophomore William and Winifred Hoffmann Scholarship.
Rice County students receive scholarships

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Local students receiving scholarships are Chelsee Jo Poskey, daughter of Mitch and Sheree Poskey of Chase, freshman in pre-education elementary; Ellis D. Beever Undergraduate Scholarship; Christopher W. Hogan, son of Karmi and Randy Blumahurst of Lyons, nurse anesthesia MS graduate, Helen M. Sims Memorial Allied Health; Joshua Adam Bender, son of Mike and Diane Bender of Sterling, juris doctor JD prof 2, Al J. and Sylvia Herrold Law Scholarship and Glen W. Dickinson Scholarship in Law; Melissa Megan Conard of Sterling, nursing MS graduate, Melva Jean Hatfield-John Wetting Scholarship in Nursing; Trisha Lyn Jackson, daughter of Sharlyn Thode of Sterling, geography PHD graduate, Mary C. Breakey Scholarship; Audra Linden of Sterling, Juris Doctor JD prof 1, Evelyn, Richard and Blanche Thompson Fund and Bernard E. Nordling Law Scholarship; and Joseph William Stromberg, son of Mac and Jill Stromberg, biochemistry BA freshman, Orin A. Weede Scholarship.

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KU announces fall 2008 graduates

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Five of KU's 13 colleges and schools conducted recognition programs or hooding ceremonies last month to honor those planning to graduate at the end of the semester: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Engineering, the School of Law and the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications.


There are no degree candidates from the following Kansas counties: Barber, Bourbon, Brown, Chase, Cheyenne, Clark, Comanche, Decatur, Elk, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Greenwood, Hamilton, Haskell, Jewell, Kingman, Lincoln, Linn, Logan, Meade, Morris, Morton, Ness, Norton, Pawnee, Phillips, Republic, Rice, Rush, Scott, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Stanton, Sumner, Trego, Wallace, Washington, Wichita and Woodson.

McPherson County students participating in the fall 2008 commencement ceremonies:

Lindsborg: Ian D. Johnson, son of Warren Johnson, Design BFA Senior Bachelor of Fine Arts/Design Smoky Valley High School; Elena Anne Larson, daughter of Lee and Kim Larson, Sport Science BSE Senior Bachelor of Science in Education Smoky Valley High School
McPherson: Mark Philip Crist, son of Kevin and Mary Crist, Biology BS Senior Bachelor of Science in Biology McPherson High School; Timothy C. Houghton, son of Dennis and Betty Houghton, Biochemistry BA Senior Bachelor of Arts/Biochemistry McPherson High School; Dale Joshua Snell, son of Glen and Kerri Snell, Accounting BSB Senior Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting & Bachelor of Science in Business McPherson High School
Moundridge: Tara Shae Unrau, daughter of Vance and Candy Unrau, Marketing BSB Senior Bachelor of Science in Business/Marketing Moundridge High School

Lawrence: Heather Ann Anderson, Strategic Communications BSJ Senior Bachelor of Science in Journalism McPherson High School; Christopher Robert Jones, Geology BA Senior Bachelor of Arts/Geology McPherson High School
McKinney touted as prospect for governor

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The treasurer's office became vacant when Republican Lynn Jenkins, won a seat in Congress last year.

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