New University of Kansas students and their parents from Shawnee County will be welcomed into the KU family at the Jayhawk Generations Welcome Picnic at 6:30 p.m., July 23, in Topeka.

The KU Alumni Association and its Topeka chapter will greet the next generation of Jayhawks at the Gage Park Westlake Shelter, 635 S.W. Gage Blvd. Area alumni, new students, students interested in learning more about KU and parents are invited to attend and enjoy complimentary food and beverages. Each new Jayhawk will also receive a free T-shirt.

Larry Tenipor of Topeka, chapter steering committee member, is coordinating the event. Alumni association staff will arrive with the signature KU trailer full of grills, burgers and brats for the festivities. Current KU students, alumni and university representatives will mix and mingle with students to answer questions and offer advice.

Alumni association representatives who will attend include Jennifer Alderdice, director for student programs; Jill Miller, director of Kansas City programs; and Heath Peterson, director for Kansas programs.

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.kualumni.org, call the KU Alumni Association at (800) 584-2957 or e-mail kualumni@kualumni.org.

The alumni association invited incoming students whose enrollment deposits were received by the Office of Admissions and Scholarships by May 1. Rossville High graduates invited are Sean Reskey, Marc Roth, Patrick Salsbury and Christopher Seele. Silver Lake High graduates invited are Danielle Bulson, Christina Carter, Caitlin Grant, Brian Hill, Nicolas Miller and Brooke Stebbins.
Kansas' bioscience vision coming in to clearer focus with consideration of Manhattan site

By JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press Writer

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In the late 1990s, Kansas State University made the decision to build on its strengths in plant and animal research and focus on becoming a national — if not global — leader in bioscience. It meant concentrating efforts and resources on those departments, assembling an accomplished staff and making the case for increased state and federal research dollars.

The site on the north side of Kansas State’s main campus was one of five announced by the Department of Homeland Security as a possibility for the new $451 million NBAF center.

Other sites still in the running are in Texas, North Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia. Originally, 18 sites in 12 states — including the San Francisco Bay Area's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — were considered by Homeland Security.

The federal facility is scheduled to start operating in 2013-14. Officials estimate the federal facility would generate 1,500 construction jobs, up to 500 scientific jobs and $3.5 billion over 20 years.

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Central to that was building new research centers at Kansas State, the University of Kansas and Wichita State University.

“We saw the opportunity to create jobs in Kansas by recruiting bioscience firms to our state,” Sebelius said. “So in 2004, we made a commitment to make Kansas a leader in bioscience research by building on our existing assets and by creating the Bioscience Authority. The Authority allows us to focus our efforts and show bioscience firms and the federal government the advantages of choosing Kansas.”

Kansas State will open its Bioscience Research Institute this fall, capable of handling many of the same tasks that would be conducted at the NBAF site. That means there would be a smooth transition from the current aging Plum Island, N.Y., site to Manhattan. And it gives federal officials options, either expanding the BRI or building a new facility on adjacent ground.

House Speaker Melvin Neufeld said the announcement shows that others outside Kansas see the state’s potential.

Such a center would complement and expand the work of the Biosecurity Research Institute, a state-of-the-art bio-research facility at Kansas State, as well as the numerous plant and animal companies already located in our state,” said Neufeld, R-Ingalls.

Legislators passed three measures during the 2007 session to pave the way for landing the lab. One created an interagency working group to coordinate efforts, a second conveyed land at Kansas State to the federal government to build the facility, while a resolution (See: Bioscience, page 6)
pledged the Legislature’s full support to do everything necessary to make the project a reality.

Everyone remains on board and focused for the next round of deliberations before the NBAF decision is final. Wefald and his staff are confident that if politics don’t enter the process, Kansas State should win the competition.

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That might be a stretch, but landing the NABF lab could have the same lasting impact on Kansas and its economy for the next 100 years as the day Clyde Cessna and Walter Beech started putting together airframes in that little old cowtown called Wichita.
CLOSER TO FRUITION

KANSAS' BIOSCIENCE VISION COMING INTO CLEARER FOCUS

BY JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press Writer

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Please see BIO-SCIENCE, page 5
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Bioscience vision coming into focus

By JOHN MILBURN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Kansas has new poet laureate

By Laura McHugh
Lawrence Journal-World

EMPORIA, Kan. (AP) — As a child growing up in Emporia, Denise Low dreamed of becoming a painter, but admits she never had the opportunity — or the talent.

Instead, she learned to create images with words.

“I constantly think about writing. It’s always in the back of my mind,” the interim dean of humanities and art at Haskell Indian Nations University said.

And Low uses what’s in front of her to create poetry with a regional flavor and a deep respect for nature.

“She’s a Kansas native. She uses the land and history to convey very profound thoughts about what it means to be alive now” in 21st century Kansas, Crain said.

Recently, Low began a two-year appointment as poet laureate. The title comes with a $5,000 annual honorarium to help cover travel costs and other expenses.

“I think that people are hungry to understand and feel good about their place in the world,” she said.

Low, of Lawrence, hopes to feed that hunger with large helpings of home-made poems. Well-versed on other poets from the Sunflower State — both living and deceased — Low plans to put the spotlight on them during her term.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius created the poet laureate’s position in 2004, charging that person with developing a greater appreciation for writing and poetry among all Kansans.

““This is the literary culture of this area, and I think it needs to be celebrated and recognized more fully,” Low said.

Among other ideas, Low admits she has a “not-too-hidden ecological agenda.”

Nature, and the human relationship to it, is a recurring theme in her poems.

“People need to respect and interact with and have many kinds of relationships with nature, and these words are a vehicle for that,” Low said.

Since she was selected as poet laureate in December, Low said she’s received many e-mails from aspiring poets asking for critiques and advice. She said beginning writers must learn to look at the world around them.

“Not many people care about your lost love, your dead dog or what you had for breakfast, but people do share an environment,” Low said. “But you’d be surprised how many people are out there writing poems.”
Fantasy leagues playing to broader interests

By JONATHAN ABRAMS
Los Angeles Times


But Brandon Smith was psyched, even though he knew next to nothing about the Antitrust Modernization Commission Extension Act of 2007. Smith, a 24-year-old law student from Brooklyn, is an avid "fantasy" Congress player. It's a game similar to fantasy baseball and football leagues, but in this league, players draft teams of representatives and senators, and earn points depending on how well their bills survive the political gauntlet.

When the bill passed, Conyers' little-known coup earned Smith a whopping 50 points and vaulted him into his league's lead.

"It may seem weird to get excited about this type of stuff in the abstract, but it's the same way that in fantasy sports, I can get excited about random stats ...," Smith said.

Fantasy sports leagues still dominate the genre, but more and more leagues aimed at other interests are lighting up U.S. computers.

Instead of picking the NFL's top running back, how about a fantasy husband? There's a Web site for that, along with fantasy leagues centered on celebrities and Hollywood blockbusters.

"People have always enjoyed taking ownership of the things they are into recreationally, and the Internet has made that more and more accessible to more people," said Nancy Baym, associate professor of communication studies at the University of Kansas.

An estimated 15 million to 18 million people manage fantasy sports teams, according to a study conducted by the Fantasy Sports Trade Association. Revenue is raised through participation fees in the $2-billion industry, and 90 percent of the participants are men, the study found.

But Andrew Lee felt left out of the action in his cramped Claremont McKenna College dorm three years ago.

His roommate, Eric Chow, kept screaming "boo yay," during a Monday Night Football game between the New England Patriots and Denver Broncos. A fantasy football victory, a week's worth of strategy and trash talking with friends, rested on the game's outcome.

Lee, then a freshman, lost his concentration while scrolling a political blog. And then, something dawned on him.

"I thought that if there was a way for people to relate to Congress as much as they can to sports, then it would make for a better government and more-informed nation," Lee said.

So, he crafted Fantasy Congress. Users draft a mixture of senators and representatives — each league can establish a different cap on draft picks — to play for colorful teams like "Barack 'N' Roll," "The Obamainators," and "FDR's Revenge." Seasons last the length of Congress' two-year cycles.

"My first thought was that it was a cool idea," said Arjun Lall, 21, who along with three other friends poured hours into creating the league with Lee.

"My second thought was, 'who would play this?'"

Actually, many people. The league has attracted more than 66,000 users since its inception last October.

Most points are earned through steps in the legislative process. If a player's political draftee introduces a bill into Congress, a player earns five points. The further the bill goes, the more points a player receives, and if the bill is signed into law, players earn 50 points.

A new feature allows teams to earn points for positive media coverage and lose them for getting slammed in the press — the fantasy football equivalent of a quarterback throwing an interception.

Smith, the law student with political aspirations and a fantasy sports junkie, said the appeal of participating in something that combined two of his interests was intriguing.

And just like in fantasy sports, there is a good deal of strategy involved.

"At first I thought of picking Obama, but then I decided he was going to be on the campaign trail too much and not paying attention to legislation," Smith said.

"Instead, I took Sen. David Vitter, R-La., a rising star that a lot of people don't know, and it's paying dividends."


"Well, as a staffer, I can attest to the game's accuracy," said Michael McQuerry, Jackson-Lee's spokesman.

"This is fun, but at the same time it goes to show you that some people are paying attention to Congress."

Like Lee's start, many other fantasy leagues began out of frustration over men's fascination with sports.

Erica Salmon called herself a sports widow because her husband, Neil, spent so much time checking his fantasy sports team online. She joked with friends, saying she should start a league that interested her. Event-
fully the jokes turned into discussions and the discussions turned into the Fantasy Fashion League.

"A lot of women say 'I don't bug my husband now, because I can understand what he is going through,'" said Salmon, 32, of Philadelphia.

In the league, which debuted in the fall of 2005, combinations of celebrities and designers earn points every time they appear on a magazine cover or walk the red carpet at an awards show. The more exposure, the more points a player receives.

Those who accumulate the most points by the Academy Awards win their league.

"Some people are causal, but we play every day," said Jennifer Hayes, 33, of Missouri City, Texas, who drafted Chanel with her top pick. "We get together for all the parties and make a day of it."

Kim Cramer, a baseball fan, enjoys watching sports but couldn't picture herself poring over statistics enough to join a league. So she asked herself, what are the topics women bond over as much as men and sports?

"Men and relationships," Cramer said. Hence, fantasy husband was born.

In Fantasy Husband, users select three men profiled on the site. Each week, the real men are asked how they would respond to a fictionalized-relationship problem. Past scenarios include the wife wants a tummy tuck, but the budget doesn't allow for it. Or the wife says that she was embarrassed by her husband's obnoxious behavior at a company function, but does the husband truly care?

Players earn points, assigned by a social worker and a marriage counselor, based on how the men respond to that week's dilemma. Ten points are awarded for a response that rates calling a divorce attorney, and the ideal response nets 100 points.

The newer fantasy leagues are "a new way to target another demographic and expand the industry a little more, especially in the female demographic," said Jeff Thomas, president of the Fantasy Sports Trade Association.

But for fantasy trailblazers like Salmon, the site has a more practical result. "My husband is always telling people that the Fantasy Fashion League is saving marriages," she said. "Wives don't care how much time their husband is researching fantasy football because she is sitting next to him researching Versace."

Andrew Lee, left, Ryan Wilson and Arjun Lall, seniors at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif., are among the creators of Fantasy Congress, which has attracted more than 66,000 users since its inception last October.
The ag health corridor

NBAF would be latest addition to the growing regional focus

Staff and wire reports

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KSU President Jon Wefald believes Manhattan has a strong chance to win the competition. But even if that doesn't happen, Wefald is confident that Kansas is now at that elite level in bioscience research.

The corridor stretching from Manhattan to Kansas City — and east to Columbia, Mo., has the highest concentration of animal health companies in the world. They account for nearly a third of all dollars spent on animal health in the world. In addition, Kansas is a global leader in production of wheat and beef. Locating the lab would complement the long-standing tradition of Kansas agriculture and put researchers within a country mile of those who depend on food safety and security for their livelihoods.

Furthering the development of the corridor as an animal health megaplex, K-State and the Kansas Bioscience Authority recently unveiled plans for a $150 million research campus to be built in Olathe. Officials say the development could include more than a dozen buildings, enroll up to 3,000 students and bring more than 3,000 high-paying jobs to Kansas City.

The university expects the center initially to emphasize biofuels and animal health, with the possibility of expanding to food safety as the campus grows. The land for the site was donated by the Olathe, but K-State must raise the remaining $100 million it will take to finish the project, a task for which it is mounting a campaign.

Eventually university and area officials hope it will kickstart the proposed Johnson County Education and Research Triangle, which is modeled after the North Carolina Research Triangle that includes Duke University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina.

The triangle would include and expanded University of Kansas Edwards Campus in Overland Park, a KU Cancer Research Center in northeast Johnson County, and opportunities for MidAmerica Nazarene University's forensic programs.
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in that little old cowtown called Wichita.

Milburn has covered state government for The Associated Press since 2001.
A University of Kansas graphic design student will be featured in an upcoming issue of Creative Quarterly after winning the top prize in the magazine’s most recent competition.

Amy Rottinghaus, a junior from Baileyville who is majoring in visual communications/ graphic design at KU, won Best in Show in the graphic design category for her Tech Girl Bookcovers.

Creative Quarterly is a nationally distributed magazine for college art and design students. Contest entries are judged by leading professionals in fine arts, graphic design, illustration and photography.

“I am excited and honored to receive this award, and I think a lot of credit goes to KU’s strong graphic design program and faculty,” said Rottinghaus.

Rottinghaus is the daughter of Bob and Annette Rottinghaus and is a graduate of B&B High School in Baileyville.

“We are extremely proud of Amy, and this award reinforces our position of providing the best design education for our students,” said Greg Thomas, chair of the Department of Design.
More than 4,690 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester.

These students, from the Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., represent 99 of 105 Kansas counties, 44 other states and the District of Columbia and 37 other countries.

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


Baileyville: Amy L Rottinghaus, daughter of Bob and Annette Rottinghaus; Laura A Rottinghaus, daughter of Bob and Annette Rottinghaus.

Goff: Jennifer Lyn Flenthrope, daughter of William and Milinda Sperfslage; Ella Fun-Reznicek, daughter of Mary Fund and Edward Reznicek. Phillipe John Manning, son of Joan and Roger Haverkamp.

Sabetha: Krista Lee Lierz, daughter of Gary and Brenda Lierz; Brandon Lee Lukert; Tyler Simpson.

Seneca: Jamie Lynn Bergman, daughter of Diane Brown and Francis Bergman; Tara Bergman, daughter of Diane Brown and Frank Bergman; Debra Kay Olberding, daughter of Larry and Betty Olberding; Mary Elizabeth Showman, daughter of Jason and Karen Showman.