Military, academia building bridges in light of war

An AP News Analysis...

By John Milburn
Associated Press Writer

Lawrence, Kan. — When the United States faced the daunting challenge of World War II, the nation's academics answered the call to assist the military in winning the fight. Vietnam ended much of that goodwill, with students and faculty alike outspoken about the war and the United States' motives. The University of Kansas wasn't immune, with the student union going into flames in April 1970 amid protests.

Nearly 40 years later, the United States is again in an unpopular war, but the military and academics have mended their fences. Cooperation is coming back. In what one top general calls "graduate-level warfare," soldiers are looking to college campuses for help.

"What we've entered into is a new kind of conflict where I think academics and military people agree we have to learn more about our enemies than we did," said Jonathan Earle, interim director of the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. "That takes it out of the old politicalrubric from the Vietnam era where it's ideology, left wing, right wing."

Throughout this year, professors at the University of Kansas have been collaborating with officers at Fort Leavenworth's Combined Arms Center. They are sharing their experiences from deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, discussing the culture of those nations and how to avoid making mistakes on the battlefield that could undermine goals let alone cost lives.

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understands the population that they are serving," said Sweizer, who spent 33 years in the Air Force and as a civilian employee in education programs.

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"I think the biggest change you see is that everybody seems to be accepting of the military, understanding that we are here to serve the American," Caldwell said. "What you are finding is they want to engage in a dialogue."

He said Fort Leavenworth and the University of Kansas have more in common than might be imagined. Both Caldwell and University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway are looking for more ways to involve more aspects of each institution in the growing relationship.

Tapping the skills of academic expertise, such as the social sciences, will help the Army to better prepare when it goes to war or takes part in nation building. A mantra in the U.S. counterinsurgency fight in Iraq is cultural awareness, knowing how to make more friends than enemies.

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Quartet to perform at First Presbyterian

A string quartet from the University of Kansas will perform two music selections at the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church in Paola.

The quartet also will join the organist to accompany the singing of hymns by the congregation, and the public is invited to attend, according to a news release from member Mary Ann Grimes.

Members of the quartet are Melicent King and Cyril Cook on the violin, Nikki Taylor on the viola and Rachel Williams on the cello.

— Brian McCauley
Scholarship reaches $30,000
Mother created fund at KU to remember daughter

By Steve Fry
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

A scholarship in the name of Nicole Bingham, 21, who was killed in a massive apartment complex fire on Oct. 7, 2005, in Lawrence, has been funded at the University of Kansas.

Since her mother, Nancy Bingham, of Wichita, established the scholarship two years ago, the Nicole Bingham Memorial Scholarship Fund has grown to $30,000.

The first scholarship of about $1,300 will be awarded in the fall 2008 semester. To qualify for the need-based scholarship, an undergraduate student should be a history major and have a grade-point average no higher than 3.5, which, Nancy Bingham said, reflected her daughter’s grades.

“That day I started the scholarship, Oct. 12, 2005, will always be, to me, the day that I signed papers to dispose of my daughter’s remains and to make her memory last forever,” Bingham said. “That’s what I hope this scholar-
Scholarship: Fund likely to grow

Continued from Page 1B

ship will do, and that the people who receive it will have that same passion for learning and history that Nicole had."

Bingham was one of three residents killed in an inferno that also injured more than seven others and destroyed the three-story apartment building that was part of the Boardwalk Apartments in northwest Lawrence.

Bingham, a KU senior and history major, had a goal to work in museum management. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority and worked in the business office of the Kansas Union. She was the survivor of a 1999 open heart surgery to repair a congenital heart defect.

Nancy Bingham plans to continue adding to her daughter’s scholarship fund so that more students will benefit. She is retired from the Boeing Co., which matches up to 50 percent of her contributions. Gifts from family members and friends also helped endow the fund.

Contributions to the Nicole Bingham Memorial Scholarship Fund may be made through KU Endowment, an independent, nonprofit organization. For more information about the endowment, look online at www.kuendowment.org.

A Douglas County District Court jury ruled last year that Jason Rose, 21, started the fire and convicted him of three counts of involuntary manslaughter, one count of aggravated arson and seven counts of aggravated battery. Rose was sentenced to the maximum term of 10 years and two months in prison, receiving five years and one month for the arson conviction and a total of five years and one month for convictions on three counts of manslaughter and seven counts of aggravated battery.

Steve Fry can be reached at (785) 295-1206 or steve.fry@cjonline.com.
Westboro Baptist Church

Why protesters could win — or lose

Experts discuss church's chances in Supreme Court

When the father of a fallen Marine won an $11 million settlement against the Westboro Baptist Church last month in Baltimore, many military families cheered and Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten praised the decision. But the case is far from over.

The church appealed the verdict to the U.S. Supreme Court, and we talked with Doug Linder and Richard Levy, professors of constitutional law at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and The University of Kansas, respectively, to hear their thoughts on how the Baltimore verdict could stand and how it could be reversed.

The Supreme Court could uphold the jury's decision if ...

1. The justices determine that the manner in which the Phelpses delivered their message falls outside the limits of First Amendment protection. The court has set some boundaries on free speech, including differentiating between criticism aimed at public figures as opposed to private individuals.

   One of the more famous cases is Jerry Falwell versus Hustler magazine, which had published a satirical cartoon depicting a sex act involving Falwell and his mother. Falwell was not a fan and took the magazine to court, saying he had suffered emotional distress.

   The court found in favor of the magazine and free speech, but the point pertinent to the Phelpses' case is that Falwell was a public figure who had a bigger platform to discredit the speech. In sum, the court said public figures must have thicker skins than private individuals.

   In the Baltimore case, the jury found the Phelpses had invaded a private citizen's funeral, and the father — not a public figure — had a small platform from which to dispute the Phelps' claims against his son.

2. Further, the speech has to be deemed "outrageous" and the pain inflicted "intentional." The Supreme Court could very well decide the church's speech — that America's support of homosexuals is the reason for deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan — is outrageous.

   Whether the nine justices think the Phelpses intentionally inflicted emotional distress on the Marine's father is another matter.
The jury's decision could be overturned if...

1. The Supreme Court decides the decision was based on content of the message. Justices have historically said limits on speech must not be related to content.
   For instance, you can limit when a group marches through town. You can’t restrict the message behind the march.
   The Baltimore jury’s decision that the Phelps’ speech was outrageous seems to be based purely on content.

2. The court determines there is a problem with vagueness. Justices don’t like verdicts or laws that place vague limits on speech.
   If this verdict causes any future protesters to be confused by what speech is protected and what isn’t, the Supreme Court may reverse the Baltimore decision. The court is always hesitant of a ruling that chills free speech.

3. The court follows hundreds of years of precedents.
   Free speech is a hallowed right in the United States, and justices have historically sided with it in many disputes. "People don’t like the Phelps’ message, but the issues of free speech they raise are legitimate," Levy said.

Followers of Pastor Fred Phelps of the Westboro Baptist Church spread the church’s anti-homosexual message. The church is appealing an $11 million judgement against it for picketing the funeral of a Marine who died in combat.
Kansas State battling for federal facility

Group networks to share latest in technology

By Michael Hooper
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Kansas State University is a potential site for the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility but is facing stiff competition from Texas, Georgia, North Carolina and Mississippi, a university official said Tuesday.

Ron Trewyn, vice president for research at Kansas State, said the $450 million federal facility would employ about 300 people. The facility would conduct research on how to combat biological terrorism and foreign animal disease in order to keep the domestic food supply safe.

Trewyn spoke Tuesday to members of Sen. Pat Roberts' Advisory Committee on Science, Technology and the Future at the Kansas Bankers Association office in Topeka. The committee also talked about aviation, medicine and defense.

Trewyn said other communities trying to win the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility are Athens, Ga.; the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina; San Antonio; and Madison County, Miss.

Trewyn said he expects the federal government to make a decision on where to locate the facility in October 2008.

The federal facility would fit within Kansas' corridor of animal health businesses and organizations, plus K-State's Biosecurity Research Institute and National Agricultural Biosecurity Center.

Howard Mossberg, former vice chancellor for research at The University of Kansas, said Roberts' Advisory Committee on Science, Technology and the Future formed 10 years ago with the goal of sharing information about the latest advances in technology and research. Mossberg is committee chairman.

Sam Bruner, Hawkew Beechcraft chief scientist, said business is booming in the airline sector in Wichita.

Hawker Beechcraft Corp. has more than 6,000 employees in Wichita. More than half of its airplanes are being purchased by buyers overseas, Bruner said.

"The economy is doing well. The money is out there," Bruner said. "Businesses realize an airplane is a useful tool for doing business."

Dr. Roy Jensen, director of the Masonic Cancer Research Institute, The University of Kansas Medical Center, said the KU tried center is working to achieving Comprehensive Cancer Center status from the National Cancer Institute.

He said achieving NCI designation has been a long and involved process but would create many benefits. NCI designation would help fundraising that would increase the center's capacity for research. The increased funding would enable more clinicians to do research into various areas of cancer.
Military, academia: Renewed allies

By JOHN MILBURN
Associated Press Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. — When the United States faced the daunting challenge of World War II, the nation’s academics answered the call to assist the military in winning the fight.

Vietnam ended much of that goodwill, with students and faculty alike outspoken about the war and the United States’ motives. The University of Kansas wasn’t immune, with the student union going into flames in April 1970 amid protests.

Nearly 40 years later, the United States is again in an unpopular war, but the military and academics have mended their fences. Cooperation is coming back. In what one top general calls "graduate-level warfare," soldiers are looking to college campuses for help.

"What we’ve entered into is a new kind of conflict where I think academics and military people agree we have to learn more about our enemies than we did," said Jonathan Earle, interim director of the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. "That takes it out of the old political rubric from the Vietnam era where it’s ideology, left wing, right wing."

Throughout this year, professors at the University of Kansas have been collaborating with officers at Fort Leavenworth’s Combined Arms Center. They are sharing their experiences from deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, discussing the culture of those nations and how to avoid making mistakes on the battlefield that could undermine goals, let alone cost lives.

Recently, the officers and professors presented papers during a symposium at the Dole Institute. Later, Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV held court with about 150 students in the student union.

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While the Department of Defense issued an edict to allow recruiters on college campuses, most of the tensions that existed at places like the University of Kansas and elsewhere have eased.

"The atmosphere that you describe in the 1970s is pretty much faded away," Sweitzer said.

"I think the biggest change you see is that everybody seems to be accepting of the military, understanding that we are here to serve the American," Caldwell said. "What you are finding is they want to engage in a dialogue."

He said Fort Leavenworth and the University of Kansas have more in common than might be imagined. Both Caldwell and University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway are looking for more ways to involve non-military aspects of each institution in the growing relationship.

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Commander speaks at KU of adapting military

Lt. Gen. William Caldwell emphasizes cultural awareness for success in modern wars

BY MIKE BELT
mbelt@theworldco.info

U.S. military leaders are learning to adapt to the complexities of modern wars of insurgency, the commander of Fort Leavenworth said last week in Lawrence.

Insurgent organizations such as al-Qaida know they can't defeat the United States in a conventional war, so they resort to terrorism, said Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, commanding general at Fort Leavenworth's Combined Arms Center, which oversees the Army's professional military education centers throughout the country.

"Their goal is to exhaust our will to fight," he told about 300 people in a speech Nov. 14 at Kansas University's Dole Institute of Politics. "They know they don't have to win; they just have to survive until we go away."

Military leaders can counter insurgent forces by knowing the cultures of the people in the countries where they fight, working with those people and communicating to them and the rest of the world their purpose. Commanders need to know how to use force and how to lend a hand, Caldwell said.

"We're not interested in teaching our soldiers what to think but how to think," he said. "We're asking them to challenge assumptions and ask why."

Caldwell, who once served as media spokesman for multinational forces in Iraq, emphasized the need for better strategic communication to the public to counter the information that insurgents put out over the Internet. Communication is one way to erode support for the enemy, he said.

"We need to make sure there is an accurate picture of events," Caldwell said.

Moreover, Caldwell noted the importance of working with the governments and militaries in other nations.

Caldwell, who also spent two years in Afghanistan as commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, gave an insight into the military and its leadership that the public doesn't usually get, Lawrence resident Steve Ramsdell said after Caldwell's speech.

"We really need to let the public know who we are," said Ramsdell, who said he grew up in a military family. His father served 22 years in the Army. "A lot of people don't know about the military connections."

Another Lawrence resident, Richard Dyer, said he thinks the nation's political leaders could learn a few things from the Army, based on what he heard from Caldwell.

"I don't know that our political leaders have the smarts to stay up with the military," Dyer said. "They (the Army) are adapting to a changing world and I think the politicians are 50 years behind the times."

Barbara McCandless, who drove from Topeka to hear the general, also was impressed.

"I think Kansas should be very proud we have the programs at Fort Leavenworth," she said.

Caldwell spoke on the eve of a two-day military-social science roundtable at KU's Dole Institute.

"The more culturally agile U.S. soldiers are, the more effective they can do a job in helping to build a country like Afghanistan or Iraq to better standards," said Felix Moos, a KU anthropology professor, who helped organize the event and was a participant.
Extras from Lt. Gen. Caldwell’s speech at Dole Institute

Here are some of the highlights of Lt. Gen. William Caldwell’s Nov. 14 speech at the Dole Institute of Politics at Kansas University.

- Caldwell presented a gift from Fort Leavenworth to the Dole Institute.
  It was a miniature statue of a 10th Cavalry trooper — a Buffalo soldier — on his horse. The 10th Cavalry was one of four black regiments authorized in 1866 and was garrisoned at Fort Leavenworth.
  In 1992, retired general and former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole co-sponsored and raised money for the full-size statue at the fort. There were only 100 of the miniature statues made and 95 of them had been given out, Caldwell said.
  “This is the 96th one,” he said as he presented it to Dole interim director Jonathan Earle.
- Caldwell spoke highly of private American contractors working in Iraq and Afghanistan. The jobs they do free up soldiers to handle combat duties, he said. There are 180,000 contractor employees in Iraq while there are 160,000 military personnel, he said.
  “They are absolutely paramount to what we are doing. They are great patriots,” he said.
- The media seldom cover the peaceful activities the military does in Iraq, Caldwell said when asked by an audience member how the media coverage of the war affected the soldiers.
  “They feel disappointed that the good things are not being seen,” he said. “They want the people to hear about what is going on.”
- China is a country the U.S. needs to stay in communication with, Caldwell said.
  “It’s someone we do want to have a dialogue with so that we don’t misunderstand each other’s intentions,” he said.
Drug firm to get $3.5 million

The Kansas Bioscience Authority awards a grant to a Lawrence company for expansion.

By JASON GERTZEN
The Kansas City Star

A Lawrence drug development company has landed $3.5 million from the Kansas Bioscience Authority for an expansion project expected to bring up to 175 new jobs.

Deciphera Pharmaceuticals will receive $3 million initially that will go toward the purchase of equipment and development of a laboratory and office complex in a business park on the eastern side of Lawrence.

The company is to receive up to an additional $500,000 as it meets promised goals of adding 125 to 175 workers to its current workforce of 26.

Founded in 2003, Deciphera is pursuing the development of drugs for cancer, cardiovascular disease and other maladies. Daniel Flynn, Deciphera's president and chief executive, is an adjunct professor of medicinal chemistry at the University of Kansas and has experience at companies such as Warner-Lambert/Parke Davis Pharmaceuticals, Searle Pharmaceuticals, Amgen Inc. and Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

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JANICE KATTERHENRY OF THE KANSAS BIOSCIENCE AUTHORITY

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The average annual wage of the new Deciphera jobs will be about $70,000. This positions the company to provide an economic boost to the region as well as contributing in other ways to the momentum of a growing cluster of bioscience ventures, Katterhenry said.

Authority leaders also see potential for heightened collaboration between Deciphera scientists and other Kansas researchers, Katterhenry said.

This project has been percolating for at least a year.

Last December, officials with the bioscience authority and Lawrence area leaders announced plans for a new $7 million laboratory complex in the East Hills Business Park.

The state-funded authority initially planned to buy a building for the project. It was part of an effort to overcome a dearth of affordable lab and office space needed by biotechnology startups in the region.

Now, however, the authority is providing only grants to Deciphera.

A consortium that includes the city of Lawrence, Douglas County and the Lawrence-Douglas County Bioscience Authority will reimburse the state bioscience authority $1.5 million over 10 years.

Deciphera is expected to spend from $7 million to $10 million on the project. The company also is raising an additional $20 million in outside investment, according to the authority.

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County: Jackson
Payday loan industry feels punch of a parody

A Web site is part of the new media that make fun to make a point.

By PAUL WENSKE
The Kansas City Star

At a time of growing criticism of the subprime lending industry, who would boast about “Helping payday lenders extract maximum profit from the working poor.”

Matt Lerner, a Topeka native and Microsoft refugee, that's who. Lerner is the creative force behind a new satirical Web site, predatorylendingassociation.com, that lampoons the payday lending industry.

“We asked ourselves (if the industry) really told it like it is, what would it say?” said Lerner,
PAYDAY: For news with an attitude, parody Web sites lampoon their targets

FROM A1
32, who now lives in Seattle.

So far, the Community Financial Services Association of America — the largest payday trade group, whose site is the target of the mock Web site — isn't saying much but it is playing down any fallout.

Representative Lyndsey Medsker agreed Lerner's site is fun. But Medsker admonished that "the lives of the millions of customers who use payday loans to cover expenses between paychecks are not a parody." She said finding a balance between access to credit and consumer protections "requires serious discussion and thought.

Experts, however, said Lerner's use of humor and the Internet makes it part of a growing trend in public discourse that relies on new media to reach an age group reared on parody news.

"This is aimed at a generation that gets its news from 'The Daily Show' and 'The Colbert Report,'" said Max Ustler, who teaches multimedia at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas.

Up just two weeks, the parody site — which offers such improbable tips as "how to encourage senior citizens to use payday loans for their prescription drug co-pays" — is the buzz of consumer groups. Some concede the site wields a sharper edge with its humor than statistically rich, but duller, scholarly reports.

"It's hilarious," said Robert Baker, a credit counselor with Housing and Credit Counseling Inc. in Kansas. "It has a more effective message than any in-earnest finance class or critique.

That the site's creators chose to satirize payday lenders also suggests a growing awareness on the part of the public, experts noted.

"It is interesting the notoriety of these loans has risen to the point they are now being parodied on the Internet," said Kansas deputy banking commissioner Kevin Glendenning, who has sued Internet payday lenders payable to the lender for the amount he or she wishes to borrow plus a fee. The company gives the borrower the amount of the check minus the fee. Fees charged for payday loans are usually a percentage of the face value of the check, or a fee charged per the amount borrowed.

Lerner said he and fellow entrepreneur Mike Mathieu were drawn to the issue after watching payday outlets sprout up all over Seattle, as they have in Kansas City. Lerner said he had listened to a National Public Radio broadcast about payday loans and "was blown away by the 400 percent interest rates.

He said the pair also was "looking for opportunities to use our high-tech skills to get people talking about social issues." They'd already launched walkscore.com, which helps people locate homes within walking distance of amenities, and betterbills.org, which allows consumers to compare utility bills.

Parody has long been a staple of protected free speech in American politics. But parody is increasingly being used by alternative news sources to weigh in on public issues without going through traditional news filters.

For example, YouTube videos poke fun at a range of targets including oil companies, eBay, the Clintons and the current administration — as in BillionairesforBush.com.

Experts point out that one reason is that many younger viewers no longer trust the staid, balanced approach of the mainstream media, which they see as sidestepping the truth to avoid conflict or offending anyone.

"We have a new generation that seeks out blooper and other online news sources," said Rick Musser, a KU journalism professor who teaches a survey course on "comedy news and the end of mass media as we know it."

Musser said younger adults want their news with an attitude. "They see having a point of view and making fun of something as being more honest," he said.

But some targets have reacted testily.

When a student in a Carnegie Mellon University class on the political use of satire in the media designed a Web site lampooning a foundation run by Wal-Mart, lawyers for the retail giant claimed he violated copyright law and forced him to change his site.

Some parody sites also can be misleading, warned Paul Piper, research librarian at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. skewering an industry with facts is one thing. But Piper said some bogus sites posing as real ones can deceive gullible consumers.

However, after reviewing the mock payday lending site, Piper said, "there's a difference between a site like this and a counterfeited site. This is clearly tongue-in-cheek.

Creators of the parody payday site couldn't have chosen a better time to launch. That same week, North Carolina's bank commissioner released a study suggesting a state ban on payday lending two years ago "has had no significant impact on the availability of credit.

Payday lenders disputed the report, alleging it fails to adequately back up its conclusions.

Darrin Andersen, head of the industry's trade group and president of QC Holdings, a major payday lender in Overland Park, said the report did not "represent the experiences of the hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians who used payday advances to address short-term credit needs."

Typically, the Predatory Lending Association's reaction to the report was playful.

It warned in mock hyperbole: "North Carolina must be stopped," and went on to reas-
sure that its lobbyists already were “hard at work to ensure that your state does not be-
come the next North Carolina.”
To reach Paul Wenske, call 816-234-4454 or send e-mail to pwenske@kcstar.com.

The Web site of the fictional Predatory Lending Association makes fun of the payday loan industry.