Bleecker performs in KU production

Jenna Bleecker, Mankato, is performing the next two weekends with the Theatre and Film Department at Kansas University.

Bleecker, a senior theatre major, is cast as Pam in "The Death of Romance" to be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1 and 2 at the William Inge Memorial Theatre in Murphy Hall.

A graduate of Mankato High School, Bleecker is the daughter of John and Jeann Bleecker, Mankato.
MILITARY, ACADEMIA BUILDING BRIDGES

VIETNAM-CAUSED GOODWILL ABYSS BEING MENDED

By JOHN MILBURN
The Associated Press

LAWRENCE — When the U.S. 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 U.S.' 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 U.S. 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 polit-

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Jim Sweizner manages nationwide military outreach for the American Public University System, including American Military University. He said education programs blossomed in the 1970s and 1980s out of a need to serve a transient student body. The goal was to educate soldiers, help them transfer credits across the country and earn degrees in a timely manner. "They are military friendly and the faculty understands the population that they are serving," said Sweizner, who spent 33 years in the Air Force and as a civilian employee in education programs.

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," Sweizner 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 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.

Caldwell: KU TIES SHOULD BE NURTURED

Caldwell would like to nurture
ties with the University of Kansas, and a new program directed by David Lambertson, former ambassador to Thailand, is a start. Putting civilians in military classrooms and vice versa will broaden perspectives brought to discussions. Keep academics and the military too detached, and not only do they each not get the right information, but animosities can develop.

"Clear communication is what makes this democracy work," Groeblacher said.
GRANT AIMS TO REDUCE TEACHER SHORTAGE

$2.4M MARKED FOR SCIENCE, MATH STUDENTS

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE — University of Kansas officials hope that a new $2.4 million federal grant will help them reduce the shortage of math and science teachers in Kansas.

The program, called UKanTeach, gives students majoring in math or one of four areas of science the opportunity to earn a secondary school teacher certification without going through the School of Education. It will allow students to earn a science or math degree and a teaching license in four years.

Officials estimate that Kansas public schools will be short some 400 math and science teachers.

The Kansas program is patterned after a similar program at the University of Texas, which has produced about 70 math and science teachers each year.

Funds for the program were awarded Friday by the National Math and Science Initiative, one of 10 awards to universities to replicate the Texas program. The grant includes $1 million that will be awarded only if Kansas can obtain matching funds from private sources.

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GRANT
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sources.

UKanTeach has been endorsed by the Kansas Board of Regents, which plans to ask legislators for funds to support the program.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who attended the presentation Friday in Topeka, said the grant has implications for the future.

“Math and science education is key to Kansas’ ability to succeed in the global economy,” Sebelius said in a written statement. “UKanTeach is an innovative program that will produce the teachers our state needs to help our students thrive in these subjects.”

Janis Lariviere, wife of university Provost Richard Lariviere, is familiar with the program after the couple’s years at Texas. She said Kansas has historically exported teachers and that the shortage problem has emerged in the past decade.

“This program is designed to be completed in a typical four-year time frame,” Lariviere said.

However, math and science majors could complete their teaching requirements in two years, if they enter the program as a junior or senior.

Lariviere said 80 percent of the graduates of the Texas program were still teaching after five years.

The overall retention rate for teachers is less than 50 percent after five years, said Joe Heppert, chairman of the University of Kansas chemistry department and a co-director of the UKanTeach program. Interest in the Kansas program is growing because students can test the waters before committing to completing all the required course.

“Everyone involved has been a little overwhelmed by the number of interested students,” he said.

Participation is limited to math and science students, but Heppert said it could be expanded to include foreign language students in the future.

One of the first participants, Larry Hollingsworth, is using the program to move from the corporate world to the classroom. He will graduate in two years as a teacher with a degree in biology. He’s spending this semester at a Lawrence elementary school teaching math and science.

“I have had plenty of experiencing teaching in the past, but I’ve picked up a lot of new information through this program,” he said. “This program has really added to my teaching skills.”
Chinese language students talk with top official from Huazhong University

High school students in Marysville and Valley Heights and six other Kansas communities and in Arkansas tested their Chinese language skills this week with Ma Min, president of China's Huazhong Normal University, when he visits the University of Kansas Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

The high school students talked with Ma via the distance-learning network.

Ma visited the Confucius Institute at the Edwards Campus to dedicate a new interactive distance-learning classroom that is helping to meet a growing demand for Chinese language classes in Kansas and the Great Plains region.

Ma and Robert M. Clark, vice chancellor of the Edwards Campus, greeted the high school students via state-of-the-art equipment funded by $50,000 from Hanban, the Office of Chinese Language Council International; the Edwards Campus; and KU’s Confucius Institute.

Since the Confucius Institute opened at KU in May 2006, the number of high school students studying Chinese in Kansas has increased from 24 to 217.

The number of Kansas teachers certified to teach Chinese jumped from one to 10.

With the distance learning classroom, eight Kansas high schools are offering Chinese language classes: Washburn Rural, Lawrence and Lawrence Free State, Madison, Marysville, Valley Heights, White City and Winfield. Classes are also being taught in Beebe, Ark.

Confucius Institute instructors are sending enrichment and after-school programs in Chinese language and culture to elementary and middle schools across Kansas.
KU and Mayo team up to study

The University of Kansas Cancer Center and the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center are working together on a National Cancer Institute funded investigational agent that is designed to prevent cancer.

This joint research grant focuses on a drug designed from a naturally occurring anti-cancer agent found in vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage. The agent, SR 13668, is a synthetic version of a compound that naturally inhibits Akt, a protein that can stop a cell from destroying itself, thus keeping a malignant cell alive. The protein is abnormally active in many human malignan-
cies such as breast, prostate, lung, pancreatic, liver, ovarian and colorectal cancers. In cell and animal experiments, SR 13668 has exhibited the ability to inhibit tumor growth and potentially tumor invasion.

These short-term phase “O” studies are not meant to treat cancer or to demonstrate that these agents can prevent cancer – larger clinical trials may be held to determine the drug's effectiveness against cancer.

Scott Weir, PharmD PhD, said he hopes this initial project will set the stage for expanded collaborations with Mayo Clinic to jointly discover and develop anti-cancer agents.
Preparing our students for tomorrow’s working world

By Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of Kansas

As the Kansas economy becomes increasingly global and highly competitive, we must prepare the children of Kansas with the training they need for the economy of the future.

Key to Kansas’ ability to succeed in the new technology-driven marketplace will be workers who excel in math, science, technology and engineering; and right now, our students are underperforming compared to their peers around the world. Encouraging more students to focus on these fields and continue their education in math and science will help to ensure that we have the workforce for a prosperous future.

Quality teachers are essential to the success of our students; however, Kansas faces a shortage of math and science teachers. The Kansas State Department of Education recently reported that next year Kansas schools are likely to have over 680 vacancies for math and science teachers, but only 228 new math and science teachers are expected to graduate from Kansas schools.

Teachers have always had a significant impact on the lives of their students, but now more so than ever, teachers dictate the future success of our economy as well.

Given the importance of these educators, it is essential the state produce not just more math and science teachers, but more effective math and science teachers.

We can do this by encouraging math and science majors to enter the teaching profession and by supporting the development of highly qualified teachers in math and science fields. A new program at the University of Kansas will accomplish those goals.

UKanTeach is an innovative new program that allows students to earn degrees in math or science as well as a teaching license. The program, a collaboration between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Education, aims to double the number of math and science teachers graduating from KU each year, resulting in an additional 50 new teachers in Kansas classrooms.

Last week the University of Kansas was one of 12 universities nationwide to receive a National Math and Science Initiative grant. The $2.4 million grant funded by the ExxonMobil Corporation will be used to fund the UKanTeach program. We know it works, because this program has been in place at the University of Texas and the results are encouraging.

We are pleased that KU was able to secure one of these competitive grants, and I am confident the UKanTeach program will produce more of the teachers our state needs to help our students thrive in the subjects of math and science. With programs like this and a continued focus on math and science, success in the classroom will no doubt extend to economic success in the future.
KU Awards Scholarship Support To Bucklin Students

More than 5,400 students at the University of Kansas will receive about $26 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2007-08 academic year. This is a 10.6 percent increase from the 2006-07 school year, in which KU students received $24.3 million in scholarship support.

This year’s recipients represent 101 of the 105 counties in Kansas, 44 other states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 50 other countries.

So far, 7,603 scholarships have been awarded for the current academic year. Many students receive more than one scholarship. KU divides many scholarship awards between the fall and spring semesters, and there are some students who receive scholarship support for the summer term as well.

Virtually all scholarships, awards and fellowships awarded by KU come from private contributions to KU Endowment.

"Donors understand that without financial support, some deserving students would not be able to attend KU," said Dale Seuferling, president of KU Endowment. "KU students are benefiting from the financial support provided recently and many generations ago by loyal alumni and friends."

Though KU Endowment raises support for scholarships and other student aid, KU 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.

Those students from Bucklin who received scholarships were:

Ashley Lynn Ellis, Jr., daughter of Jack Ellis and Doris Helean, Accounting BSB, John W. Rader Scholarship, and Horace L. Fry Scholarship.

Thomas M. Ellis, Jr., son of Stan and Kim Ellis, Accounting BSB, Horace L. Fry Scholarship and Manaugh Memorial Fund.

James Michael Minnis, Freshman, son of Ted and Karen Minnis, Mildred E. McKeen Student Aid Fund.
Leukemia Award

Keith and Doris Morgan, and Mitch Morgan, Dwight, and Bonnie (Morgan) Johnson, Valley Falls, attended the recent Leukemia and Lymphoma Society conference in Anaheim, Calif., where they represented the Kansas State University and University of Kansas chapters of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity who were awarded the National Recognition Award as Partners Against Leukemia and Lymphoma.

The Fiji Run for Leukemia is a fund-raising event in memory of fraternity brother Rod Morgan, who died of leukemia in 1974. The KSU and KU brothers solicit donations and sponsorships in competition with the two chapters. Rivalries are put aside as the two fraternities run the honorary game-day football for the KSU vs. KU game from the opposing college to the host college.

The 2007 Fiji Run for Leukemia marks its 34th year of commitment to the society and its mission. Since its inception, the event has raised more than $550,000.

At the request of the men of Phi Gamma Delta, Rod's family accepted the award at the Stars and Scholars banquet. A special ceremony will be conducted at a later date to present the award to Rod's fraternity brothers.
Local students receive scholarships at KU

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   Bradford Lee Cardone, son of Randy and Tracey Cardone, senior Human Biology major, has received a Robert Earl Pringle Scholarship.

   Brandon Cole Lytle, son of Sherry Peter, freshman Civil Engineering major, was awarded a Muchnic Foundation Scholarship, a Joel Orin Gunnels, Sr. Scholarship, and a Robert Earl Pringle Scholarship.

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   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.
Preparing our students for tomorrow's working world

- As the Kansas economy becomes increasingly global and highly competitive, we must prepare the children of Kansas with the training they need for the economy of the future.

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Dixon Drug will be open Sunday afternoons until Christmas, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.