Rickel earns honors from KU

Sarah Kathleen Rickel has received several honors from the University of Kansas School of Allied Health.

She was honored with the Camilla Wilson Students’ Choice Award. Fellow physical therapy students choose a recipient for this award based upon friendliness, helpfulness, genuine concern, cooperativeness, effective communication and interpersonal skills.

She also received the Penny Cohn Scholarship Award. This is intended to recognize students in the physical therapy program who exemplify the career of Mrs. Cohn, PT, who demonstrated dedication to the profession of physical therapy, a strong work ethic and a commitment to community service.

Rickel also received the Biofreeze Scholarship Award, which goes to physical therapy students with a strong commitment to community service, as well as scholarship, professionalism and interest in professional leadership.
New nominees wanted for board

The Associated Press

Senate leaders from both parties have urged Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and University of Kansas Hospital officials to pick new nominees to serve on the hospital’s governing board.

Control and makeup of the University of Kansas Hospital Authority has come under scrutiny amid a battle between leaders of the hospital and the University of Kansas.

Thirteen of the 19 board members are selected by the governor and subject to Senate confirmation. When a vacancy occurs, a nominating committee of the board gives the governor a slate of two or three candidates from which to choose. Six members serve on the board by virtue of their positions.

Last month, Attorney General Paul Morrison told officials that University of Kansas Provost Richard Lariviere couldn’t serve on the authority because the statute forming the board doesn’t allow the provost to serve on it.

Several more positions on the board are due to be replaced, prompting a dispute over the selection process.

“The KU Hospital is a jewel in the crown of the Kansas health care system and must not be hamstrung by political or legal bickering and disputes,” Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, and Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley, of Topeka, wrote in a joint statement issued Thursday.

Morrison’s legal opinion details the responsibilities of the board’s nominating committee and governor in filling those slots.

Schmidt and Hensley urged Sebelius and Bob Page, chief executive officer of the hospital, to conduct a joint review of the 19 board positions and agree on who currently holds the seat, when his or her term expires and who has the authority to fill the seat.

The controversy comes amid a larger scuffle over a proposed partnership between the University of Kansas Medical Center and St. Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

Sebelius and University of Kansas leaders support the partnership, saying it will increase life sciences research in the area and help the university attain national status as a cancer treatment center.

But the hospital, which is partnered with the University of Kansas Medical Center, has said a medical school-St. Luke’s affiliation will hurt the Kansas hospital and have no effect on attaining national cancer center designation.
The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The University of Iowa will pay newly appointed President Sally Mason about $100,000 more annually than her predecessor, and will offer her a salary bonus intended to keep her at Iowa at least five years.

Mason, who was announced Thursday as the school’s 20th president, will be paid $450,000 in base salary when she starts work Aug. 1, according to a letter from the Iowa Board of Regents outlining the terms of Mason’s employment.

As Purdue University’s provost, she is paid $321,900 annually — only about $28,000 less than what Iowa paid its last president, David Skorton, before he left last year to lead Cornell University. His salary at Cornell is $675,000.

Regents increased the salary for the Iowa post after former Gov. Tom Vilsack urged them in January to make the job more attractive to top candidates who would be willing to stay long term at the school.

Four times in the past 20 years, Iowa has lost top administrator — three times to Ivy League schools and once to the University of Michigan.

To avoid another quick departure, the University of Iowa will put $60,000 a year into a trust that Mason will receive if she stays at the university through July 31, 2012. The deferred compensation plan is voided if Mason leaves early or is dismissed by the regents for good cause, the letter states.

Mason has more than a decade of experience in university administration, including serving as The University of Kansas’ dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences beginning in 1995, then as the first woman provost at Purdue beginning in 2001.

Mason spent 21 years at the University of Kansas where she served as a full professor of molecular biosciences, acting chair of the Department of Physiology and Cell Biology, associate dean and then dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
Restoring the land of liberty

week. On the day of our class
discussion, I divided my students into
smaller groups with the task of creating
their own republics.

Among other issues, they had to
choose a form of government, decide on
a method for choosing a ruler, determine
the type of education system, consider the
role of the military and decide how their
republic would be divided on the issue of
civil liberties versus national security.

The last question provided some good
discussion about how to balance these
often competing issues, especially in a
more democratically constituted society.
The students’ choices ranged from a bal-

My country, ‘tis of Thee,
Sweet Land of Liberty
Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims’ pride,
From every mountain side
Let Freedom ring
I’ve been thinking about
these words a great deal
recently. The students in my
summer Western Civilization 204 class read parts of
Plato’s “Republic” this past
week. On the day of our class

ance of 50-50 to 80-20 on the side of civil
liberties. In retrospect, I should’ve asked
my students how they’d characterize the
current situation in the United
States.

In other words, is the United
States still a “sweet land of
liberty”? I want to say it is, but
I’m not so sure. The passage of
The Patriot Act in the aftermath
of 9-11 was accompanied by
great fanfare. Some individu-
als worried it was the begin-
ing of the erosion of our most
cherished freedoms enshrined in the U.S.
Constitution. Others passionately argued
for the necessity of such measures in a
time of war. I found myself somewhere in
between these two positions.

I was concerned about the possibility
of the government having the ability to
probe into my personal affairs. However,
I felt I had nothing to hide, so I wasn’t
particularly bothered by this potential
intrusion. When news broke of the illegal
wiretapping conducted by the Bush
administration, I found myself frustrated
because mechanisms were in place for
U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to
legitimately request these wiretaps.

I’ve also been following the various
cases brought by detainees and terrorist
suspects who are seeking legal protection
and recourse guaranteed under both U.S.
and international law.

Most recently, I learned of the plight
of children of illegal immigrants being
held at the T. Don Hutto detention facility
in Taylor, Texas. The so-called Family
Residential Facility is in fact a converted
medium-security prison.

These children dress in prison garb, stay
in locked cells for 11 or 12 hours a day and
can’t have food or toys in their cells. Many
of these children were denied adequate
medical and dental care. According to
statements from the children, the level of
education is similarly inadequate.

It’s for these reasons that I support the
American Civil Liberties Union’s Day
of Action to Restore Law and Justice on
Tuesday in Washington, D.C. We owe it to
our troops and we owe it to our country to
once more “let freedom ring.”

Nicolas Shump is a doctoral student
in American studies at The Univer-
sity of Kansas. He can be reached at
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Engineering students at the University of Kansas earned a top-10 finish at the 2007 Society of Automotive Engineers Formula Car Challenge.

The Jayhawk Motorsports team placed 10th overall in the international competition held May 16-20 at the Ford Michigan Proving Grounds in Romeo, Mich. The achievement put the team at the top of all Big 12 contenders and well above several highly regarded engineering programs in the United States. Jayhawk Motorsports placed fourth in 2006.

Wyandotte County resident Jonathan Novak, doctoral student in mechanical engineering, son of Cynthia Novak, was a volunteer on the team. He is a graduate of Sumner Academy of Arts and Science.

“It’s great to be in the top 10 again this year,” said Robert Sorem, associate professor of mechanical engineering and faculty adviser for the team. “Our students worked so hard and brought great ideas to the design process. It feels amazing to have their efforts and achievements validated through the vehicle’s performance and by the professional engineers involved in the judging.”

The team has been a top-25 contestant in seven of the past nine years and is the only team to successfully complete all aspects of the grueling technical competition for the past seven years, said Sorem, who also is associate dean for the KU School of Engineering.
The University of Kansas Class of 2007 numbered more than 6,400, including 2,125 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2006. Below, the final part of the hundreds of local students who received degrees:

**KANSAS CITY, KAN**

Gina Louise Hershberger daughter of Larry and Jill Hershberger Urban PlanningMUP Graduate Master of Urban Planning Summer Academy Arts & Science

Benjamin Steven Hochman Male - Physical TherapyDPT Graduate Doctor of Physical Therapy Summer Academy Arts & Science

Erica Lynne Irvin Female - NursingBSN Senior Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Lori Diane Jeanneret daughter of Christopher and Janet Lemmon Clinical Laboratory ScienceBS Senior Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science Piper High School

Sara Faith Kibbe Female - Business AdministrationMBA Graduate Master of Business Administration

Audrey Lynn Lauber daughter of Karen Lauber FrenchBA Senior Bachelor of Arts/French&Bachelor of Arts/Sociology Piper High School

Stephen Nicholas Linhardt Male - Aerospace EngineeringBS Senior Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering Home School - State of Kansas

Anita Gale Lundy Female - Educ.Curr&InstrPHD Graduate Doctor of Philosophy/Education/Curriculum and Inst

Jennifer Lynn Oskley daughter of Denise Hays Strategic CommunicationsBSJ Senior Bachelor of Science in Journalism Piper High School

Chika E Okafor Female - NursingMS Graduate Master of Science/Nursing

Ashley Ann Osbern daughter of Mark and Laura Osbern Elementary EducationBSE Senior Bachelor of Arts/Spanish * Bachelor of Science in Education Piper High School

Jacob Anthony Premis son of Randy and Mollie Premis Sport ScienceBSE Senior Bachelor of Science in Education

David Michael Schnirch son of Joelle Schnirch

BiochemistryBS Senior Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry Piper High School

Kirk Patrick Sloan Male - MedicineMD Prof 1 Doctor of Medicine

Debra Ann Volts Female - RN to NursingBSN Senior Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Christopher J Warholic Male - MedicineMD Prof 1 Doctor of Medicine

Stephanie Michelle Wetschenksy daughter of Richard and Karen Wetschenksy Communication StudiesMINOR Senior Communication StudiesMINOR&Bachelor of Arts/English Piper High School

Kristin Adelle White Female - Physical TherapyDPT Graduate Doctor of Physical Therapy

Rebecca Joy Gilliam Female - Social WorkMSW Graduate Master of Social Work

Manuel Abdo Lopez son of Manuel and Patricia Lopez Human BiologyBA Senior Bachelor of Arts/Human Biology Summer Academy Arts & Science

Jamie Leigh Lowder daughter of Jeffrey Rentfro PsychologyBSA DECL Senior Bachelor of Arts/Psychology&Sociology Piper High School

Megan Elizabeth Way daughter of Jan and Linda Way PharmacyPD Prof 1 Doctor of Pharmacy Summer Academy Arts & Science

Susan Jean Hepworth daughter of David and Connie Hepworth Strategic CommunicationsBSJ Senior Bachelor of Science in Journalism Piper High School

Kayron Aliece Kelly daughter of Ron and Kathy Kelly BiologyBA Senior Bachelor of Arts/Latin American StudiesMINOR Summer Academy Arts & Science

Robert James Steele son of Larry Steele Theatre and FilmBGS Senior Bachelor of General Studies/Theatre and Film Washington High School

Julie Tonnu Vinh daughter of Hoang and Happi Vinh DesignBFA Senior Bachelor of Fine Arts/Design Summer Academy Arts & Science

Puanani Emiko Warren daughter of Ron and Hannah Warren PsychologyBGS DECL Senior Bachelor of General Studies/Psychology High School
U.S. education leaders desire funds for college

KELLIE HOUX
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings and Undersecretary Sara Martinez Tucker listened to area educators, students and civic leaders discuss educational issues at a town hall meeting June 4.

The education leaders' message focused on having enough employees trained to compete in the world market. They stressed the need for more federal grants to put people through college and getting more high schoolers to take advanced placement courses to prepare for college.

Mary Elizabeth Davidson Cohen, the Department of Education's regional representative, said people need help getting into college.

"Change in higher education is long overdue, especially for adults," Cohen said. "When I worked at the University of Kansas as assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs, I listened to adults who struggled to have access to schooling."

Cohen praised communications between Johnson County Community College and the universities in Kansas.

"Education should be a seamless garment and we need to do a better job of meshing institutional information at a national level," Cohen said. "People move around and often attend several schools. Getting information should not be a hassle, but be accessible nationwide.

"It is not just a local problem. We don't want people to lose hours. It costs them money and time. There needs to be a greater ease in matriculation."

Tucker said lack of time and money shuts 37 million adults out of higher education.

"We estimate that 44 percent worry they don't have enough education for their jobs," she said during the forum at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Spellings said she wants Congress to enact President Bush's request to raise Pell grants from $4,050 now to $4,600 next year and to $5,400 over the next five years. Pell grants help low-income students pay college costs.

"Federal student aid needs to be looked at," Spellings said. "Have you tried to fill out the federal financial aid form? It is horrible. It needs to be streamlined."

Cohen said she also seeks help for adult learners.

"Not everyone is eligible for a Pell grant, especially adults who cannot go to school full time because they are taking care of families and working," she said, and suggested "multi-year aid that rewards adult learners who are doing well."

Cohen said she wants private enterprise to help with scholarships and counseling.

"Counselors in high schools help either those with many needs or those who are high achievers," she said. "Many students fall by the wayside."

Cohen said many companies complain that high school and college graduates are not prepared for work.

"OK, if the economy of our country, by extension, could suffer from ill-educated students, why not allow business leaders to step in and offer guidance," she said. "We have major corporations like Cerner, Black & Veatch, Honeywell and so on that could help tailor needs to their future employees."

"We do not live in a vacuum. A public/private partnership could be what we all need."
KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — The University of Kansas Medical Center plans to invest $800 million over the next 10 years in a bid to attract more life science research to the region.

The Kansas City Star reported Sunday that the plan, to be unveiled Tuesday, will include hiring 244 researchers and adding almost 863,000 square feet to the center's Kansas City, Kan., campus, as well as some space at the university’s main campus in Lawrence.

The center wants to more than quadruple its research grants from $88 million last year to $340 million by the end of 2016.

More importantly, university officials say the initiative will create the major academic entity around which an elite regional life science center can grow. The central institutions are viewed as vital for training workers and generating the early stage commercial products, ideas and startup businesses that fuel the rest of the region.

"We know what it will take to move KU’s research enterprise to the next level," said Robert Hemenway, the university’s chancellor. "The benefits will be profound. Advances in research will improve lives and a vigorous research effort absolutely can be an economic driver for the region."

The plan also would create new research and care centers with the help of Kansas City, Mo.-area partners, such as Saint Luke’s Hospital, Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics and the Stowers Institute for Medical Research.

University officials haven’t said how they’ll pay for the initiative other than through tax dollars and $100 million in funding from the Kansas Bioscience Authority and philanthropists.

They say their partners already have pledged seed money, and the region has shown support for civic enhancements such as arenas and entertainment districts.

Experts say Kansas City would benefit from such a drive for a central research hub.

"A prerequisite to building your efforts in the biosciences is having a strong enough research base," said Walt Plosila, vice president at Battelle Memorial Institute in Ohio and an expert on the development of regional technology centers. "Kansas City historically hasn’t had a strong research base."

The region has research institutions, such as the medical center, the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Stowers. But those institutions aren’t large enough to provide a foundation for a regional research economy, like that provided by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology or University of Wisconsin.

Benno Schmidt, a former president of Yale University and head of a Kansas City Community Foundation task force, identified the lack of a premier research center as the region’s biggest need. He encouraged the community to harness the medical center’s growth with further expansion.

Schmidt said the medical center already has begun recruiting new researchers and is increasing its funding to attract federal grants, seeking to improve its standing.

"It would move it into the top 50 medical centers around the country, which is what we thought the goal ought to be for the region," he said.

The proposal would create a new center dedicated to transforming promising research into immediate treatment options, teaming up with expertise developed at hospitals and research centers on both sides of the state line.

"It is a way of taking advantage of the strong clinical strength of the hospitals, who can be very, very effective partners on the
translational research front," Schmidt said.

For example, Children’s Mercy is using $8.2 million of its own outside funding to unlock advances in how genetic differences help patients respond to certain drugs. The hospital said its researchers also could add to understanding in cancer and diabetes.

“Our greatest asset in terms of taking a discovery and turning it into an application is the huge pool of patients we serve,” said Greg Kearns, the hospital’s director of medical research.

Officials at Saint Luke’s Health System said they also support the medical center’s expansion and said they would be able to contribute their expertise in cardiovascular treatment.

Supporters of the initiative understand wrestling with such an ambitious proposal — and finding the money for it — will be daunting and require public support. But they say it will sell itself, given the potential benefits.

“As the region begins to realize what the pay-off for all this is going to be, the view will become one of it’s a large investment with an even larger return,” said Irvine Hockaday, chairman of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, who has been asking local businesses and organizations for help in establishing bioscience initiatives.

For example, studies have estimated the Stowers Institute could generate $1.4 billion in economic growth over the next 10 years, and a major cancer center at the university could create $1.3 billion.
HHS Graduate College plans, scholarships/awards

Kelli Androes: KU; Carline Bacon: KSU-Kansas State University Foundation Scholarship, College of Agriculture Scholarship, Department of Grain Sciences Scholarship, Kansas Grain & Feed Scholarship, Booster Club Scholarship; Isiah Barfield: KU, University of Kansas Athletic Scholarship; Baylie Baxter: HCC, Leadership Scholarship, James Bryant Memorial Scholarship, City of Haven Scholarship; Sarah Beachy: HCC-President Scholarship, Reno Co. Scholarship, Alumni & Friends Childcare Scholarship, Hutchinson Clinic Scholarship, Altrusa Scholarship; Callan Branscom: U.S. Navy; Matt Brock: HCC-Athletic Scholarship, Reno Co. Scholarship; Erica Brooks: HCC-After Prom Committee Book Scholarship, Haven United Methodist Church Scholarship; Mia Buettell: HCC-Reno Co. Scholarship, Activity Scholarship, Livestock Judging Scholarship FFA Scholarship; Courtney Cauble: KSU-Kansas State University Medallion Scholarship, Engineering Scholarship, FFA Scholarship; Katie Chase: HCC-President Scholarship, Reno Co. Scholarship, Rocky Staib Memorial Scholarship, Athletic Scholarship; Joshua Enfield: KSU; Tia Ezell: Bethel College-James Bryant Memorial Scholarship; Dale Engstrom: Barton Co. CC-James Bryant Memorial Scholarship, Mt. Hope United Methodist Church Scholarship; Katlin Hays: HCC-President Scholarship, Athletic Manager Scholarship, KAY Club Scholarship, Wanda May Vinson Scholarship, Hutchinson Clinic Scholarship, James Bryant Memorial Scholarship, Booster Club Scholarship;

Continued in June 21 edition
University of Kansas students from 20 disciplines completed the Global Awareness Program this spring. They were recognized in a ceremony May 10.

The 150 undergraduates received GAP certification on their transcripts to inform future employers that they have completed a course of study at KU that fosters international understanding. More than 80 students completed the program in the fall.

Among students recognized was Maize High School graduate David Melgren, son of Eric and Denise Melgren. Melgren received degrees in Latin American studies and Spanish.

GAP recognizes students for studying abroad, taking courses with an international focus, including foreign languages, and being significantly involved in international co-curricular activities. All undergraduates are eligible to participate.

Launched by the Office of International Programs in fall 2004, GAP has recognized more than 400 students in the past three years. More than 1,300 students are now participating.

“GAP’s unique program of pairing academics with experience helped to widen my perspective and increase my understanding of the world around me,” said Michelle Goodrick, graduating senior in psychology. “This insight has served to further fuel my passion for helping humanity as I set off to serve in the Peace Corps. GAP offered an education that went beyond the classroom and insights that would stick with me long after commencement.”