The University of Kansas has issued a $1,250 Carlin Graduate Teaching Assistant Award to Tera Hedrick. Hedrick is a doctoral student in history of art with focus on Late Byzantine liturgical objects. She is the daughter of Terry and Julie Hedrick of Wichita.
"But he's still responsible for his actions."

NANCY BINGHAM, referring to Jason A. Rose, who is accused of the arson death of her daughter

Mother determined to witness justice

By Steve Fry
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

LAWRENCE — For two weeks, Nancy Bingham, mother of Boardwalk Apartments fire victim Nicole Bingham, has heard evidence about the death of her daughter that no parent should ever have to endure.

On Thursday, Bingham waited as a Douglas County District Court Jury deliberated on whether to convict or acquit Jason A. Rose, 21, of killing her daughter, a University of Kansas student; Helen Yolanda Riddle, 33, a social worker; and Jose Gonzalez, 50, an electrician. Jurors can convict Rose of first-degree felony murder, second-degree murder or involuntary manslaughter.

Rose also is charged with aggravated arson of the apartments, 510-524 Fireside, on Oct. 7, 2005, and seven counts of aggravated battery.

Bingham, of Wichita, was the only relative of a victim to sit through the trial.

It was disturbing to watch videotape of the blocklong building in flames and knowing Nicole was in there and listening to a man who watched her struggle in the flames, then fall, Bingham said.

But what brings Bingham to tears is her silent phone.

"What's really the hardest," Bingham said, "is that my phone doesn't ring, then, 'Mom, I need some help being an adult!' Or, 'hey, lady, I want to come home this weekend!' Or, 'hey, Mom, I had to go to the hospital again last night.'"

Nicole Bingham, 21, had lived in the Alpha Delta Pi sorority for two years but wanted a place of her own. She looked at apartments in summer 2005 before she settled on the Boardwalk Apartments, her mother said. The apartment's selling point were the frosted windows that flanked the apartment door, resembling something from the 1940s.

"Anything that was old, she loved," Bingham said of her daughter, a history major.

Nicole made the apartment on the third floor of unit 512 her own. Her brother, Brian Bingham, used charcoal to draw a series of abstract studies of people, and her mother got poster frames to hang them in the combination living room-dining room. Living with her were her cats, Cleo and Spanky.

Nicole Bingham also loved the diversity of the apartments. One neighbor had a 6-year-old daughter who, along with another youngster, would squeal as they ran up and down the boardwalk, and another neighbor would rock his granddaughter on the boardwalk.

Parts of the trial bring her sadness and are uncomfortable, but they are nothing as difficult as October 2005, Bingham said. After hearing of the fire on Oct. 7, 2005, and driving to Lawrence, Nancy Bingham tried to think how her daughter, who hadn't reported to work or called her, could be OK.

"I thought of every scenario and nothing played out," she said.

At the fire site, she spotted her daughter's burned-out, 1999 Honda Accord.

"That's when (a fire department lieutenant with her) knew she was in there, too," Nancy Bingham said.

Her body was found two days later.

The reason Nancy Bingham came to the trial is to find out what happened to her daughter. A gag order has blocked anyone from telling her details.

"I'm here to represent Nicole. Nicole would want justice," whether it is a conviction or an acquittal, Bingham said. "I have compassion for what (Rose has) been through," she said, referring to evidence that he was sexually and physically abused and had lived in foster and group homes for 17 years.

"But he's still responsible for his actions," she said.

The jury resumes deliberations at 8:30 a.m. today.

Steve Fry can be reached (785) 295-1206 or steve.fry@cjonline.com.
2007 Wheat State Whirlwind Tour to make stop in Lucas

About 50 University of Kansas faculty and staff members will tour sites in north central and northwest Kansas, explore the challenges facing rural Kansas communities and meet with alumni in Colby on Tuesday, May 22nd, the second day of the 2007 Wheat State Whirlwind Tour.

Chancellor Robert Hemenway sponsors the tour. This is the 10th year faculty and staff, many new to Kansas, will make a five-day trek through the heart of Kansas to learn more about the state's history, landscape and economy.

Tuesday's portion of the tour, from Concordia to Colby, includes a tour around Lake Wilson in Post Rock country, a visit to a nationally known grassroots arts center in Lucas, lunch with community leaders and residents in Palco and a visit to the African-American pioneer community Nicodemus.

As many travelers never stray from I-70 on their trips across the state, tour commentators will use Lake Wilson as an example of the natural beauty accessible to those willing to venture off the beaten, interstate path. Located just north of I-70 in Russell County, the lake features scenic canyons. The venture along Kansas' scenic byways will continue with a drive along Highway 232 to Lucas in Russell County.

Lucas, population 416, is a hotbed of art created by individuals who may not fit the traditional mold of artists. Inspired individuals with an artistic flair from across Kansas have created pieces such as suits made of aluminum can pop tops and cars crafted from cattle skulls, which are now part of the delightfully different, yet stunningly compelling art housed at the Lucas Grassroots Arts Center. The nearby Debeeb House and Rock Garden are also on the itinerary and are home to some of the state's most unique art. While in Lucas, tour participants will also have the opportunity to visit the Garden of Eden, the former home of a Civil War veteran and farmer. The home is a monument to individualism, featuring concrete and limestone sculptures depicting Biblical scenes and their creators' populist political beliefs.

The tour group will then travel to Palco in Rooks County, where they will have lunch at the town hall with local residents. Palco, hometown of Don Steeples, KU vice provost for scholarly support, the McGee Distinguished Professor of Geophysics and tour director, represents a microcosm of many Kansas communities. Facing declining populations, the community is using innovative approaches in education, agriculture and business to remain viable.

Guests at the lunch will include Leo von Feldt, mayor; Doug Kysar, a Palco manufacturer with an international clientele; Dave Miller, Palco school superintendent who employs distance learning programs to expand the curriculum; Omer Knoll, an artist whose fossil-inspired work was selected by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius as a gift for officials she met in China; and several farmers and ranchers who provide leadership in state agriculture and conservation groups. Many are KU or Kansas State University alumni and several have sons and daughters working as executives, professors, physicians, veterinarians, teachers or as foreign service officers throughout the United States and abroad. Ruth Ann Bigge of Stockton will cater the lunch. The mayor will talk about innovative efforts to preserve the community.

While in Palco, the group will also visit the high school to see how the school district has used distance learning to address the challenges many small schools face. The group will also visit the local grain elevator.

One of the more popular stops on the tour, the Steeples wheat farm, is once again on this year's itinerary. Steeples maintains a farm with his brother, Dave, of Stockton. The Steeples brothers will share the ins and outs of farming with the group and even offer rides on a combine to those who are so inclined.

From Palco, the tour will travel to Nicodemus, an historic African-American settlement in Graham County. The community was settled by African-Americans from Kentucky in the late 19th century and was a bustling community for many years. Today, the community's population is about 20. It was the first African-American established town west of the Mississippi River. In 1996, the National Park Service named Nicodemus a national historic site to recognize the role of African-Americans in settling the West.

The last stop of the day will be in Colby in Thomas County. Faculty and staff members will have dinner with alumni at the City Limits Bar and Grill. Hemenway will join the tour in
Colby, take part in the alumni dinner and address the group. Karen Kelly, deputy director of the KU Cancer Center in Kansas City, Kan., and a participant in this year's tour, will also speak at the dinner. She will discuss the KU Cancer Center and rural health care.

On Wednesday, May 23rd, the tour will visit the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby. Wayne Bossert, manager of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater district, will speak about groundwater management in the High Plains. The tour will continue with stops in Oakley, Logan County, Scott City, Cimarron, Montezuma and Dodge City.

Itinerary for Tuesday, May 22nd
7:30 a.m. — Depart Concordia for Lake Wilson (87 miles). Point of interest: Sylvan Grove
8:45 a.m. — Tour around Lake Wilson (11 miles)
11:00 a.m. — Arrive in Lucas. Drive by Garden of Eden and tour Grassroots Arts Center, Deeble House and Rock Garden
1:00 p.m. — Depart Lucas for Palco (62 miles)
McAllister new Solicitor General for the State of Kansas

Attorney General Paul Morrison has announced the creation of a Solicitor General Unit within his office and the hiring of Stephen McAllister as the Solicitor General for the State of Kansas.

“In our continuing effort to professionalize this office, we have added Stephen McAllister to improve, expand and coordinate Kansas’ appellate practices,” Morrison said. “The majority of Attorneys General in the nation have added this type of unit to their offices with much success, and we look forward to bringing similar expertise to Kansas.”

Along with McAllister, the appellate unit will also consist of a Deputy and Assistant Solicitor General, each with significant appellate experience at both the state and federal level. The unit will assure the quality and consistency of both written and oral appellate advocacy on behalf of the State and within the Attorney General’s Office. The unit will continue to assist the local county and district attorneys with their appellate litigation.

“With the depth and breadth of experience held by the attorneys in the Solicitor General Unit, we look forward to providing meaningful support to the prosecutors of Kansas, on the local, state and federal levels.” Morrison said.

McAllister has had a distinguished career, both as an appellate lawyer and as a constitutional scholar and teacher. Currently, he is a faculty member at the University of Kansas School of Law and Of Counsel to the Lawrence law firm of Thompson Ramadell & Qualseth, P.A. Prior to joining the KU faculty, McAllister clerked for Supreme Court Justices Byron White and Clarence Thomas, as well as Judge Richard Posner of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago. McAllister has argued three cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, and has appeared in several others. He also has appeared before the Kansas Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth and Eighth Circuits.

A prolific scholar and highly respected teacher, McAllister received the Dean Frederick J. Moreau Award in 1997 and a W.T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence in 1999. He served as the first and only Solicitor of the State of Kansas from 1999 to 2003 under Attorney General Carla Stovall. He also served as Dean of the University of Kansas School of Law from 2000 to 2005, and as Legislative Counsel to the Kansas Legislature from May 2006 through early 2007, assisting primarily in the resolution of the Kansas school finance litigation.

“Stephen McAllister’s knowledge and expertise will serve Kansas well as we continue to litigate complex constitutional questions of importance to Kansans,” Morrison said.

McAllister will serve the Attorney General’s office on a contractual basis. Jared Maag will serve as Deputy Solicitor General and Kris Ailslieger will serve as Assistant Solicitor General.

Stephen McAllister is a 1981 graduate of Lucas-Luray High School. His parents are Steve and Rhoda McAllister, Saint Joseph, Missouri.
The University of Kansas Department of Political Science recently honored top students at its annual Pi Sigma Alpha initiation and awards banquet held April 19th at the Kansas Union.

Thirty-four students were inducted to the Gamma chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, a national political science honor society. Inductees must have at least junior standing in political science and a 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale in all political science courses. Cumulative grade-point averages for undergraduates must be at least 3.4, for graduate students at least 3.5. Neither may have a course grade lower than a 3.0.

Special award and scholarship recipients were recognized during the program. Awards provide cash prizes with no restrictions. Scholarships provide funds for tuition. All of these funds are managed by KU Endowment.

Alisha Ann Riddle, daughter of Brad and Beth Zweifel, Waldo, was inducted into the Phi Sigma Alpha Honor Society. Alisha is a graduate of Lucas-Luray High School.
Staub initiated into Mortar Board at KU

Forty-two University of Kansas students, including Ryan Staub of Maize, were recently initiated into Mortar Board, a senior honor society. The initiation ceremonies were April 15 at the Kansas Union, followed by a reception at the chancellor’s residence for student and alumni members and their families and invited guests.

Staub is a junior at KU, majoring in accounting. He is the son of Randy and Robin Staub.

Janet Mody, a KU graduate student from Lawrence and president of Mortar Board’s Lawrence-area alumni chapter, spoke to the group. This year’s Mortar Board officers, President Rob Williams, Manhattan senior, and Vice President Megan Guhl, Haven senior, conducted the ceremonies. Carolyn Blatchford, Glen Ellyn, Ill., senior, and Michael Raupp, Leawood senior, tapping and initiation co-chairs, organized events.

Assisting with ceremonies were Linda Mullens, senior budget and personnel administrator in the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success and Mortar Board adviser, and Sandy Garrett, Lawrence Mortar Board Alumni adviser to KU’s student chapter.

Mortar Board members are selected based on distinguished ability and achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Students must have a 3.0 grade-point average and hold senior status during some or all of the academic year.

What became KU’s Mortar Board chapter was founded in 1912 as the Torch senior women’s honor society. In 1924, it affiliated with the national Mortar Board women’s honor society. Mortar Board opened membership to men in 1975. This year, 85 applied for membership at KU.
Washburn approves tuition increase

Students next school year will pay $10 more per credit hour

By Mike Hall
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

To help pay for 4 percent salary increases at Washburn University next school year, students will be charged $10 per credit hour more in tuition.

For a student carrying a normal 15-hour-per-semester course load, the increase will mean an extra $300 a year.

For in-state students, that would put the total tuition at $5,550 for the year. Out-of-state students would pay more.

And, for the first time, the school will impose differential tuition rates on its most expensive programs — nursing and business. Nursing students will pay an additional $15 an hour, and business students will pay an extra $25 an hour.

The extra money from the nursing tuition will help the university raise $450,000 needed to qualify for a matching grant from the state.

But in adopting the budget Friday, members of the Washburn Board of Regents and university staff members pointed out several ways of looking at the increase as being reasonable.

For starters, they said a $10 increase is the smallest since 2001-02. Annual tuition
increases since then have been in the $14 to $15 range.

But mainly they pointed out the total cost of attending Washburn for a year is becoming more competitive with Kansas Board of Regents schools every year.

Their figures show tuition and fees at Washburn have risen 82 percent over the past 10 years, compared with 166 percent at The University of Kansas and 144 percent at Kansas State University. The only public university in Kansas with a smaller increase over 10 years was Fort Hays State with a 66 percent increase.

The budget was adopted on an 8-1 vote, with Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten voting against it because of his opposition to the tuition increase.

"The increase in tuition will mean some people will not be able to go to school," he said.

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**TUITION IN KANSAS**

In-state tuition and fees for 2006-07:

- Washburn University: $5,312
- University of Kansas: $6,183
- Kansas State University: $5,779
- Wichita State University: $4,816
- Emporia State University: $3,886
- Pittsburg State University: $3,790
- Fort Hays State University: $3,192

Source: Washburn University

Or if they do attend, they will graduate with a larger debt to pay off.

He said people need to understand a college education remains a good investment. College graduates earn enough in their lifetimes to pay for the education many times over.

Regent Blanche Parks noted financial aid is available to students who otherwise couldn't afford the education.

The only citizen to speak on the proposed budget was Mary Lou Herring, who was the university's controller for two years and has been a vocal critic of Washburn since leaving.

Among other things, Herring argued the 3 mills of tax paid on property in the city was to have been used for buildings, large pieces of equipment and permanent improvements to the campus. Instead, half of the money is used for such things as computers and football uniforms — items that should be paid for from annual operating budgets.

None of the regents addressed Herring's concerns before adopting the budget.

After the meeting, Wanda Hill, Washburn treasurer, disagreed with Herring’s interpretation of what could be funded from the mill levy.

"If we agreed with her, we wouldn't have been doing it this way for the past 40 years," Hill said.

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Sebelius signs law aimed at discouraging violence in Sudan

By John Milburn
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a law Friday ensuring that the state's largest pension fund won't be investing in companies doing business in Sudan.

The law requires the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System to divest its holdings in companies doing business in the African nation. The measure is designed to pressure Sudan into ending violence in its Darfur region. The government has been blamed for atrocities in an ethnic conflict that has killed more than 200,000 people and displaced 2.5 million.

"The horrific genocide taking place in Sudan is well-documented, and we want to have nothing to do with companies that are doing business in that nation so long as its government does nothing to stop the killing," Sebelius said in a written statement.

Pension officials have said the system has about $38 million invested in companies with ties to Sudan, the largest amount being $16 million in PetroChina, a Chinese oil firm.

In all, the governor signed 18 bills Friday and has approved 194 passed by the 2007 Legislature. She vetoed four bills and one budget item.

KPERS is prohibited under the law from investing in certain businesses, as well as requiring the pension system to divest from direct or indirect holdings in companies with such operations. There is an exception for passively managed funds in which the estimated cost of divestment exceeds a certain threshold.

Wichita high school and University of Kansas students were among those who lobbied for the bill this year.

Matthew Vines, a Wichita East High junior leading the student effort, said legislators should be commended for their actions.

"This is an issue that can be pushed aside in state legislatures because it doesn't directly affect their constituents," Vines said. "It's not going to end genocide, but it is part of the overall international movement. It's just one fund at a time."

Numerous states have begun divesting their public pension funds from Sudan. The Kansas bill is modeled after legislation in California.

Other states, including Missouri, have divested from Cuba, Iran, North Korea and Syria, identified by the U.S. State Department as terror-sponsoring nations. Several executive orders already restrict U.S. companies from trading with or investing in Iran.
We can be proud of the successes we have accomplished in the behavioral health field. Advances in medicine, combined with therapeutic strategies, have resulted in successful recoveries only dreamed of a decade ago. Applying evidence-based practices and incorporating the newest research and technologies, we have worked to reach the goal of providing successful treatment, independent living and gainful employment to the individuals we serve. The results are healthy individuals who are able to make valuable contributions back to our community.

Valeo Behavioral Health Care served over 6,500 individuals in 2006 in both our behavioral health and substance abuse programs. Valeo is a dynamic provider of services and in a constant state of adaptation as new possibilities for recovery present themselves. The Board and staff of Valeo are committed to exploring new paths resulting in individual wellness.

Thomas Zaborowski, C.E.O.

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2006 Board Members

Chair: Marcy Glassman
Vice-Chair: Melissa McLean, R.N.
Sec./Treas.: Mark Hood
Past Chair: William Wesley Marshall, LMHT
Members: Ben Coates, David Brennan

George Hough, Ph.D., ABPP
Anne Lolley
Maryellen McBride, ARNP
Hon. Nancy Parrish
Joseph Scranton
Preston, Williams, LMSW
From the Board Chair

At a recent gathering of Kansas Mental Health Center Board Members and staff, several noted that Valeo is considered a model for other Kansas communities. Often we become accustomed to what we have and believe is the norm. Comments like this makes one appreciate our staff, community partners, and funders for setting standards which will enable us to provide a multitude of innovative services.

Through our comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services, we attend to over 6,500 adults a year. We are constantly striving to improve our programs and build on our success. A sound foundation is laid through continual assessment of the delivery of services and exceeding SRS requirements for license and accreditation. Initiatives like the Supported Education Program received praise for its improvement from baseline to the 6-month fidelity review as "unprecedented in the nation", is an example.

The new State Medicaid Plan has challenged staff to design our programs to meet new regulations. The Board's goal is to provide the best possible services, assure compliance with SRS Medicaid contract and support our staff in meeting this goal.

Marcy Glassman, Board Chair

Valeo Programs Receive Accolades

Supported Employment Services

Steven Erickson, the Director of SRS Mental Health Services, honored Valeo's Supported Employment Services (SES) with an Exemplary Award which is given for achieving an excellent standard of care. The criteria for receiving such an award is:

- The program achieved an average score of 4.2 which indicates high fidelity to the evidence based practice.
- Achieved the highest rating of 5 for having diversity in the type of work settings for consumers.
- Minimum of 45% of clients enrolled in supported employment program working.
- Agency exceeds state's AIMS competitive employment rate of 20%
- Penetration rate of supported employment services for SPMI population in agency is at least 30%
- Agency has regular, standardized method for assessing fidelity and outcomes.

Supported Employment Services also had the opportunity to meet with visitors from Sweden who came to learn and observe our Supported Employment Services model. They were guests of the University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare. This program has received many accolades from the university's School of Social Welfare for Valeo's participation and partnership with them. The program is being used as a model as we have exceeded and outdistanced our goals. Valeo was honored that KU chose our program to model the Evidence Based Practice of employment to not only the State but for these international visitors.

Supported Education Program

Kansas University initiated in early 2006, a partnership with Valeo, in an Emerging Based Practice Implementation Project on Supported Education. During the beginning phase a Supported Education Leadership Team was recruited from the community, academia and within the agency. Additionally, an organizational readiness assessment was administered which included an initial program assessment of the agency's fidelity to best practices, using the KU Supported Education Fidelity Tool and additional employed metrics.

During the second stage, the Leadership Team oversaw the deployment of SEP within the organization and community through the use of emerging best practices criteria.

This program had their baseline review in May and the percentage of increase was the highest percentage for any EB in the nation drawing the attention of Charlie Rapp, KU professor with the School of Social Welfare, and the founder of the strengths model of case management. We appreciate his acknowledgment of our achievement. The following letter from Charles Rapp, M.S.W., Ph.D., Professor, KU School of Social Welfare was received by CEO Tom Zaborowski:

Dear Tom,
I wanted to express my admiration for the exceptional progress that the supported education program has made. The improvement from baseline to the 6 month fidelity review is unprecedented in any EB project. As the first supported education project in Kansas, you and your staff, have set a very high bar for others to strive for. I will continue a keen interest as the project evolves.

Sincerely yours, Charles Rapp
2006 Program Highlights

Crisis and Intake Services answer suicide prevention calls, screen for psychiatric hospitalization, conduct initial assessment and provide critical incident stress debriefing. Staff completed 3,034 intakes and 6,248 emergency contacts in 2006.

The Crisis Diversion Services have many different components:

- The Crisis Residential Program served 336 individuals in 2006 of which 98% were diverted from hospitalization. This program has 15 crisis beds available and 6 transitional beds.
- Crisis Case Management provides outreach services to the Shawnee County Jail, Providence Living Center and the Topeka Rescue Mission.
- Attendant Care provided 113,154 direct service hours to individuals with 1082 of those direct service hours provided to children referred from Family Service and Guidance Center through contract. The Attendant Care service diverted 97% of individuals served from hospitalization and had 220 new referrals in 2006.

Outpatient Psychotherapy Services provided individual, couples, and group psychotherapy to a total of 1,661 adults, including 427 who met the state's criteria for having a severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). Notably, 98% of all clients served reported good to excellent satisfaction with services provided. Innovations included four new therapy groups, including one for individuals on probation or parole. Our Senior Outreach Service continued to provide in home and community counseling services to the frail elderly, serving 174 additional adults over age sixty. This exceptional grant funded program provides access to adults who otherwise would not access Valeo services, either due to issues of stigma or home bound status. In the arena of education, we provided practicum training to seven MSW interns from Washburn University and Kansas University, sustaining our reputation as an outstanding training placement. Staff continue to provide free public educations presentations on a variety of mental health topics upon request.

Outpatient Medication Services offers appointments Monday through Friday, 8am-7pm. We accept most commercial insurances and self-pay individuals. Over the last year we have completed 23,366 appointments serving 4,321 individuals, added a full time Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) and exceeded 95% client satisfaction indicating they were pleased with the
services offered. We are equipped with multi-lingual staff to assist those individuals whose primary language is not English. Our staff consists of four Certified Staff Psychiatrists, six Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, and two Registered Nurses, one Licensed Practical Nurse and one Case Manager totaling of 200 years of experience. Another area of training that we are pleased to announce is Vagal Nerve Stimulation (VNS) which is a new approved therapy used for treatment of resistant depression. We also have full-time staff to assist in daily triage plus staff to assist individuals, who have no prescription coverage, in obtaining medications through the Patient Assistance Program.

**Community Support Services** provides a well diversified and creative program to our most vulnerable adults. We have over 50 trained and qualified staff providing services to almost 800 Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) consumers. Consumer success is our number one priority. Dignity, respect and person-centered values are part of our environment to help our consumers reclaim their lives. By providing multiple choices to our consumers there have been empowering results and life changes. Our staff received outstanding satisfaction results of over 96%. Some of innovative services include:

- **Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment (IDDT)** program has received over 70 referrals in the first six months ending in 2006. Providing assessment, individual and group sessions, specifically for the SPMI consumer that has a concurrent substance abuse diagnosis. This Evidence Based Practice has significantly improved the treatment of this population and we look forward to sharing our outcomes next year.

- **The Choice Team** has assisted 47 successful discharges into the community from our Nursing Facilities for Mental Health (NFMH) in the past two years. We utilize our Transitional Housing, intense Case Management, and Attendant Care on a daily basis to help the consumer develop a stable life in the community. Osawatomie State Hospital saw a reduction in average bed days to 17 in 2006, down from 19 in 2005. Our 30 day recidivism discharge rate was only 5% in 2006.

- **Homeless Case Management** increased first contacts with homeless persons by 49% in 2006 with 405 unduplicated first contacts. This team engages homeless individuals on the street and at the Topeka Rescue Mission in order to provide community referrals and direct service.

- **Transitional Housing program at Valeo** was awarded a $13,000 grant from the State of Kansas, Division of Mental Health Policy to develop a new transitional housing design referred to as Interim Housing. Currently Valeo has over 30 transitional beds available for our most vulnerable adults.
**Valeo Recovery Center (VRC)*** had an outstanding year providing services to our community and the state at large. One major accomplishment this year was to eliminate the waiting period for outpatient services. The other exciting event was to work in partnership with Hazelden, the leading provider of Substance Abuse treatment in the United States. We presented a workshop highlighting Evidence Based Practices for Substance Abuse Treatment. Valeo's Recovery Center continues to have an excellent working relationship with the United States Probation Office and continues to look for different and diverse funding sources. Valeo is looking to the future to provide specialized services for women and improve the quality of services provided by using person-centered counseling as one of many tools to improve treatment services.

**Information Technology Department*** has replaced and upgraded both phone and voice-mail systems at all three of our main locations in addition to data, voice and video network upgraded at all locations. This department rolled out Microsoft Exchange 2003 with Outlook Web Access for web-based e-mail. In 2006 a new computer room was constructed with new servers. New systems were installed for the Human Resources/Payroll/Financial System and also the Clinical Provider System in support of Electronic Health Records.
Cars in the park
For the Yard Art Classics Car Club, anything built in 1987 or before qualifies for its annual show. The wheels gather beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday in Manhattan’s City Park. Registration continues until noon, and trophies will be awarded at 3:30 p.m. Vehicle registration is $20. Information: (785) 539-4847.

Behind the scenes
Take a look behind the scenes with a “white glove” tour of the archives at the Dole Institute of Politics, 2350 Pete fish Drive, Lawrence. See the reading room where researchers peruse former Sen. Bob Dole’s papers, photographs and press releases, then view the archival storage and processing areas. The tour is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday and is free. Information: (785) 864-1420.

Cruise for a cause
For the serious cyclist, Cycle CASA 2007 offers a 62-mile route. For the rest, 10- and 30-mile rides through the scenic Flint Hills also will benefit the Sunflower CASA Project in Manhattan. Registration begins at 7 a.m. Saturday at An nehberg Park, 3801 Manhattan Ave. Registration is $35 per rider. Information: (785) 537-6367.

Promoting sites
The Topeka Tourism Alliance is having an expo to help local businesses and attractions promote their offerings to tour operators, the Topeka Lodging Association, the Topeka Sports Council and other groups that bring tourists to the area. The event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Great Overland Station, 701 N. Kansas Ave. Information: (785) 220-0733.

Theater of life

FOR A LIST OF OTHER THINGS TO SEE AND DO THIS WEEK VISIT: www.cjonline.com/60miles