Focus on Pharmacists

Much attention has been paid to the shortage of health professionals such as doctors and nurses, but there's another problem in the health profession that isn’t as well publicized — the growing shortage of pharmacists in Kansas.

Seven Kansas counties have no pharmacies, meaning residents have to leave the county to get their prescriptions and other critical medical supplies and health information.

This is a problem for all Kansans living in those areas, but it places a major burden on residents with limited mobility, such as seniors and Kansans with disabilities.

An additional looming problem is the advancing age of Kansas pharmacists, with many of the pharmacists in those counties approaching retirement. In fact, one-third of pharmacists in Kansas are over the age of 50.

While the past few decades have seen remarkable discoveries in the field of medicine, allowing many illnesses to be treated by drugs rather than hospitalization, this has increased pharmacists’ role as a critical part of the health care system.

We can help solve the problem of a shortage of pharmacists by supporting an expansion of the state’s capability to train new ones at The University of Kansas. It takes a minimum of six years to complete a degree in pharmacy, so we need to begin that expansion now. There’s certainly no shortage of bright, talented students applying to pharmacy school. In fact, there are four qualified applicants for every position available.

We’ll be talking about this challenge as the legislative session approaches and hope we can find ways to preserve access to vital pharmacy services throughout Kansas.

SEN. VICKI SCHMIDT, R-Topeka, and
REP. DON HILL, R-Emporia,
both licensed pharmacists

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Cell phones have come a long way. Where do they go from here?

Among other capabilities, today's cell phones offer users the chance to navigate a city, search the Internet, take a photo, shoot video and listen to hundreds of songs and — oh yeah — make calls.

So what will tomorrow's phones be able to do? To get an idea, we asked Dave Depue, director of the Technology Administration Program at Washburn University, and Chris Schlemmer, manager of information services at The University of Kansas.

We also looked at the present and recent past of cell phone technology for a glimpse of how far the industry has come since the turn of the century.

PAST

Model: Nokia Model 6110

- One of the company's first products to feature "predictive text input," allowing users to type full words with a minimum of key strokes.
- Up to five customized ringtones.
- Three games: Memory, Snake and Logs.
- "Bold new look" and "edgy new styling," according to a news release from Nokia.
- Changeable faceplate.
- Vibration mode, but only with battery accessory.

PRESENT

Model: Verizon Pearl (pictured) and others introduced this fall.

- Up to 8 gigabytes of memory storage to hold MP3s and other music files.
- Cameras and video recorders with up to 2.0 megapixels and NightShot capabilities.
- Navigating systems with audible turn-by-turn directions.
- Wireless broadband Internet connections, allowing users to view full Web pages.
- Bluetooth stereo support for listening to music.
- Ability to download thousands of ringtones from phone.

FUTURE

- Monitor and control home appliances and such functions as temperature settings and lighting.
- Video conference capabilities, including ability to participate in online education classes and training.
- Cameras with 5.0 or more megapixels.
- Download and send PowerPoint presentations.
- Extended call coverage.

Story by Kelly Jacobson; kelly.jacobson@cjonline.com; and Ric Anderson; (785) 295-1292, ric.anderson@cjonline.com.
LAWRENCE — University of Kansas officials are seeking the public’s help in finding the person or persons who fired a weapon through a window on the east side of the Ekdahl Dining Commons, commonly referred to as Mrs. E’s.

KU police reported the window was damaged when a firearm was discharged outside the building between 9:30 p.m. Saturday and 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

The dining facility adjoins Lewis Hall, 1530 Engel Road.

This is the second such incident this semester at Lewis Hall. Between 5:30 p.m. Oct. 13 and 10:30 a.m. Oct. 14, an unknown person discharged a firearm into three windows at Lewis Hall. Two windows were on the east side in Mrs. E’s, and one window was in the third-floor lobby on the west side.

KU police are investigating both incidents. No one has been injured.

Anyone who has information on these incidents can contact the KU Public Safety Office at (785) 864-5900 or KU Crime Stoppers at (785) 864-8888.
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Dole Institute to host general

LAWRENCE — Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, commanding general of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Dole Institute of Politics at The University of Kansas.

Caldwell’s presentation, "The Changing Face of Warfare in the 21st Century," is co-sponsored by the KU-Fort Leavenworth Program and is free and open to the public.

As commanding general of the Combined Arms Center, Caldwell oversees the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth and 17 other schools and training centers throughout the country. The Combined Arms Center is responsible for development of the Army’s doctrinal manuals, officer training, and integration of battle command systems and concepts.
All maxed out

KU doesn’t have room to expand, but a record number of students nationwide are embracing ‘daunting’ challenge of becoming doctors

Efforts to drastically increase enrollment levels in American medical schools to head off a projected shortage of doctors have been successful, but you wouldn’t know it by looking at the Kansas numbers. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, more than 17,800 students entered medical school this year. That is an increase of 2.3 percent over 2006, and it is the largest first-year medical school class in the country’s history.

Of the 126 accredited, M.D.-granting schools, The University of Kansas Medical Center was among 69 not reporting an increase. At KU, it probably had more to do with space than a lack of interest. We took a look at KU’s efforts to expand, as well as one student’s story of the strenuous requirements and time commitment needed to get a degree in the field.

Evelyn Slomka and Adam Obley, students at The University of Kansas Medical School, review an x-ray of knees. Obley said the process of becoming a doctor is daunting, especially since he’ll be past 30 before starting his career.
WHAT'S SO TOUGH?

Consider it takes at least 11 years of advanced education, insane working hours and massive debt to become a doctor, and it seems easy to understand why there aren’t enough students interested in medical school to compensate for the nation’s projected shortage of doctors.

Adam Obley, formerly of Topeka, is halfway through the process. He will be in his early-to mid-30s, at least, before he can start his career in earnest, and at 26, he still doesn’t know exactly what type of doctor he wants to be.

“It can be very daunting” said Obley, a third-year student at the KU medical center. “You start your career at 30 with, for some people, anyway, a significant amount of debt. And you have to make choices about when to start your family.”

Obley graduated in 1999 from Topeka High School, received a bachelor’s degree in cellular biology from The University of Kansas and spent two years working in the governor’s office before deciding to start medical school.

“Fundamental to everything that was going on (in the governor’s office) was the fact that if you are not healthy enough to enroll in school or healthy enough to go to work every day, then what we think of as equal opportunity is not really there,” Obley said, explaining his decision to become a doctor.

He lives in Prairie Village now and is toying with the idea of specializing in infectious diseases in either adult or pediatric medicine.

LOCAL EFFORTS

Attendance at the KU medical center has remained steady for several years at about 175 students per class, said Amy Jordan Wooden, senior director for public affairs.

“We are maxed out in terms of space,” she said. “We can’t expand until we get a new building because, literally, there is no more room in the lecture hall.”

However, officials at the center are working to increase the number of residents who can be trained in Kansas and Missouri hospitals, Wooden said.

“It is a way to add more dancers to the dance card, if you will,” she said. “We know that where an individual does their resident training has a significant impact on where they hang their shingles.”

TIME TO PRACTICE

Adam Obley, a 26-year-old medical student, provided the following information about the path to becoming a doctor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College: Bachelor’s degree required, four years</th>
<th>Residency: Three to nine years, depending upon the level of specialization, working in a supervised position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
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Medical school: Four years. First two years are 90 percent classroom work. Third-year students work six to eight weeks in an assortment of fields to “get a flavor for all the opportunities available.” Fourth-year students start making decisions about their specialty and apply for residencies.

Former St. Mary College president joins Hall of Fame

For 25 years, Sister Mary Janet McGilley served as President of Saint Mary College - a quarter of a century that left a lasting impact on what is now the University of Saint Mary.

Baccalaureate degree programs were expanded from the Leavenworth campus to sites in Wyandotte and Johnson counties.

Baccalaureate and associate degree programs were offered to men and women in both state and federal prisons.

A college-sponsored Out Front program in downtown Leavenworth enabled many who had dropped out of high school or never attended to earn a General Education Diploma.

Education of teachers, a tradition at Saint Mary from its beginnings, grew to benchmark status in Kansas and neighboring states.

Please see KCKCC/Page 14
An articulation agreement was struck with the University of Kansas that admitted Saint Mary students to the KU campus for a semester’s study credited to their degree program and collaboration with the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth brought members of military families to campus for classes and cultural events and opened faculty and staff positions to retired officers.

"During Sister Mary Janet’s presidency, Saint Mary College became for a far-reaching community a resource of learning and professional, cultural and spiritual enrichment," wrote Sister Marie Brinkman, the chair of the English Department during Sister Mary Janet’s presidency and Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth historian.

"That Sister Mary Janet’s personal qualities and quiet leadership affected..." such changes is evident in the vivid impressions of former students and colleagues. 'A decisive leader,' 'a brilliant teacher with the vision of a poet,' 'one who spoke to my heart' - these were words on her retirement from students glad to have known her. She made them feel in touch with administration."

On Sept. 13, 2003, Sister Mary Janet died at age 78 following a six-month battle with leukemia but her life and contributions to education will be permanently enshrined with her posthumous induction into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame at Kansas City Community College Saturday, Nov. 3.

On June 24, 2004, the University of Saint Mary dedicated its newest building in her name, Leavenworth’s largest recreational facility, the 30,000 square foot, 2,000-seat McGilley Field House.

"She listened as intently to a freshman as she did to a senator," said Sister Diane Steele, the current university president. "She was one of the most excellent teachers I ever had," added Mary Alice Bramming, chair of the University’s Board of Trustees. "She opened a whole world of literature and writing to me."

"She was a real role model for women who went through Saint Mary who saw that women could assume leadership positions at a time when her field was dominated by males and she was the only female college president in Kansas," said Mary Dorr, a 1978 Saint Mary graduate who worked 10 years in the Admissions Office and now is Director of Financial Aid at KCKCC. "I strongly believe a lot of graduates have used her as an example for getting into fields of leadership."

A 1945 graduate of Saint Mary with degrees in English and drama, she received a Master of Arts in English from Boston College in 1951 and a doctorate in English from Fordham University in 1956 and then returned to Saint Mary to teach English that same year.

Retirement of the College’s lay president brought a call from her community in 1964 to become the first woman to lead Saint Mary into a future of change and growth.

Early in her term of office, she was called to leadership roles in such organizations as the Association of American Colleges, the North Central Association of Colleges and schools, the American Council on Education and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

In addition to starting the University’s program for adult students which now represents 50 percent of the student population and instructional program for prison inmates, Sister Mary Janet started an exchange program with Sophia University in Tokyo. She also shaped and oversaw the college’s budget and launched several significant fund-raising campaigns, construction projects and campus renovations.
She retired as president in 1989, ending one of the longest tenures in Kansas history, but continued teaching until 1996. She is survived by a sister, Teresa McGilley Redlingshafer of Overland Park; a brother, James P. McGilley Jr. of Kansas City; and many nieces and nephews.

A fund-raiser for the Endowment Association at Kansas City Kansas Community College, the dinner and gala induction ceremonies Nov. 3 are open to the public. Tickets are $65 and reservations can be made by e-mail at katch@kckcc.edu or calling 913-288-7632.
Dean's Scholars to be recognized at Nov. 5 reception

Nineteen University of Kansas students in the Dean's Scholars Program will be honored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University Honors Program with a reception at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5, at Nunemaker Center.

From Wyandotte County: Derrais Armarne Carter, senior in African and African-American studies and sociology, son of Roy and Sheryl Carter and Clarice Fernandes; Washington High School; and Dorthy Pennington, associate professor of African and African-American studies and communication studies.

Joseph Steinmetz, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will welcome returning and newly selected Dean's Scholars. Established in 1992, the program provides recipients with annual $1,000 scholarships and faculty mentors and is designed to diversify the talent pool available for liberal arts and sciences faculties.

The Dean's Scholars Program is part of the University Honors Program and is geared for academically talented students in the liberal arts and sciences who are interested in pursuing graduate study and who represent groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education.

Dean's Scholars are matched with a distinguished KU faculty member and are required to complete special seminars designed to build skills and strategies necessary for graduate study and research. Students are selected as sophomores and juniors based on a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

James Orr directs the program. Orr is an Honors Faculty Fellow and is a professor of biological sciences. Nicolas Shump coordinates the program. Shump is a Dean’s Scholars Program alumnus and a doctoral student in American studies.
English Alternative Theatre has announced 24 finalists in its “How My Parents Met” writing competition. Finalists for three $100 cash prizes include Lawrence residents and students, faculty and staff at the University of Kansas.

From Wyandotte County: Jacob Allen Henshaw, freshman in pre-medicine, son of Pat Henshaw; Bishop Ward High School; “How My Parents Met” finalist.

The finalists have been divided into three groups of eight. They will read their entries at the upcoming performances of two new one-act plays by KU students Nov. 9-11 at the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire St. The cash prize will be awarded to a winner after each of the three performances.

Featured at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, will be Elizabeth Anne Dropek, Houston, Texas, junior; Robert Elliott, administrative assistant in the Department of English; Robert Nolan Knapp, Spring, Texas, junior; Dan McCarthy, academic adviser at the University Advising Center; Katherine Jo Oberthaler, Wichita sophomore; Maria Polonchek, Lawrence graduate student; Adam Suelter, Great Bend senior; and Kimberly Westphall, Andover junior.

Featured at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, will be Robert J. Baumann, Lawrence resident; Jena Borel, Lenexa freshman; Benjamin D. Cartwright, Lawrence graduate student; Rachel Haskins, research assistant at the Life Span Institute; Elizabeth Rain King, information specialist at the School of Education; Sara Langford, Lawrence resident; Karen Ledom, administrative director of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ Student Academic Services; and Michael Whitten, Eudora freshman.

Featured at 2 p.m. Sunday Nov. 11, will be Elizabeth Anne Andy Anderegg, Alexandria, Va., graduate student; Briana Arensberg, Leawood freshman; Samantha J. Bell, Lawrence graduate student; Jacob Allen Henshaw, Kansas City, Kan., freshman; Tahir Hussain Khan, Lawrence resident; Betty A. Laird, Lawrence resident; Young Han Lester, Roeland Park freshman; and Rebecca Ralstin, Shawnee junior.

Tickets are $6 for students, $8 for seniors and $10 for the public and are available at the Lawrence Arts Center box office.
Kansas universities hide info on business jets from prying eyes

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — When it comes to finding out where a business jet is headed, the University of Kansas and Kansas State University are more secretive than the governor’s office.

Since January, the University of Kansas has participated in a service that shields real-time flight plan information from the public for trips taken by its Cessna Citation Bravo based at Lawrence Municipal Airport.

Kansas State has been blocking flight plan information for its two business jets from Internet tracking sites for six years.

"It is fairly common, for security, to not let the whole world know where your plane is going," said Todd Cohen a spokesman for the University of Kansas.
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But Gov. Kathleen Sebelius doesn't keep her flight plans secret.

"Our schedulers or security get on the flight tracking system and track the state plane regularly when needed," said Sebelius spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran.

Pilots regularly file flight plans with the Federal Aviation Administration prior to takeoff. Web sites then track the flights as they happen.

Federal law allows plane owners to request that information be blocked by the National Business Aviation Association.

"In the business community, some of the flights carry competitive and/or security concerns," said Dan Hubbard, a spokesman for the association. "There may be a reason why the party making the flight feels the flight should not be understood in real time."

The schools use their planes for a number of sensitive trips, including coaches recruiting players, performing government-funded research that officials would like to keep quiet or transporting controversial speakers to campus.

Kansas' Cessna seats about eight and is used by officials at both the Lawrence campus and the KU Medical Center campus in Kansas City, Kan.

The university does not block flight information on a King Air C-90B, of which the school is a part-owner. That plane, based in Kansas City, Mo., is used primarily for medical outreach reasons.

Kansas State uses its two planes for general business travel and developed the policy blocking the flight information since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"Part of that response was to make sure that we do not make available where the aircraft is going," said Dennis Kuhlman, dean off K-State-Salina. "That helps protect the university and the people who are on those planes."

The blocking policy doesn't cover the university's fleet of 40 aircraft used to teach piloting, maintenance and engineering, Kuhlman said.

The public can still find out where the planes went and when by filing a request under the Kansas Open Records Act, although the universities typically charge retrieval fees.

According to those records, Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway, Provost Richard Lariviere, Athletic Director Lew Perkins and men's basketball Coach Bill Self are that university's most frequent fliers.

The school said it spends almost $700,000 a year on its aircraft, including salary and benefits for three pilots and a scheduler, maintenance, training and insurance.