NO TO TERROR — Hillel and the Chabac Jewish Student Group were among the 20 student, faculty and staff groups that came together at the University of Kansas Jan. 18 to denounce terrorism, such as the bombing in Algiers that killed a man who once lived in Lawrence. On Dec. 11, a suicide bomber carried out an attack at the United Nations facilities in Algeria. Among those killed was Babacar Ndiaye, a resident of Senegal and U.N. employee. His wife, Selbee Diouf, completed her doctorate in English at KU in spring 2006. Both were active at the university. Emmanuel Birdling, outreach coordinator of the Kansas African Studies Center, said staff at the center wanted to remember Ndiaye and show support for Diouf with a show of solidarity. "There are many who have been impacted by acts of terrorism," Birdling said. "Babacar and Selbee Ndiaye are great friends of the university. We here at the Kansas African Studies Center felt the best way to honor Babacar and express our sympathy to Selbee was to organize a forum to denounce these hideous actions of the terrorist group Al-Qaeda in North Africa in their totality." Among the other groups that made statements denouncing acts of terrorism were the Black Faculty and Staff Council, Muslim Student Association, Ecumenical Christian Ministries, Campus Christians, Black Student Union and the KU chapter of Amnesty International.
The Chabad Jewish Student Center at KU sponsored a pre-Purim party for KU students, as they were away for spring break during the actual holiday. More than 120 students enjoyed music, food and Purim spirit at the Jo Shmo Bar in downtown Lawrence. Pictured are Jared Levy (from left), Megan Singer, Barak Krengei and Drew Eltis. For more information on the many programs and events hosted by Chabad at KU, visit the all-new Web site at www.Jewhawk.com.
The Chabad Jewish Student Center at the University of Kansas hosted an evening where students had the opportunity to hear a firsthand account about life in Israel from Sgt. Boaz Shiffman of the Israeli Defense Forces. The students enjoyed falafel and other Israeli foods, viewed a film about Israel and heard dramatic, firsthand experiences from the IDF. Pictured are Alex Kransberg (from left), Sgt. Shiffman and Andrew Edelman. For more information on the many programs and events sponsored by Chabad at KU, visit www.JewishKU.com or call (785) 832-TORA.
KU Med ranked 3rd by publication

Center among best places for postdoctoral fellows to work

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The University of Kansas Medical Center is one of the outstanding medical facilities in the country. I'm proud to represent such an outstanding medical facility and we're lucky to have such a great resource in the area. - D.M.

The University of Kansas Medical Center has been named the third best academic institution for postdoctoral fellows to work, and No. 21 overall for medical facilities.

Life sciences publication “The Scientist” surveyed more than 3,000 non-tenured life scientists and ranked more than 80 schools and research centers. The KU Medical Center’s overall ranking is the highest in school history, and puts it ahead of Duke University, Washington University, and the National Institutes of Health, among others.

The magazine noted particular strengths in the Medical Center’s offerings in benefits and family life.

“This is great news, and the ranking is indicative of the emphasis and importance we place on our postdoctoral fellows,” said Allen Rawitch, PhD, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies. “We are always striving to make the Medical Center a top location for the nation’s most promising researchers.

“The postdoc experience is about more than just lab work. We make a concerted effort to construct an outstanding overall experience, both personally and professionally.”
Darian Nave will serve as orientation leader

Darian Nave of Kansas City, Kansas, will be among 22 University of Kansas students chosen as assistants for KU’s new student orientation programs this summer. It will be the second year that Nave, a senior majoring in elementary education, has served in this capacity.

Orientation assistants are hired through a process that includes essay writing, group interaction activities, a five-minute speech and final interview. They prepare for orientation classes by attending three weeks of training that covers KU academic and student services, public speaking, interaction with the public and diversity issues.

Nave, the son of LaVeda Davis, is a graduate of F.L. Schlagle High School.
Change the process

A University of Kansas professor of law, Stephen Ware, disagrees with you and the group led by Greg Musil and his list of attorneys with their law firms.

Kansas is the only state that selects judges in the way it does. Perhaps a call to Professor Ware will give you a more balanced perspective.

I don't agree with having judges run for election, but voting for retention of judges is inadequate and a joke. Ask any person on the street who a judge was on some of the high profile cases and they won't have a clue. Try this with your non-lawyer/non-journalism friends.

The outcome of cases is not the only way to decide if a judge is doing his/her job. The rulings made during a trial have a great impact on the outcome. In most cases judges have nothing to fear about being overruled. Only those with money or backing from a nonprofit have the resources to appeal.

I am not an attorney nor is anyone in my immediate family. I'm just a taxpaying citizen that was appalled when the Supreme Court decided to take over the job of the Legislature and order outrageous spending for schools.

The way judges are selected now is political, only it is done in secret. It is of lawyers, by lawyers and for lawyers behind closed doors. There is no transparency and the public is stuck with the decision.

Doris Riley

Overland Park
Local author puts students on fast track to college degree

HOLLY KRAMER
STAFF WRITER

Attention future collegians: How long do you want to be in college?

Mike Wilson, 23, Overland Park, just finished his first book, Thru In 2: The Ultimate Guide to Finishing College On Time (or Even Early) and Saving Thousands In the Process.

Wilson finished his bachelor’s degree in business administration at the University of Kansas in two years and went on to complete a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in one year.

Wilson said he started laying the groundwork to graduate from college on time or early while attending Shawnee Mission South High School.

“When I was in high school, my parents just kind of laid it out for me that they had the resources to send me to college for four years and that would be all,” Wilson said.

Wilson’s mother, Cindi, is a teacher at Shawnee Mission South and had access to resources that helped Wilson jumpstart his college career.

Wilson applied to Johnson County Community College his junior year of high school, taking summer, online and evening classes in addition to his high school courses.

“They were not AP classes,” Wilson said. “I was never smart enough for AP classes. It really wasn’t that busy of a schedule for an average high school student.”

After competing 50 credit hours at JCCC while at South, Wilson said the “footwork was finished” and he prepared to start at KU as a junior.

Wilson kept the momentum going at KU by taking online courses through Parkville University and keeping his goal to finish in two years in sight.

Though he focused on graduating early, Wilson said he still found time to enjoy the college experience.

Between his first and second year, or as he called it, his freshman and senior year, at KU, Wilson studied abroad in a town near Venice, Italy.

After graduating with a master’s from UMKC, Wilson said people started telling him to write a book about his experience.

After reading that only 31.3 percent of KU students graduate in four years, Wilson said he realized he had done something unique.

“After reading that article, it kind of hit me that it was really a feat that I did,” he said. “So I started researching after I put it off for a really long time.”


The 130-page book is a “light” read, Wilson said.

“It’s oriented for future college students and parents,” he said. “There’s a lot of subjective and objective information in the book.”

Wilson said the book is a good resource for any student interested in attending college.

“A lot of people started college with a plan to major in something like engineering and then they discovered how much work it would be and they change their major, which causes them to stay in college a lot longer,” Wilson said. “I try to tell people to really start thinking about what they want to do early in high school and stick to that plan. Having a plan and sticking to it is very important.”

Wilson said he has always had an entrepreneurial spirit.

“When I was in high school, my dad bought me an old 1987 Corvette and I was much more interested in fixing the car up than going to parties and hanging out with the wrong crowd,” Wilson said. “My dad encouraged me to start buying parts wholesale and start my own business. After all the guys at school saw my car looking cool, they told their friends and the word got around.

“I learned a lot from my dad; he’s my mentor.”

Wilson works in marketing at Power Soak, a company that manufactures a custom piece of equipment for restaurants.

“It’s a very prominent small business,” Wilson said. “We sell to the top eight out of 10 fast-foot chains.”

For details about Thru in 2, go to www.thruin2.com.
Harry Keith, a police officer with the Kansas City Kansas Community College, was among 54 recent graduates of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. They were honored in ceremonies March 7 in Hutchinson.

Graduates received certificates of course completion and Kansas law enforcement certification from the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training. The state's law enforcement licensing authority. About 350 officers enroll annually in the 14-week basic training program.
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Nave, the son of LaVeda Davis, is a graduate of F.L. Schlagle High School.
Jackson works to get honor for Peace Corps

TOPEKA - Andover High School graduate Beau Jackson made the initial contacts with state officials that led to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signing a proclamation naming Feb. 25-March 3 as Peace Corps Week.

Jackson, now a law student at the University of Kansas, joined with several other Peace Corps volunteers from KU that met with the governor Wednesday, March 19 as she signed the proclamation in her office at the Statehouse. Jackson helped to write the proclamation and arranged the visit with the governor.

Scheduling conflicts had made it impossible for the former volunteers to meet earlier with Sebelius.

Jackson, of Wichita, spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cape Verde, an island nation off the west African coast.

Jackson and other members of the KU group have donated numerous hours to promoting the Peace Corps at the university and in the Lawrence community.

Group members noted that Peace Corps Week was a global celebration of the contributions volunteers have made - and still are making around the world. Former volunteers spent that week giving presentations about their service and community outreach.

They said it was an opportunity for volunteers to fulfill the third goal of Peace Corps service: “Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.”