The University of Kansas chapter of Phi Kappa Phi honor society recently initiated 188 student members, including Maize High School graduate Nicole M. Witt, daughter of Bruce and Janice Witt. Witt is a junior, majoring in accounting.

Don Steeples, vice provost for scholarly support and the Dean A. McGee Distinguished Professor of Applied Geophysics, was the keynote speaker at the Nov. 27 ceremony at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

The two faculty initiates are James Mayo, professor and chair of urban planning, and Karen D. Miller, professor and dean of the School of Nursing, dean of the School of Allied Health and senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs at the KU Medical Center.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine in Orono and is the nation’s oldest and largest all-discipline academic honor society with chapters at about 300 colleges and universities in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Established in 1975, the KU chapter includes members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and all of the schools of the university.

At KU, only the top 10 percent of seniors, top 7.5 percent of second-semester juniors with more than 72 credit hours and top 10 percent of graduate students are asked to join. Phi Kappa Phi’s primary objectives are to promote the pursuit of excellence in all fields of higher education and to recognize outstanding achievement by students, faculty and others by election to membership and through various awards for distinguished achievement.

Marlesa Roney, vice provost for Student Success, is president of the KU chapter. Other officers are Angela Lumpkin, professor of health, sport and exercise science, vice president; Adolfo Matamoros, associate professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering, secretary; Jim Miller, associate professor of electrical engineering.
Several join Phi Kappa Phi

Lawrence — The University of Kansas chapter of Phi Kappa Phi honor society recently initiated 188 student members. Among those are:

- Halstead — Aaron Jacob Keller, son of Cecil and Valerie Keller.
- Newton — Blake A. Perkins, son of Linda Fisher; and Dustin Brent Redger, son of Perry and Lisa Redger.
DEPTH OF SCANDAL STILL IN QUESTION

Morrison’s resignation unlikely to end uproar

BY STEVEN Kraske AND DAVID KLEPPER
Kansas City Star

Fewer than 24 hours before Paul Morrison’s dramatic resignation as Kansas attorney general Friday, the word from confidants and aides was unwavering and crystal clear:
Morrison is a fighter. He’s not stepping down. He’s not going anywhere.
Morrison’s startling turnabout, which has resulted in the biggest political upheaval of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ administration, appears to have been driven, at least in part, by a desire to protect his children.
“He and (his wife) Joyce came to the decision they didn’t want to put the kids through it any more,” said state Democratic Party chairman Larry Gates. “I take him at his word.”
The Morrisons have three children, the youngest of whom is in high school. While Joyce Morrison apparently had known about trouble ahead with her husband’s career, the kids apparently did not, Gates said.

Please see Morrison, Page 7A
Resigning now, Gates added, curtails some of the intense focus on Morrison and "shortens the life span of the whole thing."

Adding to the late-week calculus, Gates said, was Morrison's conclusion that the integrity of the office was on the line. Morrison addressed that in the brief statement he delivered at 3 p.m. Friday.

"Law enforcement should be the focus of this office, not my personal life," he said.

Still, by week's end some members of both parties had concluded that Morrison's sudden exit was caused by what they suspected was the possibility of more revelations to come.

"There's got to be more to this than what has been previously reported," said state Sen. David Hale, D-Kansas City.


"Anything is believable at this point."

**Carter's allegations**

On Thursday and Friday, the Topeka Capital-Journal and Harris News reported new details of Morrison's two-year extramarital affair with Linda Carter, his former employee at the Johnson County Courthouse. Those revelations were based on a Nov. 1 sworn statement Carter had given to an investigator from Johnson County District Attorney Phil Kline's office.

In that statement, Carter described 22 telephone calls that Morrison placed to her Oct. 31. Four of those calls were overheard by Shavna Chambless, a coworker in the Johnson County District Attorney's office, and Stephen Maxwell, a senior deputy district attorney.

According to the news accounts, Morrison threatened Carter in those calls that he would tell prospective employers that Carter was a "monster, ... sociopath, liar, ... and bad manager."

A month earlier, Morrison made five consecutive calls at 4 a.m. from Lenexa to Carter, the statement said. The Capital-Journal said Morrison wanted to know whether Carter had obtained a tattoo of a demonstrate a commitment to him. The statement said Carter had not, even though Morrison had.

Whether those revelations placed Morrison's relationship with Carter into a different category was still a matter of debate.

"You wouldn't have to resign unless there's something else there," said Scott Scwab, Johnson County Republican Party chairman. "Every Democrat knows if it's just about sex, you can survive if you're popular. And Paul Morrison was one of the most popular Democrats in the state."

On Thursday, the Johnson County Commission gave Kline permission to hire a special prosecutor to investigate blackmail and harassment. In statements last week, Morrison repeatedly denied breaking the law by violating the canons of the legal profession.

"I have always obeyed our laws and done the right thing as a professional," he said in Topeka.

Morrison has admitted the affair, although he denied harassing Carter or using her to learn confidential information about Kline's case against Planned Parenthood, as Carter has said.

Carter reportedly is out of state and has been unavailable for comment. Carter's sworn statement has not been made public, and the Kansas City Star has not seen it.

In the statement, Carter said Morrison had emphasized during the affair that he controlled her job in the district attorney's office.

After his 2006 election as attorney general, Morrison told Carter that if their affair was discovered she "would lose her job and face public humiliation," Carter said.

In her statement, Carter said she expected to one day wind up working in the attorney general's office. The Capital-Journal reported that Morrison has confirmed that Carter had "repeatedly" sought employment on his staff.

**Out of supporters**

At week's end, multiple investigations were under way, including the special prosecutor in Johnson County; the state judicial disciplinary administrator, who investigates complaints of attorney misconduct; and the...
federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which will look into a sexual harassment complaint Carter filed last month.

“If there is blackmail, if there are indications of phone harassment, this isn’t over,” Schwab said. “His resignation doesn’t end this.”

By week’s end, Morrison had run out of supporters, said University of Kansas political scientist Burdett Loomis. Democrats felt betrayed, and Republicans who had once backed him weren’t inclined to go out on a limb for a man who had bolted their party to run for attorney general last year.

“He didn’t have much in the way of defenders anywhere along the line,” Loomis said.

“He could see the writing on the wall,” said Kansas State University political scientist Joe Aistrup. “It was over.”

Gates, the Democratic Party chairman, admitted that the Morrison scandal had damaged the party, although he insisted that neither he nor Sebelius nor any group of Democrats had gone to Morrison to demand his resignation.

“I can tell you for sure that no one pushed him,” Gates said. “It was his own decision.”

He said that in 2005, when Morrison was asked about issues in his private life that could derail his candidacy for attorney general, “He didn’t volunteer it,” Gates said.

Although Sebelius remains the state’s dominant political figure, the party lacks a deep bench of Democrats in position to win statewide offices. Morrison was expected to hold the attorney general’s office for two, maybe three terms.

The party now has the opportunity to find a new statewide player who will have three years to build up enough credibility to hold the office in the 2010 election. That’s enough time to set up the new attorney general for a statewide run, Democrats said, and remove any tarnish from the Morrison scandal.

“If this had happened closer to the end of the term, it would have been different,” said state Rep. Sue Storm, D-Overland Park.

Gates said Saturday that names of possible successors were already coming in, and he expects the governor to ask Kansans for more.

“She told me last night that she is absolutely committed to finding the best-qualified person to do that job,” he said. “I know there are no front-runners here.”

Haley said it’s going to be difficult to find a successor who brings the expertise and image Morrison had.

“He had the law enforcement credentials that we’re not going to easily find on either side of the political aisle,” he said.

Reach Steve Kraske at 816-234-4312 or skraske@kcstar.com.
New BIO Center will centralize KU tech research

The Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp. said it will create the Biotechnology Innovation & Optimization Center to centralize technology development efforts at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City.

The BIO Center will be under the direction of Roger Rajewski and will comprise staff and resources associated with the Higuchi Bioscience Center.

KTEC officials said the restructuring coincides with two events: the retirement of Charles Decedue, executive director of Higuchi Bioscience Center, and an organizational change at KU that combines research and graduate studies into one office.
Nursing doctoral degree approved at Wichita State

Nurses now can earn a doctor of nursing practice degree at Wichita State University.

The Kansas Board of Regents approved the degree at WSU, which has been lobbying for the advanced nurse practitioner credential since early 2005, said Juanita Tate, chairwoman of the School of Nursing and associate dean of the College of Health Professions.

The same degree was also approved for the University of Kansas.

At WSU, nurses with a master's degree can begin their doctoral studies as early as spring. Post-baccalaureate students can begin the program in the fall.
Honor scholars from Lyndon are, from left—Stephanie Goetz, Kayla Schmidt, Alex Wendling, Chelsea Schmitz, and Ashley Persinger.

Lyndon students named honored scholars

A Kansas Honor Scholar is a distinction for high school seniors whose consistent record of superior academic achievement merits recognition as outstanding in the state.

The University of Kansas Alumni Association named the following Lyndon students as Kansas Honor Scholars, Stephanie Goetz, Kayla Schmidt, Alex Wendling, Chelsea Schmitz, and Ashley Persinger.
TOPEKA – Public university students in Kansas will pay higher housing costs next year and the University of Kansas' main teaching hospital will get more money under measures approved Thursday by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Regents voted to raise the cost of room and board at the state's six public universities as a way to offset inflation, pay for maintenance and upgrade services for students.

On average, students will see their room and board costs increase 5.4 percent, or $330 a year, at the University of Kansas and 6 percent, or $364 a year, at Kansas State.

Average housing costs at Fort Hays, Emporia, Pittsburg and Wichita State universities will increase by between 4 percent and 6 percent, or from $276 to $306 more per year.

The actual rates for university housing and meal services vary by student, based on meal options and the type of facility where a student lives.

Also Thursday, the regents approved a five-year deal that will increase from $31 million this fiscal year to $46 million next year the amount of money the University of Kansas Hospital gives to the University Medical Center and a physicians group.

The money will go toward such things as research, physicians and medical residents.

One of the main goals of the spending increase is to win federal designation as a comprehensive cancer center.

The agreement also calls for a new outpatient facility and more cooperation among the physicians, hospital and medical center.

The University of Kansas Hospital Authority, the hospital's governing board, agreed to the deal Tuesday. The physicians group was to consider the agreement at a meeting Thursday night.

Completion of the deal comes two months after the University of Kansas Medical Center agreed to a separate partnership with St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.
Sasha Roe, Mankato, is one of 188 students recently initiated into the University of Kansas Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

At KU, only the top 10 percent of seniors and the top 7.5 percent of second-semester juniors are asked to join.

Roe is the daughter of Keith and Bethany Roe, Mankato, and plans a major in news and information and political science. She is a junior at KU and a Mankato High School graduate.
Operating two public transportation services in Lawrence not efficient

A plan to seek joint proposals from prospective operators is another positive step toward combining the city and Kansas University public transit systems.

Lawrence city commissioners will be asked to authorize city staff to issue a joint request for proposals to operate the city's T and KU's bus system beginning in January 2008.

KU officials had specifically negotiated a contract that would end at the same time as the city's contract to facilitate seeking a joint RFP.

The city's public transit administrator is careful in his background memo to city commissioners to say that seeking a joint proposal is unlikely to reduce the city's costs for operating the T. Rising costs for fuel, insurance, wages, maintenance and other expenses are expected to make it impossible for the city to maintain its current level of service for a comparable cost after the current contract runs out.

The RFP will specifically ask for cost estimates on a reduced schedule of operation to lay out various options for commissioners.

Even though the city and KU may not see immediate cost reductions, it only makes sense in the long run to seek additional coordination between the two bus services.

Operating two separate public transportation services in a town the size of Lawrence simply isn't efficient.

The city may face some painful choices as it negotiates a new contract to operate the T. The bus system is a costly venture for the city, but it may become increasingly important if rising fuel prices prompt more people to take advantage of public transportation.

Whatever the future holds for public transportation, it seems that both KU and the city will benefit from working together to meet those needs. A full merger of the two bus systems may make sense in the future, but for now, a joint contract for the operation of the two systems is a step in the right direction.

--Lawrence Journal-World
By The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Public university students in Kansas will pay higher housing costs next year and the University of Kansas' main teaching hospital will get more money under measures approved Thursday by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Regents voted to raise the cost of room and board at the state's six public universities as a way to offset inflation, pay for maintenance and upgrade services for students. On average, students will see their room and board costs increase 5.4 percent, or $330 a year, at the University of Kansas and 6 percent, or $364 a year, at Kansas State. Average housing costs at Fort Hays, Emporia, Pittsburg and Wichita State universities will increase by between 4 percent and 6 percent, or from $276 to $306 more per year.

Also Thursday, the regents approved a five-year deal that will increase — from $31 million this fiscal year to $46 million next year — the amount of money the University of Kansas Hospital gives to the University of Kansas Medical Center and a physicians group.