Student receives research award

A Coffeyville student at the University of Kansas received an Undergraduate Research Award.

Rebecca Lo, a junior majoring in biology, was one of 35 students to receive the awards for the summer and fall 2008 semesters. The awards support original, independent research by undergraduates enrolled on the Lawrence campus. The University Honors Program administers the awards with funds from the offices of the provost and the vice provost for research and graduate studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Lo is the daughter of Victor and Susan Lo and graduated from Field Kindley High School in Coffeyville.

Selection criteria included the quality of the proposal, the student’s academic record and ability to complete the proposed research project, the project’s potential contribution to knowledge and the educational value of the research to the student.

Seventeen students from Independence are among 4,900 listed on Kansas University’s honor roll for the spring 2008 semester.

Independence students listed include Brett Affolter, Emily Bannwarth, Liane Eisenbart, Stephanie Gettler, Kelley Gorman, Navreet Grewal, Joseph Hall, Kevin Hardy, Dean Hayse, Rebecca Knox, Christopher Landrum, Chelsea Laswell, Benjamin Mitchell, Stormy Munkins, Kayleigh Nichols, Sumere Smith and Shannon Tierney.

Other Montgomery County students listed include Christopher Carr, Katie Cevera, Darci Eveleigh, Stephanie Irwin, Arjun Kannanreddy, Rebecca Lo and Pekkel Wong, all of Coffeyville, and Sarah Griffin of Cherryvale.

Chautauqua County students on the list include Mauntell Ford of Cedar Vale and Laura Allison and Kathryn Presley, both of Sedan. Heather Simmons of Howard is listed from Elk County. Wilson County students are Kourtney Puckett, Megan Fowler, Bridgette Moen, Whitney Runer, Lindsey Stewart and Tiffany Wambsganss, all of Fredonia and Christine Jones, Ryan Carpenter and Bryan Schuessler, all of Neodesha.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.
Teachers recognized for service

The University of Kansas School of Education has recognized 797 teachers from 173 school districts statewide with certificates for 25 or more years of service in education in Kansas.

Independence school district had seven faculty and its superintendent with 25 years in teaching, with all but one year of teaching in Kansas out of the whole bunch. Those recognized included superintendent Chuck Schmidt, activities director Brad Fredrickson and teachers Leslie Coder, Lorraine Emmot, Theresa King, Linda Linn, Collette Reichenberger and Jennifer Springer.

The Cherryvale-Thayer school district also had eight teachers recognized for up to 37 total years teaching. Secondary teacher Jeannie Presson has been in Kansas for 36 of her total 37 years in teaching. Bob Clackard had 29 years, Joyce Long had 25, Jo Neuberger had 31 years, Steve Pelley had 30 and Sharon Thompson had 34. Earlene Waitmire had 30 years teaching in Kansas, and Jayne Knight had 27 in Kansas.

Other area teachers recognized, all with 25 total years of teaching, included Susan Galvan, Patrick Simmons and Dana Tallaferro, all of West Elk school district; Drake Grigsby and Melissa Massman, both of Coffeyville; Elizabeth Boldra of Neodesha, Anthony Blackwell of Fredonia, Tammy Jo Smith of Cedar Vale, and Pamela Liddell of Tri-County Special Education. Cheryl Kopfman, a Caney resident teaching with Chautauqua County in Sedan, had 26 years and Walt Koontz of Sedan was recognized for 35 years in Kansas.

Of 17 teachers recognized with 35 or more years, Great Bend secondary guidance counselor Ronald Daniels had the longest service with 44 years.
WSU SEeks $31 MILLION FOR COMPOSITES RESEARCH

BY ROY WenZL
The Wichita Eagle

If David McDonald gets what he’s asking for, he says his scientific collaborators will create thousands of new jobs here, turning Wichita into a sort of Silicon Valley for orthopedic surgeons.

Wichita State University is asking the state this week for a $31 million, five-year grant to invent and build new medical industries.

The goal is to create medical devices from composites — lightweight, pliable and strong — similar to those that have revolutionized the aircraft industry.

“We don’t just have a plan — we have a damned good plan,” said McDonald, associate provost for research and graduate school dean at WSU.

The new industries he and his colleagues hope to create would make such innovations as a new generation of artificial hips and instant battlefield bone splints.

These devices would be invented in Wichita by a team of scientists, some of whom are already at work in bioresearch at Via Christi Regional Medical Center.

The money would create a Center of Innovation for Biomaterials in Orthopedic Research, which would be located next to the new Jabara Training Facility, adjacent to Jabara Airport, at 29th North and Webb Road.

A decision is expected early next year.

The right ingredients

McDonald, a biologist, suggested to aerospace engineers and local doctors two years ago that Wichita’s composite materials scientists might be able to invent new medical devices.

Wichita is one of only seven composite manufacturing clusters in the world and one of only three in the U.S.

Wichita is the only place in the world with the unique blend of aircraft composite engineers, orthopedic surgeons, composite materials manufacturers and
ABOVE: Operating tables, such as this one at Kansas Surgery and Recovery Center, and other medical tools may be constructed of composites to allow the use of X-ray and other imaging systems without the interference of metal parts. RIGHT: Researchers want to develop composite replacement joints that can replace the metal ones now in use.
WSU

From Page 1A

skilled workers needed for the project, according to the proposal.

Most of all, McDonald said, Wichita has the National Institute for Aviation Research, one of the few outfits with scientists expert at testing composite materials.

The decision on the $31 million grant will be made by the Kansas Bioscience Authority, which was created by the Legislature four years ago to jump-start the state's bioscience economy.

Over 15 years, the authority expects to invest $580 million in state funding to promote the development of bioscience companies and research.

It will decide in 2009 whether to give the grant to Wichita.

McDonald and others working on the project said they feel confident. The authority already gave them $200,000 for planning, and about $900,000 to help attract scientist/inventor Paul Wooley to Via Christi.

Tom Thornton, president of the authority, visited Wichita in April and told researchers then that the authority “will be investing a lot more in Wichita.”

The proposal

McDonald is the primary author of a 100-page business plan mailed to the Kansas Bioscience Authority on Friday. He said the authority has told him they hope to meet with researchers again in Wichita in early September to discuss the proposal.

WSU would be the lead entity, according to the proposal. Research partners would include WSU’s National Institute for Aviation Research and Via Christi Health System, where the St. Francis campus houses its Orthopedic Research Institute.

Those involved say the ideas in the proposal could boost the Wichita economy. Whatever is invented here will require factories skilled in making composites, "I've tried at times to take the negative view on this and poke holes in this proposal, and I just can't do it," said Mike Good, Via Christi Research's director of business operations. "There are so many reasons why this will work, chief among them that there are some of the finest minds in the world about these subjects who are helping develop this."

The timing is right

The long-term goal is to create medical implants, including artificial hips made from composites, which would be more advanced, pliable and patient-friendly than the steel implants now in use.

Composites have revolutionized the aircraft industry, allowing for the construction of lighter and more fuel-efficient airplanes.

The business plan also calls for inventing external medical devices first because they can be developed faster and require less regulatory approval than those implanted in the body.

McDonald said medical devices that could be invented here include:

- External bracing devices for broken bones
- Stretchers, gurneys, and beds made from composites, which would be stronger, lighter and cheaper than current devices
- A rapid-setting support to stabilize trauma injuries on battlefields or at traffic accidents. McDonald said Wooley plans to develop composite substances for these devices that could reduce the likelihood of infections and promote blood clotting.

University of Kansas scientists will submit their own proposal, linked with WSU's proposal, McDonald said.

The new industry would fatten the local economy, blunt the effects of aircraft manufacturing downturns, and generate more tax revenue, he said.

The timing is right, according to McDonald.

Wichitans would be inventing joint implants just as the baby boom generation ages.

Baby boomers, he said, are already more overweight than any previous generation. Obese people tend to wear out hips and knees much faster than healthy people. What's bad for them will be good for the hip replacement industry.

McDonald's summary also lists other reasons for the state to invest in Wichita:

- Via Christi last year hired one of the few scientists expert in the combination of skills needed to fill the role of chief inventor. Wooley is a scientist in orthopedic surgery, immunology, microbiology and biomedical engineering. He brought a lab of equipment and skilled researchers with him.
- Unlike some institutions, McDonald said, WSU's scientists have a reputation for practical thinking, in part because they deal directly with engineers at Wichita's aircraft companies.

"The researchers and scientists who will be creating this are people who have spent years developing ideas that had to work directly for the customer on the line," McDonald said. "They are not the sort of people who create a solution and then go looking for a problem for it to solve."

- The customers — who could include doctors, hospitals and factories — will be making the go/no-go decisions, he said.
- The Sedgwick County Commission recently approved $54 million to build the Jabara Training Facility. It strengthens the area's ability to train a work force.
- The country is willing to supply land for the project adjacent to the training center. The center could share facilities with the training center and put researchers within walking distance of each other. It would be next to Jabara Airport, providing access by jet for executives, doctors and scientists.
- It would also be near what some Wichitans call the "Medical Mile," medical businesses along Webb Road that include orthopedic surgeons, scientists and doctors, who could collaborate on ideas.

Reach Roy Wenzl at 316-268-6219 or rwenzl@wichitaeagle.com.
A lot has happened in 83 years

Early in my journalistic career I learned to take a book or a crossword puzzle when covering a trial or a city council meeting.

You never know when someone is going to declare a recess and leave you with nothing to think about. Or, for that matter, continue talking and leave you nothing to think about.

When heading out to cover that KU trademark infringement trial last week, I picked up a book of writings by H.L. Mencken.

The irony of that selection struck me later. Mencken is best remembered today for his coverage of the “Scopes monkey trial” in July 1925 in Dayton, Tenn. On trial was a young teacher accused of teaching evolution in the classroom.

You, dear reader, are better off today because of the goal of most journalists to be fair and objective, but Oh! how much fun it would have been to have the license Mencken had to tell it as he saw it.

For example, on July 19, 1925, near the end of the trial, he wrote, “There hasn’t been the slightest pretense to decorum. The rustic judge, a candidate for re-election, has postured the yokels like a clown in a 10-cent side show, and almost every word he has uttered has been an undisguised appeal to their prejudices and superstitions.”

By the way, remember that federal judges aren’t elected, so they don’t have to play to the galleries. They just have to handle the proceedings properly in an attempt to avoid being overturned by a circuit court or the U.S. Supreme Court.

But as I sat in the beautifully appointed courtroom, I thought of other differences between 1925 and 2008.

The KU defense team had an incredible computer system for displaying documents and other items of evidence on computer screens easily visible to the important participants. There was a large screen at each end of the jury box and smaller screens on the desks of the judge and the lawyers. In the spectators’ gallery, some images were too small to make out in detail.

No sooner would Charlie Henn, KU’s attorney, say he needed exhibit No. 723, page 27, than Lowe Crumbley, his firm’s trial technology analyst, called it up from his laptop computer and made it visible on the computer screens.

Of course, Mencken would have been amazed by that technology, but he would have appreciated the air conditioning even more — technology so old now it is almost taken for granted.

And speaking of irony, in the column I wrote two weeks ago about some historical inaccuracies in the movie “1776,” I added an inaccuracy of my own. Caesar Rodney was a delegate to the Continental Congress from Delaware, not Rhode Island.

Mike Hall, who began his career some time after the Scopes trial, can be reached at (785) 295-1209 or mike.hall@cjonline.com.
Jim Tilly, an attorney representing Larry Sinks of Joe-College.com, says he doubts his client will appeal the verdict.

KU wins T-shirt lawsuit

Judge says owner of Joe-College.com must pay $127,000

By Mike Hall
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

Both sides in The University of Kansas trademark infringement lawsuit are claiming victory from a split decision by a federal court jury Monday.

Joe-College.com was hit with $127,000 in penalties for selling T-shirts that infringe on KU trademarks, a victory of sorts in the mind of Jim Tilly, the attorney representing the Lawrence retailer.

"Overall, I can say we're pleased," Tilly told reporters outside the Frank Carlson Federal Building in Topeka.

KU officials had identified 206 T-shirt designs created and sold by Joe College that they alleged violated their trademarks or insulted the university's image.

But jurors found only about 40 or 50 to be in violation, Tilly said.

Charlie Henn, KU's attorney, asked U.S. District Judge Julie Robinson to impose an injunction against Joe College continuing to sell the T-shirts identified by the jury. Robinson agreed to do that, but Tilly said it was moot.

Please see KU, Page 3A
Continued from Page 1A

Larry Sinks, owner of the business, already had agreed to cease selling any shirts found in violation.

KU athletic director Lew Perkins found more comfort in some general findings by the jury beyond the individual findings on each T-shirt.

The jury unanimously agreed that the three defendants — Victory Sportswear LLC, Sinks as owner of the business and Clark Orth, owner of the screen printing offshoot of the business — were guilty of unfair competition and "dilution" of KU's image.

"We are pleased that the jury unanimously found in KU's favor on all six counts, including federal and state trademark infringement, unfair competition, and dilution of our trademarks," Perkins said. "We agree with the jury that all three defendants willfully infringed on and diluted our marks."

Jim Marchiony, KU's associate athletic director for external relations, said he believes the verdict sends the message the university wanted sent: People who produce products playing off the school's image need to go through the process of having their products approved by the university.

And the verdict was a victory for the 490 vendors who are licensed by KU, Marchiony said. Those merchants rightly saw Joe College's unlicensed shirts — for which Joe College paid no royalty to KU — as unfair competition.

Tilly said he doubted Sinks would appeal, but that doesn't mean the legal wrangling is over. A number of decisions still need to be made.

Tilly said he doubted Sinks would appeal, but that doesn't mean the legal wrangling is over. A number of decisions still need to be made.

The big one is the damages. Tilly said a judge can increase or decrease penalties imposed by a jury. Jurors were asked to rule on each of the 206 T-shirt designs and decide whether they constituted an infringement on a KU trademark and whether the shirt caused legal "dilution."

Dilution can mean confusion in the minds of the public as to whether a T-shirt is officially licensed by the university and whether the design or message causes people to think less of the university.

Robinson, reading from the jury's written findings, identified each T-shirt and whether the jurors found it infringed or diluted. Most were found to have neither infringed nor diluted. But some were found guilty of one or the other, and a few were guilty of both.

Ironically, one T-shirt message most often mentioned in the court was found to be acceptable by the jury. It contained an epithet against the University of Missouri thinly disguised by transposing the first letters of the two words.
KU named ‘great college to work for’

LAWRENCE — The University of Kansas is among a select few universities cited in a new national survey of “great colleges to work for.”

Recognition of high-quality teaching and a strong sense of loyalty and personal connection are part of what makes KU a great place to work, according to the study by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

KU is recognized as a top five university among large institutions in 12 out of 27 categories in the report, “2008 Great Colleges to Work For.”

Only three universities — Stanford, Emory and Michigan — were cited in the top five more than KU.
Better transit will take money, city planning changes

CHUCK KURTZ
STAFF WRITER

Chuck Ferguson’s “wish list” is not long. But it is expensive and will require a change in the mindset of how communities are developed.

Ferguson serves as deputy transportation director for The JO, which, as a result of ever-increasing gas prices, has seen a huge increase in ridership the past six months. That increase has pushed The JO to its capacity.

The buses saw a total of 295,000 “riders” and “rides” in 2006, and 300,000 in 2007. A “rider” is defined as a round-trip passenger. A “ride” is defined as a passenger traveling one way.

Ferguson expects another 100,000 increase in total ridership this year — if not more.

Nearly every fixed-route bus is filled with commuters going to and from downtown Kansas City, Mo., and unless a bus is being serviced, it is on the road picking up and dropping off passengers.

“Ridership on fixed routes is up 40,000 to 45,000 just in the first six months of this year compared to the same time last year,” Ferguson said. “In June alone, last year we had 31,574. This year, without counting the last three days of the month, we already are near 44,000 and when it’s all counted, we’ll be between 44,000 and 46,000. That’s amazing.”

Ferguson said passengers have increased at all the park-and-ride locations, especially at Oak Park Mall and 151st Street and Antioch Road, and he talked of the success of the bus service between Overland Park and Lawrence.

“We have an agreement with Oak Park Mall and they are building a specific park-and-ride facility. That’s the first time that’s ever happened,” he said. “Two years ago, there were 11 cars left behind in the parking lot at the Blue Valley Baptist Church at 151st and Antioch. Now there are 40 or more.”

The K-10 Connector service between Overland Park and Lawrence has been a success from the first day of operation in 2006. The Kansas Department of Transportation projected the route would see 500 rides a day after five years.

“The buses that travel along Kansas Highway 10 depart 12 times a day and provide 20 round-trip routes. We had 114 (rides) that first day and 144 the second day,” Ferguson said. “We hit 500 rides a day after three weeks and it’s been escalating ever since. Last summer, we carried 130 to 150 rides a day and when school started we were up to 600 and 700 a day.”

This summer, the route has been carrying between 450 and 550 rides a day, which leads Ferguson to think the percentage increase will carry over into the start of school this fall.

Which leads to wish list item number one: funding.

The JO has a total budget of $11 million. The K-10 route between Overland Park and Lawrence costs $300,000 to operate and has been funded with a three-year grant from the Congested Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program along with some state funding. The grant funding ends in 2009.

Future funding likely will come from other grants, the state, the University of Kansas, Johnson County Community College, Johnson and Douglas counties, and a fare increase.

“There are a lot of avenues we can approach and explore to make up and increase the funding,” Ferguson said. “I would like to see a substantial increase in the transit budget, not just for Johnson County, but the metropolitan area. The transit system is woefully under budgeted.”

Johnson County Commissioner John Segale is a member of the Transportation Cooperation Council Charter Committee charged with representing the county’s communities in working with the Mid-America Regional Council and KDOT in the planning and coordination of transportation systems within the county.

Segale said fares should be raised at least 50 cents and even more for the K-10 route.

“That’s $1.50 each way and I think that is way underpriced,” he said. “If we had a $3 fare to Lawrence, that still would be cheaper than driving a car. And any price increase we do, we have to coordinate it with Kansas City, Mo.

We have to have a pricing structure that’s similar because of transfers. Transfer fares coordination is really important.”

Despite the increasing cost of gasoline, Segale said Johnson Countians find it difficult to give up driving.

“People still like driving their cars,” he said. “We still need to improve our mass transit program and we’re not going to be able to snap our fingers and do that. It’s going to take 10 to 15 years of steady improvement to mass transit.”

That improvement will have to include more bus service, better travel times and more user-friendly destinations in conjunction with a better layout of communities.

That is the second item on Ferguson’s wish list: community development.
"This isn't just a mass transit issue," Ferguson said. "We need to look at how we plan our communities. Our communities in the past 50 to 60 years have been built for automobile use, and there was nothing wrong with that when gas was inexpensive.

"But now that the price of gas has gone up, now is the time to look and talk about developing communities that allow people to make choices, whether to drive, walk or catch a bus."

Current community layouts make it difficult for people to walk to a grocery store, go get ice cream, or even walk to a park, he said.

"We are just too spread out," Ferguson said. "I think we're seeing more awareness about community development; we're seeing people making choices they haven't been used to making before.

"In Denver, they are seeing an exodus from the suburbs back into the metro area.

Segale agreed and said other improvements also are needed.

"The (Transportation) Task Force has proposed hot lanes on (Interstate) 35 for high occupancy vehicles during congestion periods," he said. "Or, if people are driving by themselves, they pay a toll to drive in a lane where if there are two or more, they drive free.

"We want to induce the behavior of car pooling. A private industry could spring up to transport people; van pooling people as cargo I think would be great. You could get 10 people in a van and that would create space on the road for others who have to drive.

"But no matter what we do, the key is to make sure the cities where people live are partners in improving our mass transit system."
New University of Kansas students and their parents have been invited to a welcoming picnic July 24 in Leavenworth by the KU Alumni Association. Those listed from Jefferson County are Daniel Donovan, Sally Franks, and Tami Zentner, Grantville; Martin Lucas, Philip Morlan, and Alexandria Piatt, McLouth; Rebecca Cozadd, Nathan McClurg, and Anthony Prosser, Meriden; Lesley-Ann Ballinger, Lucas Noll, and Elizabeth Preut, Nortonville; Colby Artman, Hannah Dunn, Megan Forge, Anne Glanville, Danielle Jolliff, Clayton Metzger, and Megan Taylor, Oskaloosa; Brandon Hawks, Lucas Hothan, and Dylan Mumaw, Ozawkie; Zachary Harwood, Katelyn Maxwell, Maureen Mulvihill, Alexandra Porter, Teri Ross, Jamie Skinner, Benjamin Stover, and Ryan Walker, Perry; Jeffrey Hammons, Briana Pruyl, and Erik VanHoozier, Valley Falls; and Kelsey Schuler, Winchester.
By the time police found the body of a slain University of Kansas student last week, the man suspected of killing her was already more than 1,000 miles away in New Jersey, according to a timeline released by the Lawrence Police Department.

Police found Jana Mackey, a 25-year-old University of Kansas law student, dead Thursday night at the home of ex-boyfriend Adolfo Garcia-Nunez, a 46-year-old artist who also went by the name Fito Garche. According to police, Garcia-Nunez hanged himself in a holding cell after being arrested Friday in Elizabeth, N.J.

In a timeline released Monday, Lawrence police said Mackey, a second-year law student from Hays, was likely killed Wednesday between 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Mackey was last seen leaving class at the start of that time window. At its end, someone spotted Garcia-Nunez at a Lawrence convenience store before he apparently left for New Jersey.

After Mackey didn’t show up to class the next day, a friend reported her missing at 4:36 p.m., police said. About two hours later, police found Mackey’s vehicle in a hospital parking lot near Garcia-Nunez’s home. Police said they found her dead around 11 p.m. in his home.

Lawrence police Capt. Dan Ward wouldn’t provide specifics on how Mackey died, citing her family’s wish not to know. But Ward did indicate that there was a struggle.