

KU Professor in fatal
crash on Highway 40

A 53-year-old Chicago woman died Monday <date? in a single car accident on U.S. Highway 40 east of Lawrence, <Highway 40 enters Lawrence from the west, so this is probably incorrect said the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Sunday <If this happened on a Monday and this is a news story, then why would they have said it on Sunday? It's unlikely that they said this the following Sunday, 6 days after the fact.

~~The woman,~~ Regina Wilford lost control of her car, collided with a culvert and hit a large ~~green~~ tree. <Says who? Attribution needed.

"The 53-year-old female was not wearing a seat belt, and was driving a car without airbags," <I would paraphrase this first part in the introduction to the quote because referring to her as "the female" is awkward after we've just been told her name said Sgt. Steve Lewis, public information officer with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. "Most fatalities occur when drivers don't wear seat belts. It's unfortunate, but it's one of those things people need to remember."

Because she wasn't wearing a seat belt, Wilford was ejected from the car in the accident, which occurred at 8:30 a.m. near the city of Big Springs, about two miles east of the Shawnee County line. This is a bad paragraph for a couple of reasons. First of all, this information about where and when the accident happened probably should have been included higher up in the story. Secondly, the Internet tells me that Big Springs is an "unincorporated community," so calling it a "city" is incorrect. There is also some awkward phrasing here, so this paragraph should just

be reworked as a whole.

According to the Kansas Department of Transportation website, the fatality was the 174th on state roads this year compared with 383 in the entire year of 2011.

Officers described Wilford as a visiting professor to the School of Anthropology at the University of Kansas. She was living with relatives in Topeka for the semester, and was on her way to Lawrence at the time of the accident. She planned to return to the University of Chicago, where she had taught for 26 years, after the end of her time at KU.



Visiting KU professor Regina Wilford's station wagon at the scene of her accident. Wilford collided with a tree after losing control on Highway 40 outside Lawrence. *A note: I notice that the car isn't next to any sort of tree in this photo. If I were the editor here, I would be sure to check with the photographer and check the facts in general to determine why we don't see any objects that she collided with in the image.