Alvarado uses art, athletic past to stress education to youth

By Mike Klings

From growing up in Trinidad and public housing in Washington, D.C., to cutting down the nets as an NCAA national champion, Sean Alvarado has proven that a person can succeed despite challenging obstacles. Now he's stressing the vital component of success — education — to kids in Kansas City, Kan., public housing.

Alvarado, a 1990 KU grad with a bachelor of fine arts degree and a member of the 1988 national championship basketball team, espoused the university in March as an advisor at Academic Programs for Excellence, known as APEX. He works with GEAR UP, Caring Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, to help kids from disadvantaged backgrounds succeed academically.

"It's a program that helps inner-city kids gain awareness of the importance of higher education," Alvarado said. "We do whatever we can to support the families and kids at the housing projects.

There are several GEAR UP projects in the United States, but the one based at APEX is the only program that works specifically with kids who live in public housing. The six-year partnership is funded at about $500,000 per year by the U.S. Department of Education, said Maritza Machado-Williams, director of APEX.

Alvarado has traveled a long path to APEX. A native of Trinidad, he later grew up in Washington, D.C., public housing. A gifted young artist, he was influenced by the work of Jacob Lawrence, Ernie Barnes and Stephen Scott Young. Also a talented athlete, he was a basketball standout and came to KU to earn an art degree and play basketball. He helped KU win a national championship in 1988 before graduating in 1990. For three years he played professional basketball overseas before a knee injury changed his career course.

"That threw me into the academic realm," he said.

In 2004, he earned his master's degree in school counseling from Wilmingtom College in Georgetown, Del. He began counseling kids in school suspensions before coming back to KU.

Through it all, he maintained his love of art. Recently he hosted an exhibition of his art titled "Everyday Faces, Everyday Places" in Strong Hall. The exhibit was also a way to celebrate the GEAR UP program, for which he designed the logo.

"The art is excellent and really represents his work and passion as a painter," Machado-Williams said of Alvarado's watercolor and charcoal works. The works live up to the title, showing people in unguarded moments of their lives.

A lot of them reflect everyday people. I try to capture a little more than just a person and an environment. My goal is to engage the viewer and create a connection," Alvarado said.

The face of one notable Kansan stands out among the work: Gordon Parks, the noted filmmaker, artist, poet and musician, is the subject of one of Alvarado's paintings.

Above, one of the paintings displayed at Alvarado's recent show, "Everday Faces, Everyday Places" in Strong Hall.

See ALVARADO, Page 6

An education in the kitchen

Staff member's book guides young cooks

By Mike Klings

Anyone who's gone to college has been there: the student kitchen.

Whether it's the origin of boxed mac and cheese for a week straight or stacked with empty pizza boxes, the young person's kitchen is often nothing short of an adventure.

Joely Johnson, associate director of the freshman-sophomore advising center, has been to plenty and knows students can be good chefs given a little inspiration.

The University of Kansas Academic Programs for Excellence

EDUCATION CENTER

December 11, 2006
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
VOL. 31, NO. 9

EXPANDING A LANDMARK
PAGE 5
NEWS

COACH OF THE YEAR
PAGE 3
CAMPUS NEWS

KU digs deep during holidays

Offices adopt families, help neighbors

To help brighten the holidays, many people give gifts to underprivileged children or provide meals to the less fortunate. But helping others during this time of year doesn't always have to come wrapped in a box — it can be as simple as helping an elderly individual rake leaves.

Each year, schools and departments from across KU come up with creative ways to help during the holiday season. Here are just a few examples of this season's generosity.

Last month, first-year law students organized a community service project to help senior citizens with yard work. Students helped elderly individuals rake leaves, mow lawns and perform other tasks that can be challenging for seniors.

When people think of Thanksgiving, often the first thought to enter the mind is food — and lots of it. The Black Law Students Association recently held its 11th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Students collected donations throughout the school and raised money to buy food, which groups within the school competed to see who could collect the most food, and faculty encouraged donations by giving "passes" in class to students who

See GHWS, page 6

web enhanced at www.ored.ku.edu

INDEX
Headliners .......... 2
Campus news ........ 3
KU calendar .......... 4-
From page one ....... 6
KU jobs ........ 7
KU people ........ 8
Non-profit organization
KU Prestige
PAID
Lawrence KS 66045
Permit No. 05

1314 Jayhawker Blvd.
Lawrence, KS 66045-3176

A U S P E C T 1 9 7 2
BOOK SHELF

PLATO STEPS UP: Plato’s Stepping Stones, arow book by Michael Cormaci, research assistant at the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Center, develops a new interpretation of Plato’s claim that virtue is knowledge. The interpretation shows that Plato not only revealed the goal of the philosophical life, but the “stepping stones” as he calls them in “The Republic.”

WEB WORKS

FINE-LOOKING FINE ARTS: The School of Fine Arts recently relocated its Web site. The new site includes multimedia presentations of art and galleries of faculty and student work. The site also has detailed information on each department within the school as well as a calendar of events and performances.

HEADLINES

THA TUMULT: David Lambertson, co-director of the Center for International Business Education and Research, was featured in the BBC’s program “The World Today” during coverage of the recent coup in Thailand. A former ambassador to Thailand, Lambertson spoke about the background of the coup and its implications for the future of democracy in the nation.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

KU MEDICAL CENTER

The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases has honored Li Wang as a Liver Scholar at its annual scientific awards dinner held Oct. 26 in Boston. Wang is an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine (GI Division) and Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics at the School of Medicine. Wang is part of a 30-member, multi-disciplinary team at the School of Medicine addressing liver disease, how to prevent, diagnose and treat it. The team recently was awarded a $10 million COMBRE grant from the National Institutes of Health.

KU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE-WICHITA

Dr. Cramer Reed, clinical professor emeritus, received the 2006 Honorary Medical Alumnus Award at the KUMC Alumni Association’s awards program in Kansas City on Sept. 15. As founding dean of the KU School of Medicine-Wichita, and the School of Health Professions at Wichita State University, Reed is largely responsible for leading the community-focused medical school campus on the map.

EDWARDS CAMPUS

The Edwards Campus offers KU groups and departments the opportunity to use its meeting space at no cost. The campus has a variety of space available, consisting of tiered or flat classrooms, conference rooms, computer labs and a 240-seat auditorium. Jayhawk Central also has wireless Internet connection. For more information, visit www.edwardsampus.ku.edu.

SNAPSHOTS

E-mail photos for snapshots to oread@ku.edu. Be sure to include names of individuals in the photo.

GOT TECHNOLOGY? Do you know what technology services are available on campus? Information Services staff have created a presentation to give updates on technology services currently provided on campus, highlight some new and upcoming services and help the campus community find what it needs. Those who would like to schedule this presentation at their next meeting should contact Thelma Simons at tsimons@ku.edu.

CAMPUS CLOSEUP

Ruben Flores

Assistant professor, American studies

Years at current job: Four months

Job duties: I teach an introductory seminar for undergraduates on American diversity and an advanced class on Mexico and the United States. Next semester I will teach the role of America in the Western Hemisphere. I also have two bachelor’s, five master’s, and two doctoral students whose independent projects I am helping to shape.

American studies is somewhat broad term. How does a student determine what area of American life or culture to focus on? Franz Boas once defined “culture” as the entirety of the material and intellectual products that a society produces. This is necessarily a broad term, given that human beings are complicated, paradoxical and always surprising.

If one accepts this definition of culture, then American studies represents such a rich lode of potential study that what to study is not a particularly difficult problem. Students rely on the central questions about society that their experiences have magnified. The real key becomes engagement with our faculty, in order to shape responses that provide a meaningful analysis for the student.

Latin American migration is one of your areas of study. Have they been periods in U.S. history other than the recent past that have seen large amounts of migration from Latin America? Yes. The Mexican Revolution precipitated the movement of at least three million Mexicanos to the US between 1910-1950, while 1 million Puerto Ricans moved to the American East Coast in the 20 years after World War II. The Cuban Revolution and the wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua shaped migration in the 1980s and 1990s, as well. But I also want to underscore the smaller number of immigrants from Latin America over the last 100 years when compared to European immigrants: In 1900-1950 alone, 15 million Europeans came to this country.

Another of your research interests, competing foundations of truth offered by science and religion, has been in the news recently. Do you find it difficult to study such an issue impartially when it is such an impassioned topic on both sides? I’d claim no impartiality about the subject, but I do find the debates difficult. What always strikes me about the discussion between science and religion is the unwillingness of their respective defenders to imagine the reasons why each remains important to people. Human beings are fragile creatures that operate in a complex and diverse world, and we make a mistake in making assumptions about why faith and reason are meaningful to them.

The comparative histories of the United States and Mexico have many differences, but what do you feel is one of the more overlooked similarities? There are at least two easy answers. First, Mexico is a nation of wide cultural diversity, as is the United States, and questions of social unity amid difference have been central concerns there throughout the 20th century, just as they have been in the U.S. The other is the increased role of the federal government in both countries before World War II, as a mediator of social conflict and as an institution for the redistribution of social resources.

Kansa rural communities have undergone a great deal of change in recent years. What do you think will be necessary for such communities to thrive in the future? Government policy will continue to be central to the support of agricultural production, of course, and young adults will have to choose ranching and farming as viable occupations. One partial solution may be cultivation of alternative crops, for food and for transformation.

TECH TIPS

www.oread.ku.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

KU IQ: KU’s five most popular majors, based on number of students enrolled, are biological sciences, business, psychology, engineering and journalism.
Debate, architecture build up reputations

Harris named coach of year, two programs earn top honors

KU landed a pair of No. 1 national rankings recently. KU debate coach Scott Harris was named coach of the year, and Architecture magazine chose a house designed by KU students as "Home of the Year." Scott Harris, now in his 16th year as debate coach, was named national Coach of the Year during the Franklin R. Shirley Classic Debate Tournament, held Nov. 13-14 at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The Coach of the Year is selected by a national panel. Two former KU debaters and four former assistant coaches who worked with Harris took part in rating him for the No. 1 awards banquet.

This is not the first KU debate coach to earn Coach of the Year honors. Don Faunce, professor and graduate director of communication studies, who coached KU debate for 24 years beginning in 1964, was named national Coach of the Year in 1971, 1980 and 1981 and Coach of the Decade for the 1970s. Earlier this year, KU's teams were ranked first in the country in the National Tournament Debate and Cross Examination Debate Association based on points earned by teams competing in various tournaments.

The magazine's grand master award is an honor that every science fiction writer hopes to win but few dare consider might happen," Gunn said.

Previous grand masters include Robert A. Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke, Jack Vance, Theodore Sturgeon, Frederick Pohl and Ursula Le Guin.

The Conference Institute broadens the Nov 28 men's basketball game between

Chinese rock chalk

The University of Kansas is ranked among the top universities in the world in terms of academic excellence and research capabilities. It is a comprehensive research university with a diverse student body and a vibrant campus community.

President Robin S. Bidsell said, "The University of Kansas is committed to excellence in education, research and service."


Jimmy Gentry, professor of journalism, recently presented a tutorial on understanding financial statements for the vice president for corporate communications and one of her staff members at AMC Entertainment Co. in Kansas City.

Leonard Kristalka, professor and director of the Biodiversity Institute; Linda Trush, professor and curator of ecology and evolutionary biology; Michael Engel, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology; Robert Timm, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology; and Lori Shelnutt, co-PI, recently received a grant to install a mobile computer station in the public service building where the Entomology System recently moved.

Larry Mallett, chair and professor of the Department of Music and Dance, was a member of the commission on accreditation for the National Association of Schools of Music, held Nov. 13-18 in Chicago.

At the following NASM meeting Nov. 19, Mallett gave a presentation at a session titled "Leadership: Advocacy for Music in the Tenure and Promotion Process."

Bill Ferris, assistant director of Networking and Telecommunication Services, presented "Is There Enough Fiber in Your Diet?" at the ACUTA fall seminars Oct. 24 in Portland, Oregon. His presentation focused on NSF grants to extend remote buildings and campuses as part of the National Science Foundation's Broadband Access Initiative.


Tami Albina, undergraduate instruction and Outreach librarian, and Jennifer Churchill-Duran, head of instructional services, presented a poster at the annual "Planting for Teaching Librarians" along with Kansas State University colleagues at "Campus Connections: Making an Impact through Libraries," a College and University Libraries Section of the Kansas Library Association conference, held Oct. 5 in Salina.

Tami Albina, undergraduate instructor and outreach librarian; Lea Currie, humanities subject coordinator; and Kathy Graves, social science subject coordinator, gave a talk titled "Supporting Student Needs for Academic Libraries in Student Persistence and Success." "Campus Connections: Making an Impact through Libraries," a College and University Libraries Section of the Kansas Library Association conference, held Oct. 5 in Salina.

Whitney Baker, library conservator, had her bookbinding of Elie Wiesel's Night selected for "The 10 Most Outstanding Bookshelves for the House." The nook of the "One Book, Many Interpretations." The exhibition features fine bindings of each of the 10 books that have been read for the "One Book, One Chicago" program and is on display at the city's public library now through April 15.

Susan Craig, art and architecture librarian, completed a book project to August titled The Biographical Dictionary of Kansas Artists Active Before 1945.

Jon Giuliano, Slavic librarian; Lars Lehn, head of access services and resource sharing; and Brian Rosenblum, scholarly digital initiatives librarian, presented "Houses to Access" as part of a panel discussion during the Sofia 2008 First Biennial Conference of Globalization, Digitalization, Access and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Bulgaria, Bulgaria. KU's co-sponsored the conference and Rosenblum also served as a member of the planning committee.

Keith Russell, of the KU Libraries Special Collections Department, presented "Academic and Practical Perspectives of Group Drumming as an Experimental Exercise" at the 34th annual International Conference of the American Educational Foundation in Japan, held Nov. 2-5 in St. Paul, Minn.

Study recommends merging city, campus bus systems

A feasibility study conducted by the city of Lawrence and KU recommends two entities merge their transit services, including city bus system "The T," KU on Wheels and Park and Ride Express. The draft report also recommends formation of a governing body made up of city and university representatives to oversee the system.

The report outlines several benefits to an integrated transit system. The first is an expansion of transit options for riders of all systems. Without adding any new routes, a merged system would greatly expand the transit network in time of peak rider opportunities and general mobility, the report says.

The T and KU on Wheels have different markets but overlap more than often suspected, the report found. Students use KU on Wheels to get to and from class but would be more likely to use transit if they could travel to and from off-campus employment and to entertainment and shopping areas.

The report states that KU employees have made it clear the KU on Wheels system does not work for them and that combined service could increase the number of employees who would use the system to travel to and from work.

Among the other potential benefits of an integrated network, the report lists greater flexibility, routes that serve multiple constraints, allowing the city to quality for additional federal and state funding, a replacement plan for old buses, the reduction or elimination of fares and passes for students and avoiding the university in its goal of not building additional expensive parking structures.

Among the chief concerns of an integrated system are governance and funding. The study found a consensus formed around an alternative that would create one representative board through an interdepartmental agreement between the city and the university to oversee the administration and operation of the transit service for the entire city of Lawrence and the KU campus. The board’s membership would consist of representation from the city, the university and the students.

Merging transit

The full report is available at www.kaaod.net/mergetruth.com. Feedback from meetings held in September shows preference for separate funding sources. The report also states that if a transition plan would be necessary before forming an integrated system. It recommends an option where the city and KU would be adopted, a transition coordination committee would be established, a financial and capital consolidation plan would be developed, monthly integrated policy board meetings would be held and new funding sources would be sought. A policy board of 20 percent city representation, 25 percent KU, administrative representatives and 25 percent KU on Wheels students representative is recommended in the report.

An increase in student fees is recommended to help the university purchase a fleet of ‘fully-accessible, used but newer vehicles,’ but such an action would be met with resistance.

Lastly, the report recommends a timeline for a merger to happen in three phases with the first concluding in late 2007, the second in mid-2008 and the third in late 2009.

KU and the city have not historically collaborated on transit services, with the city providing rural and KU on Wheels providing urban service.

The merger is intended to help the city achieve a goal of providing a more efficient transit system, with the city providing rural service and the KU system to be more efficient and convenient.

Edmond Lee, a KU associate professor of aerospace engineering, is working on an unmanned aerial vehicle that will take measurements of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.

Researchers’ craft to fly frosty solo flight

Imagine traveling several hundred kilometers to work (say, the distance from Lawrence to Omaha), working a regular eight-hour day in temperatures 40 degrees below zero and then making the commute back home with loads of information. Researchers at KU are building an aircraft that can make that trip in Antarctica — without a pilot.

“This is not the type of mission you want to put a pilot in” said Rick Hale, associate professor of aerospace engineering. “Flying close to the ground, 1,000 meters off the ground, in the harshest climate you can imagine, the consequences of a crash are severe.”

Hale is working with researchers at KU’s Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets to build the Meridian Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Hale and a graduate student are traveling to Antarctica on Dec. 10 to test a small-scale model of the craft.

A full-scale aircraft will be tested in late summer 2007 and put to use in Greenland in 2008 and Antarctica in 2009.

The Meridian would collect data on the sensitivity of ice sheets to changing environmental conditions. Radar that
3 Wednesday
Governess, U.S. Executive Committee. 11:30 a.m.
Workshop: Blackboard Strategies and Tools. 1:30 p.m.
6 Bugle Hall. Sponsored by Instructional Services. Call 864-0410.

9 Tuesday
Workshop: Blackboard Strategies and Tools. 1:30 p.m.
6 Bugle Hall. Sponsored by Instructional Services. Call 864-0410.

10 Wednesday
Governess, University Support Staff Senate. 10:30 a.m.
Workshop: Blackboard Strategies and Tools. 1:30 p.m.
6 Bugle Hall. Sponsored by Instructional Services. Call 864-0410.

13 Saturday
Basketball (M). KVU vs. Baylor. 3 p.m.
Allen Fieldhouse. Sponsored by Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Call 864-54745.
Basketball (W). KVU vs. Missouri. 8 p.m.
Allen Fieldhouse. Sponsored by Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Call 864-54745.

15 Monday
Holiday. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

16 Tuesday
Workshop: Blackboard Strategies and Tools. 1:30 p.m.
6 Bugle Hall. Sponsored by Instructional Services. Call 864-0410.

Almost there
The KU United Way campaign has reached 98 percent of its goal.
Funds raised through the campaign support local charitable agencies.
Anyone who would like to contribute should contact Christina Toledo in the chancellor’s office at 864-3115 or ctoledo@ku.edu.
For more on the KU Med Center’s United Way campaign, see News in Brief, page 8.

KU Hospital opens automated lab
The KU Hospital has become the first hospital in the Kansas City area to open a fully automated medical lab, bringing a new level of safety, speed and accuracy to the 2.4 million blood tests the hospital performs each year.

The new lab’s high-tech system will ensure to a greater degree than ever before that the hospital’s lab performs the right test for the right patient and produces the right result in the fastest possible time,” said Lewell Tiller, the hospital’s medical director of clinical laboratories. “When time is of the essence, accurate, fast test results lab results will help ensure a better quality of care for our patients.”

The new lab employs a high-tech system that uses bar code technology, robotics and conveyor belts to transport each blood sample, contained in a test tube, to the appropriate testing instrument.

Without anyone touching the blood sample, the system can scan and recap each test tube, place it in a container, perform the test, store the blood for additional testing, evaluate the results and report those results in a way which the physician can access immediately.

Danforth Chapel to expand
Sixty years after its dedication, Danforth Chapel will undergo a major renovation and expansion.

Plans call for remodeling the historic chapel and adding 600 square feet of space onto the southeast side.

The expansion will provide space for a “blessing room” for wedding preparations and accessible restrooms. It will replace a smaller structure currently attached to the building and will not affect the number of parking spaces at the chapel.

Renovations slated for the chapel will include replacing the split in the storm window jamb and plaster, providing light for the stained glass window, correcting drainage problems on the chapel grounds and replacing rotten wood beams.

The project is estimated to cost $500,000 and will be privately funded through gifts to KU Endowment, KU’s fundraising foundation. More than $350,000 has already been contributed toward the project so far as Construction is set to begin in 2007.

In recent years, the wear and tear of age and use have prompted a need to renovate the structure, said Warren Coman, university architect. A microphone storm in March that moved through the campus heightened awareness of Danforth’s precarious state when it destroyed the chapel’s roof, forcing KU to close Danforth temporarily. The roof was repaired in the summer with private contributions.

The expansion was dedicated April 2. Open to the pubic, the sanctuary now includes space for almost 5,000 weddings and serves as a space for quiet reflection and meditation.

EXHIBITS
Art and Design Gallery
202 Art and Design Building. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed., 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat., Call 864-4681.
Beck Family Hall of Athletics
1093 Memorial Drive. 10 a.m. -9 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Call 864-5470.
Exhibits on KU’s historic athletics programs, its coaches and student-athletes, past and present.
Dole Institute of Politics
2206 DeSoto Drive. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Call 864-8400.
Exhibits, a scaring stained-glass American flag, a World Trade Center memorial and a memorial wall honoring World War II veterans from Kansas.
KU History Galleries
Kansas Union. Call 864-4651.
Located on each level of the Kansas Union, the galleries and displays bring to light various aspects of KU’s rich history, such as the university’s first faculty, the Rock Chalk chant, lost traditions and more.
Lied Center Lobby
1000 Savery Street. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 864-3787.
Lied Library
1345 Jayhawk Blvd. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Call 864-4450.
Explore Evolving States: Spencer Museum of Art
1514 Mississippi St. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Wed., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thurs., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Closed Mondays. Call 864-4710.

Spencer Research Library
1450 Poplar Lane. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Closed Sat. and Sun. Call 864-4334.
The North Gallery offers a selection from KU’s great rare book collections and a view of the Memorial Continuum, looking north from the crest of Mount Oread.
Union Gallery
Fourth floor, Kansas Union. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 864-7400.
Watson and Anschutz Libraries
H.O.P.E. rewarded.

Paul Haring, professor of chemistry, accepts the H.O.P.E. Award from Morton Khan, senior class president, at the KU-Kansas State track game Nov. 18. The H.O.P.E. – Honoring an Outstanding Progressive Educator – Award recognizes faculty for teaching excellence and is voted on by exclusively by students.

Tortilla crispers (to accompany a hearty southwestern soup)

Johnson sought to make the recipes simple and procedure, but also helpful tips to ensure a dish’s success. A thinking through section points out ideas that may not occur until the cook is deep in thought. The recipe section helps craft such a recipe to cook and estimate the time needed that don’t have to look like they came from the kitchen of Wolfgang Puck, and hence the book was born.

“Tortilla crisps is a simple idea, but it is something that I feel like you can make with any type of food,” Johnson said. Johnson is known in the field of food and cooking, and is noted for his use of fresh ingredients and endless food combinations. He has been involved in the cooking world for over 15 years, and has worked with various chefs and food writers. Johnson is currently working on his first book, which is set to be published in the spring of 2018.

Johnson also enjoys cooking with friends and family, and often hosts dinner parties and potlucks. He is passionate about sharing his love for food with others, and hopes to inspire others to cook and experiment with new ingredients.

Johnson is currently teaching a cooking class at the University of Kansas, and is also a consultant for several local food companies. He is always looking for new ways to stay connected with his audience and continue to share his passion for cooking.

Most offices remain open over break

Those who wish to work during the break even though their offices are closed should contact HR to arrange an alternative work schedule. Administrative leave will not be given to those whose offices are closed during the break.

Individuals planning to visit an office during the break should call ahead to be sure it is open.
KU jobs

For a current list and complete job announcements, visit jobs.ku.edu. For KU Medical Center jobs, visit jobs.kumc.edu. Search either by using the 8-digit KU ID number provided below (when available) or by department name. KU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

FACULTY
Assistant Professor
Applied Behavioral Science
Architecture Administration and Academic Electronics Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Geography
Archaeology and Medieval Art History of Art Religious Studies Assistant Professor
Architecture Administrative and Academic Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Pharmacy Practice
Dependent
Kansas Geological Survey
Director/Associate Professor
Indigenous Nations Studies
Distinguished Professor
Irving Johnson

KU student helps others see her way
Map will help blind navigate Mount Oread
University maps generally show what people need to know to get around: the locations of buildings, bus stops and streets. That’s fine if you can see the map. But for blind people, or those with visual impairments, being able to see the map can be disastrous for someone who is blind.

At KU, for example, visitors and students who are blind or visually impaired must navigate pathways that end at busy parking lots or loop or splinter in multiple directions. It’s critical that the map they are using to get into the wrong place, said Rachel Magrici, KU graduate student in education. That’s why Magrici, who has been blind since age 6, is creating a new kind of map of the KU campus—a series of navigation charts that interpret the campus from the perspective of someone who is blind.

"Traditional map makers don’t think the way we do," said Magrici. "On a map, they try to exactly represent the size of the building to scale. For the blind person it’s more important to show the relationships between buildings, or the pathways or the roads, and not necessarily everything at once."

Magrici, who earned her undergraduate degree at KU in communication studies and English in 2004, is working with Robert McColl, former chair of geography at KU, to create the charts of the campus. She said the project is proceeding incrementally as her blind friend took permission. She has had to build her chart by hand on campus, kidney disease and a kidney transplant after several brain surgeries.

For the project, McColl accompanies Magrici to areas of campus to look at it from both of their perspectives. As McColl takes notes and observes, he suggests the best way to create a chart of the area while taking into account other blind or visually impaired students at KU and perhaps from other communities.

The work of the KU cartographers involved in the project has been underwritten by financial support from McColl and additional support from KU Endowment at the request of Chancellor Robert J.b. Hseh.

Magrici said maps designed for blind or visually impaired people often are created by seeing people who include too much information.

Dean Emeritus employee
Current title
Assistant to the Provost, Spencer Museum of Art
What that means: Meyer oversees visits to the print study area, cataloging new acquisitions to the Department of Prints and Drawings, correspondingly with the varied constituencies of the department, assisting in planning and research for departing exhibitions and various duties related to the collection database.

Notable: Meyer developed "Walk-Ins Welcome Fridays," a program in which anyone who wishes can utilize the museum's collection without prior appointment on Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and puts in extra time for it.

Researchers laps drug treatment opponents
A KU researcher has beaten opponents by a wide margin in a competition that could lead to new drug treatments for various illnesses.

Yang Zhang, assistant professor of molecular biologists, won first place in the prestigious auto-

Ideas of university/faculty examined
The Provost’s office is seeking input on the possibility of founding a university/faculty center. A survey has been distributed to all faculty, staff and staff last month to determine what knowledge or specific faculty could be provided in such a center and how many faculty would be interested.

David Maizel, director of KU Memorial Union, said the idea of a university/faculty center would be a way to facilitate for a venue for faculty and staff to gather in an informal setting to discuss research, their work at the university and create an establish cross-disciplinary relation-
tships. A club could also provide a space for campus visitors, such as alumni, donors and people who are interested in the campus

December 11, 2006

00082567
Coordinator Health Education/Grant Coordinator, Student Medical Services Administration, Full Time, 00086495
Information Specialist Institute for Life Span Studies, Full Time, 00020152
POOL: Post Doctoral Researcher Chemistry, Full Time, 00020786
Pharmaceutical, Chemistry, Full Time, 00020980
Division Of Biological Sciences, Full Time, 00020163
Program Assistant Biology, Full Time, 00020166
Administrative Assistant, Full Time, 00020798
Programme Senior Programmer, Information Services, Information Technology, Full Time, 00020980

Researcher laps drug treatment opponents
A KU researcher has beaten opponents by a wide margin in a competition that could lead to new drug treatments for various illnesses.

Yang Zhang, assistant professor of molecular biologists, won first place in the prestigious auto-

notions of faculty and student programs. McColl said the club would identify candidates with cam-

pros personel.

A club would provide meals, most likely lunch or dinner. McColl said there would be a membership fee, but those who paid would receive discounted rates on meals and seminars. Paid memberships would be neces-

LTL1000363

Research Associates
Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets, Full Time, 00020057
Trainer Institute for Life Span Studies, Part Time, 00020408
Police Officer Public Safety Office, Full Time, 00020067

9 Research Aid
Pool Language Development Coordinator, Institute for Life Span Studies, Part Time, 00067365
Research Assistant Division of Biological Sciences, Full Time, 00020152
Hysugi Biosciences Center, Full Time, 00020017
Research Associate Education Administration, Full Time, 00005768

University Police Officer Public Safety Office, Full Time, 00020067

University Police Officer Public Safety Office, Full Time, 00028067

Researcher laps drug treatment opponents
A KU researcher has beaten opponents by a wide margin in a competition that could lead to new drug treatments for various illnesses.

Yang Zhang, assistant professor of molecular biologists, won first place in the prestigious auto-

notions of faculty and student programs. McColl said the club would identify candidates with cam-

pros personel.
Stubb named to ‘watch list’

The National School Boards Association has named KU senior David Stubb, a candidate for watch list. The honor is given to emerging leaders who will shape the world of education for the next 20 years. Stubb is the project leader of the NDEA initiative in Kansas, known as Technology Rich Classrooms. The program has impacted teaching and learning in 160 classrooms across the state. He received the honor during the Association’s Fall Meeting and Networking on Oct. 25.

KU Med professors join study sections

The National Institutes of Health has named KU professors Daniel Mayo, professor in preventive medicine and public health, and F. William Rafferty, professor of molecular and integrative physiology, to serve on the Therapeutics and Pharmacology Study Section, which is the first of its kind at KU. Both appointments begin immediately and extend through June 30, 2010. In addition, Shilpa Bucherer, professor of molecular and integrative physiology, was named a member of the NIH Neuro/AID and Other Organ-Disease Study Section. Her appointment begins in July and extends to June 30, 2011.

IT, NTS to merge

KU Information Services has announced that two of its units, Information Technology Services and Telecommunications Services, will merge July 1. The goal of the reorganiza- tion is to ensure continuity of all infor- mation technology services on KU’s Lawrence campus. The decision to inte- grate the IT and NTS divisions came after lengthy discussions among families of IT and NTS personnel, as well as IT and NTS divisions and the Lawrence University Information and Technology needs of KU.

The merger will result in reorgani- zations of the customer service systems, integration of telephone systems and the networks and resources that deliver to the KU community. No lay-offs or other terminations are planned or expected as a direct result of the change. The new division, yet to be named, will be in charge of all KU information technology services.

Economics department moving to Snow Hall

The Department of Economics will move to Snow Hall effective Jan. 8. The main office will be in Room 437, but there will also be offices on the second, third and fourth floors. Office hours will be 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. All the other faculty offices will be posted on the department’s Web site. www.economics.ku.edu.

Cross-disciplinary research summit to be held Jan. 16

The Office of the Vice Provost for Research and the Faculty Senate host a KU Cross-disciplinary Research Summit Jan. 16 in Wescoe Hall. Researchers in all disciplines, including graduate students and post-docs, are welcome to attend. The free summit is pat- terned after KU’s successful entrepreneurship event. The half-day meeting will begin in the morning with opening events, followed by three 20-minute breakout sessions. Each 20-minute session will conclude with a feedback session and box lunch. For more information go to www.ku.edu/researchsummit. Participants are asked to pre-register no later than Jan. 10.

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