Submitted/Glen White

Glen White, director of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living and professor of applied behavioral science, front row center, and a group of colleagues visit the Huaca Huallamarca, a pre-Incan monument in the heart of Lima, Peru. White organized a conference on improving accessibility for individuals with disabilities in Peru. White's colleagues include KU visiting scholar Toshiyuki Chiba, second from left in front, and master's student Chiaki Gonda, back row, far right.

All access

KU researcher helps Peru improve independence for people with disabilities

People in the United States with disabilities have found it easier to go where they want, do the things they love and find meaningful employment since the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990. Now, a KU researcher is leading a group of Americans who are sharing what they’ve learned about independent living with
disability advocates in Peru.

Glen White, director of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living and professor of applied behavioral science, organized the U.S.-Peru Independent Living Working Summit, held in January in Lima. Eight other Americans attended the summit. Also participating were KU master’s student Chiaki Gonda and KU visiting scholar Toshiyuki Chiba.

White has made 14 visits to Peru since 1998. As a person who uses a wheelchair, he knows firsthand that the physical and cultural environment for people with disabilities in Peru could be much improved. Yet that has not stopped him from visiting Machu Picchu and other places in Peru that can be challenging to navigate even for the nondisabled. White and his colleagues bring the same determination to improving the quality of life for Peruvians with disabilities.

The Independent Living Working Summit focused on ways to improve services and advocacy for Peruvians with disabilities. The American team met with leaders in the Peruvian disability community to discuss issues including transportation and equal opportunity laws. They also analyzed ways specific Peruvian communities could benefit from creating a Center for Independent Living.

In the United States, federally funded Centers for Independent Living are located in most major cities. They advocate for the rights of people with disabilities and provide them with training programs and support services to help them achieve self-sufficient and productive lives.

The U.S.-Peru summit culminated in a presentation in the Peruvian congress. More than 150 people attended to learn about the independent living movement and philosophy in the United States, which focuses on social attitudes and physical barriers rather than a person’s limitations. It emphasizes policies and practices that promote accommodations to help people with disabilities live more independently.

“During my first visit to Peru in 1998, I conducted a survey about problems that frustrated Peruvians with disabilities, such as inaccessible neighborhoods, lack of employment, discrimination and lack of accessible transportation,” White said. “Since then I’ve had a vision of bringing an independent living ‘dream team’ from the U.S. to help establish an independent living movement and a Center for Independent Living in Peru. We want the momentum from this summit to continue so that real changes can be made to benefit Peruvians with disabilities.” The U.S. team is continuing to meet to make plans for the future.

In recent years, White has also helped bring Peruvian disability leaders to conferences in Hawaii and Washington, D.C., to learn more about American approaches to independent living. He credited his colleagues
in Peru for developing increased leadership capacity by conducting workshops for emerging disability leaders on community problem solving and advocacy. In this work, they have used materials developed by the Research and Training Center on Independent Living as well as materials in Spanish from KU’s Community Tool Box, a project of the Work Group for Community Health and Development.

White will return to Peru in June when he takes a study abroad class of KU students to learn about Peruvian culture and disability. What they experience could lead to a new generation of advocates for people with disabilities in the United States and other countries around the world.

Operating like a lending library, the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training’s Autism Resource Center contains nearly 150 books, DVDs and other materials that are available for free checkout. The center officially opened its doors late last month.

Kansas Center for Autism Training and Research opens

Families and practitioners who need practical advice about autism spectrum disorders now have a hands-on resource center.
as part of the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training, known as K-CART, at the Edwards Campus.

Nearly 100 people attended the official launch of K-CART’s Autism Resource Center at an open house on March 24. The event featured tours, exhibits by Kansas City autism organizations and a talk by Peter Bell, executive vice president of Autism Speaks, the nation’s largest autism advocacy organization.

Representatives of the Kansas City Young Matrons also were on hand to announce the group had raised $110,000 for K-CART at its 2009 Magic Ball. The funds will be used to produce an educational DVD set about autism to be distributed free of charge to families and to remodel a space for social skills groups at the Center for Child Health and Development at the KU Medical Center.

"Today is a great day," said Debra Kamps, director of the center and an autism researcher. "I didn't know if we were going to be able to accomplish this. I knew we could do research and training. We know how to do that at KU. But I wasn't sure we could connect with the community in this way."

Bob Clark, vice chancellor of the Edwards Campus, who donated the space to K-CART, sees the Autism Resource Center as a perfect match for Edwards and its community.

"In terms of the services it brings to parents and teachers in Kansas City, it is going to be a remarkable success."

Jennifer Currier, a Kansas City-area parent of a child with autism, echoed that sentiment. "I think the resource center is fantastic. It has a centralized location, free parking and a parent can just walk in. It will help grassroots organizations get more information and give us a place in Kansas City where we can talk to each other."

Bell described how his career with autism advocacy organizations was fueled by his son’s diagnosis of autism 14 years ago.

“We are now facing a tsunami of children with autism who are in their adolescent years,” Bell said. He stressed the importance of K-CART’s resource center for the Kansas City community. “Autism Speaks has the largest online autism resource library in the country but K-CART’s center is special because it is something that you can actually see, feel and touch.”

The Autism Resource Center, 270 Regnier Hall, is open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. K-CART will also sponsor community events at the resource center, including guest lectures and training workshops.

The center includes more than 150 books, DVDs and reference materials, all available for free checkout. Resources are designed for parents and siblings of children with autism as well as teenagers and adults who themselves have autism or related disorders, such as
Asperger’s syndrome. Several materials offer practical strategies especially for teachers and service providers. Materials were purchased with gifts to KU Endowment, including donations from the Autism Society of America-Heartland chapter and “Caeden’s Cause” hosted in July 2008 by families and businesses in the Kansas City area. Interior design students and faculty at Johnson County Community College volunteered their time to design the space, furnishings and other visual elements of the family-friendly center. K-CART is one of 13 centers of KU’s Life Span Institute.

Visiting scholar to take journalism lessons to Eastern Europe

Kaladze to model training for Georgian journalists on KU

A scholar from the Eastern European nation of Georgia is acquiring new techniques for teaching journalism from experts at KU.

Natia Kaladze, director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Georgia in Tbilisi, will complete her six-month KU residency in May. During her stay, Kaladze has been learning the latest in technology, converged media, instruction methods and school accreditation.

The University of Georgia is a relatively young school. Kaladze founded the journalism school there after realizing that the nation was short on trained professional journalists. Georgia, which became an independent country in 1991, previously was under Soviet rule, and media outlets were controlled by the government.

“We want to be more open,” Kaladze said. “We want to train a new generation of journalists who value free media.”
The University of
Georgia offers a
bachelor’s in journalism
and two-year master’s
programs in media
management, public
affairs journalism and
public relations.
Especially important for
Kaladze is the public
affairs program, the first
of its kind in Georgia in
the post-Soviet era.

The Georgian
journalism school has
about 400 students, but
the numbers are
increasing each year.
Kaladze said that 100
freshmen will be
admitted to the school
this fall.

“She’s soaking up
everything she can
here,” said Tom Volek,
associate professor of
journalism at KU and
Kaladze’s mentor.
“We’ve very pleased to
have her. She’s very
smart, and we’re
learning many things
from her.”

Perhaps one of the most
beneficial aspects of her
visit is the opportunity
to observe a new class at
KU called Media and
the Military. The course
explores the relationship
— and the tension —
between the news
industry and the armed
forces. Students from
both KU and the
Command and General
Staff College at Fort
Leavenworth are
enrolled. Kaladze plans
to teach a similar course
at her home university,
something she sees as
extremely valuable
given the recent
conflicts between
Georgia and Russia.

Appointments of tenure,
promotions announced

The Kansas Board of
Regents has approved
the following
promotions and
appointments of tenure
at KU.

Promotions

To full professor
Marta Caminero-
Santangelo, English
David Cateforis, art
history
Dietrich Earnhart,
economics

Susan Egan, molecular
biosciences
Daniel Gailey, music
and dance
Donna Ginther,
economics
Weishi Liu,
mathematics
Rolfe Mandel,
anthropology
Jonathan Mayhew,
Spanish and Portuguese
Laura Poppo, business
Bangere Purnaprajna,
mathematics
Joan Sereno, linguistics
Lin Stanionis, design
Cornelius van deer
Veen, geography

To associate professor
Brian Barnes, pharmacy
practice
Barbara Barnett,
journalism
Cory Berkland,
chemical and petroleum
engineering/pharmaceutical
chemistry
Sharon Billings, ecology
and evolutionary
biology
David Brackett, design
Andrew Chen, business
Sunil David, medicinal
chemistry
Leisha DeHart-Davis,
public administration
Michael Detamore, chemical and petroleum engineering
David Fedele, music and dance
Jin Feng, mathematics
David Fowle, geology
T. Chris Gamblin, molecular biosciences
John Kennedy, political science
Mechele Leon, theatre and film
Mary Alice L’Heureaux, architecture and urban planning
Ann Wierda Rowland, English
George Tsosflia, geology
Joy Ward, ecology and evolutionary biology
Jie Zhang, linguistics
Yan Bing Zhang, communication studies

To associate scientist
Sharon Billings, Kansas Biological Survey

To senior scientist
Kelly Kindscher, Kansas Biological Survey/environmental studies
Rolfe Mandel, Kansas Geological Survey
Richard Miller, Kansas Geological Survey
Dean Williams, Life Span Institute

To associate research professor
Mary Abbott, Life Span Institute
Daniel Deavours, Information and Telecommunication Technology Center
Katherine Froehlich-Grobe, Life Span Institute
Jean Hall, Center for Research on Learning

Award of tenure, fiscal year 2010
Lawrence campus
Brian Barnes, pharmacy practice
Barbara Barnett, journalism
Cory Berkland, chemical and petroleum engineering/pharmaceutical chemistry

To associate librarian
Erin Ellis, KU Libraries
Nikhat Ghouse, KU Libraries
Katherine Greene, law library

To associate clinical professor
Karen Moeller, pharmacy practice
Janelle Ruisinger, pharmacy practice
Scott Harris, communication studies

Sharon Billings, ecology and evolutionary biology
David Brackett, design
Andrew Chen, business
Jennifer Church-Duran, KU Libraries
Sunil David, medicinal chemistry
Leisha DeHart-Davis, public administration
Michael Detamore, chemical and petroleum engineering
Erin Ellis, KU Libraries
David Fedele, music and dance
John Kennedy, political science
Tien-Tsung Lee, journalism
Mechele Leon, theatre and film

Mary Alice L’Heureaux, architecture and urban planning
Holly Mercer, KU Libraries
Ann Wierda Rowland, English
George Tsosflia, geology
Joy Ward, ecology and evolutionary biology
Jie Zhang, linguistics
Yan Bing Zhang, communication studies
Kowalchuck named associate dean for School of the Arts

New school to be part of College of Liberal Arts, Sciences

An academic leader who has dedicated her career to preparing art educators and teaching others how the arts contribute to the quality of life and society will take on a pioneering administrative role in the new School of the Arts, which will be housed within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Elizabeth Kowalchuck

Joseph E. Steinmetz, dean of the College, announced Elizabeth Kowalchuk will assume the post of associate dean for the School of the Arts on July 1. Kowalchuk, associate professor in the visual art education program, has spent nearly three decades teaching art and training art educators. Her research involves the intersection of community art and art education.

“Liz will enter the position with the administrative experience, campus knowledge and enthusiasm that is needed to launch the new School of the Arts,” Steinmetz said. “Her understanding of the strong ties between the arts and humanities will increase opportunities for interconnectedness and synergies involving KU faculty and students. I look forward to working with Liz in developing the new school and bringing more opportunities for participation in the arts to more students while at the same time providing excellent professional training and experiences for our students.”

Kowalchuk said she is excited about the new configuration of arts in the College and the opportunities it represents for expanding access and awareness of dance, film, theatre and visual arts.

"The arts represent unique ways of knowing, seeing and responding to the world," she said. “Within the school, the prospects are bright for growth and change. I’m honored to be selected as the first associate dean for the School of the Arts, and I look forward to working with colleagues to support research and teaching in the arts.”

Kowalchuk became an associate professor in 2001. Her administrative portfolio includes serving as associate dean in the School of Fine Arts and acting
chair/associate chair of the Department of Design. Before coming to KU in 1994, Kowalchuk was an assistant professor at Buffalo State College and an art teacher in the Palm Beach County Public Schools in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Kowalchuk has served as Lawrence Arts Commissioner and on the board of the Kansas Art Education Association. She is active in campus affairs, serving on the Public Art on Campus Committee and the Senate Executive Committee. This year, Kowalchuk was president-elect of the University Senate.

A reorganization of KU’s fine arts programs will transform the School of Fine Arts into the School of Music. The Department of Design will join the School of Architecture and Urban Planning. The Department of Visual Art, which will include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and expanded media, and a new Department of Dance will become part of the new School of the Arts housed within the College. A few programs currently within the Department of Design will be added to the Department of Visual Art: ceramics, metalsmithing and jewelry, scenography, textile design, theatre design and visual arts education. The Department of Theater and Film, already in the College, will join this school as separate departments: the Department of Theatre and the Department of Film and Media Studies. The new structure, which will use existing resources, will take effect July 1.

Higher education spared from massive cuts
Reductions come in below original predictions

Legislators have reached a deal that would spare KU and other state universities from feared double-digit budget cuts.

Under the terms of the budget passed last week, in fiscal year 2010 Kansas Board of Regents institutions would see just over a 7 percent reduction in operating funding from the original FY 2009 budget. Since some previous budget proposals called for a 12.7 percent cut to higher education, this agreement was welcomed by KU leaders.

“This is still a budget cut, but compared to what had been on the table it will be much more manageable. This agreement largely preserves our ability to carry out our academic and research missions, which is important because both of those contribute to the overall strength of the Kansas economy,” said
Chancellor Robert Hemenway.

“I’m hopeful we will be able to implement this cut through the measures we’ve already taken, such as elimination of certain filled and unfilled positions, identification of new efficiencies and other belt-tightening moves,” he said.

KU already has implemented a 4.25 percent cut in the current budget year.

Because some funding is coming from the federal stimulus package, which sets out certain restrictions for the use of the funds, some details remain to be worked out. For example, it is still unclear exactly how much money will be required to be devoted to deferred maintenance.

Still looming is the April consensus revenue estimate, which will provide an updated picture of the state’s finances and could spur additional state budget cuts.

Employees recognized for years of service to university

Human Resources and Equal Opportunity will honor KU employees for their service to the university during a luncheon at 1:30 p.m. May 5 in the Kansas Union ballroom.

Honored employees and the number of years of service are below:

**Five years**

Jennifer Allee, Esteban Alvarez, Alicia Anderson, Marc Anderson, Trena Anderson, Rebecca Annis, Florentino Aragon, James Armstrong, Edward Auer, Beth Baca, Judy Bachman, James Backes, William Bagwell, Brett Ballard, Richard Barton, Michael Baskett, Robert Bayliss, Mike Beerbower, Stefan Bergstrom, Cory Berkland, Mary Blackwood, Charlotte Blubaugh, Quincy Borton, Barbara Bradley, Marie

David McKinney/University Relations

Jun Fu is among employees honored for five years of service.

Browder, Dustin Brown, Nathaniel Brunsell, Vladimir Buglak, Lori Burch, Diann Burright, Sarah Bush, Joseph Buzhardt Jr., Katie Capps, Amy Carlson,
Scurto, Jeffrey Severin, Christopher Shaw, Patricia Shay, James Sigley, Elizabeth Six, Laura Hanson, Skarka, William Skorupski, Erin Slagle, Galen Smith, Ricky Smith, William Snively, Nathan Snow, Rodney Spears, Christopher Steadham, Jenni Stinnett, Eric Stomberg, Corey Stone, David Stowe, Gordon Summers, Beth Swank, Judith Sweets, Christopher Theisen, Gregory Thomas, Larry Thompson Jr., Travis Thompson, Rhonda Tingle, Mona Tipton, Judy Todd, David Topp, Kurtis Townsend, Janna Traver, Paul Tucker, Laci Ulrich, Deborah Unferth, Margot Versteeg, Douglas Ward, Kimberly Warren, Brandon Washington, Cynthia Waterman, Jeffery Watson, Dan Wenger, Alice White, Renee Wiggins, Roy Williams, Robert Winefield, Alex Wong, Kari Woods, Scott Workman, Jeffrey Worth, Celeste Yaluk, Cuijuan Yu

10 years


15 years


20 years

Schuyler Bailey has been at KU for 25 years.


30 years

Business school expands partnerships with Chinese universities

The School of Business is expanding its relationships with two partner universities in China to include student exchange agreements. Although the signing of the formal agreement documents is pending, a variety of activities have commenced. The terms of these agreements will provide KU business students with more

Richard DeGeorge is being honored for 50 years of service to KU.

Richard DeGeorge
opportunities to study in China.

Like KU, Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou is a comprehensive university, and the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing specializes in international business, economics, law and foreign languages. Both of these KU partner universities have top-ranked business schools.

Plans are being made to send three KU business students to UIBE this fall.

“There is scholarship money available to help fund our students for study in China,” said Carol Rose, director of the business school’s Institute for International Business. “We are working with the KU Office of Study Abroad on course offerings and getting these courses approved for KU business credit.”

Exchange students from China have already arrived at KU. Last spring and again this spring semester, doctoral students from UIBE are at KU working with Tailan Chi, associate professor of business. In addition, two undergraduate students from SYSU are now at KU as part of the new exchange program. Rose said these students were having a meaningful and successful experience at KU. Students from KU will be able to attend the two Chinese universities next year and will be able to earn an additional degree if they study in China for two semesters.

“These universities offer excellent opportunities for our students to gain in-depth knowledge about this rapidly growing economic power in the world and to stay on track toward graduation because of the business courses offered in English,” said Chi.

Two Chinese faculty members also are visiting KU this spring semester. They are supported by the Chinese government and are involved in research projects with Andrew Chen, assistant professor of business, and Terry Zhao, assistant professor of business.

In May, a group of KU master’s of business administration students will travel to SYSU to get an inside look at Chinese business activity and to participate in an international business case competition sponsored by Wal-Mart.

The KU School of Business thinks international experience is key to preparing students for leadership positions in the global marketplace. KU business students take advantage of study abroad programs at rates well above the national average, and 70 percent of the KU business faculty have conducted international research or taught abroad in the last three years.
Violent crimes on campus drop, statistics show

Thefts by ex-staff account for ten percent of reported property crime

For only the second time in the past decade, the number of reported criminal offenses on campus have reversed the downward trend. The 723 criminal offenses reported in 2008 represent a 9 percent increase from the 664 criminal offenses reported in 2007. The last time there was an increase in reported criminal offenses on the campus was in 2003 when 862 criminal offenses were reported.

Only five violent crimes were reported in 2008, accounting for less than 1 percent of all reported crime. The increases were mostly seen in property crimes, such as burglary and theft. Two men were identified as being responsible for more than 10 percent of all thefts reported in 2008. In unrelated incidents, the suspects were identified in multiple thefts from the Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center and Facilities Operations. The suspects in both cases were arrested.

“Good police work and valuable assistance from the university community combined to identify the suspects in those cases,” said Ralph V. Oliver, director of the Public Safety Office.

“Providing a safe and secure environment on campus is a priority for the department, but we rely on the university community to do its part by reporting any crime on campus and helping us identify the perpetrators.”

The Public Safety Office maintains a 24-hour operation, employing 911 dispatchers, non-commissioned security officers and commissioned law enforcement personnel. Uniformed officers patrol the campus year round. Security officers lock and unlock buildings as needed and monitor for maintenance and security problems. Dispatchers monitor alarms and dispatch police, fire and medical units for emergencies on campus. Detectives assist the patrol unit with criminal investigations. Community-support personnel provide educational safety programs and information to various campus organizations.

A full listing of all offenses reported for 1998 through 2008 can be found at the department’s Web site.
University completes, presents NCAA self study
Report examines athletics' strengths, opportunities

KU administrators presented a draft of an athletics department self-study to a crowd of about 30 at a town hall meeting March 31. The self-study, required by the NCAA, comprehensively reviews the current state of Kansas Athletics as part of the recertification process.

Frank DeSalvo, associate vice provost for student success, and chair of the self study steering committee, led the meeting, giving those in attendance an overview of the self-study, its findings and why it is required.

“The purpose of the report is to document the progress that we’ve made,” he said. “We’re also happy to have the chance to present the university and the public with a transparent look at the University of Kansas athletics.”

DeSalvo was joined by Chancellor Robert Hemenway, athletics department officials and report coordinators Jerry Bailey, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies; and Stephen McAllister, professor of law. The report, required every 10 years by the NCAA, takes a look at seven operating principles: institutional control, rules compliance, academic standards, academic support, gender issues, diversity issues and student athlete well-being.

Much of the discussion at the meeting focused on facilities. The report outlines plans for an Olympic village that would add new facilities for track and soccer and renovate facilities for softball and baseball. Jim Marchiony, associate athletics director, assured those in attendance that the project is still in a fundraising stage and that no timetable has been set for work to start.

Athletics officials touted the improvement of facilities for women’s sports, improvements made in gender equity and rules compliance since KU’s last self-study in 1999. A boathouse was recently completed and opened for the women’s rowing team and several women’s locker rooms have been renovated, Marchiony said. There are now also five full-time compliance officials, when five years ago, there was only one.

Hemenway spoke about the importance of the NCAA and student athletics, as well as the symbiotic nature between athletics and the academic aspects of the university. He plans on writing a book about intercollegiate athletics and American society after completing his service as chancellor this summer.

“I think there’s something very
American about competition, about modeling behavior for our young people,” he said. “The NCAA is a large part of what and how student athletes progress at a place like the University of Kansas.”

Work on the self-report began in March 2008, when a 52-member, university-wide steering committee was formed. Five sub-committees began work in August and report coordinators drafted the version of the report presented at the meeting from documents presented by each of the subcommittees. The committee will now finalize the report and submit it to the NCAA by May 1. A three-member site-visit team will visit campus in October. The NCAA is expected to issue findings by February 2010.

A draft of the report can be found at http://www.chancellor.ku.edu/ncaa/.

Unclassified Senate awards funds to staff for professional development

Employees to take part in training, research

Some will learn how to handle hazardous museum items. Others will study spoken language.

Eight unclassified staff members have received funding from Unclassified Senate to attend conferences and perform research across the country. The senate provided the funding to supplement professional development opportunities for staff members.

Angela Watts, collection manager at the Spencer Museum of Art, was among the recipients. She’ll attend a conference in Illinois about safely identifying and handling potentially hazardous items in museum collections. One might not think of museum items as dangerous, but it can be quite common for items to have been treated with arsenic or pesticides for preservation purposes.

Watts said she’ll learn how to identify potentially hazardous materials and how to handle those that could be problematic. She’ll share the information with her colleagues and student employees. KU’s museum collections contain some high-profile pieces that must be handled with care.

“One very interesting example from our collection is the Inuit material that was collected by Lewis Lindsay Dyche when he traveled to Greenland. Much of this material is on exhibit right now in the Spencer’s Climate Change exhibit, safely sealed in cases, of
course,” Watts said. Dyche was a taxidermist for KU and when he collected animal specimens in Greenland, he also collected hundreds of objects from the local Inuit people. Much of that material was made from animal fur or skin, and because of his training in taxidermy, it was natural that Dyche would treat the fur clothing he collected with arsenic.”

The senate provided four $500 awards and five $200 awards. Recipients of the $500 awards are:

• James Busse, graphic coordinator, Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis. He will attend the Photoshop World Conference in Boston.

• Kimberly Bruns, project coordinator, School of Social Welfare. She will attend the 46th annual Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Conference in New Orleans.

• Karen Hester, director of career services, School of Law. Hester will attend the National Association for Law Placement Diversity Summit in Chicago.

• Angela Watts, collection manager, Spencer Museum of Art. She will undertake the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies course “Know the Hazardous Materials in Your Collections” in Mt. Carroll, Ill.

• Kathy Mason and Robin Merritt, academic advisers, University Advising Center. They will attend the Region VII National Academic Advising Association Conference in New Orleans.

• Jenny McKee, health educator, Student Health Services, and Ken Sarber, public health educator, Student Health Services, will attend the Meeting of the Minds Prevention Education Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

• Peter Richtsmeier, post-doctoral researcher, Bureau of Child Research. He will undertake research in the Spoken Language Lab.

Children's nutrition, family health to be focus of CLAS Acts presentation

Pediatric obesity is a tragic problem in our culture, but it’s not unavoidable. Families who want to learn more about simple changes that can help improve their health immensely are invited to attend “The Price Is Too High: Balancing Children’s Nutrition,” a CLAS ACTS presentation sponsored by KU’s
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Attendees at the April 19 event will be able to explore healthier choices and lifestyles by visiting multiple stations with hands on activities. Some of those activities include identifying healthier choice in fast foods, learning to calculate target heart rate, comparing serving sizes and sampling healthier snack options from The Merc.

“The Price is Too High” is organized by Ric Steele, a professor of applied behavioral science whose research centers on physical and mental health in children, adolescents and families.

Steele says the presentation is designed to equip families with tools that will help them maintain healthy balances of diet and exercise. The event will also introduce families to the energy balance equation, which explains the relationship between caloric intake and expenditure and weight gain or loss.

“Basically, if calories in is greater than calories out, then weight gain occurs,” Steele says. “If calories out is greater than calories in, then weight loss occurs.”

According to Steele, the most current estimates show that more than 30 percent of children in the United States are overweight. Although a changed physical appearance is the most recognizable effect, there are other issues that arise from being overweight.

“Other, less obvious conditions may result, including poorer school performance, mood and behavior problems, lower self-esteem and other somatic problems like fatigue,” Steele says.

“The Price is Too High” is free and open to the public, from 2 to 4 p.m. on April 19 in Spooner Hall. For more information, contact Jessica Beeson at eliasb@ku.edu or visit http://www.clas.ku.edu/outreach/clasacts/.