Genna Hurd, research associate at the Institute for Policy and Social Research, is pictured with her daughter, Eleanor Ott, at her graduation from the University of Pittsburgh. Ott, who was raised in Lawrence, was recently named a Rhodes Scholar.

Rhodes mom

Daughter 'raised on the hill' earns prestigious scholarship

Years ago, when Genna Hurd toured the University of Oxford campus with her three children, she couldn’t help but have a mother’s dream.
“I remember walking around Oxford and saying, ‘Maybe one day one of you will come to Oxford and be a Rhodes scholar,’ ” she said.

Hurd’s daughter, Eleanor Ott, recently fulfilled that dream when she was one of 32 students named Rhodes scholars, one of the highest academic honors a student can achieve. Rhodes scholarships provide for two or three years of study at Oxford in England. Ott is the daughter of Hurd, a research associate at the Institute for Policy and Social Research, and the late Michael Ott, a former professor of art at KU.

Michael Ott was teaching in England when Eleanor was 5. She attended year one, the English equivalent to kindergarten, when she took her first tour of Oxford. Hurd said her daughter came back to Kansas with a British accent.

Eleanor Ott attended Lawrence public schools and Free State High School before deciding to attend the University of Pittsburgh on a Chancellor’s Scholarship. She graduated in April with a bachelor’s in history and French and another in chemistry.

Ott is no stranger to academic success. In addition to the Rhodes and Chancellor’s scholarships, she was also a Truman Scholar. She certainly didn’t spend all of her time in the classroom and library, though. She was a founding member of FORGE Pitt, Facilitating Opportunities for Refugee Empowerment. The organization helped refugees in the Pittsburgh area obtain clothing and start a mentoring program, in which Pitt students worked one-on-one with refugees. She also worked with youth in local schools in English as a second language programs and continued to work with Somali, Burundi and Senegal refugee families after graduation.

At Oxford, Ott will study forced migration and evidence-based social intervention, refugee and migration studies, and social science research methods. Hurd, who aids research into economic development for rural communities and is a co-editor of the Kansas Statistical Abstract, said her daughter’s research will be different than her own, but they have similar goals.

“It’s all work that’s trying to help people live better lives,” she said.

Hurd credits her daughter’s upbringing in Lawrence for her interest in international affairs and helping individuals. After her first-year experience in England, she attended Hillcrest Elementary in Lawrence, a school with a large international population, due in part to the many children of international KU faculty and staff. She also spent plenty of time on Mount Oread.

“Ellie pretty much grew up on the KU campus,” Hurd said. “She learned to ride her bike in front of the Art and Design Building. She attended Hilltop (Child Development Center). Her earliest education stemmed from KU.”
Chancellor, provost outline further budget reductions

The ongoing budget crisis has left KU facing the most significant planning challenges it has seen since World War II, Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Danny Anderson told a budget forum Dec. 2. He stressed, however, that while sacrifices will be necessary, KU is not facing financial exigency.

Anderson joined Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, Kathy Damron, director of state relations; and Diane Goddard, vice provost for finance, at an open forum to discuss the state’s most recent budget reductions and how they will affect KU.

Gray-Little opened the forum by outlining steps KU has already taken in response to budget reductions. More than 200 positions have gone unfilled or been eliminated, she said. The results are an inability to offer certain classes and limited enrollment in certain areas.

“The budget situation also has negative implications for the economy,” Gray-Little said. “You know this, I know this, the governor is certainly aware of this, as are key legislators. There are many people in our corner.”

Anderson said in July, the university was already facing a 12 percent total reduction in general funding from the state. Gov. Mark Parkinson recently announced an additional $2 million reduction to the Kansas Board of Regents as well as the elimination of $5 million in bonds. The reductions place KU at state funding levels it was at in 2006. Dropping below that level would jeopardize federal stimulus funds the university is currently receiving. Fringe benefit costs are rising as well, such as a $2.3 million increase in KU’s mandatory contribution to employee health insurance.

Administrators are planning the fiscal year 2011 budget based on those projections. While it isn’t yet clear how much of the additional $7 million reduction will be passed on to KU, the budget making process has been accelerated so the university can present the ramifications of reductions to legislators and regents while decisions are being made. Anderson said the administration is taking a long view of the budget making decisions.

“We’ve got to think about what we want to be a few years out, and how the choices we make today will effect us in the future,” he said.

Anderson added that a furlough plan development committee has finalized a policy that will be used if
furloughs become necessary. He reiterated that no plan is in place to implement furloughs, but if they become necessary as a cost saving measure, they will be temporary. The policy, available at https://documents.ku.edu/policies/provost/Furlough.htm, signifies that employees with the highest salaries will be asked to take more furlough days than those in lower pay brackets.

Damron gave a preview of the upcoming legislative session, which begins Jan. 11. She said Parkinson has stated he intends to hold K-12 and higher education at 2006 funding levels. Last year the legislature primarily looked at spending cuts to balance the budget. This year, she said, there seems to be more willingness to examine ways to increase revenue, such as reevaluating certain tax breaks and exemptions.

A budget bill and revenue bill should be finalized by late April or early May, she said.

When the forum was opened for questions, one attendee asked whether instead of taking a furlough, if employees could defer their mandatory contribution to retirement and keep that portion of their salary. Damron and Goddard said for that to be possible, a change in state and regents policy would be necessary.

Another attendee asked if salary reductions have been considered. Anderson said no across-the-board cuts are planned, but furloughs are a form of salary reduction. Several other questions centered on furloughs. Goddard said if they are implemented, it will be done with the goal of meeting a target reduction set by the state. Predictions have shown that one round of furloughs, or one to five furlough days for employees required to take them, would result in $6.6 million of savings.

Gray-Little responded to a question about how other states are dealing with budget reductions. Many are using similar methods such as leaving positions unfilled and considering furloughs. Others have taken more drastic measures, such as the University of California system, which implemented a 32 percent tuition increase.

The chancellor also encouraged employees to stay informed about what is happening in the legislature. Updates about KU’s measures to deal with budget cuts will be posted regularly at http://www.chancellor.ku.edu/budgetforum/index.shtml and www.govrelations.ku.edu/.

KU Medical Center building to honor Hemenway, success in promoting life sciences research
Robert E. Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center key in cancer quest

Former Chancellor Robert Hemenway’s name will grace KU’s Kansas Life Sciences Innovation Center in Kansas City, Kan., as a lasting testament to his success in promoting life science research.

The Robert E. Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center, located at 39th Street and Rainbow Boulevard on KU’s Medical Center campus, is a 200,000-square-foot facility that houses 300 people and 129 research projects worth more than $109 million in total funding.

Research at the center focuses on liver disease, reproductive sciences, neuroscience, diabetes and proteomics, among other topics. The Hall Family Foundation contributed $19 million to furnish the building with state-of-the-art equipment. It was built for KU by the University Research Development and Enhancement Corporation, which the regents formed to expand the research capabilities of Kansas universities.

“It is a fitting honor that this state-of-the-art facility bear his name,” said KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “During his tenure, the university grew in national stature, more than doubling its research activity to almost $300 million in annual expenditures and underwent an unprecedented expansion and remodeling of campus facilities to attract top students and faculty.”

As chancellor, Hemenway was dedicated to improving KU’s research profile and in particular ensured that KU was a key partner in Kansas City’s bi-state effort to make the region a bioscience hub. He also launched KU’s ongoing quest for Comprehensive Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute for the KU Cancer Center. The life science center was
designed to foster collaboration and recruit top researchers, both key components in obtaining National Cancer Institute designation.

“Chancellor Hemenway had a dramatic impact on the medical center and its success, and therefore a profound and positive effect on the health and well-being of millions of people in Kansas and the greater Kansas City area,” said Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the medical center and executive dean of the School of Medicine. “His name is synonymous here with expansion, growth and research so I am proud our campus will be home to the Hemenway center.”

After stepping down last summer, Hemenway is on sabbatical leave this academic year to work on a book about intercollegiate athletics and American values. A scholar of American literature, he will return to teaching and scholarly research at KU in fall 2010.

Professor profile: Navigating a sea of tax laws

Raquel Meyer Alexander, assistant professor of business, has made a career of helping people understand taxes and make better financial decisions.

In a new YouTube.com/KU video, Alexander discusses college savings plans and her work to improve savings plans and to assist nonprofit organizations with their taxes through service learning.

Among her research projects, Alexander has studied 529 college savings plans.

“529 plans are also known as college savings plans and they are a great investment tool for parents and grandparents,” Alexander said. “Contributions grow tax-free and distributions are also tax-free when used for higher educational expenses such as housing, tuition, books and computers. In addition, Kansas provides a state tax deduction for making a contribution.”

The idea is solid, but Alexander has found families don’t always make the best decisions when it comes to choosing 529 plans. In early years of the plans, she found that people were often choosing plans with the highest fees. Since then, she’s helped states improve their plans to ensure better options for families.

“I’ve worked extensively with the state treasurer here in Kansas and also with other state treasurers around the country, helping them improve...
both the returns on their 529 plans and also understanding the risks in these portfolios that are offered to parents,” Alexander said.

Alexander teaches undergraduate and graduate tax classes. The former is an introduction to tax accounting and the latter is a tax research service-learning class. Each year, the class researches tax law and partners with individuals and organizations, giving students hands-on experiences while serving the community. In past years, the class has developed a Web site with tax tips for people affected by natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and the Greensburg, Kan., tornado.

This year, the class is working with representatives from nonprofit organizations to help them understand changes to the tax law regarding how they report their finances. They’ve held workshops in Topeka, Junction City, Salina and Lawrence in which they help nonprofit volunteers understand new tax forms and what information they need to include. Tax law for nonprofits recently changed for the first time in more than 30 years, requiring additional disclosure from such organizations.

“Although we’re not in the business of giving tax advice, I feel like we gave a lot of helpful information to the people that attended our workshops,” Alexander said. “We had a super reaction from the participants, and I was so proud of the students. They make me proud to be a fellow Jayhawk.”

To see the video, visit http://www.oread.ku.edu/~oread/2009/december/7/stories/profile.shtml.
Henry Bial, associate professor of theatre, waves to supporters during the 23rd mile of the New York City Marathon. Bial recently completed the marathon, his first, and structured his training regimen around his academic duties.

**Theatre professor runs New York City Marathon**

Bial completes first endurance-testing race in hometown

Henry Bial knows New York City well, but he’d never seen it like this. The associate professor of theatre completed the New York City Marathon on Nov. 1.

“I definitely saw parts of the city I hadn’t seen before,” said Bial, a New York native. “Plus it’s a different perspective. I thought at one point, ‘Hey, I’m running down First Avenue. I’ll probably never do this again.’ ”

The marathon was Bial’s first. He started running for the health benefits about three years ago. Earlier this year, he set the goal of completing the New York City Marathon. He relished the challenge and was familiar with the marathon from his youth.

“I like the idea of having a goal that is tangible and identifiable when you do it,” he said. “I can recall going out and seeing the runners go by when I was younger. Every year I’d see the race go through Central Park and think, ‘Maybe I should do that.’ ”

Bial found out in June his application to run in the 26.2-mile event had been accepted. He then set about completing a training regimen he found online. He’d run four times a week with the longest runs coming on Saturday mornings. When the fall semester began, he balanced the regimen with his academic schedule, running on days he wasn’t teaching before coming into the office and even finding time to run while traveling for the job.

By September, he’d completed his longest run of the training regimen, 22 miles.

“I ran from my house to Lecompton and back,” he said.

Bial stuck mostly to sidewalks and rural roads after having a few close calls with traffic. Surprisingly, traffic was not a problem when the time came to run in New York, even though he was among more than 43,000 participants.

Runners were staggered in the start times by their skill level. The fastest runners started first and the slowest brought up the end. The course was closed to vehicular traffic.
“It was a lot different than running on 1851 North Diagonal Road in Lecompton,” Bial said with a laugh. “But there was actually less jostling for position than I expected.”

The race course for the 40th marathon took runners through all five New York boroughs, starting in Staten Island, proceeding through Brooklyn, then into Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx before circling and finishing in Manhattan.

Bial finished the race in four hours, six minutes and 12 seconds, good for 17,228th place. He said he’ll continue running but isn’t sure if he’ll tackle another marathon in the near future. He would like to try and break the four-hour mark.

One of his biggest surprises was the crowd of about 40,000 spectators. Many runners wear their names on their shirts so people in the crowd can cheer for them. Bial said he wasn’t comfortable with that idea, so he wore a Jayhawk instead.

“All along the course, people would shout ‘Rock Chalk’ or ‘go Jayhawks,’ ” he said.

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**Some offices to close, temperatures to be reduced for winter break**

Some campus offices will close during the winter recess, Dec. 23-Jan. 3. The provost’s office encourages employees to check with their supervisors to see whether their office will be among those closing.

University Support Staff and unclassified employees of offices that will be closed during the break are expected to use paid vacation time for dates that the offices are closed.

Accrued compensatory time and/or the discretionary day may be used, with supervisory approval, for this period as well.

Those who would like to work during the break even though their offices are closed should contact Human Resources/Equal Opportunity to arrange an alternative work assignment. Anyone wishing to take part in the arrangement should contact Human Resources/Equal Opportunity at 864-4946 or hrdept@ku.edu as soon as possible to ensure an assignment is arranged. 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.

To conserve energy during the break, temperatures in
academic spaces such as classrooms, labs, auditoria and lecture rooms will be reduced to 55 degrees from Dec. 19 to Jan. 13 when possible. Anyone who would like to reserve one of the spaces affected by the planned temperature reductions should notify Facilities Operations so the temperature can be increased when a room will be occupied. Libraries, research spaces and occupied offices are not affected by the policy.

Offices that remain open during the break will have temperatures set at 65 degrees from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at 55 degrees after 5 p.m. on workdays and during weekends.

More information on building hours and temperature settings during the break is available at http://www.oread.ku.edu/~oread/2009/december/7/stories/offices.shtml.

'Genomic 10k' to rely heavily on KU expertise in mapping vertebrate DNA

For more than two decades, Ed Wiley has overseen collection and cataloging of fish specimens from all over the world in his role as curator-in-charge of the Division of Ichthyology at the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Institute.

Now, frozen tissue from thousands of those collected fish will be source material for genetic sequencing in a huge new undertaking dubbed the “Genome 10K Project,” a plan to map genomes from 10,000 vertebrates — species that possess backbones.

“There has been a lot of genomic work centered around humans, and that’s very important,” said Wiley. “But we need a much broader sampling of the diversity of genomes in order to understand many things. There are evolutionary and very practical reasons to sequence these genomes. Let me give you one example — sharks don’t seem to get cancer. Is there something about their genome that is different from our genome that would explain this?”

Members of the Genome 10K Community of Scientists include representatives from major zoos, museums, research institutions and universities worldwide. Each will make a contribution to the project, but few as significant as the thousands of fish tissue samples KU will supply, which are expected to make up as much as 20 percent of the Genome 10K data.
“The KU Division of Ichthyology in the Biodiversity Institute has a large collection of fishes,” said Wiley. “But our unique aspect is to have a very diverse collection of tissues that we’ve collected over the past 25 years. We have these tissues in an ultra-cold freezer, and they’re associated with voucher specimens that we preserve in the regular, old-fashioned way. Almost half the total fish tissues that will be involved in this project will come from the KU collection.”

For a quarter-century, Wiley’s researchers have packed small tubes with muscle tissue from the backs of newly obtained fish specimens. Each tube then is frozen with a unique identification marker linking to its original specimen, which is preserved with formaldehyde and ethanol.

“We get requests from all over the world for little snippets of our tissue,” Wiley said. “We do a very active program of gifting internationally, because everyone sees our collection as being a truly international resource for genetic studies of fishes.”

The Genome 10K Project’s quest to sequence DNA from species representing every vertebrate genus will be years in the making, Wiley said. Much will depend upon future cost reductions in DNA sequencing. If successful, the effort should yield what scientists call “an unprecedented resource for the life sciences.”

“There may be features of the vertebrate genome that are so ancient that we can only stare in wonder at them,” said Wiley. “The point of trying to sample broadly is to understand the commonalities of the genome. If there are certain parts of the genome of fishes that do exactly the same things that human genomes do, then you have an understanding of the origin — it has to be a very ancient thing as opposed to a very recent thing.”

Wiley said that knowledge of such commonalities and differences in vertebrate genomes would lead investigators to a better grasp of evolution, morphology and disease in a host of creatures.

Wiley and 54 other scientists involved in the project met in April at the University of California-Santa Cruz and announced the project in early November. The KU researcher also co-authored an article describing the undertaking in the current issue of the Journal of Heredity.

“It’s going to be exciting,” Wiley said. “I’m really hoping that the technological advances we saw at our meeting in Santa Cruz turn out to be industrial-strength. If they do, then sequencing of a genome per week is not out of the question.”
Audio-Reader volunteer Deb Yager records a massage therapy textbook for WellSpring | MTTI. The organization presented Audio-Reader its first Academic Partner of the Year Award for the group's work in recording texts for a legally blind student.

Audio-Reader earns inaugural 'academic partner of the year' award

When WellSpring | MTTI Lawrence Campus director Rachael Gehringer enrolled the natural health and wellness school’s first legally blind student, she was excited yet a little overwhelmed at the task of turning all of the school’s massage therapy textbooks and written assignments into a non-visual format. After weeks of researching different options, Gehringer settled on Kansas Audio-Reader Network, a reading and
information service for blind, visually impaired and print-disabled individuals in Kansas and Western Missouri.

Over the next several months, the WellSpring | MTTI campus worked closely with Audio-Reader to have all of the student’s textbooks and written assignments read aloud and recorded, ensuring that the student received a quality and equal educational experience to her peers.

“If it was not for Audio-Reader, our student would not have been able to excel and succeed in her classes,” Gehringer said. “The service is absolutely amazing and life changing.”

Because of its outstanding service and above-and-beyond dedication to this massage therapy student’s success and learning, WellSpring | MTTI has awarded Kansas Audio-Reader Network its first-annual Academic Partner of the Year award.

The project was the largest Kansas Audio-Reader Network had ever tackled, said Jennifer Nigro, coordinator of volunteers for Audio-Reader.

“While most of our listeners want their special request recordings as soon as possible, we were very conscientious of the course deadlines,” Nigro said. “We wanted to make sure the student receiving the recordings was getting them in time for them to be helpful in her classes.”

In order to do that, Nigro had to organize multiple volunteers to lend their voices to the project. Typically at Audio-Reader, a single volunteer completes a project from start to finish. But because of the scope of the project, two to three volunteers would be assigned to each book.

“This required not only coordination on the staff’s part to ensure the right books and pages were being read on time, but also coordination between the different volunteers working on each book,” Nigro said. “This is especially challenging because the volunteers don't see each other—they left notes for each other with the book and communicated through me.”

Audio-Reader staff and volunteers feel humbled by the award and changing a student’s life and career, Nigro said.

“Audio-Reader volunteers are a passionate bunch—passionate about reading, passionate about helping others and passionate about learning,” she said. “But we hear so little feedback from our listeners, so it's nice to get a pat on the back sometimes. It re-energizes us to tackle the next big project and to keep working to fulfill a mission that is so very important to all of us.”
KU's 'RedTire' group helps Kansas businesses form succession plans

Program aims to continue businesses after owners' retirements

Nearly 13,000 small businesses in Kansas have owners who plan to retire in five years but do not have succession plans in place, according to KU's Succession Planning Cooperative LLC.

"Those are the sorts of companies that Red Tire is hoping to 'save,'" said second-year business student and Redefining Retirement consultant Richard Smith.

The group, known as RedTire, and the KU School of Business group want to redefine retirement for small family-owned businesses in Kansas and eventually the entire nation.

The succession planning cooperative, which is a part of the School of Business’ Entrepreneurship Program, developed Red Tire in an effort to provide succession plans for small-business owners who may not have one in place and are about to retire.

The Red Tire program is in the business planning stages, but the concept has generated a lot of excitement already. Meyer has been giving presentations about Red Tire to economic developers in Kansas for the past few months. He says the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Despite explaining that the project is only in the planning stages, I still receive calls after my presentations from small business owners saying, ‘I am a candidate for Red Tire.’"

The program has also received numerous votes of confidence from distinguished groups. The Red Tire idea won best business concept in June at the U.S. Department of
Two teams, made up of six KU master’s of business administration students, are working on the program. One team is developing a plan to create an in-market beta test to prove the Red Tire concept works. The second team is developing a “franchise book” KU Succession Cooperative LLC eventually plans to franchise the program to other universities in the U.S.

The program is not only great for Kansas businesses, but it also provides School of Business graduate students with unprecedented opportunities early in their career. “Red Tire provides graduate students with the chance to already have CEO or CFO of a company on their resume at age 22 or 23,” said Smith.

Kuznesoff wins Woodyard International Educator Award

Elizabeth Kuznesof, professor of Latin American studies, received the 2009 George and Eleanor Woodyard International Educator Award on Nov. 16.

The award recognizes faculty on the Lawrence campus who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in strengthening KU’s international dimension in such areas as curriculum development, study abroad programs, relationships with international partner institutions and collaboration with international colleagues in significant research and publications.

Kuznesof joined the history department in 1987 and has been Center of Latin American Studies director since 1992. Her colleagues laud her ceaseless work in securing funding for the center, her efforts to make sure that graduate students have the opportunity to do field research in Latin America, her accomplished research and teaching skills and her success in building a community of Latin Americanists at KU.

“International Programs is pleased to present this honor to Professor Kuznesof this year. It is a wonderful recognition of her outstanding record of leadership in international education. We also appreciate the generous support of George and Eleanor Woodyard for this award,” said Julie
Kaarbo, director of faculty programs.

- Past recipients of the award — formerly known as the Provost's Award for Leadership in International Education — are:
  - Ed Canda, social welfare, 2008
  - Bill Tsutsui, history 2007
  - John Head, law 2006
  - Anita Herzfeld, Latin American studies 2005
  - Marsha Haufler, art history 2004
  - Melissa Birch, business, and Diane Fourny, French and European studies 2002
  - Judith McCrea, art and design 2001
  - Leo Villalon, political science and African and African-American studies 2000
  - Tom Mulinazzi, civil, environmental and architectural engineering, and Charles Stansifer, history 1999

Certified Public Managers program expands offerings to Hays

Class trains new city, business leaders

KU will offer its highly regarded Certified Public Managers Program next year in Hays. The program is dedicated to developing the management skills of mid-level leaders in state or local government and public-oriented organizations such as hospitals, nonprofits and utilities.

The 300-hour program meets two to three days a month for one calendar year. Curriculum addresses personal and organizational integrity, managing work, leading people, developing self, systematic integration, public service and leadership during times of change.

Offered through KU’s Topeka-based Public Management Center, part of the university’s nationally ranked Department of Public Administration, the program has graduated nearly 1,200 students since its inception in 1993.

Toby Dougherty, Hays city manager and 2006 program graduate, lobbied to bring the
program to Hays in 2010.

“The KU Public Management Center is dedicated to being a statewide resource, and we love getting to know the communities we serve,” said Terri Callahan, program director. “Some of our best students have come from Hays, and we look forward to it being our home away from home for the next year.”

The program is offered in Topeka and Johnson County as well. KU is accepting applications for the program in all locations. Tuition is $2,200 for state employees and $2,700 for others. For more information about the program, visit www2.ku.edu/~kupmc/programs/cpm/.

To contact Callahan, call (785) 296-2353 or e-mail tcallahan@ku.edu.

For information or to register, contact the KU Public Management Center at (785) 296-2353 or e-mail Beverly Pleiss at brpleiss@ku.edu.

Society formed to support KU Libraries, honor donors

An inspiration to generations of librarians now inspires the name of the giving society that celebrates the generosity of KU Libraries’ benefactors.

Robert Vosper spent 10 years as director of KU Libraries from 1951 to 1960, going on to become an internationally acclaimed champion of libraries. Now, KU Libraries pays him tribute by introducing the Vosper Society, which honors those who demonstrate interest in and support for KU Libraries’ purpose, vision and potential as an essential partner to scholarship at KU and beyond.

The society recognizes five giving levels, with baseline annual membership achieved with a gift of at least $100 or a like gift in kind made during the fiscal year. To join the Vosper Society, visit www.lib.ku.edu/giving/vosper.

Membership supports KU Libraries in three essential areas.

Collections — preserving archival and rare items at Spencer Research Library and other collections held at the Library Annex for future generations of scholars; and bringing new information resources, such as datasets, geospatial data, rich digital image
collections and more to
KU today.

Services — instructing
students in how to seek
out the best sources of
information, answering
reference questions and
offering consultation to
all who need advanced
help navigating the
information world, as
well as helping KU staff
and faculty contribute to
emerging digitally based
scholarship and
publication.

Facilities — creating
vital spaces within
library buildings that
welcome and support
students, faculty
researchers and the
community and adapt to
their changing needs.

Vosper Society
members will be invited
to attend private
sessions with visiting
speakers and special
events to visit and learn
about special features of
the libraries. They will
also be recognized for
their contributions to
KU Libraries and for
making a lasting
positive impact on KU
by supporting the
collections, services and
facilities of KU
Libraries.

Vosper was named one
of the top 100 most
important people in 20th
century librarianship by
American Libraries, a
publication of the
American Library
Association. The
association lauded him
“as a force for libraries
and for the rights of
librarians as partners in
scholarly enterprise. His
commitment to the
library as an intellectual
sanctuary was an
inspiration to many.”

Vosper was director of
KU Libraries for a
decade, shaping the
collections with many of
its most important
acquisitions and
establishing such
innovative means to
reach out to students as
the Snyder Book
Collecting Contest. He
was especially known
for his defense of
intellectual freedom,
notably mounting an
exhibition on banned
books during the height
of the McCarthy era,
doing so with strong
support from Chancellor
Franklin D. Murphy.
That exhibition gained
international notice, and
more than 20,000 copies
of its catalog were
printed and distributed.
It remains in demand
and has been recreated
in a digital version at
http://spencer.lib.ku.edu/
exhibits/bannedbooks/ba
nnedbooks.html.

Vosper’s contributions
to the field of
librarianship spanned
more than four decades
and included several
national and
international leadership
roles. Among these
achievements, he served
as president of the
Association of College
and Research Libraries
(1955-56) and helped
lead the International
Federation of Library
Associations and
Institutions from 1971 to
1977 as chairman and
vice-chairman. He
received many awards
for his work, including a
Guggenheim fellowship
in 1969 and the
prestigious Lippincott
Award in 1985 from the
American Library
Association. He died in
1994.

“Robert Vosper has
been an inspiration to
many librarians, at KU
and throughout the
world,” said Lorraine
Haricombe, dean of
libraries. “At KU
Libraries, we are proud
to use his name to honor
the growing group of
contributors who
continue to help us
achieve excellence and support the success of the entire university.”