Aida Garcia-Franks works with students during the Harvest of Hope Leadership Academy. The academy, held last month on campus, brings children of migrant workers from across the state to KU’s campus to help prepare them for college and stress the importance of higher education.

A harvest of hope
Leadership academy brings children of migrant workers to KU, stresses importance of college

As the daughter of migrant workers, Alejandra Hernandez-Castro knows how difficult it is to be the first in the family to attend college.

So when she works with migrant families and their children throughout the year to stress the
importance of college and help inspire the students to continue their education, she has proof it can be done.

Hernandez-Castro is among the staff that facilitates a residential academy at KU that brings such students to campus to show them that not only can they attend college, they can excel and go on to work in a profession they love. The Harvest of Hope Leadership Academy recently brought 47 children of migrant agricultural workers from across Kansas to KU for three weeks of classes, leadership training and good times. This was the camp’s second year.

The academy, a state-funded Educational Opportunity Program within the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, doesn’t cost families a dime. The academy identifies students who are eligible and brings them to campus. Stacy Mendez, project coordinator for the institute, said it’s not uncommon for the students to be nervous at first about leaving home for three weeks at a new place.

“For the most part, none of these students has ever been on a college campus, and their parents have not attended college,” Mendez said.

The camp’s goal is to inspire and support the students, age 13 to 18, showing them that they can graduate high school and go on to college, familiarize them with college and encourage them to take leadership positions in their communities.

While on campus, the students stayed at Templin Hall, ate their meals at Ekdahl Dining Commons and took classes across campus. From Monday through Thursday, the students took classes in civics, language arts, math and science during the day and attended a leadership seminar. A study hall was in the evening. On Fridays they toured other campuses in the state, including Emporia State University, Johnson County Community College and Washburn University. On the weekends they took cultural field trips, taking in events such as a Kansas City Wizards soccer game and a classical music performance.

“We try to expose them to things they might not normally get to do,” Mendez said.

Parents were invited to visit on weekends and were welcome at an awards banquet during the closing weekend. The academy provided travel stipends and helped arrange hotel accommodations for the families.

“There are so many barriers already in place, with language issues and other factors. We try to remove as many of those barriers as possible and get the parents involved,” Mendez said.

Faculty and staff members from across the university taught classes and sessions and were joined by a teacher from Free State High School as well as several graduate students. The instructors were selected for their ability to reach the students and relate to them.
“We try to find staff instructors who have similar backgrounds or who are bilingual or have experience teaching at-risk or underrepresented students,” Mendez said. “We also invited current KU Latino students, members of HALO and our Latino fraternity and sorority to lead a student panel. Those students did a great job. They were very open and honest.”

The efforts of those involved in the camp were not only appreciated by the young students, they also have gained recognition across the university. Hernandez-Castro was recently named Unclassified Staff employee of the year for her efforts in working with the students and families who take part in the camp.

Hernandez-Castro serves as the recruitment coordinator for the academy during the academic year. She then travels across the state doing pre-college workshops and helps students apply for the academy. Once the selections are made, she meets with every student and family selected to ensure they know what to expect and are comfortable with the program. She also teaches the leadership seminar when the camp is in session.

“She’s definitely a role model,” Mendez said. “She’s very passionate about her work and feels a real connection to the students.”

More information about the Harvest of Hope Leadership Academy is available at http://www2.ku.edu/~hhla/cgi-bin/

Register, Golash-Boza win Fulbrights; will take scholarship abroad

Two KU professors have been awarded prestigious Fulbright fellowships to advance their research and teaching abroad.

Dena Register, associate professor of music therapy, has received a Council for International Exchange of Scholars Fulbright Scholar grant to spend the fall semester in Thailand, where she will teach and conduct research at Mahidol University. Register will assist her
colleagues at Mahihol University in the development of their degree program in music therapy. KU was the first university in the United States to offer a graduate degree in music therapy, and the program is now internationally recognized. In addition to teaching classes at Mahihol University, Register will investigate the perception of music therapy by medical professionals and patients in the two hospitals affiliated with this Thai university. Before the beginning of the Fulbright grant this fall, Register will be in Thailand as the faculty leader of a KU summer study abroad program for students in music therapy.

Tanya Golash-Boza, assistant professor of sociology, has received a U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship to spend a year conducting research in Brazil, Jamaica, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. Golash-Boza’s ethnographic research seeks to inform our understanding of the experiences of deportees, enabling us to develop a conceptualization of transnationalism that accounts for those experiences. While in the field, she will conduct 120 interviews over 12 months in the four countries, all of which receive a substantial portion of deportees from the United States.

The Fulbright Scholar Program and Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship Program were designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” The Fulbright Scholar Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State and administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. The Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship Program is sponsored and administered by the International Education Programs Service of the United States Department of Education.

Facility to improve patients' access to clinics
Building is partnership between KU Hospital, KU Physicians, KU Medical Center
Groundbreaking is set for July 22 for a new medical office building at Olathe Boulevard and Cambridge Street in Kansas City, Kan., designed to make it easier for patients to access faculty/physician clinics. The new, environmentally engineered building will be just south of the existing main KU Hospital building.

The building is a collaborative effort among KU Hospital, which is developing the project, KU Physicians, which will see patients in clinics within the facility and the KU Medical Center, which will pay the rent for the physicians and also build a new parking garage for patients.

“This building will allow each clinic to provide the best patient experience possible. There will be laboratory and radiology functions within the building to make the patient’s visit even easier,” said Kirk Benson, president of KU Physicians.

“It will also allow for more efficient operation in each clinic. That will be very beneficial to every physician on campus,” Benson said.

University officials said being able to support the physician’s clinical operation is just one benefit of the new building.

“The new facility will also provide an improved environment for teaching students and residents. By combining the clinics into one operation, it will provide a more collaborative interaction among various clinical disciplines, which is the foundation of academic medicine,” said Barbara Atkinson, interim chancellor. “In addition, this new, state-of-the-art facility will assist the medical center in continuing to recruit the best in faculty, residents and students.”

The project is designed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification as administered by the U. S. Green Building Council. The building’s final level of certification has not been verified, but the building is on track to meet LEED “silver” standards, with the possibility of ranking even higher in the final design.

The six-story, 183,000-square-foot building will house 18 clinical departments, each with a set of subspecialties. The architect is Cannon Design, which has designed several clinic buildings for academic...
medical centers, and Turner Construction is the contractor. It will cost about $73 million. Plans call for the building to be open in 2011.

The companion parking garage, located on the south side of Olathe Boulevard, will accommodate approximately 600 cars and open around the same time as the building. The budget for the garage is $9 million and will be paid for entirely by parking fee revenues, not tax money.

KU becomes first public university to adopt open access policy
Research to be available without journal subscription

KU has become the nation’s first public university to adopt an “open access” policy that makes its faculty’s scholarly journal articles available for free online.

The move aligns KU with Harvard and Stanford universities and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which have similar policies in place.

Scholarly articles — the method by which a professor presents original research results — normally are published in peer-reviewed journals and available only through paid subscriptions.

Under the new faculty-initiated policy approved by Chancellor Robert Hemenway, digital copies of all articles produced by the university’s professors will be housed in KU ScholarWorks, an existing digital repository for scholarly work created by KU faculty and staff in 2005. KU ScholarWorks, http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu houses more than 4,400 articles submitted in digital formats that assure their long-term preservation.

Professors will be allowed to seek a waiver but otherwise will be asked to provide electronic forms of all articles to the repository. KU’s Faculty Senate overwhelmingly endorsed the policy at a meeting earlier this year, but additional policy details, including the waiver process, will be developed by a senate task force in the coming academic year, said Faculty Senate President Lisa Wolf-Wendel, professor of education leadership and policy studies. The task force will be led by Ada Emmett, associate librarian for scholarly communications.

“Academic publishing has become increasingly commercial and unavailable to other scholars, or to the general public, in recent years,” said A. Townsend Peterson, distinguished professor.
Cancer researcher lands $1 million grant

Funds will help in quest for NCI designation

The KU Cancer Center’s effort to achieve National Cancer Institute designation was boosted recently when one of its prominent cancer-drug researchers received a $1 million NCI grant renewal. The new four-year grant will allow Blake Peterson, Regents Distinguished Professor in Medicinal Chemistry, to expand his work in cancer-drug delivery he began a decade ago while on the Pennsylvania State University faculty. The grant also brings the cancer center’s NCI funding total to $6 million, more than halfway to its goal of $11 million needed by September 25, 2011, for its NCI designation application.

Peterson’s research focuses on constructing an anti-cancer drug delivery system designed to cross membrane barriers by accessing a defined membrane trafficking pathway.

“The delivery of drugs through the bloodstream to tumors is similar to paddling a kayak down a stream; there are often rocks and trees that stand in the way,” said Peterson. “This grant will allow me to study a unique approach for drug delivery that essentially walks over these barriers to allow cancer-fighting drugs to reach tumors; this has the potential to revolutionize the way we treat certain types of cancers.”

The grant will allow Peterson to look at developing synthetic cell surface receptors as a...
new tool for drug delivery and study small molecule-protein interactions to generate potential therapeutic leads.

His previous work discovered synthetic compounds that engage the same membrane trafficking pathway that allows certain nutrients such as iron, access to the interior of a cell by interacting with membrane proteins. Peterson joined KU’s faculty in 2008 and was named an Eminent Scholar by the Kansas Bioscience Authority. He plays an important role in the cancer center’s quest to achieve NCI designation.

“This funding speaks to the incredible strength the University of Kansas has in drug delivery and leverages the unique capabilities we have,” said Roy Jensen, director of the cancer center. “Dr. Peterson’s success not only will help patients by potentially discovering new ways to fight some of the hardest-to-treat cancers, but he moves us closer to meeting our success factors toward achieving National Cancer Institute designation for the region.”

The Little Magazine, a literary magazine featuring art of student housing residents and staff, recently won a national award for educational programming.

Student housing turns staff, students into published artists
Little Magazine wins national award for educational programs

Department of Student Housing staff have long known Isabelle Odegi as assistant to the director. Thanks to the brainchild of department staff, they now know her, a few colleagues and students as published artists.

Odegi submitted a painting that was one of 65 pieces of art created by student housing staff and residents published in The Little Magazine, a literary publication produced to showcase the artistic talent in KU’s residence halls. The magazine, an idea of Cody Charles, complex director of Lewis and Templin halls, and Jay Vaglio, a senior staffer and graphic design student, was recently chosen as the national winner of educational program of the month by the National Association of College and University Residence Halls.

They knew there were artistically talented students and staffers in their midst. They also knew many of them don’t have a lot of opportunities to share their work. To take an arts class, students must declare an arts major. Charles tasked Vaglio with the charge of forming a committee to put together a literary magazine to feature their work.

“Cody came up to me one day and said, ‘I have an idea,’” Vaglio said. “I said to my committee ‘ultimately we’re going to have a literary magazine. If we don’t get any submissions you’re putting in your own work.’”

Getting submissions wasn’t a problem. Choosing what to include was the real challenge. The committee received nearly 300 submissions and was only able to include 65. A call was sent out to all student housing residents and staff members, everyone from custodial and maintenance staff to resident assistants and first-year freshmen.

When all the submissions were in, a judging panel of arts faculty and staff decided which would be published. The judges picked their top three submissions in their category of expertise, assigning ranks of one, two and three and were able to choose two honorable mention pieces. The winners were printed, showing the artists’ name, hall affiliation and score. Student and staff artists submitted quilts, paintings, photographs, sculptures, sketches, song lyrics, poems and short stories.

Once the winners were chosen, the committee created a design concept, formatted the magazine and hired a professional printer to produce about 1,000 copies.

“We were serious about it,” Charles said. “Since they were serious about their art and shared it with us, we wanted to present it in the best possible way.”

The Little Magazine was published in early May and was distributed around campus in dining and residence halls, the unions, Sabatini Multicultural Resource
Center and Adams Alumni Center. It was also made available off campus in coffee shops, bookstores and art galleries. Committee members also sought sponsorships from local businesses and individuals, and raised nearly $400 for the Lawrence Arts Guild.

Charles said the magazine not only impressed its readers with the quality of art contained within, it was a real morale booster, citing the example of Odegi and her previously unknown talent.

“No one had any clue that she painted,” he said. “One of her works got in, and when people were flipping through the magazine, they were like ‘Isabelle painted that? That’s great.’ I think it helped bring people closer together as a staff, and it helped bring us closer to the students.”

After its success on campus, Charles submitted the Little Magazine to the National Residence Hall Honorary, an organization that recognizes innovative work in campus living. After winning the regional honors, it won national honors from the National Association of College and University Residence Halls.

Charles and Vaglio said the magazine’s success has convinced them to plan on another issue next year. They also hope to have a display of the published art in the fall.

“I didn’t have any question as to whether the students and staff were talented,” Vaglio said. “I was just concerned about getting their art submitted. “I think now they will be even more open to submitting their work next year. The artists are there.”

Changes made to faculty, staff men's basketball plans
Discount discontinued, but other, lower priced seats available
Several changes have been made to the faculty/staff men’s basketball season ticket plan for the coming year, including the option for lower-cost tickets and the removal of a previous discount.

The university recently announced it would not be able to continue offering ticket discounts for athletic and other events because of state-imposed budget cuts.

“Unfortunately, athletics cannot subsidize the 20 percent discount, but we will continue to offer benefits to faculty and staff that aren’t available to others,” said Jim Marchiony, associate athletics director.

While the discount is no longer in place, prices for tickets in the faculty/staff section
have not technically increased. Tickets in the reserved faculty/staff sections — in the northwest, southwest and southeast sections of Allen Fieldhouse — are still $1,155, the same price as a year ago, and tickets in surrounding sections have increased to $1,255. Faculty and staff are still able to purchase season tickets without donating to the Williams Fund.

University employees also have the option this year of purchasing season tickets for a lower price in sections outside the normal faculty/staff sections. Tickets in higher sections are available for $855.

Another new feature in this year’s plan is the option of paying for tickets over a 12-month period. Payment was previously due in full when tickets were purchased. Faculty and staff will now be available to pay for tickets in installments up to one year.

Seat selection will begin Aug. 9. An agreement between Kansas Athletics Inc. and SenEx states that the selections take place every two years. Seats selected this year will be held for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons. The location of the event will be announced at a later date.

KU researchers putting recovery funds to work
More than $3 million funding 15 projects so far

KU researchers are beginning to benefit from the federal economic stimulus funding package enacted in February. So far, 11 stimulus grants have been awarded at the Lawrence campus, with another four at the medical center. Together, the 15 awards total $3.1 million.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contains $21.5 billion in federal funding for research and development. About half of that amount, $10.4 billion, is allocated to the National Institutes of Health. Other agencies investing in research under the act include the National Science Foundation, $3 billion; the Department of Energy, $5.5 billion; NASA, $1 billion; and the National Institute of Standards and Testing, $1.2 billion.

Among the latest KU recipients of a stimulus-related grant is Luke Huan, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science and a member of the Bioinformatics and Computational Life Sciences Lab at the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center. The NSF awarded Huan a five-year, $500,000 CAREER grant in support of a project titled "Mining Genome-wide Chemical-Structure Activity Relationships in Emergent Chemical Genomics Databases."
"Large research programs, such as the new Specialized Chemistry Center at KU, produce a huge amount of data," said Huan, who came to KU in 2006. "Interpreting that data is a challenge. Our goal is to develop pattern recognition theory to interpret the data, and then apply that theory to drug design and other interdisciplinary fields."

Huan will be joined on the interdisciplinary project by two doctoral students and two undergraduate students.

“This is a very encouraging start,” said Steve Warren, vice provost for research and graduate studies. “And we are confident there will be more awards to follow. The stimulus package is a tremendous one-time funding opportunity. Our researchers are very competitive and are submitting many good proposals for consideration.

“The new administration is committed to increasing the federal investment in science and technology research. That will pay off in terms of better health, renewable energy and improved research infrastructure. Another, more immediate, benefit is the creation of jobs and a boost to the U.S. economy.”

Huan’s award is the second largest so far at KU under the act. Other related grant recipients and their funding agencies are:

- Gonzalo Carrasco, assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology, NIH
- Michael Detamore, assistant professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, NIH
- Anna Ghazaryan, visiting assistant professor, mathematics, NSF
- Brenda Hanna-Pladdy, assistant professor of psychiatry, NIH
- Heping He, assistant professor of mathematics, NSF
- Phillip Hefty (2), assistant professor of molecular biosciences, NIH

- Joe Heppert, professor and chair of chemistry, NSF
- Blake Peterson, Regents Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, NIH
- Kenneth Peterson, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, NIH
- Joan Sereno, associate professor of linguistics, NSF
- Hinrich Staecker, professor of otolaryngology, NIH
- Martha Staker, director, Project EAGLE, pediatrics, HHS
- Liang Tang, assistant professor of molecular biosciences, NIH

Updated information on stimulus-related funding opportunities is available at http://www.rgs.ku.edu/leadership/researchstimulus/
Cancer alliance to help central Kansans navigate health care system

Cancer patients and their families have a new advocate to help them navigate the health care system.

Through the Midwest Cancer Alliance Clinical Trials Network’s new Patient Navigator program, Carol Bush will serve patients in central Kansas to help them learn what services are available to them. Her office will be based at the KU School of Medicine’s Wichita campus.

The new position represents a two-year pilot program funded by a gift of $180,000 from the Kansas Masonic Foundation.

Patient navigators are health care professionals whose primary focus is to assist patients, caregivers and families in the health care system by decreasing barriers to quality care. Services provided by a patient navigator may include arranging various forms of financial support, scheduling transportation to appointments and helping people learn where to go for assistance with other logistical or psychosocial concerns.

“Patient navigation is an important part of the continuum of care, as it helps ensure patients navigate the often complicated health care system,” said Gary Doolittle, medical director of the Midwest Cancer Alliance Clinical Trials Network. “This pilot program complements our mission to ensure patients have access to the most cutting-edge clinical trials close to home by addressing the unmet needs that often come with a cancer diagnosis.”

Through the generosity of Kansas Masons, the Kansas Masonic Foundation has provided more than $20 million in support of the KU Cancer Center’s quest to achieve National Cancer Institute designation.

“Our mission as Masons is ‘service to all mankind,’ and the Midwest Cancer Alliance is an excellent example of how the expertise of cancer physicians and researchers at KU benefits the entire state,” said Jeff Sowder, president of the Kansas Masonic Foundation Board of Directors. “The navigator program will help cancer patients and their families, and we are pleased to be a part of building this program.”

The gift is managed by KU Endowment, KU’s official fundraising organization.

The MCA Clinical Trials Network provides a link from the KU Cancer Center’s research laboratories to
community-based oncologists across the region by pushing new discoveries out to partner sites through clinical trials. For more information about the MCA and the Patient Navigation Pilot Program, visit http://www.midwestcanceralliance.org/.

Urban design professor takes term paper digital Project wins national award for technology in classroom

If it seems the whole world is going digital, consider that even the old academic standard — the term paper — is finding a home on sites such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

Bonnie Johnson, assistant professor of architecture, and the graduate program in urban planning recently received a national award for a series of digital stories that serve the same purpose as the semester-ending paper assignments. The technology division of the American Planning Association, the professional group for city planners, presented the program the “Best use of technology for a University Urban and Regional Planning Program” award.

About three years ago, Johnson attended a workshop presented by KU’s Center for Teaching Excellence about digital stories and decided to give them a try in her class.

“I was struck by how they can do the same things as a term paper,” she said. “You see if the students learned anything in the class, and they get to practice research. I thought ‘this is another way these students, some of whom will someday be city planners, can learn to communicate with the public.’”

The students were assigned an influential American city planner and given the task of producing an eight- to 10-minute story about the individual, his or her career and influence on the field of city planning. They were required to use video or still images, music, narration and graphics to tell the story of planners such as J.C. Nichols, the KU grad who was one of the most influential planners in Kansas City’s history, and Jane Jacobs, the New York-based writer and community activist. They were required to research the topic, write and turn in a script and perhaps most importantly, decide which parts of the story to tell and which not to tell.

The final products can be viewed at http://ids.ku.edu/john/bonnie_johnson/digital_stories/bjohnson_digitalstories.html.

Johnson said producing the projects digitally also prepares the students for growing trends in the business. Increasingly, city planners are presenting projects and getting
feedback from constituents on social networking sites. Cities have begun posting videos of meetings online as well. Planners often face the challenge of getting citizens interested in projects that can greatly affect their lives.

“We want people to think about the future of the city. But a lot of times we don’t think about our own future,” Johnson said.

The field also has a tendency to be filled with jargon and elected officials can sometimes be difficult to persuade regarding a project’s importance. Digital stories and presentations can provide a new way to present necessary information in a way those not involved in the field can grasp and understand.

Digital stories are becoming increasingly popular in academe as well, said Johnson, who will present a session on the stories at next month’s All University Teaching Summit.

Dan Bernstein, director of KU’s Center for Teaching Excellence and professor of psychology, said he was impressed with Johnson’s dedication to the form as a teaching tool and her willingness to use new methods of teaching.

“Bonnie independently carried out all of the work required to learn about the idea and provide sufficient instruction and help for students,” he said. “I am impressed with her instant appreciation for this approach and with her learning quickly from a few examples she found. It is too rare that I encounter this kind of initiative to try out new forms of working with students.”

All University Teaching Summit set for Aug. 18

'Engaged learning' focus of event

“Engaged Learning” is the focus of the 2009 All University Teaching Summit. The event, open to all faculty and staff, is set for 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 18 in Budig Hall.

The summit will begin with a discussion of student engagement as a key feature of improving learning in general education and in major fields. Examples of engaged learning at KU will be followed by lessons learned from the National Survey of Student Engagement and examples of effective engagement from other institutions.

Other topics of summit sessions include: digital storytelling as a learning and communication tool; instilling responsible conduct in students; tablets—the road to a paperless curriculum; reframing graduate exams; authentic assessment; difficult dialogues—engaging learners to deal effectively with controversy; teaching in an e-learning age; fomenting revolution;
what the best college teachers do; developing poise and confidence in the classroom; teaching strategies and student engagement in video conference courses; global learning; and mini-workshops on undergraduate research and teaching the next generation.

Exercisers to help power fitness center
Ambler Center to harness kinetic energy from elliptical machines

This August, as incoming KU freshman flock to Lawrence for Hawk Week, they will find a revolutionary way to live a healthy and green lifestyle.

The David A. Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center is retrofitting 15 elliptical machines with ReRev devices made by Florida-based SunQuest energy that draw on kinetic energy created by people’s workouts and reroute that energy back into the building’s electric grid — pushing back against electricity supplied by conventional carbon-based power supplies.

“We already have the equipment — they are Precor elliptical fitness machines that we’ve had on our floor since we opened the facility,” said Mary Chappell, director of KU Recreation Services. “We’re just going to be using a system that will hook into that and will harness the kinetic energy that’s produced by human beings when they get on the ellipticals and do their thing on the fitness floor.”

According to the makers of ReRev, a typical 30-minute workout produces enough clean energy to power a laptop for an hour, a TV for 15 minutes or a compact fluorescent light bulb for two hours and 30 minutes. But the energy generated will be used exclusively in the center, cutting carbon emissions.

The ReRev devices will convert the energy created on the elliptical devices — which usually goes wasted as heat — from DC power into 240/208 Volt 60 Hertz AC inside a control box mounted near the exercise machines. Users will see displayed in real time

To register, contact the Center for Teaching Excellence at 864-4199 or cte@ku.edu. Lunch will be provided to those who register by Aug. 13. A continental breakfast will be served in the Center for Teaching Excellence until 8:20 a.m. The first session will begin at 8:30 a.m. in 130 Budig.

The summit is presented by the Center for Teaching Excellence, Office of the Provost and the KU Medical Center.
the energy their workouts contribute to the building. Additionally, the reductions in heat will improve air quality and cut costs of cooling the facility.

“It all came about as a student project,” said Chappell. “This idea came to me from a student named Andrew Stanley, and he’s very involved in environmentally conscious efforts. He asked, ‘Have you heard about harnessing human kinetic energy?’ Of course that piqued our interest. We immediately did a conference call with him and the ReRev guys.’”

Soon, leaders from the center were hearing success stories about ReRev’s implementation at the universities of Florida, Oregon, Portland and Nebraska.

“I think it’s really cool and exciting for KU,” said Stanley, a student of art from Overland Park who earned a bachelor’s in Latin American studies from KU in spring 2009.

“Mary Chappell’s support for ReRev was instrumental in bringing the technology to the university. I’m the student who paired up KU with SunQuest and rallied support from the students and university governing bodies that were ultimately responsible for funding the project. I think it’s something great that people should become excited and inspired about.”

The Student Environmental Board is funding the entire $15,000 project.

Once retrofitted to generate electricity, the project’s backers expect an increase in the Precor machines’ popularity, saying that users will be more motivated in their workouts and more awake to the energy running the world around us.

“We’re now capturing energy that was otherwise wasted into the space,” said Glen Johansen, vice president of sales at SunQuest. “It connects the user with the production and raises awareness. It makes you cognizant of going in and out of rooms and what it takes to power a light bulb — and makes you appreciate what it takes to drive that energy.”

Raising environmental consciousness quickly has become a key priority at the center, where personal health and environmental health are seen as interconnected.

“We’ve made sustainability one of our primary goals,” said Chappell. “We’re trying to put together a play and work environment that is sustainable. It’s the right thing to do. I think that the students — as well as staff and faculty — really are eco-conscious. It started with our recycling efforts. Now, students will see the rain garden that we have outside that is using rainwater runoff from the roof as an irrigation system. We just put in a bid to get a new electric car, and students will see that because it will be parked out on the plaza. But we’ll get it to have access around campus and cut our cost of gasoline. In everything we do, we’re thinking about sustainability and energy — we’ve got to be here a lot longer and leave something behind us.”
KU signs technology contracts that will save hundreds of thousands of dollars

Software, cable agreements results of Initiative One

KU officials have announced two new technology contracts that will save hundreds of thousands of dollars a year over older information infrastructure purchasing and cable television arrangements.

The institution-wide contract with Oracle will allow the Lawrence campus and KU Medical Center to coordinate planning, purchasing and service delivery of database programs and software licensing that support academic, administrative and business applications at KU. A cable television contract with Apogee will save KU nearly $200,000 over its previous contract.

“These contracts will not only save money for the University of Kansas, they will benefit the state,” said Denise Stephens, vice provost for information services and chief information officer. “By coordinating our efforts throughout the university we’ll be able to provide the best possible technological assets while making sure state financial resources are used in a highly efficient, responsible manner.”

The Oracle agreement is a three-year, $2.8 million contract. The agreement is projected to enable savings of nearly 90 percent in related hardware costs, reduce administrative management costs and provide enhanced operating efficiencies for database administrators on both campuses. The integrated campus licensing and service also provides a better product for the university. New database products will feature enhanced information security with data encryption capabilities, will enable more efficient integration of database systems and will provide reliable product maintenance and service support for users throughout the university.

Stephens said the first-ever intercampus agreement with Oracle potentially could reduce hardware costs by enabling smaller servers to operate in clusters, which cost less to replace.

“A university-wide agreement such as this is an excellent example of what can be achieved
when all parties truly work together,” said Barbara Atkinson, interim chancellor. “KU may have more than one campus, but we all have the same mission of providing the best possible teaching and research. I commend all who have played a part in improving the university’s technological resources and efficiency, which play no small role in helping reach our full potential.”

KU also agreed to a contract with cable television provider Apogee, which will cost about half of what KU paid previously while increasing channels offered. The total price of the contract is just under $200,000. Apogee will provide campus cable television subscribers, primarily located in student housing, with an additional 20 channels not previously available, including two channels in Chinese and Spanish. Student housing residents determined the available channels.

Both new contracts resulted from Initiative One, an effort launched by Information Services in 2008 to identify savings and efficiencies in purchasing and delivery of information technology services throughout the university.

Law study shows patents may corner the market on innovation

A new study co-authored by a KU professor challenges the traditional view that patents foster innovation, suggesting instead that patents may harm new technology, economic activity and societal wealth.

The results, published in the Columbia Science and Technology Law Review, may have important policy implications because many countries count on patent systems to spur new technology and promote economic growth.

To test the hypothesis that patent systems promote technological innovation, Andrew Torrance of the KU School of Law and Bill Tomlinson of the University of California-Irvine’s Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences developed an online simulation game of the patent system, PatentSim. Their results suggest that a patent system underperforms a “commons,” in which no patent protection is available, on several important measures.

Although these surprising results call into question traditional justifications for patent systems, they do align with the increasingly well-supported notion that user and open innovation can succeed where patents may fail.
PatentSim uses an abstract model of the innovation process, a database of potential innovations, and a network over which users may interact with one another to license, assign, buy, infringe and enforce patents. PatentSim allows users to simulate the innovation process in one of three scenarios: a patent system, a “commons” system with no patents or a system with both patents and open source protection.

“In PatentSim, we found that the patent system did not work to spur innovation,” Tomlinson said. “In fact, participants were more likely to innovate when there was no intellectual property protection at all, or when they could open source their innovations and share them with other people.”

The researchers measured the efficacy of the patent system based on innovation — the number of unique inventions; productivity — a measure of economic activity; and societal wealth — the ability to generate money.

The subjects of the simulation game were first-year law students who had never had any intellectual property coursework. Torrance and Tomlinson plan to conduct further simulations with subjects of different backgrounds, including master’s of business administration students at Harvard University.


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Researcher looks to fungus to find treatments

Genetic research involving fungi being conducted at KU could lead to treatments for a variety of diseases such as cancer and osteoporosis.

Fungi have long been known to contain chemical compounds that inhibit harmful biological processes. A team of researchers including Berl Oakley, the Irving S. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology, has developed a method to activate genes of the fungus Aspergillus nidulans to produce such...
compounds, also known as secondary metabolites.

“Fungal secondary metabolites are a rich source of medically useful compounds. Our work is leading to the rapid discovery of new compounds, and they are being evaluated for potential medical utility,” Oakley said.

Useful medical compounds found in fungi include penicillin, lovastatin and terrequinone. Various fungi produce antibiotics such as penicillin to inhibit the growth of bacteria that compete with the fungi for nutrients. More recently, the compound lovastatin was found to inhibit the production of cholesterol, and terrequinone was shown to fight tumors.

After earlier research sequenced the genome of Aspergillus nidulans, scientists realized this model organism had the potential to make many more secondary metabolites than were produced under normal laboratory conditions. Each potentially could be a disease-fighting chemical compound.

“In nature, they are probably made in response to particular environmental conditions or competing organisms, but in the lab they are not produced,” Oakley said.

Oakley’s study changes this. His team has found a way to activate genes to produce more medically useful compounds within a lab setting. They discovered that the regulation of production of some secondary metabolites occurs at the chromatin level. Chromatin is a collection of proteins packed around DNA. By genetically manipulating chromatin, Oakley’s team stimulated production of a group of secondary metabolites that normally would not be produced in significant amounts in a lab. This approach will allow researchers to discover new secondary metabolites and understand the biochemical pathways that produce them. They have also discovered how to delete or modify genes in the biochemical pathways, which also leads to the production of additional compounds.

Oakley’s team published the research in May in the journal Nature Chemical Biology in a brief commentary, “Chromatin-level Regulation of Biosynthetic Gene Clusters.”

Oakley’s research is part of a more than $4 million, five-year program project, “Mining the Aspergillus Nidulans Secondary Metabolome,” funded by the National Institutes of Health. Clay Wang of the University of Southern California and Nancy Keller of the University of Wisconsin are also funded by the project. The project uses the complementary expertise of the three labs to accelerate the pace of the research. Oakley initiated the project while at Ohio State University but began research soon after his arrival at KU last fall.
Regents approve tuition plan

The Kansas Board of Regents has approved a KU tuition proposal in which 40 percent of undergraduates will see no increase and the majority of other students, including graduate students and transfers, will see a modest 6 percent increase.

“The regents’ action today will help protect the quality of a KU degree, preserve our tuition compact, which locks in tuition for four years for incoming KU freshmen, and protect against a midyear tuition increase, which would be difficult for students and families to absorb,” said Chancellor Robert Hemenway.

The KU plan goes into effect for the 2009-10 academic year, which begins in August. It continues a tuition compact that is staunchly supported by KU students, who first advanced the plan to bring predictability to college costs, aid financial planning and prevent sudden spikes in tuition.

Under the compact, entering freshmen will receive a tuition rate that is frozen for four years. Students who entered as new freshmen in fall 2007 or fall 2008 are under compact rates and will see no increase in tuition. The compact rate for this fall’s incoming freshmen will be 7 percent higher than last year’s compact.

The standard tuition rate for all other undergraduates and graduate students will be 6 percent higher, as will tuition for students at the KU Medical Center.

The likelihood of additional state budget cuts persuaded KU to propose a plan modified from its original proposal in May. State officials have warned recently that additional cuts of up to 5 percent are highly likely, meaning KU’s total budget cut for the coming year could reach a staggering $44 million.

The rates approved today represent for new freshman a $69 a year increase over KU’s original proposal in May; for resident undergraduates paying the standard tuition rate, the modified proposal represents a $124.50 increase a year over the original proposal.

Factoring the different tuition rates, KU’s overall funding from tuition is projected to rise 4.1 percent. The plan generates $9.8 million in tuition revenue, which will cover less than a third of the $31.5 million in current budget reductions to the university’s budget.

To fill the budget gap, the university has assigned a larger share of reductions to administrative units. Job cuts have been made that will lead to diminished numbers of support staff and teachers, larger class sizes and fewer course offerings. Efficiencies and cost savings on top of the $9 million already identified over the current and previous budget years also are being sought.
“We are committed to finding additional cost savings and efficiencies,” Hemenway said.

Tuition rates for the 2009-10 academic year

Standard tuition by the credit hour (applies only to seniors, graduate students and transfer students)

Undergraduate resident: $218.90 (an increase of $12.40 over 2008-09)

Graduate resident: $270.50 (an increase of $15.40)

Undergraduate nonresident: $575.00 (an increase of $32.60)

Graduate nonresident: $646.25 (an increase of $36.70)

Medical student rates, per semester

Resident: $12,573.10 (a $711.70 increase over 2008-09)

Nonresident: $22,297.20 (a $1,262.10 increase)

Compact Tuition rates by the credit hour


For fall 2009 first-time freshmen: resident $245.30, nonresident, $644.25. Will not change through 2013.

Course fees

The regents approved a 4 percent increase in course fees effective in the academic year 2012-13. Increase ranges from 85 cents in education and music to $8.95 in law. See www.tuition.ku.edu/rates.shtml for the current rates by school or program.

Required campus fees (supports services ranging from recreation, child care and health services to campus transit)

Lawrence campus: zero percent change from 2008-09. Will stay at $423 per student per

Edwards campus: zero percent change. Fees cap at $792 per semester.

Medical center campus: 2.7 percent increase, or $5.25 increase for undergraduate and graduate students, and $7.09 more for medical students.