Tunnels take two
Second phase of repairs to tackle two sections, cause closures
The summer once again will bring construction crews and street closures to Mount Oread, as the second phase of repairs to campus steam tunnels gets under way. The work may inconvenience some but is necessary.

Repairs to deteriorated steam tunnels are KU’s top deferred maintenance priority. The tunnels carry steam from the power plant to campus buildings and house electrical cables and data services. Many of the tunnels were constructed around 1900. The repairs are addressing sections that are badly deteriorated and pose safety problems for employees who work in them and threaten the reliability of utilities routed through them, said Gary Lawson, project manager with Design and Construction Management.

The first of three phases has been completed, and a third phase is scheduled for 2010. The work that will begin this spring will repair two tunnel sections. One section starts near the southwest corner of Watson Library traveling west, beneath Sunflower Road and extending behind Stauffer-Flint Hall, ending behind Wescoe Hall. The other section starts east of Bailey Hall, crosses under Mississippi Street and proceeds west, ending behind Strong Hall. Work at both sites is set to begin April 6 and be completed by Sept. 11.

Each section will require closures of various campus streets and parking lots for different periods of time. The section between Watson Library and Wescoe Hall will force the closure of Facilities Operations Drive and lot No. 126 for the duration of the project. A section of Wescoe Drive from Sunflower Drive running west behind Stauffer-Flint Hall will be closed from May 18 to June 15. A section of Sunflower Drive beginning at Wescoe Drive and the southwest corner of Watson Library will be closed from May 19 to Aug. 10. The portion of Lot 10 along Sunflower Road will be restricted to Facilities Operations vehicles displaced while Lot 126 is closed.

The work behind Bailey and Strong halls will cause multiple closures and include construction of a temporary access drive between the two buildings. The access drive will connect Jayhawk Boulevard to Poplar Lane. It will be open to traffic exiting Poplar Lane to Jayhawk Boulevard from June 16 to Sept. 11.

Poplar Lane, which runs behind Strong and Bailey, will have its own series of closures and traffic restrictions. From April 6 to June 15, the lane will be open west of Strong Hall to two-way traffic, but will be closed north of Bailey Hall. During that same period, parking lot No. 3 will be closed west of Strong Hall, but remain open below the Spencer Research Library deck. The lane will be open only to one-way traffic west of Strong, but remain closed behind Bailey between June 16 and Sept. 11. Parking along the Poplar Lane portion of Lot No. 3 will reopen during the same period.

A section of Mississippi Street between Jayhawk Boulevard and Memorial Drive will
close from May 19 to Aug. 10. Five handicapped-accessible parking spaces, a number of reserved and delivery service stalls located in Lot 3 will be moved to a section of Jayhawk Boulevard in front of Strong Hall during the project.

While Lot 3 is closed and the portion of Lot 4 in front of Strong Hall is restricted, gold parking permit holders will be allowed to park in the Mississippi Street Garage. After commencement and until the start of fall semester, all faculty and staff permits will be honored in the Mississippi Street Garage.

While Poplar Lane will be closed prior to commencement, scheduled for May 17, it should not affect the ceremony. Graduates will still gather on Memorial Drive and make the traditional walk down the hill into Memorial Stadium. Memorial Drive will remain open throughout the project.

During the closure of Sunflower Road, the Park and Ride Express bus will be rerouted to go north on Naismith Drive and Jayhawk Boulevard. It will continue past the Kansas Union, return on Mississippi Street to Memorial Drive and then back southbound on Naismith.

Security fencing will be erected in the areas where work is being done. Some trees will need to be removed to accommodate the work. Design and Construction Management is working with the KU Tree Committee to preserve as many as possible and will replace any that are removed.

The third phase of the project will excavate, expose and waterproof a section of tunnel between Robinson Health and Physical Education Center and Watkins Memorial Health Center.

**Center for Global, International Studies to be formed within CLAS**

Poolung of resources, efficiency goals of new entity

Half of KU faculty is involved in international work in form or another throughout the world. To centralize and improve the efficiency of the university’s worldwide work, a Center for Global and International Studies will be established within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The center was approved by Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere in February, and it officially will be established July 1.
Joseph Steinmetz, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said a recent strategic plan showed that more than 50 percent of KU’s faculty is involved in international work in some form. He said the center will help draw together KU’s international strengths, such as language and area studies programs and international research, encourage collaboration and improve available resources.

“I think of the center as a clearing house or central resource for people to tap into,” Steinmetz said.

Bill Tsutsui, professor of history and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will be the interim director until Jan. 1, 2010. A search for a permanent director will take place this fall. The center will include several staff who focus on grants and funding opportunities, advising and outreach.

Several initiatives already under way include work to develop new external research grant funding. Proposal writing has begun, and the center will partner with International Studies to apply to the U.S. Department of Education for designation as a National Resource Center in international studies. The designation is prestigious and brings with it substantial financial support for curriculum development, research, outreach and graduate student support. KU has three National Resource Centers: the Kansas African Studies Center, the Center for East Asian Studies and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

Another goal is to improve efficiency by centralizing administrative functions. It will be open to faculty and students from across the university.

Several majors and degree programs will join the center when it opens this summer, such as the co-major in international studies, currently part of the Department of Political Science. A committee comprised of faculty, staff and students is developing a proposal to create a full major in global and international studies. Tsutsui said the master’s in international studies at the Edwards Campus will also move to the center on July 1, and the goal is to develop more interdisciplinary graduate degrees in the future.

While working to strengthen current resources and programs, the center will also provide an avenue to develop teaching, research and outreach in areas not currently addressed, such as the Middle East and south Asia. Topics of broad international significance such as global health security and migration will be a focus in building new curricular offerings.

Bringing together people and programs dedicated to international study will pay off for both individuals and the university as a whole, Steinmetz said.

“We have a great national and international reputation in global studies now,” he said. “The center provides a chance to
bring all of our work to an even higher level.”

Tsutsui added that benefits would be noticeable on and off campus.

“For students, it will mean new course and degree options that will make them more competitive for jobs in a global economy and better prepare them for global citizenship in a complex and quickly changing world,” he said. “For faculty, it will provide a new forum for interdisciplinary dialogue and program-building on a variety of timely topics of transnational significance. For the larger community and the state of Kansas, it will mean enhanced local resources in world areas of growing economic and strategic importance.”

Stimulus bill has potential to affect KU in numerous ways

New, expanded research funding among opportunities

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law by President Barack Obama could give higher education a shot in the arm as part of its goal of leading America’s economy out of recession.

The bill includes billions of dollars that could be spent on higher education in a number of ways and could apply to many projects at KU, said Keith Yehle, director of federal relations. Research, construction, transportation and tuition could all be affected by the funds.

“The adoption of a federal stimulus package provides KU researchers – including newer faculty – with a tremendous opportunity to secure significant additional funding from several key agencies, primarily the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy,” said Steve Warren, vice provost for research and graduate studies.

The amount of funds that will be allocated to such agencies has been set, but specific details on the awards are not yet available.

The NIH will receive about $10.4 billion. Of that sum, $8.2 billion will be devoted to research, and about $1.3 billion will be set aside for renovation and repair of university facilities. Warren said research projects that can spend allocated money within two years will be most likely to be funded.

The NSF will receive $3 billion. Yehle said the funding will be available until Sept. 30, 2010 and will likely increase current project grants or fund projects that have merit but no funding.

The Department of Energy is slated to receive about $9 billion. $2 billion will fund research in areas such as climate science, biofuels, biomass, geothermals, energy
supports sciences and energy efficiency research in collaboration with industry. Another $6 billion is tabbed for loan guarantees for renewable energy projects.

Those three agencies, along with NASA, accounted for more than half of the total federal research funding KU received in FY 08, Warren said.

Funds not tabbed specifically for research could benefit universities as well. For example, $53.6 billion has been specified for state stabilization. Roughly 80 percent of that will be used to support elementary, secondary and higher education. Priority is given to restoring state aid to public school districts, but about 18 percent can be used by universities to mitigate the need for tuition increases, Yehle said.

While details are still emerging on how the stimulus funds will be allocated and used, officials have made a few things clear. In a recent conference call with American Association of Universities research officers, Raynard Kington, acting director of the NIH, said funding from the stimulus bill will not be business as usual. There won’t be any across-the-board increases in grants or programs, and there will be greater reporting requirements, such as the number of jobs created and retained and economic impact of funded projects.

Warren said his office will share information about stimulus funds with deans, directors, department chairs and faculty members as they become available.

“One thing is clear – this is an extraordinary opportunity for KU and other research universities and we want to take full advantage of it in every way possible,” Warren said.

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies has established a Web site for helping researchers learn more about the stimulus bill, http://www.rgs.ku.edu/leadership/researchstimulus/.

Budget cuts set at 4.25 percent for 2009, still unclear for 2010

Administrators outline effects in second open forum

Legislators are estimating that an additional 10 percent cut could be required for all state agencies starting July 1, employees were told at a recent open forum on the university budget.

Damron, director of state relations for KU, cautioned that the actual number could change dramatically before a
In the meantime, Chancellor Robert Hemenway told the audience KU was considering its alternatives and inviting ideas from staff. An online “suggestion box” had already attracted more than 100 suggestions for dealing with budget cuts from improving energy efficiency to cutting specific programs.

“You’ve heard me say in the past that KU will weather this storm,” Hemenway said. “It’s really important when you’re in a difficult time like this that you consider all options.”

The chancellor and Damron joined Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere, Vice Provost for Finance Diane Goddard and Chief Financial Officer Theresa Gordzica at the forum, which was simulcast online for employees on KU Medical Center campuses in Kansas City and Wichita and the Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

The budget bill Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed last month gave KU a 4.25 percent cut to the current fiscal year budget, 1.25 percent more than what the governor originally proposed. The cut equals a $6.5 million reduction on the Lawrence campus and $5.2 million on the KU Medical Center campuses.

Lariviere said this fiscal year’s cuts will be achieved by identifying one-time money that can be given back to the state. However, permanent cuts will be necessary to deal with the expected reduction in fiscal year 2010, which starts July 1. KU has already eliminated 11 positions and will not fill another 110 currently vacant positions in response to the budget crisis.

Faculty and staff furloughs may be required next year, Lariviere said. Models are being worked on now that would base the number of required non-paid days off on an employee’s salary, requiring those making the least amount of money to take the fewest days, if any, and the highest paid employees to take the most, he said. The models aren’t finalized, but they would apply to administrators, faculty and staff but not to GTAs, GRAs and student hourly employees.

“I really would love to not have to resort to this technique, but chances are we’re going to have to next year,” Lariviere said.

Lariviere said the goal is for furloughs to not affect insurance or retirement benefits. Since the furlough would be designed to reduce FY2010 expenditures, there would be flexibility in when employees could take their furlough, he said.

There would be no salary or hiring freezes because they “almost never work in an institution of this complexity,” he said.

Retirement will be another method to address cuts, the provost said, but the university cannot force anyone to retire and is not in the position to buy out people close to retirement age.
Latino Vision Council draws on expertise to address concerns, improve services

As a first-generation Hispanic college student, Ben Fuentes has heard it all. KU has almost no Hispanics on campus, there is no support to help minority students succeed and a KU education is unaffordable were all common refrains. But he knows that’s not the case.

“I know KU is very accepting of diversity,” the sophomore political science major from Satanta said. “As a minority, I’ve lived it.”

So when Fuentes was given the opportunity to help dispel such myths, he jumped at the chance. Fuentes is a student member of KU’s Latino Vision Council. Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere formed the council to attract and retain talented Hispanic and Latino students to KU and to meet the needs of the state’s Latino population. The council draws on numerous groups and resources on campus, all dedicated to addressing the concerns of Latino communities.

As Fuentes points out, Latinos may technically be a minority, but they are not few in number. Data from the 2000 census shows that Latinos are the largest minority group in Kansas and the United States. The population is also young, with 37 percent of Latinos in Kansas under the age of 28, compared to only 25 percent of the state overall. Since last fall, council members have been meeting with Latino community members throughout the state to find out their concerns, what they expect from KU and to let them know what the university has to offer.

Liliana Merubia, senior assistant to the provost; Danny Anderson, vice provost for academic affairs; and graduate student Elias Garcia also were instrumental in forming the council. It consists of public school officials, state officials and leaders of community, religious, media and social service organizations.

“The Latino Vision Council has emerged as a strategic response to the remarkable level of interest and opportunity that currently exists at KU and in our state for addressing the concerns of Latino communities,” Anderson said.

“There are many people on campus working toward Latino-related initiatives and they have been doing so for many years,” Merubia added. “We are working to build on their accomplishments and the awareness they have brought to this issue.”

On a recent visit to Seward County Community College in
Liberal, Fuentes and Juan Izaguirre, coordinator with the Student Involvement and Leadership Center, helped answer questions about KU while meeting with both prospective students and their families.

“I loved it,” Izaguirre said. “It put us out there for them and gave us a chance to say ‘hey, KU cares.’ I felt like my dad was in the room. It was a great family atmosphere and completely in Spanish.”

Similar visits are taking place across the state. Izaguirre, Fuentes and fellow council members are sharing what KU has to offer while gaining ideas on how the university can better serve Latinos in Kansas. Izaguirre said he sees potential for both those already at KU and those considering continuing their education at the university.

Fuentes and Izaguirre also are active with HALO, the Hispanic-American Leadership Organization. The student group, which helps recruit Latino students to KU and support them once they are enrolled, has been active at KU for many years. KU also hosts a Latino Council that brings together Latino faculty, staff and students monthly to discuss a variety of topics. The new Latino Vision Council is drawing on the expertise of such groups in its work.

“I tell Latino students here now they have a chance to help improve the situation. They can help the provost in this initiative and help their university,” Izaguirre said. “We want to make KU important in the Latino community and give parents and students a choice. We can give them a stake in it.”

Numerous steps are being taken on campus as well. The provost’s office is collecting contact information for Latino community leaders across the state and forming a database as part of a grassroots organization of people involved in the effort. A student assistant has been hired to help translate promotional materials. Several ideas are in the works as well, including discussion of a Latino alumni association and dual admissions process with community colleges.

Efforts are also being made in the classroom. KU recently initiated a Latino/a studies minor. The minor encompasses classes from across several disciplines that focus on Latino culture, history, sociology, literature and more. The minor emerged over several years, as more faculty with expertise in the discipline joined KU. A number of faculty members collaborated on creating a proposal for the minor that would make the teaching and research on the topic more visible on campus.

“It’s at the forefront of our minds that we want the Latino community represented in the student body and faculty body. It was underrepresented and we want to make efforts to improve that,” said Marta Caminero-Santangelo, associate professor of English and one of several faculty members instrumental in launching the minor. “If you want to understand American society in all its complexity, some
knowledge of Latino history and culture is a must.”

Caminero-Santangelo said students have reacted positively to the minor and the possibilities it presents. The minor compliments numerous courses of study while addressing issues facing the Latino community and offering students a more rounded education.

The program has drawn scholars in philosophy, Latino labor issues, religious activism and immigration and others to speak on campus and in the community. Luis Alberto Urrea, a novelist and nonfiction writer will visit campus April 15. His book, “The Devil’s Highway” was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. Several faculty members involved in the minor are also part of a network that speaks on Latino and immigration issues on campus and in the Lawrence community.

Fuentes said he’s excited to be part of the efforts at KU to reach out to the Latino community.

“I think it’s great. Coming from southwest Kansas I know a lot of communities are largely Hispanic and Latin American and that they have a lot of concerns,” Fuentes said. “It’s exciting to be there and see this as it goes forward.”

Faculty, staff required to take information security training
Classes to address importance of properly handling sensitive data

All Lawrence campus employees will take part in a new training module designed to ensure protected and sensitive university information is handled properly. The training is a result of the provost’s Information Management Program, launched in fall 2007.

Faculty, staff and student employees handle sensitive information every day, from student records to credit card numbers. The training is intended to prevent instances of sensitive information being mishandled or improperly secured, and to ensure the preservation of KU’s information assets.

The training course is split into two modules. New employees hired in January 2009 or later will be required to take the classes first, with e-mail notifications for eligible employees staggered throughout the semester. Existing employees will receive notification later this spring. New employees will have 60 days from notification to complete the training, and existing employees will have 30 days. The e-mail notifications will include directions on accessing the training. Employees
who do not have e-mail access will be contacted through other methods.

The training will be delivered through the Blackboard course management system, accessible through the Kyou portal; experience using Blackboard is not necessary. Each module is estimated to take about 20 to 40 minutes to complete.

The first module addresses general information management, helping faculty and staff understand why university information is important and how to manage sensitive or confidential information. It will cover topics such as:

- What is important information?
- What is sensitive or confidential information?
- What are faculty and staff responsibilities in keeping information safe?
- What is the potential harm to KU from a breach of information?
- What is the protocol for releasing information to others, including law enforcement?

The second module’s theme is designed to raise awareness of areas that are common sources of information security breaches. It will cover topics such as:

- Secure computer use
- Secure Internet use
- Secure e-mail use
- Viruses, spyware and malicious code
- Password selection and management
- Social engineering
- Secure wireless networking
- Secure travel and remote work
- Personal protection and identity theft

Specialized training for employees who handle student records, medical information and financial payment information has been developed and will be delivered using Blackboard.

School of Pharmacy ranks third in prestigious NIH funding

KU climbed to No. 3 in the nation in schools of pharmacy that receive research funding from the prestigious National Institutes of Health. KU rose a spot from fourth in the nation last year, according to numbers released by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. KU also rates in the top five for total amount of contracts and grants awarded and percent of doctoral level faculty with NIH funding.
KU received more than $17,600,000 in NIH funding in fiscal year 2008. The total marks a significant increase from fiscal year 2007, when KU received more than $11 million.

The NIH is the primary source of federal funding for pharmacy schools in the United States. Support is considered an important part of a pharmacy school’s national reputation. Kenneth Audus, dean of the School of Pharmacy, said the increase in funding shows the importance of research taking place at KU.

“Because of the limited funds and competition, success in NIH funding these days requires a significant level of persistence by the individual researcher,” Audus said. “The success of the faculty here says a great deal about their dedication to research efforts that will benefit the health of all Americans.”

KU has been in the top five for funding for eight consecutive years and in the top 10 since 1995. The University of California-San Francisco and the University of Utah are first and second in the rankings, respectively. The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Illinois-Chicago rounded out the top five. The University of Colorado was the only other Big 12 institution in the top 20, at No. 12.

The School of Pharmacy ranked third in total amount of grants and contracts awarded per full-time doctoral faculty member. With 40 such faculty members, KU’s total amounted to $441,512 per researcher. UC-San Francisco and University of California-San Diego were first and second, respectively.

Twenty-one of KU’s 40 doctoral faculty, or 52.5 percent, received NIH funding, which put KU at fourth in percentage of faculty with funding. UC-San Diego and UC-San Francisco were first and second and the University of Arizona was third. Fellow Big 12 institutions the University of Nebraska and University of Colorado were fifth and sixth, respectively.

KU finalizes guidelines for departmental Facebook pages

If you’ve been online at all in the past few years, chances are you’ve heard of Facebook. The immensely popular social networking site has connected millions of people, and higher education institutions are taking advantage of the site as well. However, there are several important guidelines KU schools and departments should be aware of before joining the site.

Visit KU’s Facebook page

KU has developed a set of guidelines for units to
follow when spreading the word of their various events and news via Facebook. The site recently changed its terms of use, which in a nutshell, state that it can use any content posted to the site in perpetuity. The site has recently scaled back the terms, but they are an illustration of the need for diligence when using such sites.

“This is proof that those terms of service that we all just click through matter,” said Jack Martin, deputy director of University Communications. “They are a legally binding contract.”

The recently developed guidelines are not meant to discourage units from using Facebook, but instead to help ensure pages created on the site are effective and that situations that could potentially be damaging to the university are avoided. Martin noted Facebook can be a great opportunity to alert people of news, events and accomplishments when used properly. At a recent public session to discuss the guidelines, he added a page that is not regularly updated with new content is, in many cases, worse than no page at all.

“We want to make sure that once we put these pages up, they’re not just sitting there,” Martin said. “We want to keep content fresh.”

It is recommended that units create pages, as opposed to groups, on the site. Pages have a greater number of applications that can be added, no limit on the number of fans that can join the page and also separate the administrator’s personal information from the unit’s page.

The guidelines also request that a staff member from University Relations be added as a page administrator in order to ensure units are able to maintain control of the page, should the original administrator become unavailable. Martin stressed University Relations will not edit or alter content.

“This step is in place mainly to ensure that you can control the content of your page if your administrator might leave the university,” he said.

Given the temporary nature of student employment, student employees should not be named page administrator.

When creating a page, departments must provide a name and contact information for page administrators to Robin Bedenbaugh, associate director for digital media services in University Relations, at 864-8851 or rbedenbaugh@ku.edu.

Lisa Hoebelheinrich, associate general counsel, said it is best to avoid duplicating content that already exists on the KU Web site. For example, posting a link to admissions information is preferable to posting such text verbatim on Facebook pages. Information is updated regularly on the KU site, and links can help avoiding having contradictory information on the Web, she said.

Personal information, such as students’ dates of birth, social security numbers and student ID
numbers must never be posted to such sites. Visual identity standards for use of the Jayhawk and other copyrighted images and marks apply as well.

Martin recommended cross promotion through the site, encouraging users to promote other schools' and units' pages. University content, such as YouTube videos and RSS feeds for content such as news releases posted at www.news.ku.edu can be added to pages as well.

When using images of people, there are several important factors to remember. Prior permission should be obtained from individuals who are identifiable in photos. Photos and videos provided by University Relations can help meet that requirement. Questions about photo releases and exceptions can be directed to General Counsel.

Requests for copies of the guidelines and questions can be directed to Robin Bedenbaugh, rbedenbaugh@ku.edu, Jack Martin, jackm@ku.edu or Lisa Hoebelheinrich, lhoebel@ku.edu.

Spring enrollment continues upward trend
Lawrence, KUMC campuses show gains in minority enrollment
KU continues to set spring enrollment records, as data shows high marks for KU’s Lawrence and medical center campuses and in minority student enrollment.

The report also shows a 2.4 percent increase in Kansas residents on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses, the largest percentage and head count increase for a spring semester for the past 25 years.

The overall enrollment for spring 2009 is 28,453, an increase of 2.1 percent from last year and an all-time high for spring semesters. Minority student enrollment increased 4.9 percent overall to a spring record of 12.6 percent of total enrollment.

“The university continues to attract a talented, diverse student body,” said Chancellor Robert Hemenway. “Students recognize the value of a KU education.”

Enrollment at the Lawrence campus and the Edwards Campus in Overland Park was up 1.9 percent to 25,412. The KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., with a clinical campus in Wichita, saw an increase of 3.9 percent to 3,041, its seventh consecutive increase. More than 400 students take a majority of their courses at the School of Medicine-Wichita campus.
The medical center’s increase was led by a 10 percent jump in the School of Nursing, reflecting the university’s efforts to reduce the shortage of nurses in the state.

International enrollment saw a substantial increase for spring, too, growing by 6 percent to 1,763 on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses.

Edwards Campus officials saw a surge of interest in certain programs — 22 percent in business, 14 percent in journalism, 13 percent in engineering and 6 percent in social welfare — and attributed it to interest in earning a degree to prepare for the tight job market.

Rob Watkins, who moved to Kansas City for a job but was recently laid off, is an engineering graduate student at the Edwards Campus.

“I decided being proactive, and going back to school was a way to increase my experience and make myself marketable for future jobs,” said Watkins.

Total KU spring enrollment since 1995:
- Spring 2009: 28,453
- Spring 2008: 27,876
- Spring 2007: 27,875
- Spring 2006: 27,994
- Spring 2005: 27,890
- Spring 2004: 27,772
- Spring 2003: 27,463
- Spring 2002: 26,894
- Spring 2001: 26,857
- Spring 2000: 26,545
- Spring 1999: 26,297
- Spring 1998: 26,214
- Spring 1997: 25,755
- Spring 1996: 26,261
- Spring 1995: 26,127

Susan Eisenhower to visit campus as part of 'energy future' tour

Susan Eisenhower, a prominent energy policy strategist and respected international affairs expert, is coming to KU on March 5 as part of her two-month, six-city tour focusing on the nation’s energy future.

While in Lawrence, she will tour campus facilities and meet with KU students and energy researchers. Her visit will conclude at the Dole Institute of Politics with a 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. presentation and town hall discussion with Kansas business and political leaders.

The KU Energy Council is hosting Eisenhower’s
visit, the only stop on her tour at a university. Other locations are Chicago; Philadelphia; Oklahoma City; Albuquerque; and Charleston, W.V.

“Energy production is a major industry in Kansas,” said Laurence Weatherley, chair of the council and chair of the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. “So having someone of her stature on campus to learn more about our research is a terrific opportunity to showcase what's happening here and elsewhere in the state.”

Eisenhower, granddaughter of the 34th president, is using the tour to share her concern for the necessity of a national “green grid,” capable of transmitting diverse energy resources efficiently and effectively.

“I hope to gain as many local perspectives as possible,” said Eisenhower. “Secure power transmission is critical to the safety and sustainability of our economy.”

After her tour, Eisenhower plans to report her findings in Washington, D.C., before an audience of energy experts and federal officials. She will also prepare a report that she hopes will provide a blueprint for national policy choices on electrical transmission issues.

'St Mini College' to bring adults back as students

Week-long retreat to highlight numerous KU programs

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is accepting registrations for the first-ever Mini College, a weeklong learning retreat this summer that invites adults be students again. The $175 registration fee for the week includes courses, most meals, extracurricular activities and a graduation banquet. Participants will be able to choose from an array of lectures and activities that will be enlightening, entertaining and educational.

Offering a program like Mini College is a natural fit for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said Dean Joseph Steinmetz.
“With such a diverse pool of talented faculty, the College is the ideal host for a program like this,” Steinmetz says. “Our diversity of disciplines, from the sciences to the humanities and beyond, allows Mini College to offer a variety of courses with broad appeal.”

Participants can enroll in up to nine classes chosen from almost 30 offerings. Some of those courses include: “Use it or Lose it: Can You Slow Down Aging,” “KU at the Energy Frontier: Our Role in the Large Hadron Collider,” “Religion and Basketball: Naismith’s Game,” and “Balancing the Federal Budget: Could You Do Better?”

In addition to the courses, participants will be able to enroll in one of four specialized tracks that will offer an opportunity through the week to develop more in-depth knowledge of the selected topic. The options that participants may choose from are “Independent Film: Outsiders Voices,” “Meet the Authors: English Faculty Book Club,” “Ecology and Evolution of a Changing Planet,” and “The Art of Collecting: Curators Share How Museum Pieces are Chosen.”

Extracurricular activities will offer the opportunity to learn more about acclaimed institutions and traditions at KU. Planned tours and activities include trips to museums and the Dole Institute of Politics, a carillon demonstration and a campus architecture tour.

Participants will also be treated to special events that will allow them to learn more about departments, faculty and organizations on campus in a relaxed atmosphere. Such events include an exclusive theatre production from the Department of Theatre and Film, a graduation ceremony at the Lawrence Country Club, a welcome brunch attended by Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere and lunches hosted by the KU Alumni Association and Continuing Education.

Mini College will take place June 1-4 on the Lawrence campus and is open to any interested adult, not just KU alumni. Participants can commute, stay in a hotel or for the full student experience, stay in a KU residence hall.

Registration for Mini College is open now at www.minicollege.ku.edu until April 1 for $175. Late registrations will be accepted until May 1 for $200. For an additional $25, educators may be able to receive 2.0 continuing education units (see the Web site for more details).
When terrorists strike, their attacks are more than just acts of violence. They’re also acts of communication. Through his CLAS ACTS presentation, “The Symbolic DNA of Terrorism,” Robert Rowland, professor and chair of communication studies, will explain how understanding this idea is essential to defeating terrorism.

“Terrorism is fundamentally rhetorical,” Rowland said. “By that I mean terrorists attack targets as a way of sending a message. On 9/11, al Qaeda went after symbols of American military power, political power and economic power. In order to defeat terrorism, we need to understand the symbolic dimensions behind it.”

Rowland’s presentation will encourage a dialogue about why terrorists carry out their actions as well as what their actions mean. With a new presidential administration reviewing U.S. policies toward terror, public understanding of this issue is more important than ever.

“Policies of the Bush administration and especially the idea of going on the offense have helped al Qaeda recruit,” Rowland said. “Thus, we need a different approach, an approach that focuses on weakening the terrorist message. This different approach will make all of us much safer and reduce the need for the use of military force.”

Rowland’s presentation is based on research that terrorist groups are motivated by a similar symbolic pattern, which he calls the “DNA” of terrorism: D stands for “denied identity,” N is the “negation of others” and A stands for “affirmation.”

“Understanding the symbolic DNA of terrorism is important because understanding holds the keys to undercutting the terrorist narrative,” Rowland said. “If we can undercut their story, they will not be able to recruit and the terrorist threats will be eliminated.”

The event is open to the public. “The Symbolic DNA of Terrorism” will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. March 8 in Spooner Hall. Ages 12 and up are welcome. Admission is free. For more information, contact Jessica Beeson at eliasb@ku.edu or visit www.clas.ku.edu/outreach/clasacts.

The event is the sixth of eight CLAS ACTS presentations. The remaining presentations are “The Price is Too
High” on April 19, an informational session on children’s nutrition by Ric Steele, associate professor of applied behavioral science; and “Lineage: A Song Cycle” on May 3, a performance of Margaret Walker’s poetry put to song, organized by Maryemma Graham, professor of English. All presentations are free and open to the public and take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

CLAS ACTS is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and co-hosted by the Commons. The goal of the series is to share the diverse wealth of College faculty’s knowledge with the community in a manner that educates, entertains and engages the audience.

Business students get expert advice during visit with Buffett

Warren Buffett put his combination of humor and brains on display for four faculty members and 27 students who had the opportunity to meet him for lunch and a Q&A session on Feb. 6 in Omaha.

Mark Hirschey

The students, who were Finance Scholars and members of the Finance Club, visited the Berkshire Hathaway Inc. headquarters for one of eight events allowing college students to meet and learn from Buffett.

During the Q&A, which lasted about two hours, Buffett gave his opinions on the stimulus package, marriage, how to run a business and his love of playing bridge.

Ashley Moser was the first student to ask Buffett a question.

“I was very nervous, but soon found out that he is very down-to-earth, relaxed and jovial,” Moser said. “The combination of humor and intelligence that Mr. Buffett possesses is incredible, and I have not met anyone like him.”

Mark Hirschey, professor of business, who attended, blogged about the visit. He wrote that Buffett even told students part of a conversation he had with President Barack Obama during his election campaign. He told Obama he had good news and bad news about the economy, and Obama wanted the good news first.

“Well the good news is that the economy is so bad, you’ll get elected. The bad news is that the economy will be worse on Inauguration Day,” Buffett said.
Obama paused and then joked, “Is it too late to throw the election?”

As for his money, Buffett told the students he had everything he wanted. He said he didn’t want an entourage of servants and employees or a 65-foot boat, but that he lived a happy, simple life. Clark Stinson, a KU junior, said he was most surprised with Buffett’s answer to his favorite place to vacation.

"He simply stated that he doesn’t vacation," Stinson said. "He said he does exactly what he likes to do every day. He chooses to live in Omaha, spend time with his family and remain active in the markets, because it is what he likes to do."

Rachel Berry, a KU junior, said the two hours went by quickly. “I felt so fortunate to hear his thoughts first hand on the economy, investing and his personal life,” Berry said. "We all left wishing we could listen longer."

Afterward, he took the students and faculty members out to lunch at Piccolo Pete’s Steak House.

Hirschey wrote that Buffett “drove a handful of students to lunch, jumped right in and sat down at a table that was quickly filling with students, and then gabbed and hammed it up for another hour or so of photo ops with

students. Buffett is happy and every Berkshire shareholder has every reason to be so as well.”

KU students’ expenses for the trip were provided by School of Business alumnus Scott Jones of Prairie Wind Capital.

“Hands-down one of the best, most enlightening experiences that I have had to date,” Moser said.