A healing garden

Program to research medicinal potential of plants

Students, faculty, staff and volunteers gathered late last month at a west campus greenhouse in a rite of spring, planting seeds that will grow and bloom as the season turns to summer. The seeds will grow into a garden that not only is aesthetically beautiful, but one that adds to the store of knowledge about the healing potential of Kansas plants.

KU’s Native Medicinal Plants Research Program will study the plants from the garden and across Kansas and the plains for their potential in botanical remedies, dietary supplements, cosmetic products and pharmaceutical or veterinary products. The program is funded by a five-year, $5 million grant from Heartland Plant Innovations, an organization supported by the Kansas Bioscience Authority.
The program has two focuses: medicinal chemistry and botany. Barbara Timmermann, University Distinguished Professor and chair of medicinal chemistry, is principal investigator for the grant. Kelly Kindscher, senior scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey, is co-principal investigator.

Barbara Timmermann

Kindscher, an ethnobotanist, has spent his career researching cultural uses of plants in Kansas and the plains. The program will promote public understanding of medicinal uses of native plants and provide scientific validation of traditional ecological knowledge.

“There are all native Kansas plants,” Kindscher said of seeds planted in a greenhouse on west campus. “They all have a history of medicinal use, and people will recognize them, but there is a lot we can still learn about them.”

The plants, such as echinacea, butterfly milkweed, prairie rose and bee balm, will be transplanted in a five-acre research and demonstration garden on land owned by KU Endowment near the Lawrence airport. When they are mature, the plants will be collected and dried.

Program staff will also gather plants from across the state, primarily western Kansas. They will be analyzed at KU’s High Throughput Screening Laboratory for compounds that may potentially be used in natural products. More wild Echinacea has been harvested from Kansas than any other state, and researchers believe it and other plants not only have potential for commercial use, but also can lead to markets for Kansas products and job opportunities.

“We feel that there are great opportunities for some regional businesses to start up,” Kindscher said.

Using satellite images and aerial photography, program staff will map locations of native plants in Kansas and throughout the region. The information will be stored in an extensive research database with information about the plants’ location, growth cycle data and chemical makeup. The program will also focus on conservation of native plants.

Plants will be gathered primarily from the wild, but material also will come from the research garden. Timmermann, Kindscher and colleagues will be able to compare data from plants gathered from various locations and study the effects of factors such as drought strain and fertilization on the plants’ chemical compounds.

The program is seeking volunteers for the first planting at its research garden May 23, when 2,000 plants from 40 different species will go into the ground. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Kirsten Bosnak, communications and outreach coordinator, at moonfarm@ku.edu or 864-6267. For more information on the program, visit http://www.kbs.ku.edu/nativeplants/index_working.htm or www.facebook.com/nativeplants.

Chancellor's inauguration to feature weekend of...
events, honor value of service

Gray-Little to be formally installed as 17th chancellor April 11

When Bernadette Gray-Little is formally installed as KU’s 17th chancellor April 11, it will be the culmination of a weekend of celebration and recognition of the importance of service.

Guest speakers will include Gov. Mark Parkinson, former Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Chancellor Emeritus James Moeser, KU Medical Center student Claire Ziegler and Marta Caminero-Santangelo, professor and chair of English. Jill Docking, Kansas Board of Regents president, will perform the installment. The KU chamber choir, wind ensemble and marching band will perform along with the Kansas Brass Quintet and soloist Genaro Mendez, associate professor of voice.

The inauguration will be a weekend-long event, kicking off with a symposium on the future of research universities April 9 at the Edwards Campus. Presenters will include Association of American Universities President Robert Berdahl, University of Iowa President Sally Mason and David Shulenburger, vice president for academic affairs at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and former KU provost.

Community service will take center stage April 10. To honor Gray-Little’s inauguration, KU instituted a semester of service, inviting faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members to contribute 100,000 hours of service over the semester. So far, more than 40,500 hours have been logged online.

A street fair will offer health screenings, beginning at 2 p.m. at Rosedale Middle School in Kansas City, Kan., sponsored by the KU Medical Center. Proceeds will benefit the Turner House Children’s Clinic in Kansas City, Kan.

The KU Advocacy Corps will be launched with organizational and training sessions. The corps is a new endeavor to pair 50 community agencies with students and faculty or staff members who will be agency advocates on campus. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by training. Gray-Little will address attendees at 10 a.m. and pairings of organizations and advocates will follow. All sessions will be in the Burge Union. For more information or to RSVP, contact KUadvocate@ku.edu.

For more information on previous chancellors and their inaugurations, visit chancellor.ku.edu/inauguration/indexnew.shtml.
Irby earns prestigious honor for American poets

Past winners include Marianne Moore, e.e. cummings

Tax filing season is often the time when one can use good news the most. That’s when Kenneth Irby got a call informing him of some unexpected good fortune.

Kenneth Irby

Irby, associate professor of English at the University of Kansas, was filing his tax returns recently when he got the call informing him he’d been selected as a co-recipient of the 2010 Shelley Memorial Award, given by the Poetry Society of America. The award came as a surprise.

“When (the Poetry Society of America) called me, I had no idea this was in the process at all,” Irby said.

The award, founded in 1929 by the will of the late Mary P. Sears, is given by nomination only. Irby joins an elite group of poets who have won the award, including Marianne Moore, E. E. Cummings, Robinson Jeffers, Robert Pinsky and Kimiko Hahn.

“I’m mindful of the honor to be in such company, that’s for sure,” Irby said. “It’s a great honor.”

Irby will share this year’s award with fellow poet Eileen Myles. Winners are selected by a jury of three poets: one appointed by the president of Radcliffe College, one by the president of the University of California at Berkeley and one by the Poetry Society of America Board of Governors. The award is given to a living American poet, selected with reference to his or her genius and need.

The Shelley Awards will be presented April 1 at the Poetry Society of America’s centennial awards ceremony in New York City. Irby will not be able to attend, because of a previously scheduled poetry reading, but his brother will attend to accept the honor on his behalf and read his poem “Record.”


“All of the physical details of the book, they dealt with,” Irby said of his students-turned-editors. “Without them, it couldn’t have been done. Those two guys really did an immense amount of work in the middle of their own demands.”

Irby, who grew up in Fort Scott, Kan. and earned his bachelor’s at KU, has taught here since 1985. He earned master’s degrees at Harvard University and the University of California-Berkeley. He has published more than 20 books and collections of poems and won several teaching awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship and the Gertrude Stein Award in Innovative American Poetry.
Academic calendar may have fewer days, semesters starting on Monday

University Senate approves changes, forwards for approval

University Senate has endorsed altering the academic calendar to no longer start semesters on Thursdays.

The senate’s calendar committee crafted the measure, which would reduce the number of instruction days in an academic year from 150 to 146, or 73 per semester. If approved by the provost and chancellor, it would go to the Kansas Board of Regents for approval in April.

If approved, the measure would take effect in the fall 2011 semester and adjust the 2011 through 2013 calendars already approved by the regents.

Cindy Derritt, university registrar and a member of University Senate’s calendar committee, said the change would end a disproportionate reduction of classes on Thursdays and Fridays. Under the proposal, fall semesters would start on Mondays and spring semesters would start on the first Tuesday following Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The move would also change fall break from a Thursday and Friday to a Monday and Tuesday. That change was made because Thanksgiving break falls on a Thursday and Friday, resulting in students missing a disproportionate amount of classes and labs scheduled for Thursdays and Fridays.

KU has more instructional days than many universities, such as fellow Big 12 schools.

“We had many more days in class than our peer institutions do,” Derritt said. “The 150 day figure was approved before the creation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and it was throwing off Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes. This schedule will even that out.”
Task force recommends extending benefits to domestic partners

Insurance, bereavement leave among changes sought

University Senate has approved a report that recommends extending benefits to domestic partners and submitted it to Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little for review.

“The main argument we’re using is equality,” said Paul Farran, director of Student Success Technology Services and a member of the task force. “But we’re also losing people because of this. It’s a
huge recruitment and retention issue.”

The report states that by not extending benefits, the university is not keeping with its nondiscrimination policy.

A line in KU’s nondiscrimination policy reads, “Thus, it is also the policy of the university to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity and gender expression.”

The report includes several examples from KU departments that either lost a faculty or staff member or were not able to recruit a highly qualified candidate because of the lack of domestic partner benefits.

“In 2006, we lost a highly productive young scholar who went to Rutgers because that institution had partner benefits,” wrote Mary Ellen Kondrat, dean of the School of Social Welfare. “I was incoming dean, and I spent time trying to convince her to stay. She loved it here — but the partner benefits were a major problem.”

The task force recommends extending benefits, specifically by

• Adopting as KU policy a definition of domestic partner and creating a university register for domestic partners.

• Making all benefits not covered by the Kansas Health Care Commission, but available to spouses of employees, such as bereavement and family medical leave, faculty housing and parental leave, available to registered domestic partners of employees.

• Providing additional monetary compensation to KU employees with a registered domestic partner to defray health insurance costs.

The task force reported in its findings that extending benefits to domestic partners is a trend that is growing both in higher education and in the private sector. Public institutions in 30 states now offer such benefits. Although Johnson County Community College offers health insurance to domestic partners, no regents institutions in Kansas offer benefits to domestic partners.

The report does not indicate how much it would cost to extend benefits, primarily because it is not clear how many employees would be listed on a domestic partner registry. It does cite as an example that KU Endowment was able to extend health insurance to domestic partners at no additional cost.

Anderson named CLAS dean

Administrator to lead KU's largest academic unit

Danny J. Anderson, interim provost, an award-winning teacher and scholar in Latin American culture literature, will be the next dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences effective July 1.

Anderson was chosen after a national search to succeed Joseph Steinmetz, who resigned to become executive dean and vice provost of arts and sciences at Ohio State University. Greg Simpson, professor and chair of psychology, is serving as interim dean.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the largest academic unit at the university and is home to more than 50 departments and programs and the School of the Arts. More than 17,000 students are enrolled in the College and nearly half of all undergraduate students at KU earn their bachelor’s degrees in the College.

“As interim provost, Danny Anderson has been a highly effective leader for the university during a time of budgetary challenge,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “With his broad experience and deep commitment to scholarship and teaching, he will be an outstanding dean.”
As interim provost and executive vice chancellor, Anderson has led during a time of change. He collaborated with former Chancellor Robert Hemenway, Interim Chancellor Barbara Atkinson and Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little to ensure continuity. He has also provided leadership during a challenging fiscal environment through strategic oversight for the Lawrence campus budgetary decisions.

“I am honored to be appointed dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,” Anderson said. “I am excited to lead during this important moment of change at KU under the leadership of Chancellor Gray-Little and with our incoming provost Jeff Vitter. The remarkable strengths in the College are fundamental to KU’s identity as an international research university. As dean, I value these strengths and look forward to advancing them even further through collaboration with faculty, staff and students.”

Before his interim appointment, Anderson was vice provost for academic affairs. During that time, he was instrumental in development of the Jayhawk Generations Scholarship, which provides partial tuition waivers to out-of-state students who meet certain academic requirements and who have a parent or grandparent who graduated from KU. He also played a key role in establishing the Latino Vision Council, which has led to initiatives including the first Hispanic chapter of the KU Alumni Association and KU’s Spanish-language Web site, ku.edu/espanol.

“Danny’s experience and accomplishments at both the departmental and university levels give him valuable perspectives for this important college leadership role,” said Vitter. “I very much look forward to working with Danny to continue and build upon the College’s many successes.”

Danny Anderson

During his interim period, the School of Music was established and Robert Walzel has been appointed as the first dean following a national search, campus task forces were convened to address Gray-Little’s priorities and collaborative planning activities were initiated with vice provosts and deans. The recent decision to re-establish Information Technology and KU Libraries as independent units will further strengthen KU’s advancement as a research university.

Gray-Little thanked Simpson for his leadership as interim dean. She also thanked the search committee, led by Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett, director of the University Honors Program.

“KU and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are very fortunate to have an individual who is an internationally recognized scholar, an award-winning teacher and a talented administrator leading the College,” said McCluskey-Fawcett. “Danny is a person of great integrity with a deep commitment to KU who will provide outstanding leadership for the College.”

Anderson is a prize-winning teacher whose integration of service learning into the classroom frequently serves as a model for KU’s Center for Teaching Excellence. He has received a number of awards and fellowships, including a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers in 1995; a W.T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence in 2004; and the ING Award for Teaching Excellence in 2008. He is the editor of two books and has published more than 20 articles, essays and chapters in books. He is a specialist in Latin American literary and cultural studies; his research examines the history of literary publishing houses and the social history of literary reading in Mexico.

Anderson began his academic career in 1985 at the University of Texas-Austin, after earning his doctorate in Spanish from KU. He joined
Kulkarni wins prestigious CAREER award

Prasad Kulkarni, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science, has received one of the most prestigious National Science Foundation honors given to junior faculty members. The multiyear Faculty Early Career Development, or CAREER, Award will support Kulkarni's ongoing efforts to build more secure and better-performing software systems.

"These highly selective grants are awarded to junior faculty members who are considered to be academic leaders of the future. Prasad is a dedicated researcher and highly deserving of this honor, and his work is critical to our national prominence in cyber security," said Perry Alexander, acting director of the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center. "Additionally, we are delighted to have three researchers in the last four years receive CAREER awards. Our younger faculty members are being recognized for their pioneering research and effective integration of scholarship and teaching."

Kulkarni’s new virtual machine framework will slice out the security management and program monitoring tasks and perform them simultaneously with the main program. The framework will reduce the overhead of monitoring and security tasks and allow more secure and efficient execution of future programs.

"This new framework will allow developers to provide new and more expensive security checks while minimizing the performance penalty incurred at runtime," Kulkarni said. "Our approach will employ program slicing to construct only the program state required for each security task. The proposed framework will naturally exploit the anticipated growth in the number of processing cores on a chip to run individual program slices concurrently with each other and with the main program thread."

At ITTC, Kulkarni is developing a more secure and efficient framework for virtual machines, which ensure compatibility between applications and the devices running them. Cell phones, PDAs and computers are among the billions of devices that have virtual machine software running Internet programs and applications. To limit the cost and startup time, current virtual machines apply only basic security checks. Devices are then left vulnerable to viruses and other malicious software that can corrupt and steal private data such as passwords and address books.

Kulkarni received a bachelor's in computer engineering from Poona University in 2001 and earned master's and doctoral degrees in computer science from Florida State University.
in 2003 and 2007, respectively.

KU School of Medicine to open campus in Salina

Two gifts totaling $300,000 will help establish a four-year KU School of Medicine site in Salina. Private support was provided by longtime physician Earl Merkel and his wife, Kathleen, of Russell, as well as the Salina Regional Health Foundation.

Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the KU School of Medicine, said 90 of the state’s 105 counties are medically underserved. In addition, 30 percent of Kansas physicians are 55 or older and may retire in the next 10 to 15 years, adding to the problem.

“Having practiced medicine in Russell since 1958, Earl Merkel knows all too well the challenges caused by a shortage of rural physicians. He and his wife have tried to recruit physicians to Russell, going so far as to establish an endowed scholarship for KU medical students who hail from Salina and westward.”

“We’re glad to see that western Kansas has been recognized as an area of medical need,” Merkel said. “The KU School of Medicine site in Salina seems like a good way to get students and hopefully, later, more physicians out here in this area.”

Chumley said the Salina program is part of a larger plan that also includes extending the School of Medicine-Wichita from a two-year program, attended by medical students in their third and fourth years, to a four-year program. The Salina site, which will be housed in space provided by the Salina Regional Health Center, will admit eight students as early as fall 2011 and eight each year after that. After four years, the school will maintain an enrollment of 32.

Salina oncologist William Cathcart-Rake will direct the Salina program. A portion of the curriculum will be provided through distance learning, including interactive video and podcasts. He described the program as an amalgam of traditional learning — lectures, didactic presentations, readings and laboratory work with a heavy
“Medical school is not easy and it’s not intended to be easy,” Cathcart-Rake said. “We hope we can make it exciting for them, challenging for them, interesting for them and that they learn. The bottom line is, we want to turn out good physicians.”

University Archives image

A student takes a call while sitting on a bed at KU Info in 1982. The office allowed students to take naps during their overnight shifts. The service is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

KU Info marks 40th anniversary of keeping campus informed

In spring 1970, a student organization joined forces with KU administrators to create a rumor control hotline. With fires in campus buildings, protests and unrest, there was a need for the extended KU community to have one central number for information.

Forty years later, KU Info still has the same phone number and has evolved from rumor control to help desk for the university and surrounding community. There will be an anniversary celebration from 3 to 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 8, at the Kansas Union.

Student workers and directors from every decade will be on hand to honor the program’s history. A full display of memorabilia from KU Info’s 40 years will be presented, including many tools used to answer obscure questions before the days of computers and the Internet.

A student works at the KU Info booth in 1993.

Index cards and newspaper clippings have given way to online databases and text messaging systems. But KU Info remains true to its roots during the days of significant campus unrest.

“Looking back on the early years of KU Info helps us truly appreciate the uniqueness of the program,” said Curtis Marsh, KU Info program director. “There is a good reason we still get calls from people who’ve been away from KU for 20 or 30 years. We care as much about our students and alumni now as did the KU Info staff back then.”

Today, KU Info processes about 300 questions a day. The service occupies a desk in the Kansas Union and a newly refurbished 60-year-old info booth on Jayhawk Boulevard. KU Info also is the university’s operator, answering calls that aren’t served by the automated directory assistance system.

New enterprise to pair KU advocates with community organizations

In honor of the inauguration of Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, a KU Advocate Corps has been formed. The corps intends to build more connections between KU and the community organizations that serve Lawrence and Douglas County.

The goal for the first year is to pair approximately 100 faculty, staff and students advocates with 50 organizations, both on campus and in the community.

There are many close partnerships already formed between KU’s Center for Community Outreach, individual faculty and the Center for Service Learning and specific agencies and schools in the area. But the corps would extend those kinds of relationships to more community service organizations and schools.

Each advocate would be trained to be the contact person or champion at KU for an organization. For community organizations that may not have close ties to KU, the corps would provide a vehicle to exponentially increase the number of people involved in recruiting and promoting their agency.

On April 10, as part of the inauguration weekend, the KU advocates and representatives of community organization will gather for the first time. During the morning, KU advocates will receive orientation and advocacy training, meet their community partners and be commissioned by Gray-Little.

Faculty and staff will receive an e-mail in the next week for more information and an invitation to join the effort. The Roger Hill Volunteer Center/United Way of Douglas County is coordinating agency contacts.
University professors encounter many ethical challenges in the course of their teaching and research. The answers are seldom black and white. To help colleagues and students deal with these challenges, eight KU faculty members have produced a new book designed to raise awareness, encourage reflection and prompt a campus-wide conversation about difficult choices.

“Ethics in the University: Reflections on Responsible Scholarship” contains seven essays on subjects including student safety, peer review of grant proposals and journal articles and the risks inherent in pursuing research that might result in environmental exploitation. The book is available free online at rgs.ku.edu/leadership/ethics.pdf and was produced as part of a national discussion about scientific misconduct and the importance of training researchers.

The essays take a variety of forms. Marsh, for example, imagines himself in a dialogue with Greek philosopher Socrates over a cup of coffee at the student union. Cudd criticizes the “academic x-games” that reward extreme theories that are unlikely to advance a field of knowledge. Hartman outlines her rules for working with refugees as human subjects in a sculpture project about survival. Murray reflects on what he learned before coming to KU when an overworked graduate student died in a car accident.

“The book provides a sampling of perspectives,” Rosenbloom said, “and is intended to provoke readers to think more deeply about her or his own responsibility, or to begin a discussion of these issues with colleagues or students.”

“Ethics in the University” was produced by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. The project received funding from the national Council of Graduate Schools.
Unclassified Senate awards staff funds for professional development

For a second consecutive year, Unclassified Senate has awarded funds to staff members to help pay for professional development opportunities. This year, $3,000 was awarded to 10 staffers to help pay for opportunities that might not otherwise be possible in tight budget times.

Recipients come from offices across campus and will use the funds to pay for training and travel and to improve their skill sets.

Debbie Baker, assistant director of the Central Plains Center for BioAssessment at the Kansas Biological Survey, is among the recipients. She was awarded $450 to take an Intro to Tropical Agricultural Development course in Fort Myers, Fla.

The course is offered by Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization, a nonprofit organization that offers training in sustainable agriculture in tropical regions. Baker said the course will be helpful as her office expands its international reach. The Central Plains Center for BioAssessment has begun hosting foreign scientists and has submitted a proposal to the U.S. State Department to work with water scientist in Ecuador.

“Course topics especially applicable to the center’s work are Principles of Community Development, Principles of Cross-Cultural Communication, how participants can access ECHO services and partner with ECHO in networking and Water Purification,” Baker said. “Training in these principles will strengthen both my and the center’s collaboration with the international community.”

Other recipients of development funds are:

• Kim Bates, interpreter coordinator, Academic Achievement and Access Center Disability Resources, $375, National Interpreter Certification interview and performance exam, Lee’s Summit, Mo.

• Roderick Black, director of laboratories, chemistry, $300, American Chemical Society national meeting, San Francisco.

• Linda K. Bruce, accounting specialist, Office of Research and Graduate Studies, $300, basic supervisory training, Topeka.

• Steve Corbett, Kansas Biological Survey, $300, archeological field school, Montgomery County, Kan.

• Lauren Erickson, assistant director, Office of Admissions and Scholarships, $150, Free State Social Conference, Lawrence.

• Edward Reboulet, senior research assistant, Kansas Geological Survey, $450, National Ground Water Association Ground Water Summit, Denver.

• Eric Thompson and Precious Porras, Office of Multicultural Affairs, $275, National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, National Harbor, Md.

• Jennifer Weghorst, coordinator, Office of Study Abroad, $400, Association of International Educators Conference, Kansas City, Mo.
Engineering profs earn grant to improve repair of damaged cartilage

The hint of a cavity seldom leads to the complete replacement of a tooth. A dentist typically goes in, removes the troubled spot and fills in the gap — ensuring healthy teeth for years to come.

But two professors with the School of Engineering are working on groundbreaking research to change that — thanks to a $1.3 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health.

KU chemical and petroleum engineering associate professors Michael Detamore and Cory Berkland are collaborating on the project that could revolutionize the repair and treatment of degenerated cartilage.

“Cartilage doesn’t really heal well on its own,” Detamore said. “It’s not like bone where you put it in a cast, wait six weeks and the bone is healed. Cartilage is not really able to help itself, so we’re trying to give the body a little jump-start to help heal itself.”

The jump-start comes in the form of a special cylindrical plug, created by Detamore and Berkland. It recreates the body’s natural, gradual transition from bone to cartilage. They hope that a surgeon could implant it in the damaged area, like a dentist filling a cavity, treating the problem before it gets to a point where joint replacement is the only option.

Berkland is working on creating the specific materials needed to help repair and regenerate cartilage before it deteriorates to that point.

“We’re working at the interface where you have a gradual transition from bone to cartilage where it goes through a mineralized cartilage region,” Berkland said. “We want to try to mimic that to get better-performing materials that look like natural bone transition to cartilage.”

The NIH grant will fund two graduate students to assist the work for five years and allow the group to refine the technology with cells in the lab as researchers progress toward clinical trials in humans. It also brings together collaborators from departments across the Lawrence campus, as well as KU Medical Center, the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry and Kansas State University.

Cory Berkland

A similar problem with cartilage in the knee or hip yields far different results. There are few viable options for repairing damaged tissue. It will often deteriorate to a point where a patient is left only with complete joint replacement to try to fix the problem.
Law school opens Center for International Trade and Agriculture with event

Genetically modified wheat, agriculture’s role in mitigating climate change and legal issues in animal agriculture are among the topics that academics, industry experts and lawmakers will explore during a scholarly roundtable this month at the School of Law.

"Kansas and World Agriculture: Current Crises and Future Opportunities," the kickoff event for the law school’s new Center for International Trade and Agriculture, will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 9, at the Stinson Morrison Hecker Lecture Hall, 104 Green Hall.

Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., a 1982 graduate of the KU School of Law, will deliver the keynote luncheon address, "Agriculture Policy in the 11th Congress." Raj Bhala, Rice Distinguished Professor of Law will talk about "Agricultural Controversies in the Doha Round of World Trade Negotiations." Other presentations will include:

• "Agriculture's Role in Mitigating Climate Change while Providing Food," Charles W. Rice, Kansas State University

• "Genetically Modified Wheat: Its Past, Present, and Challenging Future," Drew L. Kershen, University of Oklahoma School of Law

• "Emerging Legal and Policy Challenges in Agrifood Global Governance," Michael T. Roberts, Roll International Corporation & Affiliates

• "A Commercial Perspective on Contracting and Dispute Resolution in Domestic and Export Markets; and Factors that May Impede U.S. Competitiveness," Kendell W. Keith, National Grain and Feed Association

• "Current Legal Issues in Animal Agriculture: Confinement and Identification," Elizabeth Springsteen, National Agriculture Law Center

The program honors Keith Meyer, the E.S. and Tom W. Hampton Professor of Law, who joined the law faculty in 1969, has taught agricultural law since 1975 and will retire in May.

Although the conference is free and open to the public, registration is required. Register online by 5 p.m. April 6 at http://www.law.ku.edu/cita, where the complete schedule is also available.

The law school has applied for six hours of continuing legal education credit in Kansas and Missouri. There is no charge. Attorneys wishing to receive CLE credit may obtain materials at the door.

The Center for International Trade and Agriculture aims to promote key issues in international trade and agriculture through research and outreach in Kansas and around the world. To accomplish that mission, the center sponsors interdisciplinary conferences addressing issues of importance to legal practitioners, scholars and policymakers in international trade and agriculture, with special emphasis on matters of importance to the state of
Kansas. It hosts visiting scholars, practitioners and policymakers to interact with students, faculty and alumni. The center also educates and trains law students through course work and summer placements to engage in legal practice, prepare for work in law reform, or take part in agribusiness and international trade in areas related to trade and agriculture.