David Vitter, provost and executive vice chancellor, speaks at his first faculty convocation. Vitter has set out his goals as provost and discusses challenges and opportunities facing KU.

A community of excellence

New provost Jeff Vitter sets down vision for making KU a world-class institution

Why did you come to KU?

I came to KU for a number of reasons. My passion is higher education, and I wanted to serve in a leadership position at a top-tier institution. I was especially drawn to Chancellor Gray-Little’s aspiration to make KU a community of excellence focused on
our core mission of learning, research, and public impact. From talking with the search committee, KU felt like a very good match for my background in strategic planning and my experiences in facilitating innovative programs. And my wife, Sharon, is a graduate of KU’s School of Pharmacy and a native of Kansas, so KU already felt a little like coming home.

**What is your impression of KU after your first few weeks on the job?**

KU is a welcoming place that is ready for stable leadership. Despite some challenging budget cuts, the university community is guardedly optimistic that we can begin to move forward in some key strategic areas, and the sooner we jump into action the better. I started at KU during the summer so that I could get settled when life is a bit slower on campus, and now I’m looking forward to the weeks ahead as the semester picks up pace. I am impressed by the commitment of the faculty and staff I’ve worked with and know that I will come to appreciate that attitude of commitment even more in the weeks and months ahead.

**How will you help Chancellor Gray-Little achieve her goals of improving student retention and the number of students that graduate in four years?**

Educating students is our primary mission. I have been charged to lead a strategic planning process that will implement the chancellor’s Charting the Future recommendations. One part of the planning process will specifically address retention and graduation. It will be a university-wide effort with key players being the academic units, Student Success, student leadership, and our office. Chris Haufler, chair and professor of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, has agreed to work as my special adviser to oversee the implementation of the retention and graduation recommendations.

More broadly, our planning effort will look to reenergize the undergraduate curriculum by taking an outcomes-based focus. We will encourage students to take advantage of all that KU offers by enhancing opportunities for study abroad and for experiential learning both inside and outside the classroom. KU’s status as a research university offers a special advantage to our students. I’ve observed that the experience of doing research with a faculty member or participating in an internship can be the difference between a good education and a great one. These experiences make what students learn in the classroom come alive and give them perspectives and maturity highly sought by employers and graduate schools.

**What are your top goals for your tenure as provost?**

As provost, I see myself as a facilitator for making the most of the great capabilities we have collectively at KU — especially to energize
our learning environment, to push the boundaries of knowledge and to do so for the benefit of our state and society at large. Spurring dialog about how to do so is my passion. Planning is then the natural next step of understanding what possibilities exist so that we can make intelligent choices to realize our ambitions and have tangible impact.

We have important challenges ahead of us. My goal is to facilitate the conversation we must have as a university about our common aspirations and hopes. The chancellor is very clear about her priorities and I share her urgency that they be addressed. I would be very pleased if KU is able to accomplish the following goals while I am provost.

- Energize the learning environment and in so doing significantly increase student retention and graduation rates.
- Successfully build synergies to advance the university’s mission of learning, research, and public impact. They include synergies o with the community and the public at large
- o with study abroad and global faculty partnerships
- o with innovative multidisciplinary collaborations
- o with the KU Medical Center and Edward Campus
- o with external partners
- o with our alumni and friends

Perhaps most meaningful of all, I would like to see an increased sense of pride among Jayhawks for their university.

How will you help guide the university through the current economic challenges it faces?

The entire nation is holding its collective breath wondering when the economic news will be better — KU is no different. I will be working closely with the deans and KU’s budget and financial leadership to model scenarios for the future that anticipate changes in state appropriations, the economy, and enrollment trends. Our planning efforts are focused on identifying priorities and realizing opportunities that will position us ever stronger in the years ahead. At the same time, they will help us determine what we can no longer afford to do. We are working with the Kansas Board of Regents to streamline legislative mandates, and we are streamlining administrative procedures. We are not the only university facing challenging times ahead and fortunately, KU is in a better place than many other institutions. We have alumni and endowment associations that are the envy of many schools. The Jayhawk nation has always generously supported KU. I am confident that we can build a bright future by tackling our challenges head on and focusing on a compelling vision for the university.

How will you apply your experience as a faculty member and
It is through being a faculty member that I have become a champion for the noble cause that is higher education. Academia is exciting to me because it is the world of ideas and possibilities. The sense of discovery, when it happens, can’t be matched. It changes lives. I also understand the strains that faculty are under to teach well, engage in new discovery, and be productive members of the KU community. As provost, I intend to keep in close contact with the faculty both through formal and informal channels.

As a computer scientist, my scholarship is about how to find solutions — we call them algorithms. My research is primarily focused on the design and analysis of algorithms for problems that involve massive amount of data. And what could be more useful to a provost than experience in finding solutions for big problems? Those similarities are what got me interested in higher education administration. While I was department chair at Duke, I saw how coordinated efforts could make a real difference in the lives of students. I decided to complement my practical experience as department chair with the foundations provided by an MBA, and I had the opportunity to attend one of the world’s best MBA programs in Duke’s Fuqua School of Business. I have found the experience invaluable in my administrative roles.

**What role can staff play in making KU a better university?**

Staff play an absolutely crucial role at KU, and I think they deserve wide recognition for the many positive contributions they make. Staff can be the best advocates for KU. Either directly or indirectly, their work supports our teaching and research activities, and without them we could not realize our core mission. Staff are the connectors in our enterprise. They are advisers who can tell us what students are concerned about, where we need to pay attention to our buildings, and how we can manage more effectively. For that reason, their active participation will be important for our planning activities.

**How has your experience at other universities prepared you to help lead KU?**

In the same way that many have benefited from learning new languages and cultures, I have benefited by having leadership roles in a variety of universities. They give me an appreciation for both the differences and the similarities in the challenges universities face. Participating in planning and constructing core academic initiatives in other universities has helped me evaluate what might resonate at KU. My experience at private universities has shown me the value of entrepreneurial thinking, while at public universities I’ve gained a full appreciation for the important role that universities play in advancing society.

One thing I learned before coming to KU is that there is no substitute for face-to-face
conversations when getting to know and appreciate my new university home. I have begun setting up visits to faculty meetings in all the academic departments and research centers as well as to the units that support the academic mission. I will have regular interactions with student leadership. I plan to spend a lot of time listening and getting to know the concerns and aspirations of the KU community.

What is the pinnacle, thus far, of your career of academic leadership?

The pinnacle of my career thus far is becoming provost and executive vice chancellor at the University of Kansas — of course.

What role do you think KU should play in service to the state, nation and world, and how will you ensure KU fills that role?

KU has a fundamental mission to serve the public, and it does so in an exemplary way through educating new generations of students and by advancing the boundaries of knowledge. The research mission is primarily what distinguishes KU from four-year colleges. Research and discovery form the cornerstone of the innovations that drive our economy and society. For example, in my own field of computing, much of the increase in U.S. economic productivity since 1995 has been attributed to information technology. Yet many of the underlying advances that enabled those innovations — such as the Internet and networking — were made decades earlier, often without any inkling of their future potential. For that reason, it is of primary importance for KU to engage in basic fundamental research and scholarship in order to provide the foundational understanding that will enable advances decades to come.

At the same time, we should be ever vigilant to nurture those intellectual advances that can have more immediate impact. We have several wonderful examples at KU of such scholarship. For example, Steve Barlow and his team have invented a way to test whether babies born prematurely are developing the necessary sucking mechanism they will need for feeding, and if not, it helps them acquire it. University Distinguished Professor Val Stella’s pharmaceutical research has led to drugs to treat epilepsy and AIDS, as well as to an agent that safely dissolves drugs for injection. Arienne Dwyer’s work on the languages of inner Asia gives her unique perspectives to advise national and international organizations on matters of China and central Asia and language vitality.

In our planning activities we will be addressing ways to facilitate research and scholarship — both fundamental for the long term and applied for the shorter term. First and foremost I want to promote a broad view of scholarship that recognizes multiple avenues for creativity and innovation.
Will you continue to hold faculty responsibilities such as teaching and research?

As provost at KU, my attention is on being the chief academic officer. But I think it’s also valuable to be grounded in the academy. So, yes, I will continue my research as a faculty member in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, primarily by working with a postdoctoral assistant in the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center. In my current research, I’m investigating ways to operate directly upon compressed representations of data, yet still achieve fast query time. I was just awarded a new three-year research grant from the National Science Foundation, which will extend my funding streak at NSF to 33 years. In terms of teaching, I am not planning to teach a regular course but will have opportunities to interact with students in various venues.

What is the most pressing issue for faculty right now, and how do you plan to address it?

A very pressing issue for faculty members, if not the most pressing, is how to do more with less. Budget cuts have stressed already limited funds for teaching, graduate student support, travel, IT, and infrastructure in general. Many faculty and staff lines have been cut. Challenging times such as these often spur organizations to step back and reassess priorities. We are doing that reassessment in our current planning activities. We seek to examine why we do things and not just assume that the way we’ve always done them is the best way. The three task forces have begun the process, and we will be engaging the entire KU community to formulate a strategic plan of action to move the institution forward.

What experience do you have in furthering a university’s research profile?

I have of course participated as a researcher myself, and I love doing so. But the real contribution I can make as an administrator is to facilitate the contribution of others. At Texas A&M, I led a college-wide planning for seeding multidisciplinary research efforts. The college deans, faculty groups and I worked together to devise seven transparent criteria that formed the basis for an open, faculty-led, university-wide white paper process — involving over 1,400 individuals, 111 white papers on multidisciplinary topics and an all-day retreat in April 2009 that drew 750 participants. Eight themes are initially being funded. As dean of science at Purdue, one of my most satisfying achievements was the COALESCE initiative, in which the college hired several dozen stellar faculty oriented around crosscutting priorities. I was also very much involved in Discovery Park, Purdue’s innovative set of interdisciplinary centers. I co-led the planning effort for what became the Cyber Center in Discovery Park, and I helped initiate efforts on
multimillion dollar projects, including what ultimately led to a $25 million NSF Science and Technology Center.

**How do you plan to help KU maximize its research potential?**

KU gains a tremendous amount of prestige as a member of the Association of American Universities, a select group of 63 preeminent research universities in the U.S. and Canada. As an AAU institution, we are committed to advancing the frontier of knowledge through our research, scholarship, and performance activities. The AAU measures the research activity of its members by various metrics, and KU tends to be at the lower end. For example, for over a decade, the number of faculty members at KU with active or pending research grants has hovered at only 50 percent. A large part of our planning activities at KU, starting with the task force report this past spring, will be focused on boosting our research excellence and productivity. And a key part of that effort will focus on traditional forms of scholarship — such as books and professional journals — in top venues.

I talked a little earlier about valuing creativity in many forms, especially those forms that can have direct bearing on the world around us. Some call this type of scholarship community engaged scholarship or scholarly engagement. It is scholarship in its key elements: advancing knowledge, application of scholarly methods, solid foundations, peer-reviewed quality assurance, and dissemination. What distinguishes community engaged scholarship from more traditional scholarship is its direct connection or involvement with the community, whether at the local, state, national, or global level. Examples can include

- Entrepreneurship — developing companies or products to improve human life
- K–12 partnerships — promoting teaching methodologies and programs to excite students about learning
- Innovative university-community projects
- Social entrepreneurship

I hope that by broadening how we define scholarship, we will more fully value these tremendously exciting areas of investigation. There are two big potential advantages of so doing: First, I would hope that many faculty members not currently active in scholarship will be drawn to the challenging problems that arise in these venues and reengage in the research and funding enterprise. And second, through these deep contributions to society, KU will have an even greater positive impact on the world around us.
Jerry Dobson, professor of geography, is pictured with his wife, Gwen, are pictured with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington, D.C. Dobson recently completed a year as a Jefferson Science Fellow. He spent a year working as a senior scientist in the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues.

**Dobson reflects on year in D.C. as Jefferson Science Fellow**

Geography prof worked on issues with Iraq, Afghanistan
“Rewarding ... exhilarating ... sometimes exasperating.” That’s how geography professor Jerry Dobson describes his year in Washington, D.C.

Dobson — internationally known for his pioneering work on geographic information systems, landmines, human geography and global population geography — has served in the U.S. Department of State since last fall as one of 10 Jefferson Science Fellows. All were chosen by the National Academies and represent a variety of scientific disciplines from prestigious universities nationwide.

After working in Washington full-time for a year, the fellows return to their campuses and serve an additional five years on a consultancy basis.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recognized Dobson and his colleagues during a recent ceremony at the State Department. In her remarks, she emphasized the need for scientific and technical expertise in government.

The fellows were introduced and their individual contributions to policy and diplomacy were cited.

“It’s a fantastic experience for scholars and a boon to government policy makers,” said Dobson, whose title was senior scientist in the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues. The fellowship is highly respected throughout government, and, he noted, “policy makers actually listen to us on matters of supreme national interest.”

Prior experience with the State Department is rare among Jefferson Fellows, but Dobson himself has collaborated with the Office of the Geographer since 1982, when he supported the U.S. position in a World Court dispute over the maritime boundary between the United States and Canada.

During his year in Washington, Dobson addressed four topics of high priority to the government.

Difficulties in Iraq and Afghanistan have exposed an urgent need for better understanding of human geography, Dobson said, including culture, language, lifestyles and livelihoods. Dobson, who is president of the American Geographical Society, has been addressing this national need through his leadership of the society’s Bowman Expeditions program. The first such expedition, led by KU’s Peter Herlihy, associate professor of geography, studied indigenous land tenure in Mexico and the impact of a massive land reform program that allows for conversion of communal lands to private property.

“Lee Schwartz, the geographer of the United States, and I want to expand the Bowman Expeditions into a global program,” Dobson said. “The price of geographic ignorance is measured in conflict.”

Dobson also relied on his longtime specialty, global population geography, to help the Census Bureau’s international arm develop a population database that is 100 times more precise than the current world
standard, LandScan. Dobson led LandScan at Oak Ridge National Laboratory from its inception in 1997 until 2001, when he moved to KU.

“Two countries have been completed in the new DemoBase project,” Dobson said. “Through good judgment and good fortune, Haiti was first. It was completed just before the disastrous earthquake. It proved its value many times over during the crisis. Pakistan was second, and that’s being used in the current flooding disaster. We hope eventually to do 40 countries or more.”

The third item on Dobson’s plate was improvement of geographic information systems in the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

“These organizations are heavily committed to projects using this information technology,” Dobson said, “and now they are committed to improving internal capacity to coordinate worldwide programs. This will, for instance, enhance their ability to share data from one project to another so the investment isn’t lost when each project ends. Worldwide, millions of dollars may be saved every year."

In May, Dobson wrote an op-ed piece for the Washington Post on the BP oil well disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. He proposed “Operation Dunkirk,” a “cash for crude” strategy to enlist anything that floats — barges, tankers, fishing boats, recreational boats — to skim and collect surface oil for repurchase by BP. His advice to BP management: “Buy back your oil. Engage the public. Trust private enterprise. Trust the judgment and ingenuity of the American people.”

Unfortunately, said Dobson, “BP insisted on top-down control. They settled for a few hundred BP skimmers, when they could have had, say, 30,000 independent skimmers working around the clock, if only they had offered the right price per barrel. Ultimately, they sacrificed the ocean in favor of the shore and then just a cosmetic defense of beaches and marshes. My plan would have retrieved most of the oil before it reached the shore or disappeared below, as it now has.”

Dobson is the first KU faculty member and first geographer tapped as a Jefferson Fellow since the creation of the program in 2003. In addition to the outstanding professional experience, his year in Washington was beneficial personally. He and his wife, Gwen, have a son and a daughter-in-law in the vicinity who are physicians in the U.S. Army. Maj. Nicole Dobson and Maj. Craig Dobson were deployed to Afghanistan for more than half the time Jerry and Gwen Dobson were in Washington, so they helped care for their 2-year-old grandson Ian during each parent’s deployment.
Student Success reorganizes to streamline services, announces new leaders

Student Success has undergone a reorganization. Student Success is the university’s comprehensive student services organization and consists of 20 departments and approximately 820 full-time employees. Student Success includes programs and services that assist students in excelling inside and outside of the classroom during their time at KU and beyond. The new organizational structure positions the...
divisions to use real-time data to assist students in meeting their academic and personal goals and, in doing so, supports Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little’s focus on increasing student retention and graduation rates. The reorganization does not reduce or eliminate the delivery of primary programs and services but does focus on improving and adapting them to best serve the needs of the university.

“This reorganization creates a new opportunity for the university to better understand and meet student needs and to redesign our service models to provide timely support for students,” said Marlesa A. Roney, vice provost for Student Success. “The infusion of analytical information will enable us to more effectively measure the effectiveness of our services and programs.”

The reorganization focuses on the creation of three new areas within the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success: business operations, communications and data analytics and technology; as well as the realignment of the 20 departments into three functional centers: academic and student life; recruitment and enrollment; and wellness.

Leadership and responsibilities for these areas and centers are as follows:

• Business operations, led by Jason Hornberger, assistant vice provost, manages coordinated business and personnel related services for Student Success.

• Communications, led by David Gaston, assistant vice provost, directs strategic communications efforts in Student Success using traditional and emerging media.

• Data analytics and technology, led by Cindy Derritt, assistant vice provost, provides expertise in the areas of data analytics and assessment, enterprise software applications and technology support.

• Academic and student life center, led by Lori Reesor, associate vice provost, provides advising, academic support, development of leadership skills, multicultural education and career services.

• Wellness center, led by Frank DeSalvo, associate vice provost, promotes student health, safety and responsible conduct while providing professional medical, mental health, legal and child care services.

• Recruitment and enrollment center, which will be led by a new associate vice provost for recruitment and enrollment, is responsible for student recruitment and admissions, financial aid and scholarships, enrollment, transcripts and transfer credit. Brenda Maigaard, assistant vice provost for financial aid and scholarships, leads the university’s newly integrated financial aid and scholarship department and will provide leadership for the Recruitment and Enrollment Center until the new associate vice provost for recruitment and enrollment has been hired.
In addition to the structural changes across Student Success, adjustments have been made within the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success. Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle requested a new role and will serve as assistant vice provost. Her responsibilities include constituent relations and new project development. Current new projects include establishing Student Money Management Services in the Kansas Union and the Learning Studio in Anschutz Library. Assistant Vice Provost Jane Tuttle’s responsibilities will continue to include constituent relations, particularly with the KU Parent Association and student conduct.

Submitted/KU Hospital

This artist's rendering shows what the KU Hospital's Advanced Heart Care Center will look like after a $50 million expansion that will add three floors.
KU Hospital announces $50 million expansion

Three floors to be added to center for heart care

Spurred by record patient volumes, the KU Hospital Authority Board has approved a $50 million plan to construct three new patient care floors onto the hospital’s Center for Advanced Heart Care.

“This plan allows us to accommodate the significant demand for inpatient services, but does so in a way that helps hold costs down for the patients and for us,” said Robert Honse, chair of the board.

The approved plan calls for the current sixth floor, which hosts mechanical functions, to be expanded to include additional mechanical capacity as well as additional conference room space. A new seventh floor will add a 32-bed telemetry unit. New eighth and ninth floors will be constructed as shelled-in space for future expansion, but potentially could accommodate a 32-bed unit and a 24-bed unit, respectively.

“The new floors will continue the award-winning building design of the Center for Advanced Heart Care and its patient-focused layout,” said Bob Page, president and chief executive officer of KU Hospital. “The rooms will be designed to support patients from many specialties, with varying levels care, including intensive care.”

Page said the same team of RTKL of Dallas, Texas, one of the nation’s leading health care architectural firms, and Kansas City’s own J.E. Dunn Construction, a leader in national health care construction projects, will ensure the special character of the Center for Advanced Heart Care is maintained.

The project will add 123,000 square feet to the building’s current 238,000-square-foot size. The project should be complete, with the seventh floor 32-bed telemetry unit open for patients, by the summer of 2012.

Hospital inpatient volume was up approximately eight percent in the fiscal year ending June 30.

“Each time we add beds, we will increase the staff of nurses, allied health and support staff to ensure the quality of the patient experience,” said Tammy Peterman, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at KU Hospital. “We will add staff prior to the opening of the new patient care area in 2012. A typical unit this size may have 60 to 100 employees.”
Professor Profile: The dangers of texting and driving

Paul Atchley quantifies risk phone use adds for motorists


Anyone who’s been in a car in the past few years has seen someone texting while driving. The phenomenon may be more prevalent, and dangerous, than most realize.

Paul Atchley, associate professor of psychology, has studied texting while driving. In a survey of KU students, he found that only 2 percent of respondents report not texting and driving at all. In a new KU YouTube video, Atchley discusses attention, texting while driving, its ubiquity and criticisms of speaking out against the behavior.

“One of the things we’ve discovered, I’d say, over the last 30 years is this idea called the ‘grand illusion,’” Atchley said. “And that is this idea that when we have our eyes open, we sort of see everything. But what the eye can see and what the brain actually detects are two very different things. Because we have a limited amount of information that we can process, and that’s where attention comes in.”

Naturally, when a driver diverts attention from the road, to the radio, to talk to a passenger or check his or her phone, that is attention not being paid to traffic. Atchley’s research has shown that texting while driving requires so much attention it is about a 2,400 percent increase in accident risk. Talking on a hands-free cell phone is about a 500 percent increase and driving while drunk is actually lower than both, at 400 percent.

“Text messaging while driving is probably the most dangerous thing you can do in a vehicle other than driving with your eyes closed,” Atchley said. “In fact, it kind of is like driving with your eyes closed, in that the average amount of time someone spends looking away from the roadway while text messaging is about four seconds per text message. So if you can imagine driving down the road and closing your eyes for four seconds, you can get some idea of what it’s
like to text message while driving.”

In work sponsored by KU’s Transportation Research Institute, Atchley surveyed KU students to see just how prevalent the behavior was. The numbers may be surprising to some. Seventy percent reported that they initiate text messages while driving. The number climbed to 82 percent when asked how many replied to texts while driving, and 94 reported reading messages while driving. When accounting for those who said they only text while stopped, at a red light for instance, only about 2 percent said they do not text at all while driving. The findings will be published in the journal Accident Analysis and Prevention.

People often ask why cell phone use while driving is criticized more than behaviors such as using the radio, talking to passengers, putting on makeup or eating while driving. The difference, Atchley said is in magnitude of the behaviors. About 60 to 80 percent of cell phone minutes are used in vehicles. When that number is multiplied by the number of people who have cell phones, the number dwarfs the other behaviors.

Laws are increasingly being passed to prohibit the practice of text messaging while driving. However, Atchley said he doesn’t anticipate the behavior will decline sharply until it becomes more immediately apparent to people just how dangerous the behavior is.

“Though everyone’s seen someone texting while driving or talking on a cell phone, not enough of us have had firsthand experience of someone getting injured or killed as a result of that,” Atchley said. “That’ll happen, unfortunately, and when it reaches a certain point, we’ll decide that this is something we have to deal with.”

Special parking plans made, extra buses to be deployed for Thursday, Oct. 14 football game

To accommodate an influx of thousands of football fans for a rare Thursday evening football game, KU has announced special parking plans and will deploy extra buses to help faculty and staff travel between their cars and offices. Employees also will be permitted to leave work one hour early.
KU will host the Kansas State University Wildcats at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at Memorial Stadium. The game, the 108th meeting of the intrastate rivals, will be nationally televised on Fox Sports Net. Because KU will be on fall break, the game will not conflict with any classes. Offices will close at 4 p.m. but some facilities, such as libraries, will maintain normal business hours. Employees who work at night or hours outside 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. are advised to contact their supervisors.

KU will close 12 parking lots near the stadium Wednesday evening. Another nine, including the Mississippi Street parking garage, will be closed to staff and public parking at 12:30 p.m. Thursday. For Saturday games, these lots typically are closed at least six hours before game time, cleared and then reopened for ticket holders who have purchased tailgating permits.

Affected employees are encouraged to park in the university’s 1,500-stall Park and Ride lot on west campus and ride free buses to central campus. Additional Park and Ride Express buses have been added so wait times will be 10 minutes or less at peak periods.

To assist employees affected by the parking lot closures, the university is:

- Encouraging faculty and staff to park in its 1,500-stall Park and Ride lot on west campus. All faculty and staff permit holders may park in the lot that day. Employees may also park in lots along the Park and Ride Express route, notably at the Lied Center and near Hashinger and Ellsworth residence halls.

- Adding buses to its free Park and Ride Express service during peak hours. The wait time will be 10 minutes or less from 7 to 9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The schedule will return to its regular 30-minute intervals at other times of the day.

- Opening the Allen Fieldhouse parking garage to all faculty and staff permit holders all day Oct. 14. There is a Park and Ride Express bus stop at the garage.

- Opening the Mississippi Street parking garage to all faculty and staff permit holders until 12:30 p.m. Oct. 14. Staff who park there are encouraged to relocate at lunch to the Park and Ride lot and take a free bus back to campus.

Jayhawk Boulevard will be open to traffic. Yellow parking lots and residence hall parking lots will not be enforced Oct. 14. Parking rules on all other surface lots will be enforced. Faculty and staff with accessible parking placards or license tags who wish to remain longer in the lots that are closing at 12:30 p.m. are asked to call Parking and Transit at (785) 864-7275 to make arrangements.

Details and a map are posted online at gameday.ku.edu.

The parking arrangements are similar to those adopted at other universities that have hosted Thursday night football games.

The KU-K-State football series is the
nation’s 13th most played, as well as the fourth longest uninterrupted series in the country. The two teams have played 98 straight years beginning in 1911. KU leads the all-time series 65-37-5, including a 37-15-2 mark in games played in Lawrence. KU had won four of five, including three straight, before K-State defeated the Jayhawks 17-10 in Manhattan in 2009. KU has won three consecutive matchups in Lawrence, including a 52-21 victory in 2008.

The Oct. 14 game will be KU’s second non-Saturday football game in 2010. KU will play at Southern Mississippi at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17, in a game televised by ESPN. KU opens the year under first-year head coach Turner Gill on Sept. 4 by hosting North Dakota State.

CReSIS to receive $17.9 million from National Science Foundation to continue research

Funding extends KU's largest grant

The Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets will receive more than $17.9 million from the National Science Foundation to continue its innovative research on the changing conditions of the world’s polar ice.

“Researchers at CReSIS have done a remarkable job of creating new tools that provide unique data about the health of our planet,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

“This national grant is confirmation of the pioneering research taking place at KU. Our researchers’ revolutionary work is providing a more complete picture of the potential impact that climate change may have on all of us.”

The renewal award brings the total NSF award amount to $36.9 million, which represents the largest grant ever awarded to support research at KU.

The multi-institutional CReSIS was created in 2005. The five-year renewal award acknowledges the continuing success the center has had in its efforts to create new ice-penetrating radars, vehicles and computer models that can measure the current state and changes in polar ice and then predict the impact on global climate.
change and sea-level rise. A recent report in Scientific American cites a British economist as saying that 200 million people currently live within 1 meter above sea level, including residents in eight of the 10 largest cities in the world. Moreover, the article also states in the 20th century the oceans rose by about 17 centimeters, and researchers now know that ice sheets are melting at a faster pace than previously thought.

Using a multidisciplinary approach, CReSIS researchers combine expertise in electrical engineering, information technology, aerospace engineering, glaciology and geophysics to develop, test and utilize radars in the field. Measurements and data gathered during missions to Greenland or Antarctica are crucial to the accurate prediction of future sea level rise. The center also has a strong commitment to developing devices that have commercial applications and appeal.

“The faculty, students and staff have developed sensors, Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles and advanced concepts to obtain much needed data on the ice-bed interface at the ice-sheet margins and fast-flowing glaciers, and the renewal is a reflection of the excellent progress made by the center thus far,” said Prasad Gogineni, CReSIS director and the Deane Ackers Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. “The technical and scientific skills represented here are among the best in the world.”

The NSF award also includes outreach efforts designed to encourage K-12 students to pursue careers in science and engineering. CReSIS provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to improve their technical and communication skills and participate in research that involves significant international collaboration.

“The center has been a valuable asset for this university as well as the School of Engineering,” said Stuart Bell, dean of engineering. “Dozens of our students, at both the graduate and undergraduate level, have been able to glean valuable hands-on experience before they advance from this institution. In addition, our students can see their efforts have a very real impact on the world around them.”

Over the past five years, researchers and students at CReSIS have achieved many successes and firsts in their endeavors. In August 2009, after nearly five years of designing and building, the aerial platform research team successfully launched the Meridian Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle on its maiden flight. The Meridian — which has a 26-foot wingspan and is designed to carry a radar payload as it flies exact routes in extreme climates — later went through flight-testing in Antarctica. In January 2010, CReSIS radar developers published findings that provided the first three-dimensional “look” at the topography of Greenland beneath miles of ice. The radars and computer models are so advanced that in 2009,
NASA selected these KU-built radars to be a part of the multiyear Operation Ice Bridge, an earth sciences mission that monitors the state and changes of polar ice sheets and sea ice. Two patents have been awarded as a result of work at CReSIS. Fifty-five graduate students — 38 at the master’s degree level and 17 at the doctoral degree level — have earned their degrees while conducting research at the center.

This fall, CReSIS will be one of a select group of research centers and organizations featured in the inaugural USA Science and Engineering Festival and Expo to be held Oct. 10-24 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

**Partner institutions**

Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, N.C.

Pennsylvania State University

The University of Washington

Indiana University

Los Alamos National Laboratory

The Association of Computer/Information Sciences and Engineering Departments at Minority Institutions

**Industry and Government partners**

NINSA, Honeywell, Kansas City Plant

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Sprint Corp.

**Worldwide collaborators**

Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, Tasmania, Australia

Centre for Ice and Climate, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Centre for Polar Observations and Modeling, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India

Technical University of Denmark, Lundtofte, Denmark

The National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. The goals of the Science and Technology Center program include developing an effective means of support for long-term scientific and technological research and education. The program encourages proposals that represent high quality, important investigations at the interface of disciplines.
Bhalla, Anant take leadership posts at KU Cancer Center

Two top researchers have joined the KU Cancer Center, filling key leadership positions and moving the cancer center closer to its goal of attaining National Cancer Institute designation.

“NCI designation will open new opportunities for research and patient care in the region,” said Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center. “This announcement shows we are making significant progress toward that goal with these two critical recruitments.”

Kapil Bhalla, an internationally recognized leader and physician-scientist in drug development, joined the KU Cancer Center as deputy director Aug. 1. He will also serve as chief of the Personalized Cancer Initiative in the KU Cancer Center, as a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and as the Tyler Endowed Professor.

Bhalla is the founding director of the Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center, Georgia Research Alliance Cecil F. Whitaker Eminent Scholar in Cancer and professor in the Department of Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia. His research interests are novel targeted therapeutics of breast cancer, lymphoma and leukemia; identification and validation of novel therapeutic targets; investigating anti-cancer activity of pipeline therapeutics; genomics/epigenomics and chaperone biology.

“The fact that Dr. Bhalla is coming on board in the capacity of deputy director demonstrates that the KU Cancer Center has the resources to recruit high-end physician scientists,” said Roy A. Jensen, director of the cancer center. “We are very excited about his ability to come in and leverage his drug development expertise, his outstanding clinical programs and his special relationship with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help advance new drug discovery initiatives. He will be an outstanding addition to the cancer center.”

“Dr. Bhalla not only strengthens the research program Dr. Jensen is taking to the NCI, he adds depth and breadth to our clinical cancer program,” said Bob Page, president and chief executive officer of KU Hospital.

“I wanted a place where I could come and make a difference,” Bhalla said, adding that he was impressed by “the
trajectory of growth” at the KU Cancer Center. “I am very impressed with the leadership and vision, the focus on creating programs that are going to change cancer care.”

Bhalla’s appointment follows that of Shrikant Anant, a pioneering biologist who joined the KU Cancer Center as the associate director of cancer prevention and control July 6. He will also serve as associate dean for research at the KU Medical Center and as Kansas Mason Professor of Cancer Research in the Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, with a secondary appointment to the Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Gastroenterology.

Before coming to the KU Cancer Center, Anant led the gastrointestinal cancers program at the University of Oklahoma Cancer Institute. A professor of cell biology, medicine/gastroenterology and nutrition, he was also director of gastroenterology research at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Anant led a team of researchers who discovered a new gene, RBM3, which can cause normal cells to turn into cancer cells; also, stopping its expression in cancer cells causes the cancer cells to die. Earlier, while on the faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, he discovered the first tumor-suppressing RNA-binding protein.

“Dr. Anant comes to us with an outstanding national reputation in gastrointestinal cancer research, particularly as it relates to cancer prevention,” Jensen said. “His research spans a wide range of activities – from understanding molecular biology questions to determining the mechanisms of action for certain natural products and their role in cancer prevention.”

“There’s a lot of excitement here,” Anant said of the KU Cancer Center. “The university is putting in the resources to develop high-powered teams of researchers to identify methods to stop cancer development and treat cancers. They are also interested in preventing cancers. My task is partly to lead a team of scientists in this effort.”

Advocacy Corps matches KU experts with community organizations

Partnerships look for new ways to serve
When Ed Morris received a message about the KU Advocacy Corps, he wondered how many faculty members in his department were involved in some form of advocacy. When he asked that question at a faculty meeting, he didn’t expect to hear the number was 100 percent.

“I was surprised to find out all my colleagues are involved in advocacy in one way or another,” said Morris, professor and chair of applied behavioral science. “But I’m sure there are a lot of departments on campus that probably have a very high percentage, but just never thought to ask.”

Linda Luckey, executive assistant to the provost and one of the organizers of the Advocacy Corps, said the department is a good example of the partnerships the corps is looking for. The department is the designated KU advocate for Douglas County Safe Kids, a health-care based organization that works to combat issues related to youths such as sudden infant death syndrome.

The relationship is different from traditional volunteering, however.

“The idea is to have faculty, staff and students linked up with people in the community, to be a front door for the university,” Luckey said. “It’s very different than doing direct service, though. The question is not ‘how do you work for a group,’ but ‘how do you advocate for a group?’”

Morris said he foresees his department’s relationship with Douglas County Safe Kids as a resource of sorts. When organization staff members have questions, he hopes faculty will be able to lend their expertise, or utilize their contacts to put them in contact with experts in the field.

The corps was formed earlier this year to coincided with the inauguration of Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. So far, it has focused on matching community organizations with departments, faculty, staff and students on campus. The Center for Service Learning and the Center for Community Outreach are overseeing the corps. They are partnering with Douglas County United Way and the Roger Hill Volunteer Center in the effort. By the inauguration last April, there were already 50 advocacy pairings made.

The corps will hold a meeting in October to discuss strategy, pairings and to answer questions. Anyone interested in getting involved should send their contact information to kuadvocate@ku.edu.

“We often do a day of service, and that is outstanding,” Luckey said. “But to be able to have an ongoing relationship that’s meaningful to both the community and KU is important.”
Two KU faculty members have been awarded Fulbright grants for the 2010-11 academic year. The grants provide funding for faculty members to perform research abroad.

Majid Hannoum, assistant professor of African and African-American studies, has received a Fulbright Scholar Grant to travel to Morocco. He will spend the 2010-11 academic year conducting fieldwork on clandestine migration from Tangier to Spain. The research will investigate the condition, motivations and destination of African migration to Europe. Because Tangier has become the transit city of clandestine migration, the project will also look at the ways in which clandestine migration has transformed the city.

John Kennedy, associate professor of political science, has received a Fulbright Scholar Grant to travel to China, where he will spend the 2010-11 academic year. Kennedy will be affiliated with the Northwest Socioeconomic Development Research Center at Northwest University, Xi’an. Kennedy will utilize the Fulbright Scholar award to examine how malnutrition in rural northwest China contributes to the growing gap between rural and urban educational opportunities. Working with faculty and researchers at the center, he will test how changing nutrition standards of rural elementary students in northwest China can improve academic performance. The study will use quantitative and qualitative methods to address the research question including survey questionnaires, a sample of 75 schools using a randomized control trail design, interviews and nine school case studies.

The Fulbright Program is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” It was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by then Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. The Fulbright Scholar Program is administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars in Washington. Since its beginnings in 1951, 287 KU faculty members have received Fulbright Scholar grants. The office of International
Programs at KU coordinates all the different Fulbright programs, including the Fulbright Scholar program.

KU lands $8.9 million grant to enhance foreign language education

KU’s leadership in international education and research once again was recognized for excellence by the U.S. Department of Education through grants to the university’s international area centers that will provide students with unique global opportunities.

Totaling $8.9 million over four years (2010-13), with specific amounts contingent on annual appropriations, the federal funds will strengthen the university’s foreign language instruction and area studies programs and provide fellowships for students studying languages such as Chinese, Arabic, Russian and Portuguese in preparation for careers in many arenas, especially government, business and education.

Four centers have been designated for funding as National Resource Centers: the Center of Latin American Studies, the Center for East Asian Studies, the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies and the Kansas African Studies Center. The centers not only support KU faculty and student research and curriculum development, but also maintain outreach programs that serve schools and educators and promote public scholarship with lectures, workshops, conferences, media broadcasts and international cultural events.

More than half of the federal funds will go directly to KU students in the form of Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships, which will be awarded by the four international area centers and the Center for Global and International Studies. The fellowships will support undergraduate and graduate students in their study of a range of languages, societies and cultures critical to national interests.

“In a global economy, it is critical to equip our students with the cultural knowledge and language skills that will lead to a deeper understanding of the world around us,” said Danny Anderson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, to which the centers belong. “Tomorrow’s leaders will work on an international stage, and I’m proud many will be trained right here at KU.”

— The Center of Latin American Studies will receive $2.15 million
Established in 1959, the center has been awarded Foreign Language and Area Studies Graduate Fellowships since 1976 and was designated a National Resource Center in 1983-1988 and 1994-2006.

— Funding for the Center for East Asian Studies was renewed at $1.9 million over four years. The only East Asian resource center in the Great Plains region, its 51 years as a National Resource Center makes the center KU’s oldest designate.

— Funding for the Kansas African Studies Center was renewed at $1.7 million over four years. The center crystallized in the 1990s with Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships and has won National Resource Center funding three times.

— The newly established Center for Global and International Studies will receive $846,000 over four years for Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships. This funding will allow the center to support the study of a variety of languages, including several new to the KU curriculum.

“The National Resource Center grants and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships will enhance the already substantial opportunities for students to gain international expertise both on the KU campus and through study abroad,” Anderson said.

A limited number of faculty/staff tickets for 2010-11 men’s basketball games are available for purchase. Tickets are sold as either full season or pre-selected packages. The cost of a full season package is $1,155 for tier-two seating and $855 for tier-three seating in Allen Fieldhouse, plus a handling fee. The cost of each 10 game package is $450, plus handling fees; seats will be limited number of basketball tickets available for faculty, staff

Orders can be made online starting Sept. 1

Limited number of basketball tickets available for faculty, staff
located in the third tier of Allen Fieldhouse.

Faculty/staff who do not hold season tickets will be able to purchase up to two full or half-season men’s basketball packages. Depending on availability, current faculty/staff season ticket holders and new buyers may be able to purchase additional tickets for the 2010-11 season.

Seating assignment will be made by Kansas Athletics from the remaining seats in Allen Fieldhouse, while supplies last. Purchasing full season tickets in the sale will provide the opportunity to purchase season tickets for the 2011-12 season and participate in the next select-a-seat event.

Tickets may be ordered online between Sept. 1 and 7.

To order tickets online

• Go to kutickets.com

• Click the ‘Purchase Tickets Online’ button

• Click ‘Promotions’ button in the blue toolbar

• Enter the promotional code: KUFS2010

• Order selected tickets and enter all correct mailing information

• After submitting order and payment, purchasers will receive a confirmation page indicating a successful completion of order

For more information, contact the Kansas Athletics Ticket Office at 864-3141.

This academic year is last to start on Thursday

Semesters to begin on new days beginning in fall 2011

When students reported to class for the first time last Thursday, it was the last time it will happen in middle of the week. After this academic year, the calendar will change and semesters will no longer begin on Thursdays.

The changes to the academic calendar, approved by the Kansas Board of Regents last spring, mean fall semesters will begin on Mondays and spring semesters will begin on the Tuesday immediately after Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The changes were made to correct a discrepancy in the number of Monday-Wednesday-

Friday and Tuesday-Thursday classes. Fall break will be on a Monday and Tuesday instead of Thursday and Friday. Beginning in the 2011-12 academic year, there will be an equal number of classes for each day. Spring break will remain the same.

The calendar committee of University Senate
approved the changes last April. The recommendations were then passed on to the chancellor and provost, who approved them and in turn forwarded them to the regents.

The total number of instructional days was also changed, being reduced from 150 to 146, or 73 in each semester.

The calendar changes are still a year away, but Marla Herron, associate university registrar, recommended faculty and staff be aware of them soon. Many research and work travel plans are made a year or more in advance, and the change in class days could potentially affect plans, she said. The changes could also potentially require updates to course syllabi.

The new schedule will also mean changes for offices such as New Student Orientation, Admissions and Study Abroad, as enrollment is open until the day before classes begin. Students are already being recruited and admitted for next year as well.

The move to begin fall semesters on Mondays will also mean big changes for events such as Hawk Week and Traditions Night. Meetings are ongoing to discuss how to schedule the events, traditionally held early in the week in which fall classes start. Herron said the goal is to have plans finalized this fall.

After lengthy discussion, it was determined to maintain Stop Day on the Friday before finals. There was debate about whether the day, implemented to provide study time for finals, was being properly used.

“There was faculty input, student input and staff input on the Stop Day issue, and it was all taken very seriously,” Herron said.

Like Stop Day, summer semesters and Commencement will not change. Summer semesters will still begin on Tuesdays and end on Fridays. Commencement will remain the Sunday after finals week in the spring semester but will change to a morning ceremony.

A PDF version of the academic calendar, projected through 2013, is available online.

Coca-Cola Scholarships awarded to children of faculty, staff

Coca-Cola Merit Scholarships have been awarded to 247 children and dependents of benefits-eligible KU faculty and staff, including KU affiliates.
Incoming freshmen who qualify receive $1,000 awards. Returning students may receive $1,000, $750, $500 or $250, depending on their cumulative grade-point average and funding availability.

To be eligible, incoming freshmen must have a minimum composite ACT score of 24 and a 2.5 GPA or an ACT score of 21 and a 3.0 GPA. Scholarship winners must be full-time undergraduate students enrolled in at least 12 credit hours.

Children of staff and faculty members of KU affiliates are also eligible. The scholarships are a result of KU's partnership with Coca-Cola. For more information, contact Janet Phillips at 864-1415.

The recipients and their faculty/staff parents and departments are listed below.

**Current**

Eric Abney, Janice Abney-Klohr, Parking and Transit; Mary Adams, Craig Adams, civil engineering; Sheldon Adams, Christine Adams, KU Physicians Inc.; Emre Agbas, Dora Agbas, School of Medicine; Anna Allen, Christopher T. Allen, electrical engineering and computer science; Christopher Allin, Dennis Allin, KU Medical Center/emergency medicine; Stewart Alloway, Gordon Alloway, KU Medical Center/Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth; Ashley Anguiano, James Anguiano, Public Safety Office; Meghen Arnold, William F. Arnold, KUHA/renal dialysis; Melanie Arthur, Teresa Arthur, KUHA клинических лабораторий и цитогенетики; Thomas Ashe, Aagje Ashe, religious studies; Jami Babcock, Barbara Babcock, Center for Research on Learning; Alexander Balmaceda, Joaquina Baranda, KU Medical Center/oncology; Julia Barnard, Cheryl Lester and Philip Barnard, American studies and English; Timothy Barta, Tammy Barta, School of Business; Maxim Belousov, Andrei Belousov and Janna Belousova, KU Medical Center/molecular and integrative physiology; Matthew Bene, Dr. Belinda Vail, KU Medical Center/family medicine; Shane Billig, Karlawayne Williams, School of Business; Maria Blanco, Victor Blanco и Gladis Sanchez de Blanco, KU Medical Center/molecular and integrative physiology; Travis Bland, Joan Bland, Research and Graduate Studies; Sarah Bodle, Cheryl Wagner, KU Endowment; Brett Bohmann, Kimberly Bohmann, theatre; Chase Brecheisen, Kerrie Brecheisen, mathematics; Rosemary Brunin, Carol Brunin, KUHA/nursing; Taylor Buckler, Gail Schuetz, KUHA/nursing clinical excellence; Donald Burnham, David Burnham, Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Institute; Maxwell Campbell, Janet Campbell, Kansas Public Radio; Lydia Caron, Anne Marvin, Continuing Education; Christopher Carter, Debra Carter, Department of Student Housing; Nicole Carter, Ronald Carter, KUHA/information technology; Olivia Catloth, Robert Catloth, Kansas Athletics; Katharine Chauvin,
Keith Chauvin, School of Business; William Cleek, Carol Cleek, KUHA/critical care/emergency;

Jessica Clifton, Eunice Clifton, Design and Construction Management; Kyle Consolver, Ronda Consolver, School of Education; Michael Conyers, Dan Conyers, KUHA/respiratory therapy; Marina Cowan, Mary Cowan, KUHA/breast center; Zachary Day, Victor Day, molecular structures group; Sandra Dexter, Ricky Johnson, Public Safety Office; JoAnn Doll, Vickie Doll, KU Libraries; Aileen Doll, Vickie Doll, KU Libraries; Corinne Edds, Tracy Hirata Edds, Applied English Center; Kyle Edds, Tracy Hirata Edds, Applied English Center; Tyler Enders, George Enders, KU Medical Center/anatomy and cell biology; Andre Faucher, Ola Faucher, Human Resources and Equal Opportunity; Carolyn Fish, Melinda Fish, Higuchi Biosciences Center; Vlad Geana, Mugur Geana, School of Journalism; Megan Gentry, Connie Gentry, School of Education; Jordan Gill, Turner Gill, Kansas Athletics; James Girod, Douglas Girod, KU Medical Center/Office of the Dean/clinical affairs; Erica Goddard, Diane and Stephen Goddard, Office of the Provost and Spencer Museum of Art; Alexander Golubski, Melissa Golubski, KUHA/nursing; Monica Gonzalez- Candalado, Luis Gonzalez, geology; Leslie Goodwin, John A. Goodwin, KU Medical Center/Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth; Emma Graves, Leland Graves, KU Medical Center/ internal medicine; Julia Guard, Danny Anderson, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Alyssa Guinn, Tamara Guinn, Student Health Services; Timothy Hagen, Deborah R. Smith, biology; Derek Hannon, Sandra J. Hannon, Institutional Research and Planning; Alex Hardman, Amy Hardman, School of Architecture, Design and Planning; Kellian Harrell, Lea Chaffin, Office of Admissions; Harrison Haynes, Patricia Thomas, KU Medical Center/educational and academic affairs; Sean Heard, Linda Spears, KU Medical Center/molecular and integrative physiology; Stephanie Herpich, Ruth Herpich, International Student and Scholar Services; Lisa Hixson, Machelle Puckett, Facilities Operations; Margaret Holcomb, Cheryl Holcomb, School of Pharmacy; Aaron Howard, Christina Edmonds, Information Services; Emma Hoyle, Larry Hoyle, Institution for Policy and Social Research; Evan Hunter, John Hunter, aerospace engineering/CReSIS; Paige Hunter, John Hunter, aerospace engineering/CReSIS; Yasen Ivanov, Julian Ivanov, Kansas Geological Survey; Derek Jensen, Roy Jensen, KU Medical Center/Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institution and pathology and laboratory medicine; Xing Ji, Jie Zhao, KU Medical Center/internal medicine; Stephanie Jian, Charlene (Xiaolin) Hu, Continuing Education; Chantelle Johnson, Corinna Johnson, linguistics; Elizabeth Johnson, Carey Johnson,
Ostermann, chemical and petroleum engineering; Kelly Ouyang, Hui Ouyang, Information Technology; Patrick Patterson, Anne Patterson, School of Architecture, Design and Planning; Shelly Pearse, Wayne Pearse, KU Memorial Unions; Kayleigh Peterson, Kenneth Peterson, KU Medical Center/biochemistry and molecular biology; Jacob Pfannenstiel, Peggy Pfannenstiel, KU Endowment; Alyssa Phillips, Martin Huerter, Information Technology; Sarah Pierrelee, Robert Pierrelee, KU Memorial Unions; Mary Pisciotta, Robert Pisciotta, KU Medical Center/Dykes Library; Rachel Pisciotta, Robert Pisciotta, KU Medical Center/Dykes Library; Anthony Pokphanh, Roberta Pokphanh, biological sciences; Robby Price, Ritch Price Sr., Kansas Athletics; Dimitra Renault, Valerie Renault, Bureau of Childhood Research; Robert Reynolds, Belinda Reynolds, School of Education; John Reynolds, Belinda Reynolds, School of Education; Godfrey Riddle, Cecil Riddle, Information Technology; Caitlin Roach, Mary Roach, KU Libraries; Adam Rock, Randall Rock, Student Health Services; Nicholas Rockhold, Teresa Rockhold, American studies; Matthew Rombach, Robert Rombach, Design and Construction Management; Michaela Romero, Chris Romero, Department of Student Housing; Paul Rose, Ann Rose, KUHA/Information Technology Services; Robert Sanner, Jennifer Sanner, KU Alumni Association; Emily Scholle, Minho Scholle, mathematics; Charles Scholle, Minho Scholle, mathematics; Jacob Schultz, Jerry Schultz, Life Span Institute; Lauren Self, Bill Self, Kansas Athletics; Marci Seufferling, Dale Seufferling, KU Endowment; Rebecca Sheldon-Sherman, Jan Sheldon and Jim Sherman, applied behavioral science; David Sicilian, Joseph M. Sicilian, economics; May Simpson, Greg Simpson, psychology; Daniel Smith, David Norman Smith, sociology; Stephanie Sorem, Robert Sorem, School of Engineering; Alexandra Sova, Jon Havener, visual art; Arielle Spiridigliozzi, Erin Spiridigliozzi, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Amanda Sprague-Brunk, Joey Sprague, sociology; Chelsea Steel, Tamara Steel, KUHA/operating room nurse; James Stewart, Debra Stewart, Kansas Geological Survey; Virginia Strother, Myra Strother, Student Health Services; Jacob Sullivan, Leslie Sullivan, KU Medical Center/preventive medicine and public health; Sarah Terranova, Paul Terranova, KU Medical Center/Office of the Vice Chancellor; Alyssa Thiel, Sarah Thiel, KU Libraries; James Thrasher, James Brantley Thrasher, KU Medical Center/urology; Rodolfo Torres, Estela Gavosto and Rodolfo Torres, mathematics; Olena Tsiovkh, Alexander and Yaroslava Tsiovkh, Russian, East European and Eurasian studies; Devin Turner, Terence Turner, KU Medical Center/plan and analysis; Bruce Tuschoff, Jill Tuschoff, KU
Physicians Inc.; Miriam Tye, Michael Tye, Facilities Operations; Amanda Vander Tuig, Paul Vander Tuig, Kansas Athletics; Rabinad Verges, David Nualart, mathematics; Levi Weaverling, Cindy Weaverling, KU Endowment; Michael Weil, Malika Lyon, International Programs; Megan Wells, Nancy Muma, pharmacology and toxicology; Ian White, Bridget White, KU Endowment; Miles White, Bridget White, KU Endowment; Mariah Whitmore, Joan Weaver and Richard Whitmore, Department of Student Financial Aid and Continuing Education; Mary Whittaker, Thomas Whittaker, KU Medical Center/ophthalmology; Heather Whitten, Lori Whitten, English; Molly Wilkinson, Cathleen Wilkinson, Comptroller’s Office; Andrew Williams, Sheryl Williams, Spencer Research Library; Claire Willis, Sheree Willis, Confucius Institute; Hannah Wilson, Graham Wilson, physics and astronomy; Kaitlin Wittler, Robert Wittler, School of Medicine-Wichita; Claire Wittler, Robert Wittler, School of Medicine-Wichita; Sylvia Yimer, Bedru Yimer, mechanical engineering; Basil Zimucha, Unnah Zimucha, KUHA/nursing.

Transfer
Nicholas Chadbourne, David Albertini, molecular and integrative physiology; Bryon Bridges, Thomas Bridges, Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center; Alexandra Huelskamp, Lori Huelskamp, KUHA/nursing; Eric Johnson, Jeanette and Dan Johnson, Office of the Provost and General Counsel; Taylor Manning, Danny Manning, Kansas Athletics; Beth Muthoni, Michael Kariuki, African and African-American studies; Richmond Shealy, Victor Shealy, Kansas Athletics; Keevin Stutheit, Tina Stutheit, KUHA/nursing; Ryan Tuschhoff, Jill Tuschhoff, KU Physicians Inc.; Amber Walden, Joe Walden, School of Business; Bobbi Walden, Joe Walden, School of Business; Lena Warren, Steven Warren and Eva Horn, Office of Research and Graduate Studies and special education.

Freshman
Ashton Adams, Christine Adams, KU Physicians Inc.; Jerron Ashby, Michele Bradford, KUHA/patient accounts; Allegra Baxter, Adrienne Moore Baxter, School of Allied Health/dietetics; Cole Bittel, Lisa Stehno-Bittel, School of Allied Health/physical therapy; Zachary Blomendahl, Jeff Blomendahl, KU Medical Center/information resources/networking; Joyce Bohling, Geoffery and Gwen Bohling, Kansas Geological Survey and Institutional Research and Planning; Rachel Brown, Naomi Brown, KUHA/clinical lab; Pamina Buechner, Matthew Buechner, molecular biosciences; Greg Burg, Mary and J. Greg Burg, Office of the Chancellor and biological sciences; Deigan Burns, Bill Dickerson, Kansas Athletics; Henry Chapman, Ann Chapman, Student Health Services; Will
Oread Books becomes Jayhawk Ink

Store still offers books, adds print-on-demand service

Oread Books in the Kansas Union has transitioned into a new service called Jayhawk Ink. A grand opening of the new store is scheduled for Sept. 8. Jayhawk Ink will continue to offer best-selling general books, regional and KU-related titles, magazines, a study lounge and Web browsing stations. New
is the Jayhawk Ink print-on-demand service. The service is offered in a partnership with Hewlett-Packard, which has provided the technology and support for the new venture.

Initially, the new service will be utilized to offer KU students lower costs on custom-published instructional materials, saving as much as 40 percent over previously published material. Later this fall, the service will be opened up to the general public to allow individuals to create photo albums, novels, cookbooks or any other projects that need to be printed and bound.

“We hope that this new service will help keep costs down on instructional material and allow more people to be creative by providing them the means to self-publish in an economical way,” said KU Bookstore Director Estella McCollum.

Jayhawk Ink, on level two of the Kansas Union, is part of KU Bookstores. The unions provide student programs, event services and retail services to the KU community.

KU researchers find vocal cues for autism in children with newly developed technology

A new automated vocal analysis technology could fundamentally change the study of language development as well as the screening for autism spectrum disorders and language delay, reports a study in the July 19 online Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The LENA (Language Environment Analysis) system automatically labeled infant and child vocalizations from recordings and thereafter an automatic acoustic analysis designed by the researchers showed that pre-verbal vocalizations of very young children with autism are distinctly different from those of typically developing children with 86 percent accuracy.

The system also differentiated typically developing children and children with autism from children with language delay based on the automated vocal analysis.

The researchers analyzed 1,486 all-day recordings from 232 children (or more than 3.1 million automatically identified child utterances) through an algorithm based on the 12 acoustic parameters associated with vocal development.
The most important of these parameters proved to be the ones targeting syllabification, the ability of children to produce well-formed syllables with rapid movements of the jaw and tongue during vocalization. Infants show voluntary control of syllabification and voice in the first months of life and refine this skill as they acquire language.

The autistic sample showed little evidence of development on the parameters as indicated by low correlations between the parameter values and the children's ages (from 1 to 4 years). On the other hand, all 12 parameters showed statistically significant development for both typically developing children and those with language delays.

The research team, led by D. Kimbrough Oller, professor and chair of excellence in audiology and speech language pathology at the University of Memphis, called the findings a proof of concept that automated analysis of massive samples of vocalizations can now be included in the scientific repertoire for research on vocal development.

Although aberrations in the speech (or lack of it) of children with autism spectrum disorders has been examined by researchers and clinicians for more than 20 years, vocal characteristics are not included in standard criteria for diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders, said Steven F. Warren, professor of applied behavioral science and vice provost for research at the University of Kansas, who contributed to the study and was among the first to see the potential of the technology for autism spectrum disorders screening.

“A small number of studies had previously suggested that children with autism have a markedly different vocal signature, but until now, we have been held back from using this knowledge in clinical applications by the lack of measurement technology,” said Warren.

Warren predicts that LENA, which allow the inexpensive collection and analysis of magnitudes of data unimagined in language research before now, could significantly impact the screening, assessment and treatment of autism and the behavioral sciences in general.

Since the analysis is not based on words, but rather on sound patterns, the technology theoretically could potentially be used to screen speakers of any language for autism spectrum disorders, Warren said. “The physics of human speech are the same in all people as far as we know.”

Warren says that children with autism spectrum disorders can be diagnosed at 18 months but that the median age of diagnosis is 5.7 years in the United States.

“This technology could help pediatricians screen children for ASD to determine if a referral to a specialist for a full diagnosis is required and get those children into earlier and more effective treatments.”
LENA is digital language processor and language analysis software. The processor fits into the pocket of specially designed children’s clothing and records everything the child vocalizes but can reliably distinguish child vocalizations from its cries and vegetative sounds, other voices and extraneous environmental sounds.

Recordings with the device have been collected since 2006. Parents responded to advertisements and indicated if their children had been diagnosed with autism or language delay. A speech-language clinician employed by the project also evaluated many of the children with a reported diagnosis of language delay. Many of the parents of children with language delay and all of the children with autism supplied documentation from the diagnosing clinicians, who were independent of the research.

The recordings were made by the parents at home and in the other natural environments of the children, by simply turning the recorder on and placing in the special children’s clothing, and then worn all day.

The discovery that it was possible to differentiate recordings of the autistic children from those of the typically developing children by the totally objective method of automated vocal analysis inspired the researchers to consider both the possibility of earlier screening and diagnosis and earlier intervention for children with autism.

“Autism interventions remain expensive and arduous. This tool may help us to develop cost-effective treatments and better understand how they work and how to keep them working,” said Warren.

LENA could allow parents to continue and supplement language enrichment therapy at home and assess their own effectiveness for themselves, Warren said. “In this way, LENA could function similarly to the way a pedometer measures how much exercise one gets from walking.”
Trung Van Nguyen, professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, has secured a grant from the National Science Foundation to improve methods of storing renewable energy.

**Professor lands grant to study storing excess renewable energy**

A professor at the School of Engineering has received a $2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to study improvements to storing energy from renewable power sources.

Trung Van Nguyen, professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, is leading the research project, along with four professors from three other universities around the country.

The four-year NSF-funded project centers on designing a bigger, better battery to store the power generated from solar and wind energy for use when the source is not readily available or needed. Nguyen said it would also allow for more efficient use when green power is generated.

“The power grid is nothing but an electrical wire; it has no storage capability,” Nguyen said. “So basically, if you want to connect wind power to the grid, companies will accept only the most reliable, minimum source to avoid overloading the system. Anything above the minimum gets...
wasted, so if you have a storage system, you can keep that excess energy and distribute and sell more of it.”

At the heart of the research are improvements to the technology of a so-called “flow battery.” Nguyen said much of the technology currently in use was developed in the years after the first energy crisis in the 1970s and abandoned after oil and gas prices dropped in the 1980s.

Nguyen’s team is researching flow batteries that use the chemical elements hydrogen and bromine, which he said will allow significantly more battery storage capacity without a significant increase in the space occupied by the battery. Historically, to double the storage capacity for a battery, all parts must be added, essentially doubling the amount of space required. Nguyen said that’s not the case with this technology.

“It’s like an engine in a car,” Nguyen said. “The bigger the gasoline tank, the longer the car runs, but you don’t need to put in another engine along with a new gas tank if you want your car to run farther. You just need a bigger gas tank. But that’s currently what we do with conventional batteries.

“By storing the reactants externally, flow batteries separate power and energy requirements. As in a combustion engine system, the power is determined by the size of the engine and the energy is determined by the size of the fuel tank.”

The collaborative research project also shows KU’s strong position among the leaders in green energy research.

“The KU School of Engineering continues to be on the cutting edge of finding the best way to generate and use alternative energy sources,” said Dean of Engineering Stuart Bell. “We are proud of Dr. Nguyen for his leadership in this area and look forward to the continued success of his group through this important program.”

The team working on the regenerative hydrogen-bromine fuel cell energy storage system includes Eric McFarland and Horia Metiu from the University of California-Santa Barbara, Peter Pintauro from Vanderbilt University and Wei-Jen Lee from the University of Texas-Arlington.

Nguyen, who’s taught at KU for 17 years, took two years off from 2007 to 2009 to work at the National Science Foundation as program director for the Energy Sustainability Program. He said his time there helped him broaden his research focus and see the strengths of other institutions.

“I came back with a bigger world view and great contacts,” Nguyen said. “KU is a really good research institution, and we know we’re good, and those contacts help the university from getting overlooked on these types of projects.”

Although the grant is for four years, Nguyen said this is a decades long project that will require an investment from utility companies to ensure a successful
transition from fossil fuels.

“My goal is to carry this project all the way to its implementation, ” Nguyen said. “It’s an opportunity to create something useful for our national economic security and a global society.”

Writers, journalist, KU scholar highlight 2010-11 Hall Center lecture series

The Hall Center for the Humanities has announced the speakers for its 2010-11 Humanities Lecture Series. The speakers are Elizabeth Kolbert, Ross Douthat, Joseph O’Neill, Susan Harris, Mae Ngai and Henry Louis Gates Jr.

The series is partially supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each lecture is free, open to the public and begins at 7:30 p.m. Kolbert, O’Neill and Ngai will also take part in a smaller conversation session at 10 a.m. the morning following their lecture.

Elizabeth Kolbert

Staff writer for the New Yorker and author of “Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man Nature and Climate Change,” Kolbert has traveled from Alaska to Greenland and visited top scientists in her quest to find the truth about global warming. In her Humanities Lecture Series presentation, “Science, Politics and Climate Change,” she cuts through the competing rhetoric and political agendas to elucidate climate change and ask what, if anything, can be done and how the planet can be saved. Kolbert has won numerous awards, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism Award, the National Academy of Sciences Communication Award and a Lannan Literary Fellowship. “Field Notes” was named one of the 100 Notable Books of 2006. She will speak Sept. 13 at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

Ross Douthat
The youngest opinion columnist in the history of the New York Times, conservative commentator Douthat delivers a unique perspective on contemporary American politics. He combines thoughtful analysis and a big picture context that reminds some observers of another Times luminary, columnist Thomas Friedman. Formerly a senior editor and blogger at the Atlantic Monthly, Douthat has written on topics ranging from higher education to national politics to celebrities’ religious conversions. His writing is credited with helping the foundering conservative movement find a new relevance and new constituencies in 21st century America. He has written pieces for the Wall Street Journal, the Weekly Standard, Policy Review, GQ and Slate. He will speak Oct. 19 at Woodruff Auditorium.

**Joseph O’Neill**

Compared to F. Scott Fitzgerald, Saul Bellow and V. S. Naipaul, O’Neill’s most recent novel, “Netherland,” has been described by Dwight Garner in the New York Review of Books as “the wittiest, angriest, most exacting and most desolate work of fiction we’ve yet had about life in New York and London after the World Trade Center fell.” Netherland won the 2009 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction and was a New York Times Top Ten Book of 2008. O’Neill writes regularly for the Atlantic Monthly and is the author of two previous novels, “This Is the Life” and “The Breezes.” He also wrote “Blood-Dark Track,” a memoir about his grandfathers, who were both imprisoned during World War II, which was honored as a New York Times Notable Book. He will speak Nov. 16 at Woodruff Auditorium.

**Susan Harris**

Mark Twain called it “pious hypocrisies.” President McKinley called it bringing “Christianity and civilization” to backward peoples. In her lecture, Harris will explore the debates over the U.S. annexation of the Philippines through the voices of Twain, McKinley and other Americans who fought
over America’s duty to others at the moment when the U.S. became a world power in 1899. Harris is the Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture at KU and author of the forthcoming Oxford University Press title, “God’s Arbiters: Americans and the Philippines, 1898-1902.” She will speak Feb. 9 at Alderson Auditorium in the Kansas Union. Harris’ lecture is supported by the Friends of the Hall Center.

Mae Ngai

Ngai, professor of history and the Lung Family Professor of Asian American Studies at Columbia University, is a U.S. legal and political historian interested in questions of immigration, citizenship, and nationalism. In this lecture, Ngai gives a historical overview of American immigration policy from colonial times to the present, analyzing the rise of restrictive legislation and the construction of different border policies towards the Atlantic, Pacific and the Western Hemisphere. Ngai has written on immigration history and policy matters for the Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, the Nation and Boston Review. Before becoming a historian, she was a labor-union organizer and educator in New York City, working for District 65-UAW and the Consortium for Worker Education. She will deliver the Frances and Floyd Horowitz Lecture devoted to issues related to multicultural society March 10 at Woodruff Auditorium.

Henry Louis Gates Jr.

One of Time magazine’s “25 Most Influential Americans,” Gates is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. In 2006, he wrote and produced the PBS documentary called “African American Lives,” the first documentary series to employ genealogy and science to provide an understanding of African-American history. In 2007, a follow-up one-hour documentary, “Oprah’s Roots: An African American Lives Special,” aired on PBS, further examining the genealogical and genetic heritage of Oprah Winfrey, who had been
featured in the original documentary. He is most recently the author of “Finding Oprah’s Roots, Finding Your Own,” a meditation on genetics, genealogy and race. He will speak April 14 at Woodruff Auditorium. The lecture is supported by the Sosland Foundation of Kansas City.

Founded in 1947, the Humanities Lecture Series is the oldest continuing series at KU. More than 150 eminent scholars from around the world have participated in the program, including author Vladimir Nabokov, painter Thomas Hart Benton and author Aldous Huxley. Recent speakers have included Samantha Power, Michael Chabon and T. R. Reid. Shortly after the program’s inception, a lecture by one outstanding KU faculty member each year was added to the schedule.

Internal Audit launches new site, works to help KU prevent fraud

No matter which department or school a KU employee works in, at the end of the day, he or she is here because of students. Don Holland, director of Internal Audit, believes that without administrative excellence, there can’t be student success.

That philosophy is why Internal Audit has launched a new website, internalaudit.ku.edu, to help extend its services to the university. The site, as an extension of Internal Audit, is a place for KU’s more than 2,000 auditable entities to find information on internal controls and risk assessment and for employees to communicate information on potential fraud.

On the site’s home page, a telephone graphic boldly advertises the university’s fraud hotline. The hotline offers KU employees a chance to confidentially share information if they believe there is any sort of fraud, financial or otherwise, taking place in their divisions. The hotline has a phone number, 864-1300, e-mail address, reportfraud@ku.edu and an anonymous Web form. Holland said KU policy follows federal laws on whistleblower protection.

More importantly, Holland said, Internal Audit is not an office to punish wrongdoing, but a resource for the university to use to ensure assets are properly stewarded. Managers and employees looking for suggestions on how to make sure resources and information are properly handled can use the site’s Internal Control Guide.
In interviews with KU administrators, Holland said he often heard that employees are told what not to do, but not given suggestions on what they could do. The Internal Control Guide highlights best practices and is broken down into areas of potential risk, how employees can spot them, and what they can do to identify problems in areas such as financial, human resources, legal, regulatory and other kinds of risk.

“We’re a real believer in self assessment,” Holland said of Internal Audit. “My philosophy is ‘most people want to do what’s right’.”

It’s not always evident what best practices might be and where potential problems could come from. For that reason, the site contains a self-assessment form with a questionnaire administrators can use to identify potential risks in their departments.

The site also contains information on different types of services Internal Audit offers and answers to the most frequently asked questions about risks and internal control.

Holland said in the past year his office has given presentations to about 400 deans, department chairs, directors, faculty and staff on internal control. The new site is an opportunity to extend that information even further.

“Our goal is to be a resource, not a threat, for university administration,” he said. “We want to help in any way we can, and the website is a really critical tool in doing that.”

University leaders gather at KU to discuss keeping research vital

It’s not easy maintaining vibrant research and scholarship in times of declining funding and economic hardship, but there are success stories and innovative ideas. University leaders and researchers from around the region gathered at KU last month to discuss strategies to ensure engaged research is supported and to learn from their colleagues.

The 14th annual Merrill Research Retreat brought chancellors, provosts and researchers from Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska to KU to talk candidly and author a white paper on their findings.

“There are reduced financial resources for research each year,” said Mabel Rice, the Fred and Virginia Merrill Distinguished Professor of Advanced Studies and director of the Center for Biobehavioral...
Neurosciences in Communication Disorders at the Life Span Institute. “We talked about the different ways participants are handling these challenges and how they’ve put procedures in place to deal with them. The important thing is there are large, open discussions in which we share ideas.”

In addition to the open discussions, university administrators addressed participants. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little welcomed the group. James Moeser, former chancellor of the University of North Carolina and University of Nebraska and a former dean at KU, delivered the keynote address, with a following address by Chancellor Harvey Perlman of the University of Nebraska. Provost Jeffrey Vitter joined April Mason, provost of Kansas State University, and Brian Foster, provost of the University of Missouri, in panel presentations later that day.

Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center, took part in a panel on the conference’s second day, and several other KU administrators and researchers made presentations as well, including Gray-Little; Danny Anderson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Steve Warren, vice provost for research and graduate studies; and Paul Terranova, vice chancellor for research at the KU Medical Center. Researchers and research officers from each of the universities contributed presentations and discussions.

Rice said the retreat addressed numerous topics vital to research such as proper infrastructure, maintaining state-of-the-art research facilities, allowing faculty to be productive and hiring new faculty, among others. The combination of administrators and researchers was important, she added.

“It’s a conversation between those who establish and put in place the policies and those who carry out the policies,” Rice said.

The annual retreat is organized by the Merrill Advanced Studies Center, part of the Life Span Institute. The center was established in 1990 by an endowment from Virginia Urban Merrill and Fred Merrill and focuses on research on disabilities and policies that shape university research.

Information on the center’s research, including white papers from previous retreats, can be found on the center’s site, merrill.ku.edu.
KU's Silver City clinic extends health care to low-income communities

Tucked away in an unassuming building in Kansas City, Kan., is a health care clinic that provides medical services to those who otherwise could not afford them.

There are no bells and whistles at Silver City Health Center in the Argentine neighborhood. But there is a wealth of care provided by a compassionate health care staff. Silver City Health Center is a nonprofit safety-net clinic managed by KU Health Partners, a clinical enterprise operated by the KU School of Nursing and School of Allied Health. Safety-net clinics comprise a network of health care facilities that provide primary care and chronic care services to the uninsured and underinsured.

To help Silver City Health Center continue its mission of helping others, three foundations have given gifts to KU Endowment totaling $450,000. The REACH Healthcare Foundation of Merriam provided $100,000; the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich., contributed $150,000; and the Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans of Topeka gave $200,000.

The Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans is a philanthropic organization with the mission to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans.

Mary Virden, administrator of Silver City, said the funds will help support daily operations and expand hours of operation, which will improve access to care for the clinic’s diverse patient population.

“We are thrilled with the support from the REACH Healthcare Foundation, Sunflower Foundation and Kresge Foundation,” Virden said. “Safety-net clinics like Silver City Health Center are a critical component of the health care system because they serve patients who are otherwise unable to afford or access care.”

Virden said private support is critical to Silver City. Patient fees cover only about 10 percent of the clinic’s operating expenses. The clinic’s team includes a multicultural and multilingual staff to best meet the needs of a diverse population.

Additional funding from the REACH Healthcare Foundation will provide support for three KU entities.

— JayDoc Free Clinic, $36,000. Students from the School of Medicine
run the clinic in Kansas City, Kan. It is staffed by volunteer physicians and residents who are assisted by first- through fourth-year medical students. The clinic serves the uninsured and underinsured.

— School of Social Welfare, $33,000. KU social work students spend part of their practica at middle schools in Kansas City, Kan., where they help educate students about mental health services.

— Project EAGLE, $90,000. This KU Medical Center program provides comprehensive child development and family support services to children and families in Wyandotte County. The REACH gift will be used to hire a nurse practitioner to staff the onsite medical clinic at the Children’s Campus.

Staffer earns prestigious fellowship for transportation research

Heckler lands one of 56 Eisenhower awards

During the workday, Ariel Heckler helps with KU’s outreach activities and takes care of day-to-day operations as a project coordinator at the Transportation Research Institute. But when the day is done, she doesn't simply clock out, she asks questions such as “How can departments of transportation be more transparent and engage the public?”

Ariel Heckler

Such questions, the core of her research as a graduate student, helped Heckler earn a Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship. She won one of only 56 fellowships awarded nationally by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The fellowship carries a $5,000 stipend for one year.

Heckler, who has worked with the Transportation Research Institute since 2006, is pursuing a master’s in urban planning. She’s hoping to learn through her research how transportation policy makers can better share their information and
plans with the public that is affected by them.

“People don’t always recognize the true value of transportation in their daily lives,” Heckler said. “Mobility is vital and we depend on it every day, but I think we take it for granted a little.”

She’ll examine if better transparency of information will lead to a public more engaged in transportation issues, such as gas taxes that pay to maintain public roadways. She’ll present her research findings at the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board in January in Washington, D.C.

Bob Honea, director of the Transportation Research Institute, said Heckler excels at her work and her academic prowess only adds to her capabilities.

“I knew Ariel was an exceptional person the first day I met her,” said Honea. “She has continually revealed talents I didn’t even know to ask about when we interviewed her for the administrative position. I am certain she will be an academic star in whatever field of research she chooses.”

In addition to her own research, Heckler helps spread the word about transportation research happening at KU. One of her projects this summer was preparing for a trade show in Kansas City in which the research of David Darwin, the Deane E. Ackers Distinguished Professor of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, and Caroline Bennett, assistant professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering, was presented.

Heckler said working daily with respected researchers has helped immensely in her own academic pursuits.

“I have a much better understanding of the research process thanks to all of them,” she said. “Having that inside perspective has been really beneficial. We’re trying to put KU on the map in terms of transportation infrastructure research. We have a remarkable amount of talent in that area.”

Summer food drive collects nearly 4,000 pounds of food for community

Staff-organized effort easily surpasses one ton goal

A ton of food will stock a lot of pantries and cover a lot of dinner tables. A ton and a half reaches even further.
KU’s second annual summer food drive set out with a goal of collecting 2,000 pounds of food. The campus community responded by giving 3,590 pounds of nonperishable food donations. The food was donated to ECKAN Just Food, an organization that distributes donations among community food pantries in Lawrence.

Caroline Ward, interim Just Food coordinator, said the donations were a welcome boon to summer supplies. Just Food distributes an average of 36 pounds of food per household and it serves 40 to 50 households per day, she said. The donations were enough to serve about 100 families for two to two and a half days.

“It definitely has an impact on our budget and our ability to help people in the community,” Ward said of the food gathered in the drive. “Without those donations it would have been more of a strain on our limited resources.”

The drive also netted about $200 in cash donations to Just Food. Feeding America, an organization dedicated to fighting hunger, values food donations at $1.59 per pound, putting a value of $5,708.10 on the KU donations.

The drive is organized and sponsored by Unclassified Senate and University Support Staff Senate. It is held in the summer because donations typically slow down and demand is higher at that time of year.

Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies marks 50th anniversary

The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies this month will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a nationally recognized center offering degrees in area studies.

The center is planning several events to mark the milestone, including a welcome event for graduates, a gala dinner with Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, a Slavic music concert, a thematic conference, a luncheon with Director Emerita Maria Carlson and an informal cookout. All faculty, students, friends and alumni of the center and their families are invited to participate in the two-day celebration, Aug. 27 and 28.

On Aug. 27, the center will welcome alumni back to campus with an afternoon reception in Bailey Hall, an evening dinner at the Lied Center and a concert of Slavic
“This weekend will be a great big birthday party to celebrate CREES and all the important things that area studies has given to Kansas and the country as a whole — government, business and academic professionals well-trained in foreign language skills and cultural understanding; enriched curricula for our school students; a military community that better understands the societies and cultures with which it is interacting,” said Edith W. Clowes, director of the center.

Complete information on the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies and its activities can be found online at crees.ku.edu. Those interested in attending the 50th anniversary activities are asked to register online.

The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies has offered credentials in Slavic or Soviet and East European studies since 1959 and a master’s degree since 1968. In 1965, the center first received funding to become a U.S. Department of Education Title VI Comprehensive National Resource Center. Since then, the center has offered federally funded scholarships to top students to specialize in foreign languages and area studies. The KU program has been a favorite of the U.S. Army’s Foreign Area Officers program and has graduated more Foreign Area Officers than any other National Resource Center. It continues to draw significant numbers of officers for area studies training.

The center continues to meet the national need for government, academic and business specialists with advanced language skills and area studies training in the region. The center provides research and study abroad opportunities for faculty and students; organizes lectures, seminars and conferences; and provides outreach, support services and information to KU and other universities, schools, businesses, media, government, military and community groups.
Graduate teaching assistant, student to appear on 'Jeopardy!'

Show to air Sept. 23

Donald “D.J.” Schepker, a doctoral student and graduate teaching assistant in the School of Business, will appear on “Jeopardy!” on Sept. 23 after an audition process that lasted more than a year.

Schepker first applied to be a contestant on “Jeopardy!” in January 2009. He received an invitation to appear on the game show in June, and the episode was filmed July 27 at the “Jeopardy!” studios in Culver City, Calif.

“I’ve always watched ‘Jeopardy!’ and enjoy challenging myself,” Schepker said. “I tend to remember useless facts and have a thirst for knowledge. My appearance on the game show is the culmination of a lifetime of enjoying and competing in trivia.”

Although the audition process took more than a year, Schepker said it’s an easy process open to anyone.

“Every January, potential contestants take a 50-question online test,” Schepker said. “If you do well, ‘Jeopardy!’ officials invite you to formally audition at one of the audition cities. I went to Kansas City and happened to be the only Kansas City resident to audition.”

The formal audition consists of another 50-question test and a mock “Jeopardy!” game with other hopeful contestants. The formal audition also includes a personality interview.

“The key is to keep the game moving,” Schepker said. “They are looking for contestants that will answer all the questions. It’s also good to have an interesting story to share.”

Once Schepker was invited to appear on “Jeopardy!” he was responsible for both his travel expenses and accommodations.

“The show tapes a week’s worth of episodes in one day,” Schepker said. “Players are selected randomly five to 10 minutes before the game, and each game lasts 22 minutes.”

Schepker is unable to comment on his “Jeopardy!” performance until its Sept. 23 airdate, but he notes a correlation between his appearance on the game show and his studies at the School of Business.
"I’ve noticed quite an overlap between my appearance on ‘Jeopardy!’ and strategic management," Schepker said. "I had to think strategically throughout the entire process. In class, we define our core competencies and how to build a personal narrative. I basically had to figure out how I could make myself memorable. It’s the same principle I’d use in a job interview.

“My experience on ‘Jeopardy!’ was great. Everyone involved in the entire process — from audition to taping — was wonderful.”