Warren Corman, university architect, shows a print of his original sketch of Allen Fieldhouse. Corman, one of the designers of the KU landmark, is retiring after more than 60 years of shaping the look of buildings on campuses across Kansas.

The architect of KU

Corman retiring after more than 60 years of designing buildings for KU, state campuses
Not everyone knows Warren Corman, but anyone who has set foot on a KU campus knows his work. Corman will retire soon after serving as university architect since 1997 and spending more than 60 years as an architect for the state, working on buildings at universities and colleges across Kansas.

From hallowed athletic halls to groundbreaking research facilities and child care centers, Corman has had a hand in shaping the look of Kansas campuses since the 1940s.

His career has spanned decades, but it didn’t take long for Corman to decide what he wanted to do for a living. His father was an architect, and as a child, Warren would watch him work at his drafting table at home and knew his calling. World War II put his plans on hold, though.

**WORLD WAR II**

As a senior in 1943 at Washburn Rural High School in Topeka, a school his father designed, Corman knew service was in his immediate future. After graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy with plans of becoming a pilot. The dream of a young Midwestern boy seeing the ocean and piloting a fighter jet were within reach. He had passed the tests and was in training when a superior officer came to him and his fellow trainees.

“He said, ‘We’ve got good news and bad news,’” Corman said. “‘The good news is we’re not losing Navy pilots as fast as we thought we would. The bad news is we need Seabees very badly in the South Pacific.’”

So Corman’s training shifted to learn the skills of a construction battalion soldier, or Seabee, designing and building landing strips, bridges and fighting alongside Marines. In 1945, he set sail in the Pacific and saw combat in Okinawa, one of the last and deadliest battles of the war. At 17 years old, he was preparing to be part of the invasion of mainland Japan.

“We had 50,000 American casualties in Okinawa,” Corman said. “They estimated 50 percent of us would be killed in the coming invasion of Japan, but when you’re 17, I guess you don’t think about that much.”

While the Americans were assembling a massive armada to prepare for the invasion, two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan and the nation surrendered. Corman spent the next year on Okinawa helping rebuild the war-ravaged island before returning home.

**BACK TO KANSAS**

Corman came back to Kansas and enrolled at KU. In 1947, he was offered a part-time job as a student in the State Architect’s Office. He got his degree in 1950 and worked for the next seven years in Topeka, designing buildings for the state’s college campuses.

One of his first projects was Ahearn Fieldhouse at Kansas State University. The new arena seated about 11,000 in roughly 90,000 square feet. The new accommodations didn’t sit well with one of KU’s legendary basketball coaches.

“I remember Phog Allen was so damn mad,” Corman said. “He said, ‘KU needs a fieldhouse badly.’”

Allen helped convince the Legislature of the need for a new arena and helped convince them to commit $2 million to the project. Plans were drawn up for a fieldhouse that would seat nearly twice as many people as Ahearn in about twice the amount of space. The project, began in 1952, was going great until the Korean War erupted.

The government had placed a moratorium on steel for all projects that were not part of the war effort. To counter the problem, the project was dubbed the Physical Education Building and Armory. A room was designed that could double as a weapons storage facility. The steel was approved and the building opened in 1955. The armory was never needed and eventually the building’s name was changed to Allen Fieldhouse.

**MOVING ON**

Corman eventually left the State Architect’s Office and worked in Delaware for a few years before returning to private practice in his hometown of Topeka.
“They fired all 50 of us,” he said with a laugh about his exit from architectural firm E.I. DuPont de Nemours in a budget-related move.

In 1966, he was approached by Executive Director of the Board of Regents Max Bickford about coming back to work for the state.

“Max said, ‘Warren, we have a new position for an architect to oversee the state universities,’” Corman said. “‘You’re the only one I know,’ he said. ‘Do you want it?’”

Corman took the job and worked as director of facilities for the regents until 1997. Early in his tenure, KU Chancellor Clarke Wescoe had grand plans for a building on KU’s central campus that would be the tallest in the state. Corman took a look at the plans and voiced his opinion that the project would be well over budget, the size was not practical and there were too few elevators for the number of people that would occupy it. His boss passed on the opinion to Wescoe, who was less than pleased to hear it.

“He said, ‘who the hell is this Warren Corman anyway?’” Corman recalled with a laugh. “Eventually we got to be good friends.”

COMING BACK TO KU

By 1997, Corman was considering retirement. But on New Year’s Day, Chancellor Robert Hemenway invited him to his home to discuss an idea with him. He wanted to know if Corman would come to KU in a new position as university architect and special assistant to the chancellor.

“I thought, ‘I’m about 70 years old, in a couple years I’ll retire.’ This was such an enjoyable job, I couldn’t. Every day was a new challenge,” Corman said.

Hemenway gave him a list of about 100 tasks he wanted to accomplish. One of the first was finding a site for the new Hilltop Child Development Center. Another early project was converting Joseph R. Pearson Hall from a residence hall to the new home for the School of Education.

One of the projects Corman is most proud of is the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics.

“That was a pet project to get that done before Bob Dole’s 80th birthday,” Corman said. “I’m very proud of the way the building turned out.”

He also fondly recalls the genesis of the Hall Center for the Humanities. Corman and his associates had five potential sites for a new center and presented them to the Hall family. They didn’t like any of them. John Gaunt, dean of the School of Architecture, Design and Planning proposed the idea of converting the old power plant into a new facility and provided the first drawings. The Halls loved the idea and the project was set in motion.

In 2004, Hemenway and then-provost David Shulenburger approached Corman with an idea. Shulenburger told him that he had a nightmare that KU was short on research space, with a visit from federal inspectors approaching. To remedy the problem, they needed a building within the next 15 months. There was no site, no money identified and no plans, but the project needed to get under way soon. The idea was born to build on west campus and funding was arranged through KU Endowment, allowing the project to progress much faster than normal. By late 2005, researchers were moving in. New projects have steadily cropped around the area ever since, including the new School of Pharmacy Building, opened earlier this year.

OFF CAMPUS

Not all of Corman’s work took place on campus. He had a hand in helping convince legislators of the dire need for campus maintenance in 1995. He was called on to help create the Crumbling Classrooms initiative. The plan called for bonds to help fund deferred maintenance on campuses across the state. Corman recalls a legislator from Great Bend who was opposed to the idea. He continually claimed there was no evidence supporting the need for the bond issue. Corman and his associates loaded a pickup truck full of paperwork and took it to his office in Topeka. They filled his office full of it when he wasn’t in.
The measure passed 40-0 in the senate and 124-1 in the house. It was no surprise to Corman when the Great Bend legislator was the only dissenting vote.

RETIREMENT

After 60 plus years and after working with 10 KU chancellors, Corman said he is finally ready to retire at age 84. He doesn’t have any specific plans for retirement, but knows he’ll find a way to keep busy. In the immediate future, Corman and his wife, Mary, have their basketball season tickets for entertainment. They chose their seats from a drawing he made of Allen Fieldhouse more than 50 years ago.

KU named outstanding university for junior faculty

KU is among the nine public doctoral/research universities listed as best in the nation for junior faculty in a new report from the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education based at Harvard University.

KU, which also was one of five universities cited as an “exemplar” for its clarity of institutional expectations for tenure, was recognized as a top place for beginning faculty in COACHE’s last report in 2007.

The new report, based on a survey of 15,000 pre-tenure faculty at 127 colleges in the United States, evaluated institutions on tenure practices, the balance between work and home, collegiality and the quality of the school as a place to work. Overall, 32 institutions were cited as exemplars among three groups — undergraduate, master’s and doctoral/research institutions — in at least one of eight categories. To qualify as an exemplar, institutions needed scores that were notably higher than similar institutions.

KU is the only institution in the Big 12 Conference and in the state of Kansas cited by the report.

“KU is a great place to work, to teach, to do research and to serve the public,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “This kind of national recognition is gratifying and will help KU compete for the best new generation of scholars. Recruiting and retaining top young faculty to KU is vital to giving our students the best education possible.”

Other exemplar doctoral/research institutions in the report are Auburn University, Brown University, Dartmouth College, Duke University, Lehigh (Pa.) University, North Carolina State University, North Dakota State University, University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa, University of Chicago, University of Connecticut, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Iowa, University of Notre Dame and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The other institutions cited as exemplars for tenure clarity are North Carolina State University, North Dakota State University, University of Connecticut and University of Iowa.

University Governance developed and former Chancellor Robert Hemenway approved comprehensive reforms of the promotion and tenure standards and procedures at KU in 2008. The revisions were aimed at improving the transparency of the process and clarifying the roles of participants at all levels. It also addressed the appeals process.

Based at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education and supported by member institutions, COACHE gathers peer diagnostic data for chief academic officers to improve the recruitment, retention and development of faculty at colleges and universities.
KU was named a best place to work by the Chronicle of Higher Education in 2008, and KU Hospital was named to Modern Healthcare magazine’s Best Places to Work in Healthcare in 2009.

Goonewardene to lead efforts to take KU research commercial

Official named associate vice chancellor for innovation, entrepreneurship

The appointment of a new senior-level official at KU promises to increase and accelerate KU’s participation in research commercialization and entrepreneurship regionally and nationally.

Julie Goonewardene will join KU on Jan. 17 as associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship. At Purdue University and the Purdue Research Foundation, she held several roles in academic entrepreneurship, including director of business development. At Purdue, she has been instrumental in facilitating relationships with investors in the Midwest and on both coasts, including Boston and Silicon Valley.

At KU, Goonewardene will work at the Lawrence and medical center campuses with faculty, staff, students, alumni and the investment community. She will encourage innovation, provide training, seek pilot and startup funding and promote the introduction of commercializable research into the marketplace. Jim Baxendale, director of the Center for Technology Commercialization, and Carey Novak, director of business and industry outreach, will support Goonewardene to achieve increased visibility for KU in these markets.

“KU’s engagement in economic development has increased considerably in recent years,” said Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. “Examples include the new on-campus Bioscience and Technology Business Center and numerous research collaborations with industry. Julie has the experience and skills to help KU contribute even more in this area.”

Goonewardene has been at Purdue since 2005, where she created a philanthropic venture capital investment fund, handled faculty entrepreneurial programs and worked closely with Purdue-based startup companies. Previously, she spent more than 20 years in the private sector, including six years as founder, CEO and president of Cantilever Technologies, which was purchased by i360technologies Inc.

“There are many exciting opportunities at KU right now,” said Goonewardene. “It has a strong tradition of faculty entrepreneurship and considerable success moving faculty research into the marketplace. This is especially true in the biosciences, but there is potential throughout the university to encourage and foster the growth of discovery and innovation.”

Goonewardene has a bachelor’s in general management and a master’s of health communication, both from Purdue.
“In the current economic climate, where innovation and true discovery are valued at premium, the time is right to bring promising entrepreneurial ventures to the market,” she said. “I am honored by this opportunity and excited about becoming a member of the KU community.”

At KU, Goonewardene will report to Warren and Paul Terranova, vice chancellor for research at the KU Medical Center.

Report shows School of Business differential tuition used properly

A report from a thorough third-party review states that the School of Business properly spent funds raised through differential tuition rates since they were adopted six years ago.

The report by BKD LLP, a public accounting firm hired by the Office of the Provost and overseen by a steering committee of faculty, staff and students, said that 99.8 percent of the school’s differential tuition funds were “expended in ways that are consistent with the spending categories described in the DT (differential tuition) Proposal.”

The review questioned only a small number of transactions and noted, “There could be differences of opinion about whether or not these expenditures conflict with the expenditure guidelines of the DT Proposal.”

“This report clearly affirms that the School of Business has been using differential tuition as promised to increase the quality of a KU business education,” said Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter. “Under the leadership of Dean Bill Fuerst and his team, the curriculum has been expanded, programs have been added, scholarships and student job opportunities have been enhanced and the overall value of a degree has increased.”

The Kansas Board of Regents approved the school’s written proposal for a differential tuition rate in 2004. After a group of students questioned some expenditures earlier this year, Fuerst recommended to the provost that an external review be conducted. The provost approved this recommendation, and BKD was contracted to evaluate whether differential tuition funds had been used in accordance with the general categories and goals stated in the 2004 proposal.

Jeffrey Vitter

Bill Fuerst

“The BKD report provides full transparency and
accountability for the $31 million in differential tuition generated over the past six years,” Fuerst said. “With the report confirming that these funds have been used as intended by the original proposal, the school will continue using them as we have to benefit our students. We will continue to seek input from business students, both undergraduate and graduate, regarding how differential tuition can be used to further enhance the business school program.”

Since differential tuition was adopted, the school has made the improvements described in the original proposal. Because it added new majors as called for in the proposal, the school hired additional faculty and expanded course offerings. More than 1,600 students have graduated with one of the five new majors now offered. Course offerings, including electives, have been increased substantially at both the Lawrence and Edwards campuses for master’s of business administration students and undergraduates.

Additional improvements made by the school through differential tuition funds include expanding academic and career advising services; establishing an entrepreneurship program; increasing study abroad and experiential learning opportunities; providing more scholarships and student employment; doubling the enrollment in the master’s of accounting program; and improving the technology available to business students. These improvements, along with the new majors, provide KU business graduates with the specialized educational background and experiences necessary for them to compete effectively in the job market.

The school’s Student Differential Tuition Advisory Committee, which was allowed to lapse in 2006, has been re-established. The committee met in October to discuss its activities for the remainder of the academic year and will meet again soon to review the BKD report. The committee is responsible for ensuring that the School of Business is accountable for the use of differential tuition funds and for reviewing financial reports prepared by the dean’s office regarding these funds.

Differential tuition provides more than 40 percent of the business school’s annual operating budget.

BKD began its review by inviting all interested students to provide input at a meeting held for that purpose, by phone or in writing. It selected faculty and staff members to interview, many of whom were suggested by students as interview subjects. It also reviewed individual transactions from fiscal year 2004 through fiscal year 2010 for accuracy and to categorize the transactions according to the categories spelled out in the original differential tuition proposal.

**Campus-wide differential tuition improves KU's educational offerings**

KU has leveraged differential tuition funds to add majors and experiential learning opportunities, substantially upgrade technology and facilities and give students distinct advantages in the job market, according to a new report on the expenditures.

“KU students are better educated, have greater research and international experiences and are better prepared to meet their career challenges upon graduation,” the report by the Office of the Provost concludes.
The report reviewed the process by which individual schools formulated their individual differential tuition plans — often referred to as course fees — in consultation with students. It also examined how the revenue was spent and evaluated progress in meeting stated goals.

“Differential tuition has allowed KU students to reap the benefits of better facilities, access to cutting-edge technology and more academic choices, particularly valuable experiential learning options,” said Provost Jeffrey Vitter. “Students will continue to play an integral role as we plan for the future at KU.”

Achievements cited in 29-page report include:

• A doctoral program established in architecture as part of the school’s expansion from a solely undergraduate program to a graduate program. Also, five new undergraduate majors, a minor and a master’s degree in business for officers at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth added in the School of Business.

• Course offerings in Lawrence for the master’s in business program increased 150 percent and enrollment in the graduate accounting program doubled. New academic programs include the entrepreneurship program.

• Substantial upgrades in technology, including software and hardware, to support classroom learning and student research. Examples include 3-D image software in architecture; additional computer labs and the purchase of two Bloomberg terminals in business; and audio production and animation lab software in the School of the Arts.

• Improvements to facilities, including additional lab space and shop equipment for the design-build programs in architecture; renovated studios for dance and choir; and new media in journalism classrooms. The School of Music has been able to replace instruments, including pianos.

• Funds to support student research programs; bring guest speakers, artists and musicians to campus; and send students to present research and attend professional conferences. For example, social work students have been able to attend International Social Work Day at the United Nations and the National Association of Black Social Workers Conference. Tajsheena Leggs, a master’s student at KU, is a national NABSW officer.

• New faculty hired to teach expanded academic offerings. Other new positions have been centered on technology support, academic advising, career advising and lecturers to expand course offerings. The hires allowed the music school to add guitar, harp and jazz piano classes. The schools also devoted funds to create more student jobs and offer additional scholarships.

The School of the Arts in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the 10 professional schools on KU’s Lawrence campus adopted — with Kansas Board of Regents approval — individual differential tuition rates at various times after 1994. The overall objective is to enhance educational opportunities and the learning environment for students with each unit establishing their own specific priorities in consultation with students and faculty.

The schools have used various models of student consultation. The report noted that two schools — business and music — had allowed their student advisory committees to lapse. The business committee has been reconstituted and held its first meeting Oct. 22. The School of Music has invited students to serve on its committee and will meet in the near future.

Differential tuition has raised $76.3 million since 2003. The schools invested 43.8 percent of the revenue in additional faculty and instructional staff. In other categories, advising and support staff netted 12.5 percent; scholarships and student employment 11.9 percent; student and instructional support materials 11.2 percent; lab and instructional support staff 9.4 percent; supplemental education experiences 5.3 percent; faculty support 2.8 percent; and facilities 1.8 percent. The remaining funds went to other expenses.
School of Medicine professor to perform first ever study of effects of lithium on children

Pediatric bipolar disorder has long been treated with the drug lithium, even though lithium has never been tested for use in children. Until now.

The School of Medicine–Wichita has been awarded an $800,000 grant to study the use of lithium with children, groundbreaking research that will change the labeling and nationwide product information for the drug. Russell Scheffer, chair and professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the School of Medicine–Wichita, is seeking patients who have a clear pediatric bipolar disorder diagnosis and who are not currently on medication to enroll in the study.

Scheffer, who is one of only four child psychiatrists in Wichita, received the grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the drug, which will create guidelines on use, determine possible side effects, establish dosing instructions and more.

“Over the next two years throughout the country, approximately 300 children and adolescents will be treated with lithium,” Scheffer said. “Lithium is kind of an interesting medicine in that it was grandfathered into the Physician Drug Reference. It has approval down to age 12 but it was never studied in youth under the age of 18. It’s just that it was an older medicine and it was given approval.”

And that’s not unusual. It is referred to as “grandfathering” and applied when an older medication is used for a condition for which it wasn’t formally studied.

“Roughly two out of three prescriptions written in the United States are for off label indications. And the off label indication can be either a different disorder or, in this case, a different age group,” Scheffer said, adding that the cost to get the first indication of a drug on the market ranges from $800 million to $1.5 billion, subsequent indications cost about $100 million to $200 million.

Because lithium has not been studied in children, its potential side effects are not well delineated.

“Lithium may have a particular advantage in children. There is some evidence that patients with bipolar disorder who were treated with lithium have lower suicide rates,” Scheffer added.

The study will need 25 to 30 patients during the next three years. For information on enrolling, contact Scheffer at rscheffer@kumc.edu or (316) 293-2669.
Some offices to close for winter break; temperatures to be adjusted

Some university offices will close during winter break, Dec. 22 through Jan. 2. During that time, room temperatures will be reduced and employees may need to make alternative work arrangements.

Unclassified professional and university support staff and fiscal year academic faculty who work in offices that will be closed should use paid vacation time or accumulated compensatory time on dates their offices are closed. Employees should check with their supervisors to determine if their office will be closed.

Employees who do not want to use vacation time while their offices are closed should contact Human Resources and Equal Opportunity to schedule and alternative work arrangement. Individuals looking for reassignment and offices that need additional help should contact Human Resources and Equal Opportunity at 864-4946 or employ@ku.edu by early December.

Individuals planning to visit an office during break should call ahead to determine if it is open.

To conserve energy during the break, temperatures will be reduced in classrooms, lecture spaces, class labs and auditoria from Dec. 18 to Jan. 17 when possible. Thermostats will be set at 65 degrees from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and at 55 degrees on evenings, weekends and holidays. Libraries, research spaces and offices will not be affected. Units that want to reserve a classroom, lab or auditorium during the break should notify Facilities Operations so the temperature can be increased the day of reservation.

More information on office closings and temperature reductions during the break is available at www.provost.ku.edu/memos/winter-recess.shtml.
A KU education class poses near the Cottonwood Inc. sign. Several groups of the class have been touring the business to learn more about its services and disabilities across the life span, as well as to further a partnerships between the business and KU.

KU classes partner with Cottonwood Inc. to advance learning on disabilities

Even if a teacher never instructs a special education class, it’s almost guaranteed he or she will still have a student with special needs in the classroom at some point. With that reality in mind, a KU class has paid visits to Cottonwood Inc. to both learn more about the business and its services and how developmental disabilities cross the lifespan.

Sean Smith, associate professor of special education, has been taking his undergraduate Teaching Exceptional Children and Youth in General Education class on tours of Cottonwood for several years. The class, made up of future middle to secondary general and special education teachers and future music therapists, learns more about Cottonwood’s services, such as case management, residential support and community
and onsite employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.

“You want to give students as much exposure to what’s happening in the field as you can,” Smith said of the tours. “It tends to hit home. They see there are a variety of individuals and a wide range of disabilities.”

Smith said students often ask insightful questions about the economics of employment contracts Cottonwood has, its case management services and they are often surprised at the amount of housing contracts the business handles in the community.

Peggy Wallert, director of community relations at Cottonwood, often leads the tours. The business serves more than 600 individuals and provides employment, both on site and in the community, for more than 150. She said people are often surprised to learn of the scope of operations at Cottonwood. One example of that is a contract the business has with the federal government to produce and supply tie down straps for all branches of the military. About 40 people work on site producing and shipping the straps.

The visits have been part of a larger relationship between the business and KU, Wallert said. Many KU students work there and a large number of their full-time employees are KU alums. Kansas Athletics has taken part in fundraisers to help fund services and taken part in “Cottonwood Olympics,” in which student athletes have friendly competitions with employees.

“I think it’s an important experience for anyone,” Wallert said of the visits. “It raises awareness and helps people realize that individuals with disabilities are people first. It’s all part of a great relationship between Cottonwood and KU.”

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**Big Brothers Big Sisters seeking KU volunteers to mentor children**

Sofia Galarza Liu and her husband Kevin Liu share a lot, like most couples. They raise their daughter and have similar careers and interests. They also share a “little brother.”

Sofia, collections manager at the Spencer Museum of Art, and Kevin, associate director of the Confucius Institute, have been matched with their little brother Frank for almost seven years. Frank is 15 years old and has spent much of his formative years with the Liu’s. They spend time together almost every week, usually hanging out at the Liu’s house, having dinner and talking. Their shared time has created a trusting and relaxed relationship that
now includes the Liu’s daughter Sylvia.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County is seeking more individuals like the Lius, who would be willing to mentor a young person.

“The University of Kansas provides stability and character to the Douglas County community. It is fitting that the thousands of KU employees have the potential to extend that stability and character to the deserving children of this community,” said Catherine Brashler, development director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County.

The Lius volunteered for the program as a couple’s match in 2004 with the intention of giving back to the community and offering their unique interests and experiences to a child. They were both busy people but felt that they could still manage to volunteer as “bigs” because they could include their “little” in their everyday activities. Frank lost his father to cancer when he was in kindergarten. His mom enrolled him in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program to find him a male role model. Frank was an active little guy with interests in all things outdoors or sports-related. The Lius were a great fit with their equally active life style. They enjoy riding their bikes together, camping and playing games. Over the years, they have done fun projects together like making an archery bow and restoring an old tandem bike. The Liu’s encourage Frank in school and talk often about his future. They buy him books to keep him reading and this past summer they wrote him a recommendation letter to help him get into the Hiratsuka Youth Exchange program to go to Hiratsuka, Japan.

Now that Frank is a teenager he is mostly concerned with playing sports and hanging out with his girlfriend, but he still has room for Kevin and Sofia and their daughter Sylvia. He wants to go to KU when he graduates and will undoubtedly turn to his bigs for help with his application. The Lius have been a stabilizing presence in his life and as a result are close with Frank’s whole family.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters program is always looking for quality volunteers like the Lius. A multiple year commitment is not required, but often happens in strong matches.

“The bigs will often comment on how easy it was and that they are positive they got more out of the relationship than their little did,” Brashler said. “The benefits to the kids are hard to deny, we see consistent academic improvement, better relations with peers, and decreased incidence of delinquency. The littles are always talking about how much it means to them to have someone there just for them.”

There are more than 3,000 children in Douglas County identified as “at-risk” due to single parent homes, one or both parents in prison, serious poverty or other issues. Anyone interested in hearing more about Big Brothers Big Sisters can contact the program at (785) 843-7359.

Leadership summit designed to help staff 'lead from where they are'

KU staff of all levels and job descriptions are invited to the first-ever staff leadership summit “Leading from Where You Are.” The summit, set for Feb. 17, is intended to help staff members improve their leadership qualities, influence
coworkers and make a difference.

The summit is presented by the Staff Learning and Development Council and funded by the Office of the Provost and Human Resources and Equal Opportunity. Admission is free for staff of all levels, but is limited to the first 200 applicants. Registration can be made online at sld.ku.edu.

The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the fifth and sixth levels of the Kansas Union. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little will share why she believes learning and development are essential for all KU staff. Keynote speakers include Danny Anderson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Reginald Robinson, professor of law at Washburn University and former president of the Kansas Board of Regents.

Attendees will have the chance to take part in interactive sessions focused on four areas: engagement, creativity and innovation, leadership and work/life balance.

Conference sessions will be presented by Feirong Yuan, assistant professor of business, who will share why making “unfavorable social impressions” diminishes innovation. Mary Banwart, associate professor of communication studies, and Andi Witzak, director of the Center for Service Learning, will share how to diagnose, facilitate interventions and energize others. KU’s Interactive Theatre Troupe will help participants practice role-playing difficult discussions in the workplace to help enhance communication strategies.

KU lands spot in Guide to Military Friendly Colleges and Universities

KU has been honored once again for its service to veterans, with inclusion in Military Advanced Education magazine’s 2010-11 Guide to Military Friendly Colleges and Universities.

It is the second consecutive year KU has been named to the list and the second such honor this year. In October, Military Times Edge gave KU a top 10 ranking among public universities in its annual “Best for Vets” list for 2010.

“My certainly appreciate being recognized as a military-friendly university,” said Adrian Lewis, professor of history and director of the Office of Professional Military Graduate Education. “We’re constantly working to provide the best opportunity we can for the men and women who serve their country to continue their education.”
KU was one of about 300 selected for inclusion from among more than 3,000 applicants, said Glenn R. Berlin, associate publisher of Military Advanced Education. KU was honored for having an office dedicated to military affairs, having a counselor able to provide support to military students, awarding credit for military training and service, offering support and discounts to military family members, participating in ROTC and having an online distance learning program, among other attributes.

KU offers nearly 200 fields of study, including supply-chain management established at the military’s behest and an Interagency Studies concentration that specifically serves Army Special Forces officers and civilian officials. KU also offers Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC programs, an exchange program with nearby Fort Leavenworth and the Army’s Wounded Warrior program that enhances an already vibrant, supportive learning environment for veterans.

Military Advanced Education is published for service members and veterans of every branch of service seeking to take advantage of military education benefits.

“This guide has become an invaluable tool for both education service officers/specialists and base transition officers when advising their service members about degree and certification opportunities currently available from institutions of higher learning,” Berlin said.

KU to issue grads new-look diplomas

KU has unveiled a new design for its diploma, the first update since 1981. Students graduating at the end of the fall semester will be the first to receive the new diplomas.

“A diploma should communicate clearly the recipient’s important accomplishment and credentials but also reflect the prestige of the institution,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “The new KU diploma accomplishes that objective. It is an elegant combination of the modern and traditional. We hope our graduates agree and will proudly display their hard-earned diplomas.”

In addition to a change in look, the diplomas for bachelor’s and master’s degree recipients have been changed to a standard size of 8.5 by 11 inches, rather than 9 by 12 inches, so graduates can purchase less expensive, standard-sized frames. The size of the 14-by-17-inch doctoral and law degree diplomas is unchanged.

The names of the university and graduate now appear in the Journalistic typeface, as it has more clarity, reflects the university’s nearly 150-year history and replaces a typeface in which the capital “K” and lowercase “r” were indistinguishable. The Journalistic typeface, inspired by newspaper nameplates in the 1920s, is noted for maintaining legibility even in smaller point sizes for diplomas and other formal documents. Other typefaces used in the new design are Palatino and Times.

The new design also establishes a hierarchy in the type that the current design lacks and incorporates the university’s Trajan logo while continuing to feature the university’s 1866 seal.

The revision eliminates the gold foil stickers that were attached to diplomas of graduates who earned “distinction” and “highest distinction” status, which some institutions refer to as cum laude and summa cum laude status. Now the appropriate words will be printed directly on the new diplomas.
Alumni who graduated before the fall 2010 semester who want to order diplomas with the new design may do so starting in 2011. The signatures of the current chancellor and chair of the Kansas Board of Regents will appear on reordered diplomas.

For more information for Lawrence and Edwards campus alumni, visit registrar.ku.edu/former/diplomas.shtml.

Medical center alumni should go to kumc.edu/studentcenter/registrar/services.html to submit an order.