Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little greets President Barack Obama Jan. 6 at the White House. Gray-Little and several other university leaders delivered a letter pledging to combat the shortage of math and science teachers. Joy Ward, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, also recently visited the White House to accept an award for young researchers.

Crimson and blue in the White House

Chancellor, professor take part in presidential ceremonies

A pair of Jayhawks recently paid visits to the White House, and met the chief resident, within a span of a week. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and three other leaders of public
research universities hand delivered to President Obama Jan. 6 a letter from 79 public university leaders pledging to address the national shortage of science and mathematics teachers. Joy Ward, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, was honored Jan. 13 as a 2009 winner of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

**UKANTEACH**

Gray-Little represented UKanTeach, an innovative program established in 2007 at KU to address the state’s deficit in science and math teachers and the graying of teachers nearing retirement in those fields. UKanTeach provides a pathway for students to graduate with degrees in math and science and to obtain teaching licensure in four years. The program is projected to graduate 120 math and science teachers a year by 2014.

In the letter, university presidents and chancellors pledge “to substantially increase the number and diversity of high-quality science and mathematics teachers we prepare, and to build better partnerships among universities, community colleges, school systems, state governments, business and other stakeholders.”

Thirty-nine institutions and three university systems also pledge in the letter to at least double the number of science and mathematics teachers graduated by 2015.

Gray-Little was joined at the White House by the presidents of the universities of Colorado, Kentucky and Maryland system. They represented the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

The presentation was made in conjunction with Obama’s second “Educate to Innovate” campaign event for excellence in science, technology, engineering and math education. At the event, the president honored 100 educators — including Sherry Helus, a third-grade teacher in Wamego; DeAnn Swofford, a science teacher in Gardner; and Mary Beth Meggett, a KU graduate who teaches science in Charleston, S.C. — from across the country for awards received for excellence in mathematics and science teaching and mentoring. The event was webcast at www.whitehouse.gov/live.

Obama also announced key new partnerships in his campaign to help reach his goal of moving American students from the middle to the top of the pack in science and math achievement over the next decade. In November, Obama announced a series of high-powered partnerships involving leading companies, foundations, nonprofit organizations and science and engineering societies dedicated to motivating and inspiring young people across America to excel in science and math.

Obama’s three overarching priorities for STEM education are

— Increasing STEM literacy so all students can think critically in science, math,
— Improving the quality of math and science teaching so American students are no longer outperformed by those in other nations

— Expanding STEM education and career opportunities for underrepresented groups, including women and minorities

PRESIDENTIAL EARLY CAREER AWARD FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

Ward’s award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a young scientist or engineer in the United States.

Joy Ward

Ward researches plants that grew during the last ice age — about 18,000 years to 20,000 years ago — when low carbon dioxide levels may have been highly limiting for plant life.

According to the National Science Foundation, the PECASE awards “are intended to identify and honor outstanding researchers who are beginning their independent research careers, and to provide recognition of their potential for leadership across the frontiers of scientific knowledge during the 21st century.”

“There is a tremendous amount of excellent science being conducted in this country, and I am truly humbled and honored to have received this presidential recognition,” Ward said. “The University of Kansas provides an excellent environment for conducting scientific research, and I am fortunate to have such wonderful colleagues and resources in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Furthermore, I am very appreciative of the assistance that the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service has provided for my outreach activities to students and for the support of the National Science Foundation and Dorothy Lynch through the Wohlgemuth Faculty Scholar Award. In the years ahead, I look forward to training the next generation of scientists and meeting future scientific challenges at the University of Kansas.”

Through her investigations of changing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from the last ice age through the future, Ward shows how plants might fare in a future of much higher carbon dioxide concentrations on Earth.

“Plants are amazing,” Ward said. “They can actually take carbon right out of the atmosphere and use it as their food source, whereas we as humans have to eat a variety of organic food sources in order to get carbon in our diet. But the availability of carbon dioxide has changed over geological time.”

According to Ward, ancient air bubbles trapped inside ice cores show that there was about half as much...
carbon dioxide in the atmosphere during the last ice age compared with present times.

In her lab at KU, Ward has found that today’s plants have difficulty thriving under such conditions.

“We can scrub carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere at very controlled levels to simulate the past,” said Ward. “We have found that the average reduction in growth is about 50 percent for plants grown at these ice age carbon dioxide levels compared with the modern value. For some species, the reduction in growth can be as high as 90 percent and some species completely fail to reproduce.”

Ward earlier won a $869,000 CAREER award from the NSF for her research — an honor that qualified her for the PECASE award announced today.

Ward and 19 other NSF recipients of the PECASE award will be recognized for their scientific achievements at a White House ceremony this fall.

Nicole Hodges Persley teaches Hip-Hop in Popular Culture, KU’s first class to exclusively study hip-hop as an art form. The class examines the music’s effects on all aspects of culture, including art, fashion and politics.
Living in a hip-hop nation

Class explores effects of music on American culture

Like it or not, rappers Grandmaster Flash, Tupac Shakur and Jay-Z can tell us a lot about ourselves and the culture we live in.

Nicole Hodges Persley, assistant professor of theatre, just finished teaching Hip-Hop in Popular Culture, KU’s first class entirely dedicated to hip-hop. The class was not a music appreciation or theory course, rather, a way to study what has been one of America’s most controversial art forms and the impact it has on all aspects of life.

The class started with discussion of the genre’s inception in the 1970s and explored how various iterations of the form over the years have filtered into American society.

“We examine how hip-hop is not just a style of music that’s come out of an urban background,” Hodges Persley said. “It’s a music that influences a number of cultural agents and transcends race and ethnicity.”

Like the music itself, the class is not afraid to tackle what some might consider uncomfortable topics. Misogyny, a common complaint of the music’s critics, is examined. Gang lifestyles, violence, homophobia and drugs and their relationships to hip-hop are all brought up as well. Even politics enter the realm of discussion.

Hodges Persley has used a multimedia approach. In addition to reading assignments, she assigned students to share their thoughts on class topics through a blog, www.kuhiphopinpopculture.blogspot.com. On the blog, students explored graffiti, an essential part of hip-hop’s early days, and what makes it art and when it becomes vandalism. In another entry, they discussed how the music affects fashion and the way people choose to present themselves.

Students were given the option to write a term paper on a topic related to the class or create a “critical creative project,” a practice Hodges Persley uses in all her classes, in which a theme discussed in class is turned into a presentation about how an element of hip-hop has affected popular culture. One student played a sample on guitar linking freestyle music to hip-hop and other styles. Another group recorded a hip-hop song covering class themes, and another made a film.

“As we discussed in lecture, politics, identity and hip-hop have recently become connected. For example, with Barack Obama’s presidential campaign, he marketed himself directly to members of the hip-hop generation. Obama knew that having an ‘in’ with the hip-hop generation would help him win the
"election," student Jenny Conner wrote in one class blog post.

Students were also divided into “crews” during the class. They were each given a topic on which to make a presentation and ask questions of the class.

“I want students to know they can do critical work and engage in theory,” Hodges Persley said. “I think this kind of pedagogy really sets students on fire for learning and creativity. When you take the training wheels off, it’s amazing what the students can come up with.”

While the class is the first at KU to focus primarily on hip-hop, Hodges Persley is no stranger to the topic. She helped start the Archive of Hip Hop in Popular Culture at Harvard University and was involved in a similar project at Stanford University and has written a book chapter on the topic.

This artist's rendering shows what a new green technologies research facility will look like. KU secured a $12.3 million grant to assist with the construction of the building.
$12 million grant to help fund new engineering building

Green technologies will be among focuses of new facility

The National Institute of Standards and Technology Construction Grant Program has announced a $12.3 million federal award for construction of an innovative “green technologies” research facility for the KU School of Engineering.

Institute officials said the grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will fund a proposed Measurement, Materials and Sustainable Environment Center, a 34,600-square-foot laboratory incorporating the latest in green technologies and research space for interdisciplinary engineering projects.

“This grant will help solidify KU’s role as a leader in the engineering and advancement of innovative technologies, as well as in sustainable practices,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

The university must raise $6.5 million in matching funds for the project, which will total $18.8 million. The building, expected to be completed by spring 2015, will join a complex of engineering buildings on the southwest slope of the Mount Oread campus, west of Eaton Hall, south of Learned Hall and Spahr Engineering Library and directly east of Burt Hall.

The building itself will be a model of sustainable, energy-saving technologies. It will use sunlight for interior illumination, solar shade and “green” roof technology for temperature control and a system to monitor the overall efficiency of building operations.

The facility will include elements qualifying it for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, silver certification under the rigorous Green Building Rating System devised by the U.S. Green Building Council. To receive LEED certification, a project must incorporate design features from site design through construction and operation that minimize the impact on the environment while enhancing overall building performance.

The building will house research projects on the development of biofuels, remote sensing technologies used to monitor polar ice and glaciers and development and testing laboratories for commercial avionics, sustainable materials and advanced research...
in materials fracture and fatigue. Laboratories will be equipped to monitor and assess how well various design and construction techniques meet standards and perform in the Kansas climate and using available forms of energy.

“In recent years, the School of Engineering has seen remarkable growth in our research and graduate programs,” said Stuart Bell, dean of engineering. “Now, through this grant, we will have additional space to help us maintain our standards of excellence, as well as explore new dimensions in research.”

Budget, research among KU's top legislative, congressional priorities

University to encourage end to higher ed cuts

With the turn of another calendar year comes renewed legislative sessions, both on the state and federal levels. As expected, budget talks will dominate state proceedings, while KU will look to focus on federal issues such as a second stimulus bill, climate change legislation, health care reform and how they relate to the university.

STATE

The state legislative session began Jan. 11 and will last approximately 90 days. Budget woes will dominate the session. The state has already been through five rounds of budget reductions, and higher education has been among those feeling the pinch of reduced state funding.

Kathy Damron, director of state relations, said her office will work to help lawmakers understand the negative impact any further cuts would have. Class sizes would increase and course offerings reduced or eliminated because of fewer faculty and teaching staff if cuts are extended. That in turn would result in fewer graduates. That means fewer highly educated professionals ready to take jobs that will help lead the state out of recession.

“Employers are telling us they need these types of workers,” Damron said. “For example, engineering firms have told us that they’d love to hire more Kansans. But if we can’t produce enough graduates they’re not able to do that.”

Pre-session talk focused on increasing revenue as opposed to cutting more
from the budget. One of the most discussed methods of bringing in more money is tax reform. Numerous exemptions exist on everything from sales taxes on certain services to tax exemptions for certain businesses. KU hopes to show how reform could help KU and the state.

“What we’ll be doing is advocating for more resources to be put in the hands of lawmakers, so that when the economic downturn ends, we can train and graduate more highly-skilled employees,” Damron said.

KU will also work to educate lawmakers on how appropriations dollars are spent and show the return the state gets on investments in higher ed. Damron’s office will also highlight university efficiencies and push to make permanent programs that free universities from state regulations, thereby reducing costs.

The university was part of a three-year pilot program that allowed three schools to do their own purchasing, instead of going through state channels. The result was millions of dollars of savings. The goal is to make the program permanent for all regents institutions. Currently, when universities have excess property, they have to go through state channels. Damron said she hopes to show legislators that institutions can sell such property, which is often highly specialized, more quickly and efficiently if it is freed from state regulations.

Government Relations will host a series of four seminars for legislators to help them better understand research at KU and its benefits for the state. Two will be held in Topeka, and one each will be held on the Lawrence and KU Medical Center campuses.

FEDERAL

Budget issues won’t be dominating federal legislation to the extent it will on the state level.

Keith Yehle, director of federal relations, said his office will focus on a number of issues such as a second federal stimulus bill. The House of Representatives has passed a second stimulus bill. KU will support the bill, which would allot money for direct aid for higher education. The money would come with stipulations that states must use the money for higher education and they would not be allowed to reduce funding levels below a certain point.

Universities will work to show the benefits of stimulus funding for university research and document and report the number of jobs created by the funding.

KU will also keep an eye on the most prevalent federal legislation of the past several months, health care reform. Yehle said there is a possibility the bill could take students who receive health insurance from the university and place them in another insurance pool, which could affect costs.

“We’re working with higher education associations (such as the American Association of Universities and Association of Public and Land-grant
Universities) to make sure there are no unintended consequences to the bill,” Yehle said.

Yehle said his office will also monitor the development of a student lending bill, which would end subsidies on private banks that offer student loans. The bill would direct money back to direct lending and the Pell grant program.

Promoting KU’s expertise will be another priority. Research at the Center For Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets could play a key role in any potential climate change legislation, Yehle said. KU was the first public university to implement an open access policy, putting it at the forefront of another potential federal topic. There are efforts to require any agency with a budget of more than $100 million to make government-funded research papers available to the public.

“Open access is good for the public, it’s good for the university and it’s good for the taxpayer,” Yehle said.

Government Relations will also assist university employees who wish to visit their representatives, either in Topeka or Washington, D.C. For more, visit http://www.govrelations.ku.edu/.

KU Cancer Center lands $28 million in donations

Two gifts will advance NCI quest

The KU Cancer Center has received $28 million in donations that will advance its and the Midwest Cancer Alliance’s goal of helping the cancer center achieve designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center from the National Cancer Institute.

The Hall Family Foundation of Kansas City has committed $18 million to the KU Cancer Center and the Midwest Cancer Alliance. A $10 million gift from Joe and Jean Brandmeyer, of El Paso, Texas, will create an endowed chair of radiation oncology and support other patient care and research priorities needed for the KU Cancer Center to achieve National Cancer Institute designation.

HALL FAMILY FOUNDATION

The gift brings total private contributions for NCI designation to $37 million. The center's goal is $92 million.

Of the $18 million gift, $12 million will help
recruit world-class physician scientists and cancer researchers. Another $6 million will fund a Phase I Clinical Trials facility in Fairway, providing area patients access to promising clinical trials. The Hall Family Foundation purchased the facility in 2008 and is donating it to the cancer center.

Bill Hall, president of the Hall Family Foundation, said NCI-designated centers offer clear advantages to patients. “Kansas City deserves to be one of the 65 places where patients can receive the most advanced cancer treatment. Achieving NCI designation will bring prestige to the entire region as a center for advanced cancer research and treatment.”

“The Hall Family Foundation has been a tremendous supporter of education and research at KU, and this gift adds to that legacy,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “The foundation’s generosity will benefit cancer patients and their families throughout Kansas and the region by helping to bring new treatments and cures to their doorsteps.”

Roy Jensen, director of the KU Cancer Center and chief executive officer of the Midwest Cancer Alliance, called the donation “a game-changing gift.”

“The foundation has positioned us to make a real difference in the lives of thousands of people,” Jensen said. “This gift provides needed resources to move forward with NCI designation, which not only will improve the lives of those in the region, but also will improve the health of our economy.”

The Hall Family Foundation has supported several areas at KU, including life sciences, business, biology and humanities. The Hall Center for the Humanities at KU was named for Joyce and Elizabeth Hall in 1985 in recognition of the foundation’s gifts for humanities professorships and program support. The foundation also has supported other life science programs in the region.

The gift will be managed by KU Endowment, the independent, nonprofit organization serving as the official fundraising and fund-management foundation for KU.

JOE AND JEAN BRANDMEYER

The name of the physician/researcher chosen to fill the Joe and Jean Brandmeyer Chair and Professor of Radiation Oncology will be made later this year.

"We are at an important juncture in pursuing National Cancer Institute designation, and this generous gift fills a critical need for us in order to move forward," Jensen said.

The cancer center plans to apply for NCI designation in September 2011. Designation will bring the latest clinical trials to the region that are open only to NCI centers and enhance cancer research projects in the area.

The Brandmeyers are former Kansas City-area residents. They founded Enturia, a manufacturer of disposable antiseptic
applicators for hospitals, and sold the company to Cardinal Health in 2008. Joe formerly was president of the scientific division of Marion Laboratories.

The Brandmeyers said they wanted to help cancer patients in the heartland who don’t have the means to travel to an NCI center.

“Curing cancer has a special place in our hearts,” said Joe Brandmeyer. “My mother, sister and several aunts and uncles died of cancer, and our grandson is a cancer survivor,” he said.

Jean Brandmeyer added, “We have faith in the people running the University of Kansas Cancer Center because they are patient-focused.”

The Brandmeyer family established in 2007 the Brandmeyer Patient Resource Center in the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Care Pavilion in Westwood, which supplies accurate information about all aspects of cancer to patients and their families and friends. They have also been a major sponsor of the “Treads and Threads Gala” supporting KU Hospital’s clinical cancer program within the KU Cancer Center.

"The Brandmeyer family is extending their tradition of supporting the best in cancer patient care to our pursuit of NCI designation," said Bob Page, president and chief executive officer of KU Hospital.

Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the School of Medicine, said the gift shows the community's support for NCI designation.

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The Structural Biology Center on KU’s west campus will be named for former Chancellor Del Shankel. It will be called the Delbert M. Shankel Structural Biology Center.

**Structural Biology Center to bear Del Shankel's name**

The Structural Biology Center will be named for Del Shankel, chancellor emeritus and professor emeritus of microbiology, in honor of his 50 years of leadership, teaching, scholarship and service to the university.

The Kansas Board of Regents approved the naming of the $22.2 million, 44,000-square-foot building as the Delbert M. Shankel Structural Biology Center. The facility, which serves as a hub for scientific research on KU’s expanding west campus, will serve as a lasting tribute to Shankel, who began his career as an assistant professor of microbiology in 1959.
Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little said the naming of the Structural Biology Center for Shankel is a fitting tribute to his dedication to the sciences, mentorship to students and leadership.

“Honoring Chancellor Shankel by placing his name upon a facility at the center of KU’s growing research effort will be a reminder for years to come of his service to the university and state,” she said. “Throughout his academic and administrative career, Del has remained devoted to his scientific discipline of microbiology. He maintained an active laboratory program and advised countless master’s and doctoral students. He is the consummate university professor, fostering interdisciplinary communication and confluence whenever he could.”

The first sections of the building were completed in 2004. Two additional wings opened in 2008. Shankel has held numerous leadership positions at KU. He was acting chancellor from 1980 to 1981 and chancellor from 1994 to 1995. He was also chair of the Department of Microbiology, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, executive vice chancellor, interim director of intercollegiate athletics, acting vice chancellor for academic affairs and, most recently, interim president of the KU Alumni Association.

As a faculty member, Shankel trained dozens of doctoral and master’s students and countless undergraduate students. He was also a respected researcher and a member of the American Society for Microbiology and a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. At KU, he was named the Mortar Board Outstanding Educator three times and received the KU Alumni Association’s Ellsworth Medallion for Outstanding Service and Distinguished Service Citation.

“It is hard to imagine that any member of the KU faculty or administrative staff is more worthy of this honor than Del Shankel,” said Danny Anderson, interim provost and executive vice chancellor. “He has served as mentor to countless KU administrators and staff members, and has instilled in them an ongoing commitment to educational service.”
KU faculty members and Lawrence Chamber of Commerce members listen to a speaker at a breakfast hosted at the Shankel Structural Biology Center. KU and the chamber have formed a committee to pursue common interests.

**KU, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce combine efforts**

**New committee aims to support, pursue mutual interests**

Depending on whom you ask, there may or may not be a “town and gown” gap. If a recently formed group has anything to say about it, there will be no divide between KU and the city of Lawrence.

KU and the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce have formed a joint committee to improve the working relationship between the two parties, keep each other abreast of pressing issues and to “reenergize the university-business community relationship,” said Keith...
Yehle, director of federal relations.

Matt Hoy, incoming president of the chamber, local attorney and KU alum, is chairing the committee. He said that although KU has been a member of the chamber for decades, the idea for the committee came about after chamber CEO Tom Kern started in late 2008.

“He said, ‘Your No. 1 business engine in the community is the university. What does that mean?’ So we set about trying to quantify that,” Hoy said.

In about six months, the committee has worked together on several specific issues. KU members collected information on energy research taking place on campus to help attract an alternative energy company to the city. The chamber supported KU’s efforts to acquire space on west campus that was formerly Oread Labs. The two sides also worked together when Studio 804, part of the School of Architecture, Design and Planning, needed to expand. Together they helped the studio relocate to the former Douglas County Development Inc. “spec building” in the East Hills Business Park.

The committee’s meetings also serve as a chance for city and university representatives to focus on long-term goals. They hope to help faculty form local start up companies from their research. Many start up companies remain in the communities in which they start, Yehle said. The chamber also hopes to make KU students aware of job opportunities in Lawrence.

“There are some pretty sophisticated companies here in Lawrence that need a high level of talent,” Yehle said.

Both parties have also worked to open their doors. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little hosted the chamber’s board of directors in November and took them on a tour of the Shankel Structural Biology Center. Faculty members have toured several local businesses as well.

Perhaps most importantly, the committee is working together to sell Lawrence and KU to potential faculty, students and business community members. Hoy tells a story of how his law firm recruited an attorney from San Francisco. He and his wife had only lived in New York and San Francisco but fell in love with Lawrence and its unique offerings, including KU.

“There’s no way my business would have been able to attract that kind of talent without the amenities we have here,” Hoy said.
Dozens of Jayhawk figurines make up one small part of the collection now on display in the Kansas Union. The collection features more than 1,000 pieces of Jayhawk memorabilia.

Thousands of Jayhawks nesting in Kansas Union

Extensive collection of KU memorabilia on display

One of the largest known collections of Jayhawk memorabilia has come home to roost on campus.

The collection of Bud Jennings, a KU alumnus and collector since the early 1950s, is on display in several cases in the Kansas Union. Everything from Jayhawk lapel pins, lamps, boots and ashtrays are located in four cases in the building’s second level and in a former planter in the Traditions Lounge on the fourth level.

More than 1,000 pieces are on display, and more are on the way. The pieces date from the earliest days of the Jayhawk mascot. A few pins from around 1914
and fundraising materials for the construction of Memorial Stadium and the unions from the early 1920s are part of the collection.

Many of the pieces are officially sanctioned, but others came from the creative hands of Jayhawk fans around the world. There are two pairs of KU cowboy boots, a whole series of woodcarvings from a dedicated mother, numerous pieces made by Jennings himself and even some whose origins are unclear.

Some of the most well known 'Hawks are represented in the collection as well. Three tables of Elden Tefft originals are among the birds, including a model Tefft used while designing the famous bronze Jayhawk that resides in front of Strong Hall.

Other pieces tell the history of the university and its happenings. Jennings has several items from the 1939 National Cornhusking Championship, which was held in Lawrence and drew 112,000 people.

Mike Reid, director of marketing and communications for KU Memorial Unions, said the collection will be on display for three years. The unions will soon kick off a fund drive to make the display permanent. Anyone who would like to make a donation or who would like more information about the collection can contact Reid at 864-2471 or mreid@ku.edu.

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Journalism profs find sportscasters 'feel the love'

Crawford, Reinardy publish paper on job satisfaction among sports broadcasters

Two KU professors have found that sportscasters are some of the most satisfied employees in all of media — despite layoffs, pay cuts and reduced air time.

Jerry Crawford and Scott Reinardy, assistant professors of journalism, found that nearly 76 percent of sports broadcasters have high job satisfaction levels. The findings are detailed in their new paper, “Feeling the Love: Sportscasters Score Big with Job Satisfaction.”

Crawford and Reinardy decided to study sportscasters because of their mutual interest in sports and journalism and a lack of scholarship in the area.

“Sportscasters really have not been researched that I know of at all,” Reinardy said. “They’re a bit of a
forgotten group among researchers.”

The professors sent surveys to about 1,000 sportscasters across the nation and heard back from about 300. The results were almost uniformly positive. Market size, airtime allowed and job title did not appear to influence job satisfaction.

The satisfaction isn’t because of abundant free time. Respondents showed they average a 51-hour workweek and often work nights and weekends. Work-family conflict was the only indicator of job dissatisfaction. Many stations are also reducing airtime allowed for sports.

“These people enjoy their work more than any other people I’ve ever studied,” Reinardy said. “I think the demands of the job can be just as difficult, if not more so, than those of other journalists.”

So why are sportscasters so happy with their jobs in what many would call an uncertain industry? Respondents reported autonomy and support from management as the top positive factors of their work.

Sports departments often have autonomy — the freedom to be left alone, Reinardy said. While many departments have assignment editors or editorial boards, sports reporters often decide themselves what they will cover and how to cover it. Also, management often shows support for sports departments and local coverage.

“Having that freedom to determine your job responsibilities is rare,” Reinardy said.

A mere 20 percent of survey respondents answered yes to the question “do you have any intentions of leaving the field?” Comparatively, a previous study Reinardy completed showed 62 percent of newspaper journalists answered yes or “don’t know” to the same question.

The authors said more research may be necessary to determine exactly why satisfaction rates are so high among sportscasters, but they know the majority is happy, even in uncertain times.

“If we could bottle the satisfaction of these folks and sell it, we’d have much happier journalists,” Reinardy said.

Spring tuition assistance recipients announced

164 staffers selected

Tuition assistance for the spring semester has been granted to 164 university staff members. The program is offered to university employees who have at least six months of full- or part-time employment
at KU at the time the classes begin. The program provides tuition for one class of up to five credit hours.

Application guidelines can be found at the Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Web page.

For more information, contact Christy Mahaffey at 864-7419 or mahaffey@ku.edu or Mary Karten at 864-7346 or mkarten@ku.edu. The application deadline for the summer 2010 semester is April 2. The deadline for fall 2010 is July 2.

Tuition assistance recipients, their positions and their departments are listed below.

Usibaka "Gbaike" Ajayi, adviser, education administration; Daniel Alam, information specialist I, administration and finance; Christie Appelhanz, assistant to the dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Cori Ast, communications coordinator, Dole Institute of Politics; Heather Attig, program assistant, University Relations; Marilyn Ault, coordinator, Center for Research on Learning; Nicole Banman, administrative professional, KANU Radio; Kimberly Bates, coordinator, Academic Achievement and Access Center-Disability Resources; Cynthia Beall, program assistant, Higuchi Biosciences Center; Jessica Beeson, project coordinator, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Loren Bennesch, grant monitor, Institute for Policy and Social Research; Mara Bertsch, administrative associate Sr., Student Health Services; Sam Billen, administrative associate Sr., Study Abroad; Emmanuel A. Birdling, program assistant, African/African-American Studies; Mark Bomgardner, program manager, Law Enforcement Training Center; Amy Barton, administrative associate, Aerospace Engineering; Trudy Bowen, administrative associate Sr., Internal Audit; Boone Bradley, systems specialist, Center for Research on Learning; Christopher R. Brands, grant monitor, Higuchi Biosciences Center; Marisa Bregman, program assistant, Lied Center; Keith Bryant, Custodian, recreation services; Eric Buselt, coordinator, marketing and communications; Allison Cartagn-Bonga, administrative associate Sr., Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Melissa Caywood, medical staff professional, Student Health Services; Nicole Chapman, administrative associate Sr., College of Liberal Arts and Science; Monica Claassen-Wilson, information specialist I, Libraries - General; Stacy Cohen, project coordinator, Center for Research on Learning; Matthew Cook, information specialist I, College of Liberal Arts and Science; Kelly Crane, coordinator, journalism; Elizabeth Crickard, project manager, Social Welfare; Mayumi Crider, administrative associate Sr., Tertiary Oil Recovery Project; Rachel Crist, program assistant, Applied English Center; Joseph Custer, associate librarian, Law Library; Luke Daniels, general maintenance worker,
Facilities Operation - Carpenters; Cynthia Davis, administrative associate Sr., Army ROTC; Luz Angelica Dean, custodian, Housing Maintenance; Lindsey Deaver, adviser, College of Liberal Arts and Science; Bailey DeReus, adviser, College of Liberal Arts and Science; Jeanne Disney, project coordinator, Center for Research on Learning; Carol DiVilbiss, administrative associate Sr., University Career Center; Jeremy Early, assistant director, Student Financial Aid; Richard Edgington, program assistant, Education Administration; Abby Ehling, administrative associate, Graduate Studies; Martha Elford, project coordinator, Center for Research on Learning; Clinton Everhart, associate director, Admissions and Scholarships; Stephanie Fogo, medical staff professional, Student Health Services; Ed Foley, coordinator, Edwards Campus; Mary Fry, associate professor, Health Sport and Exercise Science; Aimee Garcia, accountant, Comptroller's Office; Jennifer Gay, program specialist I, Student Financial Aid; Allison Gile, interpreter, Academic Achievement and Access Center-Disability Resources; Rebecca Gillam, project coordinator, Education Administration; Michaela Coppelde Gillispie, grant specialist, Research and Graduate Studies; Laura Gonsalves, continuing education instructor, Law Enforcement Training Center; Charles Grady, programmer II, Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Institute; Howard Graham, coordinator, Athletics; Zachary Joseph Gredlics, coordinator, Academic/Professional Programs; Randi Hacker, project coordinator, Center for East Asian Studies; David Hageman, information specialist I, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Ariel Heckler, administrative assistant, Transportation Research Institute; Troy Heidner, information specialist I, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Daniel Hellebust, information specialist I, Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets; Kristi Henderson, coordinator, College of Liberal Arts and Science; Justin Henning, information specialist I, University Relations; Charles Zachary Henry, information systems analyst, Information and Telecommunication Technology Center Research Facility; Miki Herman, project coordinator, Education Administration; John Hindes, extension assistant, Academic Outreach/Distance Education; Robin Holladay, administrative associate Sr., English; LaVonne Holmgren, project coordinator, Center for Research on Learning; Stephani Howarter, coordinator, Education Administration; Aaron Huerter, program assistant, Applied English Center; Richard Huettenmueller, accountant, Chemistry; Annette Wendy Huggins, administrative associate, KANU Radio; Heidi Hulse, adviser, College of Liberal Arts and Science; Maud Humphrey, administrative associate Sr., History of Art; Tobin Jennings, program assistant, Center for Research on Learning; David Keith
Service to be focal point of chancellor's inauguration

Gray-Little's ceremony set for April 11

In honor of the inauguration of Bernadette Gray-Little as KU’s 17th chancellor, faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and community partners have joined forces to highlight the university’s commitment to serving others by declaring a “Semester of Service.”

All members of the university community are invited to join by volunteering time and dedicating hours of service to the effort. Individuals and/or groups are invited to log volunteer hours on the inauguration Web site, chancellor.ku.edu/inauguration/index.shtml.

Gray-Little’s inauguration will be April 11.

A running tally will be kept at the site showing the service projects taking place and to encourage the university community to reach a goal of 100,000 hours.

The sub-committee working on the effort is co-chaired by Erika Dvorske, president and CEO of United Way of Douglas County and Linda Luckey, assistant to the provost. Joining them are representatives from the Center for Community Outreach, Roger Hill Volunteer Center, the KU Medical Center and Edwards Campus, Kansas Public Radio/Audio-Reader, Douglas County Bank, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the KU Center for Service Learning, KU Alumni Association, the Clinton Foundation and students, faculty and staff from across all of the KU campuses.

Special days of service during the inauguration weekend will be offered as well as many other opportunities to volunteer throughout the semester.

More information will be posted on the Web site as the semester progresses.
Steven Spooner, assistant professor of piano, is pictured with one of KU's Steinway pianos. Spooner will be the only American-born pianist taking part in a prestigious celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of pianist and composer Franz Liszt.

Spooner picked for prestigious international Liszt festival

Prof only American-born pianist to take part in celebration

Steven Spooner has been a lifelong devotee of Hungarian composer and pianist Franz Liszt. Soon, he’ll be the only American-born pianist performing at an international event marking the 200th anniversary of the composer’s birth.

Spooner, assistant professor of piano, will
play as part of a series of the complete works of Liszt at Academia Santa Cecilia, the “Carnegie Hall of Italy,” in March 2011.

Michele Campanella, a noted Italian pianist, is creative director for the event and chose Spooner to perform.

"It will be an event not only for the city of Rome but for the entire musical world," Campanella said. "Among the 64 pianists, I have the pleasure to invite four American pianists, including Steven Spooner, who is outstanding for his young age, for his bravery in accepting such a difficult program of large opera paraphrase, and for his Lisztian faith."

The difficult paraphrase Campanella alluded to is a piece called “Roberto Diablo” or “Robert the Devil.” A notoriously difficult piece, Spooner has been performing it for several years and will include it as part of his recital in Rome. Liszt composed the piece as an incorporation of the vocal and orchestral components of an opera by Meyerbeer. Additionally, his recital will feature another opera transcript called “Le Prophette,” or “The Prophet,” also by Meyerbeer.

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The event is sponsored by the Italian Liszt Society and several Italian government agencies and will feature some of the world’s top pianists. Dutch record company Brilliant Classics will record the performances.

Both Spooner and KU have notable ties to Liszt. Last year, Spooner was instrumental in KU’s hosting the American Liszt Society National Festival.

The university also is home to Liszt’s last piano. A Bechstein made in 1886, it was discovered in a church in London and now is housed at the Spencer Museum of Art. One day of the festival was devoted to performances on the piano.

“It truly is one of the best preserved instruments of Liszt’s in the world,” Spooner said. “It’s been a focal point of my research, and I was even able to make a recording on it.”

Spooners has performed around the world, but the Liszt event will be among his career highlights, he said.

“I’m just very honored to be part of this and to be the only American-born pianist,” he said. “To be numbered among so many outstanding pianists is really an honor for me.”
Hall Center selects faculty for Humanities Research, Creative Work Fellows

Corteguera, Elliott, Scioli, Tuttle, Harrington to complete research projects

The Hall Center for the Humanities has announced its Humanities Research Fellows and Creative Work Fellow for the 2010-11 academic year. Louis Corteguera, Dorice Elliott, Emma Scioli and Leslie Tuttle were selected as research fellows. Joseph Harrington received the creative work fellowship.

Hall Center fellows are selected through a highly competitive process. Fellowships provide a semester of release time from teaching, an office in the Hall Center and a small research stipend. Fellows often use the time to work on book manuscripts or large-scale works of art. All 2010-11 fellows will work on book projects during their semester of residence at the Hall Center.

Corteguera, associate professor of history, will work on “Talking Images in the Spanish Empire,” a study of the uses and abuses of images in the 16th and 17th centuries. While Catholics prayed before crucifixes and devotional paintings, and Spanish subjects took off their hats for royal portraits and symbols, people also acted out their frustrations by reaching out and cutting, trampling and spitting on images, religious and royal alike. His study will allow for better understanding of the power, as well as the limits, of religious and political propaganda.

Elliott, associate professor of English, will examine novels and other literary works about and by convicted British felons who were transported to Australia in the first half of the 19th century. “Transporting Class: Reinventing Social Relations in Australian Convict Literature” will attempt to discover how a new class system developed, showing how these literary works both destabilized and reincorporated traditional British distinctions between social classes.

Scioli, assistant professor of classics, will complete the manuscript for her first book, “Images of Sleep: Envisioning Dreams in Latin Elegy.” The elegists, ancient Rome’s most introspective poets, filled their poems with vivid accounts of
dreams. In creating these varied and visually striking textual dreamscapes, the elegists exploited dynamics and tensions inherent in certain types of visual experience. Her book will extract from the poetry of Tibullus, Propertius and Ovid new information about the Roman concept of “seeing” dreams.

Tuttle, assistant professor of history, will ask when and how did dreams transform from supernatural messages to disclosures about the “inner” person. Her book, “Dreaming in the Age of Reason,” investigates 17th century French writing about dreams. She will argue that the intense interest in dreams during this period reveals the cultural tensions that arise from the idea that credible knowledge must be objective and impersonal.

Harrington, associate professor of English, will use the creative work fellowship to write “Goodnight Whoever’s Listening,” the final volume of a series of books, collectively titled “Dead Mom Scrolls.” A story of his mother’s life and historical milieu, the project requires substantial biographical and historical research. But it is also a creative project, written in innovative textual forms that diverge from the conventions of academic, journalistic and literary writing. In these respects, it will be unique within the increasingly important field of life writing.

Pharmacy residency program named best in nation

KU’s Pharmacy Residency Program has been named best in the nation by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The society presented KU with its 2009 Pharmacy Residency Excellence Award on Dec. 5 in Las Vegas. The award recognizes a combined postgraduate education/pharmacy residency program in health-system pharmacy administration. At KU, residents gain hands-on work experience at KU Hospital while completing their master’s degrees in pharmacy practice. The Department of Pharmacy Practice and KU Hospital administer the program jointly.

This is the first time KU has applied for the award. All 14 residents in the program and more than a dozen graduates joined faculty to accept the award, the only one of its kind in the nation.
Rick Couldry, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, said KU’s program earned the top honors for its excellence in teaching methodology, innovative programs and efforts to inspire pharmacy residents to become leaders in the profession. The award selection committee also pointed to the program’s 39-year history of producing pharmacists that have achieved excellence in their field and who have held leadership positions in all aspects of pharmacy, including clinical, administrative and academic settings at the local and national levels.

The honor validates the program’s mission, Couldry said.

“This award serves as a reminder to everyone who has gone through the program and those in it now how important this work is,” Couldry said. “We wanted to remind everyone of this and instill pride in the program.”

The Pharmacy Residency Program was established in 1970 by Harold N. Godwin, associate dean and professor of pharmacy practice.

New program to explore healing potential of Kansas plants

Timmermann, Kindscher to lead effort

A new Native Medicinal Plant Research Program will look into the potential of native plants from Kansas and the region as botanical remedies, dietary supplements, cosmetic products and pharmaceutical or veterinary agents.

Barbara Timmermann, University Distinguished Professor and chair of medicinal chemistry, and Kelly Kindscher, senior scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey, have earned funding for the five-year, $5 million project, titled “Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design: Plants for the Heartland.”

Funding from the Kansas Bioscience Authority has created Heartland Plant...
Innovations Inc. to oversee development and progress of the project.

“Kansas and the Great Plains haven’t been explored very well in terms of looking for medicinal compounds and useful plants,” Kindscher said. “This project is a tremendous opportunity for our labs to both explore Kansas wild plants for interesting compounds and also to see if there’s a prospect for those to enter the market as natural products or cosmetics or pet-care and veterinary products.”

Biologically active compounds derived from plants have been useful in the prevention and treatment of many diseases. Plant derivatives are effective medicinal compounds in their natural form and as templates for synthetic modification. More than 20 new drugs with origins in terrestrial plants have been marketed between 2000 and 2009. These and other natural products are undergoing clinical trials and show the importance of compounds from natural sources in modern drug discovery efforts.

Kelly Kindscher

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

The labs of Timmermann and Kindscher will combine their extensive experience in floristic studies, ethnobotany, medicinal and natural product chemistry to evaluate the effectiveness of biologically active agents from native plants and traditional herbal remedies. They will conduct research on plants, their uses, production, conservation and potential for success in the marketplace.

Plant collection and ecological assessment will be performed in the wild. Chemical research and biological assays will be conducted in the cutting-edge research laboratories at the Multidisciplinary Research Building, Structural Biology Center and the Kansas Biological Survey on KU’s west campus.

Research plots will be established on land owned by KU Endowment near the Lawrence airport. The KU Field Station will play a pivotal role in the biomedical research by providing secure access to high-quality agricultural land as well as direct support for the development of cultivation research plots and native plant production.
Cleaver to headline Martin Luther King Day celebrations

U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, D-Mo., will be the keynote speaker at the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Banquet.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. Jan. 24, at the Kansas Room in the Kansas Union. Tickets are $20 and must be purchased by Jan. 21. Tickets are available at the Office of Multicultural Affairs in the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center, 1299 Oread Ave., or by calling (785) 864-4350. Ticket purchase forms also can be downloaded from www.oma.ku.edu (click on the photo of Martin Luther King Jr. on the left side of the Web site) and mailed to the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Cleaver is in his third term representing the Fifth District of Missouri in the House of Representatives and sits on the Financial Services Committee, Homeland Security Committee and the Speaker’s Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

He was born in Waxahachie, Texas, and graduated from high school in Wichita Falls, Texas. Cleaver attended Prairie View A&M University, earning a bachelor’s in sociology.

Cleaver arrived in Kansas City, Mo., as an activist with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, charged with founding a Kansas City chapter of the civil rights organization. In 1979, Cleaver was elected to the city council of Kansas City. After three terms, he ran for and was elected mayor, where he made history as the first African-American to hold the city’s highest office.

As mayor, Cleaver worked to improve the quality of life for the city’s residents. He championed initiatives designed to create jobs and stimulate economic development, including infrastructure improvements, city planning and youth outreach. Cleaver’s exemplary leadership earned him a two-term position as president of the National Conference of Black Mayors.

Cleaver and his wife, Dianne, have been married for more than 30 years. They have four grown children and three grandchildren.

“The Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center are proud of honoring Dr. King, one of the most prominent members of the civil rights movement,” said Robert N. Page Jr., director of the Office of...
Multicultural Affairs.
“The Martin Luther King Jr. program will showcase the dreams, aspirations and goals of this great civil rights leader.”

KU lauded as university that inspires Native American students

KU is one of seven universities in the nation that “inspire and encourage students to participate, connect and explore,” and “offer support and academic challenges to the motivated student,” according to the Native American college guide Winds of Change.

KU was joined by Columbia University in New York, Ohio State University, Evergreen State College in Washington, Augsburg College in Minnesota and the University of California-Irvine in the 16th edition of Winds of Change college guide.

KU’s close proximity to Haskell Indian Nations University, which enrolls about 900 students at its Lawrence campus, allows for unique academic and cultural exchanges between the two schools.

“We are very proud that KU is cited as one of the top seven universities that inspire Native American students and acknowledge that Haskell Indian Nations University is an integral part of that recognition,” said Fred Rodriguez, interim associate vice provost for diversity and equity. “Our relationship with Haskell Indian Nations University has continued to evolve and grow. We value our colleagues at Haskell and understand that our respective institutions are only strengthened more with our cooperative and collaborative partnerships.”

Partner programs include:

— Haskell Mentor Program, which matches a Haskell transfer student with a KU student mentor, faculty mentor and staff guide to assist in adjusting to life at KU

— Haskell/KU Exchange Program, which gives KU students the opportunity to take classes and participate in the cultural life at Haskell

— KU/Haskell Bridge Project, which provides support and guidance to Haskell students interested in pursuing degrees in the biomedical sciences
KU’s liaison to Haskell is Devon Abbott Mihesuah, Oklahoma Choctaw, who is the Cora Lee Beers Price Teaching Professor in International Cultural Understanding.

KU also offers a Global Indigenous Nations Studies program, an interdisciplinary program for undergraduate and graduate students, and the Tribal Law and Government Center at the School of Law, which offers a certificate program that gives law students the skills to effectively advocate for tribes. Its students also participate in the National Indian Law Moot Court Competition. The center is directed by Stacy L. Leeds, Cherokee, professor of law, who has served on the courts for the Cherokee, Prairie Band Potawatomi, Kickapoo and Kaw Nations.