Skew of rock

School of Education forms band for national academic conference

Getting a room full of researchers to dance is an achievement very few academics could list on a curriculum vita.

A group of faculty, graduate research assistants and students, primarily from the School of Education, recently pulled a band together and got a group of academics to groove after a long, hard day of discussing educational measurement. The band, known as the Skew, rocked a reception at the American Educational
The band was the brainchild of Neal Kingston, director of the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation and a “rock music impresario in his spare time.” Kingston had been attending the conference for 30-plus years. He thought the reception could use some livening up, so he shared his idea with the conference directors. They loved it. “We’re big on work hard/play hard at CETE,” Kingston said with a laugh. “KU certainly needs to be represented at this sort of thing, so I put out a call for a band.”

The band solicitation garnered a litany of music lovers and performers from across the School of Education.

The Skew was chosen as the name as a tribute to skewed distribution, the research term relating to unequal observations above or below the mean. In short, they are referred to as a positive or negative skew, or just the skew. They also considered the Standard Deviants and a few other research-related monikers.

Julia Shaftel, research associate at CETE, was among those to answer the call. Legend has it Shaftel played keyboards and sang in a punk band in the past.

“When real musicians showed up I said ‘That’s fine, I’ll be assistant manager,’” Shaftel said. Though she wasn’t on stage, band members said her contribution can’t be overlooked.

“Julia was the glue that held a lot of this together,” Kingston said, pointing out she hosted rehearsals at her house and coordinated schedules.

That is to say, partial rehearsals. As one might imagine, it can be difficult to get seven researchers, grad students and faculty members in one place at the same time.

“The performance was a lot of fun,” said Angela Broaddus, a doctoral student who played keyboards. “It was very difficult to find rehearsal time. We didn’t rehearse all together until we got to Denver. But it all came together.”

“We decided it would be a train wreck,” joked Gretchen Anderson, a graduate student who handled vocal duties for the Skew.

The performance was far from a catastrophe. The band performed four songs, all parodies of popular hits, with new lyrics focusing on educational measurement. “Tenure Track” details the anxiety all young faculty members face in seeking tenure, set to the tune of Simon and Garfunkel’s “Kodachrome.” The band went back to the Simon and Garfunkel catalog for “Test Prepping,” a take off of “Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard.” “Devil Went Down to KU” retold the tale of Charlie Daniels Band’s “Devil Went Down to Georgia” as a story about analyzing research data and publishing, complete with frantic fiddling. “Baby Got Backing” was perhaps the boldest attempt, reworking Sir Mix-a-Lot’s ode to the
posterior into a paean to grant funding.

Two other bands played the reception as well. At first, the idea of a “battle of the bands” of sorts was floated. Instead, the bands decided to work together, trading ideas and even working together to coordinate equipment rentals once they arrived in Denver.

There is already talk about getting the band together for next year’s conference. Judging from this year’s reception, live entertainment is a welcome addition to a conference in which thousands of researchers discuss educational measurement several days in a row.

“People came up to me the last three days of the conference saying how much fun they had at the reception,” Kingston said. “They even ran out of food.”

To see videos of the Skew’s performance, visit http://www.youtube.com/user/wwwCETEu#p/u/3/PqYiu8I4Eq8.

**The Skew is:**

- Gretchen Anderson, graduate student in educational measurement, vocals
- Angela Broaddus, doctoral candidate in curriculum and teaching, keyboards
- Diana (DJ) Buie, student in the graduate licensure program, fiddle and violin
- Colby Cormack, senior in social studies education, hand drums
- Jon Hankley, the only Skew member who does not attend or work at KU, bass
- Zach McCall, doctoral student in special education, drums
- Lauren Ray, senior in journalism, lead guitar
- Neal Kingston, director of the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation, manager
- Julia Shaftel, research associate at the Center for Educational Research and Testing, assistant manager

**Sample lyrics by The Skew:**

From Tenure Track:

- When I think back on all the stats I learned in grad school
- It's a wonder I research at all
- I wish my lack of publications hadn't hurt me none
- But I can read the writing on the wall.
- Tenure track
- You give me that nice bright future
- You promise those carefree summers
- Makes you think all the world's a sunny day, oh yeah!
- I got my doc'tral diploma
- I love to teach intro stats
- So dean don't take my tenure track away
Chancellor appoints Haufler to lead retention, graduation rate efforts

Task force recommends steps to help students stay, finish on time

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little has met the first goal of the Task Force Report on Retention and Timely Graduation by appointing Christopher Haufler to direct implementation of the task force’s recommendations to improve retention and graduation rates at KU.

Christopher Haufler

Haufler, professor and chair of ecology and evolutionary biology, will serve as special assistant to incoming Provost Jeffrey S. Vitter and will play a key role in the strategic planning effort. Haufler has taught at KU since 1979 and is faculty adviser for KU’s Journal of Undergraduate Research, a peer-reviewed publication designed to showcase undergraduate research in a range of academic disciplines.

Gray-Little recently approved a report from the task force she appointed last fall to develop recommendations on raising retention and graduation rates. It was one of three formed as part of a “Charting the Future” strategic planning process that reflected the chancellor’s three initial goals: increasing retention and graduation rates, elevating KU’s scholarly and research profile and ensuring KU has the necessary resources to accomplish these goals.

Among public institutions in the Association of American Universities with similarly qualified students, 87 percent of students return for their second year and 72 percent earn their degrees within six years. KU retains only about 80 percent of first-year freshmen, and only 60 percent graduate within six years.

AAU is a consortium of 63 leading U.S. and Canadian research universities, including KU.
“KU’s first mission is educating students so it is critical that we improve the retention and graduation of our students,” said Gray-Little. “The more engaged they are in their learning, the more likely they will complete their degrees on time and be successful. That is what every parent wants.”

The task force’s recommendations include:

– Complete the first major update of KU’s general education requirements in more than two decades to more closely match its peers and meet the needs of contemporary undergraduate students. KU requires 30 percent to 50 percent more general education credit hours than comparable research universities. As a result, nearly one of five students who have met the goals of their majors fail to graduate because they have not satisfied general education coursework, and transfer students routinely must add 12 to 15 hours beyond the 124 needed to graduate because of the specificity of KU’s general education requirements.

General education at KU is designed to provide all students with core skills and the capacity for critical thinking, fundamental knowledge of diverse disciplines, an understanding of contemporary issues, an appreciation of diversity and a sense of social responsibility.

– Enhance and integrate advising options to improve transitions between years and provide a simpler method for students to track their academic progress toward a degree, vital because nearly three-quarters of all students change their majors while in college.

– Establish an “early warning system” to detect struggling students and intervene to assist and create first-year seminars to engage freshmen more quickly in university life and their long-term academic planning. Such seminars might be similar to programs now offered through the University Honors Program.

– Reduce graduation requirement of 124 hours to 120 hours to match peer universities.

– Establish an Office of Undergraduate Research to facilitate more opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research projects.

– Increase faculty and student participation in service learning projects.

– Promote course redesigns, especially for large lecture classes, to generate opportunities for more interaction, writing and problem-solving activities.

The chancellor has directed Vitter to examine these fundamental changes as part of the overall strategic planning activity, which will be a collaborative effort involving the deans, the faculty and the entire university community.

“The redesign of course experiences needs to emphasize more experiential learning opportunities, include expanded roles for students in research, address working and
living in a global environment, provide opportunities for developing capacities for leadership and citizenship and enhance ethical reasoning,” Gray-Little said.

Submitted/Mugur Geana

This poster is part of a campaign to increase awareness of colon cancer in the Latino community. Designed by two KU professors, the campaign also features a radio novella.

Professors create radio novella, campaign to increase cancer awareness in Latino community

Efforts combine traditional, new media to reach parents, children

Cancer is a disease that affects the entire family, regardless of gender, race or ethnicity. With that in mind, a pair of KU professors have designed a complex media campaign to promote colorectal cancer screening, including a 10-episode radio novella they hope will reach parents and their adult children.
Mugur Geana, assistant professor of journalism, and K. Allen Greiner, associate professor of family medicine at the KU Medical Center, received a grant from the American Cancer Society to develop a campaign to raise awareness about colorectal cancer and stress the importance of screenings among the Latino population in the Kansas City area.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among Latino men and the third leading cause of cancer death among Latino women. Although deaths by colorectal cancer have steadily decreased over the last 20 years, mainly because of the implementation of new screening protocols and procedures, research has shown there is not enough information in the community about the disease, how it can be prevented or diagnosed during early stages, when survivability rates exceed 75 percent.

Geana, a doctor and professor of journalism, and Greiner, head of the research division of the Department of Family Medicine, have collaborated for about four years. Their most recent project will use both traditional and new media to get their message out.

“We’re trying to dispel some of the myths and misconceptions about colon cancer existent in the Latino community,” Geana said.

Geana and Greiner have written scripts for a 10-part radio novella that will air on Spanish language station La Super X AM 1250 beginning in mid-July. The novella features three main characters, a father and mother, both over 50, and their daughter, in her 20s. At a family gathering, the daughter informs her parents that her friend’s father has been diagnosed with colon cancer. The series then follows the family as they discuss the disease, learn about screenings, decide whether or not to get screened and as they eventually go through the examination process.

The intent of the novella is to share the message that, while colorectal cancer primarily affects people older than 50, the entire family should be aware of the disease and support loved ones going through both screenings and treatment.

La Super X was chosen both because it has the largest Latino listener base in Kansas City and because it has
previously aired similar programs related to diabetes prevention.

The campaign will also reach out to the community through posters and fliers in locations such as grocery stores, laundromats and health care clinics, primarily in Wyandotte County. The printed materials include the aforementioned statistics on colorectal cancer and encourage people to get screenings. Further community reach will be achieved by involving Promotoras de Salud, community health advocates enrolled in a special program at El Centro Inc. in Kansas City.

“We hope Promotoras will be able to take the message to a personal level with our audience, and provide details and explanations that cannot be conveyed by media,” Greiner said.

A comprehensive training for promotoras on colorectal cancer etiology, risk factors, screening methods and how to navigate the health system in order to get a screening test was conducted by Geana July 6 at El Centro.

To reach out to a younger demographic, the campaign will also include a Facebook ad in English and Spanish that will take visitors to the American Cancer Society’s website, featuring more information on colorectal cancer.

“The message for the Facebook ad is ‘colorectal cancer can be prevented. People over 50 should get an exam. Talk to your parents about it,’” Geana said.

Geana and Greiner plan to monitor campaign impact and analyze the results of the campaign and present their findings to the American Cancer Society.
The Children's Campus of Kansas City and Educare of Kansas City had a full house at its recent grand opening. The $15.5 million facility will house research and service efforts for the wellbeing of children.

**Children's Campus opens its doors to community**

**$15.5 million facility is collaboration of three programs**

The Children’s Campus of Kansas City and the Educare of Kansas City held its grand opening June 8. About 400 community members, well-wishers and representatives from public and private organizations attended.

The $15.5 million, three-story, 72,000-square-foot building at 444 Minnesota Ave., in Kansas City, Kan, will serve as a new collaborative national model for education, service and research and house three longstanding programs: Juniper Gardens Children’s Project of KU, Project EAGLE Community Programs of the KU Medical Center and the Family Conservancy.

Services offered on the campus include early childhood education, family support, health, oral health and mental health services for young children and their families in Kansas City, Kan., and Wyandotte County. The campus will also be a major regional research and training center.

The campus will support the educational success, health and well-being of more than 1,000 children and families annually in Kansas City, Kan.

Under the leadership of Martha Staker, CEO, the Children’s Campus of Kansas City Inc. was incorporated in 2004 to close the gap between research and practice to improve the outcomes of disadvantaged children.

Its mission is to assure that children birth to age 5 who are most at risk for academic failure and their families have seamless and integrated access to the public-private resources they need to succeed.

Research shows that investments in the early years have high rates of return and interventions at later ages in the life cycle have low economic returns. People who participate in enriched early childhood programs are more likely to complete school and much less likely to require welfare benefits, become teen parents or participate in criminal activities.

On the first floor of the building, Project EAGLE Community Programs will manage the Educare of Kansas City center, which is part of the Bounce Leaning Network. The
Bounce Learning Network, established by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund and Ounce of Prevention Fund with local public-private partners, consists of 11 partnerships in Chicago; Omaha; Milwaukee; Tulsa; Denver; Oklahoma City; Miami; Seattle; West DuPage, Ill.; Waterville, Maine; and Kansas City, Kan. There are 12 Educare classrooms.

Additionally, Project EAGLE directs the community’s Early Head Start program, Healthy Families Program and Connections Centralized Intake and Referral System. More than 1,000 children and their families will receive services annually from Project EAGLE. Research and evaluation are part of each of the programs.

Also on the first floor is a 1,000-square-foot health clinic with three accessible examining rooms that will be staffed by clinicians of the KU Medical Center in partnership with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kan. and safety-net clinics.

The Family Conservancy will occupy the second floor of the building and will provide mental health services, parenting education, crisis intervention, assistance to overcome poverty and professional development services. They will serve 1,200 parents and 1,500 early education professionals annually.

The Juniper Gardens Children’s Project, one of the 13 centers of KU’s Life Span Institute, will be located on the third floor of the building. Juniper Gardens will improve children’s developmental experiences and their academic and social achievements through research. Although the campus focuses on children and their families in its immediate community, the research generated from the new collaborative model will influence policy and practice.

Substantial monetary, in-kind and moral support has come from many community sources. Major donors include the Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Fund; J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation; Local Initiatives Support Corp.; Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas; Buffett Early Childhood Fund Broadway Square Partners; Hall Family Foundation; JE Dunn Construction; Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation; George Kaiser Family Foundation; Lafarge; and William T. Kemper Foundation.

Individual families from the community have contributed $12,000. Dickinson Financial Corp. donated the land. Former KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway donated $50,000 on behalf of KU.

Speakers at the program were: Martha Staker, president and CEO of the Children’s Campus of Kansas City and executive director of Project EAGLE, a division of the Department of Pediatrics, KU Medical Center; Mayor Joe Reardon, Unified...
Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kan.; Dan Pedersen and Harriet Meyer, the Bounce Network of Educare Centers; Bill Dunn Sr., JE Dunn Construction; Mary Cohen, Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust; Timmasha Clanton, Project EAGLE policy council president; Dr. Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center; Betsy Vander Velde, president and CEO of the Family Conservancy; and Charles Greenwood, executive director of Juniper Gardens Children’s Project, senior scientist and professor, KU’s Life Span Institute.

Levy, Nalbandian, Kennedy Chapin earn Steeples Service to Kansas Awards

Three KU faculty members were honored this spring for outstanding service to the state.

Recipients of the 2010 Steeples Service to Kansas Award are Richard Levy, the J.B. Smith Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law; John Nalbandian, professor of public administration; and Rosemary Chapin, professor of social welfare.

Richard Levy

Don Steeples, the Dean A. McGee Distinguished Professor of Applied Geophysics and senior vice provost for scholarly support, and his wife, Tammy, established the award in 1997 to honor Don Steeples’ parents, Wally and Marie Steeples, and to recognize outstanding service by KU faculty to other Kansans. The award provides recipients with $1,000 and an additional $1,000 base adjustment to their salaries.
“The KU faculty is a tremendous resource for the citizens of Kansas,” said Gregory B. Simpson, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “The service that they provide to the state goes far beyond their teaching and scholarly responsibilities. The recipients of the Steeples Award exemplify the many ways in which KU gives back to the state, and we are all very grateful to the Steeples family for making this recognition possible.”

Recipients were honored by their respective schools during Commencement weekend.

Information about the recipients is below.

**Richard Levy** is the J.B. Smith Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law. He joined the law faculty in 1985, having received his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School and served as a clerk for Judge Richard Posner, U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit. In teaching and research, Levy has focused on constitutional and administrative law, and has a particular interest in government institutions, legislation and public policy analysis. He is a prolific scholar whose most recent publications include “Administrative Law: Agency Action in Legal Context” (Foundation Press 2010, with Robert L. Glicksman). Levy has been active in law reform efforts in the state, including a substantial role in the comprehensive review and revision of the state’s Child in Need of Care Code, Juvenile Offender Code, Administrative Procedure Act and Judicial Review Act. His expert advice has been sought on a number of occasions when he has testified before state legislative committees on issues including flag burning, reorganization of the board of agriculture and campaign finance. Levy is fluent in German and has studied in Germany and was an exchange professor at the University of Vienna.

**John Nalbandian** has been a faculty member in the Department of Public Administration since 1976. He was department chair from 1983 to 1988 and again from 2000 to 2008. He
also was the first Greg and Emma Melikian Visiting Scholar of Urban Affairs at Arizona State University from 2007 to 2010. He came to Kansas from Los Angeles, where he earned his doctorate at the University of Southern California. In addition to his faculty position at KU, he served on the city council in Lawrence from 1991 to 1999. The council elected him mayor in 1993 and again in 1996. He has spoken nationwide and in the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia to professional officials, academic staff and academic audiences about council-staff relations, the high performance governing body and trends in local government. Among many awards he has received, this year he earned the Charles H. Levine award for lifetime accomplishments in teaching, research and service by the American Society for Public Administration and the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration.

Rosemary Kennedy Chapin is an award-winning teacher and researcher, possessing extensive program development experience in the social policy arena. After receiving her doctorate, she worked as a research/policy analyst for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, where she was involved in crafting numerous long-term care reform initiatives. In 1989, she joined the faculty at KU, where she established and now directs the Office of Aging and Long Term Care, which was created to improve social service practice and policy for older adults, particularly low-income elders. Chapin has been recognized at state and federal levels for her social policy research and advocacy. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters on social policy, she has also co-authored a text and book chapters on the use of the strengths approach in social work practice with older adults. She teaches social policy and social work and aging courses at KU.
"The Founding of Chicago," by Aaron Douglas


Edited by William J. Harris, associate professor of English, who organized the Douglas conference, the issue features articles by an impressive group of nationally known scholars and artists who spoke at the conference, including Terry Adkins, University of Pennsylvania; Gerald Early, University of Washington; Farah Jasmine Griffin, Columbia University; Amy Helene Kirschke, University of North Carolina-Wilmington; David Krasner, Emerson College; Robert G. O’Meally, Columbia University; and Richard Powell, Duke University. Moreover, it includes two specially commissioned essays on Douglas by Stephanie Fox Knappe, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, formerly of the Spencer, who served as exhibition coordinator for the Douglas show and coordinated the conference symposium; and Cheryl Ragar, Kansas State University. The issue also features a generous selection of images of Douglas’s work.

“The issue has been long in the making but the wait has been worth it,” Harris said. “It was a very special moment when a great group of scholars came together to celebrate this major African-American figure. The celebration went beyond the scholars and also included the audience which was made of up family, graduate students, American and international scholars and town folks. The structure let everybody speak, which made those days democratic, profound and moving. Everybody was an expert and nobody was an expert but wonderful things were said in those two days. I am glad that we could get these essays in a journal, a published account — to both record the conference and give a sense of the intellectual excitement.”

To purchase the Douglas edition of American Studies (Volume 49, Number 1/2, $12), make checks payable to MAASA and send to Managing Editor, American Studies, 1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Bailey 213, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7545.

About “Aaron Douglas: African American Modernist”

Curated by Susan Earle, curator of European and American Art at the Spencer Museum of Art, “Aaron Douglas: African American Modernist” was the first major exhibition to celebrate the life, art and legacy of Douglas, an African-American artist from Kansas who went on to become the most important visual artist of the Harlem Renaissance.
The Spencer-organized exhibition, some seven years in the making, was the first-ever national traveling retrospective of Douglas’s work and brought together nearly 100 works from public institutions and private collections across the country. The exhibition debuted at the Spencer in fall 2007 and then traveled to venues in Nashville, Washington D.C. and New York. The exhibition included an eponymous, multi-author scholarly book, edited by Earle and published by Yale University Press. That publication, as well as the recently published “Aaron Douglas and Alta Sawyer Douglas: Love Letters from the Harlem Renaissance,” is for sale in the Spencer’s shop and through the Spencer Museum of Art website: www.spencerart.ku.edu.

Timmermann to lead American Society of Pharmacognosy

Medicinal chemistry professor elected vice president, will become president

Barbara Timmermann, University Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Kansas, has been elected vice president of the American Society of Pharmacognosy.

Barbara Timmermann

Her duties will begin with her installation at the society’s annual meeting, which starts July 10 in Tampa, Fla. She will become president at the 2011 annual meeting in San Diego. Timmermann will be only the second female president since the foundation of the society in 1959.

The purpose of the American Society of Pharmacognosy is to promote the development of pharmacognosy, a branch of pharmacology that deals with drugs in
their natural states and with medicinal herbs or other plants; to provide opportunity for association among the researchers in the science and in related sciences; to provide opportunities for presentation of research achievements; and to promote the publication of meritorious research.

The society is international in scope and brings together men and women dedicated to the promotion, growth and development not only of pharmacognosy but all aspects of those sciences related to and dealing in natural products. The society has more than 1,100 members.

At KU, Timmermann leads the new Native Medicinal Plant Research Program, which 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. The five-year, $5 million project is funded by the Kansas Bioscience Authority.

New Financial Literacy Program aims to help students avoid debt

A new Financial Literacy Program at KU will help students manage money, create and follow budgets and keep debt to a minimum. The pilot program will be implemented this fall.

The Financial Literacy Program is based on the work of the Financial Literacy Task Force, which issued its final report in spring 2009. It involves collaboration between the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Success, Student Senate, KU Memorial Unions and the School of Business, with input from the Office of Student Financial Aid and other offices across campus. The program is dedicated to educating students on how to analyze their finances, make sound decisions and control their financial lives at KU and into the future.

Surveys of KU students indicated that 82 percent thought it was important to learn more about money management and credit and debt management and 84 percent thought it was important to learn about savings and investing.

“Providing financial literacy tools will help KU students stay in school, persist through degree completion and succeed during and after their time at KU,” said Marlesia Roney, vice provost for Student Success.
The Financial Literacy Program will assist KU students through one-on-one sessions, class presentations, publications and educational outreach. Its website will offer videos and other social networking components. The program coordinator and student peer financial assistants also will be able to refer students to campus resources such as the Office of Student Financial Aid, Legal Services for Students, the Bursar’s Office and the School of Business’ Personal Finance course.

The program office will be located on the third floor of the Kansas Union.

KU staff working with university to collect a ton of food for community

Second annual summer food drive set for July 12-16

KU’s Unclassified and University Support Staff Senates are working together to collect a ton of food for the Lawrence community.

The second annual drive will collect food donations July 12 - 16 on campus. Collection points will be located across campus, and donations will be given to EKCAN Just Food, a partnership of Lawrence food pantries. Just Food annually serves more than 7,000 households and more than 25,000 individuals.

“Summer is a good time to hold a food drive because there is greater demand as students are home from school, and at the same time, donations traditionally have decreased,” said Thelma Simons, IT process improvement specialist and an organizer of the food drive. “Last year we had a successful drive, and this year we’re hoping the KU community can come together and gather an even greater donation to give back to the community.”

In its first year, the food drive collected more than 1,800 pounds. This year, food drive organizers are hoping to gather more than a ton. Non perishable food items, such as canned foods, rice, sauces, cereal, peanut butter and boxed dinners are needed most. Non food
items such as diapers and detergent are encouraged as well. To make a cash donation, visit www.justfoodfund.org. If making a cash donation, please write in the comments field the donation is for the KU Staff Summer Food Drive.

Collection points will be hosted at Anschutz Library, Burge Union, Computer Center, Student Involvement and Leadership Center office in the Kansas Union, Parking and Transit office, Strong Hall, Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center, Watson Library and numerous other sites across campus. To help promote the drive, individuals or offices can add the event to their Facebook pages. For more information, visit unclassifiedsenate.ku.edu or uss.ku.edu/fooddrive.shtml.

All University Teaching Summit set for Aug. 17

Gray-Little to give keynote address

“Firm Foundations for Learning” is the focus of the 2010 All University Teaching Summit. The event, open to all faculty and staff, is set for 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 17 in Budig Hall.

The summit will begin with a keynote by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, who will address why it's imperative KU faculty members establish firm foundations for learning in undergraduate and graduate education and will highlight key ways to help students stay the course.

Other topics of summit sessions include:

- Enhancing undergraduate student learning through research and writing
- Creating community in large classes
- Incorporating primary literature into graduate courses
- Using visualization and virtual reality in graduate courses
- Blending interactive theatre into a course
- Introducing multidisciplinary communication skills via simulation scenarios
- Teaching honors courses
- Developing alternative assignments
- Redesigning courses
- Using social media in the classroom
- Writing across cultures
- Improving the quality of student reflection
• Reinventing peer review to promote teaching excellence

• Improving classroom discussion

• Coaching students on cross-disciplinary projects

• Documenting student learning and teaching online and hybrid courses.

To register, contact the Center for Teaching Excellence at 864-4199 or cte@ku.edu. Lunch will be provided to those who register by Aug. 11. A continental breakfast will be served in the Center for Teaching Excellence until 8:20 a.m. The first session will begin at 8:30 a.m. in 130 Budig.

The conference is presented by the Center for Teaching Excellence, Office of the Provost and the KU Medical Center.

Change in workers' compensation means not all emergency room visits will be covered

Human Resources and Equal Opportunity has announced a change in the State Self Insurance/Workers’ Compensation process. Effective immediately, employees will be responsible for any costs not covered by his or her health insurance for a Lawrence Memorial Hospital emergency room visit if it is determined that the injury is not work-related. Injuries that did not result from or occur in the course of employment activities will not be covered by Workers’ Compensation.

Employees will need to determine at the time of the injury if they should go to the emergency room or schedule an appointment with their own health care provider. State Self Insurance/Workers’ Compensation will authorize self-referral medical payments up to $500 if the claim is determined to be compensable.

Human Resources and Equal Opportunity will continue to work with State Self Insurance/Workers’ Compensation to receive a determination of compensability as quickly as possible.
Federal work study funding levels to dip to previous years' amounts

Drop in dollars attributed to expiration of stimulus money

When students return to campus this fall seeking federal work study positions, there will likely be fewer positions available. That can be attributed to expiration of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the program.

Federal work study is a form of financial aid intended to promote part-time employment for eligible students to help avoid excessive debt while they are in school. It is only used for on-campus employment.

Funding levels for federal work study will be roughly equivalent to the 2008-09 levels. There was an increase in 2009-10, thanks to $284,667 in ARRA funds. In 2008-09, $1,260,822 was allocated, providing 514 positions. The number reached $1,630,000 in 2009-10, funding 576 positions. The coming academic year will have an allotment of $1,203,628. The number of position that money funds will be determined in the fall.

Federal work study allocations are determined by a formula considering several factors such as average tuition and fees, number of students enrolled full and part-time, income reported by students, including parents or spouse if applicable and number of schools competing for funds.

While ARRA funds helped create a larger-than-normal number of work study positions last year, the overall number of on-campus jobs actually decreased, due in large part to cuts to the university’s budget. There were 3,711 on campus student jobs in 2009-10, while there were 3,749 in 2008-09.

Students who apply for and don’t receive federal work study funding for 2010-11 may still be able to secure funding. Such students should visit the Office of Student Financial Aid website on Aug. 1. If funds are available, there will be an online application form.
The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications has announced a merger of the University Daily Kansan and KUJH-TV newsrooms. The Kansan will move to the second floor of the Dole Human Development Center, where the Stan and Madeline Stauffer Multimedia Newsroom, KUJH-TV studio and journalism faculty offices are located.

“The school of journalism has a reputation for excellence and forward-thinking curriculum,” said Ann Brill, dean of journalism. “We’ve taught multimedia reporting for more than a decade, yet, until now, our newsrooms were separate. In combining the newsrooms, we finally are creating the environment to prepare our students for an increasingly complex media world where content is primary and the channels of distribution serve the story and the storyteller.”

The Kansan offices, including the newsroom and advertising and business departments, will move the week of June 21. The space previously occupied by the Kansan in Stauffer-Flint Hall will become an expanded student services center.

Student advising, career center, recruiting, retention and communications offices will comprise the new centralized student services center. The Bremner Editing Center, graduate program and faculty research offices also will relocate to this area.

“We are very excited about the opportunities this change will bring for our students,” Brill said. “The decision to merge the newsrooms is in the best interest of our students and curricular needs.”

Founded in 1904, the Kansan is a student-run newspaper that is consistently ranked among the top college newspapers in the country, with its reporters and advertising staff continually winning national awards. Kansan.com, the online version of the Kansan, allows students to tell stories through multimedia. Magazine students also have the opportunity to work on the Kansan’s weekly lifestyle magazine, Jayplay.

“In the coming semesters we will see a
lot of significant changes and improvement in the quality of the Kansan and KUJH-TV products,” said Malcolm Gibson, Kansan general manager and news adviser. “The cooperation and camaraderie will improve, which will ultimately result in a better experience for the students and stronger content for all elements of student media.”

One of the goals of merging the newsrooms is to provide journalism students with greater opportunities to tell their stories more dynamically across print, broadcast, online and new and emerging media.

Founded in 1995, KUJH-TV is available on broadcast channel 14, Sunflower Broadband channel 31 and online at tv.ku.edu. Students who are interested in working in broadcasting test their skills at KUJH-TV by producing daily newscasts, sports shows and special-interest local programming. They have multiple opportunities to work as on-camera talent, producers, directors and writers.

“We are really looking forward to combining KUJH-TV and the Kansan,” said Terry Bryant, lecturer in journalism and media lab manager. “The students will benefit from learning in a true multimedia environment. The variety of skills they master will serve them well when they become professional journalists after graduating from KU.”

Watson releases 'Thoughts of a Cow' tuba CD

Recording features KU performances, compositions

A new CD by Scott Watson, professor of tuba-euphonium, has just been released on Potenza Records. Titled "Thoughts of a Cow,” the CD features Watson along with numerous KU composers, alumni and students, including KU music faculty member Ellen Bottorff on piano.

Scott Watson

The project was partially funded by a General Research Grant from KU and was recorded at Soundtrek Studios in Kansas City and Overland Park under the engineering of Jeff Schiller.
The title track, based on an idea from the David Sedaris book "Me Talk Pretty One Day," was composed by KU graduate James Henry in his senior year. The work featured Watson with the KU Trumpet Ensemble conducted by Professor Stephen Leisring as well as KU students on clarinet and percussion.

Other works include "Oread Dances" by KU alumnus Tom Szott, which features Watson joining forces with the tuba-euphonium sections of the famed Fountain City Brass Band and the KU Tuba Consort under the baton of Music Director Joseph Parisi. Paul Stevens, professor of horn, also is featured on the Brett Miller composition "Unseen Colors".

KU student Ben McMillan's composition "Tomes of Hardened Steel" was also composed especially for this recording, one with electronic orchestral accompaniment. McMillan's euphonium talents are also showcased on the CD's final track "Funsemble #4" along with KU alumnus percussionist Mary Watson.

Other works on the recording include Kansas City-based composer Barbara York's "Dancing With Myself" with Lee Harrelson, professor of low brass at Missouri Western University; "Aria con Variazioni" by Handel; Franz Strauss's "Nocturno" Hindemith's "Sonata for Alto Horn"; and "Allegro Spiritoso" by J.B. Senaillé.

This is the second recording on Potenza Records by Watson. He can also be heard on "Stepping Stones, Volume I," released in 2008.

Geologists launch project to power plants with geothermal energy

KU geologists have embarked on the first phase of a $4.2 million, three-year project designed to make it easier and more profitable to power electric plants with geothermal energy.

The effort is one of only 24 projects funded by the U.S. Department of Energy under its Innovative Exploration and Drilling Program. KU’s Department of Geology received $2.4 million in federal stimulus funding to help pay for the project. The rest of the funding came from the department and its collaborators, the University of Oklahoma and the Sierra Geothermal Power Corp.

Daniel Stockli, associate professor of geology, and his students Josh
Feldman and Josh Burris start work this month in Nevada’s Clayton Valley, 150 miles from Reno. Their first task is to create detailed maps of the surface and subsurface. They have been joined in Nevada by a team of Oklahoma geophysicists led by Katie Keranen, an assistant professor at OU. J. Douglas Walker, a professor of geology at KU, is also working on the project.

Geothermal energy uses the heat from subterranean hot springs and other geothermal sources to generate power. Today, geothermal plants provide electricity to customers in only six states, but the potential is far larger.

“The United States is blessed with vast geothermal resources, which hold enormous potential to heat our homes and power our economy,” Energy Secretary Steven Chu said in a statement. “These investments in America’s technological innovation will allow us to capture more of this clean, carbon free energy at a lower cost than ever before.”

In the past, explorers seeking geothermal reservoirs looked for steam coming out of the ground, Walker said. “We said, ‘Let’s not worry about whether there are any surface manifestations of heat. Let’s think about the geology of the subsurface first and then go from there.’ ”

The project’s most innovative aspects include its use of 3-D and 4-D thermochronometry and the integration of traditional geological methods with geophysical tools like seismic imaging, Stockli said. The team plans to create 3-D maps of the surface and subsurface and to provide an assessment of the temperature history of the valley’s subsurface.

Thermochronometry reads radioisotopic signatures preserved in minerals and rocks and charts temperature changes. The term “4-D” refers to a geologic feature’s height, depth, width and evolution over time. Seismic imaging sends an intense sound pulse into the ground and creates images out of the echoes from the blasts.

The data will be used to find the best sites for test drilling. Core samples and well data from those test holes will enable the team to predict the area’s geothermal potential.

KU students will work on every aspect of the project along with students from the department’s diversity outreach program at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez.

“They’ll be out there with hard hats on,” Stockli said.