Don Deshler, the Williamson Family Distinguished Professor of Special Education and director of the Center for Research on Learning, speaks to Sen. Pat Roberts about work to improve literacy among adolescents. Deshler and School of Education faculty were sharing information with Roberts that could help shape future education legislation.

Learning about learning

KU professor, experts provide input for upcoming education legislation

The future of federal education legislation might be strongly influenced by KU expertise.

Congress is working on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Senate

Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee called on Don Deshler, the Williamson Family Distinguished
Professor of Special Education and director of the Center for Research on Learning, to provide testimony May 4 on improving education for adolescents and middle school students. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., a member of the committee, later paid a visit to KU to learn more.

“This is the cornerstone of all educational legislation,” Deshler said. “It is the centerpiece.”

Deshler encouraged the committee to support programs that can improve reading skills among adolescents. Too often there is a misconception that if students have reading difficulty by middle school, it is too late to make a difference.

“We have compelling evidence that it’s not too late,” Deshler said. “We can indeed put these students in a position where they can respond to the curriculum and they can succeed.”

Research has shown that 70 percent of U.S. middle school and high school students read below their grade level. KU’s School of Education has developed programs to help such students not only reach proficiency but avoid dropping out and graduate ready for college.

In his testimony, Deshler also pointed out that the idea that it is wiser to invest in early education to prevent later problems is pervasive.

“Don’t get me wrong. I’m a strong proponent of making investments in our younger children,” Deshler testified. “There is compelling evidence to justify why it is sound public policy to do so. However, there are a couple fallacies in the position that it’s sufficient to put all of our eggs in the early childhood basket.”

Curriculum demands change as students move through school, which often lead to problems in students who previously demonstrated proficiency. Many other students move along to higher grades before developing necessary skills, he added.

Deshler said he thought there was positive reception to the ideas presented in his testimony. The committee, chaired by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, is considered the most influential education committee in the senate.

Following the hearing, Roberts scheduled a visit to KU to learn more. Roberts took part June 3 in a roundtable discussion with School of Education faculty. The faculty briefed Roberts on literacy programs developed at KU that are in use in area schools. Deshler described how KU has developed adolescent literacy curriculum and teaching tools that are in use in schools across the country. Faculty also shared how the program can be tailored to specific school districts and testimonials from students.

Deshler and his colleagues at the Center for Research on Learning have secured more than $180 million in externally funded literacy grants since the inception of the center in 1978. Deshler said he feels the legislation is among the most important in the nation, and encouraged investment in research for older student populations.

“Research is the engine that drives innovation, that drives improvement on the front lines,” he said in his testimony. “Historically, very little investment has been made in research for older populations. It’s another reason that we have fewer answers than we need for older students.”

Video of Deshler’s testimony and written testimony are available online at http://www.kucrl.org/news/deshler-testifies-before-senate-committee-on-health-education-labor-and-pen/.

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Spencer enlists top flight firm to lead expansion
The internationally renowned architectural firm of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners (formerly I. M. Pei & Partners) has been contracted to produce a phased master planning document for the future expansion of the Spencer Museum of Art.

“A planning document developed by this highly respected firm will articulate the new evolving vision of the Spencer Museum of Art,” said Saralyn Reece Hardy, museum director. “The Spencer is a leader among university art museums whose central educational role and innovative programs require future facility expansion.”

Pei Cobb Freed & Partners has designed 20 museums since its founding in 1955, among them the Grand Louvre, Paris; Musée d'art Moderne, Luxembourg; the East Building of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; and the Charles Shipman Payson Building, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine.

Yvonne Szeto, lead designer for the architectural team, will meet with museum staff during the next few months.

Szeto said that the Spencer project was inspired by the possibility of designing a museum expansion that would allow art to be enjoyed in the context of nature, given the proximity of the Spencer to historic Marvin Grove on the KU campus. The firm also embraces the museum’s vision of enhanced multidisciplinary teaching and research made possible through the integration of traditional galleries and new flexible, creative and innovative spaces within an ecologically sustainable facility.

The Spencer’s collection has grown considerably since 1978, when it numbered about 20,000 objects, to approximately 36,000 today. An enlarged facility will allow the Spencer to house the recently added collection of art and cultural objects of the Americas, Africa and Oceania, currently housed in Spooner Hall.

The founding gift that created an art museum at the university came in 1917 when Sallie Casey Thayer of Kansas City offered her collection of nearly 7,500 art objects. Especially deep in European and Asian works, Thayer’s collection includes Japanese prints; Asian ceramics; European, Asian and American decorative arts; American Indian works; Coptic textiles, American samplers and Winslow Homer watercolors, among many other artworks.

Beginning in 1926, the Thayer collection was housed in Spooner Hall, a Neo-Romanesque building located near the Spencer on the Lawrence campus’ central boulevard.

By the late 1960s, the museum had outgrown its quarters in Spooner Hall. Helen Foresman Spencer, another Kansas City collector and patron of the arts, made a gift of $4.6 million that funded construction of the current museum. The building opened in 1978 and incorporates the Helen Foresman Spencer Museum of Art, the Kress Foundation Department of Art History and the Murphy Library of Art and Architecture, which remain a part of the museum today.

The structure, built in 1978 of Indiana limestone, was designed by Kansas City architect Robert E. Jenks.

The museum has benefitted from major gifts of old master paintings from the Kress Foundation; a highly significant collection of pop art from the estate of the art critic Gene Swenson; old master prints from the Max Kade Foundation and the collection of John and Ann Talleur; magazine art from Esquire Magazine (ranging from photographic work by Diane Arbus to pinup art by Alberto Vargas); and recent gifts from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts Inc. and 50 works from the Herb and Dorothy Vogel Collection.
A new online undergraduate catalog is now live. The online version replaces print editions of the catalog.

Undergraduate catalog transitions to online home

New version replaces print, more interactive

The KU undergraduate catalog is more like an encyclopedia than a novel. Now that it’s online, users can find needed info with a few clicks instead of flipping through dozens of pages or reading from cover to cover.

The catalog is now online at catalogs.ku.edu/undergraduate. The print version will no longer be produced. The new version offers all the information of its predecessor with improved interconnectivity, interactivity and searchability.

The catalog’s homepage includes links for all schools and majors, all courses, regulations, resources and frequently asked questions. It also prominently features links to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and all of KU’s schools, except law and medicine. The latter two require an undergraduate degree for entry. The graduate catalog will go online in spring 2011. The School of Allied Health, School of Nursing and
Edwards Campus undergraduate programs and courses are included. Within each school, information is included about departments, degrees available and whether programs are available as majors or minors. For example, the School of Engineering has links for a bachelor's in aerospace engineering and three degrees offered in electrical engineering and computer science.

Each school also has a link to a page with an overview, information on admission, advising, majors, courses, financial aid, regulations and careers. They also feature photos from the school, points of distinction and current contact information.

When searching course listings, users will be able to search by codes such as non-Western and principal course requirements, credit hours, class level, department, and more. They also are linked to a schedule of classes, enabling users to check for openings and when the courses are offered.

The online catalog was developed by University Relations, which will also oversee the site’s maintenance and archiving. Users who have questions or problems with functionality can e-mail catalogs@ku.edu for assistance.

Submitted/Diana Carlin

Diana Carlin, professor of communication studies, stands at a podium on the set of mayoral debates in Tbilisi, Georgia. Carlin helped the city organize the first candidate debates in the nation's history.
When voters in Tbilisi, Georgia elected a mayor for the first time late last month, they were better informed about the candidates, thanks to the work of Diana Carlin. Carlin, professor of communication studies, traveled to the Republic of Georgia in April and again in May to help stage the country’s first “Western-style” debates among candidates. The events marked the first time such debates have been held in the country’s history. This was the first time Tbilisi residents directly elected a mayor. Before, the country’s president appointed mayors.

Carlin worked as a senior specialist under the auspices of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. She worked with the organization’s local team to organize two televised debates. The events aired on Georgian television May 8 and 9. “The two candidate debates may have been the first in the country but the professionalism with which everyone involved approached the debates and the end results were outstanding,” Carlin said. “It was an honor to be part of the team that helped democracy take another step forward in Georgia.”

Georgia uses a parliamentary political system, and nine parties or coalitions of parties with clearly defined platforms had a candidate vying for the mayoral post. Five of the parties were “qualified,” or had reached a determined threshold of representation in prior elections. The other four were “nonqualified,” or working toward qualified status.

The debates were a success, drawing rave reviews from viewers and sponsors. The first was for qualified candidates, the second for nonqualified. Carlin offered one-on-one training to the candidates, brokered an agreement with participants on rules and procedures before the debate, coordinated question development with local media representatives, wrote the moderator’s script, consulted with the research firm that conducted surveys and focus groups and assisted Georgian Public Broadcasting in staging the event.

There was significant concern among candidates about the fairness of the debates before they were held. Many felt they would be staged to benefit the incumbent.

“This is a country that’s new to democracy,” Carlin said. “They’re still a little frustrated when opposition parties can’t make much progress in garnering votes.”

After convincing the five qualified party candidates all would be fair, the first debate took place amid nerves and tensions from both organizers and debaters. After about 30 minutes, the crew knew they had a successful debate in place that wouldn’t be derailed by technical problems or political disagreement. After the first night, one of nonqualified party candidates who originally refused to take part decided the debates were fair and that he would join the debates after all.

Candidates took questions in four major areas: Jobs, social issues such as health care, infrastructure and social welfare. A time limit was established for responses and candidates’ microphones were turned off if the limits were exceeded. Any lingering suspicions that the events would favor the incumbent were quashed when he was
The mayoral debates marked the second time Carlin has worked in Georgia. In 2007, she led a similar project for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, managing a series of issue-based presidential debates among party representatives. The mayoral debates are one of several voter education and technical assistance projects the foundation undertook to support the May 30 municipal elections in the country in which the incumbent earned another term, only this time from the voters.

Carlin plans to analyze data collected through focus groups, online surveys and Georgian Public Broadcasting’s discussion boards following the debates to determine how to improve future debates in Georgia and in other new democracies and to analyze similarities and differences in voter learning and reactions with American data.

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems, founded in 1987, is a U.S.-based, nongovernmental organization, which has provided democracy assistance in more than 120 countries. It is funded in Georgia by the United States Agency for International Development.
Wheat State Whirlwind Tour hits the road again after one year absence

Chancellor, new faculty, staff see the sites of Kansas

After a dozen years traveling the state, one might think there’s not much left of Kansas to see. But the 12th edition of KU’s Wheat State Whirlwind Tour proved otherwise, visiting sites both new and familiar on a five-day, nearly 1,400-mile trek through Kansas.

Nearly 50 faculty and staff from all of KU’s campuses took the tour for the first time. Many of them are new to Kansas, but others have more than 30 years’ of experience at the university.

The tour hit the road May 19 and the first stop was a new site. Participants visited the site of the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility at Kansas State University. K-State researchers detailed the process of bringing the site to Kansas and preparations being made to conduct research into keeping the nation’s food supply safe.

Other stops were familiar but with a new twist. The always-popular ride with the buffalo was almost rained out, but participants were able to hop on a flatbed trailer and ride near the grazing giants. Rain the previous night made the pasture soft, causing the truck to get stuck on the return to the gate. After a few attempts at pulling it out, participants hiked back to the bus.

Several other stops highlighted small-town ingenuity, such as the Landoll Corp. in Marysville, a hometown plant that does business around the world. A visit to the Palco Public School highlighted distance education and other strategies small schools are using to stay viable. Several of the tourgoers hadn’t set foot on a farm before the tour, but that was changed with a visit to the wheat farm of tour director Don Steeple, senior vice provost and Dean A. McGee Professor of Applied Geophysics.

Steeple and other faculty members provided commentary along the way, educating tourgoers on the history, geography, agriculture, geologic and natural background and economy of the state. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and Interim Provost Danny Anderson came along for the first two days of the trip.

Another new development on this year’s tour was a Twitter feed detailing the group’s travels and sharing photos of the visits while the tour was under way. The photos and updates are available at www.twitter.com/kuwheatsta.
Faculty, students studying Greenland ice sheets for climate change clues

Students and professors from KU recently departed for a nine-day trip to Greenland, where they are investigating firsthand the impact of climate change on Earth’s biology, ecology and social systems.

They are blogging about their experiences. To read the blog, go to igert.ku.edu, then click on “Blog.”

The Greenland trip is part of the curriculum of C-CHANGE, Climate Change, Humans and Nature in the Global Environment, a landmark program funded by a $3 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship, known as IGERT, grant from the National Science Foundation.

The mission of C-CHANGE is to train a new generation of scientists, engineers and policymakers who will become leading researchers and educators on climate change.

“The Greenland ice sheet is the focus of intense scientific interest, and we are thrilled to be able to visit,” said Joane Nagel, University Distinguished Professor of Sociology and director of C-CHANGE. “While we’re there, we’ll be studying the history, ecology, geology and geography of Greenland.”

Accompanying 11 graduate students will be Nagel; David Braaten, deputy director of the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets; Sharon Billings, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology; and Cornelis van der Veen, professor of geography.

For the students, the trip could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience to a pristine paleoglacialogical and biogeochemical laboratory.

“I hope to get a sense of awe from experiencing the people, the ice and the science,” said Trish Jackson, a graduate student in geography.

“Greenland is often in the news as a place that is rapidly changing. I have a feeling that seeing the edge of the ice sheet will put things into perspective — the intersection of geologic time scales and human time scales.”

The C-CHANGE group flew from New York to Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, with the U.S. Air National Guard, which provides logistical support for NSF polar research teams. They left on June 1 and return to Kansas June 10.

The KU researchers have been studying several facets of climate change in Greenland and the Arctic, including the effect of ocean circulations on Norwegian fish stocks; the energy potential of mining gas hydrate deposits in permafrost accumulations; bowhead whale populations and whaling policies; the influence of climate change on cod populations; and the disappearance of the Viking population from Greenland.

“Greenland has been a theater of rapid and significant environmental change for centuries,” said Adam Sundberg, a graduate student in history. “Whether one encounters climate change science or 13th century Norse ruins, this is a landscape of past and future human ingenuity. I expect this trip to provide insight into the deep history of Greenland’s cultural adaptation to a variable natural world.”

The trip is a capstone to a semester-long C-CHANGE research course examining how the Greenland ice sheets have responded to climate change.
change since the last glacial maximum, introducing trainees to tools and techniques used to reconstruct the chronology of past ice margin locations, and providing an overview of how climate and ice sheet data used to reconstruct the past can enable scientists to predict future changes.

“I’m looking forward to seeing first hand a lot of what I’ve heard about at CReSIS,” said Ferdouz Cochran, a graduate student in geography. “I’m also interested to see how the landscape has been shaped by the ice and what the vegetation is like. To prepare for the muck we may encounter with melting ice and permafrost, I’ve searched high and low for the most comfortable waterproof hiking boots.”

Center for Autism Research awards annual discovery grants

By Karen Henry

The Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training, established in 2008 by the Life Span Institute, has issued its third annual Discovery Grants request for proposals. Proposals are due June 15.

Discovery Grants fund intramural pilot projects to attract researchers — especially younger scientists and collaborations between established investigators — to autism spectrum disorder research.

The two-year grant awards range between $25,000 and $40,000 for original empirical research projects at KU and KU Medical Center that will contribute to the overall competitiveness of K-CART for external funding.

The Discovery Grants program is made possible by a combined KU/KU Medical Center five-year, $1 million contribution.

Funding for pilot research is scarce but data from such studies is often critical to win external support from government and private funders, said Debra Kamps, director of K-CART.

Submission instructions are at http://kcart.ku.edu/research/discoverygrants-apply-2010.shtml.

Last year’s recipients were Merlin Butler, professor of psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the KU Medical Center and Qian Li, research assistant professor of pharmacy and toxicology. Butler and a multidisciplinary team will study the immune profiles of children with autism spectrum disorder and, specifically, their cytokine levels. Evidence indicates that children with autism show an altered immune response to environmental antigens. Li’s research will explore whether or not epigenetic alterations and autism-like behaviors caused by environmental factors early in life — such as prenatal exposure to viruses, stress and drugs — can be inherited.

The 2008 awardees were:

Kathryn Ellerbeck and Jill Jacobson are exploring the possible effects of hormones and the environmental toxin Bisphenol A on the expression of genes that may be related to autism. Ellerbeck is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at KU Medical Center’s Center for Child Health and Development. Jacobson is a professor of pediatrics/endocrinology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.
Cary Savage, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at KU Medical Center, Christa Anderson, doctoral student in cognitive psychology at KU, and John Colombo, professor of psychology and Life Span Institute director, are examining pupil and neural responses in children with autism spectrum disorder.

Kathy Thiemann-Bourque, assistant research professor, is studying how to increase communication of children with autism spectrum disorder with their typical peers through assistive communication devices.

Winnie Dunn, professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy Education at KU Medical Center, is identifying and validating methods for behavioral assessment that reflect brain activity of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, focusing on sensory processing, temperament and brain activity.

Submitted/Research and Graduate Studies

This image shows the future location of a rain garden and bioswale on west campus, near the new pharmacy building and Shankel Structural Biology Center, and plants that will be included in the project.

Rain garden, bioswale add green touch, practical function to west campus
Project to add native plants, protect research buildings

As KU’s new School of Pharmacy building nears completion on the west campus, a much less high-tech structure is starting to take shape in its shadow.

By Sept. 1, a rain garden and bioswale water feature will meander its way from the southwest corner of the pharmacy building, under the sidewalk in front of the Shankel Structural Biology Center and out into the vacant land to the south. The $230,000 project is funded primarily by a low-interest loan from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, with a 20 percent in-kind match from KU. When the project is completed the loan principal will be forgiven.

When completed, the feature will be home to nearly 3,000 plants, including 20 varieties of perennials and grasses, six varieties of shrubs and six varieties of trees. Most of the plants are native to Kansas and were chosen because they tolerate both wet and dry conditions.

Although the feature will be attractive, its primary function is highly practical.

“All the new roofs, parking lots and sidewalks in this area create a lot of run-off,” said Marion Paulette, landscape architect and project manager in Design and Construction Management. “The rain garden will hold the water temporarily, while the bioswale will direct it away from the research buildings.

This allows the water to percolate into the ground slowly and naturally. It also prevents soil erosion.”

The alternative, Paulette said, was an extensive network of underground pipes emptying into the city storm sewer. That approach would cost more than the rain garden and bioswale project.

The planting scheme was created in collaboration with Kelly Kindscher, senior scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey, and his colleagues. Additional design work was provided by Landworks Studio of Olathe. Mike Lang of Facilities Operations also participated in project planning, as did an advisory committee of university professional and academic staff covering a broad range of disciplines.

The width of the bioswale channel will vary between 10 and 20 feet, and the rain garden “pockets” will be 20 to 50 feet wide. Stone walls and earthen banks define the feature, and a footbridge will cross over it on a new walkway between the pharmacy building and the Multidisciplinary Research Building.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment was awarded money for “Innovative Green Infrastructure Projects” from the federal government through an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program. KDHE issued a request for proposals and the KU project was one of 15 selected to receive funding. Kansas State University also received a grant, as did towns and counties around the state.

Paulette views the feature as an educational opportunity, likely to interest students and faculty in civil engineering, architecture, environmental studies, and plant sciences, as well as school groups and the public. No funding is...
available now for informational signage, but she is hopeful that can be added later.

She’d also welcome ideas for what to name the feature.

“We’re looking for something more inviting than the title of the KDHE grant: the ‘West Campus Urban Storm Water Management Project,’” Paulette said.

Cateforis featured in PBS program on contemporary art, calligraphy

You never know where research will lead you. David Cateforis’ knowledge of a contemporary Chinese artist led to his involvement in a national television special — about a completely different artist.

Cateforis, professor of art history, is featured in a program discussing the work of contemporary Chinese artist Xu Bing, produced by New York City’s WNET public television. He got involved incidentally, after presenting a paper on Wenda Gu, another prominent Chinese artist. Jennifer Hallam, a producer of the series “Art Through Time” approached Cateforis after he presented a paper about Gu at the College Art Association conference in Dallas in 2008.

The program is available online and will begin airing on WNET in September. It will be distributed to public television stations around the country.

Cateforis flew to New York to discuss the work of Gu and Bing. The segment features his discussion of Bing’s work. Filmed at AW Asia, a space dedicated to Asian Art in New York, the segment shows Cateforis speaking in front of a set of four hanging scrolls by Bing.

“The innovation that Xu Bing comes up with is what he calls ‘square word calligraphy,’” Cateforis says in the segment. “And here, what he’s doing is using traditional Chinese calligraphic strokes to write English.”

Bing developed the technique after leaving China in 1990. His transition from one culture to another inspired his idea for writing that, from a distance looks like Chinese. Upon closer inspection, the calligraphic strokes actually form groupings of English letters.

“It’s not only a new way of writing, but when we look at it, we are encouraged to use a new way of seeing,” Cateforis said. “Seeing our own language written differently in ways that make it strange and wonderful and marvelous all over again.”

Before filming the program, Cateforis had researched Gu’s work extensively but was far from unfamiliar with Bing. He had met him before, when the artist came to KU to speak during an exhibition of his work mounted in 2007 at the Spencer Museum of Art, organized by Stephen Goddard, senior curator.

“This was a really nice conjunction of several different trajectories,” Cateforis said of his involvement in the program.

The segment is available online at: learner.org/courses/globalart/theme/8/index.html. The segment in which Cateforis appears starts at the 14:06 mark.
ITTC lands $4 million-plus grant to boost computing power, reduce energy use

The vast computing power needed to sequence genomes and peer into molecules depends upon powerful hardware that generates heat along with scientific breakthroughs.

Now, a KU computing facility dedicated to life sciences research will provide the infrastructure necessary to enable a 20-fold boost in computing power thanks to a $4.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. What’s more, instead of throwing off yet more heat from the machines, the upgrade will lead to a 15 percent cut in the computer complex’s use of natural gas and a drop in its electricity need.

“This is a superb example of a win-win,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “Investigators on the cutting edge of biological research will have much more robust computing at their command and see that their research is energy efficient and sustainable — a priority for our campus.”

KU’s Bioinformatics Computing Facility, housed at the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center in Nichols Hall, will be updated and expanded through an NIH Recovery Act Limited Competition: Core Facility Renovation, Repair and Improvement grant.

KU researchers will renovate more than 3,500 square feet of computing space and 2,400 square feet of support space. A sophisticated computer-rack cooling system will shuttle heat from computing equipment into the Nichols Hall boiler room, resulting in an expected 15 percent reduction in building natural gas use. Additionally, when outdoor temperatures drop below 45 degrees, a “dry cooler” will kick in, slashing electricity consumption by allowing cooling compressors to be powered down.

“We are confident that the renovated core facility will prove to be an exemplary centralized computational resource,” said Jun “Luke” Huan, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science, who spearheaded the project. “It is well-positioned to meet the ambitious data analysis needs of KU biomedical research and to dynamically respond to future computational challenges.”

Examples of research projects conducted at ITTC’s bioinformatics cluster include prediction of the misfolding of proteins that contributes to Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other neurodegenerative diseases; sequencing of genomes; data mining of emergent chemical genomics databases; and development of approaches to uncover interactions between genes and proteins.

Such advanced biomedical research pushes computers to their limit.

“The existing Bioinformatics Computing Facility is running at capacity and cannot be expanded further,” said Perry Alexander, acting director of ITTC. “It supports more than 50 research projects and 10 core service laboratories. Researchers from across KU participated in this proposal. It was a university wide effort to increase high-performance computing capacity for an exceptionally diverse collection of researchers, ranging from life sciences to engineering, while focusing on sustainability and energy efficiency.”

For researchers across KU, the renovations also will
increase access to computational resources by improving network connectivity between the facility and the rest of the Lawrence campus, the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., and external organizations.

ITTC, the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Office of Research and Graduate Studies, Molecular Graphics and Modeling Laboratory, K- INBRE Bioinformatics Core, Biodiversity Institute, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Design and Construction Management and Information Technology all contributed to the winning grant proposal.

KU School of Medicine-Wichita announces faculty promotions

The following faculty members at the School of Medicine-Wichita have received promotions, effective July 1:

To clinical professor:
Paul A. Callaway, family and community medicine

To associate professor:
Natalie R. Sollo, pediatrics

To clinical associate professor:
Steven W. Allen, pediatrics
Maha A. Assi, internal medicine
Bradley W. Bruner, surgery/division of orthopedics
Joe D. Davison, family and community medicine
Thomas H. Estep, surgery
Zubair Hassan, internal medicine

Manirul H. Khan, internal medicine
Robert P. Moser, family and community medicine
Jany K. Moussa, internal medicine
Duane L. Osborne, surgery
Syed Raffi, internal medicine
Mark L. Stovak, family and community medicine

School of Engineering honors faculty members

School of Engineering faculty were rewarded for their hard work in a special ceremony May 16 at the Lied Center. Michael Detamore, associate professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, was selected by students as the
Gould Award winner for Outstanding Educator. The award provides $4,000.

Detamore was recognized for his success in fostering discussion, critical thinking and participation from students in the classroom. His courses are focused and challenging — leading students to an in-depth understanding of topics — and encouraging students to collaborate and think critically on every homework assignment. He also helps students connect classroom material with real-world applications through unique demonstrations — like taking the class outside to see if a tank filled with water empties faster with a shorter or longer tube at the bottom.

Marylee Southard, associate professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, was selected by students as the 2010 Gould Award winner for Outstanding Adviser. The award provides $4,000.

Southard is known for her remarkable dedication to students. In her role as a pre-med adviser, she provides critical assistance with medical school applications, MCAT preparations and ensuring students are on the right track in their engineering curriculum — all while being cheerful and supportive. Southard also provides students with useful guidance as they map out their futures.

Sarah Kieweg, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received the Miller Professional Development Award for Research. The award provides $4,000.

In her time at KU, Kieweg has secured nearly $2 million in funding from leading agencies. She is adept at collaborating with those outside her specific field, such as physicians, pharmaceutical chemists and chemical engineers, to create a dynamic community around her research. Among the main areas of her research are improving childbirth, overall women’s health and preventing HIV transmission, for which she received a five-year innovation grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Sara Wilson, associate professor in mechanical engineering, received the Miller Professional Development Award for Service. The award provides $4,000.

Wilson is a leader on the university, state and national levels in the area of responsible conduct of research and professional ethics. Wilson’s involvement in the National Academy of Engineers and several Federal Study Sections are indicative of her prominence in the field. She has earned a National Science Foundation grant as a subcontractor to develop the Responsible Conduct of Computational Modeling and Research. She also served as co-investigator for another NSF grant to provide research ethics training and to mentor fourth-grade teachers.

Perry Alexander, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, was selected by a faculty committee to receive the 2010 John E. and Winifred E. Sharp Professorship. The award lasts three years and includes an annual personal award of $5,000 plus access to $5,000 annually for instructional development.

Alexander shows a remarkable dedication to his students, through personal interactions outside of lecturing and typical classroom assignments. His innovation in the classroom is exceptional, and he has developed labs that are used worldwide. Alexander also has a long history of publishing and presenting his engineering education work.
Former chancellor Dykes gives $100,000 gift to help fight maintenance backlog

A gift for deferred maintenance at KU creates a win-win situation. It supports needed campus upgrades, and it provides a tax credit for donors.

Former Chancellor Archie Dykes and his wife, Nancy, recently provided a $100,000 gift to KU Endowment for deferred maintenance. Dykes, KU’s 13th chancellor, served the university from 1973 to 1980.

“Having been chancellor, I know firsthand the difficulty the university experiences in securing sufficient funds for maintenance programs,” Dykes said. “There is always a critical need, sometimes very critical, for maintenance initiatives that mean much to the university’s academic and research pursuits.”

Dykes said much of the campus’ current beauty reflects work done by former chancellors, including Deane Malott and his wife, Eleanor, who led a campus planting and beautification project in the 1940s.

“I also have a special interest, as every chancellor has had, in maintaining the beauty of the campus and the attractiveness of the campus’ physical plant,” Dykes said. “That’s one of the great assets of the university — that almost everyone who visits KU comes away saying what a beautiful place it is.”

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little expressed appreciation to the Dykes for their gift for deferred maintenance.

“We are the beneficiaries not only of Archie and Nancy Dykes’ generosity and loyalty to KU but also their insight that maintaining our beautiful campus takes significant effort and support,” said Gray-Little.

The state of Kansas allows donors who make a gift toward deferred maintenance needs of the university to qualify for a 45 percent tax credit. This is in addition to any standard charitable deduction that may be available. Tax credits provide a dollar-for-dollar reduction in taxes owed. Numerous buildings on the Lawrence campus and at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., have significant deferred maintenance needs. Examples of areas of need include ventilation systems, electrical, plumbing, window and doors, and work to achieve ADA compliance.

In the past year, several deferred maintenance projects have been completed, including work at Dyche, Haworth, Malott, Wescoe and Murphy halls and in the campus utility tunnel system.

Buildings still in need of deferred work include Watson Library, Bailey, Learned, Lippincott and Lindley halls, and the Art and Design Building. A complete list of remaining projects can be viewed at kuendowment.org/deferredmaintenance.
"Rock Chalk Roadtrip" is the theme of Homecoming 2010.

Homecoming 2010 to be a 'Rock Chalk Roadtrip'

Festivities to take place Oct. 18 to 24

Homecoming 2010 organizers hope alumni and fans will hit the road and come back to campus to join the festivities.

“Rock Chalk Roadtrip” will be the theme for this year’s Homecoming Week, which will run from Oct. 18 to 24.

“The road trip represents both the students’ journey through college and alumni coming back to campus,” said Stefani Gerson, coordinator of student programs for the KU Alumni Association and an adviser to the Homecoming Steering Committee. Nikki Epley, the alumni association’s director of reunions, also advises the group.

The association and the steering committee, which includes 15 students, plan to bring back many of the traditional homecoming favorites, including the homecoming parade, mural contest and “Jayhawk Jingles,” a showcase of student skits and musical performances.

Back after a several-year hiatus will be “Canstruction,” a competition in which student groups put their building skills to the test with cans of food, which are then donated to the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation. Another highlight will be hypnotist Frederick Winters, who will perform Oct. 20 in an event sponsored by Student Union Activities.

KU will face Texas A&M on Oct. 23 in the annual homecoming football game.

“I believe a strong homecoming is at the heart of the tradition and the spirit that surrounds the University of Kansas,” said Caitlin Wise, a junior from Mulvane and director of the steering committee. “It’s a time for multiple generations of KU students to come together for their university, and it
reminds everyone why it’s great to be a Jayhawk.”

Registration forms for events, T-shirts and more information will be available in August. Get the latest information online at www.homecoming.ku.edu or on Facebook or Twitter.

A full schedule of events will be announced this fall.