John Karanicolas recently was selected as an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow. The awards provide research assistance to early career scientists performing promising research. He continues a solid tradition of KU Sloan Fellows.

Research at the frontier

Karanicolas earns coveted Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship

John Karanicolas is on the cutting edge of bioinformatics research, but became part of a trend at KU when he was named the third faculty member in four years to land a prestigious research grant.
Karanicolas, assistant professor of molecular biosciences and bioinformatics, has been selected to receive a Sloan Research Fellowship. The awards provide $50,000 in research support for two years for early career faculty members who are conducting research at the frontiers of physics, chemistry, computational and evolutionary molecular biology, computer science, economics, mathematics and neuroscience.

Karanicolas’ research uses computer modeling to design proteins to carry out specific functions. His lab is focused on building proteins to track compounds known as tryptamines, which act as neurotransmitters. Following the movement of these tryptamines will provide clues as to how cells communicate with each other in the brain.

Karanicolas’ previous research, which is still ongoing, entailed designing smaller proteins known as peptides. Under certain conditions, some proteins can form chain-like structures, which are involved in Alzheimer’s disease. Karanicolas used computer modeling to design peptides that cap these chains and prevent their elongation.

“We’re going to see if these new peptides have an effect on Alzheimer’s in mice,” he said.

The research support funds will not only help a faculty member, they’ll provide new opportunities for students. Karanicolas said he will use the funds to support two graduate students who will help him carry out his research.

“The students are the ones who really do a lot of the hands-on work,” he said. “They are absolutely critical to the research.”

In joining the ranks of Sloan Fellows, Karanicolas is among an elite group of researchers. Since the awards began in 1955, 38 fellows have gone on to receive Nobel Prizes.

He is KU’s 14th Sloan Fellow and the third from KU’s Center for Bioinformatics, following Wonpil Im in 2007 and Yang Zhang in 2008. The center, founded in 2005, has an impressive track record with the Sloan Foundation. All three junior faculty recruited to join the center, Im, Zhang and Karanicolas, have earned Sloan Fellowships.

“It makes us all proud,” Ilya Vakser, director of the Center for Bioinformatics, said of the success. “A Sloan Fellowship is one of the highest recognitions for a young scientist in the United States and worldwide.”

Karanicolas agreed the Sloan Fellowship is an outstanding acknowledgement of the importance of his research and that of his colleagues.

“It’s tremendously rewarding and exciting,” he said. “It shows the growth of the center and shows there’s tremendous, strong research happening here.”
New law requires timely submission of textbook, class materials orders

A new federal law will require universities to provide textbook and supplemental course material information to students at the time they enroll in classes. This has the practical effect of creating a deadline for faculty members to submit textbook information for their classes. The Higher Education Opportunity Act takes effect July 1 and requires universities to inform students at the time of enrollment what books and materials will be necessary for a course.

Barbara Romzek, interim vice provost for academic affairs, alerted faculty and staff of the responsibilities assigned by the law in a campuswide e-mail in February. She said KU has been providing such information to students, but the new law establishes a new institutional expectation for providing the information at the time of enrollment. To comply with the law, KU has arranged for the KU Bookstores to provide online textbook pricing information for students when they enroll.

To meet the new expectation, textbook adoptions by faculty members must be submitted to KU Bookstores by March 15 for the summer semester and by April 15 for fall. Romzek noted there might be some instances, such as when an instructor has not yet been assigned to the course, that it may not be possible to provide the information.

“Textbook adoptions must be provided to the KU Bookstores, even if faculty members do not intend to order course materials through them, so that the information about required textbooks and supplemental materials will appear in the KU official online schedule as required by this new law,” Romzek said.

Any additional supplies that students will be required to purchase, such as goggles, lab coats or clickers must also be listed. Books’ title, author, ISBN, edition, publisher and a required or optional status should be included.

The textbook adoption form can be completed online at union.ku.edu/adoption/. A PDF version of the textbook adoption form is available at union.ku.edu/adoption-form.pdf. The form can be faxed or sent by campus mail to the KU Bookstores. Faculty members not using such books or materials still need to submit the form,
indicating no materials are required.

For more information, contact James Rourke, textbook manager, at 864-5285 or jrourke1@ku.edu; or textbook buyers Caitlin Davies at 864-2477 or cdavies@ku.edu, or Rachel Barnes at 864-2470 or rbarn04@ku.edu.

“I am aware this law may require some faculty members to move up their usual timelines for submitting orders for course readings and supplemental materials,” Romzek said. “The intent of the legislation is to give students the best information available about comparative pricing for textbooks and materials. I know we all share the goal of helping students stretch their textbook dollars as far as possible.”

KU Cancer Center, partners develop leukemia clinical trial

In only 13 months, a team of researchers and drug developers at the KU Cancer Center, Ontario Cancer Institute, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Beckloff Associates Inc. has advanced a promising new therapy for leukemia into a Phase I clinical trial.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society provided $1.5 million in funding to the KU Cancer Center to translate a project by Aaron Schimmer of the Ontario Cancer Institute, where the trial is currently open.

Schimmer determined that ciclopirox olamine, a topical antifungal agent, was able to disrupt molecules in the body that are important in the growth of leukemia.

“The Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation has been instrumental in drawing national attention to our extraordinary capabilities in drug discovery, delivery and development,” said Roy Jensen, director of the KU Cancer Center. “Translating discoveries into tangible outcomes that will save lives is our goal at the University of Kansas Cancer Center, and this project serves as a perfect example of what we are capable of.”

Leveraging the nationally-ranked School of Pharmacy at the university, the Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation functions as the drug discovery, delivery and development arm of the cancer center.

“This project represents the power of partnership — collaboration that moves drugs rapidly to patients,” said Scott Weir, director of the
Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation. “This model, we believe, is the new role of academia in cancer drug discovery. It is central to our strategy in reducing the burden of cancer.”

“The University of Kansas brings unique capabilities and critical skills necessary to help LLS advance drugs from its research pipeline and get them to blood cancer patients more quickly,” said Louis DeGennaro, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s chief mission officer.

The KU Cancer Center and its industry partner Beckloff Associates Inc. have supported projects by advancing novel or reformulated drugs toward commercialization.

“The traditional process of discovering and developing a drug from bench to bedside can take 10 to 15 years and cost over a billion dollars,” said Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center. “The capabilities our team has in accelerating this process in the budget climate we are in is something we are incredibly proud of and know it will make a real difference in people’s lives.”

The KU Cancer Center and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society announced the partnership through the Therapy Acceleration Program in January 2009. The Therapy Acceleration Program supports private sector and academic-based projects with the goal of moving blood cancer treatments into the development pipeline and closer to commercialization.

Foster named to Kansas Association of Music Educators Hall of Fame

Countless aspiring musicians have played in Robert Foster’s KU and Lawrence bands over the years, picking up a lesson or two along the way. For his guidance of generations of the state’s musicians, he was recently recognized with induction into the Kansas Music Educator’s Association Hall of Fame.

Robert Foster

Foster was formally inducted Feb. 27 at the association’s annual conference in Wichita.

The recognition is the highest honor given to music teachers in Kansas. Nominees must have at least 30 years of service in music education. Foster was one of four inductees and will be represented in the permanent display at Friends University in Wichita.

"One need only to examine the span between instructing future music educators
and writing music suitable for school bands to determine Robert Foster's importance to music education in Kansas,” said Jean Ney, the association’s vice president and an educator in Kansas City, Kan., public schools. “His positive influence on the musical landscape of Kansas, the nation and the world has been truly amazing.”

Foster was KU’s director of bands for 31 years, beginning in 1971. He also led the KU Symphonic Band, which performed around the nation, and is conductor and music director of the Lawrence City Band.

His selection to the Hall of Fame is just his most recent honor. In 1988, he was named Kansas Bandmasters Association’s Bandmaster of the Year. The following year, his KU Marching Band was the seventh band to be awarded the Sudler Trophy for Intercollegiate Marching Bands. In 2006, Foster was inducted into the National Band Association Hall of Fame for Distinguished Conductors and in 2007, he was presented an Award of Distinction from the Women Band Directors International organization for exceptional support toward women in the band movement.

Foster has written or co-authored several books, including “Multiple-Option Marching Band Techniques,” “Championship Auxiliary Units” and “Practical Hints For Playing the Cornet or Trumpet.” He also published several hundred pieces of music for bands or band instruments.

Still active on the national and international scene, Foster continues to serve as a guest conductor, adjudicator, author, composer, arranger and editor and has conducted or adjudicated in 37 states, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Singapore and throughout Europe.

Foster said selection to the Hall of Fame is recognition of more than just his own achievements.

"Honors like this are a reflection of the high quality of the KU band program, the School of Music and the University of Kansas,” Foster said. “I am honored to have been selected."

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**Kansas Biological Survey scientist Huggins chosen for KU Research Achievement Award**

Donald Huggins, a senior scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey and director of two of its programs, is the 2010 recipient of the KU Research Achievement Award. Huggins was recognized Feb. 22 at the Research Engagement Task Force open forum at the Kansas Union. Steve
Warren, vice provost for research and graduate studies, made the announcement, and Danny Anderson, interim provost and executive vice chancellor, presented a plaque. The award includes $10,000 in research funds.

The award is given annually to a full-time KU academic staff researcher working within an academic department or research center. To qualify, the recipient’s research must have “significant influence in his or her field and/or should represent a productive record of important research that has expanded intellectual or societal insights. A substantial portion of the work for which the award is given must have been done at KU.”

The Kansas Biological Survey is a research and service unit of KU and the state of Kansas. Huggins joined the staff in 1970 as an aquatic biologist. He is director of the Ecotoxicology Program and the Central Plains Center for BioAssessment. He also holds courtesy appointments in the departments of civil engineering and ecology and evolutionary biology.

Donald Huggins

In nominating Huggins for the award, Edward Martinko, director of the Kansas Biological Survey, wrote, “he has conducted research in a large number of scientific areas, demonstrating his expertise in water quality, aquatic ecology, taxonomy, data storage and analysis and experimental and field study design.” He added, “for nearly 40 years, Don has made significant contributions to KU, the state and the nation through his research and leadership in aquatic ecology.”

Huggins established the Central Plains Center for BioAssessment in 1998. It works closely with state, tribal, federal and academic scientists, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, to conduct research and provide technical assistance. The program “quickly became a model with national visibility that was replicated elsewhere in the country,” wrote Martinko. Huggins also mentors students and postdoctoral associates at KU, Haskell Indian Nations University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. “Many of these students have gone on to successful careers with the EPA, state agencies, consulting firms and academic institutions,” wrote Martinko.

Huggins has published numerous technical articles and reports, and he consults regularly with industry as well as government agencies. His academic background includes a bachelor’s degrees in chemistry and biology from Westmar College, a master’s in fish and wildlife biology from Iowa State University,
Past recipients of the Research Achievement Award are David VanderVelde, former director of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Laboratory; Rick Miller, associate scientist in the Exploration Services Section of the Kansas Geological Survey; and Debra Kamps, director of the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training.

Council aims to create professional development opportunities for staff

A new group has been formed to find ways to expand the education and professional skills of KU staff, while helping centralize such efforts already taking place. Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Danny Anderson recently announced the formation of the Staff Learning and Development Council, and the group is beginning its work this month.

The council, made up of staff and faculty from across the university, will seek to provide new opportunities for staff, while simultaneously engaging them in KU’s mission. Kathleen Ames-Oliver, learning and development manager for Human Resources and Equal Opportunity, and Jenny Mehmведovic, assistant to the provost, will co-chair the council. The group was the brainchild of a group of staff from across campus, including representatives of University Support Staff Senate and Unclassified Senate.

The council’s first order of business will be surveying staff to find out what kind of education and professional development opportunities they would like to see offered and what resources are available to meet those interests. Ames-Oliver said the group also hopes to find out the best ways to provide such training for staff. Many employees do not attend development events because they are unable to find time during the workday. The group will explore offering evening events, online training and courses through Blackboard for employees located outside of the Lawrence campus as well.

The group is also planning to offer a Leadership Summit for Staff Professional Development in the fall semester. The event will be modeled after the annual All-University Teaching Summit presented by the Center
for Teaching Excellence.

In addition to identifying development resources already offered, the council will create an online repository to list and publicize staff development events.

“We’d like to be a central place where people can list or publicize their professional development events,” Ames-Oliver said.

Human Resources and Equal Opportunity will host the repository at hreo.ku.edu/training. The site features a calendar, information on learning and development services and programs and a statement of support from Anderson encouraging employees and supervisors to take advantage of development opportunities.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to work with the council or suggest ideas is encouraged to contact Ames-Oliver at kames-oliver@ku.edu or Mehmedovic at jmehmedo@ku.edu.

Ames-Oliver said the council hopes to engage KU staff in learning and development events for the benefit of both individuals and the university.

“We should all be engaged learners,” she said. “Learning does not stop because you got your degree. We want to reach out to everybody and say ‘what do you want and what can we do for you?’”

Council members are: Ames-Oliver and Mehmedovic, co-chairs; Christie Appelhanz, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Alan Russell, Higuchi Biosciences Center; Claudia Bode, Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis; Mike Broadwell, KU Libraries; Lori Messinger, School of Social Welfare; Brian Patton, Facilities Operations; Sean Barker, Information Services; Susan Mercer, Institute for Policy and Social Research and Unclassified Senate; Lea Chaffin, Office of Admissions and Scholarships and University Support Staff Senate; Teresa Thonus, KU Writing Center and Department of English.

Spring enrollment numbers show increase in international students

Minority student enrollment at KU set records for another year, according to spring 2010 data.
This semester, 3,608 minority students are enrolled. The number, which represents 12.7 percent of the student body, tops last year’s record-setting number for spring. Overall enrollment for the university held steady with a 0.1 percent decline compared to the previous year. Enrollment at the KU Medical Center increased 1.3 percent.

The largest increase came in international undergraduate enrollment at the Lawrence campus, which rose 17.2 percent over spring 2009.

“Clearly, KU is becoming better known among international student applicants,” said Joe Potts, director of International Student and Scholar Services. “A sizeable portion of KU’s recent growth in international students comes from China. As income levels increase in China, more students are seeking degrees from U.S., European and other international universities.”

KU’s Edwards Campus in Overland Park reported a 4 percent increase in enrollment by credit hours, attributed mostly to new undergraduate business offerings. The campus launched a new bachelor’s of business administration degree in January, and a new business minor began last fall. These are the first new programs at the Edwards Campus funded through the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle initiative. To accommodate the growth, the campus is breaking ground in April for a new $24 million, 75,000-square-foot building.

Total KU spring enrollment since 1996

Spring 2010: 28,414
Spring 2009: 28,453
Spring 2008: 27,876
Spring 2007: 27,875
Spring 2006: 27,994
Spring 2005: 27,890
Spring 2004: 27,772
Spring 2003: 27,463
Spring 2002: 26,894
Spring 2001: 26,857
Spring 2000: 26,545
Spring 1999: 26,297
Spring 1998: 26,214
Spring 1997: 25,755
Spring 1996: 26,261

KU research spending brings more than $200 million to Kansas economy
The economic impact of research spending at KU increased significantly last year, with research funds brought into Kansas exceeding $200 million for the first time.

Overall, external funding for research, development and training in fiscal year 2009 totaled a record $207.1 million, a nearly 5 percent increase from the 2008 level. When institutional support is included, KU’s overall research expenditures were a record $308.9 million.

Federally funded science and engineering research, a category used by the National Science Foundation to rank universities, increased by more than 4 percent. For 2008, KU ranked 43rd among national public research universities.

“Research at KU helps create jobs and economic growth and enhances Kansans’ quality of life,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “We have highly motivated faculty whose success brings new money into the state. Just as important, the research funded by those grants adds to our understanding of a whole range of subjects: human health, energy, education, communications and much more. Kansans benefit from this work and can be very proud of what our researchers are doing at KU.”

Approximately 83 percent of KU’s external research funding came from the federal government in 2009, much of it from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Education and National Science Foundation. Other funding sources included industry, state and local government and foundations.

“We are in a very competitive environment for research funding, especially at the federal level,” said Steve Warren, vice provost for research and graduate studies. “Even so, some of the largest research grants ever awarded in Kansas came to KU last year. That’s an excellent indicator of the strength of our faculty and programs.”

Federal stimulus funding for research has been a welcome one-time increase, said Warren. The more than $40 million in grants awarded so far at the Lawrence and medical center campuses is not yet reflected in the research totals for fiscal year 2009.

“Momentum is building toward designation of the University of Kansas Cancer Center as a National Cancer Institute center,” said Paul Terranova, vice chancellor for research at the KU Medical Center. “Increased research funding at both campuses is one part of that initiative. Sustained support from the state and private donors is also important as we move forward.”
New program partners School of Business with U.S. Army colonels

Program trains soldiers in strategic planning

The School of Business has begun a pilot program with Fort Leavenworth to prepare U.S. Army colonels with strategic planning business models. Participants in the program are colonels who have been newly assigned to manage brigades of 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers. “Being able to rub shoulders with these people, who are genuinely real heroes is amazing,” said Tom Jindra, lecturer in business, about his work in the program.

The colonels are handpicked by their
superiors to participate in the school’s weeklong Command Team Development Program-Brigade. In that time, colonels learn business-world models they can apply to manage the soldiers they lead.

Col. Christopher Carlile was one of the program’s first participants in mid-January.

“This program is what future senior leaders of the U.S. Army need to affect the change needed to continue the strength our country depends upon,” Carlile said.

Jindra, the program’s director, said the colonels placed a high value on learning strategic planning models outside of their normal world of experiences in the military.

“They discovered there are a lot of models that are used in the business world that can be applied to the military world,” he said.

The program uses experiential learning techniques to illustrate how business concepts can be used in military management situations. The colonels are able to see how strategic business planning works during on-site visits to local companies that have worldwide reach. The colonels also make a stop at KU’s Lawrence campus.

“One of the big highlights of the program is the day they spend at the university for a day of academic work,” Jindra said. Though he said the colonels have earned their degrees from lots of universities, “when they leave I think they are in part Jayhawks.”

The school’s first initiative with the U.S. Army, a master’s degree program with a concentration in supply chain management, has more than doubled its enrollment since its launch in August 2008.

“We have great appreciation in the school for the dedication of our armed forces,” said Bill Fuerst, dean of the School of Business. “The officers in this program will go on to hold increasingly important leadership positions in the military and, presumably, in the business world after they leave the military. The school is proud to help further develop the strategic and leadership abilities required of them in their future executive positions. In addition, we have helped forge a stronger connection between KU and the armed forces.”
Students honor Marsh, KU Info director, for leadership with C.L.A.S.S. Award

Curtis Marsh, program director for KU Info, was presented the Citation for Leadership and Achievement in Student Services Award during the KU men’s basketball game Feb. 20. The C.L.A.S.S. Award recognizes distinguished achievements in student services that show a commitment to the needs of KU students and contribute to the welfare of students.
John W. Stolle, a senior in accounting from Prairie Village and president of the Board of Class Officers, said Marsh has worked to redesign the KU Info service to meet campus needs in the digital age. Marsh has been a KU staff member for more than 15 years.

KU Info has served the campus and Lawrence communities since it originated in 1970, building a reputation as the place to go with any question. In 2002, with the growth of the Internet, the program struggled and lost its funding. For three years, KU Libraries staff fielded KU Info queries. In 2005, KU Info was recharged with funding from Student Success and Information Services. In December 2005, Marsh, who used KU Info services himself as an undergraduate in the early ’90s, was asked to revitalize the service.

“He recognizes KU Info not solely as a resource for random questions but as a comprehensive information service for KU Students.

“He is just as passionate for students today as when he first began. His daily enthusiasm for students is undeniable and his creative mind is always searching for new ways to help make the KU experience even better. This dedication and student focus embody the spirit of the C.L.A.S.S Award.”

Before joining KU Info, Marsh held positions with Continuing Education and the Office of Research. He also has worked with the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, Mo. He is adviser for Omicron Delta Kappa, a leadership honor society at KU, and Rotaract, a civic leadership group connected to the Lawrence Rotary Club. He has a bachelor’s in journalism from KU and a master’s in business administration from University of Missouri-Kansas City.

“My own undergraduate career at KU was very positively affected by several of the past C.L.A.S.S. Award winners, so I am humbled to now see my name among theirs,” Marsh said.

In January, the student body submitted nominations for staff members within Student Success who had had a positive impact on them. To select the winner, a Board of Class Officers committee selected five finalists and conducted interviews.

The Class of 1987 established the award. A plaque bearing the names of award winners is in the stairwell on Level 5 of the Kansas Union.

The Board of Class Officers has 50 members and represents each of the classes at KU. Members create the banner and choose the gift and motto for each class at the university. They also choose HOPE Award, C.L.A.S.S. Award and Campanile Award winners and assist in the selection of the two EXCEL Award winners.
KU documentary filmmaker produces works for civil rights exhibits

When the National Park Service officially opened its visitor center for the African Burial Ground National Monument in New York City Feb. 27, two KU faculty and two KU alumni were among those credited for the center’s signature film.

Madison Davis Lacy, associate professor of film and media studies and four-time Emmy Award winner, wrote and produced a short film titled “Our Time At Last” for the monument that honors a sacred space in Manhattan: the burial grounds of the slaves who built New York.

Robert Hurst, assistant professor of film and media studies, worked with Lacy to produce sound for the film. Two KU alumni were on production crew. Eric E. Harnden, a spring 2006 film graduate from Wichita, was principal editor. Kristin M. Overton, a fall 2007 film graduate from Leawood, was associate production editor. Both had worked on the film as KU students and now are employed with Lacy’s Firethorn Productions offices in New York.

The visitor center is on the first floor of the Ted Weiss Federal Building, 290 Broadway. The memorial is at corner of Duane and Elk streets. Both sites are near Foley Square in lower Manhattan. The center includes a 40-seat theatre where Lacy’s film will help visitors grasp the history of the 17th and 18th century burial grounds that were rediscovered in 1991 during pre-construction work for a federal office building. The National Park Service notes that the rediscovery of an estimated 20,000 graves of free and enslaved Africans in a 6.6-acre plot is the single-most important, historic urban archaeological project undertaken in the United States.

Lacy imagined a slave girl burying her father in the 1700s as a focal point for his film. The reenactment draws visitors into the story of the thousands of Africans whose labor built the city.
The film is the third work that Lacy has produced for national museums in the past eight months. In each, he has written scripts and produced video designed to help museum visitors grasp the background for the exhibits.

A key element in Lacy’s films for museums is “the notion that people always want to see themselves reflected in the film. You have to force that notion as gently as you can — it’s really a suggestion. Once audiences see themselves in film, they are engaged,” he said.

He produced “A Complex Tapestry,” a film for the Greensboro, N.C., International Civil Rights Center and Museum that opened Feb. 1 with national acclaim. The opening commemorated the 50th anniversary of four young men whose courage to ask to be served at a Greensboro lunch counter became a catalyst in the U.S. civil rights movement.

“One truth prevails throughout,” Lacy said of his Greensboro script. “Ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things.”

Last fall, Lacy unveiled a film for the official opening of the August Wilson Center for African American Culture in Pittsburg, Pa. Named for the late Pulitzer-prize winning playwright who made Pittsburg his home, the state-of-the-art facility features a three-screen film experience for visitors as they enter. “They see themselves,” Lacy said of his film.

A gifted storyteller, Lacy loves history and has focused much of his career on telling the stories of the civil rights movement and African-American history. He won Emmys for “Beyond Tara: The Extraordinary Life of Hattie McDaniel,” “Free to Dance,” “Richard Wright — Black Boy” and “The Time Has Come” and “Back to the Movement,” two episodes of the eight-hour “Eyes on the Prize II” series chronicling the civil rights struggle.

His museum work also includes films for the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka; the Fort McHenry National Monument in Baltimore Harbor; and the Birmingham (Ala.) Civil Rights Institute.

His interest in civil rights history emerged in part from Lacy’s own experience as an African-American. He grew up in the south during segregation. As Washington State University graduate who excelled in journalism, he found a color barrier blocking his career plans in broadcasting. His writing talent made him a successful grant writer and scriptwriter, yet when seeking funding for film proposals that didn’t involve minorities, he found underwriters questioned his ability to cover topics beyond race. African-American history became his trademark.

Lacy regards his work, especially the museum films, as a service to the nation and to African-Americans.

“Beyond the social and educational purpose behind my films, there is a sense of leaving something behind,” he said.
He continues to make documentary films but notes that museum work may have a more lasting impact.

“Films for television are ephemeral. They’re up. They air. And they’re gone,” Lacy said. “With museums, over time, lots of audiences see your work. Those films can run every 15 or 20 minutes for years. And they can enhance public understanding of the African-American experience in ways in which broadcast often fails.”

Provost candidates visit campus, music dean interviews, search continue

Searches for a permanent provost and dean of the School of Music are progressing with on-campus interviews and presentations scheduled through early March. Interviews for dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have concluded.

Public sessions will be scheduled for each candidate in both searches. Names and vitae will be released 48 hours before candidates’ arrivals on campus and posted on the search page at the provost’s Web site, provost.ku.edu/search.

The schedules are as follows.

**Provost**

Public presentations by the candidates, followed by question-and-answer sessions and receptions, will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on the first day of each campus visit at the Bruckmiller/McGee rooms in the Adams Alumni Center. The public presentations will be streamed live online. A link will be provided when names are released.

— First candidate, Philip J. McConnaughay, the Donald J. Farage Professor of Law and dean of the Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University, 4 p.m. Feb. 22, Bruckmiller and McGee rooms in the Adams Alumni Center.

— Second candidate, Steven F. Warren, vice provost for research and graduate studies, 4 p.m. March 1, Bruckmiller and McGee rooms in the Adams Alumni Center.

— Third candidate, March 4-5

**Dean of the School of Music**

— First candidate, Wade Weast, director of the School of Music at the University of South Florida, Feb. 11

— Second candidate, Murry Sidlin, dean of the School of Music at
Catholic University of America, Feb. 17-20

— Third candidate, Robert Walzel, director and professor of music at the University of Utah School of Music, 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, at Swarthout Recital Hall in Murphy Hall.

Dena Register, associate professor of music therapy, recently returned to KU from a Fulbright trip. Above, Register, fourth from left, attends a lunch celebration with patients and their families at a facility that provides outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy, and counseling for patients with neurological injuries or disorders.

Register establishes music therapy programs at Thai university

Professor returns from Fulbright travels

Dena Register, associate professor of music therapy, recently returned from a Fulbright appointment in Thailand, where she helped establish a music therapy degree program at Mahidol University.
Mahidol University’s College of Music is one of the most prestigious higher education programs in Thailand and is establishing the first-ever music therapy training program in Southeast Asia. Register spent her time abroad teaching music therapy introduction courses, guest lecturing in various regions of the country, launching a “Therapeutic Uses of Music” certificate program and researching the perception of music therapy in the medical setting. Register received a Fulbright lecturing/research award to fulfill this mission.

“In April of 2008, I met with Dr. Sugree Charoensook, a professor and the director of the College of Music at Mahidol University, regarding the undergraduate and graduate music therapy programs at the University of Kansas,” said Register. “After investigating multiple music therapy programs in the U.S., Australia, and Europe, Dr. Charoensook sought consultation from KU’s music therapy program because of the history and international reputation of the program and the faculty.”

Mahidol University is the largest and most well-established medical school in Thailand and is committed to a partnership with the College of Music for research of music therapy and its effects on the physiological, social and emotional effects of patients across the lifespan. The collaboration of these Mahidol programs and the comprehensive program offered at KU are mutually beneficial.

Register was a presenter, along with Alicia Clair, interim dean of the School of Music, for the first Thailand Music Therapy Forum in summer 2008, a three-day conference designed to introduce the profession of music therapy to medical, educational and rehabilitation professionals throughout Thailand. Since that initial visit, Register has established a study abroad program that allows music therapy students from the United States to do clinical work in two Bangkok-area hospitals as well as study Thai music, language and culture in respect to the role it plays in establishing music therapy in the country. She has continuously consulted with the faculty and staff at Mahidol in the development of the curriculum and sequences of courses offered at the Mahidol program, which will begin accepting students this spring.

Register stressed there is a long-term plan to continue this collaboration with Mahidol and expand offerings for both U.S. and Thai students. The initial focus of this partnership is to continue recruiting students at both campuses interested in studying abroad. Register also brought a music therapy student from KU to intern in music therapy at the hospital on the Mahidol University, Salaya campus. Both universities are committed to continuing this exchange in the future.

“The University of Kansas has articulated a mission to provide international educational
opportunities for all students,” said Register. “This collaboration with Mahidol University supports that mission for students in the music therapy program at KU and new music therapy students at Mahidol.”

She added, “This is the first time in our program’s history that another university has sought out an extended stay of our faculty in order to establish an educational program abroad, and this measure of endorsement is consistent with the caliber of students and faculty that KU’s music therapy program is recognized for.”

Register will return to Mahidol in March for 10 days to be a keynote speaker for the International Federation of Medical Student Associations world conference and to provide three days of intensive training to various medical professionals from the region. She will return again in June for a three-month stay to help launch program offerings for Thai students and will host U.S. students to do clinical work for five weeks in June and July. Both programs are in the process of signing a formal agreement for continued collaboration.

KU signs on for Kansas City Corporate Challenge, encourages participation

KU faculty and staff will have the opportunity to represent the university in an Olympic-style competition this summer.

KU is taking part in the Kansas City Corporate Challenge, and all employees are eligible to take part in events or volunteer for the games. Now in its 30th year, the challenge brings people from companies around Kansas City to compete in swimming, bowling, bicycling, running, tug of war and darts. The mission is to encourage fitness, boost morale and promote KU in the Kansas City metro area.

KU’s participation in the challenge is sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the Department of Human Resources and Equal Opportunity, the Edwards Campus, University Support Staff Senate and Unclassified Senate. Registration fees for the events are covered by the sponsors.

All events will take place in and around Kansas City on evenings and weekends. A complete list of events, times and locations can be found at www.kccorporatechallenge.com. Employees who don’t want to compete can volunteer to help facilitate events. KU will receive points for participants and
volunteers, and last year placed 12th overall.

To register, visit www.kccorporatechallenge.com and click the “challenge manager” icon. Registrants must create a profile by clicking on the “create profile” link. Those who participated last year will simply need to update their profile and complete a new waiver. First time registrants should select “University of Kansas” after creating a profile and enter the company password ku3672. When the profile is completed, users will need to sign an electronic waiver.

For more information, e-mail benefits@ku.edu.

Task force recommends steps to support, improve research engagement

A KU task force presented a report intended to boost research engagement by recommending a comprehensive system for measuring such activity, employing targeted efforts to support and enhance it and improving resources available to aid and sustain research.

The task force was formed by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and was charged with identifying appropriate measures of research engagement and suggesting specific approaches to promote, increase, sustain and recognize all types of research engagement by faculty and staff.

Steve Warren, vice provost for research and graduate studies, and Kristin Bowman-James, University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, co-chaired the task force and presented the report at a Feb. 22 forum. The first of the report’s three recommendations was to create a comprehensive system for measuring research engagement. The group recommended creating a centralized, web-based system that could “allow analyses at the level of individual faculty, departments, schools/colleges and the university overall.”

There is currently no method of measuring research engagement. Implementing such a system would allow the creation of an annual KU research engagement report, a step the task force recommended implementing beginning in June 2011.

The second recommendation was to employ specific efforts to support and enhance research engagement. One of the most obvious ways to accomplish that would be to reduce existing barriers such as inefficient organization
such as excessive meetings and redundant reporting requirements. Another would be to reduce time spent on other activities such as administrative, teaching or clinical duties necessitated by inadequate staffing, the report states.

The task force’s final recommendation was to enhance resources available to support and sustain research engagement. One of the best ways to do that is recognizing the time necessary to work on research and grant proposals and to manage projects, the report says. The task force also suggested using resources to help assistant professors establish strong research programs and help associate professors advance their research. Post-tenure mentoring should also be in place to continue to motivate and inspire tenured faculty members in their research.

Warren and Bowman-James fielded questions and comments from the forum audience and encouraged anyone with feedback to send it to rgs@ku.edu. The task force will soon present a revised draft of the report to Gray-Little.

KU Relay for Life seeks participants

All-night event set for Memorial Stadium

The annual Relay for life at KU is fast approaching, and organizers are looking for teams to sign up and join their fight against cancer.

The relay is an overnight, student-organized event that rallies the Jayhawk community against a disease that never sleeps. The relay will begin at 7 p.m. April 30 at Memorial Stadium and end at 7 a.m. May 1. Teams consisting of eight to 15 members will camp out on the Hill, participate in activities and walk the track. At least one representative from each team will be on the track at all times.

“Our goal this year is to raise $50,000 for the American Cancer Society,” said Amanda Easley, co-chair, Relay for Life of KU. Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society’s signature event and the world’s largest movement against cancer. More than 3.5 million people from 5,000 communities participate yearly.

KU has been involved with the event since 2003, having raised more than $159,000 for cancer research. Some teams have already begun fundraising. Participants raise money by selling baked goods, washing cars and asking for donations from friends and family. There is a $10 registration fee for each
participant; however, each member is asked to raise at least $100. Angela Prewitt, community manager for the American Cancer Society, said in past relays, team donations have ranged from $300 to $5,000. Each person who raises $100 earns a participant T-shirt.

Various activities are planned for the event to help participants stay awake. Survivors of cancer are invited to the event as guests of honor and will kick off the event with a survivor’s lap. As night falls, hundreds of luminarias will be ceremoniously lit to represent those lost to cancer, those fighting cancer, and those who have fought and won.

The event honors and commiserates those who have been stricken by cancer, said Mary Chappell, director of KU Recreation Services and adviser for Relay for Life of KU, “The KU community cares about each other and what goes on around the world. Cancer must be conquered,” she said.

Money raised at the event remains in the community and goes to cancer research, educational programs and patient services. Currently, the society funds five research grants at KU and the KU Medical Center totaling $3,150,000, Prewitt said.

This year, organizers are hoping more than 70 teams will turn out. Participants do not have to be affiliated with the university; everyone is invited.

For more information, or to register a team, go to relayforlife.org/kuks.

Mini College to bring adult learners back to campus

Those looking to make the most of their next vacation should consider spending a week at Mini College, a KU tradition in the making.

Any adult interested in rediscovering the student experience is invited to attend the second annual Mini College from May 24 to 28 at the Lawrence campus. For a $225 registration fee, Mini Collegians are treated to a week of fascinating lectures delivered by top KU professors, exclusive extracurricular activities, tours and social events. For the full student experience, participants can stay in a KU residence hall.

Registration is open now at minicollege.ku.edu. The site also contains information about courses and activities offered during the week.

More than 70 courses and activities are being offered this year. Some of the courses include Everything You Wanted to Know About GDP but Were Afraid to Ask; The Promise of Personalized Medicine: How Genetic Testing Can Improve Health
Care; Astroparticle Physics on the Kansas Prairie; Islam is a Thinking Chick’s Religion: How Muslim Women Can Save Islam; Money Makes the World Go ’Round: Geographies of Global Finance; and Stuff Accumulates: Managing and Downsizing Possessions.

“All universities say they have world-class faculty,” said John M. Loney, a 2009 Mini Collegian who received his medical degree from KU in 1974. “After attending Mini College, I was truly amazed at the world-class authorities KU has.”

Nearly all Mini College courses are taught by the diverse faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which encompasses more than 55 departments, programs and centers and the new School of the Arts.

Of the 129 participants from 17 states with the distinction as serving as the first “graduates” of Mini College last June, all reported they would attend again and all would recommend the experience to a friend.

“I will return this year, and my wife, Pam, will be coming along with me,” said George Pangburn, who earned a KU master’s in geography in 1974. “This was a perfect opportunity to spend more time on campus and engage in some interesting learning activities.”

The reasons for attending the inaugural Mini College were as diverse as the participants. Educators liked the opportunity to receive two continuing education units for $25. Some came to relive their fond memories of Mount Oread and others came because they never had the opportunity to attend college.

“I love KU, I love going to school, and the Mini College curriculum was exciting,” said Pat Roth, a Mini Collegian and 1949 KU graduate. “At age 81, I am a much more interested student than I was at 16. What's not to love about being there? I'll be seeing you in May 2010.”

Registration for Mini College is open through April 30 for $225. Late registrations will be accepted through May 16 for $250.

Mini College is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and co-hosted by the Commons. The College enrolls more than 18,000 students, and nearly half of the students at KU earn their bachelor’s degrees from the College.