Jeffrey S. Vitter has been named KU’s next provost and executive vice chancellor. He has held faculty and administrator posts at Brown, Duke, Purdue and Texas A&M universities.

Vitter named provost

Administrator to take post July 1

Jeffrey S. Vitter, an administrator who has held progressively challenging leadership positions at four of the nation’s top public and private universities, today was named provost and executive vice chancellor.

“I am very pleased that Jeff Vitter will join KU in this important leadership role,” said
Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “He brings extensive academic and administrative experience, from faculty member at Brown to department chair at Duke, to dean at Purdue and provost at Texas A&M. He also has an outstanding record as a scholar.”

A professor of computer science and former provost at Texas A&M University, Vitter will assume the post of Lawrence campus chief academic and operating officer July 1. He also will hold the rank of professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Vitter’s wife, Sharon Weaver Vitter, a native of Miami County, graduated from KU with a bachelor’s in pharmacy in 1978, making the Vitters frequent visitors to Kansas.

“Sharon and I are delighted to be coming to KU — with its rich tradition of excellence and strong sense of pride,” Vitter said. “I look forward to partnering with Chancellor Gray-Little and the entire KU community, so that together we achieve new levels of excellence and reaffirm KU’s role as one of this nation’s outstanding public flagship universities.”

At Duke from 1993 to 2002, Vitter held a distinguished professorship and chaired the Department of Computer Science for eight and a half years. From 1980 to 1993, he progressed through the faculty ranks and served in administrative roles at Brown University.

Vitter has more than 280 book, journal, conference and patent publications, primarily on the algorithmic aspects of processing massive amounts of information. He is a Guggenheim Fellow and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association for Computing Machinery and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He was named a National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator and won a Fulbright scholarship.

“We were particularly impressed by Jeff Vitter’s understanding of the challenges facing public universities and his deep commitment to the full range of scholarship in which a
engages,” said Mabel Rice, the Fred and Virginia Merrill Distinguished Professor of Advanced Studies and chair of the 16-member provost search committee.

Vitter earned a bachelor’s degree with highest honors in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame in 1977, a doctorate in computer science from Stanford University in 1980 and a master’s of business administration from Duke in 2002. He was born and raised in New Orleans.

The Vitters have three children: daughters Jillian, a graduate of Notre Dame and now a second-year medical student at Georgetown University, and Audrey, a freshman at Notre Dame in chemical engineering; and son Scott, a senior at Notre Dame in mechanical engineering.

Vitter will succeed Danny Anderson, who was named interim provost in 2009 at the departure of Richard Lariviere, who left KU to become president of the University of Oregon.
Helping Haiti

KU Medical Center doctors, staff treat victims in quake-ravaged country

Most surgeons would rather not improvise while performing an amputation or setting a broken leg.

But following Haiti’s devastating earthquake, a lack of resources, equipment and organization forced a team of KU Medical Center volunteers to get creative. The team arrived in Haiti two weeks after the quake, and spent two weeks helping victims in less than ideal conditions.

Bruce Toby, chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, led a team of volunteers from the KU Medical Center and KU Hospital who took vacation and paid their own way to get to Haiti. The team included doctors David Anderson, Marty DeRuyter and Chris Beck, nurse anesthetists Ryan Peters and Julie Jensen, nurses Lisa Elm, France Ordeus and Cheryl Scott and Kansas City orthopedist Ganesh Gupta.

They worked in a clinic and orphanage on the border of the Dominican Republic, about 30 miles from Port-Au-Prince, near the epicenter of the quake. Before the earthquake, the clinic was seldom used.

“With this disaster, they just filled up overnight,” Toby said. “They had really nothing to start with. What was brought in, in terms of equipment, was thanks to the people.”

Using largely donated equipment and instruments, the team joined a group of doctors from New York operating on about 20 patients a day. The victims had suffered crush injuries and fractures and many had severely infected limbs.

They gave patients casts, set and placed pins and screws in broken bones and amputated limbs.

“The Haitian quake was a unique situation because there were just so many crush injuries,” Toby said. “It’s something we’ve never seen before.”

The team started at dawn and worked until sundown. They often couldn’t work past dark because power was unreliable. Numerous factors exacerbated the challenges the team faced. Organization at the clinic was almost nonexistent when the team arrived, as there was no discernible chain of command.

Complicating matters further, the language barrier made it difficult to communicate with patients. French translators were on hand, but Haitians speak a mix of French and
Creole. Haitian society is largely illiterate as well, which made many patients and family members unable to fill out paperwork. Many people moved around to make room for incoming patients without telling doctors. Sanitation was almost non existent.

The team did find ways to get around many of the obstacles, such as using available wood to build a table for patients to lie on during X-rays.

“There were some very ingenious things being done in less than ideal conditions,” Toby said.

Being surrounded by pain and suffering made the work difficult, but seeing the tireless efforts of volunteers from around the country helped.

“It’s very rewarding to see there are so many wonderful people out there,” Toby said. “It gave me an appreciation of living in this great country. We have so many luxuries, and a stable government. There are just so many things we take for granted.”

All of the KU volunteers are back in the states following their two-week stint, but Haitians will face a long recovery. Toby said one of the biggest medical challenges in many Haitians’ futures will be securing prosthetics. A large number of the patients would be candidates for prosthetics, but overwhelming poverty and lingering damage from the quake will make delivery to people who need them challenging.

Though the team made the trip on short notice, medical center administrators were supportive of faculty and staff members taking time to help.

“It fills me with such pride that a team from KU Medical Center gave up their vacations, made their way to Haiti at their own expense and contributed their time and skills to help as many people as possible,” said Barbara Atkinson, vice chancellor for the KU Medical Center.

KU launches program to improve energy efficiency by $2 million per year

Work will address antiquated systems, raise awareness

Work is under way that is expected to save nearly $2 million per year through improved energy efficiency. KU has entered into a $25 million contract with Energy Solutions Professionals that will address aging heating, ventilation and air conditioning, reduce energy and water use and educate the campus community about
responsible stewardship of resources. Physical improvements will be made in 56 campus buildings. Work has begun and is scheduled for completion in summer 2011.

“The bulk of the work will be done at Haworth and Malott halls and at Simons Biosciences Research Laboratories on west campus,” said Scott McVey, energy conservation and utilities manager.

The measures are expected to generate nearly $2 million in savings per year, mostly through improved efficiency. Energy Solutions Professionals will track and guarantee energy savings for 15 and a half years after completion. If the guaranteed savings are not realized, the company will pay KU the difference.

Work in Malott, Haworth and lab buildings will address antiquated fume hoods and air handling systems that are inefficient and install variable air exhaust systems.

Other measures include:

• Expanding building automation control systems in 32 buildings. The systems will allow heating and cooling units to condition rooms in accordance with the number of occupants.

• Retrofitting light fixtures in 43 buildings with more efficient bulbs.

• Improving and replacing plumbing fixtures in 53 buildings to reduce water use.

• Installing conservation measures in the campus central steam system.

• Installing swimming pool covers in Robinson Health and Physical Education Center to retain water heat and reduce water evaporation.

• Placing occupancy sensors in campus buildings that can turn off lights when a room is unoccupied.

The KU Center for Sustainability and Energy Solutions Professionals will work together to implement an energy awareness training program on campus. Eric Hodge, a conservation specialist with Energy Solutions Professionals, will visit buildings on campus and perform assessments to determine how energy could be used more efficiently. Hodge said the assessments will examine lighting, heating, cooling and ventilation systems. They will also look at behavioral components, such as if lights are being turned off overnight, if unused rooms are being lit and if unused computers and equipment are running unnecessarily.

The awareness program is expected to generate $200,000 a year in savings.

Jeff Severin, KU Center for Sustainability director, said his office will work with the network of sustainability ambassadors to reach out to the campus community about improving efficiency.

“We’re hoping they can be office champions of campus sustainability,” Severin said of the ambassadors. “There’s a good level of awareness out there already, and we want to build on that.”

For more information, visit http://www2.ku.edu/~sustain/ or http://www.energysolutionsprofessionals.com/.

Information Services merge to end; Libraries,
Information Technology to continue separately

Information Technology and KU Libraries will be separate units and no longer under the Information Services structure, effective June 30.

Interim Provost Danny Anderson and Vice Provost Denise Stephens announced the move to IS staff and the general campus March 15. Anderson said the move had been recommended by Stephens and approved by him.

“In recent years, KU has stood almost alone among major research universities with our merged Information Services model – an organizational decision made 14 years ago,” Anderson said. “Much was gained by this decision 14 years ago; however, there are new gains to be realized with independent organizations designed for the 21st century mission of an international research university.”

Stephens emphasized that the move is not a cost-cutting measure, and that no staff reductions are expected as a result. By allowing both units to operate independently, each will be able to focus on unique and evolving user expectations and requirements.

KU Libraries has 167 full-time employees while Information Technology has 164.

Stephens will lead the decoupling of Information Services until June 30, when the position of vice provost for information services will be eliminated. Diane Goddard, vice provost for finance, will be interim chief information officer for Information Technology. Lorraine Haricombe, dean of libraries, will continue her leadership position. Each unit will report directly to the Provost’s Office.

Information Services staff meetings will be held soon to discuss the process with employees. Anderson will be present at both meetings to help answer questions.

Anderson praised Stephens and the IS staff for accomplishing much with minimal resources.

“Information Services has overseen many innovations during its 14 years: ScholarWorks, Initiative One, Instructional Services programs, the work of the Information Management Policy Group, the expansion of our wireless access, our wireless zones, the Open Access initiative, the creation of Hawk Drive, the Digital Humanities initiative, to name a few,” Anderson said.

Tuttle earns prestigious National Humanities Center Fellowship

Leslie Tuttle, assistant professor of history, has been named one of 30 recipients of a 2010 National Humanities Center Fellowship, one of the most prestigious awards available to university faculty in the humanities.
This year, 442 applications were submitted to the competition, and the recipients represent institutions in the United States, Brazil, Germany, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

“I’m so grateful for this opportunity to concentrate on my research, and I can’t wait to get started,” Tuttle said.

The $35,000 award will enable her to spend the next academic year in North Carolina as part of a community of scholars at the National Humanities Center, a private, nonprofit institution for advanced study in the humanities.

This is the ninth time a KU faculty member has received the fellowship since its creation in 1978 and the fifth in the past decade. Previous honorees are Andrew Debricki, Spanish, 1979 and 1992; Edward Williams, music, 1980; John Clark, history, 1981; Luís Corteguera, history, 2001; Rex Martin, philosophy, 2004; and Maryemma Graham, English, 2005 and 2006.

Tuttle has spent most of her time writing a book on historical ideas about dreaming and how those ideas influenced the dramatic change in the definition of knowledge and truth that occurred between 1500 and 1800. Her goal is to complete at least three chapters during her residency and advance the book’s publication date by a year or more.

“The National Humanities Center Fellowship is a great honor for Leslie and for KU,” said Victor Bailey, director of KU’s Hall Center for the Humanities, where Tuttle was recently named a Humanities Research Fellow for 2010-11. “She’s already making a productive contribution to her field of research, and we’re pleased to be supporting her work.”

Last year, also through the Hall Center, Tuttle received the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies Book Publication Award in support of “Conceiving the Old Regime,” a work to be published in April by Oxford University Press. The book traces the French monarchy’s growing intervention in the marital and sexual lives of French men and women in the 17th and 18th centuries. According to one reviewer, it makes a significant contribution to family history and state building in early modern France by opening a new window that allows us to see the interplay between individuals, communities and the state.”
The third phase of utility tunnel repairs will address a section near Robinson Health and Physical Education Center. The above graphic shows the area that will be enclosed by a fence, and a stairway near Sunnyside Avenue. that will be closed.

**Third phase of tunnel repairs to be centered near Robinson, Watkins**

**Work will not close streets, reduce parking**

The third and final phase of utility tunnel repairs will begin soon and cause significantly fewer disruptions to the campus community than previous summers’ projects.

Work is slated to begin on phase three of the utility tunnel project later this month or in early April. The project will waterproof a section of tunnel beginning near Robinson Health and Physical Education Center and Watkins Memorial Health Center, extending north to Sunnyside Avenue. Work is slated to be complete by Aug. 13.

Unlike earlier tunnel repairs, there will be no street closures and no elimination of campus parking spaces. The most significant factor the campus community will notice is a security fence near the work area. Contractors will construct a fence east of Robinson. It will take up approximately the western one-third of the athletic field near Robinson and Watkins. A stairway that connects to a sidewalk on Sunnyside Avenue. will be closed during the work. The street will not be closed.

Work crews will construct a temporary access road from Illinois Street, passing to the west behind the Computer Center, ending at the work site. Parking lot 34 and Illinois Street will remain open throughout the course of the work. No campus bus routes will be altered in response to the project, and minimal utility outages are expected.
Some entrances on the west side of Watkins will be closed intermittently during the project, but emergency exits will be maintained at all times.

The work is the final phase to repair the most seriously deteriorated sections of campus utility tunnels, KU’s top deferred maintenance priority. The tunnels carry steam from the power plant to campus buildings and house electrical cables and data services. Many of the tunnels were constructed around 1900. The repairs are addressing sections that are badly deteriorated and pose safety problems for employees who work in them and threaten the reliability of utilities routed through them.

David McKinney/University Relations

Student Emma Agren volunteers at Midnight Farms, an equestrian program for individuals with special needs. Her service was part of one of many projects that helped land KU on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the fourth consecutive year.

**KU named to Presidential Honor Roll for Service for fourth consecutive year**

For the fourth consecutive year, KU has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a
college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

The 2009 honor roll recognizes institutions of higher learning based on the number of students who take part in service learning or community service, faculty involvement and total hours of service. The Corporation for National and Community Service administers the annual award.

“I am very proud that the University of Kansas has been selected for this outstanding honor once again,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “KU has a strong reputation for service, and I truly believe that students who take part in service not only make their communities stronger, they enhance their education in immeasurable ways.”

During the 2008-09 school year, more than 11,500 KU students took part in academic service learning or other forms of community service. Of those students, more than 5,000 contributed at least 20 hours of service per semester. In all, KU students took part in 971,758 hours of community service.

KU’s honor roll application highlighted several service programs, including the KU School of Medicine’s Jaydoc Free Clinic, in which medical students provide free services to the community; the School of Law’s Volunteer Tax Income Assistance program, which helps students and low-income taxpayers complete federal and state income tax returns; the KU Academy of Student Pharmacists’ efforts to provide free vaccinations for two-thirds of the population of Greensburg, Kansas in October 2008; the Planning to Achieve College Excellence student group’s March to College Day, a day to help educate local K-12 students about the opportunities of college; and the Adopt-a-School program, which places university greek members in local elementary and middle schools to assist teachers in their classrooms.

Amanda Schwegler, assistant director of the Center for Service Learning, filed KU’s application and said the honor roll is recognition of the importance of service, and has the potential to lead to more partnerships with the community.

“Being named to the honor roll shows that KU’s faculty and students are dedicated to helping address community needs by applying themselves both inside and outside the classroom,” Schwegler said. “I think the designation will not only draw attention to what has been undertaken at KU, but will also highlight the potential and opportunity for further undertakings with the community. Knowing KU’s capacity to collaborate could draw in faculty and students, encouraging them to initiate or join in on community-university collaborations.”

Walzel named music dean

Administrator comes to KU from University of Utah

KU has named Robert Walzel, director of the School of Music at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, its new dean of music, effective June 1.

Walzel will succeed Alicia Clair, who has served as interim dean of the newly established School of Music since July 1. Walzel was selected after a national search.
Robert Walzel

“Robert’s musical talents and leadership experience position him to guide and help ensure the long-term strength of this new school,” said Interim Provost Danny Anderson.

Walzel has been director at Utah since 2001. Before that, he held a similar position at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He was a faculty member for 11 years at Texas Tech University and served as principal clarinetist of the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra. His appearances as a soloist and chamber musician have included performances with the Ensemble of Santa Fe, Dallas String Quartet, Texas Clarinet Consort, Intermezzo, Clear Lake Chamber Music Society and the Society for the Performing Arts in Houston.

He also has appeared as a soloist in Europe, Asia, Africa and Central America. With pianist Steven Glaser, Walzel has toured as an artistic ambassador for the United States Information Agency.

“KU is honored to have an internationally known musician of Robert Walzel’s caliber,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “He is a talented leader for our school and its exceptional faculty.”

Walzel holds a doctorate of musical arts from the University of North Texas and a master’s in music and bachelor’s degree in music teacher education, both from the University of Houston.

“I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to contribute to the traditions of great music-making and music-learning that have been such an integral component of your outstanding institution for so many years,” Walzel said. “Since attending the Midwest Music and Art Camp back in the early 1970s as a junior high student, I have enjoyed a fondness for everything about KU.”

Anderson thanked the search committee for their work during the selection process. John Stephens, professor of music, served as chair of the committee.

“I also want to thank Alicia Clair for her leadership during the creation of the School of Music,” said Anderson. “Her guidance was essential to ensuring a smooth transition into a new era.”

The School of Music emerged from a reorganization of KU’s fine arts programs in July. The master’s of music program ranks 12th among public universities, according to U.S. News and World Report’s “America’s Best Graduate Schools.”

Tickets available for chancellor's inauguration

Tickets to the inauguration ceremony for Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little will be available to the public starting March 22, on a first-come, first-served basis. Gray-Little will be formally installed as KU’s 17th chancellor at 2 p.m. April 11, at the Lied Center of Kansas. Guest speakers will include Gov. Mark Parkinson, U.S.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Chancellor Emeritus James Moeser. The KU chamber
choir, wind ensemble and marching band will perform along with the Kansas Brass Quintet and soloist Genaro Mendez, associate professor of voice.

The free tickets must be picked up in person — limit two per person — at the Lied Center ticket office, the Student Union Activities office in the Kansas Union and the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce office, 734 Vermont St. About 700 tickets to the installation ceremony are available.

Inaugural events start with a symposium on the future of research universities on Friday, April 9, at KU’s Edwards Campus in Overland Park. Presenters will include Association of American Universities President Robert Berdahl, University of Iowa President Sally Mason and David Shulenburger, vice president for academic affairs at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. Two distinguished panels will examine issues and opportunities that affect KU and other national public research institutions.

On Saturday, April 10, KU will focus on service. In honor of the inauguration, KU declared a Semester of Service and invited faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and members of the community to dedicate their volunteer service hours with a goal of contributing 100,000 hours over the semester. So far, Jayhawks have logged nearly 40,000 volunteer hours online at kuworks.ku.edu/service.

Related service events on Saturday include:

— A street fair and health screenings from noon to 2 p.m. at Rosedale Middle School in Kansas City, Kan., sponsored by the KU Medical Center. Proceeds will benefit the Turner House Children’s Clinic in Kansas City, Kan.

— Organizational and training sessions for the KU Advocacy Corps, a new endeavor to pair 50 community agencies with students and faculty or staff members who will be agency advocates on campus. More details will be announced shortly. The sessions will take place at KU’s Burge Union.

The last KU inauguration, a similar three-day celebration, was held 14 years ago to install Robert Hemenway, who stepped down as chancellor in 2009. For more information on previous chancellors and their inaugurations, visit chancellor.ku.edu/inauguration/indexnew.shtml.

Professor profile: The possibilities are not, as a matter of fact, endless

Love it or hate it, everyone uses mathematics to get through the day. It may be tough to convince some, but Jeremy Martin strives to show people that, not only is math important, it can be fun.

“It’s the way the world works,” Martin said of his field of expertise. “What I think a lot of people don’t realize is that it’s a lot more fun and a lot more accessible, and it’s not about memorizing formulas, it’s not something boring. It’s something that everyone can do, and really is a lot of fun.”

In a new KU YouTube video, Martin, assistant professor of mathematics, discusses making math accessible, combinatorics and the value of mathematics in outreach.

Too often, people focus on the outcome instead of the mathematical process. Martin
said a good mathematical problem is one that opens new ways of thinking.

“Sometimes mathematics is really more about asking the questions than finding the eventual answers,” he said. “I would like to find the answers, but sometimes a really good mathematical problem is one that raises questions that lets you explore new things, that opens up new realms of possibility that we didn’t know existed beforehand.”

Some may view math as a field not prone to new discoveries, or where all is already known, but Martin applies his research to finding ways to solve problems with seemingly infinite possibilities. Combinatorics is the mathematical study of discrete structures.

“A classic problem in combinatorics concerns a traveling salesperson who needs to visit 30 cities and wants to arrange the order of the trip to minimize money spent on gasoline. The challenge is to find an efficient order of destinations without having to look at every possible route. Combinatorics can help solve many related optimization problems: For example, the algorithms used by GPS devices rely on a branch of combinatorics known as graph theory.

That may sound complicated, but Martin has found success applying combinatorics to games as simple as tic tac toe and Connect Four, and using it in outreach to area high school students. His KU students often work with students from around the region in workshops and competitions.

“We’ll take a simple game like Connect Four, which everyone knows and loves from when they were a kid and look at the strategy of the game, but look at what are the patterns you have to be aware of as a player? How do you study those patterns? How do I look for patterns in games other than Connect Four?”

Such outreach gives students a new way to look at mathematics, while showing that a large university such as KU is indeed a welcoming place in which students can regularly interact with faculty, Martin said. To watch the video, visit http://www.oread.ku.edu/~oread/2010/march/22/stories/profile.shtml.

Campus crimes drop; down 34 percent since 1999

The number of reported crimes, overwhelmingly nonviolent, at KU dipped slightly in 2009 and is the second lowest annual tally reported in the past decade, the KU Public Safety Office has reported.

Overall, reported crime is down 34 percent since 1999, thanks largely to increased police patrol, camera surveillance and educational efforts to encourage students and staff to take precautions to avoid being a victim of crime.

“We advise students to take precautions whether they are on campus or in the community and be aware of their surroundings” said Public Safety Director Ralph V. Oliver.

Students should also take advantage of services available to them, such as SafeRide and SafeBus. Students also are advised not to walk alone or take unfamiliar shortcuts when walking.

The 717 reported crimes in 2009 were down from 723 in 2008. KU averages 1.4 robbery reports annually, ranging from one in 2008 to eight in 2009, which was the highest level since 1998. However, three of the 2009 cases spawned from a single
event at McCollum Hall in which a suspect took items from three rooms. In two of the other cases, suspects have been apprehended. One of the incidents was later determined through police investigation to have occurred off campus, contrary to the initial report.

The KU Public Safety Office maintains service 24 hours a day for the protection of the Lawrence campus. Commissioned police officers patrol the campus using a variety of transportation, which includes marked and unmarked patrol cars, Segway personal transporters and foot patrol.

Uniformed security officers work overnight and weekends securing doors in various academic buildings and reporting any maintenance or safety problems they encounter. The Public Safety Office employs students as security monitors who monitor the security cameras, assist in the libraries overnight and provide assistance during sporting events.

The Public Safety Office also operates an emergency 911 center. The 78 emergency phones located throughout campus are directly connected to this center. The center answers calls for police, fire and medical service on the Lawrence campus.

A full listing of all offenses reported for 1999 to 2009 can be found at the department’s Web site, ku.edu/~kucops

## KU to honor employees for years of service

KU employees will be honored for their years of service to the university at a ceremony at 1:30 p.m. May 4 in the Kansas Union ballroom. Human Resources and Equal Opportunity hosts the annual event.

Employees who will be honored and their years of service are listed below.

### Five years


15 years


20 years


25 years

Patricia M. Argueta, Marilyn M. Ault, Ronald J. Aust, Dana M. Aydukovich, Tina S. Blue, Julie A. Bond, Sandra K. Bowman, Patricia L. Boyle, Judy K. Bryant, Nancy B. Chaison, Gene Murray Chavez, John A. Colombo, Amy J. Devitt, Jan

30 years

Kandi M. White, Sandra S. Wick, Peggy Jo Williams, Barbara J. Wrigley, Alan E. Zarley

35 years


40 years

Channette Alexander, Frank E. Baron, Michael D. Butler, James B. Carothers, Allan J. Cigler, Sarah King Couch, Robert C. Drake, Douglas R. Glasnapp, Joan M. Grosdidier.


45 years


Betty L. Otto, Sandra S. Patchen, Karron K. Schwarz, Theodore A. Wilson
KU Dining Services offers education, activities for National Nutrition Month

KU Dining Services is hoping people see March as a time to consider the benefits of a healthy eating lifestyle and not the time to go mad with junk food during the marathon basketball tournament.

Each year, KU Dining provides a number of educational programs and products to promote healthy dietary choices for KU students, faculty and staff in honor of National Nutrition Month, a nationally recognized program developed and sponsored by the American Dietetic Association.

KU has celebrated National Nutrition Month for more than 20 years, said Nona Golledge, director of KU Dining Services. Numerous events including student and dining employee recipe competitions, product samples and nutrition related displays are planned to help inform and encourage healthy eating habits.

Cheryl Wiley, on staff dining coordinator, researches, plans and prepares all the nutrition education materials, not only for National Nutrition Month, but throughout the year as part of KU Dining’s goal to offer vital health-related information to the campus population.

The month was kicked off with table displays, posters and balloons in all campus dining locations along with the coordination of a student recipe contest with Student Union Activities and KU Dining. Marshall Beauchamp, a sophomore from Hutchinson, submitted the winning recipe, “Quick n' Healthy Red Beans and Rice,” which is on the menu at Impromptu Café this month, and the five finalists' recipes will be featured this week. A KU Dining employee recipe contest is currently being judged by residential dining students. The eight entries meet the Better Bite program criteria and the winner’s recipe will be incorporated into the residential menu.

KU Dining regularly offers healthy food selections, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, baked or grilled entrees with salad bars in all centers. Freshens Smoothies are available in all Pulse locations as well. Informative table displays have been set up with healthy snacks such as juices, pretzels and organic snack bars. Interactive games also have been offered as a way to promote nutrition education with a chance to win prizes like exercise balls, pedometers and mini shopping carts filled with healthy snacks items.

The KU Dining Web site offers a host of nutrition information and a feature called “Ask a Dietitian” in which students and staff can pose questions to KU’s registered dietitians. There is also an online computerized nutritional analysis program, NetNutrition, where one can calculate their daily/weekly dietary intake. You can find tips on calorie counting, label reading, healthy dieting and portion control, as well as other links to nutrition and health resources from around the Web.
Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation funds several new KU projects

KU’s Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation, a program funded by the Kauffman Foundation and KU Endowment, announced proof-of-concept funding in February for 11 new projects. The goal is to generate new and innovative drugs, medical devices and drug device combinations. These projects will take advantage of KU’s research and development expertise in pharmacy, bioengineering, and medicine. More information is online at kumc.edu/iami/poc_rfp.htm!

The new recipients and their projects are:

- Mark Cohen, vice chair for research, Department of Surgery, and assistant professor of pharmacology, toxicology and therapeutics, “Withaferin A: A Novel Treatment for Metastatic Melanoma”

- Heather Desaire, associate professor of chemistry, “A Novel Platform for Producing Proteins”

- Mark Fisher, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, “Lead Compound Identification of Direct Chemical Correctors of the Misfolding of Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Regulator using a Novel Chaperonin Screening System”

- Lisa Harlan-Williams, research assistant professor of anatomy and cell biology, KU Cancer Center, “Small Molecule Activators of BRCA1 Expression”

- Pedro Morales, senior scientist, KU Cancer Center, “Development of MicroRNAs (miRNA) Gene Reporter Biosensors as a Model for Gene Silencing Based Drugs Study Programs”


- Emily Scott, associate professor of medicinal chemistry, “Advancement of Compounds Targeting Human Lung Cytochrome P450 2A13 for the Prevention of Nicotine-Associated Lung Cancer”

- Teruna Siahaan, professor and associate chair of pharmaceutical chemistry, “Developing Bifunctional Peptide Inhibitors (BPI) for Treatment of Multiple Sclerosis”

- Ossama Tawfik, professor and vice chair of pathology and laboratory medicine, and director, anatomic and surgical pathology, “Evaluation of the Potential Impact of Telecytology [Tele”PAP”ologyTM] of Cell Block Preparations from Pap Smears”

- George Vielhauer, research assistant professor of urology, KU Cancer Center, “Development of C-terminal HSP90 Inhibitors for the Treatment of Prostate Cancer”

- Judy Wu, University Distinguished Professor of Physics and Astronomy, “Development of Multi-Functional and Miniaturized in vivo Biosensors”
Tips offered for severe weather season preparation, awareness

Kansas weather is notoriously fickle. The arrival of spring brings with it severe weather season. A common concern for those new to KU is our state’s somewhat overblown notoriety — thanks to “The Wizard of Oz” — for twisters. But here’s a quick primer.

**Tornadoes**

Tornadoes occur during some (not all) thunderstorms, day or night. Breezy or cloudy weather does not portend a tornado. There must be a thunderstorm present, thus tornado season in Kansas typically is March-June.

**Storm Forecast**

If a thunderstorm is forecast, stay tuned to a weather radio or media reports in case a tornado watch or warning is issued. A tornado watch means a tornado has not been seen but the conditions are very favorable for tornadoes to occur at any moment. A tornado warning means a tornado has actually been sighted or has been picked up on radar in that area. You should seek shelter immediately in a safe sturdy structure and away from windows.

**Sirens**

While you won’t likely see a tornado, you might hear a siren. Douglas County’s outdoor warning system consists of 35 sirens placed strategically throughout the county — two on the Lawrence campus — as an early warning device to alert citizens of imminent severe weather. The sirens are tested at noon on the first Monday during the months August through February, and on the first and third Monday during the months March through July. If the outdoor warning sirens are heard any time other than the scheduled test days, seek shelter in any KU building and tune in to local radio or television for instructions and information.

**Local radio**

- KLWN 1320 AM
- KLZR 105.9 FM
- KANU 91.5 FM

**Local TV**

- Sunflower Broadband Channel 6

**Text alerts**

KU does not send text alerts for severe weather. If you suspect severe weather is imminent, stay tuned to local media. Weather radios are another inexpensive method of being prepared for severe weather.

To learn more about campus alerts and to sign up for emergency text alerts, visit alerts.ku.edu.
Burns and McDonnell makes $1 million donation to KU Cancer Center

Burns and McDonnell, one of the largest and most successful engineering and design firms in the country, has made a gift of $1 million, the largest corporate gift to support the KU Cancer Center’s effort to achieve National Cancer Institute designation. It is also the largest gift ever from the Burns and McDonnell Foundation.

The gift will establish a clinical high-risk prostate cancer prevention program at the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Care Pavilion. The funds will be used to bring in key personnel for the program, as well as create an endowed fund, managed by KU Endowment, bearing the Burns and McDonnell Foundation name to provide support as the program grows.

"For more than a century, Burns and McDonnell has helped build infrastructure to improve the quality of life in this country," said Greg Graves, chief executive officer of Burns and McDonnell. "With this gift, we are building hope for prostate cancer patients throughout the Midwest. And, we want our gift to build momentum for more companies to support the drive for NCI designation."

Graves sits on the KU Hospital Authority Board and is a member of the Cancer Funding Partners Council, a collaboration of civic and business leaders charged with raising money for the NCI effort.

The investment in prostate cancer is vital to the NCI effort, according to Roy Jensen, director of the KU Cancer Center.

"Prostate cancer, cancer prevention and cancer survivorship are all important issues to the National Cancer Institute. The program established by this gift strengthens the KU Cancer Center’s case to take to NCI," Jensen said.

Jeffrey Holzbeierlein will direct the clinical high risk prostate cancer prevention program. He said the mission is simply to reduce the risk men have for developing prostate cancer.

"Prostate cancer affects one in six men in the United States," Holzbeierlein said. "This disease is the second leading cancer killer of men in the United States. Obviously, it is only useful to screen for early detection if one either has effective treatments for the disease or has prevention strategies to decrease a person’s risk for developing the disease. Fortunately, prostate cancer has both."

Under the direction of J. Brantley Thrasher, the William L. Valk Chair of Urology Surgery, the KU Cancer Center’s prostate cancer program has been named one of 13 “Clinical Centers of Excellence” in the country by Urology Times, the only area program so honored.

Campus officials said Burns and McDonnell’s generosity is in character with the company and its leadership.

“Burns and McDonnell has been a leader in its industry and in the Kansas City area,” said Bob Page, president and chief executive officer of the KU Hospital. "It has shown a clear vision of a healthier Midwest in making this gift. I have seen Greg Graves’ leadership first hand in taking charge of our cancer fund raiser, Treads and Threads, and in his role on our board. He is someone who
understands businesses must play a role to help realize the health and economic benefits of NCI designation.”

The gift brings total private contributions for NCI designation since January 2009 to $38 million. The center’s goal is $92 million.

Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the School of Medicine, hopes it will be an impetus for more corporate donations.

“Burns and McDonnell has stepped up to the challenge.

We need others to come forward to make the investments necessary to meet our September 2011 application opportunity. This gift, and the others to follow, will have an impact on leading edge cancer care, clinical trials and research,” Atkinson said.