Members of the Kansas Bathtub Writers’ Collective host “dueling typewriters,” an event to encourage writing, at Wescoe Beach. The group is a collection of writers from campus and the community that holds public events, readings and works to inspire writers.

Everybody in the tub

Group works to inspire, recruit writers

A group of writers is inviting everyone to hop in the bathtub together.

Like bathing, people usually write in solitude. But the Kansas Bathtub Writers’ Collective is hoping to change that. A group of writers from across campus, the collective is looking to encourage anyone who enjoys writing and take the art to the community. The group encourages each other, shares feedback and reaches out to the public through events like “Dueling Typewriters” and bus stop readings.

The collective was born in 2008 when graduate students Jameelah Lang and Andy
Anderegg decided they should get to know their fellow students better.

“Andy and I just wanted to have more fun and make more friends in grad school,” Lang said. “We thought if we could join our efforts we could have a great group of friends and do some great things.”

As their name suggests, the Bathtub Collective believes in having fun. The name was born when a member jokingly suggested taking a group bath at an early meeting. The bath never took place, but plenty of literary hijinks have. It’s not all fun and games, though. In addition to helping each other improve their writing, they’ve engaged in their own forms of service learning.

One event group members are most proud of is aligning with Writers in the Schools, a national effort. Members recently visited Lawrence High School classes to teach poetry. They helped encourage and critique the students’ writing and even arranged a public reading for the pieces. The members also visited the Spencer Museum of Art at KU and paired visual pieces in the collection with pieces of writing. The high school students then visited and wrote about the experience.

Michael Johnson, professor of English, has worked with the group and said he’s noticed an academic payoff in its members. Writers, unlike many academics, tend to work alone and are often more competitive than collaborative. Johnson points to increased participation from students at the annual Association of Writers and Writers Programs conference as one of the group’s benefits.

“We had 19 students attend this year. That’s extraordinary representation from one school,” Johnson said. “I’ve tried to be helpful but also to stay out of their way. I don’t think there are a lot of organizations like Bathtub. It seems to be really holding together.”

Collective members hosted a table at the conference to discuss the formation of the group, its benefits and potential. While there, they met established writers from around the country and networked.

Members think locally as well. Lang and Anderegg both mentioned the influence Lawrence had on the formation of the group. Community groups such as the Fresh Produce Art Collective were working together and making the art of writing more prevalent. They wanted to do the same via a campus group.

In the group’s two years, members have held public readings and shown their creative side with events like “Dueling Typewriters.” The collective gathered a bevy of typewriters and set up shop on Wescoe Beach.

“We all showed up at the same time and started writing new creative pieces,” said Ben Cartwright, a member of the group and graduate teaching assistant. “We all kind of tried to smoke each other out and see who could go the longest.”

As people passed by, group members shared information about the collective and invited them to contribute. One typewriter was designated for a public poem based on the exercise “exquisite corpse,” made famous by French surrealists. Each person who sat down at the typewriter contributed a line to a poem, without seeing any of the lines previously written.

The idea was to make writing a less intimidating undertaking. The group has also reached out to the public through readings at a downtown Lawrence bus stop.

“Writing is sort of an independent process,” Anderegg said. “You could be writing your whole life and no one would know it. We wanted to combat that. A lot of other arts have a public face. Too often, writing and reading don’t really have that public face.”

Given the success of the bus stop reading, Bathtub decided to work with Parking and Transit to place pieces of creative writing on KU buses in spaces normally occupied by ads. The plan is to both share a new venue for the writers’ work, and to give bus riders a chance to read works they might never see otherwise.

Members also hope to inspire others who might not otherwise put pen to paper.
The group has held a women’s writers and summer writing workshops. Both workshops, like the group, were open to anyone interested in writing, whether affiliated with KU or not. While inclusive, the collective also aims to improve KU’s program and inspire individuals. “I don’t think anyone will have to go to school alone again,” Lang said. “No one has to feel like they don’t have a voice and can’t make a change.”

For more on the Kansas Bathtub Writers Collective, visit kansasbathtub.org.

Chuck France/University Relations

Gates Brown, one of the first graduates of the Wounded Warriors program, is receiving his master's in military history. He will teach at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth while working on his doctorate.
Brown overcomes injury, obstacles to be among first Wounded Warriors grads

Army captain will teach at Fort Leavenworth

When his Humvee rolled over an improvised explosive device in Baqubah, Iraq, Capt. Gates Brown wasn’t sure at first how badly he was injured. When he was recovering, he wasn’t sure what his future would hold. When he enrolled at KU, he was sure of one thing: he had a future.

Brown, one of the members of the first class of the Wounded Warriors program, will earn his master’s in history this month. The program, a partnership between KU and the U.S. Army, gives wounded soldiers a chance to continue their education and military careers. He’ll soon begin his career as an instructor at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, known as the intellectual center of the Army.

Brown said of his experience following his injury. “I knew I wasn’t going to be able to pursue combat arms anymore. That’s the great thing about this program. It gives me a chance to transition from the Army to civilian life.”

A 2000 graduate of Lansing High School, Brown joined the Army after graduating from Pittsburg State University in 2004. Growing up near Fort Leavenworth with his mother and stepfather, Debra and Ralph Sorrell, he was aware of the Army from an early age.

“We were always on post doing one thing or another. His experience is what led me to consider the Army,” Brown said of his stepfather, now retired from the Army.

In August 2006, Brown was deployed to Iraq, serving as a combat arms officer. In January of the next year, he was riding in a Humvee, when it drove over a 120-millimeter mortar shell, buried under the road. The vehicle absorbed the brunt of the blast, but he knew he had been hit.

“I had to change my goals,” Brown said. “At first, it felt like we fell off a cliff instead of going up in the air,” Brown said. “I knew my feet hurt and I thought ‘what am I going to see when I take this map board off of my lap.’”

Brown’s right leg was severely injured, but fortunately he was able to keep the limb. He spent several months recovering in Iraq and Germany before returning to the states. He then had surgery to address bone damage and traumatic arthritis in his heel, ankle and toes. He was able to walk again, but he was unable to return to his love of running. Brown’s wife, Marty, a cross-country runner whom he met at Pittsburg State got him involved in the sport, and he completed the Oklahoma City Marathon.

While recovering, Brown was weighing his career options.

“My name got thrown in the hat, and luckily I got selected,” he said.
Always a fan of military history, Brown had never considered making a career of it before his injury. A visit to the Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene helped inspire his academic career. His master’s thesis analyzes the Eisenhower administration and the role that nuclear weapons played in post-World War II U.S. and European foreign policy and the implications of those policy decisions.

At Fort Leavenworth, he’ll spend his first year observing teachers and curriculum. The second year he will team-teach, and the third year he will be a full time instructor on his own.

Adrian Lewis, professor of history at KU and director of the Office of Professional Military Graduate Education, believes Brown has a future in the academic side of the Army.

“He has a sharp mind and a strong desire to learn,” Lewis said of Brown. “He is a student in the truest sense of the word. I expect him to make significant contribution to the field of military history.”

Brown said while his plans changed, he’s thrilled with the opportunity ahead of him. He will continue to work toward a doctorate while teaching at Fort Leavenworth. He said he is proud to be one of the first graduates of the Wounded Warriors program and prove how successful its alumni can be.

“I wasn’t ready to get out yet,” he said. “It’s nice to still be able to put on the uniform and still be part of the Army.”

Six faculty members to be honored for teaching

Six faculty members will be honored at Commencement May 16 for their outstanding work in helping thousands of students achieve their academic goals.

The Chancellor’s Awards for Outstanding Classroom Teaching annually honor faculty from the KU Medical Center for excellence in teaching. This year’s recipients are Ivan Damjanov, professor of pathology; Vicki L. Hicks, clinical assistant professor of nursing; and Merrill Tarr, professor of molecular and integrative physiology.

Three faculty members from the Lawrence campus will be honored as well. Michelle Heffner Hayes, associate professor of dance, will be the recipient of the Silver Anniversary Award. The award, presented by the 25-year anniversary class, includes a $2,500 cash prize. It is presented annually to tenure-track faculty members.

Kissan Joseph, associate professor of business, is the winner of the Byron Shutz Award. The award was founded in 1978 to honor exceptional teaching in economics and business. It was modified in 1985 to include faculty from all disciplines in alternate years. Winners receive a $4,000 cash prize and present a lecture on their topic of expertise during the fall semester.

Andrea Herstowski Wertzberger, associate professor of design, will receive the Ned N. Fleming Trust Award. The award recognizes distinguished teaching, scholarship and service and carries a $5,000 cash prize.
More than 4,000 students to take part in annual commencement

More than 4,000 members of the Class of 2010 will make the traditional walk down the Hill during KU’s 138th Commencement May 16.

Graduates will assemble along Memorial Drive at 2 p.m. They will march into Memorial Stadium at 2:30 p.m. Chancellor Bernadette-Gray Little will offer remarks and confer degrees beginning at about 3:30 p.m.

Participants in the ceremony include students who completed degree requirements in summer or fall 2009 and candidates for degrees for spring 2010.

The ceremony will be simulcast on a large screen in air-conditioned Woodruff Auditorium on the fifth floor of the Kansas Union for those whom the conditions in Memorial Stadium are uncomfortable. The ceremony also will be broadcast live by the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications on campus television station KUJH (channel 31 on Sunflower Broadband in Lawrence) and rebroadcast on KUJH at 7 p.m. May 16 and 17.

Sign language interpreters will be available in the bowl of the stadium. Reserved seating also will be available for people who need special assistance, including people in wheelchairs.

If it is raining the morning of Commencement, an announcement will be made at 1 p.m. about arrangements for a postponed ceremony. The announcement will be posted at alert.ku.edu; on radio stations KJHK (FM 90.7), KANU (FM 91.5), KLZR (FM 105.9), WIBW (AM 580), KMBZ (AM 980), and KLWN (AM 1320); and on Sunflower Broadband (cable channel 6 in Lawrence). KU Info will also post the information at kuinfo.ku.edu. Students who signed up to receive alert notifications on their cell phones will receive a text message if Commencement is postponed.

If the weather begins to clear in early afternoon, the first attempt to hold a postponed ceremony will be at 4:30 p.m. Graduates will assemble on Memorial Drive at 4 p.m. If the weather doesn’t begin to clear in time for a 4:30 p.m. ceremony, a second attempt will be made at 6:30 p.m. Graduates will assemble on Memorial Drive at 6 p.m.

The last attempt to hold the ceremony will be 9 a.m. May 17. Graduates will assemble on Memorial Drive at 8:30 a.m.

The consumption of alcohol on university property is strictly prohibited.

Commencement information and an up-to-date schedule of events are available at www.commencement.ku.edu. KU Info is available at (785) 864-3506 or kuinfo@ku.edu.
Retiring employees to be honored at annual luncheon
Ceremony set for May 27

KU will honor retiring faculty and unclassified staff members with a lunch at noon, May 27 in the Kansas Union ballroom.

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and Interim Provost Danny Anderson will recognize the employees during the lunch.

Lunch for retirees and one guest will be provided by the Chancellor. Cost for additional guests is $20. For reservations, send a check payable to KU to Debra Bia, Chancellor’s Office, 230 Strong Hall. Reservation deadline is May 20.

Retirees, their departments and years of service are listed below.

David M. Bergeron, English, 34; Stephen Bergman, Edwards Campus, 14; Joan Bland, Research and Graduate Studies, 7; Jean Burgess, Palentofologieal Institute and Biodiversity Institute, 12; Peter Casagrande, Humanities and Western Civilization, 43; John Charlton, Kansas Geological Survey, 24; Michael Chernis, English, 44; Robert Christensen, Bureau of Child Research, 31; George Coggins, Law School, 40; J.C. Costa, Music, 33; Richard Dishinger, Visual Art, 42; Victoria Dorshorn, English, 7; Jean Kygar Eblen, University Relations, 14; Karen Erb, Applied English Center, 21; Paul Friedman, Communication Studies, 38; Glenn Garneau, Biodiversity Institute, 14; Richard Hardin, English, 43; Mark Holmberg, Music, 39; Joan Holmes, Russian and East European and Eurasian Studies, 15; Colm Howat, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering and Kurata Thermodynamics Laboratory, 28; John Hudnall, Journalism, 19; David Katzman, American Studies, African and African-American Studies and History, 41; Charles Keller, Engineering Management, 9; Blanchard Keith Lenz, Special Education, 23; Melissa Manning, Academic Achievement and Access Center, 12; Carl McElwee, Geology, 35; P. Allen Macfarlane, Kansas Geological Survey, 32; Priscilla McKinney, English, 28; Keith Meyer, Law, 41; Felix Moos, Anthropology, 48; H. Boyce Moses, Law Enforcement Training Center, 26; Phyllis Brill Muncez, Music, 32; Dick Nelson, KUJH TV, Journalism, 14; Barry Newton, Architecture, Design and Planning, 30; Rod Oelschager, Education Administration, 8; Cecil Riddle, Sr., Information Services-Information Technology, 23; George Semb, Applied Behavioral Science, 38; Susan Shillington, Kansas Geological Survey, 12; Carol Simpson, Special Education, 12; Norm Slade, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity Institute, 38; Isaac (Bud) Stallworth, Design and Construction Management, 18; George Stephens, Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, 20; Vicky Trussel, English, 8; Cheryl A. Utley, Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies and Special Education, 17; Beverly Vogel, Public Administration, 37; Jack Weller, Sociology, 35; George Wilson, Research and Graduate Studies; Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, 23; Edward Zamarrapa, Schiefelbusch Institute for Lifespan Studies/Bureau of Child Research, 41.
School of Education partnership helps expand early childhood services in Finney County

Parents and teachers can attest — a healthy child is more prepared to learn. KU is leading the way in a $4.5 million project to expand and improve child health services in Finney County, Kansas, and connect families and professionals working to keep kids healthy.

The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service at KU is partnering with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on Project LAUNCH, a five-year partnership. The effort, Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health, is a project of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Project LAUNCH targets children from birth to age 8. The goal is to help children reach physical, social, behavioral and cognitive milestones. Karin Chang-Rios, a state evaluator of the project and co-writer of the grant, said kindergarten readiness exams will help determine success of the project’s services.

“We’re all learning as we go about the program,” Chang-Rios said. “It’s very unique in that it is a state and local partnership.”

Finney County was chosen as the local partner because of its existing childhood service infrastructure, community readiness and diversity. Rebecca Gillam, a co-grant writer and project coordinator, said Finney County is among the most diverse in Kansas, as 21 languages are spoken in the public schools and, according to recent population estimates, at least 44.5 percent of residents identify as Hispanic, compared to 8.8 percent in Kansas overall. Vietnamese, German Mennonite, Burmese and Somali populations have immigrated to the area as well.

Through the partnership, more than 600 local families will have increased access to developmental screenings to detect potential problems early in children’s development. Training based on American Academy of Pediatrics standards is being implemented. Mental health consultations are being increased, and are available in the home, in child care settings and to foster parents. Local professionals are working with families and offering professional development opportunities to help improve the skills of local child care providers and health care professionals.

Another goal of the project is to increase collaboration among early childhood programs and improve referral services among agencies.

Bilingual program staff are working to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood care by providing information through access points such as child care, churches, doctors offices and through community workshops and webinars. Program staff are working with local employers such as Tyson to produce calendars with monthly tips on parenting for employees and the broader community.

KU staff are helping with local and statewide
promotion of the Text4baby program in support of Project LAUNCH efforts. The national campaign promotes child health by sending information directly to mothers’ cell phones. The tips are timed specifically to coincide with the child’s due date or age. The messages also include resources, such as toll-free numbers, and lists of locations children can receive immunizations. So far, more than 450 Kansas women have signed up for the service.

“We’re reaching mothers prenatally,” said Cristi Cain, a state coordinator for Project LAUNCH. “This helps us achieve one of our primary goals, reaching families at the outset.”

Mothers can sign up for the free service by texting “baby” to 511411 or “bebe” to the same number to receive the messages in Spanish.

KU and local providers have been collaborating regularly on the project. KU staff recently traveled to Finney County to develop a Web-based strategic plan for the project with local staff.

Lessons learned from the five-year project will be used to help communities throughout Kansas, as well as other states in Project LAUNCH, improve services to support children’s health. Project staff said the partnership has been an ideal fit between the university and local early childhood providers.

“It’s a good partnership,” Chang-Rios said. “We’ve been able to bring our research expertise and they’ve shared their local expertise with us.”

Summer tuition assistance granted to nearly 70 staff

The tuition assistance program has granted 69 awards to KU staff members this summer. The program is available to university support staff and unclassified staff with six months of full- or part-time employment by the time the classes begin. The program normally provides tuition for one class and can cover up to a five-hour course.

Information about the tuition assistance program, as well as the required application form, is available at http://www.hreo.ku.edu/bene fits_pay/benefits_info/tuition _assistance. The deadline for fall 2010 applications is July 2. For more information, contact Mary Karten at 864-7346 or mkarten@ku.edu.

Summer tuition recipients and their departments are listed below:

- Daniel Alam, Administration and Finance
- Cori Ast, Dole Institute of Politics
- Heather Attig, University Relations
- Emmanuel A. Birdling, African/African-American Studies
- Mara Blake, Student Health Services
- Amy Barton, Aerospace Engineering
- Boone Bradley, Center for Research on Learning
- Marisa Bregman, Lied Center
- Allison Carfagna-Bonga, EleCenterial Engineering and Computer Science
- Doug Carter, Housing Maintenance
- Nicole Chapman, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Eileen M. Chrisjohn, Tertiary Oil Recovery Project
- Monica Claassen-Wilson, Libraries
- Rachel Crist, Applied English Center
- Joseph Custer, Law Library
- Luke Daniels, Facilities Operations - Carpenters
- Lindsey Deaver, Mathematics
- Donna Devine, Social Welfare
- Jeanne Disney, Center for Research on Learning
- Jeremy Early, Student Financial Aid
- Martha Elford, Center for Research on learning
- Richard Evanhoe, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Ed Foley, Edwards Campus
- Brett Gerstenberger, Information Services
- Kim Glover, Libraries-General
- Laura
Two KU faculty members have been selected to take part in exclusive National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminars. The seminars allow faculty members to study directly with experts in various disciplines in locations around the world.

Tamara Falicov, associate professor and chair of the film and media studies department, will take part in a summer seminar in Sao Paulo, Brazil. H. Faye Xiao, assistant professor of East Asian languages and cultures, was selected for a seminar at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif.

Falicov will take part in a seminar for the month of July with David William Foster, distinguished professor at Arizona State University. She will also study Portuguese and begin a research project comparing cinematic depictions of dictatorship in Argentina and Brazil.

“This is an outstanding opportunity for a Spanish-speaking Latinamericanist to deepen my understanding of Brazilian culture and the Portuguese language,” she said. “I plan to incorporate this into my Latin American cinema courses, as well as this comparative research project on visual representations of military dictatorships over time.”
Falicov, who has taught at KU since 1998, previously received an NEH summer stipend for her work on Argentine cinema. Xiao’s seminar will focus on urban culture, bring faculty members together to work with Russell A. Berman and Ban Wang, faculty at Stanford University. She will also present a research project examining the mobility of female literary and film characters with the imagination of urban space. The presentation is part of an ongoing book project titled “Chinese Style Divorces: Narratives of Gender, Class and Family in Post-Reform Chinese Literature and Culture.”

Tamara Falicov

Through my research project I intend to complicate this picture of Shanghai modern through examining the ambivalent and problematic connection between female body and urban space as represented in the film ‘The Postmodern Life of My Aunt,’” Xiao said.

H. Faye Xiao

Xiao joined KU in 2009. She specializes in modern and contemporary Chinese literature and film.

Thirty seminars are offered for approximately 650 National Endowment for the Humanities fellows. The educators who take part in the seminars will teach more than 81,000 students the following year.

Kennedy Center names playwriting award for Lim

Honor to recognize Asian-American student writers

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival has named a playwriting award for longtime KU professor and noted playwright Paul Stephen Lim.

The Paul Stephen Lim Asian-American Playwriting Award — supported by KU Endowment — will be presented annually at the festival in Washington D.C. The award includes a $2,500 cash prize for a full-length play or $1,000 for a one-act, a fellowship to attend the KCACTF Summer Playwriting Intensive or similar program, membership in the Dramatists Guild and the possibility of contracting with Dramatic Publishing to publish, license and market the winning play.

Lim said he was humbled to learn that the award, which will honor an outstanding play on any subject written by an Asian-American student, will bear his name.

“The KCACTF names its playwriting awards after people like Mark Twain, Lorraine Hansberry, Rosa Parks, Jean Kennedy Smith, David Mark Cohen and Paula...
Vogel,” Lim said. “I feel a bit shy in their company, but I am also thrilled to be able to encourage and nurture emerging Asian-American playwrights with this award.”

Paul Lim

Edgar Mendoza of Carnegie Mellon University won the inaugural award April 17 for his play “Blue Note Run.” Lim presented the award at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

“The recipients of this new Asian-American playwriting award are free to chronicle our Asian-American lives yesterday as workers in the fields of Hawaii, the canneries in Alaska, the bad Chinese restaurants which sprang up everywhere the Chinese helped to build America’s railroads...or maybe our Asian-American lives today as doctors and nurses, mathematicians and computer geeks...or not,” Lim said in his presentation. “For we are all Americans first and foremost, and then the hyphenated Americans which make us all unique.”

Lim, born of Chinese parents in the Philippines, was an advertising copywriter and journalist when he emigrated to the United States at age 24. He came to the States to advance his education and pursue a writing career. He won the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival National Student Playwriting Award in 1976 for his play “Conpersonas,” beginning his long association with the festival.

He began teaching playwriting at KU in 1989, the same year he founded English Alternative Theatre as an outlet to develop and produce his students’ plays. In 1996, he was awarded the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion in honor of his work with student playwrights. To date, 30 plays by his students have been staged at regional and national Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival events.

KU Public Management Center announces staff rates for Emerging Leaders Academy

Registration open for June class

The KU Public Management Center has made a name for itself offering professional development opportunities for public sector organizations throughout Kansas. Now the center hopes to better serve staff by launching KU participant rates for its programs, including the Emerging Leaders Academy, which kicks off in June.

The academy is targeted to promising, nonmanagerial staff. Participants meet for
two days each month for six months to develop knowledge and skills in leadership and in organizational and interpersonal dynamics. Culminating in development of a competencies portfolio, it helps participants identify and achieve their professional goals while increasing their effectiveness in their organizations and offering departments a tool for succession planning.

The program is framed in a strengths-based approach, with curriculum that helps participants identify and build on the strengths that have helped them be successful in their work and personal lives.

“Research indicates that the people who achieve the highest levels of performance do so by leveraging their natural talents and strengths,” said Noel Rasor, assistant director of the Public Management Center and program manager for the academy. “This program helps participants learn to use their talents more consciously and intentionally.”

Additional content areas focus on refinement of the skills that enhance people’s abilities to be successful in the technical aspects of their jobs. Topics include effective teamwork, improving business communication, ethics, generations in the workplace and networking skills, among others.

“We continually hear about the importance of networking to build interdepartmental relationships to more effectively accomplish our work,” Rasor said. “There seems to be an assumption that we all naturally know how to do this, but many people struggle with it and avoid situations where they’ll feel awkward. We added it to the curriculum to make sure a lack of ability in this area isn’t holding people back.”

For the first time the Public Management Center is offering the Emerging Leaders academy in Lawrence.

“We hope that the convenience and the lower price for KU employees will enable a number of departments to take advantage of this resource for their staff,” Rasor said. A second section of the academy will meet in Mission in the Kansas City metro area.

The standard tuition for ELA is $1,000; the KU staff rate is $750. The cost covers all training days and materials.

“We can work with departments on payment arrangements if that makes the difference in them being able to send staff,” Rasor said.

More information about the Emerging Leaders Academy can be found online at www.kupmc.org/programs/el a.

About the KU Public Management Center

Housed in the No. 1 ranked Department of Public Administration, the Public Management Center’s mission is to prepare leaders, develop professionalism in the public workforce, and link KU resources to the challenges of management in public organizations.

“Our relationship with the Department of Public Administration ensures that all the trainings and resources we offer are grounded in current research,” said director Charles Jones. “The Public Management Center staff supplements this with years of experience in leading engaging workplace education programs. It creates a win-win for our participants.”

The center offers a variety of other professional development resources and opportunities as well. The center is the Kansas provider of the Certified Public Manager program and has graduated more than 1,100 Certified Public Managers from across the state.

Center students are sent by their sponsoring agencies and spend two to three days per month with a curriculum based in managing work, leading people and developing self. Participants’ capstone projects often result in process improvements, revenue generation, and/or cost savings for their agencies. The program is offered on a calendar year basis and is currently in the middle of the 2010 schedule; the 2011 cycle will start enrolling in September.

The center also maintains a blog through its website. Updated several times each
week, the blog serves as a resource for public sector professionals by offering posts on topics such as leadership, management, and productivity. The center is also on Twitter and Facebook, directing followers to useful information and opportunities.

A link to the blog as well as Information about professional development courses offered by the Public Management Center can be found online at kupmc.org.

Senior administrative fellows class named

Nine faculty members have been named as the Senior Administrative Fellows for 2010-11. They are:

- Ruth Ann Atchley, chair and associate professor of psychology
- Tamara Falicov, chair and associate professor of film and media studies
- Elizabeth Friis, associate professor of mechanical engineering
- Jane Gibson, chair and associate professor of anthropology
- Karen Multon, chair and professor of psychology and research in education
- Glenn Prescott, chair and professor of electrical engineering and computer science
- Barbara Timmermann, Distinguished Professor and chair, Medicinal Chemistry
- Stacey White, associate professor of architecture and urban planning
- Susan Williams, associate professor of chemical and petroleum engineering

Now in its 18th year and under the direction of Mary Lee Hummert, vice provost for faculty development, the program allows selected faculty the opportunity to explore senior administration through meeting with senior administrators, visiting administrative units across campus, and discussing national trends in higher education.

“As a former fellow who has now moved into senior administration,” Hummert said, “I appreciate the opportunity I had to get a bird’s eye view of the nuts and bolts of educational administration early in my administrative career.”

The group of fellows is selected from nominations each year to work together for approximately four hours per month. There is no stipend or release time offered or expectation of an administrative position at the conclusion of the year.

Professor examines unintended meanings of written communication
Ward presents, teaches 'I didn't mean to say that'

When a news organization makes an error, it can lead to embarrassment, laughs or even a spot on Jay Leno. Sometimes, even when things are spelled properly unintended messages can be sent.

Doug Ward, assistant professor of journalism, stresses that message to his students and recently shared it in a presentation to American Copy Editors Society national convention in Philadelphia. “I Didn’t Mean That” takes a look at what is published, and what is not, says about those who broadcast the message.

One example Ward uses is the front page of a newspaper with a banner headline that reads “Woman brutally attacked; cops fear North York rapist will strike again.” The problem is the photo for another story on the front page of two baseball players slapping high five next to a smaller headline saying “That’s two!” Another shows a child in his Halloween costume holding out an open bag. The photo appears directly above a headline about a city council passing new measures against begging.

Other times, the order in which information is presented opens questions. Ward features several profiles of candidates seeking public office. The candidate’s age and religion are often among the first items listed.

“What does that tell me,” Ward asks. “When we boil things down to labels, that’s what gets us in trouble.”

In the age of social networking, media outlets have rushed into several errors that could have been avoided. Ward includes an example from the Lawrence Journal-World’s website of a headline that reads “Tonganoxie mayor attempts suicide.” A story posted later the same day claims the incident was a “possible suicide attempt.” The next day, a story quoting the mayor said he was hospitalized due to a reaction to medication. That example, and an incident when CNN posted on Twitter that shots were fired on the Potomac River near President Barack Obama. No verification was made with authorities before the post.

“Of course there’s something you can do about it in those situations,” Ward said. “You don’t have to run with it the second you get it. You can ask more questions. We need to think about getting it out there right, not just getting it out there fast.”

In the case of track star Tyson Gay some editors learned a lesson about relying on spell check and autocorrect. An Associated Press story on the American Family Association’s website ran a story about Gay winning an Olympic trial race. But the site automatically corrected all incidences of the word Gay to homosexual. Thus the headline “Homosexual eases into 100 final at Olympic trials.”

Ward’s session was related to another he presented at the conference and a topic he shares with his classes. While knowledge of social networking, Web publishing and technology is important, it can’t replace solid writing, editing and critical thinking, all atop his list of “10 Essential Skills for 2010 and Beyond.”

“If you can’t write or edit, what does it matter if you can Twitter or anything else,” he said. “You have to be able to do it all.”

Leadership group chosen for KU capital campaign
A leadership group has been formed to continue preparations for the next comprehensive campaign for KU. The group, the Campaign Organizing Committee, held its first meeting April 23.

The committee will make recommendations such as the working goal, timeline and overall messaging for the campaign — the fourth in the university’s history. Committee members will identify alumni, corporate leaders and friends to engage as volunteers, set strategies and review campaign progress to date.

“We’re fortunate to have a highly talented group of alumni and friends to provide guidance for the next campaign for KU,” said Kurt Watson, chairman of the KU Endowment Board of Trustees. “They will establish the groundwork that will be crucial in the success of this major effort for KU.”


“Our campaign efforts for the university and the KU Hospital are well under way with volunteer recruitment, goal setting and leadership gift solicitations,” said Dale Seuferling, president of KU Endowment. “We need to make sure we have the resources in place before we formally announce the campaign goal, and this committee will be instrumental in this assessment.”

Seuferling helped lead the last campaign to its successful completion.

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little said the campaign will be a catalyst for the university to achieve higher aspirations.

“This will be a milestone in KU’s history,” she said. “With support from our loyal alumni and friends, we can ensure KU’s place among the nation’s greatest universities.

**Campaign Organizing Committee members:**

- Joe and Jean Brandmeyer, El Paso, Texas
- Howard E. Cohen, Leawood
- Linda Zarda Cook, Concord, Mass.
- David B. Dillon, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Jill S. Docking, Wichita
- John B. Dicus, Topeka
- Forrest E. and Sally S. Hoglund (Honorary), Dallas, Texas
- Drue Jennings, Prairie Village
- Joe C. and Susan A. Morris, Leawood
- Charles E. and Anne Jones Rhoades, Mission Hills
- Charles T. Sunderland, Overland Park
- Michael G. Shinn, Beachwood, Ohio
- Kurt D. and Sue Watson, Andover
- Thomas G. Wiggans II, Olathe

**Institutional leadership:**

- Bernadette Gray-Little, chancellor
- Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the School of Medicine
- Danny Anderson, interim provost and executive vice chancellor
- Bob Page, CEO of KU Hospital
- Dale Seuferling, president of KU Endowment
For local elementary students, reading pays off with trip to KU rock wall

Staff take part in program to encourage youth literacy

Many people take a passive approach to reading. They relax and pass the time away with a good book. With the volunteer efforts of KU faculty members, New York Elementary School students have taken an active approach to reading this school year and will be rewarded with a trip to the Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center and the opportunity to ascend the 42-foot rock-climbing wall.

Mary Chappell, director of recreation services, sees a clear connection between reading and the extreme sport.

“Climbing the wall for anyone is an achievement. Some people do it quickly, while it takes others longer. That is what reading is about at times,” Chappell said.

In partnership with Altrusa International Inc., a local civic group that promotes literacy, Chappell, Jan Bulgren, associate research professor at the Center for Research on Learning; Julie Tollefson, project coordinator at the Center for Research on Learning; and KU graduate Karen Wycoff, librarian for New York Elementary School, met with students at the elementary school every Tuesday during the past two semesters. Their goal was to facilitate a group discussion on books the students read in class.

“These kids have great insights. I get a good feeling when I work with them. I come back to work rejuvenated,” Tollefson said.

Chappell volunteers because she believes in the enriching aspect of reading. The trip to the center served as an incentive for the students to finish their reading. Climbing the wall is more than just an award. The activity will provide a rewarding experience, as well. Chappell thinks the rock-climbing experience offers valuable lessons that the students can carry with them as they move on to middle school, high school and hopefully college.

The students will strategize how to climb the wall, assess their strengths and weaknesses and develop self-awareness while climbing, she said.

In promoting the educational values of climbing, strategizing, determining one’s strengths and developing self-awareness, Chappell challenged Nancy DeGarmo, principal of New York Elementary School, to climb the wall, too.

“What better way to capture these values and to show her students that diverse challenges are attainable with work, good study habits and integrity,” Chappell said.

“Climbing allows one to strategize on how to climb, determine strengths in achieving a goal such as the climb, developing self-awareness of what one can do, developing values of perseverance, can do spirit and overcoming fears.”
KJHK student radio moves into new Union studio

KJHK 90.7 FM, KU’s student-run radio station, has a new home. The station celebrated its move into new studios on the third floor of the Kansas Union with a week of activities earlier this month.

The week’s events included Jazz in the Park, with live music from Lawrence’s the Tommy Johnson Quartet and Diverse, a Kansas City-based quintet.

On May 3, KJHK co-sponsored a show at the Jackpot Music Hall, with Lawrence band Rooftop Vigilantes as the opening act and Ontario, Canada band F*cked Up as the headliner.

KJHK received a proclamation from the mayor of Lawrence at the City Commission meeting May 4 lauding the station and its students for its cultural and community contributions.

The station celebrated the formal inauguration of the new studios with an open house May 6. And to conclude the week’s celebratory events, the city of Lawrence formally declared May 7, as KJHK Day.

KJHK began broadcasting in October 1975. The station provides volunteer and leadership opportunities for more than 150 KU students.

KJHK’s new studio project began its design phase in February 2008, and construction began in November 2009. The state-of-the-art studios will offer broadcast technology not found in other college radio stations, and each of the station’s broadcast and recording studios within the new space feature top-tier acoustic design.

KJHK is managed through the KU Memorial Union Corp. and has a nine-member advisory board consisting of individuals from the university and Lawrence communities. Broadcasts on KJHK include all styles of music, talk and news programming and aim to reach all students at some point during the diverse schedule.