Neil Goss kneels at the entry of Earthway Studio, a project he constructed near Lindley Hall and the Art and Design Building. Goss will use the project as a work studio and a space to educate the campus community about traditional practices such as dyeing natural fabrics.

Down to Earth

'Earthway Studio' to double as art installation, educational space

As the sun comes out and melts the freezes of a long winter, it’s not uncommon to daydream about moving a workspace outdoors. While most university employees can’t drag a desk outside to enjoy a
sunny day, one KU student is taking his studio to the outdoors and building it, literally, from the ground up.

While most students were off campus enjoying spring break, Neil Goss, a fourth year textiles major from Pratt, Kan., was building “Earthway Studio,” a project he lovingly refers to as a “truncated, inverted teepee.” The studio, constructed entirely from foraged tree limbs and materials, will be his place of work for the rest of the semester. He also plans to use it to reach out to the campus community and share his knowledge of traditional, natural and ancient textiles and ceramic methods.

“In this installation I will be able to share and display the technical and craft skills I have been developing for three years here at the university,” Goss wrote in a proposal for the project. “Those processes include spinning, dyeing, weaving, basketry and wheel-thrown pottery. My reciprocal relationship with nature will be represented by the use of our vegetal, animal and earth matter to create and compose artworks. Through these activities, I will be able to introduce and expose the general public to the possibilities that are stored in our land.”

The studio, located in the wooded area in front of Lindley Hall and the Art and Design Building, across from the Chi Omega Fountain, will be on display until May 15. Goss gathered 21 10 to 12 foot branches and buried them about two feet deep to form the stakes, or walls. He then wound hand-woven and naturally-dyed hemp strips around the outside. The top is open.

“It’s essentially a large basket,” Goss said of the studio. “I had the idea of it being open and harnessing energy from the sky and placing it directly into the ground.”

Submitted/Neil Goss

This model shows the original conception of Earthway Studio.

While in the studio he’ll be doing his ceramic, dyeing and weaving work that he would have done indoors, all with the intent of drawing in interested faculty, staff, students and passers by to learn more. Goss will post signs outside the studio explaining the work and will invite interested parties inside to learn more. He has scheduled a series of performances to demonstrate various natural techniques. The first, “The Earth Run,” will cover collecting materials for construction, dyeing and even for food. In the second, he will gather water from Potter Lake and demonstrate how it
can be used for dye baths. On Earth Day, April 22, he will collaborate with dance students Jennifer Walker and Raylene Gutierrez for “The Earth Dance.”

Goss will be doing the lion’s share of the work on and in the studio, but he credits several faculty members for helping make the project a reality, including Mary Anne Jordan, professor of textiles and chair of the Visual Arts Department, Ruth Bowman, associate professor of textiles; David Brackett, assistant professor of textiles; Carla Tilghman, lecturer in textiles, Marshall Maude and So Yeon Park, assistant professors of visual art.

“Neil has a truly heartfelt interest in sustainable textiles and textile processes,” Jordan said. “He is an ambitious and serious student and we look forward to his work in the Earthway Studio on campus. This will be a new experience for him and for the Department of Visual Art. I hope that people visiting campus and current students will stop to see Neil's work and engage in a conversation about any aspect of the performance and resulting artwork.”

A senior, Goss hopes to graduate next year. He plans to attend graduate school with the ultimate goal of becoming a textiles professor.

Before settling in to grad school, he hopes to take some time to live off the land. His grandparents own a large parcel of land in Oklahoma, and he says he’d like to take time to put the lessons he’s learned to use by gathering and foraging everything he needs for food and shelter.

In the meantime, he’s looking forward to both practicing traditional, and even ancient, native techniques for collecting and dyeing natural fabrics and educating the public about them.

“I think a lot of people have no idea that these things are still being practiced, or ever were practiced,” Goss said.

2010 research expenditures surpass $224 million

Figures rose 8.4 percent from previous year

Research activity at the University of Kansas continued to grow during 2010, leading to valuable discoveries in human health, education, energy and many other fields of study.

Research expenditures at all KU campuses grew to $224.6 million last year, an 8.4 percent increase over 2009. That figure included all externally funded research from federal, state, industry and foundation sources. It is a record amount for KU and the third consecutive annual increase.

“These discovery and innovation happen everywhere at KU,” said
Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, “in the lab, the library, the field and the classroom. The primary goal is to benefit society, but there’s an undeniable economic benefit to Kansas when our faculty compete for and receive grants. Their work creates jobs and boosts local businesses. I’m proud of what they continue to accomplish, and the impact it has.”

Approximately 83 percent of KU’s externally funded research came into Kansas from the federal government in 2010, including awards under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. During the two years of that program, KU researchers have so far received 152 awards totaling $70.6 million. 2010 would have been a record year for KU research expenditures even without the one-time contribution from ARRA grants.

“Exciting things are happening at KU,” said Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. “Faculty members are engaged in research as never before in a wide range of studies: science and engineering, education, the social sciences, and the arts and humanities. We’re encouraging and recognizing this scholarly activity, and doing everything possible to provide faculty with the tools they need to be successful.”

Last year, an annual National Science Foundation survey ranked KU 44th among national, public, research universities in terms of federal science and engineering research expenditures during 2009. The NSF rankings for 2010 will be released in the fall.

“Given the importance of federal research funding, we’re concerned about the budget situation in Washington and the affect cuts to research programs might have on this national investment,” said Paul Terranova, vice chancellor for research at the KU Medical Center. “ARRA was a welcome one-time stimulus. Research is a long-term commitment. It’s important that the federal government continue to be a partner with us. As a university, and as a nation, we cannot rest if we want to remain competitive in the world of research.”

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**Caboni named vice chancellor for public affairs**

**Position will help guide communications, outreach**

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little has named Timothy Caboni of Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College of Education and Human Development to serve as vice chancellor for public affairs. Caboni is associate dean for external relations and professional education at Peabody, which is the top-ranked...
school of education in the United States according to U.S. News and World Report. He also is an associate professor of the practice of public policy and higher education.

Timothy Caboni

“Tim’s background in higher education policy, communications and public relations is wonderful preparation for this position,” said Gray-Little. “He emerged from a strong national pool of candidates because of this experience, and because of his work with alumni, development and marketing.

“Tim believes in institutional transformation because he’s been a part of it at Peabody. With his energy and eagerness to join the Jayhawk family, I know he’ll be successful in helping us raise KU’s stature here and around the world.”

The vice chancellor for public affairs oversees communications, outreach and government relations for the university. In this role, Caboni will be responsible for carrying out a strategic communications agenda that elevates the university’s reputation and status at the international, national, state and local levels. He’ll also have responsibility for primary internal and external communications and the integration of messages across all KU campuses, affiliates and partners.

“I could not be more excited and humbled to join the University of Kansas and Chancellor Gray-Little’s leadership team,” Caboni said. “KU is a national and international leader in knowledge discovery, instruction and patient care with a tremendous story to be told. I look forward to working with the chancellor and the rest of the university community to get that message out to as many people as possible in a clear and compelling way.”

Caboni has served as associate dean at Peabody since 2005. During that time, he oversaw enhancements in the school’s external relations and communications that tripled the number of national news media mentions for the school and contributed to the school rising to No. 1 in the U.S. News rankings of graduate schools of education. He also oversaw and administered all professional degree programs for the college and served as founding chair of the Peabody Professional Institutes program.

Caboni is also a teacher and researcher. At Vanderbilt, he has taught courses on higher education management, fundraising, marketing and communications. He has also published more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles, presented at more than 40 conferences and served as the principal investigator on several grant projects.
Before arriving at Vanderbilt, Caboni was a senior development officer at Loyola University and before that, an assistant director of alumni relations at Loyola. He holds a doctorate in leadership and policy studies from Vanderbilt, a master’s in organizational and corporate communication from Western Kentucky University and a bachelor’s in speech communication and rhetoric from Louisiana State University. Caboni will begin his KU service on June 1.

**KU geologists debunk previously accepted example of oldest life on Earth**

**Supposed 3.5 billion-year-old bacteria actually mineral deposits**

It appears that the supposed oldest examples of life on our planet — 3.5 billion-year-old bacteria fossils found in Australian rock called Apex Chert — are nothing more than tiny gaps in the rock that are packed with minerals.

The new findings by geologists at KU show that microscopic structures many scientists had thought to be primeval oxygen-producing cyanobacteria really are lifeless bits of hematite. The reexamination of the Apex Chert was published recently in Nature Geoscience, a respected peer-reviewed journal.

“We found no sign of any microfossil,” said Alison Olcott Marshall, assistant professor of geology at KU, collected new samples of the Apex Chert rock in Pilbara Craton, Western Australia.

“I went to the outcrop and with a geological pick I proceeded to break into the rock,” Craig Marshall said. “These rocks are very difficult to sample, they’re not crumbly like limestone. You’ve got to really put your shoulder into it. I sampled from the microfossil locality, but I also sampled at 10-meter intervals, tracing up the formation.”

The research began when Olcott Marshall’s co-investigator Craig Marshall, assistant professor of geology at KU, collected new samples of the Apex Chert rock in Pilbara Craton, Western Australia.

After shipping the heavy rocks back to Kansas, the researchers carved one portion of the sample rock into 300-
micrometer samples, as had previous researchers. But they also created another set of much thinner sections — 30-micrometer slices — that allowed for more light to pass through the rock. Then they peered at the samples through a traditional microscope.

“We were able to see all sorts of details and textures that has been lost in those previous studies,” said Alison Olcott Marshall.

Next, the scientists analyzed the Apex Chert samples with the most complex Renishaw Raman spectrometer dedicated to paleontology in the United States, housed at KU’s Multidisciplinary Research Building.

“We impinge laser light onto a sample, and that induces the molecules to vibrate, and it scatters off light at a different wavelength,” said Craig Marshall. “That frequency can be diagnostic for different minerals or different organic materials, and you can use that to identify the composition of a sample.”

Where previous investigators had found carbon-like materials — a telltale sign of life — the KU scientists, joined by graduate student Julienne Emry, instead found hematite, a mineral consisting of iron and oxygen bonded together.

“There were carbonaceous materials within the rock, but not actually associated with these microstructures that had been previously reported to be composed of carbonaceous materials,” Craig Marshall said.

In general, the scientists contend that more painstaking testing should be performed on all microfossils before they can be conclusively identified.

“Bacteria are basically little bags of goo, and they’re not easily fossilized,” said Alison Olcott Marshall. “The idea that you would have this tiny bacterium preserved for 3.5 billion years is not very likely to happen. The second problem is that they are morphologically so simple — they’re just circles and rods. There are lots of things in nature that make circles and rods.”

The rigorous techniques used by KU researchers on the Apex Chert “pseudomicrofossils” someday could help determine with more certainty the presence of life on other planets.

“This work has direct implications for looking for life on Mars,” said Craig Marshall. “If we’re having problems here with ancient Earth sediments and there’s a huge debate, we want to try and be more stringent with our analytic techniques. We don’t want a repeat of the announcement in 1996 that, ‘Wow, we found life on Mars.’ I can’t recall the timeframe of how many days or weeks until they said, ‘Well, maybe we haven’t.’ If we tighten up our ways of looking for ancient biology, this is going to be very applicable for Mars, particularly the ExoMars European mission in 2018 that will take on board a Raman spectrometer.”

The research was funded though the Australian Research Council and
Stella earns Higuchi award, highest academic honor in pharmaceutical sciences

A distinguished professor at KU has won the highest international academic award given in the pharmaceutical sciences, an honor named for legendary KU pharmaceutical chemist Takeru Higuchi.

The American Pharmacists Association has announced that Valentino J. Stella, University Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, is the 2011 recipient of the Takeru Higuchi Research Prize. Stella, whose mentor was Higuchi, was chosen for his contributions to pharmaceutical sciences including the novelty and originality of his research programs; his success in translating the findings into commercial products that are being used clinically to treat humans; the impact of his research findings on the industrial scientists who are responsible for discovering drugs and for developing drug formulations; and his dedication and commitment to teaching and mentoring student pharmacists and visiting scientists.

“Tak was a great mentor, and I am extremely honored and humbled to be receiving this award,” Stella said.

The award was established in 1981 in honor of Higuchi, the first president of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science. It recognizes the highest accomplishments in pharmaceutical sciences and is open to researchers from around the world. Stella will receive the award at the association’s annual meeting March 25-28 in Seattle, Wash.

“Val is recognized worldwide for his significant contributions in the pharmaceutical sciences and is most deserving of this award,” said Ken Audus, dean of the School of Pharmacy. “The fact that the award is named for his mentor will be particularly meaningful to Val and very noteworthy in affirming that Tak Higuchi’s unique spirit of entrepreneurship has continued to flourish through a very creative and highly regarded distinguished professor in the pharmaceutical sciences at KU.”

In addition to his appointment at KU, Stella is the inventor or
co-inventor on 37 patents that have led to drugs for the treatment of epilepsy, cancer and AIDS and an anesthetic. He regularly presents his research findings within academia and industry, throughout Europe, Asia and North America, delivering more than 500 invited lectures throughout his career. He has authored, coauthored or edited more than 40 authoritative review articles and seven books over the past 40 years.

“Seldom in modern history has the pharmaceutical sciences field had a scientist who was able to so frequently translate research findings into commercial products being used to treat humans,” wrote one of Stella’s colleagues in a nomination letter. “His contributions to the pharmaceutical sciences through both basic and applied research have been significant and abundant. Amongst most academic and industrial scientists working in the research areas of pharmaceutical cyclodextrin and prodrugs, Professor Stella would be considered amongst the ‘leading experts’ in the world.”

Stella, a native of Melbourne, Australia, received a pharmacy degree from the Victorian College of Pharmacy. He completed a doctorate in analytical pharmaceutical chemistry at KU, where he studied under Higuchi. Stella is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and the Cyclodextrin Society of Japan.

Higuchi, known as the “father of physical pharmacy,” was a KU faculty member from 1967 to 1987. He was a pioneer of combining theoretical research with drug production, published more than 300 scientific papers and was awarded more than 50 patents. KU’s Higuchi Biosciences Center is named in his honor.

Lumpkin joins sporting legends in hall of fame

KU professor Angela Lumpkin will join sports icons such as tennis great Billie Jean King, NFL Hall of Famer Nick Buoniconti and Olympian Carl Lewis in the National Association for Sport and Physical Education’s Hall of Fame.

Lumpkin, professor of health, sport and exercise sciences and former dean of KU’s School of Education, will be inducted at the association’s Hall of Fame banquet April 1 in San Diego. The association, known as NASPE, chose her for her work as a player, coach and scholar in sport. Lumpkin teaches sport management at the
undergraduate and graduate levels and performs research in sport ethics, teaching effectiveness, leadership, intercollegiate athletics, sport management and sport history.

Angela Lumpkin

Other inductees this year include professional golfer Annika Sorenstam and Bowling Green University professor Mary Ann Robertson.

“I am humbled to join other professional colleagues and outstanding athletes who have been inducted into the NASPE Hall of Fame,” Lumpkin said. “I joyfully share this recognition with my former athletes and current students and those with whom I have shared a wonderful professional career that has included coaching, teaching about and playing sports.”

Honorees are individuals who have made significant contributions to maintaining sport, physical education and physical activity as part of the total education program and symbolize the educational and developmental potentials of physical education and sport, among other criteria.

“The NASPE Hall of Fame honors outstanding individuals who have achieved new levels of excellence in sport, physical education and physical activity and inspired others by their example of what these quality programs can do to make a better world,” said NASPE President Lynn Couturier of State University of New York at Cortland.

Lumpkin has written 22 books, including “Introduction to Physical Education, Exercise Science and Sport Studies,” currently in its eighth edition; “Sport Ethics: Applications for Fair Play,” published in three editions; and “Modern Sports Ethics: A Reference Handbook.” She has been a reviewer for a number of professional journals, including the Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal and Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport.

Before coming to KU, Lumpkin was dean of the College of Education at State University of West Georgia, head of the Department of Physical Education at North Carolina State University and professor of physical education at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She was also the women’s basketball coach at the University of North Carolina.

The hall of fame induction is the latest in a long line of honors Lumpkin has received in her career. She was named Gene A. Budig Teaching Professor in KU’s School of Education, received the American Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Honor Award, was selected an
American Council on Education Fellow, served as Distinguished Visiting Professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point and has served as NASPE president.

**KU, Kansas City cancer centers combine forces for outpatient care center**

The KU Cancer Center and Kansas City Cancer Center have announced they will combine operations, creating an outpatient cancer care organization. The partnership will expand opportunities for advanced cancer research and Phase I clinical research trials and support the efforts of National Cancer Institute designation. Current and future patients will have greater access to 50 hematologists, oncologists and radiation oncologists at 12 locations, offering the most comprehensive cancer care in the region.

The partnership will unite two premier cancer centers, combining the area’s leading community-based oncology program with the area’s premier academic medical center to create an unprecedented approach to cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship for patients in the region and a national model for cancer care delivery.

Just as the KU Cancer Center will continue serving patients through its multidisciplinary approach in an academic medical center setting, Kansas City Cancer Center will have the same group of physicians and medical staff available to their patients at the same community-based locations and community hospitals where they currently serve patients. Other highlights of the partnership:

- Kansas City Cancer Center non-physician staff will join, and its facilities will become part of, KU Hospital.
- Kansas City Cancer Center physicians will become members of the KU Physicians and faculty of the KU School of Medicine, specifically in the departments of internal medicine, radiation oncology and pathology and laboratory medicine.

- U.S. Oncology will remain part of the operation by providing some proprietary products and will collaborate on research. Patients of the KU Cancer Center will have additional access to research projects through U.S. Oncology.

Leaders of all organizations involved see the proposed combination as an opportunity to provide greater access to customized, comprehensive, patient-centered care, by integrating unprecedented access to physicians and leading-edge technology. The vision of the KU Cancer Center and Kansas City Cancer Center is to partner as national leaders in patient care.
and support the KU Cancer Center’s education and research missions, to contribute to the elimination of the cancer burden by achieving and maintaining National Cancer Institute comprehensive cancer center designation.

“The partnership of two premier cancer centers further makes Kansas City a destination for cancer patients throughout the Midwest with options for treatment locations, technologies and sub-specialists,” said Bob Page, president and chief executive officer of the KU Hospital. “Together, as national leaders in patient care, this partnership further strengthens both organizations’ approach of treating the whole person with the most effective therapies in a patient-centered environment.”

Kansas City Cancer Center and the KU Cancer Center have collaborated on cancer care before. In 2007, they combined their blood and marrow transplant program into the KU Cancer Center. Through this collaboration, patients from across the region have benefitted from remarkable clinical outcomes.

“We knew from the beginning of our association in blood and marrow transplants that both organizations shared the same focus on patient-centered care,” said Mark Myron, president of Kansas City Cancer Center. “This collaborating organization will be able to provide seamless care in a variety of locations and will be a major step forward for cancer research both locally and nationally.”

“This new combined organization will enable a comprehensive, state-of-the-art approach to cancer care throughout our region that will be designed, coordinated and implemented by some of our nation’s finest cancer physicians and nurses,” said Roy Jensen, director of the KU Cancer Center. “Whether it is an initial encounter with a community-based oncologist, referral for a specialized surgical procedure, or evaluation for enrollment in the latest Phase I clinical research trial, the KU Cancer Center is committed to offering world-class care to cancer patients throughout our region and to developing the next generation of cancer therapies.”

“This is the kind of collaboration across state lines and across organizations that is needed to realize the potential of Kansas City as a national center for biomedical research. We are just as excited about the immediate benefits as the long-term impact of this partnership,” said Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center.

Schiefelbusch, collaborators win Dole Humanitarian Award
Richard Schiefelbusch and his collaborators over the past 50 years of his career at KU will receive the third annual Robert Dole Humanitarian Award.

KU has been the home to some of the most significant researchers and innovators in the world who have made the study of individuals with developmental disabilities their life work. Schiefelbusch was appointed director of the Bureau of Child Research in 1956. For the next 50 years, he developed a collaboration model that would bring together young and experienced scholars who shared his vision and commitment to achieving a better quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families. While initially focused on the children of Kansas, it soon changed to address the needs of individuals with disabilities wherever they might be. The work of his many collaborators culminated in the establishment of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies in 1991.

A dinner reception will be held in their honor in April at the Dole Institute of Politics.

The Dole Humanitarian Award, given by KU’s Department of Special Education, recognizes individuals with Kansas connections whose efforts have enhanced the quality of life of individuals with disabilities and their families. The inaugural award was presented in 2008 to native Kansan and former U.S. Sen. Robert Dole in recognition of his lifetime of distinguished public service to the disability community. Ross and Marianna Beach were the second recipients of the award in 2009.

KU’s Department of Special Education has been repeatedly ranked No. 1 in the nation through independent research and annual national surveys. U.S. News and World Report recently ranked the department as the No. 1 special education program amongst public universities.

KU lands spot in top 10 list of universities using social media

KU is among the top 10 most effective universities in the nation at using social media, according to a new report by Web Strategy Research, an independent research firm in Washington, D.C.

KU ranked No. 8 overall among more than 270 colleges and universities examined in University Social Media Report 2011. The report, the first edition of its kind, studies how effectively higher learning institutions use social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Flickr, iTunes U, Foursquare and Myspace.

Among colleges with enrollment of 20,000 to 30,000 students, KU landed in the top five. With nearly 135,000
Facebook fans, KU received a top 15 ranking in the use of the platform. The fan page for all things Jayhawk is consistently near the top for most fans among Big 12 universities.

“Facebook has been one of our most successful ways to reach out to Jayhawks all over the world, but it’s far from the only one,” said Corey Stone, associate director of digital media services at KU’s University Relations.

“Our teams at University Relations have also done an outstanding job telling the KU story through Twitter, YouTube, Flickr and, most recently, Foursquare. We appreciate this recognition and will continue to use social media to create stronger bonds with past, present and future Jayhawks.”

The report also listed KU in the top 20 for total views of videos uploaded to YouTube and top 35 for Twitter use. The university didn’t receive a rating for Foursquare use, as it was compiled before KU’s launch of its robust presence on the site.

KU’s Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/KU. Follow KU on Twitter at @kunews. For a full listing of KU social media pages and sites, visit connect.ku.edu/socialmedia.

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little looks on during an announcement of increased support of engineering education at the Kansas Statehouse. Legislators, industry leaders and higher education officials gathered for the announcement of a plan that will aim to increase the number of engineering graduates in Kansas.
Senate approves plan to increase funding for engineering education

KU officials are applauding the efforts of leaders in the Kansas Statehouse to support engineering education.

The state senate approved a plan March 23 that will allocate $4 million next year and $7 million per year in following years from gambling revenues that can support engineering departments at KU, Kansas State University and Wichita State University.

“Kansas needs more engineers to grow and prosper, and we’re ready to meet that need,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “There is broad agreement between business leaders and policymakers that the engineering shortage is hampering the economy. If we make this investment in engineering at KU and our fellow schools, it will pay dividends in the form of new jobs for our state.”

Several industry leaders with ties to KU agreed that the proposal comes at a crucial time for businesses in the state.

“Perceptive Software’s success is built on bringing new and innovative products to market,” said Scott Coons, president and CEO of Perceptive Software and a member of the KU School of Engineering Advisory Board. “Talented engineers are one of the keys to our strategy. We must increase the engineering opportunities at our universities to meet the needs of growing and entrepreneurial companies like Perceptive Software. This initiative is an important move forward for the state.”

Jack Pelton, chairman, president and CEO of Cessna and a past member of the school’s advisory board, said additional engineers are key to the firm’s competitiveness.

“A shortage of creative, tech-adept engineers is among the greatest threats to profitable growth,” he said. “If Kansas’ aviation industry, as well as the state’s avionics and navigation industry, is to remain competitive it can’t be hampered by a constriction in the pipeline of innovation. I believe additional support for engineering education in Kansas is essential to the economic progress of this state.”

Leaders of two of Kansas City’s engineering design and consulting powerhouses also shared support for the Senate initiative.

“This Senate proposal is a wonderful step forward for the state of Kansas and the region,” said Greg Graves, CEO of Burns & McDonnell, who also serves on the school’s advisory board. “Burns & McDonnell’s ability to deliver the design and planning services and construction expertise the world needs is dependent upon our ability to find top talent at all levels of the job.
market. This initiative by leadership in Kansas will set the stage for future success, not only for Burns & McDonnell, but for a number of Kansas’s major employers.”

Jim Lewis, chief administrative officer for Black & Veatch and a member of the schools advisory board, concurred that the proposal will help fuel the Kansas economy at a critical time.

“Black & Veatch was founded by KU engineering graduates and you can see where that early investment in education has taken Black & Veatch,” he said. “Black & Veatch continues to hire engineers from the universities in Kansas and those engineers create a positive impact on the Kansas economy. Efforts that support educating and graduating more engineers are important investments that will serve industry and deliver great benefits for the state. In February, Black & Veatch announced a long-term commitment to support engineering education in Kansas through our Building a World of Difference charitable foundation. It is gratifying to see the Kansas Senate leadership shares a similar vision of how best to move our economy forward.”

KU Dean of Engineering Stuart Bell said data show that investments in engineering provide significant returns.

“We know that engineering graduates are among the highest paid entry-level employees,” he said. “These are people who not only are entering the industry payroll, but they are working in businesses that create new wealth for the state and the region. This initiative is an important step forward for Kansas. It demonstrates support for the young people of our state by giving them access to strong engineering programs that will lead them to rewarding careers. It also helps ensure the state’s economic engine has access to the talent it needs to thrive and grow.”

**Steering committee selected to lead comprehensive campaign**

Momentum is building for KU’s comprehensive campaign with the formation of its steering committee.

Some of KU’s most generous donors and supporters are included as members of the committee, which held its first meeting March 11. They will draw on their backgrounds and professional expertise to promote the goals of the campaign. They join three alumni couples who are leading the campaign: chairs Kurt and Sue Watson, of Andover, and co-chairs Tom and Jill Docking, of Wichita, and Mark and Stacy Parkinson, of Potomac, Md.

“We are thrilled to count on this group of people to contribute their
energy and talent to this campaign,” said Kurt Watson. “Each of them brings an impressive skill set and most importantly, a passion for KU. Together with them, we are embarking on a journey that will transform KU’s future.”

Fundraising for the campaign already is under way, with a public launch planned for spring 2012.

“Private philanthropy is essential for KU to excel as an institution,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “We’re fortunate to have this group of supporters to take our message around the country. I believe this campaign will bring unlimited possibilities for all the people we serve.”

The new members of the steering committee are:

- David Booth, of Austin, Texas. Booth is CEO of Dimensional Fund Advisors. He earned two degrees at KU — a bachelor’s in economics and a master’s in business. He also has an MBA from the University of Chicago.

- Jay Howard, of Austin, Texas, is president of JDH Investments and chain of the KU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Howard earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting at KU and a law degree from the University of Texas.

- Drue Jennings, of Prairie Village, is senior counsel with the law firm Polsinelli Shughart PC in Kansas City, Mo. He earned two degrees from KU — a bachelor’s in education and a law degree. He is chair of the Board of Trustees of KU Endowment.

- Joe and Jean Brandmeyer, formerly of the Kansas City area, now of El Paso, Texas. They are the founders and former owners of Enturia.

- Linda Zarda Cook, of Naples, Fla. Cook is a retired executive of Royal Dutch Shell’s global Natural Gas and Power division in the Netherlands. She earned a bachelor’s degree in petroleum engineering at KU.

- Ed and Helen Healy, of Eastborough. Ed Healy is an attorney in the Wichita law firm of Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson and Kitch. He earned two degrees at KU — a law degree and an MBA. Helen Healy earned an MBA from KU.

- Brian and Buffy King, of Leawood. Brian King is affiliated with Frontier Wealth Management in Kansas City, Mo. He earned a bachelor’s degree in history at KU. Buffy King is a civic leader. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from KU.

- Joe and Susan Morris, of Leawood. Joe Morris is former chairman of the Capital Corp. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration at KU. Susan Morris is a civic leader.

- Charles and Ann Rhoades, of Mission Hills. Charles Rhoades is a physician and president of Dickson-Diveley Midwest Orthopaedic Clinic. He earned two degrees at KU — a bachelor’s of general studies and a medical degree. Ann Rhoades attended nursing school at KU and is a civic leader.
Linda Ellis Sims, of Independence, Mo., is an executive with ExxonMobil Corp. She earned a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering at KU.

Michael Shinn, of Highland Heights, Ohio, is a certified financial planner and owner of Shinn Financial Services. He earned a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering at KU and an MBA from Case Western Reserve University.

Tom Wiggans, of Olathe, is chair of Excaliard Pharmaceuticals. He earned a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy at KU and an MBA from Southern Methodist University.

Forrest and Sally Hoglund, of Dallas, are honorary members of the steering committee. Forrest Hoglund is owner of Hoglund Interests. He earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering at KU and was chair of KU First, the previous comprehensive campaign. Sally Hoglund earned a bachelor’s in political science at KU.

Unclassified Senate provides professional development funds to staff members

For the third consecutive year, Unclassified Senate has awarded professional development funds to staff from across the university. The awards were given to cover travel costs, pay for conference entry fees and cover other associated costs for staffers to improve their individual skill sets.

This year, more than $2,800 was awarded to eight recipients. The funds are intended to help staff further their professional development in times of tight budgets when money for such purposes is often unavailable from other sources.

The recipients, their job titles and their awards are listed below.

• Kevin Boatright, director of communications, Office of Research and Graduate Studies, $375 to attend the CASE District VI Conference Jan. 9-11 in Kansas City, Mo.

• Jeri Glynn, director of ticketing, Lied Center, $250 to attend the INTIX Conference Jan. 18-20 in San Francisco.

• Yusuke Hayashi, research associate, Life Span Institute, $500 to present a poster at the Annual Convention of the Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis Nov. 4-7 in Asheville, N.C.

• Letha Johnson, archivist, Spencer Research Library, $250 to attend the IASA/AMIA 2010 Joint Care Convention June 26-30 in Chicago, Ill.

• Donna Devine, project manager, School of Social Welfare, $500 to attend, and possibly present at, the National School-Based Health Care Convention June 26-30 in Chicago, Ill.
Conference and Workshop Nov. 2-6 in Philadelphia.

- Amy Lampe, adviser, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, $200 to attend a Strengths Quest Educator Seminar June 7-8 in Omaha, Neb.

- Lesley Longstaff, project manager, Information Technology, $262 to attend training for Project Management Methodology Certification May 17-20 in Kansas City, Mo.

- Barbara Starrett, coordinator, Office of Research and Graduate Studies, $500 to attend the National Council of University Research Administrators Conference April 16-20 in Cleveland, Ohio.

University Press of Kansas displaying award winning book designs

From iPads to Kindles, it seems like everyone is talking about e-books these days. But despite their growing popularity — and convenience — these electronic devices still can’t capture the creativity that goes into designing a great-looking book. For that, one still needs to pick up the book and appreciate it up close.

Thanks to a travelling exhibit at the University Press of Kansas this month, area book lovers will have an opportunity to flip through and study this year’s award-winning designs from books published by the nation’s scholarly presses.

The annual traveling exhibit, which features winners of the 2010 Association of American University Presses Book, Jacket and Journal Show, will be on display from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays today through April 8 at the University Press of Kansas, 2502 Westbrooke Circle. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The 2010 exhibit features 57 books and journals and 40 jackets and covers. The judging was separated into categories of scholarly or trade typographic and illustrated, poetry and literature, reference and journal. Winners were selected from 281 books, 286 jackets and covers and eight journals published in 2009 that were submitted by university presses. The jurors chose books for superior layout of typography or illustration; jackets and journals were judged for outstanding overall design.

For more information about the University Press of Kansas, visit kansaspress.ku.edu.