An artist's rendering shows sketches for an expanded Underground at Wescoe Hall, which will include additional seating, and improved services.

**Underground at Wescoe undergoing expansion to add seating, improve services**

The Underground food court at Wescoe Hall is undergoing an expansion this summer that will add seating and improve services. Work has begun on the estimated $475,000 project and is slated to be completed by the start of the fall semester, said Wayne Pearse, director of building services for KU Memorial Unions.

The work will add 140 seats, improve traffic flow and allow for more efficient service.

The work will remove a flight of concrete stairs and...
expand the space to the southwest. The C Store will close temporarily during construction, but will reopen in the northwest corner of the Underground. The Pulse coffee shop will move several feet away from the main southwest doors, allowing employees more room to work and more room for customers, reducing lines and congestion during peak hours.

Student fees will fund the work. Megan Ritter, president of the Union Corporation Board, and former vice president of Student Senate, said students approved the initiative at an opportune time. Several student fees expired at the time the fees for the expansion started, leaving the total amount of fees students pay at the same level.

All offerings at the site, operated by Dining Services, will stay open during the work and remain upon its completion.

Anatol explores Harry Potter, Twilight phenomena in new books

When the final Harry Potter movie is released next month, it will answer a lot of questions about Voldemort, the group of youngsters that came up together at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and the world they inhabit.

Giselle Liza Anatol has already brought together a whole new set of questions about the larger impact and meaning of the ultra-popular book and movie series in her book, “Reading Harry Potter Again: New Critical Essays.”

Anatol, associate professor of English, edited the book, which includes essays from writers from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom that explore how race, religion, morality, gender and class are represented in and the sociocultural impact of author J.K. Rowling’s series. The book is Anatol’s second on the topic. “Reading Harry Potter” collected critical essays on the first four books in the Potter franchise.

“When I first started putting it together, there was very little scholarly writing on the series,” Anatol said of her books. “I wanted to do more of an in-depth literary analysis. People think of Harry Potter books or children’s literature as content-free fluff. I feel like they do deserve to be examined and interpreted to see what ideas people are getting.”

Anatol teaches a children’s literature class for students who will educate future generations about reading. In 1999, the year after the first Potter book was released, maybe five of 35 students in the class had read the book. Now, that figure is much higher. A good number of her students have grown up reading the books and watching the movies for the majority of their childhood.

“Now they know some of the details even better than I do,” Anatol said of her students. “There’s definitely a spark when we talk about the Harry Potter books in class.”

The essays in “Reading Harry Potter Again” are both new examinations of the material and expansions of works in the first edition. Several writers returned to address their first contributions as the themes they explored were expanded upon or evolved with the final three Potter books.

“Readers’ interpretations are especially important, given the books’ enormous popularity over the years.

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“I love taking part in this type of discussion,” Anatol said.
“For both projects it was a really nice back and forth and exchange of ideas.”

Students often go through a similar re-examination of the books’ themes in class. Representations of power, controversy surrounding the books, fate versus free will and other topics that many young readers don’t initially consider are brought to the fore in Anatol’s class.

In addition to editing both essay collections, Anatol contributed essays on race and ethnicity to the first volume and explored metaphors of race and stereotypes in the second and wrote introductions for both.

Contributors to “Reading Harry Potter Again” are primarily English professors, along with a few philosophy and religious scholars. Leslee Friedman, who authored a chapter on militant literacy and its application to the book series, is a KU alumna who wrote her master’s thesis about Harry Potter. Mike Johnson, author of the book’s last chapter on “Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban” film, is a KU alum.

The Harry Potter series may be finished, but Anatol hasn’t stopped exploring themes in popular literature. Her collection of essays about the massively successful Twilight series by Stephanie Meyer, “Bringing Light to Twilight: Perspectives on the Pop Culture Phenomenon,” was recently released.

“It’s a somewhat different population of readers,” Anatol said of Twilight fans. “But you can see the passion for the books go beyond the literature itself, just like it did with Harry Potter.”

Ten faculty members land Fulbright Awards to teach, conduct research abroad

Ten faculty members have been selected as recipients of prestigious Fulbright awards.

The grants provide funding for scholars to teach or perform research abroad in summer 2011 or during the 2011-12 academic year. Ten is the second-highest number of recipients in one year for KU since the program began in 1946.

The Fulbright program is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries” through teaching and scholarship. It is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. KU’s International Programs office coordinates the Fulbright programs for faculty and students.

“Having 10 of our faculty members selected for this honor is an outstanding recognition of the world-class teaching and research that happens every day at the University of Kansas,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “These faculty members will share their expertise with the international community and return to KU with an even greater knowledge base in their respective disciplines.”

In 2002, 11 faculty members received Fulbright awards. Ten were selected in 1956-57 and 1962-63. Since the program’s inception, more than 280 faculty members at KU have receive Fulbright grants.

The grant recipients and descriptions of their work is below.

Santa Arias, associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, received a Fulbright research/teaching award to Colombia. During the spring semester in 2012, Arias will be affiliated with the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá. She will teach a graduate seminar titled “Space, Place and Territory in Colonial Americans” and work on her research project “The Encyclopedia and Creole Science,” a study of the encyclopedia project of the Enlightenment and the manner in which geography and the construction of scientific knowledge were understood and deployed in journalist writing, almanacs and dictionaries in South America.
Hannah Britton, associate professor of political science and women, gender and sexuality studies, received a Fulbright research award for six months beginning in July for South Africa. Working with researchers at Idasa, an African democracy institute in Pretoria, and at the University of Pretoria, Britton will evaluate the implementation of the 2007 Sexual Offences Act, identify models of success as well as gaps in government services and develop an understanding of the challenges of partnership between survivors of gender-based violence and policy, social workers and government agencies.

Bart Dean, associate professor of anthropology, received a Fulbright teaching award to promote the interdisciplinary study of Amazonia at the Universidad Nacional de San Martin in Tarapoto, Peru, during the fall 2011 semester. He will teach in the graduate program in conservation and sustainable development, an interdisciplinary training course dedicated to the systematic study of social change and community welfare in the Upper Amazon. He will also direct the establishment of an Anthropology Field Research Station along the Cairnaraichi River, located in one of the globe’s most culturally and biologically diverse regions. While in the Amazon, he will continue a number of collaborative research projects with KU anthropology faculty and graduate students.

Michael Detamore, associate professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, received a Fulbright research award to Ireland. Detamore will spend the fall 2011 semester at the National University of Ireland Galway, where he will work on a project in tissue engineering that is aimed at helping people with jaw joint disorders. It is a collaborative research project with the research institute at NUI Galway that possesses a highly specialized machine that can print a biomaterial in layer-by-layer manner to create a complex shape like the shape of the top of the jaw bone. Detamore has developed microspheres as base material the machine can use. By combining these two technologies to make biomaterial, Detamore and his colleagues at NUI Galway hope to produce a biomaterial that will support the growth of cells to create new bone and cartilage tissues in the jaw joint that are otherwise unable to heal on their own.

Terry L. Koenig, associate professor of social welfare, has received a joint teaching/research Fulbright award to Kazakhstan. In the fall semester of 2011, Koenig will teach cross-cultural social policy in the social work department at Eurasian National University in Astana, Kazakhstan. Further, she will conduct a qualitative research study examining the role of social work and social policy development in Kazakhstan.

Sanjay Mishra, associate professor of business, has received a Fulbright research award to India. Mishra’s host institutions are IIT Kharagpur and Goa Institute of Management. During his six months in India, Mishra will research the commercialization process so as not only to help increase the monetization of technologies and ideas in the Indian context, but also to suggest models applicable in the United States. He also plans to observe leadership in India, so that American businesses and institutions can learn from that country’s entrepreneurial successes.

A. Townsend Peterson, University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and curator of ornithology in the Biodiversity Institute, has been awarded a Fulbright research/teaching award to support travel to and research in Brazil during a 2012 sabbatical leave. Peterson will work with the Centro de Referência em Informação Ambiental, in Campinas, and the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, in Rio de Janeiro. He will be preparing a book manuscript presenting an improved methodology for mapping disease transmission risk, as well as teaching a course in the doctoral program of the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz.

Antonio Simoes, professor of Spanish and Portuguese, has received a Fulbright specialist award to spend six weeks in June and July at the Federal University of Espírito Santo in Victoria, Brazil. Simoes will assist his host institution in expanding the Spanish curriculum in the department of Hispanic studies and pursue his own
research in Spanish and Portuguese phonology and phonetics. The Fulbright specialist grant, lasting from two to six weeks is designed to promote collaboration and research between faculty in American and foreign institutions.

Dale Urie, lecturer in humanities and western civilization and European studies, was awarded a Fulbright to participate in the annual German Studies Seminar in Berlin and Brussels in June. The seminar’s topic is “Ethnic Diversity and National Identity.” Participants in the seminar will explore the meaning of distinctive national identity in Germany and other European countries and investigate the growth of multi-ethnic societies in Germany and Europe and the role of religions, language and culture for social cohesion and individual self-esteem. Urie is especially interested in examining the impact of a growing Muslim population in Germany and Europe in relation to these issues.

Nathan Wood, associate professor of history, will spend the fall 2011 semester as the recipient of a Fulbright research award in Warsaw, Poland, where he will be working on a new book project tentatively titled “Backwardness and Rushing Forward: Technology and Culture in Poland’s Age of Speed, 1890-1939.” Though the analysis of popular and specialist magazines, newspapers, artwork, literature, archival records of clubs and official state records, Wood will seek to understand how enthusiasts and the public in Poland reacted to the appearance of rapid forward motion, such as automobiles and airplanes. He will be affiliated with the University of Warsaw.

File photo/University Relations

Charles Spahr speaks with School of Engineering students in this file photo. Spahr and his wife, Mary Jane, gave KU a $32 million gift via their estate, bringing their total giving to KU to $45 million. The gift will support engineering faculty, students and facilities.
KU's largest private gift ever to benefit School of Engineering

Spahrs give $32 million to support students, faculty, facilities

During their lifetimes, KU alumnus Charles E. Spahr and his wife, Mary Jane Spahr, were among the most generous donors to KU, giving $13 million. But they saved the best for last, contributing an additional $32 million to KU Endowment through their estate to benefit the School of Engineering.

Their combined giving total is $45 million, making them among the most generous donors in the university’s history.

Charles (Charlie) died in 2009, and Mary Jane (Janie) died in 2010, after living most of their lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio.

“The Spahrs’ lives were transformed by attending KU, and through this generous gift, they will in turn transform the lives of generations of students,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “It will also greatly enhance our ability to meet the increasing demand for engineering graduates.”

Charlie Spahr grew up in Independence, Mo. He earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from KU in 1934; Janie grew up in Sugar Creek, Mo., and was a member of KU’s Class of 1938.

Charlie worked his way through college by holding various jobs, including binding books and working as a chauffeur for the chancellor.

After graduating from KU, Charlie joined Standard Oil of Ohio in 1939. During World War II, he served as a major in the Army Corps of Engineers, where he supervised construction of a 570-mile section of pipeline through China and Burma to supply fuel for long-range bombers. He resumed work for Standard Oil after the war, becoming president in 1957 and chief executive officer in 1959. Spahr was instrumental in opening Alaska’s North Slope oil reserves to the United States, overseeing construction efforts for the Alaska pipeline and helping to negotiate a merger with the British Petroleum Co. He remained CEO and chairman until his retirement in 1977.

“Charlie and Janie Spahr were so passionate about their experiences at this institution and how it shaped their lives,” said Stuart Bell, dean of the School of Engineering. “We are blessed that they chose to support the KU School of Engineering and our students and faculty who share their love for discovery and potential to transform the world. Funds from this gift will enable the school to offer scholarships and fellowships to an even greater number of academically talented students. We will also be able to create funded professorships that will provide a topflight classroom and lab atmosphere for our students.”

The Spahrs’ gift builds momentum for the school’s Building on Excellence Initiative. Designed to help fuel the state’s economic growth and business success, the initiative focuses on students, faculty, facilities, leadership and research. The result will aid industry partners in finding new talent, designs and techniques.

As a part of the initiative, the School of Engineering plans to achieve a 60 percent increase in the number of students earning bachelor’s degrees in engineering by 2017.

“Charlie Spahr had a modest upbringing, a brilliant intellect and a gift for leadership,” said Dale Seuferling, president of KU Endowment. “He believed in setting goals and working hard to achieve them.”

Charlie Spahr remained active at KU throughout his life. He served KU on the planning committees for the engineering library and Summerfield Hall. He was a
longtime trustee of KU Endowment and area vice president of the KU Alumni Association chapter serving Cleveland. He was an honorary lifetime member of the School of Engineering Advisory Board. He received the university’s Distinguished Service Citation in 1964, the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 1983 and the Distinguished Engineering Service Award in 1980.

Charlie and Janie Spahr’s earlier gifts to KU included funds for construction of the Spahr Engineering Library, the Spahr Engineering Classroom in Eaton Hall, the Bruckmiller Room in the Adams Alumni Center, scholarships and professorships.

Brownback vetoes state employee health insurance surcharge

Proposal would have added 2.5 percent to rates
Gov. Sam Brownback has vetoed a surcharge on state employee health insurance premiums that the Kansas Legislature passed last month.

The proposed surcharge would have added a 2.5 percent payment to premiums paid by all participating state employees, including KU faculty and staff, starting in 2012. Brownback line item vetoed the measure, saying it would not generate as much revenue as originally thought.

“After a thorough review, the actual revenues that can reasonably be anticipated from this surcharge are $790,000. Given the legal concerns the provision may create as it relates to the Kansas Wage Payment Act coupled with the smaller revenues produced, I am compelled to veto the surcharge,” Brownback said in a statement.

The Legislature adjourned without attempting to override the veto.

Health insurance premiums for state employees increased as much as 8 percent in 2011, depending on plan, coverage and salary tier. Open enrollment for 2012 health insurance plans will begin in October. Premium rates are not available yet.

New class of senior administrative fellows named

Six faculty members have been named senior administrative fellows for 2011-12. The program allows select faculty members to learn more about senior administration, both at KU and across higher education, by meeting with senior administrators, visiting administrative units across campus and discussing national trends in academia.

The new class of fellows is:

- Christopher Anderson, associate professor and Harper Faculty Fellow, School of Business
- Barbara Barnett, associate dean and associate professor, William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications
- Stuart Day, associate professor and department chair, Spanish and Portuguese, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Jane Gibson, associate professor and acting chair, anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
· Marc Greenberg, professor and department chair, Slavic languages and literatures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

· Donald Haider-Markel, professor and department chair, political science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The program is now in its 19th year and is directed by Mary Lee Hummert, vice provost for faculty development.

The class is selected annually from nominations received from around campus. The fellows work together for about four hours per month. There is no stipend or release time offered or expectation of an administrative position at the conclusion of the year.

School of Medicine-Wichita announces faculty promotions

Fifteen faculty members at the School of Medicine-Wichita have been promoted, effective July 1. The faculty members and their departments are:

**To clinical associate professor with tenure**

- Suzanne R. Hawley, preventive medicine and public health
- Ruth E. Wetta-Hall, preventive medicine and public health

**To associate professor**

- Mark E. Harrison, pediatrics
- Brenda A. Issa, pediatrics
- Carolyn R. Ahlers-Schmidt, pediatrics
- James M. Haan, surgery
- Susan L. Carr, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

**To research associate professor**

- Therese E. Cusick, surgery
- Donna F. Ewy, family and community medicine
- Noel C. Sanchez, surgery
- T. Lee Mills, family and community medicine
- Kamran M. Ali, radiology
- Scott L. Stringfield, family and community medicine
- Mona B. Brake, internal medicine

KU named to president's community service honor roll for fifth straight year

KU has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the fifth consecutive year.

The honor is the highest federal recognition of a university’s commitment to service learning, volunteering and civic engagement.

The honor roll recognizes colleges and universities for the number of students taking part in service, faculty involvement and total hours of service. The Corporation for National and Community Service compiles the list and administers the annual award.

“KU’s Class of 2011 has just graduated and is about to make a difference in their respective communities and careers,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

“These students and their
fellow Jayhawks have already made a difference through their dedication to service and volunteerism. I am confident their experience in the community has prepared them not only for successful careers, but lives as model citizens."

During the 2009-10 academic year, more than 15,775 KU students took part in service learning or community service. Of those, more than 6,600 completed more than 20 hours of service each in a semester. In all, KU students took part in more than 931,000 hours of community service.

KU highlighted a number of service programs in its application. Among them were the KU Medical Center’s Area Health Education Centers, which work to improve the distribution, supply and quality of health care professionals in Kansas. Each of KU’s three Area Health Education Centers partners with health organizations throughout the state and offers clinical opportunities for KU students in health profession programs. KU’s Audio-Reader, a free radio reading and information service for residents of Kansas and western Missouri, was also highlighted. The service broadcasts recordings of volunteers reading newspapers, magazines, books and more for the visually impaired. The Center for Community Outreach, a student-run volunteer referral agency, was also documented in the application. The center matches student volunteers with organizations throughout the community.

Amanda Schwegler, assistant director of the Center for Service Learning, submitted KU’s application and said the honor is a fitting recognition of KU students and employees to their communities.

“KU has a strong commitment to public service in so many ways,” she said. “Being listed on the honor roll highlights the involvement KU has had in helping strengthen our communities. We can be proud of the efforts that our faculty, staff and especially our students have made, not only to help others, but also to increase their own civic engagement.”

Math professor honored for service to state with Steeples award

A professor of mathematics whose outreach efforts have affected thousands of students in Kansas is the 2011 recipient of the Steeples Service to Kansas Award. Bozenna Pasik-Duncan was honored for her accomplishments at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences graduate recognition ceremony May 22 at the Lied Center.

Don Steeples, the Dean A. McGee Distinguished Professor of Applied Geophysics, and his wife, Tammy, established the award in 1997 to honor Don Steeples’ parents, Wally and Marie Steeples, and to recognize outstanding service by KU faculty to other Kansans. The award provides recipients with $1,000 and an additional $1,000 base adjustment to their salaries.

Thousands of students in grades K-12 have benefited from mathematics classes, workshops and competitions established by Pasik-Duncan.
In 1994, she started teaching mathematics classes four times a week in a Lawrence elementary school on top of her regular teaching load at KU. In just two years, the students won 17 awards at Kansas Regional Math Contests.

She has since expanded her contributions. She has organized and implemented Mathematics Awareness Month at KU for 17 years, which has received accolades from the governor and the Lawrence city commission. The mathematics competitions that are part of the program have attracted more than 1,000 students from about 90 Kansas schools in kindergarten through 12th grade in the past five years alone.

She has also established a partnership in mathematics education between local elementary schools and KU, an annual mathematics workshop for 5th and 6th graders in Lawrence, and participates in about three workshops a year for high school teachers of mathematics and science in the United States and abroad.

Pasik-Duncan has been a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics since 1984. She has been honored with several of KU’s most prestigious accolades, including the W.T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence; the Frank B. Morrison Award for distinguished teaching; induction into the KU Women’s Hall of Fame; and the distinction of being the first mathematics professor to receive the HOPE teaching award since it was established in 1959.

KU Cancer Center hires leader for clinical trials

The KU Cancer Center has hired Raymond Perez, a physician scientist known for his expertise in early phase clinical trials, to fill a key leadership position deemed necessary in its bid for National Cancer Institute designation.

Raymond Perez

“Ray Perez brings a national reputation and a stellar record of leadership,” said Roy Jensen, director of the KU Cancer Center. “We are excited to bring him to KU to lead our clinical trial effort. He is being charged with developing and leading the premier academic Phase I cancer facility in the nation, which will mean patients have access to the latest, most promising new cancer drugs.”

Most recently, Perez was an associate professor of medicine and pharmacology and toxicology at Dartmouth Medical School. His research focuses on understanding the biology of cancer to create therapies that selectively target tumors.

Perez also does clinical work, conducting the first human trials of new drugs.

“The think that’s actually the coolest work,” he said. “Mostly, I study drugs so new that they don’t yet have names. Those drugs are often designed to hit new, interesting aspects of cancer biology that we’ve only recently learned about.”

While at Dartmouth, Perez more than doubled the number of patients who enrolled in early phase clinical trials conducted at the NCI-designated Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

Perez will join the cancer center in June, becoming the medical director of the Clinical Trials Management Shared Resource at the KU Clinical Research Center in Fairway. Scheduled to open late this year at 4350 Shawnee Mission Parkway, the Clinical Research Center
will be located in a building donated by the Hall Family Foundation as part of an $18 million gift to the cancer center. The KU Clinical Research Center is the northernmost point of the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle and is funded in part by revenues from a one-eighth-cent sales tax approved by county voters in 2008 to enhance research and higher education. In that facility, the cancer center will expand the number of clinical trials available to patients in this region.

Perez praised the people of Johnson County for approving the tax that has helped create the KU Clinical Research Center.

“Having the opportunity to design the center properly from the start will make a huge difference,” he said. “These days, developing drugs the right way involves drawing blood samples at specific times, and getting biopsies of people’s tumors to see whether drugs hit their intended targets. This new building has everything you would dream of to provide a good experience for both patients and researchers. No cancer center in the nation has better freestanding facilities for early clinical trials.”

Perez says working with patients who have enrolled in early phase clinical trials is profoundly rewarding.

“A lot of people have said, ‘How can you do early drug work? You are testing unproven drugs on people who are out of options.’ But that’s actually one of the most optimistic places to be. Many people who have exhausted the options available through standard treatments still feel fairly well and are not ready to quit. If we can offer them something new, possibly with fewer side effects – if we offer them a winner – they have a chance to benefit years before that drug becomes widely available.”

In addition to his role as medical director of the Clinical Research Center, Perez will teach in the KU Medical Center Department of Internal Medicine and serve as the Lieberman Family Endowed Professor in Cancer Research.

Pharm chem professor wins Louise Byrd Graduate Educator Award

Jennifer Laurence, associate professor of pharmaceutical chemistry, is the 2011 recipient of the Louise Byrd Graduate Educator Award. The award was presented May 21 during the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.

“Professor Laurence is a shining example of an outstanding graduate faculty mentor,” said Sara Rosen, dean of graduate studies. “Her impact on the lives of her students and her department are substantial. The selection committee, comprised of previous awardees, is delighted to have such a distinguished scholar and mentor receive this award.”

One student nominator wrote that Laurence “evaluates and mentors each student as an individual. She provides opportunities for her students to strengthen those skills that need improvement, while recognizing and showcasing the talents each student naturally possesses.”

Laurence’s research focuses on the area of protein structure and stability. The research is key in developing protein drugs, which show promise as targeted therapeutic agents for treating diseases more effectively and with fewer side effects.
Laurence has been on the KU faculty since 2004 with the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and holds courtesy appointments in both the molecular biosciences and chemistry departments. She earned a doctoral degree in chemistry from Purdue University, where she also served as a postdoctoral researcher before coming to KU.

Her colleagues say that “Professor Laurence is an excellent teacher and cares very much about the training of graduate students. She recently assumed responsibility for reorganizing the graduate seminar program with an emphasis on inviting outside speakers and establishing a journal club so students could read and discuss papers published by the invited speaker. This change has impacted the training of all graduate students in the department.”

The Louise Byrd Graduate Educator Award was established in 1984 in memory of Louise E. Byrd, who served for many years as secretary of the Graduate School. The award honors faculty members who have demonstrated extraordinary devotion to graduate students and graduate education and who have distinguished themselves as scholars. The name of each nominee is affixed to a plaque that is housed in the Kansas Union.

Public administration department joins alliance 'committed to transforming local government'

The nationally ranked Department of Public Administration has joined the Alliance for Innovation, an international network of progressive governments and partners committed to transforming local government by accelerating the development and dissemination of innovative practices.

The department is the first university affiliate of the alliance. The organization is a partnership of the International City/County Management Association, the Arizona State University School of Public Affairs and the former Innovation Groups.

“We are very excited to now have a very deliberate and clear connection to the Department of Public Administration at KU,” said Karen Thoreson, president of the Alliance for Innovation. “The school’s admired faculty, students and alumni will be an asset to our member governments across the US and Canada.”

As an affiliate, the department will network with Alliance for Innovation members to advance research in local government practices.

“We are extremely happy about the opportunity to be the first university affiliate,” said Marilu Goodyear, chair of the public administration department. “The new access to timely resources will be very beneficial for our students and research faculty as they study the changing environment in local government.”

Faculty and students will have access to the results of national surveys that ICMA has conducted on economic development, sustainability and form of government. KU Libraries will partner with the department in managing ICMA datasets and providing access for KU researchers and students for a wide variety of inter- and multi-disciplinary research needs.

The department also will be able to participate in and add to an online knowledge base. The Alliance for Innovation and the ICMA host a website, the Knowledge Network, that provides interactive resources for professionals and academics interested in leading practices of local government.

In addition, the department will be part of a broad
Academic Network assembled by Arizona State University. The network is made up of about 100 public affairs faculty members who contribute to new urban research from more than 50 universities and other research organizations.

KU’s involvement with the Alliance for Innovation also presents an opportunity to attract future university affiliates.

“This is a major step in the intended development of the Alliance as a vehicle to bring together forward-thinking local governments with academic institutions doing cutting-edge research,” said Jonathan Koppell, director of the Arizona State School of Public Affairs. “Adding a program of KU’s caliber will surely motivate other schools to join us in this important work as university affiliates.”

KU’s Department of Public Administration consistently ranks as a top program in public affairs in the United States, according to US News and World Report. The department offers both academic and workplace-based professional development education to strengthen the provision of public services in society. The department prepares leaders and links KU resources to the challenges of public management through service and research.

The department is part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Home to more than 55 departments and programs and the School of the Arts, the College is the largest academic unit at KU. It provides general education for undergraduates and confers half of all bachelor’s degrees earned at KU. Faculty offer a diverse wealth of expertise spanning the disciplines of arts, humanities, international studies, natural sciences and mathematics, and social and behavioral sciences.

KU proposes tuition rates for 2011-12

Two-thirds would see no increase due to Tuition Compact

Nearly two-thirds of returning KU undergraduates will have no tuition increase next year, and the incoming freshman class will have no tuition increase for four years as part of the 2011-12 tuition proposal made to the Kansas Board of Regents.

Under the proposal, the popular Four-Year Tuition Compact would continue, meaning 65 percent of returning undergraduates will have no tuition increase. Almost all other students would see smaller increases than last year. New revenue from the proposal would go toward maintaining excellence in academics, which was identified as a priority by students.

“Students are active partners in our university and were closely involved in the drafting of this plan,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “KU students made it clear that they want to work with top instructors and have the learning opportunities available only at a research university. They tell us they and their families are willing to pay a little more if it means getting the quality they expect.”

Under the proposed 2011-12 tuition and fees, the rate for new freshmen entering a tuition compact would increase 5.6 percent over the previous compact rate for resident undergraduates and 5 percent for nonresident undergraduates. Both are smaller than last year’s increases.

Standard tuition paid by students in Lawrence not in a tuition compact would also see smaller increases than last year, with the exception of nonresident undergraduates. Tuition and fees for resident undergraduate and graduate students would increase 5.5 percent. For nonresident undergraduates, they would increase 7.1 percent and for nonresident graduate students, 5.9 percent.

At the KU Medical Center, resident medical student tuition and fees would increase 4.9 percent and nonresident tuition would increase 5 percent, both similar to last year. All other medical center students
would see a 4.9 percent increase in tuition and fees, which is less than last year.

To maintain affordability, $10.3 million in need-based grants would be provided to students, an increase of $400,000 from the previous year. Overall, KU provided $72.1 million in grants and scholarships to 13,878 students in fiscal year 2010. Additionally, the new Rock Chalk Scholarship would recruit talented out-of-state students to Kansas, while still ensuring their tuition covers the cost of their education and helps subsidize those of Kansas students.

Tuition and fees are not final until approved by the Board of Regents. Each June, the board meets to vote on tuition and fees for the upcoming academic year.

Proceeds from the proposed tuition plan would be directed toward retaining excellent faculty and staff and covering mandated cost increases. They would also be used to increase availability of high-demand classes and restore student support services that aid in retention and timely graduation.

“We are facing a growing crisis when it comes to retaining excellent employees,” said Gray-Little. “Private university endowments have recovered, giving them and public universities in faster growing states the ability to recruit away our top faculty members. If we are going to give our students the high quality education they expect, we must be able to compete.”

In the past year alone, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has faced more attempts to recruit away its faculty members than during the previous two years combined, she added.

The effects of the budget crisis continue to be felt in the form of cuts and unfunded mandates since 2009 that will now total more than $49 million at KU in fiscal year 2012. State funding per resident KU student has declined 40 percent since 1999 and Kansas students now pay more than half the cost of a KU education, when previously the state covered a majority of the cost.

KU’s state funding per full-time resident student ranks 23rd out of 27 current and former public universities in the Association of American Universities that responded to a University of Virginia study. When tuition and fees per student are added, KU ranks 25th out of 27 in this listing of the resources available to some of the nation’s top public research universities.

For more information on the Four-Year Tuition Compact, visit tuition.ku.edu.

West campus business incubator adds new tenant, 360 Energy Engineers

The Bioscience and Technology Business Center has secured its fifth tenant. 360 Energy Engineers, an engineering and energy management firm, has signed a lease at the center’s main facility on west campus, effective June 1. The company will bring four employees to the incubator and plans to house eight employees there within two years.

The firm becomes the fifth company to lease space in the center since it opened last summer. Other tenants include Garmin, a global leader in navigation and communication devices; BrightEHR, an electronic health records company; Sunlite Science and Technology, a producer of specialty LED products; and Propylon, a producer of software systems for state legislatures.

The addition means the 21,400-square-foot main facility will be 50 percent leased and house 40 employees.

“360 Energy Engineers is a cutting-edge engineering firm, and their choosing to locate here speaks well of the BTBC’s system to help build companies, our business support services and our location on the KU campus,” said Matthew McClorey,
executive director of the Bioscience and Technology Business Center. “We welcome them to Lawrence, and we’re prepared to help them grow their business here.”

360 Energy Engineers has coordinated the design, development, implementation, management and support of more than $50 million in energy projects throughout the Midwest. Clients include organizations in education, health care, industry, manufacturing and all levels of government.

“The BTBC offers an outstanding facility for a growing tech-focused company like 360 Energy Engineers,” said Joe Hurla, business development manager for 360 Energy Solutions. “The office space is fantastic. The support staff has the expertise to help us with all aspects of our business. And the location on the KU campus gives us the option to recruit highly trained KU students as interns or new employees.”

The center provides state-of-the-art wet lab and office space; access to KU resources and research expertise; and business support services such as capital-raising and consulting services from incubator staff. The center's main facility is on the KU campus at 2029 Becker Drive, and the expansion facility is nearby at 4950 Research Parkway. A third facility on the KU Medical Center campus will be dedicated June 21.

The Bioscience and Technology Business Center is a partnership of the Lawrence-Douglas County Bioscience Authority, Lawrence Regional Technology Center, KU, city of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas Bioscience Authority and Lawrence Chamber of Commerce. For details, visit btbcku.com.

“360 Energy Engineers is the latest company to recognize the benefits of locating here,” said Julie Goonewardene, associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship at KU. “Tenants benefit from a unique location that encourages collaboration with KU researchers and students. They’re directly across the street from our pharmacy and bioscience research facilities and on the same campus as a range of other potential research partners.”

KU, national speakers highlight 2011-12 Humanities Lecture Series

The Hall Center for the Humanities has announced the speakers for its 2011-12 Humanities Lecture Series.

The series will include Laurence Rees, Diane Ravitch, Louis Menand, Jeff Moran, Alain de Botton and Jamaica Kincaid. The lectures are free, open to the public and begin at 7:30 p.m. on the dates specified below. Ravitch, Menand, de Botton and Kincaid also will take part in small conversation sessions at 10 a.m. the day after their lectures.

**Laurence Rees**, Sept. 20, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

In-depth conversations with Japanese soldiers, Nazi officers and Russian fighters forced into silence during Stalin’s reign make the films of historian and documentarian Laurence Rees unique among the many accounts available of World War II and its brutalities. In his presentation “Talking with Nazis,” Rees will use extracts from his Peabody Award-winning television series to illustrate the benefits and pitfalls of interviewing former Nazis, from those who worked for Hitler to those who personally committed war crimes on his behalf. Rees is the former head of BBC Television’s history programs and the author of numerous best-selling books on World War II, including “Auschwitz” and “World War II Behind Closed Doors: Stalin, the Nazis and the West.”

**Diane Ravitch**, Oct. 18, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union
One of the most vocal and impassioned proponents of public education reform, Diane Ravitch has offered levelheaded, nonpartisan assessments of public education for more than 30 years. In her presentation “Will School Reform Improve the Schools?,” the former advocate of school choice will discuss how she came to the view that these and other proposed reforms actually undermine the goal of providing a first-rate public education. Ravitch is the author of 10 books on education history and policy, including her most recent work, “The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice are Undermining Education.” She also has written more than 500 articles and reviews for scholarly and popular publications. Ravitch is a research professor of education at New York University and a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Louis Menand, Nov. 17, Spencer Museum of Art auditorium


Jeff Moran, Feb. 16, the Commons, Spooner Hall


Alain de Botton, March 14, the Commons, Spooner Hall

Acclaimed author and “philosopher of everyday living” Alain de Botton has published on literature, art, philosophy, architecture, film and more, yet his work always returns to the question of how one may use culture in a therapeutic way, to find meaning or consolation. De Botton has been praised and condemned for this practical approach to utilizing the arts. But as interviewer Katy Guest of the Independent puts it, “his mission is to wrestle back those consolations from ‘the huge gatekeeper’ ... that is academia.” In his presentation “Religion for Atheists,” de Botton will use his witty, controversial approach to culture to propose a secular means toward the deep fulfillment that many seek in organized religion. De Botton, a Swiss writer living in England, is the author of 10 books, including “How Proust Can Change Your Life” (1997), “The Architecture of Happiness” (2006) and “The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work” (2009). He is the founder of Living Architecture, an innovative nonprofit organization whose goal is to build interesting and affordable vacation housing in the UK.

Jamaica Kincaid, April 10, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

Caribbean novelist Jamaica Kincaid is widely regarded as one of the most important
postcolonial authors of our time. Henry Louis Gates Jr. compares her to Toni Morrison and Wole Soyinka. She has published 15 long works, including poems, novels and reflections, and was a longtime contributor to the New Yorker. Her loosely autobiographical novels, including “Annie John” (1985), “Lucy” (1990) and “The Autobiography of My Mother” (1997), interweave gender, sexuality, race, ethnic identity, selfhood and themes of place into evocative and lyrical prose. In her presentation “Landscapes and Memory,” she will read from some of her work and discuss the importance of personal landscapes, history and cultural identity. Kincaid is the Josephine Olp Weeks Chair and Professor of Literature at Claremont McKenna College.

Founded in 1947, the Humanities Lecture Series is the oldest continuing series at KU. More than 150 eminent scholars from around the world have participated in the program, including author Salman Rushdie, poet Gwendolyn Brooks and evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins. Recent speakers have included Henry Louis Gates Jr., Mary Oliver and T.R. Reid. Shortly after the program’s inception, a lecture by one outstanding KU faculty member was added to the schedule.

For more information, contact the Hall Center at hallcenter@ku.edu or 785-864-4798.

Legislature passes measures to support expanded engineering programs

An expansion of the School of Engineering endorsed by the Kansas Legislature moves Kansas forward on the roadmap to economic growth by meeting the state’s growing need for engineers.

“Kansas needs more engineers if we’re going to grow the economy and create jobs,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, who traveled to the Statehouse recently for another round of meetings with policymakers. “We’re ready to educate those engineers, and thanks to the legislature, we’re a major step closer to meeting this critical workforce need.”

Engineering-intensive industries account for one-third of Kansas’ payroll and two-thirds of its exports. Leaders of firms ranging from Cessna to Black & Veatch have called for a 60 percent increase in the number of engineering graduates, saying that the growth of their businesses in Kansas is hampered by a shortage of engineers. That forces projects and jobs out-of-state.

The Legislature sent two bills to Gov. Sam Brownback that address the engineer shortage. The first devotes $10.5 million in gaming funds annually starting in 2013 to engineering programs at KU, Kansas State University and Wichita State University. The schools will leverage these state funds by matching them with private donations and other resources.

The second gives KU bonding authority to begin the process of constructing an engineering education building. This complements the federally funded engineering research facility currently under construction. Both bills must be signed by Brownback to become law.

“When added to our already strong engineering program, the teachers, researchers and students housed in these two buildings will greatly enhance KU’s academic stature and research productivity,” said Gray-Little.

Dean of Engineering Stuart Bell has been leading KU’s efforts to expand the school’s enrollment capacity. He thanked legislators and industry leaders for their recognition of the importance of higher education to growing the economy.

“This is an example of the kind of partnership that can exist between businesses, universities and state government,” he said. “We’ve had tremendous
support from our advisory board members and colleagues around the state.

We want to thank them and the legislators who voted for these bills for helping us educate the students who will be the leaders of tomorrow.”

**Gift allows donors to underwrite journal subscriptions**

An imaginative gift from Kirk McClure, professor of urban planning, and his wife, Jeannie, has sparked a new giving opportunity at KU Libraries.

The couple’s gift covers subscription costs for the award-winning “World Shakespeare Bibliography Online,” an electronic resource published by the Shakespeare Quarterly, the most comprehensive record of Shakespeare-related scholarship and theatrical productions published or produced worldwide between 1960 and 2011.

The McClure’s gift inspired the new Adopt-a-Journal program, which gives friends and fans of KU Libraries the opportunity to support scholarship at KU by underwriting the costs of journal subscriptions.

“My wife, Jeannie, and I are both KU graduates,” said McClure. “I worked my way through college as an hourly employee with the circulation department at Watson Library. It seemed like a natural job for me; my father was a printer and bookbinder. Jeannie was an English major with the normal affection for books and libraries found in all English majors. This makes the libraries at KU near and dear to our hearts. Jeannie has a love of Shakespeare, which she passed on to our daughter. As part of a grade school independent education project, our daughter completed a study of many of Shakespeare’s plays, which we, as a family, read aloud, each taking different roles. This project led to a family visit to England to see the Royal Shakespeare Company. The study and the trip created many lasting memories. It seems only appropriate that our family help KU Libraries by adopting a Shakespeare journal.”

Lorraine Haricombe, dean of KU Libraries, lauded the gift and the giving program.

“For a list of subscription opportunities and estimated annual costs, visit [lib.ku.edu/giving/journals](lib.ku.edu/giving/journals).”

**Homecoming 2011 coming 'From Lawrence with Love'**

“From Lawrence with Love” will be the theme for this year’s Homecoming Week, set for Sept. 24 through Oct. 1.

“Lawrence is such an important component of the University of Kansas that it only feels fit to represent KU’s 99th annual Homecoming by featuring our loved city,” said Stefani Gerson, coordinator of student programs for the KU Alumni Association and an adviser to the Homecoming Steering Committee. Nikki Epley, the alumni association’s director of reunions, also advises the group.
The association and the steering committee, which includes 15 students, plan to bring back many of the traditional homecoming favorites, including the homecoming parade, mural contest and “Jayhawk Jingles,” a showcase of student skits and musical performances. “Stuff the bus” will collect canned food and donate it to the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation. Another highlight will be magician Mike Super, who will perform Sept. 27 in an event sponsored by Student Union Activities.

Additionally, all funds raised throughout the week are donated to United Way of Douglas County.

Warren Corman will serve as grand marshal. Corman is a long-time architect, who served as Kansas Board of Regents chief of architecture and engineer from 1966 to 1997. He also served as interim executive director of the Kansas Board of Regents in 1993. In 1997, Corman was named university architect for KU and special assistant to Chancellor Robert Hemenway. Corman will be recognized as grand marshal at a formal Homecoming reception, in the Homecoming parade and during the football game.

KU will face Texas Tech on Oct. 1 in the annual homecoming football game.

A full schedule of events is available online at homecoming.ku.edu.

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

U.S. News names KU Medical School most popular in nation

The KU School of Medicine is the nation’s most popular medical school, according to an analysis of yield data by U.S. News and World Report.

The report ranked the percentage of students admitted to medical schools who opted to enroll in the programs. At the School of Medicine, 176 – or 82.2 percent – of the 214 accepted students chose to attend the school in the academic year beginning in 2010, which was tops among the 121 U.S. medical schools that were included in the report.

"We have long been aware that the KU School of Medicine is the school of choice among many of our applicants," said Barbara F. Atkinson, executive vice chancellor at KU Medical Center and executive dean of the School of Medicine. "Like many medical schools, we like to measure our success in many ways, rather than relying solely on the U.S. News and World Report rankings, which tend to compare schools based on criteria that are often unequal across the board. However, it is still very gratifying to be at the very top in this new study."

Every school on the list of most popular medical schools is a state institution, which likely contributed to the rankings, since tuition for in-state students at public medical schools is significantly lower than tuition for out-of-state students or at private schools.

Bailey Roberts, a first-year student at the School of Medicine, was accepted at four medical schools, including Vanderbilt University. She admitted that the lower tuition was a big factor in her decision to come to KU, but it wasn't the only one.

"During the admissions process, I just had a feeling KU was the best choice for me," Roberts said. "I want to go into pediatrics and work with underserved populations, and this was going to be the best school for me to pursue that dream."

A key finding is that five of the most popular schools on the new U.S. News and World Report list are also among the top medical schools in the country when
it comes to training primary care physicians. The School of Medicine's primary care program is ranked 41st in the nation, according to U.S. News and World Report.

"Over the past several years, we have developed a reputation as one of the best medical schools in the country for educating primary care doctors," said Heidi Chumley, senior associate dean for medical education at the School of Medicine. "I know many of our applicants are interested in pursuing a career in primary and rural medicine, and they are very aware that this is the place to get the best training for those areas."

To address the need for more primary care and rural physicians, the School of Medicine is adding a four-year program in Salina and expanding its Wichita campus to a full, four-year program in the fall.

**KU acquires Wakarusa Research Facility**

The KU campus grew a little in size recently with the purchase of an existing building and land on the far west end of Lawrence.

The Wakarusa Research Facility, built in 1994 at 1315 Wakarusa Dr., was acquired by the KU Center for Research Inc., the university’s not-for-profit research foundation. The 20,432-square-foot, two-story building has been leased by the center since 1999 and houses a variety of KU researchers.

For example, professor of speech-language-hearing Steven Barlow’s Communication Neuroscience Laboratories are located there, as well as research projects in the School of Social Welfare, the Life Span Institute and the Center for Research on Learning. An Alzheimer’s caregivers support group began meeting there in 2010, and Garmin International rented space last year for a satellite office that employed a number of KU student interns. Garmin has since relocated its operations to the Bioscience & Technology Business Center on KU’s west campus.

KUCR used $1.4 million in private funds, not state funds, to close the deal. It anticipates spending an additional $150,000 in the near term to upgrade the air conditioning and alarm systems and make necessary repairs and modifications.

“It’s a great facility for clinical programs, behavioral research and other studies that involve the public,” said Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies and president of the Center for Research. “It’s also a nice complement to other types of campus research space. There’s ample accessible parking and a welcoming atmosphere, and it’s easy to get to from the turnpike or anywhere in Lawrence.” He described purchasing the building, rather than continuing to pay rent, as a prudent financial decision.

The building sits on 2.66 acres of land, providing opportunities for future expansion. It is located two blocks north of the Life Sciences Research Laboratories, a cluster of buildings that houses KU’s Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis as well as the expansion facility of the Bioscience and Technology Business Center.

As currently configured, the Wakarusa Research Facility consists primarily of conference and office space that can be readily adapted for a variety of purposes. Three larger areas on the main floor house physiology labs.

“This is not a biosciences laboratory building,” said Warren. “It’s most appropriate for research in the social sciences, education and other disciplines that don’t require wet-lab space. We need a good mix of research facilities at KU and this helps us meet that need.”
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presents awards to faculty

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences honored outstanding faculty and students this spring with more than $34,000 in teaching and student awards. The awards are made possible by gifts from College alumni and friends to KU Endowment.

William Paschke, professor of mathematics, received the $1,000 Career Achievement Teaching Award presented to a retired faculty member in the College who has distinguished herself or himself through excellence in teaching. Paschke will be honored at the College’s new faculty reception in the fall.

The Jessie Marie Senor Cramer and Ann Cramer Root French and Italian and Spanish and Portuguese Faculty Awards are presented annually in the French and Italian and Spanish and Portuguese departments to recognize meritorious teaching and/or research. The amounts of the awards are $5,000 each.

Allan Pasco, Hall Professor of Nineteenth Century Literature, won the Cramer Award in French and Italian.

Yajaira Padilla, assistant professor, received the Cramer Award in Spanish and Portuguese.

The recipients of the J. Michael Young Academic Advisor Award for 2011 were Jonathan Earle, associate professor of history; Sandra Gray, associate professor of anthropology; and Wonpil Im, assistant professor of molecular biosciences. The award honors exemplary advising by a faculty member in each of three divisions of the College: humanities, natural sciences and social sciences. The award provides each recipient $1,000.

Two faculty members received graduate mentor awards. Juliet Kaarbo, associate professor of political science, received the $1,000 Byron A. Alexander Graduate Mentor Award. Adrienne Kunkel, associate professor of communication studies, received the $750 John C. Wright Graduate Mentor Award. Recipients are selected on the basis of nominations received from graduate students in the college. They were recognized April 25 at the Office of Graduate Studies’ Graduate Student Award Ceremony.

The Tony Arnold Faculty Research Stipend was given to Majid Hannoum, assistant professor in anthropology and African and African-American studies. The award goes to a faculty member within the College who submits an outstanding General Research Fund proposal. A $1,200 allocation is provided to support his or her research.

Two faculty members received Don and Pat Morrison Foundation Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Donald Marquis, professor of philosophy, and Weizhang Huang, professor of mathematics, will receive $6,911.25 each. The awards are given each year to one mathematics instructor and one philosophy instructor who bring their subjects to life and inspire students to learn and potentially pursue careers in the field.

Researcher shows Pacific Islands may be threatened by rising sea levels

A geology professor is examining the shorelines of island nations once thought to be on the brink of disappearance. His research shows that while the islands
may continue to exist, their inhabitants face a dangerous future.

Island nations such as Tuvalu and Kiribati have long been described as potential victims of climate change because they were expected to disappear underwater. But last year, researchers from the University of Auckland in New Zealand and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission in Fiji presented evidence that these low-lying Pacific islands were maintaining their size under rising sea levels.

In a new paper published online in the journal Sedimentology, KU associate professor of geology Gene Rankey provides evidence that even if the islands are not shrinking, their future still may be perilous because their shorelines are undergoing major transformations. The rate of change also appears to be increasing.

“Even if an island does not change size, but the shoreline moves, it can be devastating,” Rankey said. “The distinction is important for islanders who literally build their houses right to the shoreline. If the shoreline shifts, and you live in the place where it shifted, you are in trouble.”

Titled “Nature and stability of atoll island shorelines: Gilbert Island chain, Kiribati, equatorial Pacific,” the 29-page paper provides the first detailed study of shoreline change on 17 islands from the Maiana and Aranuka atolls in the Republic of Kiribati. The nation is located in the equatorial Pacific, about 2,500 miles southwest of Hawaii.

In the study, Rankey analyzed satellite remote sensing data, employed differential global positioning system measures of shoreline position and elevation, and analyzed sediment samples from the atolls. The results were compared to aerial photographs taken in the past and other historical measurements.

Rankey found that between 2005 and 2009, about 50 percent of the atolls’ shorelines displayed discernable shifts in position. In some locations, the shoreline expanded toward the ocean at net rates of up to about 8 meters per year (1 meter is the same as about 3.28 feet). In other places, the shoreline eroded at net rates of up to 18 meters per year.

Observations over four years suggest that this variability was probably not directly influenced by “marked sea-level change,” Rankey said, but climate change may still be playing a role. Theories about the cause include the cumulative effect of the increasing speed at which the sea level is rising and the impact of the climate cycle known as the El Niño/Southern Oscillation.

Rankey compared his work in Kiribati to that of a doctor monitoring a critically ill patient. His job is to understand what is occurring and make a prognosis — a prediction that is still impossible to complete. Further study is required, Rankey said.

The 2010 study on low-lying islands was written by Paul Kench of the University of Auckland in New Zealand and Arthur Webb of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission in Fiji and published in the journal Global and Planetary Change.