Interactive series puts research in hands of COMMUNITY
1 Dean Speak  Thriving when budgetary times are tough
2 Mini College  Dust off your backpack for economical getaway on campus
4 Distinguished Alumni  Fellow CLAS alumni reach distinguished destinies
6 Cover Story: CLAS ACTS  Faculty entertain as they educate with interactive lecture series
8 Inside the College  Latino/a studies expanded; Top posts for public administration grads; CLAS introduces new School of the Arts; Climate change leaders trained
12 CLAS Notes  Find out what’s happening in your home department or program
18 Spotlight on Faculty  Jewish studies chair outlines vision for interdisciplinary dialogue
20 Giving Back  Research telescope takes astrophysics to new heights
21 Oread Encore  Lessons learned by a Jayhawk journalist in Iraq
These are certainly interesting times we find ourselves in as our country and the world struggle with difficult financial issues. As is the case nationwide, we have had to trim our budget in the face of decreasing state support brought on by the current economic crisis. At this point, the College’s budget has been cut $3.3 million (3.5%). To come up with this reduction, we have cut faculty and graduate student lines, reduced our technology and faculty travel budgets and made other adjustments. While this seems pretty grim, I believe we are much better off than most of our peer institutions, which are facing double-digit funding cuts. And, KU is more popular than ever, as evidenced by our record-breaking enrollment of students with outstanding credentials. Students recognize the value of a KU degree.

Even though times are tough financially, this is not the time to stand still and fail to plan for the future. We know the bad economic climate is temporary. As such, we continue to push forward to increase KU’s visibility nationally and internationally. The College is an active participant in the development of Initiative 2015, KU’s strategic plan. We continue to develop new interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programs and units that efficiently use the great expertise of our faculty. We are pleased to welcome many new faculty and students from the School of Fine Arts who will join us July 1 as part of the College’s new School of the Arts. We are looking forward to making the arts more accessible to College students through this reorganization and playing an increased role in the professional development of students of the arts.

One of the major reasons that we can continue to plan and develop exciting opportunities in the College is that our alumni and friends are loyal and very generous. Through your donations to the College and its departments and programs we have been able to fund student and faculty ideas, initiatives and activities. I know I speak for all in the College in thanking you for giving to KU in these challenging times. For those who have not donated to KU and the College, I urge you to consider doing so. You will be making a solid investment in the education of Jayhawk students. As always, I invite you to contact me at jsteinmetz@ku.edu or in person in my office in Strong Hall. Your input and ideas are always welcome!
Register Now for the First Annual Mini College

A learning vacation on the Lawrence campus featuring classes taught by KU faculty, tours and community events.

June 1-4, 2009

$175

www.minicollege.ku.edu
MINI COLLEGE
OFFERS BARGAIN EDUCATIONAL GETAWAY
RICH IN EXPERIENCES

The College is accepting registrations at www.minicollege.ku.edu for its first-ever Mini College, a weeklong learning retreat June 1-4 that invites adults to be students again.

With the economy down, attending Mini College could be one of the smartest ways to invest your money. The $175 registration fee for the week includes an array of thought-provoking courses, most meals, unique extracurricular activities and a graduation banquet. For an additional $25, educators may be able to receive two continuing education units (check the Web site for more details).

For people who have already registered, Mini College is an experience they look forward to eagerly.

“We consider the week in Lawrence both a vacation and a learning experience,” said Ruth Rinker, a KU alumna from Edina, Minn., who was one of the first to sign up for Mini College, along with her husband, David. “The Mini College’s range of topics promises enriching information. The travel distance and costs are right for us.”

Mini College is open to any interested adult, not just KU alumni. Participants can commute, stay in a hotel or, for the full student experience, stay in one of KU’s residence halls.

Participants can enroll in up to nine classes chosen from nearly 30 offerings. Some of those courses include “Use it or Lose it: Can You Slow Down Aging,” “KU at the Energy Frontier: Our Role in the Large Hadron Collider,” “Religion and Basketball: Naismith’s Game” and “Balancing the Federal Budget: Could You Do Better?”

In addition to the courses, participants will be able to enroll in one of four specialized tracks that will offer an opportunity through the week to gain more in-depth knowledge of selected topics.

The options that participants may choose from are “Independent Film: Outsiders’ Voices,” taught by professors active in the film industry; “Meet the Authors: English Faculty Book Club,” led by professors with published books; “Ecology and Evolution of a Changing Planet,” a hands-on experience of KU scientists’ research; and “The Art of Collecting: Curators Share How Museum Pieces are Chosen,” a tutorial that culminates in participants selecting a new piece for the Spencer Museum of Art.

Extracurricular activities will offer the opportunity to learn more about acclaimed institutions and traditions at KU. Planned tours and activities include trips to museums and the Dole Institute of Politics, a carillon demonstration at the campusdale and a campus architecture tour.

Participants will also be treated to special events that will allow them to learn more about departments, faculty and organizations on campus in a relaxed atmosphere. Such events include an exclusive production from the Department of Theatre and Film, a graduation ceremony at the Lawrence Country Club and lunches hosted by the KU Alumni Association and Continuing Education.

Registration for Mini College is open until May 1 for $175 and until May 15 for $200.
Each year, the College recognizes the achievements of its graduates through the prestigious Alumni Distinguished Achievement Awards, the highest honor bestowed on its alumni. While the four extraordinary recipients distinguished themselves in diverse fields, a broad liberal arts and sciences education provided the foundation for all to make a difference in their communities and the world. For information on how to nominate a CLAS graduate for the award, go to clas.ku.edu (follow the Alumni & Friends link) or contact cappel@ku.edu or 785.864.3516.

Sheila Bair

Chair of FDIC

KU degrees: Bachelor’s in philosophy and law degree

Background: Bair has fond memories of riding a bicycle with a little yellow flag through Kansas towns when she ran for U.S. House of Representatives in 1990. More recently, she was named to the Wall Street Journal magazine Smart Money’s “Power 30” list and Forbes magazine honored her as No. 2 among the world’s 100 most powerful women. Before her appointment in June 2006 as chair of the FDIC, Bair was the Dean’s Professor of Financial Regulatory Policy at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Anecdote: Bair has authored two children’s books, including “Rock, Brock and the Savings Shock” that tells the story of two young boys. Rock wastes his allowance on hair goo and wax fangs while his thrifty brother saves to buy a telescope. “Brock’s cash grew and grew and grew—eight, then sixteen then thirty-two,” Bair writes. “His pile of bucks became so great he had to store them in a crate! Ten weeks went by. Poor Rock was doomed. He had no cash; Brock’s had ballooned!”

Quote: Bair is urging Americans to stay calm, even as some of the nation’s largest banks teeter. The country is far better prepared for a financial crisis than it was during the Great Depression, she said as quoted in an Associated Press story. “We all just need to get a hold of ourselves. It’s going to be hard. It’s going to take time. But we will work through it.”

Jacqueline Z. Davis

Executive director of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center

KU degree: Master’s in French

Background: From the time she could write, Davis was creating short stories and plays to read to class. In 1990, she opened the Lied Center of Kansas with “The Secret Garden” and served as its first director, presenting artists such as Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, Bill T. Jones, Josh Bell and the Kirov and Bolshoi Ballets. Now she oversees a collection of more than 15 million items related to performance as executive director of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center

Anecdote: Davis is serving her second three-year term as a Tony Award nominator, which involves attending every new Broadway production. “I never imagined that I would live in New York and work at Lincoln Center! So I certainly never imagined voting on the Tony Awards. It is quite a challenge to select among so many fantastic plays, but it has been a really enjoyable experience.”

Quote: Davis credits her French master’s degree for the opportunity to meet many people in their language and to enjoy many conversations in French-speaking countries. “A liberal arts education provided me with the tools I needed to write and speak with the potential of influencing people, and to engage with other risk-takers in implementing new and creative ideas. More importantly, the curriculum gave me the opportunity to explore many facets of the world, and to become a more well-rounded individual.”
ROBERT HILL

James B. Duke Professor of Biochemistry at Duke University

KU degrees: Bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate in biochemistry

Background: A world-renowned scientist, Hill researched the relationship between the structure and function of proteins and carbohydrates, which has implications for such things as sickle cell anemia. He joined Duke’s biochemistry department in 1961 and has since authored two textbooks and more than 340 articles and academic treatises. Hill is a past president of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1974 and was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Institute of Medicine.

Anecdote: While attending KU in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Hill paid the bills by working as a waiter at the Alpha Delta Pi sorority house, where he earned $7 a week plus lunch and dinner. He also spent time as a student assistant in a campus lab rolling up his sleeves, covering his arms in Vaseline and reaching into jars of formaldehyde to pull out specimens. Hill later made $3,000 a year as a post-doc in Utah, a salary he stretched to meet the needs of his three children.

Quote: Hill attributes his success in part to the more than 70 post-doc fellows who trained in his lab and dozens of students who performed their Ph.D. thesis research under his direction. He jokes that “the best ideas I ever had I stole from my students.” Reflecting more solemnly on his more than half century career as a leading biochemist, he says simply, “We took chances in the lab and they paid off.”

DEANELL REECE TACHA

Federal appellate judge, U.S. Court of Appeals

KU degree: Bachelor’s in American studies

Background: Tacha graduated in the top 10 percent of her high school class—of 10 students—and has continued to impress ever since. After working in Washington, D.C., she joined the KU School of Law faculty in 1974, becoming associate dean of the law school and eventually vice chancellor for academic affairs. She was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit in 1985. Tacha has served as a National Trustee of the American Inns of Court Foundation, past chair of the Appellate Judges Conference and a past chair of the national board of directors of the KU Alumni Association.

Anecdote: Tacha believes the only way to a humane future is through civil discourse and tolerant listening. “My only advice is: take the courses that are hardest, listen carefully to all viewpoints, integrate and examine every position, and speak in measured, thoughtful, constructive, and respectful tones. Treasure the past and nurture the future. In other words, be for another generation what Emily Taylor, Norman Yetman and Chancellor Franklin Murphy were for me. That is my KU.”

Quote: Tacha says she had no idea when she decided to major in American studies how important that interdisciplinary approach would be in her career path. “In many ways, the job of being a judge is the ultimate interdisciplinary job. Every case requires us to learn about something new that inevitably intersects disciplines. My American studies courses made me look beyond the confines of one particular discipline and consider information and engage in an analysis in light of a host of different sources.”
Monsters, astronauts and politicians.

Normally, those groups aren’t closely associated but this year in the College they all have something in common.

Those topics and more have been subjects of a new interactive lecture series, CLAS ACTS, launched in the fall semester. The monthly series was created to showcase the diversity and creativity of College faculty through presentations that aim to educate, entertain and engage.

Dean Joseph E. Steinmetz sums up the series’ appeal best: “CLAS ACTS has something for everyone.”

That wide appeal is evident in the departments represented by the presenters: physics & astronomy, communication studies, history, the Center for East Asian Studies, geography, sociology, American studies, applied behavioral science and English.

The series also strives to share this wealth of knowledge with the community outside KU.

“These presentations are mutually beneficial for faculty and the public,” Steinmetz says. “Faculty may discover new perspectives on their work through the audience’s questions, and it opens up a new avenue for learning to the community. I am pleased the College is able to offer such a valuable program.”

The community has been eager to take advantage of this learning opportunity. Most of the events so far have drawn crowds of at least 100 people.

Christian Williams, a Lawrence resident, attended the October presentation that examined rhetoric of the McCain and Obama campaigns. Clips of commercials and speeches from both nominees were shown and dissected by communication studies Professor Robert Rowland.

“I followed the election closely, so the topic was really intriguing to me,” Williams said. “It opened my eyes to how powerful and dangerous words can be.”

The events have also enhanced the College’s presence on YouTube. University Relations has worked with the College to produce videos from some of the events. The videos are available at the CLAS ACTS site, www.clas.ku.edu/outreach/clasacts.

CLAS ACTS kicked off in September with Steve Hawley, the only KU professor who has visited outer space. Hawley’s presentation, “My Life with the Hubble Space Telescope,” offered the audience a rare behind-the-scenes perspective on NASA and the Hubble Space Telescope missions.

Many of the other presentations address current events and issues, both domestic and abroad.

Presentations with a global reach include a lecture by Professor Robert Rowland and a trivia contest orchestrated by the Department of Geography. In December, the geography department’s “Globe-O-Mania” challenged 20 teams with three stimulating rounds of questions. Rowland’s March lecture, “The Symbolic DNA of Terrorism,” offered a study in the messages and motivations of terrorist groups.
Domestic issues are covered from a variety of perspectives. A second lecture by Rowland in October, “The Audacity of Hope or a Maverick You Can Trust,” was a multimedia-enhanced examination of campaign rhetoric in the heat of the presidential election. In February, Professor Tanya Golash-Boza’s lecture, “Putting a Human Face on U.S. Immigration Policies,” immersed participants in the lives of U.S. immigrant families through displays of photos and their personal stories. Professor Ric Steele’s April lecture, “The Price is Too High: Balancing Children’s Nutrition,” addresses children’s health through games and information stations aimed to keep kids’ attention while educating them.

Children were also the target audience for November’s presentation, “What Makes a Monster? From Godzilla to Spore.” KU monster experts Professor Bill Tsutsui and outreach coordinator Randi Hacker used videos and create-your-own monster stations at their November event to explore why we are drawn to beasts that scare us.

The series’ first year will cap off with a unique offering in May. “Lineage: A Song Cycle” is a project of Professor Maryemma Graham’s that brings together performing artists who have put the poetry of Margaret Walker to song.

www.clas.ku.edu/outreach/clasacts
LATINO/A STUDIES EXPANDED AS MINORITY ENROLLMENT BREAKS RECORD

The University of Kansas enrolled a record 30,102 students and welcomed its most diverse student body in history.

This year’s freshman class of 4,483 showed a record-breaking 23.4 percent increase in Latino students. A total of 1,049 Latino students now attend KU.

As the Latino community on campus continues to grow, the College began offering a new Latino/a studies minor. The interdisciplinary program, hosted by the American Studies Program, provides students the opportunity to study the largest minority group in the U.S. and Kansas.

Traditionally, these programs have been on coasts or in the Southwest, said Latino/a studies adviser and scholar Marta Caminero-Santangelo. Traditionally, these programs have been on coasts or in the Southwest, said Latino/a studies adviser and scholar Marta Caminero-Santangelo. With the Latino populations in Midwestern states growing, KU is fulfilling a need for the region. The new minor complements several majors and career paths, including political science and anthropology.

“It signals an interest and training in issues having to do with the largest minority group in the U.S. so it would be valuable to a wide variety of career paths that require knowledge of the diversity of U.S. cultures,” said Caminero-Santangelo, who also serves as an associate professor of English.

In order to provide a comprehensive curriculum on the Latino community’s broad impact on U.S. culture, society and politics, courses for the minor are spread out among several departments. These include American studies, anthropology, English, political science, Spanish and Portuguese, social welfare, sociology, geography, history and Latin American studies.

Above, left to right: As executive director and chief operating officer of the National Council of La Raza, Janet Murguia leads the nation’s largest public policy advocacy group for Hispanic Americans. She received bachelor’s degrees in journalism and Spanish, as well as a law degree from KU.

John F. Alderete, associate vice provost for research and professor for the School of Molecular Biosciences at Washington State University, received the Premio Encuentro Award for Science and Technology, the highest honor given to a Hispanic leader in America, for improving the underrepresentation of minorities in the sciences. He earned a Ph.D. in microbiology from KU.

Angel Reyes, III, founder and managing partner of the law offices of Heygood, Orr, Reyes, Pearson & Bartolomei in Dallas, is a co-author of “Hispanic Heresy: What is the Impact of America’s Largest Population of Immigrants?” He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from KU.
With KU public administration graduates leading the way everywhere from the Cabinet to cities across the country, the College is expanding its involvement in the Public Management Center in Topeka.

What began in 1974 as a way to provide education for state employees, the Center has evolved into a satellite campus of sorts in the capital city. It offers night and weekend courses toward a master’s degree in public administration as well as certified public manager and professional development programs.

Sheena Ward was working in an entry-level position with the Kansas Department of Corrections when she began progress on her master’s in public administration at the center.

“The program opened my eyes and exposed me to how public administrators can make communities better,” she said. “We need innovation. We need new ideas. I ended up landing as a budget analyst with the department of administration. We all know in these difficult times that budget is the key to providing services and meeting needs.”

Charles Jones, director of the Topeka center, says the recent shift of operations to the College has bridged the gap from practitioners to academics and enhanced opportunities for students to interact with faculty from KU’s top-ranked public administration program.

“We want to stay fresh in our professional education programs, and the way to stay fresh is to bring research into the classroom,” Jones said. “We are utilizing the talents of our faculty and grad students more in all the programs we offer.”

Among the program’s noted alumni are Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who was recently selected by President Obama as his Secretary of Health and Human Services. Other prominent graduates of the Topeka program include Brian Moline, chair of the Kansas Corporation Commission; Michael Johnston, president/CEO of the Kansas Turnpike Authority; and Carla Stovall, former Kansas attorney general.

Kathleen Sebelius, President Obama’s choice for Secretary of Health and Human Services, received a master’s in public administration from KU.
DESIGNING CHANGE: COLLEGE CREATES NEW SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

A reorganization of KU’s fine arts programs will bring more opportunities for participation in the arts to more students by creating a School of the Arts housed in the College.

The reorganization transforms the School of Fine Arts into the School of Music. The Department of Design will join the School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

The Department of Visual Art and a new Department of Dance will become part of the new School of the Arts. A few programs currently within the Department of Design will be added to the Department of Visual Art: ceramics, metalsmithing and jewelry, scenography, textile design and visual arts education. Drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and expanded media will round out the department.

Elizabeth Kowalchuk, an associate professor who has dedicated her career to preparing art educators and teaching others how the arts contribute to the quality of life, will assume the post as associate dean for the School of the Arts.

“The arts represent unique ways of knowing, seeing, and responding to the world,” she said. “I’m excited about the new configuration of arts in the College and the opportunities it represents for expanding access and awareness of dance, film, theatre and visual arts. Within the school, the prospects are bright for growth and change.”

The School of the Arts will recognize the strong ties between fine arts and the humanities currently taught in the College. Possibilities for interconnectedness and synergies involving KU faculty and students will increase as about 25 art faculty and six dance faculty move to the College.

The new structure, which will be done using existing resources, will take effect July 1.
A groundbreaking new training program for graduate students is exploring the impact of climate change on Earth’s biology, ecology and social systems. Known as C-CHANGE (Climate Change, Humans, and Nature in the Global Environment), the program’s goal is to develop experts in science, engineering and policy who will become tomorrow’s leading voices on climate change.

The debut C-CHANGE class began this year for an initial cohort of five trainees who are graduate students in biology, geography, geology, public administration and sociology.

“Students will take classes that will be taught by geoscientists, social scientists, engineers and bioscientists,” said Joane Nagel, University Distinguished Professor of Sociology, who is heading C-CHANGE. “They will come away with their own disciplinary training, but also with coursework, ideas and perspectives that combine all of these disciplines. And that’s going to make them very well-rounded scientists.”

C-CHANGE trainees will roam the globe to better grasp implications of Earth’s changing environment. Fieldwork destinations for the students include communities in Kansas, a retreating ice sheet in Greenland and changing Monarch butterfly habitat in Mexico.

A $3 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) grant from the National Science Foundation is funding the new program, the first such grant awarded in the state of Kansas. Over the next five years, 22 doctoral students will complete the C-CHANGE curriculum to receive a special certification on their doctoral degrees. Still more students will have access to courses and activities of the program as IGERT associates.

The C-CHANGE program extends beyond KU to include faculty, students and facilities at Haskell Indian Nations University, where students and researchers will work together on projects investigating climate change in indigenous communities. Trainees also will take part in advanced scientific work underway across the KU campus at the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets, Biodiversity Institute and Institute for Policy and Social Research.

C-CHANGE Students

| Alexis Suzzanne Reed, Great Bend | Ecology and evolutionary biology |
| Linda M. Williams, Gardner | Public administration |
| Trish Jackson, Sterling | Geography |
| Anna Jeannette Kern, Topeka | Sociology |
| Alvin J. Bonilla-Rodriguez, Boqueron | Geology |
NEWS FROM AROUND THE COLLEGE  BY CAITLIN TEW

AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES
A master’s program in the department will be offered starting in Fall 2009. Professor Dorothy Pennington received the top conference paper award from the African-American Communication and Culture Division of the National Communication Association. The Langston Hughes Center for African-American Studies hosted a national symposium in February to mark the centennial of the NAACP. Professor Shawn Alexander, interim director of the center, convened the symposium.

AMERICAN STUDIES
Monique Laney, Doretha Williams and Hilary Lowe have received support for their doctoral research. Williams is using her $20,000 fellowship to research the role of African-American women’s clubs in Kansas. Doctoral student Luba Guinzbourg received a United Nations internship in fall 2008. A study abroad program has been established with Radboud University Nijmegen in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The John S. and Yoshino Harmon Multicultural Scholars Award and the John S. and Yoshino Harmon Award in American Studies were established in memory of former KU professor Chico Herbison’s parents.

ANTHROPOLOGY
Professor Brent Metz lectured on “Expressions and Representations of Violence in Guatemala” at a conference in October at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in Argentina. Professor Jane Gibson is part of a multi-disciplinary research team that has been funded by the Transportation Research Institute to study Kansas farmers’ land use decisions with a focus on biofuel crop production. During winter break, Professor Majid Hannoun conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Tangiers focusing on Moroccan children immigrants to Europe.

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
Several graduate students have received recognition: Nicole Heal, American Psychological Association Division 25 dissertation award; Dan Schober, Friends of the Lifespan Institute Research Award; and Patrick Johnson, Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Analysis’ Experimental Analysis of Behavior Award. Professor Steve Fawcett won the Society for Community Research and Action Ethnic Minority Mentorship Award. Professor and Chair Ed Morris won a Big XII Faculty Fellowship. Professor Charles Greenwood received the Irvin Youngberg Award for Applied Sciences, one of four prestigious Highuchi-KU Endowment Research awards. The department welcomes new Assistant Professor Pamela Neidert.

CENTER FOR BIOINFORMATICS
Professor John Karanicolas, expert at using structure-based methods to design new protein-protein interactions, is the center’s newest faculty member. He will also serve on the molecular biosciences faculty. Yang Zhang, assistant professor of bioinformatics and molecular biosciences, was awarded the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. Also, for the second time in a row, Zhang won the world CASP competition, which is the most high-profile event in computational structural biology and bioinformatics. He received more than $2 million in federal funding to develop methods for protein structure modeling.

BIOLOGY
The Class of 2008 named their favorite professors as John C. Brown and James A. Orr. Brown, who has dedicated over 30 years to KU, plans to retire soon. Interim Director Val Smith gave a keynote address at the 2008 International Prize in Biology Symposium in Sendai, Japan.

CHEMISTRY
Daryle Busch, Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor, was presented the Midwest Regional Award for the American Chemical Society. Professor Craig Lunte received the Research Achievement Award at the 2008 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting and Exposition in November. Professors Paul Hanson, Jon Tunge and Ward Thompson were recipients of KU Kemper awards for teaching excellence.

CHILD LANGUAGE
Alumna Ruth Watkins was named the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois. Watkins earned her master’s in child language/speech-language pathology and her doctorate in child language from KU. Research directed by Mabel Rice, the Fred and Virginia Merrill Distinguished Professor of Advanced Studies, has shown that 80 percent of children with language delays at age 2 will catch up by age 7. But this also means that for one in five late-talking toddlers, language delays persist. The findings are part of the world’s largest study to date on language emergence.

CLASSICS
The fourth annual Rehak Symposium focuses this year on “Mycenae and its Art.” Speakers for the March symposium include Anne Chapin (Brevard College), Kim Shelton (University of California, Berkeley) and Nancy Thomas (Jacksonville University). The symposium honors former professor Paul Rehak,
who died suddenly during his career at KU, 2001-2004. The Hall Center for the Humanities and the History of Art department help sponsor the event.

CLINICAL CHILD PSYCHOLOGY
The program jumped six spots to 13th place among public graduate schools according to U.S. News and World Report. Professor and Director Michael C. Roberts received the 2008 Martin P. Levin Mentorship Award from the Society of Pediatric Psychology. Graduate students Sara Gould and Sarah Beals received the “Excellence in Research Poster of the Year” award from the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice of the American Psychological Association. Timothy D. Nelson received the 2008 Dissertation Award from the Society for Child and Family.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES
Professor Mary Banwart received a Kemper award for teaching excellence. The debate team continues its winning tradition, ending the fall semester as No. 1 in the nation in the National Debate Tournament varsity team rankings. Senior debaters Brett Bricker and Nate Johnson defended national champion Wake Forest to win KU’s first National Debate Tournament championship in 26 years. The department welcomes new Assistant Professors Jeffrey Hall and Alesia Hanzal.

EAST ASIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURES
Professor Keith McMahon published a chapter in the book “Paths to Modernity: Conference to Mark the Centenary of Jaroslav Prusek,” by the Karolinum Press, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. Professor Elaine Gerbert presented a paper at the 20th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Humor Studies held in July at the Universidad de Alcalá in Alcalá de Henares, Spain. The department welcomes new Assistant Professor Yan Li.

CENTER FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES
On Jan. 30, the center celebrated the Chinese New Year. Activities included arts and crafts, performances, and dining on East Asian foods. The center hosted a variety of lectures in fall 2008, ranging from “China in 2008: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” to “Chinese and Japanese Arts: Antique or Not, Authentic or Fake!” and the Chancellor’s Lecture given by former Consul General Takao Shibata, who spoke on his experiences as a UN representative in North Korea.

ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
Professor Robert Timm and his postdoctoral research assistant, Corey Welch, a member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, were awarded the Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award, which promotes the advancement of underrepresented minorities. Several faculty have received grants: Leonard Kristtaka and Town Peterson, $1.12 million from the Centers for Disease Control to forecast the spread of diseases carried by biological vectors; Jorge Soberón, $850,000 from Microsoft Research Inc. to develop forecasts of the influence of environmental change on plant and animal diversity; Rafe Brown and Robert Moyle, $900,942 from the National Science Foundation to survey Philippine land vertebrates and their parasites; Kirsten Jensen with Janine Cairn at the University of Connecticut, $3 million from the National Science Foundation to coordinate a team of experts to create descriptions of tapeworm species. Dr. Sharon Billings published a commentary about climate change in the journal Nature. The department welcomes new Assistant Professors Ford Ballantine, Justin Blumenstiel and Caroline Chaboo and Professor Soberón.

ECONOMICS
“Inside the Economist’s Mind,” edited by Professor William Barnett, has been translated into Russian for the Moscow School of Management series. Barnett is also a guest columnist in the Kansas City Star Business Weekly. Professor Elizabeth Asiedu won KU’s Byron T. Shutz Award for Distinguished Teaching. The department welcomes new Assistant Professor Tarun Sabarwal.

ENGLISH
Professor Maryemma Graham had a hand in the landmark African slave memorial “Bench by the Road” placed on Sullivan’s Island, S.C. Professor Paul Stephen Lim received the 2008 Outstanding Teacher of Playwriting Award. Novelist and non-fiction writer Luis Alberto Urrea will discuss “The Devil’s Highway: Stories from the Border and Beyond” in the department’s annual American/British lecture in April. The department welcomes new Assistant Professors Tim Grund, Laura Moriarty and Misty Schieberle.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
The Spencer Art Museum will run an exhibit in spring 2009 called “Climate Change at the Poles,” which explores how humans interact with extreme, remote environments at the Poles. Students for Bar Recycling, a new student organization, encourages KU students to start environmentally friendly practices at local bars and restaurants through their sustainable recycling program. Professor J. Christopher Brown has taken over as director of the program, effective July 1.
CLAS NOTES

For the second year in a row, the department GEOLOGY Jay Johnson and Professor Barney Warf.

new Assistant Professors Daniel Hirmas and receive this award. The department welcomes Career Award. He is the first person ever to Geographic Information Society Distinguished Dobson received the 2008 Cartography and Administration scholarship. Professor Jerry received a National Oceanic and Atmospheric undergraduates Ava Dinges and Andrew Oberthaler; American Meteorological Society student German competition in March. The Department of English’s graduate program in creative writing and the Hall Center welcomed two speakers to campus during the fall semester’s Editing Week. Lorin Stein, senior editor at Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and Eli Horowitz, publisher of McSweeney’s, relayed their experiences in working with authors ranging from Jeffrey Eugenides to Michael Chabon and Joyce Carol Oates. In October, Chabon came to campus as the second speaker in the 2008-09 Humanities Lecture Series, sponsored by the Center. He presented a talk called “Conquering the Wilderness: Imaginative Imperialism and the Invasion of Legoland.”

GLOBAL INDIGENOUS NATIONS STUDIES

Faculty and students attended the seventh annual Tribal College Forum hosted by Haskell Indian Nations University and co-sponsored by many including KU CreSIS (Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets) in August. The forum discussed “Climate Crises and Water Nations are Calling for Awakening.” This was also a joint conference with NativeView Inc. and the American Indian and Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group.

HALL CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

The Department of English’s graduate program in creative writing and the Hall Center welcomed two speakers to campus during the fall semester’s Editing Week. Lorin Stein, senior editor at Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and Eli Horowitz, publisher of McSweeney’s, relayed their experiences in working with authors ranging from Jeffrey Eugenides to Michael Chabon and Joyce Carol Oates. In October, Chabon came to campus as the second speaker in the 2008-09 Humanities Lecture Series, sponsored by the Center. He presented a talk called “Conquering the Wilderness: Imaginative Imperialism and the Invasion of Legoland.”

HISTORY

Professor Karl Brooks publishes three books this spring about environmental history, politics and law: “Public Power; Private Dams: The Hells Canyon High Dam Controversy,” “Before Earth Day: The Origins of American Environmental Law, 1945-1970,” and “The Environmental Legacy of Harry S. Truman.” In the fall, Professor Nathan Wood traveled to Central Europe to deliver several talks and conduct research for his second project about bicycles, automobiles, and airplanes and conceptions of backwardness and speed in
early 20th-century East Central Europe. The department welcomes new Professor Adrian Lewis, who also serves as director of the KU/ Ft. Leavenworth Program.

HISTORY OF ART
Head of the Murphy Art and Architecture Library Susan Craig received the worldwide Distinguished Service Award from the Art Libraries Society of North America. The Balfour Jeffrey Award in Humanities and Social Sciences, one of four Higuchi-KU Endowment research awards, was given to Charles C. Eldridge, the Hall Distinguished Professor of American Art and Culture. Eldridge also participated in the “Words Matter!” symposium at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. The program marked the 20th anniversary of the Charles C. Eldredge Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art established in honor of the museum’s former director when he left the Smithsonian for KU.

HONORS
Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett, an experienced KU administrator, has been named director of the University Honors Program. McCluskey-Fawcett will assume the post on July 1. McCluskey-Fawcett succeeds Stanley Lombarado, who has been director of the program since June 2004.

HUMANITIES & WESTERN CIVILIZATION
Last fall, Christopher Forth presented his inaugural lecture as the Jack & Shirley Howard Teaching Professor of Humanities & Western Civilization on “Nobody Loves a Fat Man: Masculinity and Obesity in the Film Noir Cycle.” In March, the sixth annual Peace & Conflict Studies Lecture is presented by David Cortright, President of the Fourth Freedom Foundation and Research Fellow at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He will speak on “The Power of Nonviolence.”

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
The program welcomed Dr. Robert F. Baumann as a visiting lecturer during the fall semester. Baumann has served as the Director of Graduate Degree Programs for the Command General Staff College (CGSC) at Ft. Leavenworth since 2003 after 19 years as a member of the CGSC’s Department of Military History. He brought his expertise to KU to teach the International Studies course “Making War and Peace.”

JEWISH STUDIES
New Assistant Professor Renee Perelmutter, who holds a joint appointment in Slavic languages and literatures, was invited to present a paper at the Translation and Tradition in Slavia Orthodoxa conference in September at Columbia University in New York City. The program’s spring lecture series focuses on a variety of topics, including “The Jewish-Pagan Dialogue,” “Failure of the Middle East Process,” “Israeli Documentary Marathon,” and “Dutiful Daughters? Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue and Army Service.”

KANSAS AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER
The Center hosts “Changing the World: The Meaning of Revolution” seminar and workshop series this spring. Events in this series include: “What Does Revolution Mean in Our Time? Society, Science, and the Arts,” a forum that addresses whether there has been a shift in the last century in the meaning of revolution; “Art, Music and Revolution,” a hands-on workshop examining the roles of music and visual art during revolutionary times; “Gender, Sexuality and Race;” and “Changing the World: Revolutionary Thinking about the Environment.”

CENTER OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
Professor emeritus Charles Stansifer has provided a generous scholarship for graduate students studying Latin America. James Herynk, a doctoral candidate in medical anthropology researching chronic nutritional anemia and its consequences in a Mayan village in Guatemala, received the inaugural Stansifer Fellowship. The Center welcomed Professor Rebecca Haidt, The Ohio State University, and Professor Zulema Valdez, Texas A&M University, who discussed “Representations of Women’s Work in Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century Madrid: Beyond Costumbrismo” and “Agency and Structure in National, Panethnic, and Racial Identity Formation: The Case of Latino/a Entrepreneurs” respectively.

LINGUISTICS
Linguistics continues to see increases in enrollment and student and faculty funding. Professor Robert Fiorentino received an NIH grant for his electrophysiological studies of word recognition. Professor Allard Jongman published a textbook on phonetics. Professor Clifton Pye conducted fieldwork in Guatemala during his sabbatical leave. Graduate student Wendy Herd received an NSF dissertation improvement grant and graduate student Jeff Shouse provided a generous scholarship for graduate students studying Latin America. James Herynk, a doctoral candidate in medical anthropology researching chronic nutritional anemia and its consequences in a Mayan village in Guatemala, received the inaugural Stansifer Fellowship. The Center welcomed Professor Rebecca Haidt, The Ohio State University, and Professor Zulema Valdez, Texas A&M University, who discussed “Representations of Women’s Work in Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century Madrid: Beyond Costumbrismo” and “Agency and Structure in National, Panethnic, and Racial Identity Formation: The Case of Latino/a Entrepreneurs” respectively.

MATHEMATICS
The department selected Professor Judith Roitman for the 2009 Don and Pat Morrison Teaching Award in Mathematics. She has been actively involved in teaching and educational projects since she arrived at KU.
in 1977. The department welcomes new Assistant Professors Hailong Dao, Heping He and Kamran Reihani.

MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCES
Professors Stuart J. Macdonald and Roberto N. De Guzman received major funding for studies. Macdonald will use $2.5 million in federal funding to study the genetic control of traits that affect crop yield, human disease risk and drug response; De Guzman will use a $1.8 million NIH grant to study the molecular interactions that are critical in the pathogenesis of Salmonella and other bacterial pathogens. The department welcomes new faculty member Berl Oakley. He is the Irving S. Johnson Distinguished Professor in Molecular Biosciences and is one of the world leaders in studying the microtubule cytoskeleton and how it works with cell division, shape and motility.

MUSEUM STUDIES
Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society Jennie Chinn told new students “The Top 10 Things You Need to Know to Get a Job in a Museum” as the keynote speaker for the program’s orientation this fall. Student Bertram Lyons in the fall completed two installations in the Spencer Museum of Art; delivered a paper at the annual meeting of the International Association for Sound and Audiovisual Archives in Sydney, Australia; led a workshop about digital cultural heritage and Audiovisual Archives in Sydney, Australia; of the International Association for Sound Art; delivered a paper at the annual meeting two installations in the Spencer Museum of Art; and Kamran Reihani.

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
Distinguished Professor Judy Wu led a team of physicists, engineers, chemists and biologists to create new nanotechnology that could help replace fossil fuels and curb climate change. The team wants to develop less costly solar panels and biofuels. Five students and two spring graduates worked in Switzerland last summer with scientists to launch a super-collider project designed to create conditions that existed following the “Big Bang.” Professors Alice Bean and Michael Murray are among the scientists working on the project. An article co-written by Professor Adrian Melott, was recently published in the Journal of Geophysical Research - Planets. The department welcomes new Professor Steven Hawley (a NASA astronaut) and Assistant Professor Gregory Rudnick.

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Internationally acclaimed scholar and European Union expert Robert Rohrschneider has been appointed the first Sir Robert Worcester Distinguished Professor in Public Opinion and Survey Research. Professor Paul Schumaker takes a unique look at political theories of the past 200 years in his new book “From Ideologies to Public Philosophies: An Introduction to Political Theory.” In his book “Ontological Security in International Relations: Self-Identity and the IR State,” Professor Brent Steele argues that states take social actions to serve self-identity needs, even when they are counter to their physical existence.

In October, the department held a Festschrift for Professor Larry Wrightsman, who retired last year. In 2008, Professor Kris Preacher received the Raymond B. Cattell Award for Outstanding Early-Career Contributions to Multivariate Experimental Psychology from the Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology; and the Anne Anastasi Early Career Award awarded by the American Psychological Association. Professor Patricia Hawley was interviewed for National Public Radio about a survey she developed to assess people’s attitudes toward evolutionary theory and the teaching of evolution. The department welcomes new Assistant Professors Pascal Deboeck, Ludwin Molina, Sarah Pressman and Wei Wu.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Doctoral candidate Paul W. Brandenburger will be a judge for the 2009 Pollie Awards in Washington D.C., one of the most influential awards in the political campaign and public affairs industry. The department had more faculty participating in the Minnowbrook III campus than any other university in the country. Participating faculty were: Assistant Professors Holly T. Goerdel, Kelly LeRoux, Jared Llorens, Justin Marlowe and Michael J. Moody. The conference invites younger public administration scholars to critique the field and to develop themes and perspectives that they believe should guide the field for the next 20 years.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Peter Gomes, American preacher and theologian at Harvard University’s Divinity School, presents a lecture in April as part of the department’s annual lecture series. Gomes is known as one of the leading preachers in
America and has published five books in the last seven years. In the fall semester, Patrick Olivelle, professor of Sanskrit and Indian religions at the University of Texas-Austin, delivered a lecture called “When Empire Meets Dharma: The Place of Asoka in Ancient Indian Religious History.” Olivelle’s lecture precedes the introduction of Hindi language courses at KU next fall.

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES
Abbas Karakaya started teaching Turkish language courses at KU in the fall. He has two M.A. degrees, from The Ohio State University and from Indiana University. Professor Marc Greenberg was interviewed by Aleksander Colnik for a one-hour program of “The Evening Guest” (Vecerni gost) by the national television station of Slovenia, RTV Slovenia, in July.

SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES
The department welcomes new faculty member Renee Perelmutter. She plans on working with graduate and undergraduate students in the department as well as in Jewish studies. For the fall 2008 semester, she started a Yiddishkeit film series with the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. In spring 2009, she teaches two folklore classes: Slavic folklore for honors students and Jewish folklore. Irina Six, lecturer, was a presenter on the panel “Doing Business in Eastern Europe,” sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City in October.

SOCIOLOGY
Bruce Western, professor of sociology at Harvard University and a leading authority on social inequality, delivered the annual Clark Lecture. Distinguished Professor Joane Nagel was awarded a $3 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship grant focusing on global climate change from the National Science Foundation. Professor Shirley Hill served this past year as the President of Sociologists for Women in Society and Professor Mary Zimmerman is the President-elect of the Midwest Sociological Society. The department welcomes new Assistant Professor ChangHwan Kim.

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE
Professor Danny Anderson received the 2008 ING Excellence in Teaching Award. Anderson specializes in Latin American literary and cultural studies. The department now offers a minor in Brazilian studies. The minor is designed to help students acquire advanced training in the Portuguese language and gain knowledge and understanding of Brazilian culture. The department welcomes new Associate Professor Santa Arias.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING: SCIENCES & DISORDERS
Professor Hugh Catts, chair of the department, received the Samuel T. Orton Award, the International Dyslexia Association’s highest honor, and received the KU Center for Teaching Excellence Department Teaching Award. The KU Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association holds its fifth annual conference in April. The National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association Executive Council awarded them a McKinley Regional Project Grant for $1,000 to assist with the conference. The department welcomes new Assistant Professor Nancy Brady.

UKANTEACH
The program is projected to increase to 200 students by spring 2010 from the current 110 students enrolled. The first three UKanTeach students will graduate from the program during 2009 and the number of graduates for 2010 is predicted to increase to over 30.

WOMEN, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM
Assistant Professor Ayu Saraswati is the most recent addition and only full-time faculty member in the department. WGSS has submitted a proposal for a Ph.D. program with tracks in political science, theatre and film. The program hopes to receive full approval in spring with an implementation date of fall 2010. It would be the only WGSS Ph.D. in the Midwest. Classics Professor John Younger became the new director after previous director Ann Cudd became Associate Dean for the Humanities.
A CONVERSATION WITH LYNN DAVIDMAN
Robert M. Beren Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Studies

With her first published book, Lynn Davidman found herself uniquely poised at the intersection of sociology, religious studies, Jewish studies, gender studies, and race, religion and ethnicity. It’s a testament to this visionary academic approach that her book, “Tradition in a Rootless World” is still taught today. Davidman’s vision and enthusiasm will be instrumental in her new roles at KU: chair of the rapidly expanding Jewish studies program and professor in the departments of religious studies and sociology. Though her various responsibilities on the Hill keep her constantly busy, she took a break to discuss what the future holds for Jewish studies.

You came to KU in August 2008 as the second Robert M. Beren Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Studies. What is your vision for the Jewish studies program at KU?

I have high hopes, aspiration and enthusiasm for taking on this role. This role affords me the opportunity to expand the things I can do exponentially.

What I hope to do is create a department or program that will attract people here for its uniqueness. Most Judaic or Jewish studies programs are interdisciplinary, where everyone asks their own questions within their own disciplines. I want to create a broad department of Judaic studies where people all share an interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary dialogue.
As a founder of interdisciplinary Jewish women’s studies, what sparked your interest in studying the blend of sociology, religious studies, Jewish studies, gender studies, and race, religion and ethnicity?

I see them all as fundamentally interconnected. I feel very clearly that there was a particular approach I founded, which is why my first book, “Tradition in a Rootless World: Women Turn to Orthodox Judaism,” is still being taught. The reason that book soared is that it filled a niche. There was no attempt made to connect what happened with Jews to what was happening to other religious groups at the same time, like the growing turn to fundamentalism. I combined the study of gender because religion is one of the most prominent institutions that establishes and maintains gender hierarchies.

“Motherloss,” one of several books you’ve authored, examines and analyzes the stories of adults who have dealt with the death of their mothers at a young age. What was the most significant thing you discovered in the course of hearing the stories of others?

I interviewed 60 people in several cities, who like myself, had lost their mothers at a young age. None of us were told what our mothers were sick with, nor were we told that she might die. A major theme throughout was the silencing of the mothers. People thought of their lives as divided into two phases: while their mother was alive and while their mother wasn’t. The gender division of labor in society, where women are delegated as caregivers, resulted in the family not being able to hold together when the mother dies.

This book was probably one of the two hardest things I’ve done in my life. Many people cried during interviews. I had tears sometimes myself. I would come home from interviews feeling like a limp rag doll. My respondents described very profound emotional experiences, which often resonated with my own.

How do you spend your free time when you aren’t working to diversify the study of world religions and the humanities?

Since arriving at KU, I have spent an enormous amount of time and energy trying to create a visible program in absence of resources. That, as well as teaching two courses and trying to work on my current book, keeps me busy seven days a week, sometimes 10 hours a day. But I love this work, because it provides me with the opportunity that I have not had before in my life to envision something large and work to create it. It’s the potential for this that keeps me energetic and inspired to work the long hours involved. When I do have free time, I lift weights, meditate, study yoga and love to read novels and watch movies, and attend theatre and dance concerts. And I like to engage in retail therapy.
GIVING BACK

ADVANCE ASTROPHYSICS

To support the telescope project, use the giving envelope in this magazine, visit kuendowment.org/college or contact LaRisa Lochner at 785.832.7350 or llochner@kuendowment.org. California alumni are invited to attend a 6 p.m. reception on April 28 at the San Diego Air and Space Museum to learn more about KU’s collaboration with SDSU.

TELESCOPE PROJECT WILL PROPEL ASTROPHYSICS

Astrophysics at the University of Kansas is reaching new heights. An expansion of faculty—including KU alumnus and astronaut Steve Hawley—is enhancing the undergraduate degree program in astronomy, while resurrecting the master’s degree in astrophysics, the only graduate program of its kind in Kansas.

A key element is development of a 1.25-meter research telescope, the focus of a partnership between KU and San Diego State University. Upon completion, KU and SDSU will share research time at the telescope at Mt. Laguna Observatory, 45 miles east of San Diego.

The project will allow remote access to a state-of-the-art astronomical research facility, dramatically expand training and research opportunities for students and strengthen the collaboration with astronomy at SDSU, a program with strong similarities to KU’s, as it works to develop Mt. Laguna into one of the country’s premiere astronomical observing sites.

“The significance of this project for KU astrophysics cannot be overstated,” said Bruce Twarog, professor of physics and astronomy. “For the first time in the 125-year history of the program students will have access to competitive research facilities. The ability to collect data with a California telescope from a room in Malott creates extraordinary opportunities for students to follow new research paths while developing professional skills.”

For the project to move forward, previous technology in the telescope needs to be replaced. The expected cost of the upgrade is about $1 million, covered entirely by SDSU. To retain its 40% share of telescope time, KU must contribute $450,000 for new instrumentation and telescope operations. The College has agreed to match, dollar-for-dollar, any donations made to this initiative, up to $225,000.
In the spring of 2007, I found myself at a professional and personal crossroads. My publisher had asked me to write a book about the media’s coverage of the war in Iraq, which was going very badly for American and Iraqi forces alike. I already had written one book about the Marine Corps and as a veteran newspaper reporter I was seen as someone who could render an objective account of the controversial war.

It seemed fairly routine at first. I would call on veteran reporters to get their views on the overall coverage, tie in a bit of history and politics and be done with the short book.

Piece of cake, right? Wrong.

As an English major at KU, one of the authors I most admired was Ernest Hemingway, a war correspondent during the Spanish Civil War. It’s funny the lessons one takes away from college over the years, long after the last term paper or exam question prods a young mind.

One of Hemingway’s lessons that stayed long after I left Lawrence was that a writer always must be true to oneself and, to do so, should “develop a built-in b.s. detector.” That is, Hemingway advised, always seek the truth in writing and in life. Well, my personal b.s. detector went off in 2007 when I realized that I would have to go to Iraq to do a credible job writing my book.

WHAT? part of me replied. Going to the war zone wasn’t part of the book deal. But no matter how I spun it, my truth detector kept right on beeping like a pesky smoke alarm.

It took several months of phone calls, e-mails and disappointments with my former newspaper (which wouldn’t send me to Iraq) to plan my trip abroad. Finally, in June 2007, I paid my own way over to the war zone, embedding with a U.S. Marine public affairs unit at Camp Fallujah.

I flew into Baghdad, where I saw or heard quite enough of the war—mortar shells exploded in the No Man’s Land beyond the airport, and, the next day, more were lobbed, greeting me inside the “protected” Green Zone, home of the American embassy and press office.

I traveled to Ramadi, where I was the only journalist to attend a key meeting between city and provincial officials. They worked with the Americans as part of what was known as “The Awakening”—when Sunni tribal leaders decided they’d had enough of Al Qaeda and forged a truce with the Americans.

Hemingway was right: The only way to really cover a story, and write about it as well as you can, is to walk the ground, meet the people and take the risks.

I don’t know how Iraq will turn out, but whatever happens, I know I’ve done what I can to tell my part of the story—and to be true to some of the lessons absorbed during my time on Mount Oread.

April 19
CLAS Acts presentation, The Price is Too High: Balancing Children’s Nutrition

April 28
CLAS San Diego Area Alumni Reception

May 1
Mini College registration deadline

May 3
CLAS Acts performance, Lineage: A Song Cycle showcasing the poetry of Margaret Walker

June 1–4
First Annual Mini College

July 23
CLAS Kansas City Area Alumni Reception

Sept. 1
Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award nomination deadline

Sept. 24–27
Class of 1959 reunion

Oct. 10
Homecoming

For more information, contact Kristi Henderson at khenderson@ku.edu or 785.864.3663