



NEWS FOR YOU

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT STAFF NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President

by, Dennis Constance

As President of the USS Senate, I have been to a few Opening convocations. These are the official kick-off of the academic year. They occur the night before the first day of classes and are intended to help get students and the rest of the KU community off to a good start. Several speakers address the assemblage and strive to make the new students feel welcome, alert them to the vast opportunities present in the University experience, offer advice, and challenge them to make the most of it all.



The Outlook decorated for the winter holidays, photo provided by KU University Relations

This year's convocation was different than those I have previously experienced in two ways. For the first time, my counterpart from the Unclassified Senate and I were not part of the platform party. Also for the first time, the importance of staff to the mission of the University was addressed at some length by the Chancellor. The absence from the platform was disappointing. That may seem minor, given that myself and the Unclassified Staff President don't do anything but sit during the convocation; still, I think it is important symbolically that the audience sees us as a part of the leadership of the Mount Oread community.

Most importantly, however, was Chancellor Gray-Little's elaboration of the ways staff participate in the successful educational experience. In a speech that I think did an unusually good job of telling the students things they really needed to hear, KU's top educator spent a significant amount of time talking about us. I came away from the convocation feeling good enough about what I had just heard, to mind at all having heard it from the audience.

Dennis Constance, University Support Staff President

KU receives ranking as "One of the Best" for Veterans

KU was recently honored for its service to student veterans with a top ten ranking in Military Times Edge's "Best for Vets" list.

KU ranked ninth among public universities and 12th overall. Military Edge surveyed more than 4000 colleges and universities about the program, policies and resources available to veterans. KU received 5 stars in academic flexibility, 4.5 in financial assistance, 4.5 in support service and 3.5 in campus culture.

Betty Colbert, VA Certifying Official in the Office of the University Registrar, and member of the USS Senate, along with various colleagues, have been instrumental in this designation for the university. She explains from her office, "The Registrar's Office is working closely with other offices across campus (*such as but not limited to*), the University Advising Center, CAPS, the School of Business, the Graduate Office, and the Wounded Warrior Project, to ensure that KU is doing everything we can to provide the best education possible for veterans." More information about what KU is working to do and the Wounded Warrior Project, can be found at www.WoundedWarriorProject.org, www.veterans.ku.edu and www.business.ku.edu/news/releases/20100208-business-concepts-prepare-us-army-colonels-to-lead-thousands.shtml.

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The largest turkey on record weighed 86 pounds, about the size of a large dog! gobble - - gobble!



22 million turkeys are consumed each year over the winter holidays, compared to 45 million at Thanksgiving!

Wheat State Wee Whirlwind Tour II

By, Sharon Lee Green

Photos provided by Dennis Constance

The Mini Wheat Tour that the University Support Staff Senators put on for the University Support Staff was an educational experience. We had a good turnout, approximately 28 attended. It was a cloudy morning and then the clouds disappeared as the day went along. It was a beautiful day for hiking at the Konza Prairie – Nature Trail. Though I was unable to hike, I heard from others that it was a well deserved experience. The trail allowed hikers to take a 2, 4, or 6 mile loop hike. You saw many different native species of plants, flowers and Kansas grasses as you hike. They were able to see an original homestead, although consumed by a previous fire, the barn that was still there.

Then we went to Landoll Corporation located at 1900 North Street in Marysville, KS which is a privately own since 1963. They started as a quick service welding and now a World Class Manufacturing. Since they started, they only had two lay offs and now have approximately 1600 people working for them. We saw a power point presentation of all what they do. Many items that they make are: trailers, tillage equipment, government/OEM products and more. They have an up-to-date laser that can cut steel as small as the head of a teaspoon. They make a forklift that can work in a very narrow 64” Aisles vs Wide 144” Aisles = 12 Rows vs 8 Rows = 50% more storage. The forklift tongs can go left or right to place items on the aisles. The amazing part for me was the cutting of the steel with the laser and the painting using powder.

Next we went to “The Columbian Theater Museum & Art Center located in Wamego and to the Oz Museum.

The theater had magnificent 19’ by 14’ if I recall correctly of 6 Columbian Ladies that were at the first Worlds Fair in Chicago. They have been restored and placed in the museum. The presentation was very informative to me.

The Oz Museum was where there were a lot of memorabilia of all the characters that played in the Wizard of Oz. There were music and a person explaining everything about the Wizard of Oz to you while you walk through it. I wish we could have had more time to take in the making of the movie. There were also a lot of items you could buy for yourself or for you kids and grandkids. This would be a very good place for your family to attend.

So I am hoping that the next time the USSS put on a Mini Wheat Bus Tour, that there would be more USS to join us.



The group at the Landoll Corporation

On September 22 the USSS took participants to the Konza Praire, Landoll Corp., Pony Express Home Station No. 1, Wamego Old Dutch Windmill and The Columbian Theater Museum & Art Center



Crossroad Tours provided transportation to the various locations for the Mini Wheat State Tour.



KU's First-Ever Staff Leadership Summit:

Leading from Where You Are

You are invited to spend a day networking, learning new skills and getting energized at KU's first-ever Staff Leadership Summit on February 17, 2011. This is a great opportunity to gain the tools you need to *lead from where you are*.

You don't have to be a supervisor or director to be a leader. In fact, all KU staff, regardless of title or position, can... *and should...* be leaders. Why? Because '*leadership is not about position. It's about influence*¹.' And, by influencing your coworkers, YOU can make a difference.

Free and open to KU staff at all levels – from support staff to administrators

(limited to 200 participants)

February 17, 2011, 8a – 3p

The Kansas Union, Levels 5 & 6

What to expect: Attendees will participate in interactive sessions focused on 4 key areas: engagement, creativity and innovation, leadership, and work/life balance.

Selected highlights:

- Learn why Chancellor Gray-Little believes that continuous learning and development is essential for all KU staff.
- Discover why our fear of making "unfavorable social impressions" diminishes our innovativeness from Feirong Yuan, assistant professor of business at KU.
(<http://www.news.ku.edu/2010/april/27/workplace.shtml>)
- Learn how to diagnose situations, facilitate interventions, and energize others from Andi Witzak, director of the Center for Service Learning, and Mary Banwart, associate professor of communication studies at KU.
- Practice role-playing difficult discussions in the workplace with KU's Interactive Theatre troop to enhance your listening and communication strategies
(<http://www.diversity.ku.edu/events/dialogues.shtml>).
- Be inspired by keynote speakers Danny Anderson, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Reginald Robinson, Professor of Law at Washburn University and past president of the Kansas Board of Regents.

Engage. Thrive. Innovate.

Funded by: The Office of the Provost and Human Resources and Equal Opportunity

Coordinated by: KU's Staff Learning and Development Council

The Staff Learning and Development Council is charged by the Provost with coordinating and expanding access to professional development opportunities for staff at KU Lawrence and Edwards campuses. The goal is to find ways for staff to continuously learn new skills and thrive at KU.

(<http://www.provost.ku.edu/areas/academic/engagement/staff/learning-development-council.shtml>)

References:

1. John C. Maxwell, "Lead from where you are." Success Magazine, <http://www.successmagazine.com/maxwell-lead-from-where-you-are/PARAMS/article/1209/channel/22>



**Staff
Leadership
Summit**

REGISTRATION FORM

Staff Leadership Summit: Leading from Where You Are

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Registration is limited to 200 participants and is on a first come basis. Lunch included.

* Required Field

Title (circle one): Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Dr.

Name: * _____

E-mail: _____

Department: _____

Campus Mailing Address: * _____

Address:(line 2, if needed) _____

City, State Zip: * _____

- Please **do not include** my information on the participant roster.
- We accommodate persons with disabilities. If you will **need special accommodation**, please check this box and a member of our staff will contact you to discuss your needs.
- Please check here if you would prefer a **vegetarian lunch**.

Supervisor's Name: * _____

Years Employed at KU:

<input type="checkbox"/> less than 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 - 14
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 - 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 15 - 19
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 - 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 or more years

Please return this form to:

Provost's Office
Attention: Staff Learning & Development Council
250 Strong Hall

KU Libraries Are For YOU!

With six branches across the Lawrence campus, KU Libraries make for an easy and productive stop during the day. Whether you'd like to check email at one of the many computer workstations or peruse the more than 4.2 million volumes on our shelves, the libraries and its friendly staff have quite a bit to offer for KU employees both personally and professionally.

With a swipe of your KU ID card, you can check out books, journals, videos, DVDs, maps, and more. Our recreational reading collection in Watson Library offers fiction and non-fiction titles from the current best-seller lists.

Online resources abound at KU Libraries. Check out a laptop or use a workstation to connect you to the KU Libraries catalog and databases (www.lib.ku.edu), or make use of the scanners or software programs like Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and Adobe Acrobat.

We subscribe to more than 50,000 journals, magazines and newspapers that you can access online anytime with your KU online ID and password. You can find health magazines like *Shape*, *Prevention* and *Runner's World*; personal finance and business magazines like *Smart Money*, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, and the *Wall Street Journal*; and a wide range of publications focusing on specific jobs and professions, from accounting to waste management. To get started, visit www.lib.ku.edu and click E-journals.



If you arrive during normal business hours, you'll find Hawk Stop locations open at Watson, Anschutz and Spahr Engineering Libraries. Enjoy a cup of coffee or a sandwich—you're welcome to eat and drink in the libraries. If you're on campus at night, remember Anschutz is open 24 hours, and offering vending options including coffee. You can find library hours at www.lib.ku.edu/hours.

Can't make it to the libraries in person? You can contact a librarian by phone, email or IM. Learn more about our Ask A Librarian ser-

vice at www.lib.ku.edu/askalibrarian, and find out how easy it is to receive the personalized assistance you need to build job skills, or to make your free time more productive.

For more information on the resources and services at KU Libraries, visit www.lib.ku.edu or call 785-864-8983.



Library photos provided by
KU University Relations

The library isn't just for students, employees can enjoy all of the benefits offered at the 25 locations across campus.

Support Staff Employee Of the Month - Give These Folks a Hand!

January 2010 - **Robert Szabo**, Anschutz Library

February 2010 - **Tony Rae McMillen**, Office of the General Counsel

March 2010 - **Diana Koslowsky**, Public Administration

April 2010 - **Amber Newquist**, Art & Architecture Library

May 2010 - **Rhonda Black**, Student Health Services Laboratory

June 2010 - **Janice Kazar**, Dept of Curriculum & Teaching

July 2010 - **Sabine Jones**, Office of Multicultural Affairs

August 2010 - **Janet Grady**, Life Span Institute

September 2010 - **Delbert Dailey** - Facilities & Operations

October 2010 - **Sandra Deen Urish**, Pharmacy Practice Department

The next employee of the month could be you or a co-worker! Nominations may be made by contacting HR/EO at 864-7408 for help with the nomination form, or by filing online at <http://www.hreo.ku.edu/documents/alphabetical>, select *Employee of the Month Nomination* under the letter "E".





University Support Staff Senate
33 Strong Hall



Chick Walker
Ainda Berdes

Hange Morris

Diann Koslowsky
Mary Murphy
Delores Barrow

Samantha Reinblatt



Happy Holidays!

From the University Support Staff Senate

Mary Ann Baker

Mason Stegall

Kathy Chaney
Dave Taber
Jenny Barta
Peggy Palmer

Teri Chambers



Peggy Robin
Ruthie Hayfield
Dennis Coudans

Eddie Mackay

Dea Chaffin
Margot Mahoney
Betty Colburn

Cindy Sutton
Darlene Secordine

Pat August
Luke Daniels

Karen Schorr

Doug Carter