

KU WORKS

for KANSAS / Vol. 2

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR AREA



GARDEN CITY & SALINA

Kansas Public Radio reporters travel the state to cover agriculture and health issues.

HUTCHINSON

KU's Osher Institute offers innovative educational courses for older adults.

HAYS

Research center provides free training for teachers and parents of children with autism.

PITTSBURG

Service offers respite for caregivers of adults and children with disabilities.



Bryan Thompson (above) reports from Salina on health and well-being for Kansans.

Eric Durban (left), who joined KU's Kansas Public Radio in January, reports on agricultural issues from his base in Garden City.

GARDEN CITY & SALINA

Harvesting Stories

KU radio reporters cover agricultural and health topics that affect Kansans

REPORTERS ERIC DURBAN AND BRYAN THOMPSON OF KU'S KANSAS Public Radio cover a lot of ground: the entire state, in fact.

Durban, based in Garden City, focuses on agribusiness, farming practices, food and fuel production, and local and national agriculture topics.

"I highlight the important issues facing farmers, ranchers, and consumers today," Durban said. "There is a wealth of stories out there."

He's covered winter farmers markets, federal support for wheat research, and winter-weather stress on livestock as a contributor to Harvest Public Media, a consortium of public broadcasters in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska. You can read and hear his reports at harvestpublicmedia.org, KPR and High Plains Public Radio.

Since 2000, Thompson — who's based in Salina — has been educating and informing Kansans about issues relating to their well-being, from national health-care reform and veterans' medical care to providing dental services in underserved areas.

Thompson's series, "Kansas Health: A Prescription for Change," is broadcast weekly on 20 stations throughout the state, and KPR provides the series free to any Kansas radio station that wants to air it. Archived reports are at kpr.ku.edu. ■

MORE INFORMATION

KPR.KU.EDU



KANSAS PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS

- 91.5 FM Lawrence
- 89.7 FM Emporia
- 89.9 FM Atchison
- 91.3 FM Junction City
- 97.9 FM Manhattan
- 99.5 FM Manhattan

OTHER PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS IN KANSAS

- KMUW, 89.1 FM Wichita
- KRPS, 89.9 FM Pittsburg
- **Radio Kansas:**
 - 90.1 FM Hutchinson
 - 89.5 FM Salina
 - 90.9 FM Great Bend
- **High Plains Public Radio:**
 - Transmitted from Garden City to 11 stations in western Kansas, including 91.1 FM Garden City, 91.7 FM Hays, 96.3 FM Liberal, and 96.3 FM St. Francis.



HIGHER-ED PARTNERS



HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE:
fall 2008

SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE/AREA TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN LIBERAL:
fall 2009

GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:
summer 2010

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY/ MANHATTAN:
fall 2010

HUTCHINSON

Going the Distance

KU educational institute opens the world to lifelong learners



Elizabeth Black, outreach coordinator for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at KU Continuing Education, is one of about 60 teachers of courses for older adults offered through interactive telecasts to community colleges and Kansas State University.

AN INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR OLDER adults that expanded from northeast Kansas to Hutchinson Community College in 2008 now operates at two more community colleges and, since last fall, at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

KU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, affiliated with KU Continuing Education, offers courses, day trips, and other learning opportunities for adults 50 and older. About 95 courses a year are taught in three-week sessions at the colleges or partner retirement centers and museums in 11 cities. Courses are presented either on-site or through interactive video broadcasts by instructors who are faculty members or community experts.

"Hutchinson was our first partnership, and it remains very successful," says Elizabeth Black, outreach coordinator for Osher.

A course recently offered there, "Getting a Handle on Handel," was taught by a couple who are longtime participants in "Messiah" in Lindsborg, presented each spring for 130 years.

Other courses this spring include World War II prisoners in Kansas, the tallgrass prairie, Thomas Jefferson, and Rodgers & Hammerstein. ■

MORE INFORMATION ■ OSHER.KU.EDU

HAYS

Breaking Through

KU research center offers training for parents and teachers of children with autism

A KU AUTISM PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED FREE TRAINING to parents and teachers in Hays, Hutchinson, Garden City, and other Kansas communities.

"The impact that intervention has on families is well-established," says Linda Heitzman-Powell, director of training for the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training, affiliated with KU's Life Span Institute. "We now need to identify how to more fully include these children in their communities and what strategies benefit older children and young adults. There is still work to be done."

Workshops, lectures, and interactive video sessions provide a range of opportunities for educators, caregivers, speech pathologists, and parents to learn skills that can improve behavior and communication in children with autism, Asperger's syndrome, and other disorders. More than 220 persons have been trained since the program began in 2008.

Besides a Medicaid waiver program, grants from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research support training of parents of children with autism who live in rural regions.

One parent who took a 6-day K-CART course noted that it gave him "knowledge and behavioral techniques that have already helped our son progress. Starting out on this journey has been overwhelming at times, but I know we're on the right track." ■



Linda Heitzman-Powell (left), director of training for the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training, monitors a session between an individual-support trainee and a child who has autism spectrum disorders. More than 200 educators and parents have taken the free courses.

MORE INFORMATION ■ KCART.KU.EDU

Taking Care

KU's Respite Services provides in-home support for families of people with disabilities



SOUTHEAST KANSAS RESPITE SERVICES



Founded in 1990 as a program of the KU Life Span Institute in Parsons.

About 220 families in 13 Kansas counties receive services from 90 staff caregivers trained in CPR, first aid, and other relevant techniques.

Funded by state and federal grants and contracts with United Way and social-service agencies.



Richard Weathers is the caregiver for his wife, Mary, who has Alzheimer's disease. He is able to leave her periodically for meetings and events because Southeast Kansas Respite Services provides an interim, in-home caregiver for her.

RICHARD AND MARY WEATHERS HAVE BEEN together for 59 years, but "together" means something very different now for the Pittsburg couple.

Seven years ago, Mary was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, a progressive deterioration of physical and mental functions. She can remain at home because Richard, a retired Pittsburg State University professor, is her daily caregiver: tending her needs, keeping house, shopping, cooking.

Five or six times a year since 2007, however, he leaves Mary with a caregiver from KU's Southeast Kansas Respite Services to attend board meetings or other functions.

"It's been a life-saver for me," Weathers says. "I don't really have anyone to look after Mary. I don't really take a day off."

Those breaks are the point of Respite Services, says coordinator Diane Salyers. "Sometimes it's just so (clients) can go shopping, although we hope it's a more genuine break," she says.

A trained staff provides in-home support — usually weekly or monthly — to caregivers of persons with mental and physical disabilities. Over the years, Salyers says, many of the staff have built deep relationships with people they assist. ■

MORE INFORMATION

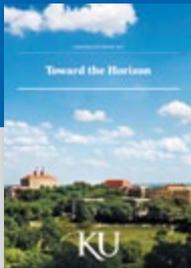
SEKRESPIRESERVICES.ORG
PARSONS.LSI.KU.EDU

PARTNERS

- KU Center on Developmental Disabilities at Parsons
- Parsons State Hospital and Training Center
- CLASS LTD
- Tri-Valley Developmental Services
- Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging
- Crawford County Mental Health Center
- Four County Mental Health Center
- Labette Center for Mental Health Services
- Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center
- Spring River Mental Health & Wellness

22 ACTIVE COMPANIES CREATED FROM KU RESEARCH

Another way KU works for Kansas



Discover more about KU's strategic plans for teaching, research, and service
Read the Chancellor's 2010 Report: report.ku.edu

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