WITH RETIREMENT LOOMING, JUNCTION CITY VETERINARIAN CASEY

Thomas knew he’d eventually have to sell the animal hospital he’d owned for more than 30 years. Of course, there was one small challenge: How would he find a buyer?

That’s when Thomas learned about RedTire, a University of Kansas program that connects college graduates who want to own a business with business owners wanting to retire. The program’s goal is to prevent businesses from closing because an owner can’t find a successor.

With assistance from RedTire, Thomas completed the sale of his Flint Hills Veterinary Hospital in February, ensuring the business will live on in Junction City.

“It’s exactly what we needed,” Thomas said, “at exactly the right time.”

In effect, RedTire is a matchmaking service. KU staff screens prospective replacement managers and businesses, then identifies good matches for purchase opportunities. From there, RedTire helps negotiate the purchase, establishes a purchase loan, and helps the new owner run the business.

RedTire is assisting nearly 20 business owners like Thomas. “It’s a great program for businesses and communities,” Thomas said. “Without RedTire, this transaction wouldn’t have happened.”

Keeping Kansas businesses in business

KU’s RedTire program matches owners with buyers
A new Health Education Building will enable KU to increase its class size by 50 students a year.

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Crossing that bridge before we get to it
KU study will help counties make decisions on repair budgets

89 Kansas counties have a shortage of primary care providers.

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We need 285 new doctors each year to rise to the national average needed by 2030.

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KU trained doctors keep Kansas community healthy

As students at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, Drs. Doug and Shelly Grauembacher already knew they wanted to practice medicine in Kansas. But it was their fourth-year rotation at Gove County Medical Center that helped them decide Quinter, Kan., was right for them.

“We fell in love with this community,” said Shelly, who along with her husband has a busy practice that draws patients from eight counties. “This has been perfect for us as doctors and parents.”

KU continues to encourage medical students to follow in the Grauembachers’ footsteps. KU-trained physicians practice in 87 percent of Kansas counties and comprise half of all Kansas doctors.

Despite KU’s efforts, Kansas faces a crucial physician shortage. That’s why KU is pursuing new health education facilities in Kansas City, which would enable the school to train 50 more doctors each year.

Between seeing patients and raising four children, the Grauembachers still find time to host KU medical students doing rotations.

“Quinter is perfect for us,” Doug said, “and we love helping future doctors consider communities like this.”

MORE INFORMATION: DOCTORS4KS.KU.EDU

**KANSAS BRIDGES**

Kansas has approximately 25,646 bridges on the state, county and city roadway network.

The KU study was conducted by School of Engineering researchers Eric Fitzsimmons, postdoctoral researcher in civil engineering; Tom Mulinazzi, professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering; and Stave Sfoerek, associate professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering.

The Kansas Department of Transportation provided $20,000 to fund the study.

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**STATESWIDE**

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**Communicating a need**
KU offers Somali language training

RESPONDING TO THE STATE’S INCREASING SOMALI-speaking population, the University of Kansas is now one of the nation’s first universities to offer Somali language training.

Beginning this summer, KU is offering an elementary Somali language class at the university’s Summer African Language Institute, sponsored by the Kansas African Studies Center and the Department of African and African-American Studies. Participants will receive one year of university-level Somali instruction condensed into eight weeks. Additionally, Somali will now be offered as a course for enrolled KU students, beginning in the fall semester.

“We’re excited to be one of the first universities to offer Somali language training,” said Elizabeth MacGonagle, director of the Kansas African Studies Center. “And we’re proud to serve Kansas communities in new and meaningful ways.”

The United States has seen an increase in Somali immigrants since the 1990s, when Somalia was ravaged by civil war. Several thousand Somali speakers live in southwest Kansas, and about 5,000 live in the Kansas City area.

The Somali population in both regions is expected to continue growing.

In 2012, KU graduate student AbdiFatah Shafat provided outreach to Somali immigrants through the Finney County Community Health Coalition, traveling to hospitals, courts, schools and police stations translating for Somali speakers.

Shafat estimates that of the 700 Somali-speaking immigrants working in Garden City’s meatpacking plants at that time, only two had strong English skills — and both worked full-time and were not available for community translation.

“There’s clearly a demand for Somali language training,” said Shafat, who grew up speaking Somali in northern Kenya. “KU is addressing this crucial need on behalf of Kansas businesses and communities.”

MORE INFORMATION: KASC.KU.EDU

**KU SUMMER AFRI CAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE**

The University of Kansas is one of five international area studies centers within KU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

KU teaches 40+ languages, more than any other Big 12 school.

COMMUNICATING ACROSS CULTURES

KU’s new Somali language class is designed to help a range of individuals – including educators, health professionals, employers, policymakers, and workers – better communicate with Kansans growing Somali population. The course will also be useful to students wanting to work abroad in business, medicine, journalism and law.

U.S. military officials at Fort Leavenworth have expressed interest in the Somali language course.

There are an estimated 17-19 million Somali speakers worldwide, with the majority living in the Horn of Africa.

Somali natives aren’t the only ones who speak the language. Somali is widely spoken in the neighboring countries of Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti, as well as throughout the Middle East.

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KU-trained doctors keep Kansas community healthy

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MORE INFORMATION — KAWSUMMEREDU

SHORTAGE

KANSAS PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE

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MORE INFORMATION — KUWORKS.KU.EDU

COMMUNICATING ACROSS CULTURES

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Deteriorating or outdated bridges along lightly traveled roads are a budget dilemma for county leaders across Kansas.

With that in mind, University of Kansas engineering researchers completed a study to help county leaders make decisions about a bridge’s future. The study compares the cost benefits of replacing a bridge with the cost of traveling extra miles to detour if a bridge is closed or removed.

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AND BE MORE.

Our application doesn’t call for letters of recommendation, résumés, or a lengthy wait — most decisions are made in about a week.

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Apply by Nov. 1 for scholarship consideration.

Know a future Jayhawk? Put us in touch. interested.ku.edu