KU Talent Search 7th Graders Get A Head Start on Science!

BUGS BUG BUGS EVERYWHERE!
That’s what the KU Talent Search 7th graders are saying each month as they participate in the KU Environmental Science Academy. Twenty-five 7th graders from the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools enjoy learning about bugs, water, and minerals at the F.L. Schlagle Environmental Center, located at Wyandotte County Lake Park in KCK, during Saturday sessions once a month.

The KU Talent Search Program is collaborating with the Kansas Geological Survey and the Kansas Biological Survey at KU to provide urban youth with opportunities to engage in hands-on science experiments and learn about important environmental issues that our communities face. The KU scientists are not only dedicated... continued on next page

Celebrate TRiO Day!
Feb. 27th

Scholarship Fund Announcement
11am ★ 150 JRP
Reception/Lunch
11:30-1 ★ 201 JRP

All faculty & staff invited - sponsored by SOE Equal Opportunity Programs.

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Talent Search, continued

to teaching students about science but they are able to get the students excited and interested in science, research, and fieldwork! Students get the opportunity to wear waders, collect water samples at the lake, and examine minerals and rocks. The academy began in October 2008 and will end in June 2009 with a celebration and science presentations by the students.
The KU Educational Opportunity Programs have announced a fundraising effort for a new scholarship fund for low-income, first-generation college students at KU. **Program staff will present information on the proposed scholarship at 11 a.m. Feb. 27 in 150 Joseph R. Pearson Hall.**

This will be one of several activities celebrated during the annual EOP/TRIO Day at KU. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear personal testimonies from students who would benefit from such a scholarship.

Program staff are working to create the scholarship fund, to be held and managed by KU Endowment, in response to rising tuition costs and other financial barriers EOP students face when planning to attend college.

The EOP staff’s initial goal is to raise the minimum amount required for an endowed scholarship, which is $30,000, within a three-year period. Once the goal has been reached, the staff can select its inaugural group of scholarship recipients.

Donors who would like to contribute can do so in person at the Feb. 27 presentation; online at www.kuendowment.org/eop/ (be sure to indicate that the donation is for the Educational Opportunity Programs Scholarship); or by calling Chuck Cordt at KU Endowment, (785) 832-7464. Educational Opportunity Programs serve almost 4,000 Kansas students annually in an effort to help underrepresented students enter and succeed in college.

“**The KU Math and Science Center has been great. During the six-week summer program, we took classes, met new people and got a taste of college life at KU. When I came back to school this fall, I felt ready to continue learning. I'm excited to start college at KU.**

— Callie Edmundsen, Sophomore, Turner High School, Kansas City, Kan. Participant, KU Upward Bound Math and Science Program

“As a nontraditional student, I knew my academic success would hinge as much on seeking out opportunities at KU as on getting good grades. I believed success and personal satisfaction were possible for me, but I didn’t know what steps to take or how to take them. The McNair Scholars Program showed me the route to success. My experience has been priceless.”

— Joshua Seraphim Anderson, KU senior in English, Lawrence, Kan. McNair Scholar

“**Without the GEAR UP and SES scholarships, my transition from high school to college would not have been as smooth. The support gave me one less thing to worry about as the semester started.**

— Xavier Hankins, KU senior in sociology, Kansas City, Kan. Participant, GEAR UP and Supportive Educational Services Program

— KU Endowment Association
Here at ALTEC we recently had a discussion about the language in a document we were writing. The discussion revolved around whether the word “data” should use a singular verb (“The data is encrypted”) or should it be plural (“The data are encrypted”). As the word “data” is simply the plural form of “datum,” it seems clear that we should use the plural when discussing a collection of “data.” This is no different from saying “The papers are sorted” or “The computers are working.”

However, it isn’t as simple as that. While it is true that “data” is not singular, it isn’t exactly plural either. When we say “The papers are sorted” we have a clear understanding of paper as a singular noun. But what is a datum, especially when we are talking about electronic information? Is it a single bit, 0 or 1? A single entry in a database table? A single quiz taken by a student?

It might be natural to treat “data” as a collective noun such as “team” or “class.” In American grammar, “team” is treated as singular, while the British consider it to be plural.

American: “The football team has arrived.”
British: “The football team have arrived.”

That second sentence sounds strange to us – even now Microsoft Word tells me it is incorrect. But compare to “Our football team is winning. They just scored a touchdown.” Singular in one sentence, plural in the next. Clearly the British way is more consistent. However, even the Oxford English Dictionary suggests that the use of the singular with data may eventually be unavoidable (they refer to it as a “lost cause” - http://www.askoxford.com/asktheexperts/faq/aboutgrammar/data).

Technically, “data” is not really a collective noun but rather a mass noun similar to “water,” “light,” or “blood.” In much the same way we say “The air is polluted,” or “The money is in the bank,” we can say “The data is corrupted.” Air may be a collection of molecules and money may be dollars and cents, but we only really discuss it as a group. In situations where individual data points are clear and well-defined, we may do better to say “datum is” and “data are.” However, when talking about data in general it is perfectly fine to use the singular.

“The data is encrypted.”

—Doug Adams
KUDOS

Former ALTEC staffer joins ISTE as Senior Director

Jayne James, who worked with CRL’s ALTEC, has joined the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) staff as the senior director of educational leadership. James will oversee ISTE’s professional development, book publishing, research and evaluation, and National Educational Technology Standards activities. James comes to ISTE from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), where she was executive director of the Ready to Learn program. Prior to her work with CPB, Dr. James was team leader for the U.S. Department of Education’s Enhancing Education Through Technology program. James also served as director of the High Plains R*TEC, as Director of a PT3 Catalyst grant, and as the state education technology director for Kansas. Her work has earned recognition from Apple, the Center for Digital Education, the George Lucas Educational Foundation, and Intel.

Notice to faculty!

Were you involved in international activities during the Fall of 2008 or this semester?

KU’s International Programs would like to highlight your endeavors in the spring issue of International Program’s newsletter Horizons.

Please send a ~75-word brief description of your international work to Alison Watkins, Communications Director, International Programs, awatkins@ku.edu. The deadline is March 24.

“The good folks at housekeeping follow this new office trash pick-up schedule for JRP.

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<td>Sunday, Wednesday</td>
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“There is a theory which states that if ever for any reason anyone discovers what exactly the Universe is for and why it is here it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. There is another that states that this has already happened.”

—Douglas Adams
The University of Kansas
28th Annual
EDUCATION INTERVIEW DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 10th
8:30am-4:00pm
Kansas Union Ballroom

*Walk-up interviews may be scheduled with school districts at their tables between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on the day of the event*

Sign up NOW for interviews!
Deadline to pre-register for interviews: February 25, 2009

For more information or to sign up for interviews, go to:
www.kucareerhawk.com/edinterview

Presented by the University Career Center
110 Burge Union / (785) 864-3624 / kucareerhawk.com / ucc@ku.edu
Contributing to Student Success
You’re Invited to Celebrate TRiO Day February 27!

All Faculty & Staff are invited to celebrate TRiO Day with the staff from all of the great SOE Equal Opportunity Programs (EOP). At 11am, an announcement about the new EOP scholarship will be made in 150 JRP. Then please come to a lunch/reception in 201 JRP from 11:30–1!

Mark Your Calendars

- **February 25**  
  HSES Lecture • Fostering Youth Development • 5 pm • 252 Robinson *see above*

- **February 27**  
  EOP Scholarship Announcement • 11 am • 150 JRP *see above & p. 3*
  EOP Day Lunch Reception for SOE Faculty & Staff • 11:30 am - 1 pm • 201 JRP *see above*

- **March 5**  
  Lawrence Alumni Event • 4:30 - 6:30 pm • Alvamar Country Club

- **March 10**  
  Education Career Fair • 8:30 am - 4 pm • Kansas Union *see p. 6*

- **April 2**  
  Wichita Alumni Event • 6 - 8 pm • Larkspur

- **April 9**  
  Budig Lecture • Ann Turnbull • 4:30 pm • 150 JRP

- **April 24**  
  KC Alumni Event • 4:30 - 6:30 pm • Regnier Hall, Edwards Campus

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