New Central Utility Plant Will Support Hospital

As construction projects add to the campus landscape, steps are being taken to accommodate the growth.

At 39th and Cambridge, crews are finishing work on The University of Kansas Hospital's new Central Utility Plant. The plant, located across the street from the hospital's new Center for Advanced Heart Care, will allow the hospital to supply all of its own hot and cold water, electricity, steam, heat and air conditioning.

"By providing our own utilities, we enhance our ability to grow," said Renee Jacobs, construction manager, hospital Design, Construction and Renovation. "This plant will allow us to meet our current energy needs, as well as those of the new heart center and future expansion projects."

Finishing touches are being made to the building's exterior. Inside the plant, all major systems are installed, including piping in the new underground tunnel that links the plant to the main hospital and the heart center. System controls are being installed, and all major equipment is being tested. Office areas are finished and will soon be occupied by engineering and operations staff members.

During January, the plant will gradually be brought online. Initially, the Central Utility Plant will provide utilities in addition to those supplied by the existing Applegate Energy Center. Once the new utilities have been tested and control systems proven to be fully functioning, the Central Utility Plant will become the sole provider of utilities to the main hospital building and the new heart center.

"This change-over requires close coordination among the construction team, the hospital and the university," said Jon Jackson, senior vice president, System Integration. "Within the next few weeks, all utilities for the hospital should be provided by the new Central Utility Plant."

The Applegate Energy Center will continue to meet the energy needs of university facilities, including the new Biomedical Research Center and hospital facilities located in university buildings.

Final construction site cleanup and landscaping will be completed over the course of the next several months. When finished, the new Central Utility Plant and Center for Advanced Heart Care will create a signature "look" for those entering the campus at 39th Avenue and Cambridge Street.

Hospital Launches New Ad Campaign

Employees and staff at The University of Kansas Hospital previewed the hospital's new comprehensive image advertising campaign Jan. 17. It debuts to the public Jan. 22.

The ads emphasize the hospital's position as the region's leading health care provider and share its unparalleled strengths in academic medicine, cancer care and heart care. The campaign, which includes television and radio commercials, print advertisements and billboards, will continue through June 2006.

Like last year's campaign, the television and radio commercials feature actor Tom Skerritt and the tagline "Why would you go anywhere else?"

Print ads and billboards once again feature architectural elements. These ads will run in The Kansas City Star and Star Magazine, The Business Journal and other magazines and theater programs. Six large billboards will be positioned along high-traffic areas throughout Kansas City.
Anesthetists Recognized

As the hands-on providers of approximately 65 percent of all anesthetics delivered in the United States each year, certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) touch the lives of millions of patients and their families. To celebrate the profession and its record of patient safety that extends back to the late 1800s, campus nurse anesthetists will observe National Nurse Anesthetists Week Jan. 22-28.

Nurse anesthetists were the first anesthesia providers and currently practice in every part of the country, deliver every type of anesthetic and work in every setting where anesthesia care is delivered. A CRNA is an advanced practice nurse who has a master’s degree in nurse anesthesia education, which is offered at the KU School of Allied Health.

“CRNAs are the patients’ eyes and ears during surgery,” said Donna Nyght, CRNA, MS, clinical instructor for the KU Nurse Anesthesia Education Program. “We are the patients’ advocates when they can’t speak for themselves. It’s an awesome responsibility and a sacred trust upon which our profession has built its reputation for safety and quality care.”

Faculty and students of the KU Nurse Anesthesia Education Department at KU Medical Center staff the nurse anesthesia positions at The University of Kansas Hospital.

eXtra: Nurse anesthetists will have a table outside the cafeteria from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 25. For more information, contact the KU School of Allied Health at 8-3253 or naneste@kumc.edu or visit www.na.kumc.edu. To read more, visit www.kumc.edu/news/publish/article_00759.shtml.

2006 Leadership Series Begins

Campus employees are invited to attend the campuswide Leadership Series 2006, which begins Friday, Feb. 3, and continues the first Friday of each month through May.

The series was developed through the cooperation of leaders from The University of Kansas Hospital, Kansas University Physicians Inc., University Human Resources and the KU Schools of Allied Health, Medicine, Nursing and the Graduate Studies Program.

The sessions, which are scheduled noon-1 p.m., will discuss the importance of developing a leadership culture, ways to improve leadership and the qualities of effective leaders.

• Feb. 3: “Growing Into Leadership,” Michael Bleich, PhD, RN, CNA,

BC, SoN Auditorium.

• March 3: “Team Building,” Marge Bott, RN, PhD, Dianne Durham, PhD, John Ferraro, PhD, and Patricia Thomas, MD, SoN Auditorium.


Participants should RSVP to Marty Gunion at mgunion@kumc.edu 10 days prior to each session they wish to attend. Employees who attend every session will receive a certificate of completion.

No Place Like Home

Students, faculty and friends from the KU School of Allied Health’s Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences recently helped make life a little easier for two families in the Kansas City area. Purvi Patel, a second-year physical therapy student, arranged for the volunteers to help with two Habitat for Humanity homes. One group helped frame and install siding on a house for a woman who sought services from Rose Brooks Center, a women’s domestic violence shelter. Another crew insulated and painted a second house for another family. Pictured are first-year students Abby Leising, Lorena Leck and Ashley Herrman.
Regulate the Uterine Endometrium Undergoing Decidualization,” Brent Bany, PhD, 4-5 p.m., Orr-Major 1023.

**Tuesday, Jan. 24**

**STUDENT WELLNESS Program:** “Discovering Balance: Quick and Easy Exercise Options,” Marcy Richardson, fitness specialist, Kirmayer Fitness Center, noon-1 p.m., Orr-Major 1025. Lunch provided for first 30 students.

**STUDENT WELLNESS Informational Table:** “Eating Disorders and Maintaining a Healthy Weight,” 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Stoland Lounge. Also Wednesday, Jan. 25.

**PALLIATIVE CARE Grand Rounds:** Session Two – “Palliative Care of the Acutely Ill: Patient, Family and Professional Caregiver Issues,” Karin Porter-Williamson, MD, 6-7 p.m., School of Nursing 1050.

**Wednesday, Jan. 25**

**INTERNAL MEDICINE Grand Rounds:** “Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency,” Charlie Strange, MD, 8-9 a.m., Sudler Auditorium 3015.

**STUDENT WELLNESS Program:** “Student Financial Wellness: Disability Insurance for the Medical Profession,” Ryan George, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, noon-1 p.m., School of Nursing G013. Lunch provided for first 30 students.

**HUMAN RESEARCH Protection Program Training:** Karen Blackwell and Dan Voss, 4-5 p.m., Clendening Auditorium. Training shares information regarding new forms required for submissions to the Human Subjects Committee, beginning this month. Attendees will receive credit for Human Subjects refresher training for 2006.

**Thursday, Jan. 26**

**STUDENT TICKET Giveaway:** 7:15 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., Stoland Lounge. Student Governing Council will give away tickets to currently enrolled students and residents, using a lottery system. Students must show ID. For rules and a complete listing of tickets, visit www2.kumc.edu/students/SOC/Tickets.htm.

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**Kirmayer Offers “KUMC Appreciation Day”**

Kirmayer Fitness Center will offer a day of free Induro Cycling classes to all KU Medical Center students, staff and employees Tuesday, Jan. 24.

- Beginner classes will take place at 3:45 p.m.
- Intermediate classes will take place at 5:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
- Instructional classes are available at 3:30 p.m.

Participants may attend one or more classes and should bring workout clothing, a water bottle and a towel. For more information, contact Marcy Richardson at 8-7702 or mrichardson@kumc.edu.

**Blood Drive Scheduled**

KU Medical Center’s Student Governing Council will sponsor a campus blood drive for students, faculty, staff and employees Monday, Jan. 23.

The Community Blood Center will be in Stoland Lounge from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, and all donors will receive a free T-shirt.

For more information, contact Tyler Buser at tbuser@kumc.edu.

**Wanted: Change Bandits**

Children’s Miracle Network and Mix 93.3 are recruiting “Change Bandits” to collect change from co-workers, friends and family over the next few weeks. The Change Bandits will help raise money for Rocket and Teresa’s eighth annual Mix For Kids Radiothon, March 1-3.

Children’s Miracle Network will send each Change Bandit a kit that includes a T-shirt, change bag, wanted poster and stickers. Each volunteer is eligible to win a hotel stay, a ride in a hot-air balloon, gift certificates and home electronics items.

Change Bandits will turn in their loot at the Bandit Bash with Rocket and Teresa at Argosy Casino on Thursday, Feb. 23, 4-7 p.m. Prizes, food and drinks will be available, as well as a chance to meet the morning disc jockeys. Change Bandits can also drop off or mail donations to Children’s Miracle Network, Room 1055, Building 48, Mail Stop 1051, 4125 Rainbow Boulevard, Kansas City, KS 66160.

Last year’s Radiothon raised more than $350,000 in pledges for Pediatrics at KU Medical Center and The University of Kansas Hospital, as well as Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. Children’s Miracle Network funding supports the treatment of uninsured and underinsured children and pediatric research.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Megan Hunter at 8-9107 or mhunter@kumc.edu.
New OB/GYN Chair Appointed

A nationally recognized leader in understanding premature births and in the development and practice of fetal medicine will join the faculty of the KU School of Medicine as professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) Jan. 23.

Carl Weiner, MD, MBA, recently received a $2.8 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control to investigate causes of preterm birth, which affects 12 percent of pregnancies in the United States. Weiner joins the KU School of Medicine faculty from the University of Maryland, where he was professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences.

He has received grants from the National Institutes of Health, the March of Dimes, the American Heart Association and others. His areas of research emphasis include drugs in pregnancy, ultrasound-prenatal diagnosis and fetal therapy, the effect of chronic hypoxemia on fetal development and hypertension in pregnancy. Weiner has several patents and is the founder and president of Perinet Inc., a biomedical development company.

Town Hall Meeting Set

KU Medical Center faculty, staff and students are invited to a 2006 Town Hall Meeting, noon-1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9, in the School of Nursing Auditorium.

The meeting will be led by Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive vice chancellor, KU Medical Center, and executive dean, KU School of Medicine, and Karen Miller, RN, PhD, senior vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, and dean, KU Schools of Nursing and Allied Health.

Attendees will have the opportunity to celebrate the past year’s successes and learn about the medical center’s visions for 2006. Special topics of discussion will include the campuswide cancer initiative, stem cell research and the recently released Blue Ribbon Report, which touted the medical center’s role in Kansas City’s life sciences initiative. A question-and-answer session will also take place.