Horticulture takes root at JCCC
Cover

JCCC’s horticulture program offers a horticulture associate’s degree, horticulture certificate, landscape technician certificate and horticultural, floral design and landscape technician entrepreneurship certificates.

New Center

6

Building toward health field careers

Groundbreaking on the two-story 50,000-square-foot Olathe Health Education Center took place Dec. 3, and construction is scheduled to begin March 2010.

Book

8

Izard advises entrepreneurs 50 and older

In March, Mary Beth Izard, professor emeritus, entrepreneurship, will present a seminar, BoomerPreneurs, based on her book of the same name.

Horticulture program grows with vigor thanks to Dr. Lekha Sreedhar.

Sreedhar exhibits samples of students’ micropropagation in tissue culture—a new trend for nurseries to mass propagate/clone superior plants.

JCCC College Scholar

9

Kincaid researches intracellular trafficking in human disease

Dr. Margaret Kincaid will detail her research pertaining to human neurodegenerative diseases.

Program

11

Drafting goes 3-D

JCCC’s drafting program acquired a rapid prototype machine to produce 3-D models.
13
Dobson publishes book about the Great Plains
Patrick Dobson’s *Seldom Seen: A Journey into the Great Plains* captures Dobson’s journey from Kansas City to Helena, Mont.

14
Bookstore warehouse adds addition
The bookstore warehouse will add 5,000 square feet to the current site as the bookstore increases its services.

15
Andrea Kempf is one for the books
Kempf has created 42 online bibliographies in the JCCC library database.

12
JCCC spotlights Nicodemus and blacks in the West

JCCC debate team ranks high
Terri Easley coached the debate team to a record high.
Horticulture program grows with vigor

As the lead author on scholarly articles published in journals like Plant Science, Annals of Botany and GENE, Dr. Lekha Sreedhar, associate professor, horticultural sciences, has proven herself an excellent academic.

But 16 years of study and research in plant sciences is only part of the reason Sreedhar has helped to make JCCC’s horticulture program a success in terms of quality and growing number of classes. The real reason is Sreedhar’s passion for the subject and her students. Her enthusiasm is contagious.

In this day’s Introduction to Horticultural Science lab, students work inside the Horticultural Science Center’s greenhouse surrounded by a sea of plants and flowers, planting six different leaf types in two different media in order to compare propagation methods. Students work knowingly as they determine the composition of the planting media and look for leaves from healthy stock plants to maximize growth. They are enrolled in the horticulture program with a variety of aspirations. Two want to become golf course managers; one is interested in environmental science, possibly plant engineering; another has aspirations to own a commercial greenhouse growing plants like organic hydroponic tomatoes; and there are more.

Carolyn Palmer, Newton, worked in a greenhouse for four-and-a-half years but now wants the science background. Colby Fuller, Emporia, already has a bachelor’s degree in agronomy but is working toward JCCC’s horticulture associate degree so he can obtain a job in landscaping.

“I really like this course,” Fuller said. “Dr. Sreedhar is an excellent teacher. If anyone has a question off-topic, she can answer it.”

Rebecca Walker-Garoute, Lenexa, worked in the floral design business 28 years before enrolling at JCCC, where she is due to receive an associate’s degree in May 2010. She is the greenhouse coordinator and likes the idea that she is supporting education by caring for a large variety of plants and trees inside and outside the greenhouse dedicated to student use.

“I feel this is a good program with continued efforts to use the best materials,” Walker-Garoute said. “Dr. Sreedhar makes sure students receive a good science experience – with passion.”

JCCC first offered a horticulture certificate program in 2001. In 2006, a landscape technician certificate was added, and a horticultural associate’s degree became effective fall 2007. Horticultural, floral design and landscape technician entrepreneurship certificates are also offered. Sreedhar was brought on board as the only full-time horticulture faculty in 2006. Four to eight adjunct faculty in various areas of expertise also teach horticulture classes, including Dr. Alan Stevens, director, K-State Research and Extension Center, Olathe, and JCCC adjunct associate professor, landscape design.

“The skills students learn at JCCC are beneficial to the industry. Students receive an underlying depth of knowledge that they wouldn’t receive with on-the-job experience,” Stevens said.

Stevens says that JCCC’s Introduction to Horticultural Science and Plant Propagation classes use the exact same textbooks and lab manuals as K-State’s.

Asked whether he thought a horticulture program was necessary in the suburbs, Stevens said, “Yes, green space is a precious commodity in the city and suburbs, and we need quality educated people to maintain it. The JCCC program serves a strong and definite need.”

The Horticultural Science Center, which opened for classes in fall 2001, houses one classroom, one lab with a laminar-flow hood and the greenhouse. Space, especially with a high night enrollment, is at a premium.

Dr. Csilla Duneczky, dean of sciences, points to new possibilities for program growth – plant biotechnology, plant sustainability, water conservation in irrigation and CAD design applied to Landscape Design classes.

According to Duneczky, interest is substantial in two horticulture electives, Arboriculture and Pest Control Management, for which students can sit for licensure examinations in those fields after course completion.

“We work with major nurseries, lawn care and landscape companies, florists, county extension agencies and private
gardens in order to serve the industry our faculty are experts in their fields. industry is that our students are well prepared.

Sreedhar networks in the community department at K-State and officials from Agriculture and Kansas and Missou Agriculture in order to provide her students and plum internships at local Johnson County Park and Recreation District field trips to places like the Loose Park member of the Kansas City Rose Society Overland Park Arboretum and Botanic Research and Extension Center, Olathe relationships with nurseries, garden centers, propagation facilities, garden and biotech companies so students are the newest tools, techniques and methods of tissue culture media.

“I want this to be a solid program,” Sreedhar said. anything to help my students succeed.

The PhD also credits her students for the program. She says her nighttime classes are filled with people who work eight to 12 hours in a nursery before.

“My students do extremely well. They know and complete well-written scientific reports.

That’s a high endorsement coming from Sreedhar who earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture science and a master’s degree in horticulture sciences from K Agricultural University, India; and a master’s degree in agriculture and a PhD in plant physiology from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, postdoctoral research in plant biotechnology at Rutgers’ Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment. She held the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship for graduate studies in horticultural sciences for a year.

Champion of the variety of fields open to students – floriculture, pomology (study of vegetables), viticulture, nursery management, landscape design, interior landscaping, micropropagation and horticulture. Sreedhar is positive that anyone who likes a specialty to their liking. If one does her hands dirty, Sreedhar will espouse methods of tissue culture – a new trend for nurseries to propagate/clone superior plants in vitro stock plant and rescue heavily infected plants. Other options include landscape design, hydroponics, horticultural sales.

Her enthusiasm extends from her professional life. At age four, she was captivated by a rose garden in India. Her love of flowers. She keeps lists of plants/flowers and their respective photographs that she has encountered. and has about 300 in her home.

“Plants are fascinating,” Sreedhar said. know and so much we don’t know.”

Colby Fuller and Natalie Martin set up an experiment during a leaf propagation lab.

Rebecca Walker-Garoutte, greenhouse coordinator, plans to earn her horticulture associate’s degree in May.

Sean Connolly has plans to become a golf course manager.
Building toward health field careers

The Olathe Health Education Center lies west of Olathe Medical Center.

In the remnant of a former cornfield, Johnson County Community College and Olathe Medical Center are tilling the ground in advance of another kind of harvest – allied health medical professionals.

Groundbreaking on the two-story, 50,000-square-foot Olathe Health Education Center took place Dec. 3, and construction is scheduled to begin March 2010. The center will open for classes in fall 2011.

OMC donated 5.8 acres of land for the building and parking, located between 152nd and 153rd Streets, west of Olathe Medical Center Parkway. JCCC will build OHEC at an anticipated cost of $15 million.

The building exterior is designed using JCCC campus standard brick with options for cast stone or metal between the windows. The main entrance is to the north with parking to the northwest.

Similar in design to the Regnier Center, OHEC features a two-story atrium and floating staircase. The first floor will contain the main lobby, information desk, and a 300-seat multipurpose conference room that can be divided into four areas for smaller meetings or classes.

Additional first-floor spaces are allocated for general education, medical office technology and other medical offerings (EKG, phlebotomy, pharmacy technology, medical lab technology and surgical technology) to include:

- Three general classrooms for classes such as anatomy and physiology
- One medical computer lab and one general-use computer lab
- A medical office technology suite with two classrooms and a record office room for medical billing, coding and transcription
- One classroom for other medical offerings
- Common spaces, including a coffee bar and food cart
- Offices for faculty and staff, including security, counseling and student services

The second floor is designed primarily for practical nursing, health occupations (certified nurse assistant, certified medication aides, rehabilitation aide, home health aide and IV therapy for LPNs) and dietary manager programs to include:

- Four health occupations classrooms with three patient care beds each
- Two skills lab with eight beds each; one of the two is designed to accommodate four patient simulators
- Practical nurse/health occupations student success center
- Two classrooms for practical nursing and other medical classes
- Common spaces for study and rest breaks
- Offices for faculty and staff
Students will have clinical education opportunities at Olathe Medical Center as well as the opportunity for professional relationships with OMC health care practitioners.

Rex Hays, executive director, Campus Services, says HMN Architects collaborated with the academic administrators in multiple meetings to fulfill the specific needs of health care programming. According to Hays, the building will meet LEED silver certification in recognition of environmentally responsible building practices. Access to a detention basin for a storm water run-off adds to points for LEED criteria.

As owner of the OHEC, JCCC will provide maintenance, housekeeping and security. (The college owns the building but does not receive clear title until the end of the 10-year lease and after payment of all scheduled lease amounts.)

“We are grateful to Olathe Medical Center for the opportunity of building a health care teaching campus,” said Dr. Terry A. Calaway, JCCC president. “The medical center is a renowned medical facility be par

“With Olathe Health Education Center on our campus, president/CEO of OMC. pleasure f JCCC, and the Olathe School District de outstanding health care pro the future.

Students from the Olathe schools will be pro JCCC and, to MidAmerica Nazarene University baccalaureate and gr completion, Gro educational planning and de

“Ultimately the beneficiary OHEC is the community ser health care pro of allied health progr

Frank H. Devocelle, president/CEO of OMC, and Dr. Terry A. Calaway, JCCC president, listen to a speaker at the Dec. 3 groundbreaking for OHEC.
Izard advises entrepreneurs 50 and older

Based on research for her new book, Mary Beth Izard, professor emeritus, entrepreneurship, and president, Achéve Consulting Inc., will present BoomerPreneurs from 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 24 and 31, in room 145 of the Regnier Center, sponsored by the JCCC Small Business Development Center.

Izard’s book, BoomerPreneurs: How Baby Boomers Can Start Their Own Business, Make Money and Enjoy Life, was published in January. Aimed at retirees, soon-to-be retirees, displaced workers and those who have always dreamed of owning their own business, BoomerPreneurs is a realistic guide to assessing those dreams before investing a nest egg.

Izard includes stories and strategies from 15 entrepreneurs who started businesses after age 50 — five from the Kansas City area including three from Lenexa and Shawnee and the rest from across the country, action steps for researching and evaluating ideas, and the how-to of writing an abbreviated business plan. She examines types of businesses that fit baby boomers’ life situations and caveats for starting a business.

“There is a strong need for this type of analysis as according to research reported by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the 55- to 64-year-old age group is the group most likely to start new businesses,” Izard said.

Using herself as an example, Izard says many boomers find it a good idea to start their own business before retirement. She started her consulting business, Achéve, five years prior to retiring, allowing her to save money, retire at age 55 and pay for her daughters’ college tuition.

In the seminar, participants start the following four-step process from BoomerPreneurs to identify and evaluate business opportunities that fit their goals and specific life situations:

■ What should baby boomers consider before starting a business?
■ Recognize the opportunity that is right for you
■ Refine your idea and do your research
■ Determine if your idea is viable and get started

Izard taught at JCCC for 25 years and continues teaching as an adjunct. She was responsible for developing and launching the JCCC entrepreneurship program in 1990. She has been a scholar in residence at the Kauffman Foundation and a member of its curriculum development team for their FastTrac programs. She also authored the book, Opportunity Analysis, Business Ideas: Identification and Evaluation.

Baby boomers have different considerations than their younger counterparts, according to Izard. While boomers have more contacts, experience and resources, they need to choose businesses with low start-up costs and higher than average success rates in order to protect their savings. Her biggest piece of advice to boomerpreneurs?

“At this age, do something you are passionate about,” Izard said.

Cost of the SBDC seminar is $50. Pre-registration is required by calling 913-469-2323, or online at www.jccc.edu/ksbdc.
Dr. Margaret Kincaid researches the dynein/dynactin motor complex and how it applies to human neurodegenerative diseases.

One of four JCCC College Scholars during the 2009-10 academic year, Dr. Margaret Kincaid, adjunct assistant professor, science, will give two lectures pertaining to an underlying cellular cause of human neurodegenerative diseases.

Understanding the role of the dynein/dynactin motor in neurodegenerative diseases will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the Hudson Auditorium in the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art. A reception precedes the event at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium.

A reductionist approach to understanding the role of the dynein/dynactin motor in neurodegenerative diseases will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, in the Craig Community Auditorium.

Intracellular trafficking plays an important role in a range of human disease. As a basic scientist, Kincaid is looking at one component of intracellular trafficking – the dynein/dynactin motor complex. Dynine is a motor molecule in cells that converts chemical energy into the mechanical energy of movement. Dynactin is needed to activate dynein activity. Kincaid’s model gives insight into how mutations associated with the motor complex may contribute to neurodegenerative diseases, in particular late-onset diseases associated with motor neurons. A greater understanding of dynactin-dependent dynein movement may lead to potential treatment therapies.

In her evening lecture, Kincaid will present her most recent data that corroborates a working model for how dynactin regulates the function of dynein inside cells in order to transport cargo along “highways” within cells. She will explain the role the motor complex plays in human diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and Huntington’s disease.

In the daytime lecture, Kincaid will explain some laboratory techniques she is using to determine how dynactin affects dynein-dependent transport inside cells — techniques such as an in vitro bead-based motility assay and fluorescent-tagged molecules within mammalian cells. She will look at how the research is used to determine the effects of dynactin mutants, including mutations linked to ALS.

Kincaid has a bachelor’s degree in biology, a master’s degree in cell and molecular biology, and a PhD in cell biology and biophysics and molecular biology and biochemistry from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She currently is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Stephen King, School for Biological Sciences, UMKC.

Kincaid says her lectures will be of interest to JCCC faculty and students who are interested in how basic science research can be applied to human diseases and how a complex biological process is studied in the laboratory.

The JCCC’s College Scholars program presents member of the college’s own faculty. For more information about the JCCC College Scholars program, contact Karen Martley, director, Staff and Organizational Development, 913-469-8500, ext. 3467.
Program

Electronics buys robot arm to develop new class

Chip Cody, associate professor/chair, electronics, demonstrates the capabilities of electronics’ new robot arm.

Using a $25,000 Perkins grant, JCCC’s electronics department purchased a programmable six-degree-of-freedom robot arm to teach students how robots are used in industry.

Faculty will receive training on the machine this spring with the goal of developing an industrial robot class by fall 2010. JCCC already offers an elective, Electronics 127 – Robots for Humans, which serves as an introduction to the growing field of robotics. An industrial robot class would teach students how to build, program, test and maintain robots in industry – everything from car manufacturing to automated self-checkouts.

“Robots are good candidates for jobs that are either too dangerous for humans or highly repetitive and monotonous,” said Chip Cody, associate professor/chair, electronics. “Robots are accurate. They do exactly what you tell them to do every time. They never get tired, bored or call in sick.”

JCCC’s robot features base, waist, shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand rotation – referred to as the six axes of freedom. Weighing several hundred pounds, the machine looks like a giant popcorn cart constructed with a quarter-inch steel working surface and requiring a double-wide door for access to the electronics lab.

As in the Robots for Humans class, students in the proposed class would learn about the robot’s hardware, things like sensors and actuators, and enough software programming language to teach the robot a task.

Cody explains that programming involves coordinating the axes of motion and that can be accomplished in two ways — either by means of a microprocessor or by taking the robot manually through an operation and having its sensors store the action in its computer.

“A robot senses the outside world, and based on what the sensor tells it, it takes action,” Cody said. “A robot constantly goes through a sense-react-sense loop. Students work with small kits in the 127 class, but this is the first time the college has had an industrial-strength machine.”

Interest in robots has been generated by students who have participated in high school robotics competitions such as FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) founded by Segway inventor Dean Kamen. Students with those experiences want to progress from JCCC’s Microprocessors class to the robot class where the microprocessors serve as the robot’s “brain.”

Cody says there is a demand for graduates with two-year electronic degrees to work in industry to maintain robots.

“Robots are here to stay. That’s the wave of the future,” Cody said. “They may not all look like C-3PO, but they are everywhere – from assembly lines to NASA’s Mars Exploration Rover Project.”

The robot arm will have broad application.
Drafting goes 3-D

Damon Feureborn, assistant professor, drafting, displays a 3-D object fabricated from the rapid prototype machine.

It’s not quite the Star Trek replicator, but the new 3-D printer in the drafting department is impressive.

JCCC’s drafting program acquired its rapid prototype machine in spring 2009, giving advanced drafting students an opportunity to make models from 3-D computer-aided designs and beginning drafting students a way to visualize a 3-D design problem more clearly.

Instead of toner, the rapid prototype machine uses a cartridge filled with a spool of plastic, which is heated to a temperature of 572 degrees F and applied in a series of .007 or .010 layers until the 3-D model is built according to a CAD design.

To the unschooled eye, it appears as easy as hitting “print” and setting controls for resolution, orientation, interior makeup (solid or honeycomb) and number of copies. Then, appearing out of seemingly nothingness comes a plastic model. The technically savvy, however, know that inside the printer a CAD file interfaces with a stereolithography file format in order to fabricate the curves and geometry of a physical object.

The process is fun to watch although “rapid” is a relative term. A special print head sweeps across a plastic support plate, applying layer after layer of heated plastic following CAD specifications. Filler material is applied to negative space and dissolved by immersion in a chemical bath after part fabrication. Objects created in the JCCC 3-D printer take from two to 60-plus hours to complete.

According to Tom Hughes, drafting chair, drafting models were traditionally created by hand in a shop. Time, cost and ease of use are improved with the 3-D printer. Hughes says the rapid prototyping has been available in the industry for years, used for creating manufactured parts – everything from industrial to fine arts. As the 3-D printers became more affordable, JCCC was able to purchase one so drafting students can see their projects emerge from the 2-D printed page to physical models.

“The impact on our students is that the models clearly illustrate what they are attempting to draw,” Hughes said. “Students learn to draft with greater confidence.”

Damon Feureborn, assistant professor, drafting, says the 3-D printer has increased student interest in the drafting program.

“The rapid prototype printer can do some pretty complex models with moving and mating parts, things that would be difficult to make in a shop,” Feureborn said.

Students in the CAD 3-D and Mechanical Desktop: Inventor classes are encouraged to produce one 3-D model at the end of the semester. Faculty use the model to demonstrate objects and cutaway slices for entry-level classes.

Hughes foresees partnerships between drafting classes and other programs using the 3-D printers. Students in Graphic Analysis have already collaborated with welding students in the manufacturing of prototype plant holders.
Flyin’ West, a play about Nicodemus, Kan., an all-black town settled by former slaves in 1877, will be performed by JERIC productions at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 11, in Polsky Theatre of the Carlsen Center. Playwright Pearl Cleage tells the tale of three strong black women struggling to keep their land and preserve their way of life, fighting the greed of both white speculators and some of their own black townspeople only 20 years after the end of the Civil War.

Flyin’ West will be followed by a brief presentation by Angela Bates, executive director, Nicodemus Historical Society, and an informal discussion with Bates, cast members, the audience and JCCC faculty Dr. James Leiker, director, Kansas Studies Institute and associate professor, history, and Dr. Carmaletta Williams, executive director, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and adjunct English professor.

In advance of the play, Bates will give a lecture, Blacks and Black Towns in the West – The Nicodemus Story, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Thursday, March 11, in the Craig Community Auditorium.

Co-sponsored by the KSI, ODEI and Performing Arts Series at JCCC, the lecture and play are free and open to the public.

Nicodemus, in the northwest corner of Kansas, was founded after the Reconstruction Period had ended following the Civil War. This living community is the only remaining all-black town west of the Mississippi River that was settled on the western plains by former slaves. Now part of the National Park Service, five historic buildings represent this community.

At its height, 700 people lived in the town of Nicodemus. Farming was the main industry with corn and wheat as the main crops. Nicodemus boasted several businesses such as general stores, grocery stores, hotels, pharmacies, millineries, barber shops and a bank. There are now 36 people living in town; 30 are direct descendants.

Angela Bates will discuss the historic town of Nicodemus.

Bates, a descendent of the original settlers, organized the Nicodemus Historical Society in 1989 to solicit, collect, preserve and interpret the history of Nicodemus. In early 1990, she established the Nicodemus Historical Society Museums and also one of the country’s most extensive black historic photographic collections. She is responsible for the designation of Nicodemus as a National Historic Site in 1996.

Flyin’ West debuted in September 2009 at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, Kansas City, Mo., home to JERIC Productions, a black theater company. This encore production features Evelyn Trigg, Laura Partridge, Andrea Agosto, Ro Flowers Jr., Cheri Brown and Stephen Brown.
Dobson publishes book about the Great Plains

Adjunct professor of history Patrick Dobson’s book, Seldom Seen: A Journey into the Great Plains, was recently published.

Patrick Dobson, adjunct professor of history, is a bear of a man. His presence, enthusiasm and stories fill a room. He is a freelance writer, a member of Ironworkers Local #10 in Kansas City and has completed all-but-a-dissertation toward a doctorate in 20th century U.S. environmental history and American literature from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Today Dobson is being interviewed about his first book, Seldom Seen: A Journey into the Great Plains, published by the University of Nebraska Press, released September 2009. The book describes Dobson’s two-and-a-half month journey from Kansas City, Mo., to Helena, Mont., in 1995, a journey Dobson says was “meant to quiet his restless soul.” With only a backpack, Dobson, then a single father, left his job with the engineering maintenance department at the Ritz-Carlton to chronicle the lives of ordinary people in the Great Plains.

He kept a notebook and filed biweekly columns in The Pitch during his trip. The journal is the basis for his book, for which he is doing a round of media interviews and book signings as of this writing. A second book based on his river journey home is in the works.

At JCCC, Dobson teaches U.S. history and Western Civilization. He has bachelor’s degrees in American history and English from UMKC and a master’s degree in American history from the University of Wyoming. Part skilled laborer, part scholar, Dobson’s employment reflects his dichotomy: maintenance at the Ritz, four years as a full-time writer at The Pitch, three years as an editor at Andrews McMeel Universal, and one and one-half years of self-employment – hauling dirt, rehabbing houses and stacking rock – previous to entering the UMKC doctoral program in 2004. He joined the Ironworkers after completing his doctoral classes. The one constant in his life has been writing.

Dobson has now worked out an ideal plan for his PhD life – working as a journeyman iron worker during the summers and teaching during the school year. He believes he is a misfit traversing different universes comfortably.

“When I’m with the academics, I feel like the dirty fingernailer at the queen’s banquet,” Dobson said. “When I’m with journalists, they know something is not quite right about me, something doesn’t fit. Then when I’m with the ironworkers they know there is something about me – things I talk about – so they know I’ve been someplace else.”

Fifteen years after his trek across the plains, Dobson appears to have put his soul to rest. He has learned he needs to be outside doing physical labor, he needs to teach because he views learning as an unfinished business and he needs to write.

Dobson’s book is available at Amazon, University of Nebraska Press and the JCCC Billington Library.

Spring 2010 | Imprint 13
An architect’s rendering shows the design of the bookstore addition.

The JCCC Bookstore is a page-turner. Its newest and most obvious chapter is a 5,000-square-foot addition, due for completion in October 2010. The addition provides much needed warehouse space on the southwest corner of the Student Center that will double the number of buyback and reservation pickup windows from four to eight and create a flexible public-use space with seating and WiFi accessibility.

The eight windows and seating area will also be available for Student Services use, such as enrollment and financial aid overflow, or other special college programming needs, according to Chris Worthington, bookstore manager. The convertible public space also adds another study space for students in the Student Center.

“We have been advocating for a warehouse addition for the last four years. Increased enrollment and related sales, coupled with expanded customer service offerings, have created a logjam for our buyers and inventory specialists, who have done an incredible job making use of the original warehouse footprint. The store’s annual sales have increased from $4 million in 1999 to more than $8 million in 2009,” Worthington said.

Designed by PGAV Architects, the warehouse will have an exterior of campus-standard brick and a glass-and-brick architectural accent at the public-use area. Cost of the bookstore warehouse is approximately $2 million, funded by a Postsecondary Educational Institution loan fund from the state of Kansas.

Worthington says that the days of the traditional bookstore are over, given the array of online sales, order reservations, ebooks, textbook rentals, computer hardware and software sales and services now available.

Three years ago, the bookstore filled 200 online orders, either to be picked up at the bookstore or shipped to students. By fall 2009, online orders increased to more than 2,000. While online reservations helped ease congestion on the sales floor during the traditional back-to-school rush (when it is not unusual to process 30,000 transactions), it added to the warehouse congestion as the bookstore processed higher volumes of inbound and outbound freight and other product traffic. In addition to providing the main JCCC campus needs, the bookstore also handles the ordering, receiving and redistribution of all College Now course materials to participating high schools and provides related services to the college’s satellite locations.

With technology now intertwined with course materials, consumer technology has been a rapid growth area and another rationale for the new warehouse. The computer department has moved from a small corner with limited software selections to a highly visible storefront location with expanded software, hardware and related accessories. JCCC’s Bookstore’s Technology Center is one of only a few community colleges fully certified as an Apple sales and service center. They will also be adding Dell, HP and other PC brands to their mix. The new warehouse will provide additional secure technology storage and the opportunity for an interior store modification that creates a clean, secure technology service space adjacent to the expanded technology sales area.

Other innovations for the bookstore include upcoming textbook rental trial and expanding ebook programs, the store’s recycling and sustainability efforts (including a new funding source for the Foundation Book scholarship) and collaboration with the Library to provide textbooks on reserve.
Andrea Kempf, professor/librarian, was having lunch with Carolyn Kadel, professor/director, international education, in the faculty cafeteria, when Kadel expressed the need for a list of novels, located in the JCCC collection, relating to political science. Shortly thereafter, Bob Perry, now a retired sociology professor, requested a bibliography of novels relating to African social issues. Kempf was happy to oblige. Michael Frisbie, the library’s systems administrator, has put Kempf’s bibliographies online and linked them to the Billington Library card catalog.

Today, 1,234 books later, Kempf's love of reading and sharing books with others through 42 online bibliographies in the JCCC library database remains unabated. And that impressive book count is just a part of Kempf’s work. She has compiled another 40 unpublished bibliographies; reviews about 10-12 books a year for the Library Journal and 10 books for the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle; and, in her spare time, reads for fun.

“If I have a focus for my bibliographies it is international and multicultural fiction,” Kempf said. “My bibliographies respond to the needs of JCCC curriculum, questions people ask me and, every once in a while, to my own particular interest.”

Kempf, who has a bachelor's degree in literature from Brandeis University, a master of arts in teaching degree in literature from Johns Hopkins University, and a master's degree in library science from Simmons College, has a missionary’s zeal about the need to read fiction in order to understand the world.

“I believe if you read a novel carefully, and you read around the plot to the ‘back stories,’ you understand a country’s culture and people in a visceral way – a way you can’t get by reading a newspaper or a textbook.”

Kempf has taken two sabbaticals to write bibliographies, reading approximately 400 books during each six-month period. (She used her first sabbatical to write a book about romance authors.) Bibliographies include library-catalog information, descriptive one- to two-sentence annotations and a rating of reading difficulty.

Kempf also has been reviewing books for the Library Journal since 1975. Yet-to-be-published books arrive by mail, and Kempf has 10 days to read the book and return a 180-word review to the journal. The Library Journal named her Fiction Book Reviewer of 2000. Her selections for Jewish Chronicle reviews are of her own choosing.

A true bibliophile, Kempf guides others to books that prove useful or enjoyable. Traveling to the Netherlands? Want a creepy mystery? Consult with Kempf; she welcomes calls.

While Kempf reads almost constantly, she admits to going through periods when nothing interests her. That’s when she turns to re-reading her favorite romance novels.

She never watches television. She does read The Kansas City Star and The New York Times every day and the Sun once a week. She owns about 3,000 books in her private collection.

Last year, Kempf’s family bought her a Kindle wireless reading device so she wouldn’t have to pack 14 books for a vacation. The Kindle is okay with Kempf, but the technology makes it harder to indulge in a little secret; she flips to the back of a book and reads the ending first.
The JCCC debate team was ranked 16th in the nation in rankings by the Cross- Examination Debate Association and number one among community colleges.

Debate coach Terri Easley said this is the first time JCCC has been ranked in the top 20 in the past 10 years and may be the first time in the past 10 years a community college has been ranked in the top 20.

The 16th ranking puts JCCC ahead of such area schools as Missouri State University, Wichita State University, Kansas State University, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City Kansas Community College and Emporia State University and ahead of Harvard, University of Texas and University of Southern California.

During the fall semester, the team traveled to five tournaments, made five final-round appearances and earned three tournament championship titles at The Vegas Invitational, KCKCC and Emporia State University tournaments.