The University of Kansas and its Campus Tree Advisory Board launched a new initiative to “Replant Mount Oread” on March 29.

More than 30 volunteers from the campus community planted 10 redbud trees along Jayhawk Boulevard just west of Lippincott Hall. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little helped kick off the inaugural event by helping plant the first tree.

As part of ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance the beauty of the campus landscape, and preserve historic green spaces, Chancellor Gray-Little established the Campus Tree Advisory Board in January. The board is made up of students, faculty, staff and community members, and is responsible for assisting with the development of campus tree replacement and tree care policies, providing guidance for annual Arbor Day and service-learning projects related to campus trees, and identifying funding for future planting projects.

The launch of “Replant Mount Oread” marked the anniversary of the first Arbor Day celebration at KU, when in 1878, Chancellor James Marvin called a special holiday to encourage faculty and students to plant approximately 300 tree saplings on Mount Oread. The board hopes to revive this tradition by working with students on annual planting and tree inventory projects.

You can help fund future tree planting events by donating to the Tree Bank at www.kuendowment.org/replantMtOread
On April 23, community members will have a unique opportunity to reduce stormwater runoff at home while supporting environmental initiatives at KU. *KU Rain Barrels on Parade*, a partnership between Coca-Cola and KU Environs, KU Dining Services, Student Union Activities, the KU Bookstore and the KU Center for Sustainability, will auction off rain barrels designed and decorated by students, faculty, staff, and community members as part of this year’s campus Earth Day.

Proceeds from the auction will benefit the KU Student Rain Garden, a native garden at the Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center that is maintained by student volunteers.

Rain barrels are used to capture rain water from household rooftops by connecting to downspouts. This not only reduces stormwater runoff which can lead to localized flooding, but provides a free and natural source of water for irrigating gardens between rains.

The barrels were donated by our Coca-Cola partners as a way to reuse & repurpose syrup containers. Nearly 60 barrels were converted and decorated for the auction, with designs that represent Community, KU Spirit, or Gardening and Farming.

The Rain barrels will be available through silent and live auctions held during and after the panel discussions that are part of the public event, *Our Campus, Our Community, Our Environment*, from 5 to 9 PM on April 23 in the Kansas Union Ballroom. The silent auction will begin at 5:15 and end at 7:15, and a live auction of six barrels, selected through online voting, will immediately follow.

Photos of the decorated barrels are posted on the *KU Rain Barrels on Parade* Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/kurainbarrels](http://www.facebook.com/kurainbarrels). Visitors to the site are asked to vote for their favorite barrels by clicking “Like” on the photos. The barrel with the most votes in each category will be featured in the Lawrence Earth Day Parade and be included in the live auction. Some of the barrels will be on display at the Lied Center starting April 10.

(Continued on page 3)
Rain Barrels (Continued)  

The Earth Day event will also feature panel discussions on solid waste management, preservation, land use, environmental law and policy, and history of environmentalism moderated by KU Environments as well as informational booths. Light refreshments featuring some local food will be provided by KU Dining Services, and the band Heartscape Landbreak will provide music for a mixer to conclude the evening’s events. Join the celebration at any point from 5-9 pm on April 23rd!

Rain Barrels (Continued)  

The Environmental Stewardship Program and Center for Sustainability and are teaming together for the second annual Office Supply Swap to help campus departments clean out their closets and save money on office supplies.

Now through April 16, KU Recycling will pick up the new and gently used office supplies that you no longer have use for followed by a FREE office supply swap to redistribute supplies.

All campus departments are invited to come and pick up materials between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM Thursday, April 19 in the Jayhawk Room on Level Five in the Kansas Union to help restock your supply shelves with items you DO need.

To donate items, take them to the collection bin at any ink cartridge recycling location. Bins will be collected for the final time on Tuesday, April 17th. To arrange for items too large to fit in a bin or for a full bin to be picked up, email KU Recycling at kurecycling@ku.edu to schedule a special collection.

As you are cleaning out your supply closets, remember to recycle any no-longer-usable office pak—including envelopes, manila folder files, brochures or junk mail—newspapers, chipboard, and old phonebooks and catalogs.

For more information about this event visit www.recycle.ku.edu.

Greening the Crimson and Blue

Supply Swap to be held on April 19

The Environmental Stewardship Program and Center for Sustainability and are teaming together for the second annual Office Supply Swap to help campus departments clean out their closets and save money on office supplies.

Now through April 16, KU Recycling will pick up the new and gently used office supplies that you no longer have use for followed by a FREE office supply swap to redistribute supplies.

All campus departments are invited to come and pick up materials between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM Thursday, April 19 in the Jayhawk Room on Level Five in the Kansas Union to help restock your supply shelves with items you DO need.
“Green Reporting, Green Building, Green Justice” is the name of a KU course designed by journalism professor, Simran Sethi as a way to bring students out of the classroom to learn in different environments. This course is also the reason that three other students and I spent our 2012 spring break in Oakland, California.

This course is not a traditional one. We only met a handful of times prior to spring break and much of our homework revolved around posting to Twitter, a platform we used to document our experiences in Oakland. But truth be told, I hope that this is the direction in which higher education is moving and it is precisely why I plan to pursue a PhD and hope to teach geography and environmental studies at the university level.

The focus of the class is effectively communicating environmental concerns related to water and our classroom was the San Francisco Bay Area, primarily Oakland. We spent five days working with a myriad of organizations, companies, and individuals each dedicated to environmentalism and communicating these issues to the public. We focused a great deal of attention on environmental issues and responses in Oakland because it has some of the worst air and water quality in all of the Bay Area. It also has a lower average household income than most of the other Bay Area cities.

The combination of low income populations and environmental degradation is nothing new and occurs in many communities around the world. This concept has been deemed, “environmental racism,” and its response is called, “environmental justice.” What I take away from our trip and class is that environmental justice is an expansive topic and takes on many forms—the activism of the Rainforest Action Network, the scholarly work of the Environmental Working Group or the Breast Cancer Fund, the journalistic work of the Earth Island Journal, and the corporate sustainability work of GAP and Levi’s each plays an integral role in the grand scheme of things.

This class has been an inspiration as well as a much needed breath of fresh air for this KU senior.

Sarah Link is a senior in geography with a focus on community responses to resource scarcity and environmental racism. You can view class Tweets from Oakland at #kuwater
Upcoming Campus and Community Events

April 10, 7:30-9 PM
Humanities Lecture Series
Landscapes and Memory: Jamaica Kincaid
Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium

April 12, 8:30 AM-5 PM
KU Energy Conference
Oread Hotel
Register at www.continuinged.ku.edu

April 14, 11 AM-4 PM
12th Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration
Parade: Buford Watson Park to South Park
Celebration: South Park

April 17, Noon-1 PM
Sustainability Ambassador Meeting
Burge Union, Courtside Room

April 18, 7:30 AM-4:30 PM
Environmental Engineering Conference
Kansas Union
Register at www.continuinged.ku.edu

April 19, 1-3 PM
SUA Earth Day Burger Grill-Off
Kansas Union, Hawks Nest (Level 1)

April 19, 2 PM-4 PM
Rain Barrel Workshop
Douglas County Fairgrounds, Building 1
RSVP Required: strarbach@lawrenceks.org

April 23, 5 PM-8:30 PM
Our Campus, Our Community, Our Environment
Kansas Union, Ballroom

April 23 & 24, 8:30 AM-5 PM
Environmental Security Conference
Kansas Union
Register at www.continuinged.ku.edu

April 25, 4-6 PM
Environmental Geopolitics in the 21st Century Dr.
Kansas Union, Jayhawk Room

April 25, 3:30-5 PM
Nature and Culture Seminar
John McNeill, History, Georgetown University
Hall Center, Conference Hall

April 28, 9 AM-6PM
Sowing & Reaping: Christian Perspectives on
Food & Agriculture
ECM Center, 1204 Oread Ave

For more information about these and other events, visit www.sustainability.ku.edu/events/

Join Us

For more information about sustainability at KU, visit www.sustainability.ku.edu or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KUSustainability.

Contribute

Is your department or organization contributing to a more sustainable KU? We’d love to hear about it and include your efforts in our next issue of the Spotlight! Send submissions to sustainability@ku.edu.