**Students’ needs build, so colleges must build**

A desire for more gadgets and more space has led to a boom in residence hall construction.

By MARA ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

The average freshman moving into a dorm in coming weeks is packing 17 gadgets that need outlets.

That demand — as well as students’ growing reluctance to share a bedroom, much less a bathroom — is helping fuel the biggest residence hall construction and renovation boom in nearly 50 years.

The pool of college-ready students is expected to shrink by 2010 because of demographic trends, so universities are vying to attract every student they can with more space, more privacy and more outlets.

“Are you seeing student residence hall construction and renovation taking place almost everywhere,” said Norbert Dunkel, president-elect of the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International.

In June, College Planning & Management magazine reported 85 new residence hall building projects under way nationwide. The median cost for a residence hall completed last year was $20.1 million, up 20 percent from 2005, the magazine reported. Those higher costs are passed on to students in rent, which jumps 3 to 6 percent every year, Dunkel said.

Housing officials say students are demanding more because most residence halls are nearly 50 years old and don’t have wireless capabilities.

**CAMPUS:** Housing is a big draw

FROM A1

Today’s students want a private or semi-private carpeted room with a bathroom and enough electrical outlets for a profusion of electronics.

Even recently built dorms with outlets every six feet “isn’t enough anymore,” Dunkel said.

Twenty years ago, freshmen moved into double-occupancy dorm rooms with a stereo, an alarm clock, a coffee pot, a blow dryer and maybe a mini-fridge.

“There has been a quantum shift in expectations for residence halls on the part of parents and students,” said Bob Simmons, assistant vice chancellor for facilities at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. “Seventy-five percent of incoming freshmen have never shared a bedroom, and 50 percent have never shared a bathroom. If they suddenly had to share a bathroom with 103 people, they would freak out.”

UMKC is building new student apartments slated to open in fall 2008. Another residence hall is planned for 2009.

Housing, campus officials say, is a huge factor in how a student chooses a school.

“Once a student has decided what they want to study and has narrowed down their list of the best schools to get that education, then the next thing they look at is which school has the best living arrangements,” said Steve Papa, owner of Student Suites, a company that has built 23 new residence halls in the past 10 years.

“These kids today visit five or six campuses. And they vote with their feet. If you don’t have what they want, they will go somewhere else,” Papa said.

Michael Speros, director of residential life at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, said housing officials used to say to students, ‘This is what we’ve got — take it or leave it.’ Now we are just trying to keep up with the curve.”

Missouri Western opened a new residence hall two years ago and renovated a smaller one last year.

“The University of Missouri-Columbia has a 15-year plan to replace or renovate every residence hall by 2018. MU has opened a new or renovated residence hall every year for the past three years. Two renovated halls open this fall, and new midcampus housing is under construction.

Nick Ward-Bopp, a linebacker at Avila University, is looking forward to his junior year in the new Thompson residence hall on the university’s south Kansas City campus.

“I think these new dorms are going to be awesome,” said Ward-Bopp, of Crawfordsville, Ind.

“I’m bringing a couch. I’m bringing a mini-fridge, a desktop computer and my laptop. The other guys are bringing the fun stuff like the Xbox 360 and the PlayStation.”

Thompson Hall contains 17 suites with 68 bedrooms. Four roommates share each suite, which features a living room, full kitchen and two bathrooms. Each student has his own room and shares a bathroom with one other student. Each bedroom has its own thermostat. The rooms overlook the campus baseball and soccer fields.

“It will be cool to just roll over in bed and watch the games,” Ward-Bopp said.

Student Suites built Avila’s new residence hall.

“Student housing is probably one of the most dramatically changing markets in the building industry,” said Student
Suites owner Steve Papa.

The first dorm he built 10 years ago was a traditional brick-and-cinder-block dormitory with two communal bathrooms on each floor at Barton County Community College in Great Bend, Kan. Building a residence hall today costs about $10,000 a bed more than it did a decade ago, he said, or about $47,000 per bed.

But today’s dorms offer students much more than ever before, too.

For example, in the new Avila dorm, each resident has close to 370 square feet of space, compared with 120 square feet per student in dorms built in the 1960s.

Most dorms today have computer labs, game rooms, study and conference rooms, and several laundry rooms, and many have plasma TVs in the common areas. What they don’t have are phone jacks, since residence life officials say 85 percent of students never hook up a landline phone.

And amenities vary depending on student demand. Virginia State University built a new residence hall that includes a six-chair beauty salon. A residence hall at Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, Mich., has a room to store weapons and ammunition because so many students hunt during the year.

“A residence hall shouldn’t just be a place where you go to eat and sleep,” said Christian Basi, MU spokesman. “It needs to be a place that enhances your academics and you as a person.”

To reach Mará Rose Williams, call 816-234-4419 or send e-mail to mdwilliams@kcstar.com.
Art collecting couple lead gallery tour

Art-collecting couple Marjorie Swann and Bill Tsutsui will lead a gallery talk of their exhibition, “Making Kansas Home: Selections from the Marjorie Swann and Bill Tsutsui Collection,” at Kansas State University’s Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art.

The free gallery talk will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26. Swann and Tsutsui will discuss the art and the collecting habits they have acquired since moving to Kansas in 1993. Refreshments will be provided.

When the University of Kansas professors first came to Lawrence, they said they felt like outsiders, or “sojourners,” as Tsutsui puts it. He’s from Texas; Swann is from Ontario, Canada. It wasn’t until the couple started collecting pieces by Kansas artists in 1999 that they developed a passion for local culture.

“Discovering Kansas artistic heritage was a real revelation for us,” Tsutsui said. “It turned us on to the Kansas landscape, it ignited a desire to learn more about Kansas history and art, and it made us feel more rooted here in Kansas to the extent that we, frankly, can’t imagine living anywhere else now.”

Tsutsui and Swänn’s collecting has extended from paintings and prints by studio artists to traditional art by American Indians and Kansas crafts such as art pottery, Marlow woodcuts from Americus and Works Progress Administration dolls.

For more information, call the Beach Museum of Art at 785-532-7718 or drop by the on-campus museum at 14th Street and Anderson Avenue. Admission is free and complimentary visitor parking is available next to the facility.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The museum is closed Mondays.
The University of Kansas Army ROTC program's Wall of Fame Ceremony is from 9-11 a.m. Nov. 3 at the KU ROTC building before the Kansas-Nebraska homecoming football game. All former Army ROTC graduates from KU or any of its extension centers are invited to see military demonstrations by cadets and listen to the 312th Army Reserve Band. Contact David Pendleton at (913) 684-5320 or henry.david.pendleton@us.army.mil for information.
Edwards is a ‘Mount Oread Scholar’ at the University of Kansas

LAWRENCE — A Solomon man was one of 189 University of Kansas students to participate this past Monday in the 11th annual walk up the hill for Mount Oread Scholars.

Brian Keith Edwards of Solomon is one of the Mount Oread Scholars. A political science major, he is the son of Brian and Diane Edwards.

Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle, associate vice provost for Student Success, lead the walk and provided commentary about campus history and Mount Oread, pointing out landmarks along the way.

The walk signifies the beginning of a higher education journey for the Mount Oread Scholars whose ultimate goal is to walk down the hill upon graduation.

Two scholars carried the 2007 KU graduation banner to further mark this important beginning.

Established in 1996, the Mount Oread Scholars program is designed to facilitate academic connections on campus and is part of KU’s University Advising Center.

New first-year students are invited to become Mount Oread Scholars during their first years at KU if they graduated in the top 20 percent of their high school classes and received an ACT composite score of at least 28 or a minimum SAT score of 1,240.

Mount Oread Scholars work individually with an adviser in their fields of interest, share class schedules to form study or discussion groups, attend scholar support sessions and enroll in relatively small classes taught by veteran faculty.

There is also a Learning Community and seminar course reserved for scholars. The program’s retention rate the past two years is about 94 percent.
Emily Boeckman is Oread Scholar at KU

Emily Ann Boeckman, Frankfort, was among the Mount Oread Scholars invited to activities for the scholars on Monday. She is the daughter of Jim and Jean Boeckman and is a graduate of Frankfort High School.

Boeckman is majoring in pre-journalism.

The 11th annual walk up the hill for Mount Oread Scholars was Monday morning. Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle, associate vice provost for Student Success, will lead the walk and provide commentary about campus history and Mount Oread, pointing out landmarks along the way.

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The walk up the hill was followed by a continental breakfast reception at Spencer Research Library. Library staff, including Sherry Williams, interim head of Spencer Research Library, and librarian Tami Albin, greeted the students and invited them to learn more about all of KU's libraries.

During the breakfast, Williams, Nemeth Tuttle, Senior Vice Provost Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett and Mount Oread Scholars Program alumnus Ava Dinges spoke to the scholars.
Dear Friends,

Welcome to this week in Congress.

Congress is out of session for the next three weeks for the August work period. This is an important time that allows members of Congress to spend time in their districts.

Sgt. 1st Class
Travis Bachman

On Saturday, I joined the family and friends of Sgt. 1st Class Travis S. Bachman for funeral services at First Southern Baptist Church in Garden City. Travis, 30, died Aug. 1 in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery of the Kansas National Guard.

Members of the Patriot Guard traveled from across the state to pay tribute to Travis and show their support for the family. Travis stepped forward to protect our country and his bravery and sacrifice must not be forgotten.

We are indebted to our military men and women for the tremendous sacrifice they make on our behalf. My thoughts and prayers are with the Bachman family during this difficult time.

Hutchinson Residents

On Monday, I spoke at the Hutchinson Rotary Club at the Grand Prairie Convention Center. Thank you to club president Joe Ontjes for hosting me and to Lynnette Hilty for her kind introduction. I enjoyed visiting with the group about health care, immigration, agriculture and education issues, including two important pieces of legislation -- the

2007 Farm Bill and No Child Left Behind.

PrairieStar Health Center

I also participated in an open house for PrairieStar Health Center, which recently relocated to the Trade Center at 1600 N. Lorraine. I worked in cooperation with health center officials to help PrairieStar receive the designation as a federally qualified health center.

This designation brings with it more than $500,000 in annual assistance that will allow PrairieStar to reach more uninsured and underinsured citizens. I appreciate the continued dedication of Sally Tesluk, PrairieStar CEO, and her staff. A special thank you goes to Gene Schmidt, who retired at the end of last week as the CEO of Hutchinson Hospital. An important part of Gene's impressive legacy will be his long-standing support of PrairieStar.

More than 10 years ago, Schmidt saw how a community health center could provide needed services and lower the overall cost of health care by reducing the number of emergency room visits. I appreciate Schmidt's friendship and will miss his advice and counsel, but wish him well in his much-deserved retirement.

Area Farmers, Rural Development

While in town, I also visited with a group of farmers and rural development officials about ongoing consideration of the 2007 Farm Bill. Even though the legislation has passed the House of Representatives, there is still a long way to go before a new farm bill is signed into law. Thank you to Jim French, Reno County farmer and organizer for Oxfam America, for arranging this timely meeting.

Salina USD 305

USD 305 Teachers Annual Meeting: I was in Salina Tuesday to speak to Salina USD 305 school teachers at their annual meeting. It was the school district's first day back from the summer break. I was pleased to speak to them about the importance of their profession and thank them for their dedication and commitment to the students.

Thank you to Dr. Rob Winter for the kind introduction. Congratulations to Lisa Hall, the Elementary Teacher of the Year, and Carlene Stueve, the Secondary Teacher of the Year.

American Stroke Foundation

I visited the American Stroke Foundation, headquartered in Mission, on Wednesday.

Stroke is the No. 1 cause of adult disability and the third-leading cause of death in the U.S. Shirley Rose, who created the foundation after her husband suffered a stroke, gave me a tour and discussed the important work of the foundation.

The facility allows stroke survivors and caregivers the opportunity to socialize and work together in a supportive environment. I appreciate the work of the people at the
American Stroke Foundation and thank them for the opportunity to learn more. I also thank former Attorney General Bob Stephan for joining me on the tour.

University of Kansas Medical Center: Thanks in part to recent federal funding, doctors at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) will be able to see cancer patients in western Kansas from their own offices at the Medical Center.

On Wednesday, I joined Gary Doolittle, M.D., and others to talk to a patient in Hays via video conferencing equipment in their telemedicine facility.

With a camera and microphone in both locations, Dr. Doolittle and others are able to see patients in various locations across the state, without having to travel. This benefits both doctors and patients and is another example of how, through technology and innovation, we can find new ways to provide important services in rural areas.

Joining us in the video conference with patient Mitch Berens of Hays was KUMC Executive Vice Chancellor Barbara Atkinson, KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway and KU Hospital President and CEO Bob Page. Thanks also to the nurses who joined us from Hays Medical Center -- Kelly Wagner, Shannon Karst and Shawn Mulkey.

KDOT BRIDGE SAFETY

On Thursday, I stopped at the Kansas Department of Transportation headquarters to meet with Secretary Deb Miller and Assistant Secretary Jerry Yunger.

Following the recent bridge collapse in Minnesota, I wanted to know more about the adequacy of bridges in Kansas. Although some bridges need structural attention, Secretary Miller let me know that most are in good condition. This was an important conversation for me to have before returning to Washington, D.C., where the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold hearings to discuss the issue. I serve on this committee and want to see that the needs of Kansas bridges are addressed.

TOPEKA ROTARY CLUB

After the meeting with Secretary Miller, I spoke to the 150 members of the Topeka Downtown Rotary Club.

I talked to the group about the challenges we face in Kansas, but also emphasized that the work of active civic groups, like the Downtown Rotary Club, improves our quality of life.

My thanks to Secretary of Revenue Joan Wagonon, who is serving as president of the club, for the invitation to attend and to Ken Grotewiel, the current assistant director of the Kansas Water Office and a former state legislator, for introducing me.

EASTERN KANSAS

I gave a legislative update to members of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, talking about recent actions of Congress that will affect the business community.

While the population of Johnson County is much different than that of
Four Leavenworth County students planning to attend the University of Kansas this fall will participate in the 11th annual "Walk up the Hill" for Mount Oread Scholars at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13.

The walk signifies the beginning of a higher education journey for the 189 scholars who will walk down the hill upon graduation.

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The walk up the hill will be followed by a continental breakfast reception at Spencer Research Library. Library staff, including Sherry Williams, interim head of Spencer Research Library, and Librarian Tami Albin, will greet the students and invite them to learn more about all of KU's libraries as they enjoy a commanding view of the Kaw River Valley from the gallery.

Participants are: Kyle Haddock, Easton; Elizabeth Whitford, Leavenworth; Katherine Courtney, Lansing; and Nathaniel Markovetz, Lansing.
Smith named Mount Oread scholar

The 11th annual walk up the hill for Mount Oread Scholars at the University of Kansas was held at 8:30 a.m. today with Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle, associate vice provost for Student Success, leading the walk and providing commentary about campus history and Mount Oread.

Among the scholars walking up the hill was Independence High School graduate Sumere M. Smith, daughter of Mary and John Smith, Independence. She is a freshman majoring in pre-pharmacy.

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IN BRIEF

YORK BECOMES MEMBER OF SIGMA ALPHA LAMBDA

Sigma Alpha Lambda announces that Chance York of Wamego recently was recognized as a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Sigma Alpha Lambda is a national leadership and honors organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development and lifelong professional fulfillment.
Michael Waggoner (right) was given a certificate of appreciation by Kansas University Public Safety Chief of Police, Ralph Oliver, (left) in a ceremony earlier this year.

Tonganoxie pastor IDs purse snatchers

Estuardo García

He doesn’t wear a cape, and you probably won’t see him scaling any buildings like Adam West in the 1960s “Batman” television show, but for a night Mike Waggoner did manage to foil the plan of some evildoers.

Normally, the pastor of the Tonganoxie Evangelical Friends Church doesn’t go out looking to stop thieves, but earlier this year the situation was such that he had to do the right thing and help Lawrence Police catch three young men suspected of stealing a woman’s purse.

“I knew that they had done something wrong and felt that the police needed to get a hold of them and I felt it was my civic duty to help them out,” Waggoner said. “Plus I would want someone to do the same if they had stolen my wife’s purse.”

Waggoner found himself going home late from his work at the information technology department at Kansas University in March when he saw three young men hiding behind a Dumpster near his building. Thinking they were up to no good, he shooed them away.

After scaring off the young men, Waggoner noticed the police looking around for something. Putting two and two together, Waggoner went over to the officer and said, “I think I know who you are looking for.”

Since he had seen the boys, he was able to describe them to the authorities.

Waggoner then tried to go home a couple of more times, but each time he would see one of the suspects around campus. Waggoner then told the police where he saw them.

With Waggoner’s help, police were able to catch two of the three suspects.

What made the pastor such a valuable resource to the police was that the suspects weren’t looking out for him.

“They would see the police and turn the other way,” he said. “They weren’t looking to avoid the guy in the blue truck.”

For his work, the university gave him a certificate of appreciation.

Waggoner’s wife was not at all surprised her husband would help out.

“I was pleased because he has always been a very protective man,” Dianna Waggoner said. “He is that kind of person who helps people in need.”