



STEVE PUPPE

## Pond full of dreams

Built in 1911 as a reservoir for fire control, Potter Lake has meant much more than that to generations of students. Once the place to be for swimming, boat races and log rolling, it's still a favored spot for a quick nap, a game of Frisbee or an afternoon of study.

This spring, a group of students came forward with concerns about the health of the beloved pond, which catches runoff from surrounding campus areas. After reading about the students in *Kansas Alumni* magazine, alumni Pat and Brenda Oenbring of Houston decided to help. They made a gift of \$11,000 in stock to assist the Potter Lake Project

Group, which recently determined that the pond is 13 feet deep — close to its original depth — and in basically good health. The Oenbrings' gift allows for continued testing to monitor water quality and sedimentation, and for enhanced maintenance.

"Potter Lake is a small pond full of wishes, hopes and dreams," Brenda Oenbring said. "It's so many things to so many people: a quiet oasis, a place to enjoy a little sun, a landmark, a reminder of what we all want to hold onto — friendship, beauty, nature, tranquility, hope and a place to have fun."

— Sarah Aylward

## One great year

Sure, KU won the NCAA men's basketball championship this past year. Oh, and the Orange Bowl. But our sports teams weren't the only winners in 2007-2008.

Our debate team, special education department and city management program all ranked first nationally. We had the highest percentage of pharmacy faculty earning NIH

research grants. We're number one in placing our medical graduates in family medicine residencies. And so on ...

In an ad series — and on its website — KU lists many more winners and Points of Distinction. Find it at [www.distinction.ku.edu](http://www.distinction.ku.edu). In many cases, donors helped make it happen. Be proud.

— Kirsten Bosnak



KU UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

## Gift of class

This fall, Jayhawks heading into the KU Student Recreation and Fitness Center for a workout will find a beautiful new insignia outside the entrance. The inlay, the gift of the Class of 2008, received funding through T-shirt sales and donations from graduating seniors. KU's Board of Class Officers chose from several designs and settled on the cement inlay featuring the KU logo. New grads may visit their class legacy as early as this fall.

— Sarah Aylward

## Scrubs and more

Just after Hurricane Katrina, Carol Smith, a registered nurse from Peabody, Kan., wondered what she'd need if such a disaster hit her hospital. The answer was as simple as it was obvious: scrubs. So Smith, who was home recovering from thyroid surgery, started making calls, writing letters and sending emails. When a company offered to send a flat of scrubs to a Gulf Coast hospital, Smith used it as leverage in calls to other manufacturers: "Will you match it?"

When hospitals reported that workers were showing up in flip-flops and sandals, Smith got shoes donated. She cajoled 3M into sending stethoscopes and found a semi-trailer's worth of donated medical supplies waiting for someone to take them.

Smith, whose support team consists of "just me," estimates she's helped more than 25 Gulf Coast hospitals, nursing homes, hospices and home health services. For her good works, she was named one of 10 recipients of the KU School of Nursing's Heart of Healthcare Award in 2006.



JOHN JORDAN

For nearly 20 years, the award has recognized the work of nurses from Kansas or the Kansas City area. Smith was among the first to benefit from a gift by Gene Feaster, a KU alumnus and retired KU Medical Center radiation physicist from Overland Park, Kan. He made a gift to KU Endowment that added a \$1,000 honorarium for all 10 recipients for five years.

"I wasn't too familiar with nursing until I got to be an old man and was on the receiving end of their profession," Feaster said.

Not surprisingly, Smith used her cash prize to visit some of the hospitals

she'd helped. During personal tours and between hugs, she got to see her efforts in action.

Although she's no longer soliciting donations for Katrina-affected hospitals, Smith hasn't closed her operation. When a tornado destroyed an Americus, Ga., hospital last year, she was back on the phone: "Will you match it?"

— Joel Francis