

Spring 2008

Our previous issue featured stories on KU's Studio 804 architecture class and Costa Rica Exchange Program. Krissy Buck, architecture '08, stepped away from her work on the Studio 804 project for about three minutes to pose for our cover photo.



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Class work

What wonderful class to have a picture from the Studio 804 project on the cover of the spring '08 *KU Giving*, rather than a picture from the basketball team's national victory (that passing late in the overtime was classic KU).

Play is okay, but work is forever. My dad, who worked as a farmer in western Kansas from age 14 to over 90, said, "Work is a blessing."

An overwhelming scope of teaching is pulled together in this Studio 804 project. This picture would make a good poster or page in a KU calendar.

RODNEY PARR, EDUCATION '68
Wyola, Mont.

Giving in Greensburg

"From the Ground Up" was a terrific article, in print and picture, about the year-long project designing and building the all-green arts center for Greensburg, Kan., the town leveled by a tornado a year ago.

As the parents and stepsister of one of the 22 Studio 804 students (Christopher Clark, architecture '08) involved in this project, we were privileged to attend an open house of the arts center on the first anniversary of the tornado. While experiencing the building (itself a bright and noble structure surrounded by vacant lots with empty open basements, naked

trees and an unrelenting wind), thoughts of neither destruction nor construction filled our souls but, rather, simply, the idea of giving: Students giving blood, sweat, tears and teamwork. Students giving up free time to be 250 miles away from campus life and friends. Professor Dan Rockhill giving personal overtime to direct and mentor tomorrow's architects. The Studio 804 program giving not

only a building but a landmark of hope to a devastated community and naming the building the 5.4.7 Arts Center to memorialize the date, not of destruction but of the onset of Greensburg's resilience and determination to rise from its ashes. The private and corporate donations of materials, monies and expertise that made it all possible. The encouragement by the good people of Greensburg in speech, print, hugs, and meals and cookies for the students to affirm the worthiness of their toils. "From the Ground Up" was a wonderful tribute to all of those who gave and a reminder to the rest of us of the importance, value and reward of giving.

MARY AND KEN CLARK, AND ERIN
STEPHENSON, PSYCHOLOGY '08
St. Louis (via email)

Viva, Costa Rica!

What a great story about KU and the Universidad de Costa Rica during the last fifty years! As a historian and a participant in many of the activities of those fifty years, I've often reflected on the highlights of that partnership. But as an admirer of Costa Rica and its leadership in environmental policy, democracy and peace, I agree with Costa Rica's evident faith in the future.

Costa Ricans, directed by the Universidad de Costa Rica and by its forward-looking business and political

leaders, are committed to converting the republic into a developed country by 2050. I think KU can play a part in this visionary undertaking, and I look forward to a continuing university partnership to help bring about this goal.

CHARLEY STANSIFER
KU Professor Emeritus of History
Former director, Center of Latin American Studies
Lawrence, Kan. (via email)

Wonder year

I'm almost certain that our group photo [of 1970 Costa Rica Exchange participants, included with our Spring 2008 story] was taken when we arrived at the old San José airport, El Coco, in late January or early February.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Anita Herzfeld, program director, as she went to unusual lengths to arrange outings to fascinating and remote places, and to push us to speak Spanish and integrate as much as possible. Without Anita's initiative and dedication, our year in Costa Rica would have been less than what it was: a watershed experience of profound growth and change. Nothing was ever the same for me after that year. My horizons were broadened and my curiosity about the world strengthened.

In March this year, I participated in the celebrations in San José surrounding the 50th anniversary of the KU-University of Costa Rica relationship. Joining me from my 1970 group were Debbie Brient, Vallie (Portuguez) Hogan and Anita Herzfeld.

JUSTIN HUNT
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Charlotte, N.C.

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