



Strong Hall
1450 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 230
Lawrence, KS 66045

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CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

2017





KU stands at the top of a great hill.

The climb up Mount Oread
is what makes us Jayhawks.

**Jayhawks who resolve to bring peace
to a country torn by civil war.**

**Who strive to change the way
the world defines refugees.**

**Who have the vision to turn virtual
reality into real-world health care.**

In this report, we reflect on these
accomplishments — and the many other ways
we educate leaders, build healthy communities,
and make discoveries that change the world.



THE PATH TO PEACE

SANTOS WINS NOBEL FOR EFFORTS TO END COLOMBIAN CIVIL WAR

Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos at a torchlight parade honoring Nobel recipients in Oslo.

Juan Manuel Santos might have done the easy thing and returned to Colombia to take over his family's newspaper business. But after graduating from KU in 1973, he instead decided to follow another family tradition — politics — and work toward resolving the conflicts that have wracked his native country for nearly his entire lifetime.

"Making war is much easier than making peace," Santos told a crowd of fellow Jayhawks when he returned to KU for a visit in 2012.

As Santos rose in the government ranks — he was elected president of Colombia in 2010 — he made risky political alliances, ordered dangerous hostage rescues, fought drug and crime syndicates, and frequently traveled to mountain and jungle villages that have been overrun by guerrillas and paramilitary groups for decades.

In 2012, he undertook the biggest challenge yet: bringing together government and rebel factions to negotiate an end to the longest civil war in modern history. The conflict has claimed the lives of 200,000

Juan Manuel Santos is the first KU graduate to become a head of state.

He is the first Jayhawk to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

citizens and displaced nearly 7 million more.

Santos accepted the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize in December, just as Colombia agreed on passage of a final peace accord.

Santos, who studied business and economics at KU, says many of his political ideals were shaped by his time at the university: "Your strong commitment to certain values, to freedom, to democracy — this has been present in my heart and mind throughout." ■

EDUCATING LEADERS

More stories from 2016

Jazzing up NYC

Kai Ono, a piano and composition major, performed his award-winning work with the KU Jazz Ensemble I last spring at the legendary Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City. The ensemble also premiered several other student and faculty compositions.

Pell Advantage pays off

KU's Pell Advantage graduated its first class of 317 students in May. The program — created in 2012 for high-need students from Kansas who meet academic requirements — supplements Federal Pell Grants with financial aid packages that pay tuition and fees for up to four years.

Fast-track law degree

The first two KU seniors entered law school this fall through LEAD, a program that allows students to earn bachelor's and law degrees in six years instead of seven. Students enter the program as freshmen. Ten juniors, 37 sophomores, and 38 freshmen are also enrolled in LEAD, which began in 2013.

CyberCorps protection

Thirty-six KU students are training to be cybersecurity defense experts for agencies such as the CIA and NSA. The CyberCorps program is funded with a \$4.7 million National Science Foundation grant.

DRIVING VIRTUAL REALITY

HEALTH PROFESSIONS DEAN
TEACHES TECHNIQUES IN ICELAND



Abiodun Akinwuntan is a virtual reality pioneer, but he didn't need VR goggles to experience the northern lights, visit spectacular icebergs, or go whale-watching in the north Atlantic.

Akinwuntan, dean of the School of Health Professions, was in Iceland last fall as a Fulbright Specialist, part of a program that matches former Fulbright Scholars with institutions around the world in search of their particular expertise.

Though he made time for some typical tourist experiences, he was there to share his world-class driving simulation technology and rehabilitation techniques with academic and medical colleagues in Iceland. He taught neuropsychology classes at the University of Akureyri and demonstrated his rehabilitation techniques at several hospitals.

One program uses computer simulations to improve the driving performance of patients with neurological problems.

The rehab patient sits in a

car outfitted with screens on the right, front, and left sides to create a moving 3-D video simulation.

Working the foot pedals and steering wheel, the driver overtakes other cars, stops at traffic lights, and makes left turns against oncoming traffic. The driver experiences rainy, foggy, and snowy conditions, and even mountain roads.

Akinwuntan also brought back some new ideas.

"Now I have a broader experience to share with my students and colleagues," he says, "especially on how to improvise in the absence of state-of-the-art equipment to still give the highest quality of care."

Akinwuntan is developing joint courses in neuropsychology and occupational therapy at the KU Medical Center and Iceland's three main universities. The program would include student exchanges and possibly allow some KU students to get their clinical experience — and do some whale-watching — in Iceland. ■



Abiodun Akinwuntan teaches students in Iceland how to use simulators (inset) to help rehab patients.

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

More stories from 2016

Water management

KU researchers are part of a \$4 million NSF grant to seek environmentally responsible ways to manage 20 billion barrels a year of "produced water," a by-product of domestic oil and gas recovery.

Medical Center milestones

The KU Cancer Center applied for the highest National Cancer Institute designation: NCI comprehensive cancer center.

The national designation for the KU Alzheimer's Disease Center has been renewed for five years.

The KU Multiple Sclerosis Achievement Center, which opened in April, is one of only eight U.S. programs that provide integrated services for MS patients.

Bullying prevention

New research shows that cognitive empathy declines in students moving into middle school. The findings, from Anne Williford, associate professor of social welfare, indicate that helping fourth- and fifth-graders develop better social skills may prevent bullying later.

Communication interface

Using a brain-computer interface, people with profound speech and motor disorders may be able to directly control assistive communication devices with their brains. Jonathan Brumberg, assistant professor of speech-language-hearing, has received a \$25,000 research grant to develop and test a BCI.

Nursing education

Nursing students at five Kansas community colleges can now stay in their own communities while working on bachelor's degrees from KU through online courses. The School of Nursing program may help the state meet the growing demand for nurses.

THE FINE DETAILS OF FOSSILIZATION

KU SCIENTISTS DIGITIZE CHALK ROCK SPECIMENS

The Monument Rocks formation in northwest Kansas is noted for the many large sea fossils that have been discovered there.

For more than a century, the Rock Chalk Chant has been the bedrock of Jayhawk tradition.

Over millennia, the Kansas chalk rock that inspired our famous chant has created something else: a seabed of prehistoric marine fossils — right under our feet. In fact, most mosasaur or pterosaur fossil specimens at natural history museums around the world come from Kansas, according to Bruce Lieberman, senior curator of the KU Natural History Museum and professor of ecology and evolutionary biology.

“Fossils were one of the state’s first great exports,” Lieberman says.

Kansas may be landlocked today, but 65 to 100 million years ago, during the Late Cretaceous period, much of the central continent was beneath the Western Interior Seaway. We’re walking around on an

Bruce Lieberman is lead investigator on a \$2.1 million NSF grant to digitize fossil collections of eight institutions.

The KU Natural History Museum has one of the leading collections of Late Cretaceous fossils in the world.

ancient ocean floor and some of the most spectacular fossils in the world, Lieberman says.

As he explains it, the chalky limestone — made up of skeletons of microscopic marine algae — has exceptional preservation power. “Think of the rock that entombs fossils like a template,” Lieberman says. “The finer the grain, the finer the detail preserved.”

For example, one fossil shark displayed at the Natural History Museum is so detailed that the skull of a bony fish — the creature’s last meal — is visible in its belly.

The \$2.1 million National Science Foundation grant that supports digitization of fossils like these — and thousands more stored in the back rooms of other research institutions — will make them more accessible to scientists around the world. With further study, scientists hope to better understand the warming climate of the Late Cretaceous period and how today’s similar global climate changes may alter habitats and affect species. ■



A student photographs a fossil specimen.

MAKING DISCOVERIES

More stories from 2016

Mapping out Zika’s spread

A new map modeling the future threat of Zika around the world shows that Europe is now at risk, as well as parts of Texas, Florida, and Louisiana. A team including KU researchers created the extensively detailed map.

Speaking abilities

A five-year, \$4.5 million grant will support a project to improve the speech of children with autism spectrum disorder and will fund other work by 43 scientists at the Kansas Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center. The KIDDRC is one of only 14 such centers with national designation.

Protecting the pollinators

Understanding how bees and other pollinators interact with tallgrass prairie plants may help scientists mitigate the declining health of these insect populations. Kathy Denning, a doctoral student in ecology and evolutionary biology, will use an NSF grant to study pollinators on Kansas prairie sites.

Oil recovery research

KU’s Tertiary Oil Recovery Project, established more than 40 years ago to help Kansas oil producers get the most out of hard-to-crack reserves, will soon move to labs in KU’s new Earth, Energy & Environment Center. Shahin Negahban, TORP’s new director and associate professor of chemical and petroleum engineering, is a KU alumnus and has more than 30 years’ experience in the petroleum industry.

CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE

BOLD VISION TRANSFORMS TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little examines the progress of the Integrated Science Building.

Bulldozers shape the ground. Cranes tower toward the blue. Steel beams are welded together. Windows are fitted into place.

In 2014, we outlined our aspirations as a flagship research university in an ambitious campus master plan, including the creation of a new hub of education and research that

addresses urgent needs and positions the university for excellence for decades to come.

That vision is now taking physical shape as construction proceeds in the Central District.

"When you look at the Central District site, it's easy to get lost in the size of the project," Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little says. "But remember

that this project is not about a physical building. Rather, it is about the students who will study, learn, and collaborate within the walls of these buildings so they can become leaders in their fields. It's about the faculty and staff who will educate these students and make discoveries that save lives, grow the economy, and improve the world. And it's about everyone in the KU community who helps us fulfill our mission through their work, each and every day." ■

More information at centraldistrict.ku.edu.

CENTRAL DISTRICT GROWTH

The Integrated Science Building is the cornerstone of the Central District.

With 280,000 square feet, it will be devoted to interdisciplinary teaching and research in chemistry, medicinal chemistry, physics, molecular biosciences, and related fields.

The new classrooms will let our students find new ways of interacting with instructors and peers and integrate their course work with cutting-edge research activity.

The state-of-the-art facility will allow our researchers to spawn new ideas across disciplines and be an anchoring point for collaboration among KU's research centers and campuses.

The research and learning that happen here will help us recruit new scholars, pursue new funding opportunities, foster technology-based startups, and enhance the national visibility of KU.

Other features of the Central District

A new residence hall opening in fall 2017 will be home to 545 students. A new dining center will connect it with the existing Oliver Hall.

An apartment complex that offers private bedrooms and bathrooms in four-person or two-person units will open in summer 2018.

A new student union, replacing the Burge Union, will contain 30,000 square feet of space to support students, faculty, and staff with service offices and



The Integrated Science Building (top) is the largest structure in the Central District redevelopment (above).

study space. New conference space will expand KU's ability to host events on campus. It will open in summer 2018.

A parking garage supports additional parking demand in the Central District. It opened early this year.

A central utility plant will provide support for these new facilities and other areas of campus. It will be completed in summer 2018. ■

STANDING UP, SPEAKING OUT

RHODES SCHOLAR GIVES VOICE TO REFUGEES' PLIGHT

At KU, Shegufta Huma found her voice as an activist for social justice. But moments after being named a 2017 Rhodes Scholar, she found herself speechless.

Huma managed to text three words — I GOT IT — to her family and friends but remembers that the most meaningful words came from her father.

“One of the first things my dad said to me is that he wished he could tell my grandpa,” she says. “My grandpa would have been prouder than anyone.”

Huma’s grandfather died when she was a child, but he was the one who had convinced her parents to move from Bangladesh to the United States when she was a year old. “My grandpa was a huge proponent of education,” she says. “He had a vision of what he wanted his granddaughters to achieve, and knew it would only be possible in a place like the U.S.”

Huma has found opportunity

in the United States but also opposition. Her experience as a Muslim woman coming of age in a post-9/11 world motivates her activism on behalf of Muslim immigrants.

Now a KU senior majoring in political science, Huma says it wasn’t until college that she put language to the discrimination she felt or realized she could be part of the solution. When she was a sophomore, she founded the Imagine Coalition, an advocacy group for marginalized students.

“I have hypervisibility — I just stick out, no matter where I go,” she says. “If I’m going to be put in the spotlight, I may as well advocate for the things I care about.”

Huma plans to dedicate her efforts to redefining “refugee,” a term that currently does not include people forcibly displaced because of climate change. The issue hits close to home for Huma, who has witnessed the negative effects of rising sea levels in her family’s village in Bangladesh. ■

Shegufta Huma is
KU’s 27th Rhodes
Scholar.

The scholarship will
cover her graduate
work at the Refugee
Studies Centre of the
University of Oxford
in England.

Rhodes recipient Shegufta Huma looks forward to studying at Oxford University with “the movers and shakers in my field.”

EXCELLENCE ON THE HILL

More stories from 2016

KU Beckman Scholars

Chemistry majors Kathryn Brewer and Collin Clay are national Beckman Scholars. They will each receive a \$21,000 stipend and faculty support for undergraduate research related to their field.

Astronaut Scholars

Seniors Annie Lynn, a chemical engineering major, and Emily Smith, a physics and interdisciplinary computing major, have received 2016 Astronaut Scholarships — an award honoring the nation’s top scholars in science and technology.

Goldwater Scholars

Annie Lynn and Kevin Tenny, senior chemical engineering students, have received Goldwater Scholarships that will fund their studies related to fighting viruses and improving electricity systems.



Oxford Cambridge Scholarship

As a recipient of the National Institutes of Health Oxford Cambridge Scholarship, graduate Jessica van Loben Sels will conduct doctoral research on immune responses to norovirus at Cambridge and the NIH.

Continued on next page

The business of becoming provost

Before Neeli Bendapudi had a chance to settle into the dean’s office in the new Capitol Federal Hall, she moved into Strong Hall as KU provost and executive vice chancellor.

As business dean since 2011, Bendapudi led the school to record enrollment, launched an online MBA program, and oversaw fundraising and construction of the school’s new \$70 million home, which opened in May.

In her new post, Bendapudi is KU’s chief academic officer and chief operating officer for the Lawrence and Edwards campuses. She is responsible for advancing KU’s mission in conjunction with the chancellor, administrators, faculty, staff, and students.



Ashlie Koehn

Excellence on the Hill continued

Schwarzman Scholar
Ashlie Koehn — a 2016 graduate with majors in economics and international studies and a minor in environmental studies — has been named to the second class of Schwarzman Scholars. Koehn will receive funding for one year at Tsinghua University in Beijing. She is the first Jayhawk to win Truman, Udall, Boren, and Gilman scholarships.

Delving into diplomacy
Rebecca Rumptz, a student veteran majoring in international studies and journalism, has been chosen for the U.S. Foreign Service Internship Program with the Department of State.

Aerospace winning streak
KU’s engineering team claimed first place at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Team Engine Design Competition. Since the AIAA competitions began in 1968, Jayhawks have earned more awards than any other school in the world.

Excellence on the Hill continued

We are #1
The University of Kansas has the No. 1 special education program in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report. KU’s Master of Public Administration program also received a top ranking for the 18th year in a row.

Best for Vets
KU’s commitment to serve those who serve our country has earned the university a top-10 spot from the Military Times in its “Best for Vets” college rankings for the second consecutive year. Today, KU has more than 1,300 military-affiliated students and 400 faculty and staff on its five campuses.

Far Above capital campaign
2016 marked the completion of Far Above, the most successful capital campaign in KU history. The \$1.66 billion raised from the campaign is transforming the university — funding 16 construction projects, 53 new professorships, and 735 student scholarships.

Best in show
For the fifth year in a row, the School of Architecture, Design & Planning’s design department was named Best School at the National Student Show, where KU students won nearly half of the awards, including Best In Show. The show is sponsored

by the Dallas Society of Visual Communications.

Freshman class milestones
KU’s freshman class grew for the fifth-straight year in fall 2016 — and was the most academically talented in KU history. The 4,233 new Jayhawks were KU’s fourth-largest freshman class ever. Their average ACT score was 25.7 and their average GPA was 3.58 — both all-time highs.
The class also included 22.9 percent minorities, making it KU’s second-most diverse freshman class ever.



New Libraries dean
Since May 2016, Kevin L. Smith has been dean of KU Libraries — the largest library system in Kansas. Smith oversees more than 4.4 million print volumes in seven campus facilities and 110,000 full-text journal titles online.

LeAnn Meyer/KU Libraries



Gates Cambridge Scholar
Alex Kong, a student in the doctor of pharmacy program, received a Gates Cambridge Scholarship to continue his research on infectious disease. Kong is the second Jayhawk in two years to receive the prestigious scholarship.

AT THE PINNACLE

A LOOK AT HOW CHANCELLOR GRAY-LITTLE PREPARED KU FOR THE FUTURE

We seek new heights, new achievements by our students, new discoveries by our faculty and staff, and a new commitment to the state.”

With these words at her inauguration, Bernadette Gray-Little began eight years as chancellor of the University of Kansas. Under her leadership, the university created new admission standards and curriculum guidelines, gained national designations for our cancer and Alzheimer’s centers, completed the largest educational fundraising campaign in state history, and transformed our campuses with new and renovated facilities.

Chancellor Gray-Little’s accomplishments and her dedication, strength, and energy inspire all of us on the Hill to continue the climb, seeking new heights in teaching, service, and research.

2009

Bernadette Gray-Little named KU’s 17th chancellor

2010

“The complexity of our modern world demands an evolved university, and the challenges we face as a society demand an enlightened one, a university that uses the inherent good of education and research to meet the challenges of our time.”

— Inaugural address

New pharmacy building dedicated

KU launches Bioscience & Technology Business Center

2011

School of Medicine-Salina opens

Wichita branch of pharmacy school holds first classes

School of Medicine-Wichita expands to four-year program

KU Alzheimer’s Disease Center receives National Institute on Aging designation

KU awards new four-year renewable scholarships

2012

KU Cancer Center receives National Cancer Institute designation

Measurement, Materials & Sustainable Environment Center completed

Business, Engineering, Science & Technology building opens on Edwards Campus

KU receives largest grant in university history, \$24.5 million from U.S. Department of Education

2013

KU launches KU Core, the university’s new undergraduate curriculum

Chancellor named to boards of directors of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)

KU reports record in externally funded research expenditures for 2011-12, receiving a total of \$275.2 million to support research at all KU campuses

“Discoveries don’t just take place in a laboratory or a library. They take place in concert halls and practice rooms, and in any place any time you bring creative, driven people together to share ideas.”

— Introducing the KU Wind Ensemble before Carnegie Hall performance

2014

KU unveils 2014-24 Campus Master Plan

The Forum addition to Marvin Hall completed

“Always strive to be something bigger than your selfie.”

— Commencement speech

KU receives \$58 million gift for scholarships and fellowships from AI and Lila Self

Groundbreaking held for Earth, Energy & Environment Center

2015

“We ... welcome an American president ... and we welcome him with a version of what Teddy Roosevelt called the best college cheer he ever heard — Barack Chalk, Jayhawk!”

— Chancellor welcomes President Barack Obama at KU visit

Chancellor becomes chair of board of directors for APLU

2015 continued

Self, Oswald residence halls completed; McCarthy Hall completed

Learned Engineering Expansion Phase 2 completed

Swarthout Recital Hall renovated

Third phase of Jayhawk Boulevard reconstruction finished

KU Medical Center breaks ground on Health Education Building

“As you leave this place, I ask that you dedicate yourself not only to doing well, but to doing good and to being a good person.”

— Commencement speech

2016

KU freshman class grows for fifth straight year, sets record for academic talent

KU enrollment grows for third straight year

Far Above campaign concludes, raises \$1.66 billion

KU hires 12th and final Foundation Distinguished Professor

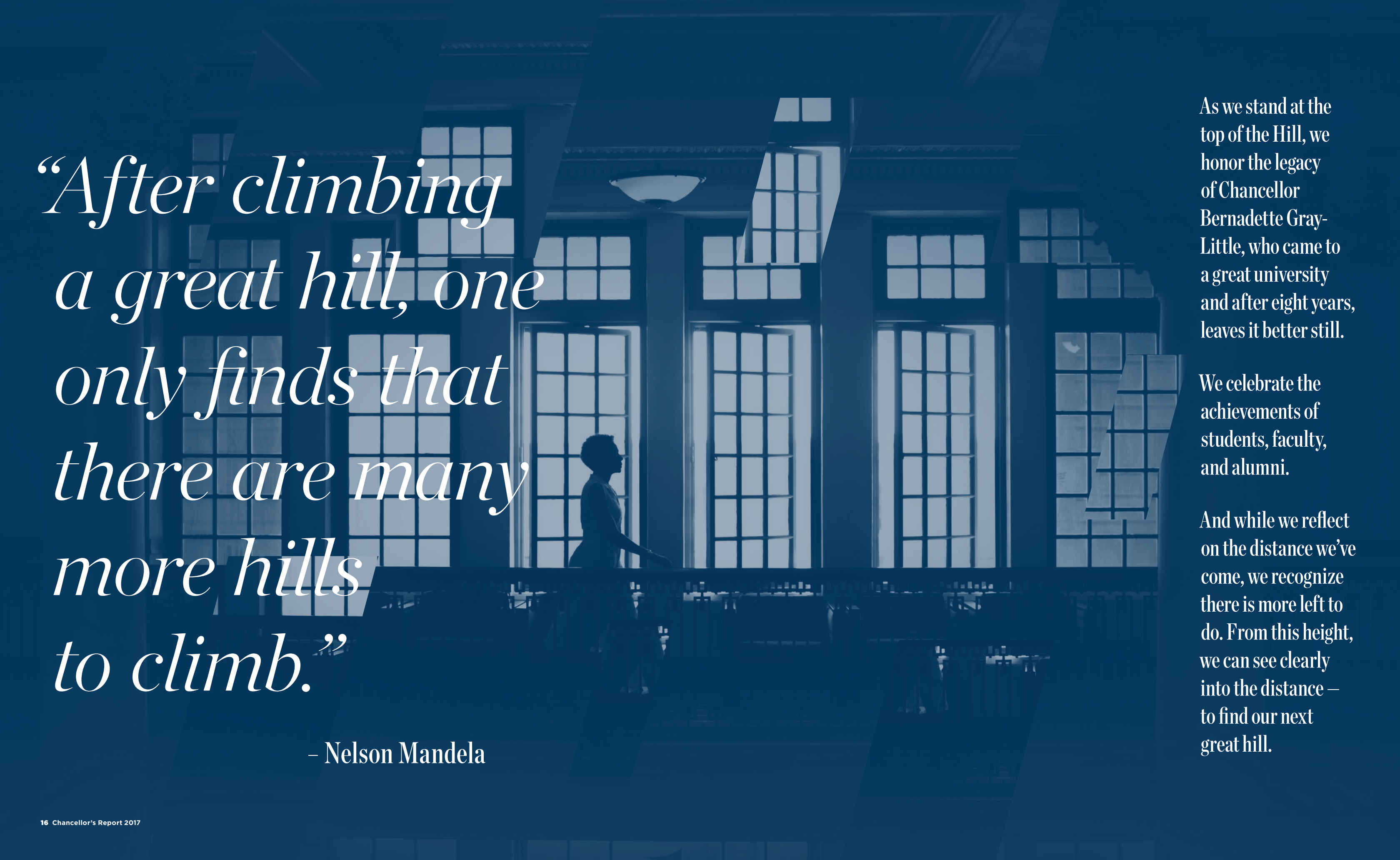
Spencer Museum of Art renovation finished

Capitol Federal Hall completed

DeBruce Center completed

Construction begins on Central District redevelopment, including academic and research facilities, a student residence hall, student apartments, and a student union

Bernadette Gray-Little announces she will step down as chancellor at the end of the academic year



*“After climbing
a great hill, one
only finds that
there are many
more hills
to climb.”*

– Nelson Mandela

As we stand at the top of the Hill, we honor the legacy of Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, who came to a great university and after eight years, leaves it better still.

We celebrate the achievements of students, faculty, and alumni.

And while we reflect on the distance we’ve come, we recognize there is more left to do. From this height, we can see clearly into the distance — to find our next great hill.