To my fellow Jayhawks,

I hope 2009 has started well for you and your families.

The new year carries a bit more significance: This year marks the beginning of a new presidency for the United States. This year marks the beginning of a search for a new chancellor for the University of Kansas. This year marks the beginning of creative new leadership for our 2009 Homecoming/Reunion chairperson, Jenise Comers, g’74. And sadly, this year marks the beginning of the last year of my three-year tenure as your president.

My stint as your president has been indeed a “fun and thrilling ride.” And because of the fine work of the KU Black Alumni Chapter (KUBAC) Leadership Team, I believe this chapter has made some great strides for not only you, alumni of the University—but also for the wider University community as well. For example, as I write this, Tom Vaughn, g’78, l’78, vice president of the KUBAC and Chicago Chapter 13 judge, has taken his place on the search committee for the new chancellor for the University of Kansas!

We have made great strides by rallying and deploying creative and gifted alumni troops. So, let me invite even more of you to help us fulfill the chapter goals (left) for this year:

Let’s make this a year to remember by riding the momentum and success of our past few years.

Warmly,

Luke Bobo, e’82
President, KUBAC

P.S. Two offices will be open this year: President and Vice President. Consider nominating a classmate or yourself! Elections will take place during our Homecoming/Reunion October 9-10, 2009. Please plan to attend this year’s reunion.

**Chapter Goals**
- Recruit Black alumni who graduated less than 15 years ago to become active in chapter.
- Restructure the Networking Committee from a local focus to a regional/ national/ global focus.
- Produce three quality newsletters.
- Raise the remaining $15,000 to meet and close out our $100,000 fundraising campaign.
- Recruit and train the new Communications Committee chair.
- Recruit and train the new Reunion/ Homecoming Committee chairs. (complete)
- Facilitate a smooth and seamless transition for the next KUBAC president.
The Accomplished Architect by Kim Walker

It’s not often you find someone who follows a steadfast vision from high school through college and beyond. Well, KU graduate Devan Case did just that.

Case left high school with a dream to become an architect. He was accepted into four schools and chose KU because the architecture school was ranked seventh in the nation. Case graduated in 1994 from KU with a bachelor’s degree in architecture.

While attending college, Case demonstrated his leadership skills by serving as president of the Inspirational Gospel Voices and became the organization’s pianist for three years. Case continues to show his commitment to KU as a periodic guest critic for the School of Architecture and Urban Design’s Multicultural Architectural Scholars Program (MASP). While attending KU, he met and married his wife, Katrina Lawrence Case. She graduated in 1994 with an education degree and now teaches in the Liberty School District in the Kansas City metropolitan area. They have two future Jayhawks, Darrien, 11, and Jasmine, 8.

Case now successfully co-owns the architectural firm Pendulum Studio LLC in Kansas City, Mo. Pendulum designs sports complexes, civic buildings and multi-family housing. In 2008 Case and his co-owner brought Pendulum to new heights, winning a design contract for a $12 million baseball stadium in Normal, Ill. Case is currently making a difference in the community through Pendulum’s volunteer project, which includes designing a community kitchen for serving food to the homeless.

Case is an alumnus of the two-year leadership program with the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Centurions Program. He has also served on the board of the American Institute of Architecture at the local and state levels. His involvement at the local level included addressing challenges on the lack of diversity in the architecture profession. At the state level Case continued to excel, serving on the board and promoting legislation related to the practice of architecture.

Case has continued to give back to the community through volunteer opportunities for the board of the

KU Black Alumni connect using social networks

Our chapter has joined the Web 2.0 world of social networking and offers chapter members free networking options. Keep in touch with fellow alumni by joining the Black alumni groups within Facebook and LinkedIn and encourage your former classmates to do the same.

On Facebook, you’ll find the KU Black Alumni Chapter under “student and alumni groups.” On LinkedIn, the KU Black Alumni Chapter can be found in the groups directory.

Leverage the power of KU’s network, including alumni, students, faculty and staff, connecting with them and their non-KU contacts.

Search LinkedIn’s jobs database and then connect with our group members who work at those companies.

You will need to either create or login to your LinkedIn account to join our group. For more information about LinkedIn or Facebook, take their online tour or read their FAQs.
The 2008 reunion of the KU Black Alumni Chapter was by some accounts the best one so far. This annual event attracted 120 alumni from across the country; two alumni traveled from Africa to the Hill for a reunion that promised to relive old times and rekindle friendships.

**Friday night fellowship**

Highlights of the weekend include the Friday evening reception and dinner with keynote speaker Deric A. Gilliard, author of *Living in the Shadows of a Legend: Unsung Heroes and ‘Sheroes’ Who Marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* The alumni interaction during the reception was lively and provided a great opportunity to not only catch up with old buddies, but also to meet some very interesting alumni.

And while the keynote speaker enlightened attendees about the unsung heroes of the civil rights movement, the chapter honored Ms. Florence Boldridge, an unsung hero of the KU Black Faculty and Staff. She serves as an educator, mentor, and the director of diversity programs for the KU School of Engineering.

Boldridge has significantly promoted the advancement of diversity at KU for more than 25 years through programs such as Inroads Summer Enrichment, Project Discovery and Early Entry for minority students. She is not only a very effective administrator but also has served in the role of surrogate mother for many of the minority engineers who have participated in the various engineering programs.

**Chapter business and breakfast**

Although the Friday evening ended with alumni staying up late to enjoy the great band and dancing, the next morning 70 alumni proved to be early risers, attending the chapter’s 8 a.m. business meeting.
President Luke Bobo, e’82, updated the attendees on the progress of the chapter, and alumni discussed important issues such as minority recruitment (students, faculty and staff) and scholarships.

During the meeting Provost Richard Lariviere encouraged alumni to offer referrals of potential staff members, and shared that a task force will be formed to include some of our own alumni who hold PhDs to help achieve the goal of increased black faculty and staff.

Two representatives from the Office of Admissions and Scholarships reported that KU enrolled a record number of African-American students in fall 2008. We also learned that the office has hired a person to be “on the ground” in Texas to personally interact and recruit students. Throughout the meeting, officers and committee chairs presented additional reports and updates.

**Reunion closes with more fun**

After attending the football game, strolling down Jayhawk Boulevard and revisiting old stomping grounds like Wescoe Beach, the reunion ended with a good old fashioned college party, complete with old school jams and the latest hip hop music. The dance floor was full on several occasions, and a few Jayhawks really let loose.

For those who missed the fun, mark your calendars now to attend the **2009 Black Alumni Chapter reunion Oct. 9-10**. More information will be sent out in early summer.

KU Black Faculty and Staff honoree Florence Boldridge (1st row, second from the left) is joined by Reunion Weekend Chairs Marla Young Clark, e’88, and Mark Clark, e’84, (3rd and 4th from left) and other former and current engineering students.

W.L. Matthews, c ’74, g’76 (center), is congratulated by Pat Bell, ’73, and Rosalind Bauchum, c’74, g ’76, for traveling the longest distance (from Africa) to attend.

KUBAC President Luke Bobo, e’82, conveys appreciation to Recording Secretary Nicole Rials, c’95, s’00, and Treasurer Julitha Rials, c’88.
by Ryan Rowan, c ’08

The current job market, the state of the economy and looming student loan repayments motivate many recent graduates to cut back on spending and to evaluate where to allocate limited funds. Fortunately, new graduates receive a free one-year KU Alumni Association membership from the KU Endowment Association, so joining the KU Black Alumni Chapter of the KU Alumni Association will not affect the pocketbook.

Unfortunately, many new graduates have failed to take advantage of this membership opportunity, or to continue their memberships beyond the first year at the discounted price of $25 for recent graduates—less than half the cost of regular annual dues.

While an achievement such as the growth in the number of African-American freshmen enrolled demonstrates remarkable progress, our journey is far from over. To secure a source of permanent funds to aid our chapter’s efforts to achieve our goals, we have established the Black Alumni Chapter Endowment Fund.

The chapter hopes to raise $100,000 by Homecoming 2009. To date, we have received nearly $85,000 in gifts and pledges toward this effort. We are depending on you to help us raise the additional $15,000 needed to reach our goal. We invite you to support the Black Alumni Chapter Endowment Fund today with a gift of $25, $50, $100, $500 or $1,000.

Please send your gift to:
KU Endowment
Attn: Annual Giving
PO Box 928
Lawrence, KS 66044-9950

You may also contribute securely online at www.kuendowment.org/givens. Be sure to indicate you are donating to the Black Alumni Chapter Endowment Fund.

We appreciate your past support of the Black Alumni Chapter and thank you in advance for considering an investment in the Black Alumni Chapter.

More giving needed to reach $100,000 goal

Black Alumni Endowment Fund Campaign Raises $85,000

One of the primary goals of the Black Alumni Chapter is to support the recruitment, retention, development and graduation of Black students—efforts that are proving successful as demonstrated by the increase in minority enrollment. In fact, minority enrollment at the university reached an all-time high last semester. In addition, the number of African-American freshmen enrolled at KU increased 27.8 percent from fall 2007 to fall 2008.

The chapter also seeks to maximize Black alumni participation in the affairs of the University and to promote personal growth and professional development of our membership. All these initiatives are made possible because of the support of alumni and friends like you.

As college graduates begin their careers, networking is paramount to professional growth. Graduation marks a new beginning, the start of careers, and once again being at the bottom—this time of the professional world. Just as incoming freshmen turned to upperclassmen, parents, or the Office of Multicultural Affairs, new KU graduates can turn to the Alumni Association to assist with navigating new career experiences.

The Alumni Association provides access to more than 300,000 alumni in various fields, including law, medicine, academia, business, politics and the sciences.

An important benefit of membership in the Alumni Association is the access to networking events, where attendees are given the opportunity to make professional contacts within a social setting. The opportunity to meet alumni at these events can give recent grads real-world insight to a chosen profession and tips to further career and personal goals, while sharing stories of their alma mater.

In addition, membership allows recent graduates to remain connected to the campus by receiving updates from the Hill and from classmates. Most important, joining the Alumni Association ensures that future generations of Jayhawks have access to an even better KU.

Chapter offers benefits to recent graduates
Join your friends in the KU Black Alumni Chapter!