

# KU Discovery & Innovation

News from KU Research

January 2016

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## KU's Dave Tell Receives NEH Fellowship



The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded a prestigious fellowship to Dave Tell, associate professor of communication studies, for a project entitled "Emmett Till, Geography and the Rhetoric of Place."

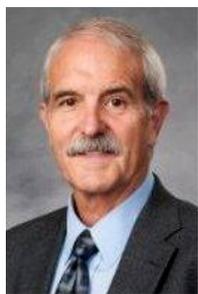
Tell, who came to KU in 2007, will receive \$50,400 to support "a book-length study on the rhetoric of, and geography surrounding, the murder, trial and memory" of its subject. Till, a 14-year-old African-American boy, was beaten and shot to death in 1955 in the Mississippi Delta for whistling at a white woman.

"Dave deserves hearty congratulations on this honor," said Don Steeples, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. "His research has great potential to advance the conversation on a case that has remained newsworthy for decades."

In addition to his book project, Tell and three colleagues have created a smartphone app called the Emmett Till Memory Project. Supported by the Hall Center for the Humanities, the project uses a GPS-enabled app called Field Trip to commemorate 50 sites in and around the Mississippi Delta, each of which plays a significant role in the memory of Emmett Till's murder. Information about the project is available online.

KU faculty have received 22 NEH fellowships since 1988. In the same award cycle, the NEH funded a project from the Kansas African Studies Center. A \$140,000 grant will help the center engage the public in programs about "Midwestern experiences related to new African immigrants." KU is the state's only university to receive NEH funding in this cycle.

## Postdoctoral Research Day Offers Presentations, Career Planning



The KU Postdoctoral Association will hold its 2016 Research Day on Friday, February 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the School of Pharmacy. Postdocs are invited to submit presentation abstracts by January 31 at [KUpostdocs@gmail.com](mailto:KUpostdocs@gmail.com). Cash prizes will be given for poster and oral presentations. Submission instructions are posted at the KUPA website.

Research Day will feature a career planning workshop led by Philip Clifford, left, of the University of Illinois at Chicago. He will present on "Putting Your Ph.D. to Work: Planning for a Successful Career."

All KU postdocs are invited to register for the research presentations, the career planning workshop and the free catered luncheon. **Registration deadline is February 12** at the KUPA website. KU Postdoctoral Research Day is sponsored in part by KU Research.



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## Research Achievement Nominees Sought

KU Research invites nominations for the 2016 Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards. Complete nominations must be received by January 22.

Awards are made in four categories to faculty at KU or other Regents institutions. Each \$10,000 award may be spent over five years on such research-related activities as research materials, summer salary, fellowship matching funds, equipment and research assistants.

Complete information about the awards can be found [online at the KU Research website](#), including criteria, past recipients and the nomination process.

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In addition, KU Research invites nominations for the 2015 Steven F. Warren Research Achievement Award. The deadline for nominations is January 29. The award, established in 2006, honors an outstanding unclassified academic staff researcher from KU's Lawrence Campus. Recipients receive a plaque and \$10,000 in research funds.

Nominations are submitted by email and include a one-page letter of recommendation that addresses the candidate's research contribution(s), why or how they are significant, and what impact the contributions have made. Also required is the nominee's vita and the names and contact information for at least two references. [More information is available online](#), or contact [Teresa Kopsa](#) at 864-3567.

## Deadline Nears for SIG Level II Proposals

While the Strategic Initiative Grant (SIG) Level I awards program was suspended last fall, the smaller [SIG Level II program](#), which is administered by the KU Office of Research, continues. Two proposal submission deadlines remain during the spring semester: Friday, February 5 and Friday, May 6. KU researchers are encouraged to apply.

## KU Research Presents TRT in February

The next [Thursday Research Topics](#) presentation is set for February 11 from 11–11:50 a.m. in the auditorium at Simons Labs. The topic is "Professional Development Opportunities in Research Administration" and will be led by Bill Sharp.

Previous TRT presentations are archived on the "Research Administration Training and Resources" BlackBoard site.



KU RESEARCH STAFF AT YOUNGBERG HALL adopted two families for the holidays in December. One family was a senior couple with custody of three children and young adults. The other was a single mother with an infant. The collection of gifts (above) was coordinated through the Ballard Center and Penn House. KU Research staff shown getting ready to deliver gifts are, from left, Jordan Blair, Tina Roberts, Jocelyn Isley and Robert Kerley.

## Next Humanities Lecture is February 10



Iain McCalman, left, an explorer, author and professorial research fellow in history at the University of Sydney, will make the [first Humanities Lecture Series presentation of the semester](#) on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. in The Commons at Spooner Hall. The program is sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities and is free and open to the public.

The title of McCalman's talk is "The Great Barrier Reef: How Human Stories Matter." He is author of *The Reef: A Passionate History*, which describes key encounters between people, places, ideas and biosystems. He is also the author of *Darwin's Armada*, described as "both a gripping adventure story and a brilliantly enlightening work of history."

The 1,400-mile long Great Barrier Reef is home to 3,000 individual reefs, more than 900 islands, and thousands of marine species. In his talk, McCalman will showcase the lives of many individuals spanning more than two centuries, highlighting humanities' profound desire to conquer, understand, embrace, and ultimately save the world's most complex ocean ecosystem.

## KU Offers Proof of Concept Fund Awards

KU inventors are invited to submit applications for the Proof of Concept Fund, which supports KU technologies that are near the commercialization stage and could become marketplace solutions in the near future.

**The Proof of Concept Fund** is intended to advance the development of novel applied technologies that have near-term potential for licensing and commercialization. The fund is not designed to support basic research but rather to advance technologies that have already demonstrated commercial appeal and for which the university has already applied for intellectual property protection.

This fund is open to KU researchers from all areas of innovation and technology. Awards generally will be in the range of \$15,000 to \$40,000. The total number of awards will depend on the number and quality of applications submitted.

Applications are due February 2. Award notifications will be made about a month after. Full details, including eligibility and evaluation criteria, are available at the [Proof of Concept Fund webpage](#).

Entrepreneurship and commercialization continue to be key components of KU's strategic plan, *Bold Aspirations*. KU currently has 109 active licensing agreements with companies using KU technologies, and there are 33 active startup companies based on KU research.

"Part of KU's mission is to make discoveries that change the world, and that includes commercializing our discoveries into real-world products and solutions," Nagel said. "The Proof of Concept Fund is key to our efforts to do that."

## KU Postdoc Group to Meet January 29

The **KU Postdoctoral Association** will hold its next luncheon meeting on Friday, January 29 at noon in the Relays Room of the Burge Union. Lunch is provided for those who RSVP at the website by January 22.

Susan MacNally, director of research integrity, will speak on the topic of research ethics. Postdocs who wish to apply for a KU travel award are required to demonstrate proof of training in the responsible conduct of research. During the past three years, postdocs have received \$2,000 in travel awards. Proof of training can be shown in several ways. Attendance at the January 29 luncheon meeting will count toward travel award eligibility.



**FOUNDATION Distinguished Professor Bill Picking** made the featured research presentation December 11 at the KU Center for Research, Inc. Board of Trustees Annual Meeting. Picking, director of the Higuchi Biosciences Center and the Kansas Vaccine Institute, discussed work under way at KU to develop vaccines for Shigellosis, a disease that affects large numbers of children worldwide.

## KU Students Present Research at Capitol

Two events in Topeka next month will showcase research being done by KU students at all levels.

On February 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the 13<sup>th</sup> annual **Capitol Graduate Research Summit** will take place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rotunda of the State Capitol. It is an opportunity for eight selected students from the Lawrence campus (along with students from other Regents universities) to make research poster presentations to legislators and the public. Two students per university will receive awards sponsored by participating institutions and **BioKansas**.

On February 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., five KU students and peers from other Regents university will participate in the **Kansas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol**. Students will make poster presentations in the Rotunda of the State Capitol, demonstrating the unique opportunities undergraduate students have to participate with faculty members in research at the state's public universities.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend these events and show support for KU students engaged in research. Legislators will be joined by other state officials in seeing the posters and talking with students.

## Researcher Kudos

- **Val Stella**, a university distinguished professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and **Bala Subramaniam**, the Dan F. Servey Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, are among 168 individuals **selected this year as National Academy of Inventors (NAI) Fellows**. They are KU's first NAI Fellows and will be inducted April 15 during the fifth annual NAI Conference at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington.
- The National Endowment for the Arts (**NEA**) **awarded \$50,000 in December to the Spencer Museum of Art** for the upcoming exhibition, "Temporal Turn: Art and Speculation in Contemporary Asia." The exhibition will open this fall and will be the first major exhibition at the Spencer following the Phase I renovation. **Kris Ercums**, curator of global contemporary and Asian art, is organizing the exhibition.
- **Jack Cline**, director of federal relations, has been named **president of the board of directors of The Science Coalition**, a nonprofit organization of leading research universities that includes KU. Cline was the board's secretary during 2015 and will serve as president for one year. In his role at KU, Cline is an important advocate for federal research funding and other initiatives.
- The Commons in Spooner Hall has produced a new four-minute video to showcase the **Starter Grant program**, which nurtures and develops collaborative, interdisciplinary research ideas at the conceptual stage. Since 2009, Seed Grants in Nature and Culture and Starter Grants have been funded by KU Research and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.
- **The Commons has awarded a \$9,946 Starter Grant** to an interdisciplinary project entitled, "Trans/forming Activist Media in the Americas." Participants are **Joo Ok Kim**, American Studies; **Joshua Miner**, Film and Media Studies; **Chris Perreira**, American Studies; and **Magali Rabasa**, Spanish & Portuguese. The project will investigate the relationship between new media practices and activist movements.

## Research Notes

### Subrecipient and Contractor Roles in Uniform Guidance

According to Uniform Guidance regulation 200.330, when KU/KUCR acts as a pass-through entity (flowing funds to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party as part of an award), a case-by-case determination must be made regarding KU/KUCR's relationship with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party entity – identifying the entity as either a subrecipient or a contractor.

The foundational difference in the relationship, based on Uniform Guidance definitions, is that a subrecipient completes a substantive portion of the proposed work and makes decisions that affect the work, while a contractor provides goods or services that support KU's investigator's performance of substantive work.

To assist in making this determination, a checklist that follows the newly defined subrecipient and contractor roles will be implemented by the KU Office of Research Pre-Award unit. Pre-Award staff will complete the checklist for all proposals in which a 3<sup>rd</sup> party entity is included in the proposal budget, no matter the source of the funding. Once the initial assessment is completed by Pre-Award, the principal investigator will be asked to review the checklist, confirm the determination, and sign the form. The completed and signed form will be kept on file with the proposal record at the Office of Research.

**A copy of the checklist can be found online.** Completion of this checklist will not be required for 3<sup>rd</sup> party entities determined to be consultants.

### NEH Application Workshop at K-State in March

The National Endowment for the Humanities will hold a free, four-hour **regional application-writing workshop** at Kansas State University on the morning of Wednesday, March 9. Russell Wyland, deputy director of research programs at NEH, will present an overview of endowment programs and special initiatives, facilitate a mock peer review panel session, discuss strategies for successful application writing, and answer questions.

Anyone may attend. Registration is required and will begin at the website the week of January 18. (Note that the NEH workshop format was developed in 2003 by staff at the Hall Center for the Humanities. Subsequently, five participants won NEH Fellowships that year!)

# Upcoming Events

Additional events and details are available at the [KU Calendar](#).

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## JANUARY 21

### **BioKansas: "Bioscience Day at the Statehouse"**

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

State Capitol Building, Topeka

## JANUARY 21-23

### **INFEWS Panels and Seminars: Design Challenges and Innovation at the Nexus of Food + Energy + Water**

*See Website for Schedule and Speakers*

Spooner Hall, The Commons

## JANUARY 22

### **Deadline: Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Award Nominations**

## JANUARY 26

### **BIO3 Seminar: Eduardo Rosa-Molinar, KU**

3:30 p.m.

1005 Haworth Hall

## JANUARY 29

### **KU Postdoctoral Association Luncheon-Meeting: Susan MacNally, "Research Ethics Seminar"**

Noon – 1 p.m.

Burge Union, Relays Room

### **Red Hot Research: "Kansas and the Region"**

4 – 5:30 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

### **Deadline: Steven F. Warren Research Achievement Award Nominations**

## FEBRUARY 2

### **Deadline: KU Proof of Concept Fund Proposals**

### **Capitol Graduate Research Summit**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

State Capitol Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rotunda, Topeka

## FEBRUARY 2

### **BIO3 Seminar: Todd Oakley, UC-Santa Barbara**

3:30 p.m.

1005 Haworth Hall

## FEBRUARY 5

### **Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grants Level II Proposals**

## FEBRUARY 9

### **BIO3 Seminar and Charles D. Michener Lecture: Bryan Danforth, Cornell University**

3:30 p.m.

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## FEBRUARY 10

### **Humanities Lecture Series: Iain McCalman, "The Great Barrier Reef: How Human Stories Matter"**

7:30 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

## FEBRUARY 11

### **Thursday Research Topic: Bill Sharp, "Professional Development Opportunities in Research Administration"**

11 – 11:50 a.m.

Simons Labs, Auditorium

## FEBRUARY 16

### **BIO3 Seminar: Boris Ijic, University of Illinois at Chicago**

3:30 p.m.

1005 Haworth Hall

## FEBRUARY 18

### **Kansas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol**

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

State Capitol Building, Rotunda, Topeka

## FEBRUARY 26

### **KU Postdoctoral Research Day**

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

School of Pharmacy Building

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