Zhao Named KU Foundation Professor

A recognized authority in several areas of education will soon bring his expertise to KU as the 11th Foundation Distinguished Professor.

Yong Zhao, left, the presidential chair and professor in the Department of Educational Measurement, Policy, and Leadership at the University of Oregon, will join KU’s Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in August. He will also hold a courtesy appointment in the School of Business.

Zhao is known for his research and publications on a number of topics, especially: creativity and entrepreneurship education; globalization and education; China and Chinese-language learning; technology in education and schooling; and education reforms around the world. He is expected to expand his research in creativity and entrepreneurship education and collaborate extensively with faculty in the School of Business’ Center for Entrepreneurship. His academic background includes a Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

KU Program Trains Next-Generation Cybersecurity Experts

A new $4.7 million, five-year award from the National Science Foundation will enable the KU School of Engineering to educate cyberdefense experts dedicated to public service, making the U.S. less vulnerable to cyberattacks.

The initiative, called CyberCorps: New Scholarship for Service Program at the University of Kansas — Jayhawk SFS, will support dozens of undergraduate, master’s and doctoral students, who commit to working at government cybersecurity jobs safeguarding critical infrastructure after graduation.

Agencies where graduates might serve include the CIA, the National Security Agency, the Department of Defense, the National Laboratories, and state and local departments.

Program leader at KU is Bo Luo, associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science (EECS), above. Also attending a presentation ceremony in Washington, DC, were co-PIs Fengjun Li, assistant professor, and Victor Frost, Dan F. Servey Distinguished Professor and chair. A third co-PI is Perry Alexander, AT&T Distinguished Professor and director of the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center. All are in EECS.
Warren Award Deadline Extended

KU Research invites nominations for the 2015 Steven F. Warren Research Achievement Award. The deadline for nominations has been extended to Friday, February 12.

The award 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.

KU Postdoc Research Day is February 26

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. Cash prizes will be given for outstanding poster and oral presentations.

Research Day will also 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.

RED HOT RESEARCH brings together scholars from all disciplines for short, slide-based talks that introduce audiences to a topic. On Friday, February 19 at 4 p.m., the topic will be “Digital Media.”

Presenters will be Sara Gregg, History; Jorge Soberón, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology/Biodiversity Institute; Katie Rhine, Anthropology; Andrew Lison, Hall Center for the Humanities; and Élika Ortega, Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities. Emcee will be Brian Rosenblum, Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities.

KU Students Present Research at Capitol

On February 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., five KU students, and peers from other Regents universities, will participate in the Kansas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. Students will make poster presentations in the Rotunda for legislators, staff and the public.

KU Startup Entrepreneur Austin Barone made a presentation January 21 as part of the Pipeline Innovator of the Year event in Kansas City, MO. Barone pitched his company, Just Play Sports Solutions, right, that afternoon and attended the gala banquet that evening, left. Barone, who graduated in December with a degree in finance, was one of four students chosen by participating universities in Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. “The opportunity to pitch and gather feedback,” he said, “was a tremendous learning experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.” Also at the event, Blake Hawley, CEO of Lawrence-based Integrated Animal Health, was chosen for the 2016 class of Pipeline Fellows. The company is housed in the Bioscience & Technology Business Center at KU.

THE 14TH ANNUAL K-INBRE SYMPOSIUM TOOK PLACE JANUARY 16-17 IN OVERLAND PARK. BioKansas, the bioscience network organization in Kansas, awarded cash prizes to the top 10 student poster presentations. Two of the recipients are undergraduates in KU’s Department of Molecular Bioscience. Kyle Monize, far left, was recognized for his work, as was Adam Reeves, far right.
‘Startup School @ KU’ Returns in March

“Startup School @ KU” is a free, informative program that provides participants with a fundamental understanding of how to launch a successful company and further develop entrepreneurial skills. It was introduced to great success last fall, above, and will return to the Bioscience & Technology Business Center on March 2, continuing through April 19 for six Wednesdays at 6-8 p.m.

The program is open to all KU faculty and staff, as well as students in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Sponsors are KU Innovation and Collaboration (KUIC), the Center for Entrepreneurship in the School of Business and the School of Engineering.

Based on a model used at Stanford, the curriculum features a flipped classroom approach, a variety of guest lecturers, and extensive discussion based on the readings and personal experiences. Dinner is provided for all participants.

Dates and main topics are:

- **March 2:** Key Components of Successful Startups
- **March 9:** Generating Ideas
- **March 16:** No Session – Spring Break
- **March 23:** Building Product
- **March 30:** Financing Your Startup
- **April 6:** Growth
- **April 13:** Operating the Startup

Registration is required and space is limited. Questions can be directed to kuic@ku.edu, (785) 864-6401.

Also returning on March 1 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. is “Technology Tuesday,” a networking event for researchers, investors, companies and economic development professionals. The gathering at the Bioscience & Technology Business Center is co-hosted by KUIC and sponsored by the Kansas City law firm of Lathrop & Gage LLP. Registration is requested at the site and refreshments will be served. KUIC staff will pitch partnering opportunities in several leading areas of research.

Carnegie Updates R1 Terminology

Since 1970, the Carnegie Classification of universities has been the leading framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in U.S. On February 1, the organization at Indiana University that oversees the Carnegie Classification program announced it has updated its designations using a new methodology.

KU’s stature among its peers has not changed, but the Carnegie terminology has. KU is now classified among “R1: Doctoral Universities – Highest research activity.” There are 115 institutions in this classification nationwide.

Another 107 doctoral institutions are “Higher research activity” and another 113 are “Moderate research activity.” Levels are based on a research activity index.

Doctoral institutions are those that award at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees annually, excluding professional practice doctoral-level degrees.

KU was previously classified by Carnegie as “Very High Research Activity,” which was also the highest designation.

AAU Board Supports Gun Research

The Association of American Universities (AAU) Board of Directors issued a statement of support in January for federally funded research on gun safety and gun violence.

The Board expressed concern about the large number of gun-related deaths in the United States and noted, "With firearms causing approximately the same number of deaths in America as automobiles, it is clear that gun violence is a major public health problem for our country.” The statement adds:

While there can be honest disagreement about the most effective means of addressing gun violence, there should be no doubt that, like any other public health issue, the more we know about causes, about trends, and about potential remedies, the stronger basis we will have for effective action.

The Board expressed support for President Obama’s recent directive to the Justice Department and the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security to conduct research on technology that can improve gun safety, and called on Congress to end its prohibition on federally funded public health research on gun violence.
Recent NSF Statement on Gender-Based Discrimination

January 25, 2016: “The National Science Foundation (NSF) joins with other leading U.S. scientific organizations to emphasize its strong commitment to preventing harassment and to eradicate gender-based discrimination in science.

“In light of recent, multiple reports of sexual harassment in science, NSF reiterates its unwavering dedication to inclusive workplaces. NSF does not tolerate sexual harassment and encourages members of the scientific community who experience such harassment to report such behavior immediately.

“As the primary funder of fundamental science and engineering research in the U.S., NSF supports researchers and students at the forefront of their fields – each of whom deserves to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect.

“Not only is a discrimination-free environment the right setting for all people, it also fosters important learning, mentoring and research that are imperative to the advancement of science.

“NSF holds responsible the 2,000 U.S. colleges, universities and other institutions that receive NSF funding and requires their implementation of Title IX protections. And NSF encourages NSF-funded researchers and students to hold colleagues accountable to the standards and conditions set forth in Title IX, and to inform their institution of violations.

“For any NSF-funded entity that fails to adhere to Title IX, NSF will work with the Departments of Justice and Education to ensure compliance with nondiscrimination laws. NSF may terminate funding to any institution found to be in noncompliance with Title IX regulations and that does not voluntarily come into compliance.

“In FY 2015 alone, NSF directly supported nearly 300,000 researchers, post-doctoral scientists, graduate students, trainees, teachers and students, as well as 1,700 employees. This scientific community creates the knowledge that drives the American economy and bolsters national security. Therefore, NSF will take all appropriate actions to ensure Title IX compliance.

“People at NSF-funded institutions who experience or witness harassment should either contact their Title IX Coordinator or NSF’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

“Visit NSF.gov for more information on NSF’s policy on the prevention of harassment. Additional resources and the definition of harassment can be found here.”

THE KU ANIMAL CARE UNIT (ACU) OBSERVED INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ANIMAL TECHNICIAN WEEK February 1-5 with educational and social programming on campus. The ACU is part of the KU Office of Research. KU’s animal technicians make daily contributions to the university’s research mission. The team, shown above at Youngberg Hall, appreciates the opportunity to work with KU faculty and staff, as well as the laboratory animals for which they’re responsible professionally.

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.

Fawn Weber Joins KU Research Pre-Award Services

Pre-Award welcomed a new grant specialist in December. Fawn Weber was previously with a local accounting firm, where she worked closely with the CEO for almost five years. Weber has extensive experience with budgeting and business valuation reviews, skills that have already served her well in her new position. She joins Megan Todd (team lead) and Matt Stevens on Team 3, serving the Schools of Education, Journalism, Pharmacy, Social Welfare, and various designated research centers.
New Position Supports KU Community Engagement in Greater Kansas City

KU has appointed a veteran Sprint Corporation manager, Julie Burkhart, as its new director of community engagement. Located primarily at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park, she will develop and coordinate a point of entry between the resources of the university and the needs of industry and the community.

“Business vitality in Greater Kansas City is crucial to the economic success of the state and the region,” said Julie Nagel, KU’s interim associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship. “Having someone with Julie’s corporate experience and community credibility in this new role positions KU to make an even greater contribution to meeting the needs of Kansans.”

Burkhart, left, reports to Nagel. In addition, she partners closely with David Cook, vice chancellor at KU Edwards. She will be involved directly in KU’s overall efforts to increase workforce development, community-based research and service, entrepreneurship and economic development.

“Julie’s primary role,” said Cook, “is to facilitate matches between KU resources, expertise and capabilities and the needs of the companies and communities we serve in this region. Having her on board supports KU’s strategic emphasis on community-engaged scholarship and outreach, and will help us advance those initiatives at KU Edwards.”

Burkhart spent the past 18 years at Sprint in progressively more responsible positions, most recently serving as talent acquisition manager and president of its Women’s Employee Resource Group. Her academic background includes a B.S. in family life and human development from Kansas State University and an M.S. in business communication from Fort Hays State University.

“My career at Sprint is a great foundation for my new role at KU,” said Burkhart. “I know about the workforce development and research demands of area companies, and I’m also familiar with the communities that support and are served by the university. I look forward to working with KUIC and the faculty and staff at KU Edwards to increase our presence and our impact in this region.”

Excavation continues on the Earth, Energy and Environment Center at 15th and Naismith. Lindley Hall, above, towers over the hole that was once a parking lot.

When completed, the EEEC facility will bring together faculty, students and researchers from geology and engineering to tackle ongoing and emerging issues in oil and gas exploration, water quality and availability, and geothermal energy.

Elsewhere on campus, below, the venerable Stouffer Place Apartments are being demolished this month to free up space for the Integrated Science Building, apartments, and other elements of the Central District Redevelopment.
Researcher Kudos

- Spencer Museum of Art has received a $487,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to launch the Spencer’s Integrated Arts Research Initiative (IARI). The IARI will be overseen by Saralyn Reece Hardy, Marilyn Stokstad Director, and administered by Celka Straughn, Andrew W. Mellon Director of Academic Programs, and Stephen Goddard, associate director and senior curator.

- HylaPharm, a KU startup company located in the Bioscience & Technology Business Center, has received a $300,000 federal SBIR contract from the National Cancer Institute to continue its work on new drug delivery methods for developing more effective cancer treatments. HylaPharm is led by Laird Forrest, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Daniel Aires, KUMC.

- The KU Natural History Museum, part of the Biodiversity Institute directed by Leonard Krishtalka, has been named the top natural history museum among public universities by Best College Reviews. In “The 30 Most Amazing Higher Ed Natural History Museums,” the museum ranked fourth overall behind private university museums at Harvard, Drexel and Yale.

- Rodolfo Torres, professor of mathematics and associate vice chancellor for research, will present a public lecture February 17 at Brown University’s Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics. The title of his talk is “The Beautiful Mathematically Ordered Colors of Birds.”

The Kansas African Studies Center, directed by Elizabeth MacGonagle, left, associate professor of history and African and African American Studies, has received a $140,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities in support of an initiative to spur community conversations about recent African migrants. She notes, “The U.S. celebrates itself as a nation of immigrants, and this project gives voice to the recent experiences of African families while also asking local residents of host communities to share their narratives about receiving new African immigrants into their cities and towns. By harnessing the power of compelling stories, we aim to increase understanding across civic and cultural divides in heartland spaces to build healthy communities for the common good.”

Borchardt Tributes Continue

The February 2016 edition of the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences is dedicated to Ronald Borchardt, left, distinguished professor emeritus of pharmaceutical chemistry. It features numerous articles and a personal tribute that summarizes Borchardt’s career of “leadership, mentorship and fellowship.”

Ken Audus, dean of the School of Pharmacy, serves as editor of the journal. He wrote: “The overall content of the dedicated issue provides affirmation that Professor Borchardt has few peers who have accomplished as much as he has in research or can match the still unfolding legacy of his influence on research in the pharmaceutical sciences, present and into the future. This dedicated issue is a gift to you and represents our tribute to you as a ‘Giant in the Pharmaceutical Sciences’.”

A two-day symposium in Borchardt’s honor, attended by 300 people, above, was held in Lawrence last October. On that occasion, it was announced that David Volkin was named Ronald T. Borchardt Distinguished Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Nominate a KU Woman of Distinction

The Emily Taylor Center for Women and Gender Equity invites nominations for both the Women of Distinction Calendar and the Women’s Recognition Awards. The forms and additional information are available online.

Nominations are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 4. They can be submitted by email to Nicki Rose at the center or in person at 4024 Wescoe. There are many women in research at KU deserving of campus recognition, so consider nominating one of your colleagues.
Hall Center Celebrates Books March 10

The Hall Center for the Humanities will host its annual “Celebration of Books” on Tuesday, March 10, from 4-6 p.m. The event is open to the public and sponsored by the Friends of the Hall Center. RSVP is required by March 3 to hallcenter@ku.edu.

The program celebrates faculty authors in the humanities, social sciences and arts who published books in 2015 (see list below). The event includes a reception, book display and a brief program featuring faculty authors who will talk about their recent books and take questions from the audience.


Banks, Elizabeth Courtney. Lerna: A Preclassical Site in the Argolid VII: The Neolithic Settlement.

Bial, Henry. Playing God: The Bible on the Broadway Stage.


Childs, Margaret, and Nancy Hope. Voices of East Asian: Essential Readings from Antiquity to the Present.

Corbeill, Anthony. Sexing the World: Grammatical Gender and Biological Sex in Ancient Rome.

Denning, Andrew. Skiing into Modernity: A Cultural and Environmental History.


Goldberg, K. Meira, Ninotchka Devorah Bennahum, and Michelle Heffner Hayes. Flamenco on the Global Stage: Historical, Critical and Theoretical Perspectives.


Kaminski, Megan. Deep City.


Loomis, Burdett, and Wendy Schüller. The Contemporary Congress, 6th ed.

Loomis Burdett, Cigler, Allan, and Anthony Nownes. Interest Group Politics, 9th ed.


Miller, Timothy. The Encyclopedic Guide to American Intentional Communities, 2nd ed.


Omelicheva, Mariya Y. Democracy in Central Asia: Competing Perspectives and Alternative Strategies.


Scioli, Emma. Dream, Fantasy, and Visual Art in Roman Elegy.

Stock, Paul V., Michael Carolan, and Christopher Rosin. Food Utopias: Reimagining Citizenships, Ethics and Community.

Tibbetts, John C. Those Who Made It: Conversations with the Legends of Hollywood.

Vassileva-Karagyozyova, Svetlana. Coming of Age Under Martial Law: The Initiation Novels of Poland’s Last Communist Generation.
Upcoming Events

Additional events and details are available at the KU Calendar.

FEBRUARY 11
Thursday Research Topics: Bill Sharp, “Professional Development Opportunities in Research Administration”
11 – 11:50 a.m.
Simons Labs, Auditorium

FEBRUARY 12
Deadline: Steven F. Warren Research Award Nominations

FEBRUARY 18
Kansas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
State Capitol Building, Rotunda, Topeka

FEBRUARY 19
Red Hot Research: “Digital Media”
4 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons

FEBRUARY 24
Resident Fellows Seminar: Kathryn Conrad, “Knowing Networks: Science, Technology, and the Making of Irish Modernism”
Noon
Hall Center for the Humanities

FEBRUARY 26
KU Postdoctoral Research Day
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
School of Pharmacy Building

MARCH 1
KUIC “Technology Tuesday”
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Bioscience & Technology Business Center

MARCH 2 – APRIL 13 [SIX WEDNESDAYS]  
“Startup School @ KU”
6 – 8 p.m.
Bioscience & Technology Business Center

MARCH 4
See/Saw Festival Research Conference
1 – 6 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons, and Kansas Union

MARCH 8
2 – 5 p.m.
Hall Center for the Humanities

MARCH 10
Celebration of Books: Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts Faculty
4 – 6 p.m.
Hall Center for the Humanities

MARCH 22
Humanities Lecture Series: Hannah Britton, “Human Trafficking in the Heartland”
7:30 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons

MARCH 23
Resident Fellows Seminar: Elizabeth MacGonagle, “Remembering Slavery in Africa”
Noon
Hall Center for the Humanities

APRIL 21-22 [TENTATIVE]
Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute Regional Translational Medicine Meeting
University of Missouri – Kansas City, St. Luke’s Hospital

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