

KU Discovery & Innovation

News from KU Research

March 2015

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Chancellor: KU on a "Wonderful Trajectory"



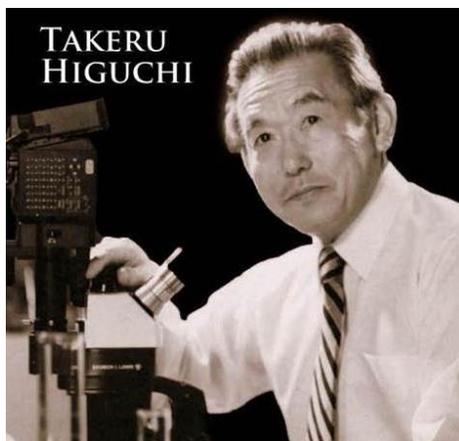
The **2015 Chancellor's Report**, published in February in print and online, is a document rich with stories about all aspects of KU, including its research accomplishments. Here are some selected excerpts from Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little's video introduction, which she begins: "The university is on a wonderful trajectory."

- "We have done some wonderful things with regard to education, support of research, our physical facilities, our contributions to economic development – all of the things that we do as a university that contribute to our students in the state I think will enhance our national stature."
- "I think it is important to the state to have a university that is seen as one of high quality, where high-quality research is being done. It leads our national ranking to be higher but it also makes us a place that is sought after by research companies that want to affiliate and be near where we are."
- "The fact that we have that quality of research and education here means that companies are interested in looking for our graduates and locating here and making connections with us."
- "The role of a flagship university is to be a place for excellence."



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Nominations Due for Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Awards



April 1 is the nominations deadline for the 2015 Higuchi – KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards. The \$10,000 awards – one in each of four broad areas of study – are the highest honor given for Kansas Board of Regents university faculty accomplishments in research, scholarship and creative activity.

The criteria for each award, a list of all recipients since 1982, **[submission guidelines](#)**, and the **[nomination form](#)** are available online. Questions about the nomination process may be directed to Teresa Kopsa, (785) 864-3567.

Another Strong Year for KU Research, but the Future Funding Trend is Lower

During the past four years, externally sponsored research expenditures at all University of Kansas campuses totaled more than \$1 billion. It was the strongest four-year span in KU history. Even so, the future funding trend for university research is sobering at KU and nationwide.

In the face of the continuing federal budget sequester – and a decade of declining purchasing power for federally funded research – KU’s research expenditures from all sources fell during FY 2014. Spending from externally sponsored grants totaled \$238.8 million last year, compared to \$260.5 million in 2013 and \$275.2 million in 2012 (the high point for supplemental ARRA stimulus research spending).

“Other universities are experiencing the same pressures we are,” said Mary Lee Hummert, interim vice chancellor for research. “KU’s strong focus at both campuses on human health and development attracts support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Department of Education. About half our research funding comes from those agencies, so flat or falling levels of support hits KU especially hard.”

The National Science Foundation’s recent annual report on research funding ranked KU 38th among national public research universities in 2013, based on KU’s federally funded research and development expenditures that year.

The report also showed that, among the top 50 public and private research universities, 27 received less federal research funding in 2013 than they did in 2012. That number probably increased in 2014. At KU, for example, federal research funding – which accounts for about 85 per cent of expenditures – dropped last year for only the second time in the past decade.

“KU researchers have kept on earning grants in spite of many obstacles,” said Richard Barohn, vice chancellor for research at the KU Medical Center. “Even with the decline in NIH dollars there are new opportunities for health-related research funding. So while some resources are diminishing others are opening up. We have to be flexible and adapt to a changing environment.”

“The cause of science research needs more advocates everywhere,” said Hummert. “The nation’s health, well-being and global competitiveness depend on a renewed and robust federal partnership with KU and other research universities.”



“Identities” Features KU Scholarship

KU Libraries launched its newly named Haricombe Gallery February 19 with an exhibition entitled “Contested American Identities: KU Scholars Address the Challenge.” Located on the third floor of Watson Library, the gallery honors former Dean Lorraine Haricombe.

An opening reception featured a panel discussion moderated by Clarence Lang, American Studies and African and African-American Studies. Presenters were Jennifer Hamer, American Studies and African and African-American Studies; Dot Nary, Research and Training Center on Independent Living, and Blane Harding, Multicultural Affairs.

The new exhibition continues through September 4. It takes an interdisciplinary look at identity and the intersecting categories of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality and ability. It features 27 works written by KU contributing scholars in 16 departments.

Translational Medicine Featured in April



KU Research and the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute will host the annual Regional Translational Medicine Meeting April 6-7 at the Simons Biosciences Labs Auditorium.

The event will feature in-depth discussions by KU experts on topics in vaccine development, bioengineering, bioinformatics and neuroscience. Participants will also tour KU’s core research labs in the Shankel Structural Biology Center and the Multidisciplinary Research Building.

The presentations on both days of the meeting are free and open to KU faculty and staff. An [agenda is available online](#) with presenters, topics and times.



UC-Berkeley, November 20, 1964 (Oakland Museum of California)

Spencer Research Library Event Observes 50th Anniversary of the Wilcox Collection

KU Libraries will observe the 50th anniversary in March of its Wilcox Collection of Contemporary Political Movements, one of the world's premier collections of American Left and Right Wing political ephemera and literature. A [reception and presentation](#) will take place Wednesday, March 25 at the Spencer Research Library, starting at 5:30 p.m. The featured speaker at 6:15 will be Bill Tuttle, professor emeritus of American studies.

The event marks the opening of an exhibit featuring materials from the collection, which has been digitized and is now available online. Many of the items on the site are taken from a scrapbook kept during 1963-64 by KU student Laird Wilcox. He was chairman of the Student Union Association Minority Opinions Forum, which was very active that year bringing speakers to campus to talk about apartheid in South Africa, communism, the American Nazi Party and the Socialist Labor Party. Wilcox will attend the observance on March 25.

In 1965, KU Libraries acquired four filing cabinets of Wilcox's collection of materials. His interest in these topics continued after graduation. He and the university subsequently added greatly to the collection, and a \$350,000 U.S. Department of Education grant in 1986 supported the cataloging of the collection.

Please RSVP by March 20 to [Rachel Karwas](#), (785) 864-8961.

Research Notes

Next TRT Session is on Payroll Adjustment Forms

The next [Thursday Research Topics](#) is scheduled for March 12, starting at 11 a.m. in the auditorium at Simons Laboratories. The subject is "Payroll Adjustment Forms (PAF)." The presenter will be Kara Wozniak, a grant specialist in Post-Award Services. It is free and open to all KU staff, and will conclude at 11:40.

KUCR Launches "Uniform Guidance" Website

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget's new Uniform Guidance took effect December 26, 2014. KU is implementing Uniform Guidance throughout the Research Administration and Financial Services functions of the KU Center for Research. While Uniform Guidance is now final, it's important to note that its use may vary in practice from agency to agency in the federal government. This evolution is being monitored closely, and a new [website is now online](#) to keep investigators and grant coordinators informed of relevant information.

SRA Regional Meeting Coming Up in Kansas City

The Society of Research Administrators International (SRA) will hold its [2015 Midwest/Western Section meeting](#) in Kansas City, March 29 – April 1. SRA is a professional organization that provides education and professional development opportunities to persons involved in research management. The proximity of this year's meeting to KU makes it worth considering as a professional development opportunity.

KU to Participate in Upcoming "One Health Summit"



BioKansas, an advocacy organization for the state's bioscience industry, will hold its 6th annual [One Health Summit](#) March 31-April 1 at Union Station in Kansas City, MO. Panelists will

include Julie Nagel, interim associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship, and Cory Berkland, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Chemical and Petroleum Engineering.

KU Research will host a core research labs exhibit both days. [Agenda and registration information is online.](#)

“Hybrid Practices” in Research is Topic of March 10-13 Spencer Museum Conference

KU’s Spencer Museum of Art will host an international conference March 10-13 that explores the potential for collaborative research projects involving the arts and sciences. “Hybrid Practices in the Arts, Sciences and Technology from the 1960s to Today” will focus on generating knowledge by challenging existing institutional frameworks and conceptual models. The presentations will take place in The Commons at Spooner Hall.



The conference is a project of the Spencer’s Arts Research Collaboration initiative (ARC), with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art and the Kress Foundation Department of Art

History at KU. The conference is free and open to the public, but registration is requested and can be completed at the [conference website](#).

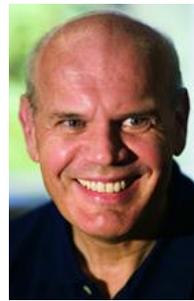
The full program is available at the website, and all presentations will be live-streamed there during the conference. Research by scholars from the U.S., Canada, China, Spain, and the United Kingdom will engage diverse fields of study, including psychology, theater, linguistics, medicine, urban planning, and computer science.

ARC is an interdisciplinary research initiative that fosters collaborations between the arts, sciences, technology, and society. It is supported by a three-year, \$276,000, Level I Strategic Initiative Grant from the KU Research Investment Council. The Spencer’s partners in ARC include the Biodiversity Institute, the Department of Visual Art, and the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center.

Referring to the ARC conference and other projects now under way, Spencer Museum Director Saralyn Reece Hardy said, “This emphasis on scholarly activity at the Spencer creates a fitting start to our Phase I renovation, which will enhance the Spencer Museum as a site for scholarly inquiry and intellectual inspiration.”

All current Spencer exhibitions will end by April 12. The Museum will close for renovation on May 18 and reopen in the spring of 2016. More [information about the project is available online](#).

James Oakes is Next Humanities Lecturer



James Oakes, professor of history at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer, will be the final Humanities Lecture Series speaker of the year on April 9 at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union. His 7:30 p.m. talk is free and open to the public.

Oakes will speak on “Rethinking Emancipation: Freedom National.” His 2013 book, *Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865*, is a powerful history of emancipation that reshapes our understanding of Lincoln, the Civil War, and the end of American slavery. The book shatters the widespread conviction that the Civil War was first and foremost a war to restore the Union and only gradually, when it became a military necessity, a war to end slavery.

Note: April 9 is the 150th anniversary of Lee’s surrender to Grant at [Appomattox Court House](#), ending the Civil War.

KU’s Hall Center to “Celebrate Books”



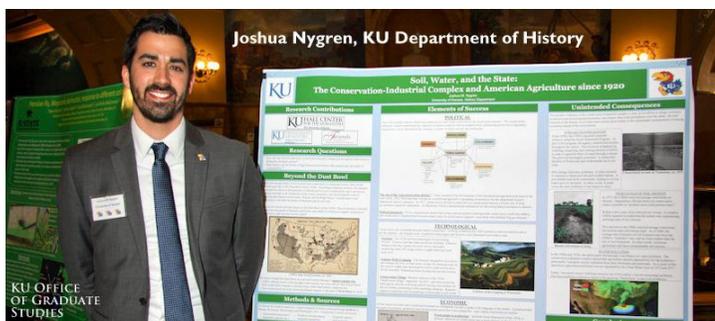
The Hall Center for the Humanities will hold its 13th annual [Celebration of Books](#) on Tuesday, March 31. This public event is sponsored by the Friends of the Hall Center and recognizes KU faculty

authors in the humanities, social sciences and arts who published books in 2014. The reception begins at 4 p.m. and books will be on display and available for purchase.

At 4:30 p.m., three KU faculty authors will make brief presentations and respond to audience questions:

- **David Cateforis**, above left, Art History, *Rethinking Andrew Wyeth*, University of California Press
- **Jill Kuhnheim**, above right, Spanish and Portuguese, *Beyond the Page: Poetry and Performance in Spanish America*, University of Arizona Press
- **Sherrie Tucker**, not shown, American Studies, *Dance Floor Democracy: The Social Geography of Memory at the Hollywood Canteen*, Duke University Press

Please RSVP by March 24 at hallcenter@ku.edu.



History doctoral student Joshua Nygren was among eight KU students presenting at the Capitol February 11 during the annual Capitol Graduate Research Summit.

Many Opportunities for KU Students to Demonstrate, Present Their Research

Research by graduate and undergraduate students at the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses was showcased February 11-12 at the State Capitol. The occasion was the [Kansas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol](#) and the [Capitol Graduate Research Summit](#). Lawrence graduate student presenters were:

- **Christina Amaro**, Clinical Child Psychology
- **Kelly Harrison**, Molecular Biosciences
- **Llynnann Luellen**, Civil Engineering
- **Cyrus Maleki**, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering
- **Joshua Nygren**, History
- **Trey Ronnebaum**, Chemistry
- **Corinne Schwarz**, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- **Mitchell Vedepo**, Bioengineering

Lawrence undergraduate student presenters were:

- **Cameron Arnold**, Petroleum Engineering
- **Caleb Bobo**, Political Science and African and African-American Studies
- **Alex Kong**, Pharmaceutical Studies
- **Annie Libeer**, Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences and Disorders
- **Julia Reynolds**, Art History

There are more such opportunities ahead for KU students in April. The annual [KU Graduate Research Competition](#) will be held Thursday, April 9 at the Kansas Union Ballroom. The campuswide event provides graduate students from all disciplines and departments the opportunity to present their research to faculty judges and peers. It is a chance to improve communication skills, refine research concepts, and network with students and faculty from other departments.

Poster presentations will be made from 1-3 p.m., and oral presentations will be made from 1-4:30 p.m. Oral presentations will be given in panels consisting of three presenters united by a topic relevant to their research. The panel will be one hour long, with each presenter having 15 minutes to present their research.

Faculty members from various departments will judge the presentations based on the student's knowledge of the research topic, the clarity and effectiveness of delivery, and the organization and completeness of the presentation. Prizes will be awarded by the Office of Graduate Studies.

Nonparticipants, both undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, are encouraged to attend.

Finally, the [KU Undergraduate Research Symposium](#) is scheduled for the afternoon and evening of Saturday, April 25. This annual event celebrates the diversity of undergraduate research and creative activities on campus. Students are invited to present regardless of their year at KU. The registration deadline for proposals is April 3.

There will be 10-minute oral presentations, performances, exhibitions of creative work, and poster presentations. There will also be "Getting Started in Research" sessions, where experience students from a variety of majors will speak about their research experiences and how they got involved. These discussions will provide concrete tips on beginning undergraduate research.

New Staff Member Joins KUIC

Claire Sabin has joined KU Innovation and Collaboration as assistant director for industry agreements. In this role, she seeks to maximize the efficiency of contract negotiations for collaborations between KU faculty on all campuses and industry sponsors. She has offices in Lawrence and Fairway.

Sabin worked for the past three years for the KU Medical Center Research Institute, where she negotiated contracts for clinical trials and other human subjects research. She worked previously for the Iowa Insurance Division, developing public education resources regarding the Affordable Care Act and state insurance consumer protection laws. Sabin received a B.A. from the University of Iowa and a J.D. from Loyola University Chicago.

Upcoming Events

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

MARCH 9

Innovations at the Nexus of Food-Water-Energy (INFEWS)
2 – 3 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

MARCH 10-13

Conference: “Hybrid Practices in the Arts, Sciences, and Technology From the 1960s to Today

All Day

Spooner Hall, The Commons

MARCH 12

Thursday Research Topics: “Payroll Adjustment Forms (PAF)”
11 – 11:40 a.m.

Simons Biosciences Labs, Auditorium

MARCH 25

Exhibit Opening: “Free Speech in America - The Wilcox Collection at 50”

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Spencer Research Library

MARCH 27-28

[Re] Engaged Architecture Symposium, Celebrating 20 Years of Studio 804

School of Architecture, Design & Planning

Marvin Hall and The Forum

MARCH 31

13th Annual Celebration of Books

4 – 6 p.m.

Hall Center for the Humanities

MARCH 31 – APRIL 1

BioKansas 6th Annual One Health Summit

All Day

Union Station, Kansas City

APRIL 2

KU Libraries Lecture Series: Chuck Epp and Donna Ginther

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Watson Library, Third Floor West

APRIL 6-7

KU Regional Translational Medicine Meeting

Simons Biosciences Labs, Auditorium

APRIL 9

Humanities Lecture Series: James Oakes, “Rethinking Emancipation: Freedom National”

7:30 p.m.

Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium

Thursday Research Topics: “Effort Certification”

11 – 11:40 a.m.

Simons Biosciences Labs, Auditorium

KU Graduate Research Competition

1 – 4:30 p.m.

Kansas Union, Ballroom

APRIL 23

KU Libraries Lecture Series: Joane Nagel and Pooya Naderi

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Watson Library, Third Floor West

Kansas DNA Day

Off-Site Regional High Schools

APRIL 24

Aristotle Conference

1 – 6:15 p.m.

Hall Center for the Humanities

APRIL 25

KU Undergraduate Research Symposium

Noon – 7 p.m.

Kansas Union

MAY 7

KU Postdoctoral Association Spring Symposium

All Day

Kansas Union

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