

KU Discovery & Innovation

News from KU Research

April 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Moran, Collins at KU April 14
- 1 State Water Vision Meeting Set
- 2 Warren Steps Down; Hummert is Interim VC at KU Research
- 2 KU Innovation Fair is May 1
- 2 June 1 SIG Proposal Deadline
- 3 Hall Center Hosts Panels on Applied Humanities Careers
- 3 KU's Steve Hawley to Discuss Telescopes at Ad Astra Event
- 3 Argersinger Nominations Due
- 3 Toobin Lecture is April 24
- 4 Panorama Assessment Starts
- 4 Investors Meet HylaPharm
- 4 Undergraduate Research News
- 4 "Beyond the Lab" Series Begins with USC Speaker
- 5 KU Researcher Kudos
- 5 Video Urges Congress to Fund Innovative Science Research
- 5 KU Research Notes
- 6 UPCOMING EVENTS

Kansas Senator Jerry Moran to Receive National 'Champion of Science Award' at KU Ceremony



During a public ceremony on Monday, April 14 at KU's Dole Institute of Politics, **U.S. Senator Jerry Moran will receive national recognition** for his support of science research conducted at universities and national labs across the country. The **Champion of Science Award**, sponsored by the national, non-profit Science Coalition, will be presented by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

"Senator Moran understands the importance of federal investment in research and development," she said, "and he has been a strong advocate for the value of university research and the benefits it has for science and the economy. He is deserving of this award, and we're honored for the opportunity to present it to him here at KU."



Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, will also attend the ceremony and make remarks. "It's a tremendous honor for us to welcome Dr. Collins," said Gray-Little. "The NIH is the largest biomedical research organization in the world and a strong supporter of KU research, so we're delighted for the chance to host the director."

Prior to the 9:30 a.m. ceremony, the chancellor and Moran will host Collins at a presentation of Kansas' NIH Institutional Development Award program, which is designed to broaden the geographic distribution of NIH support for biomedical research. After the ceremony, Moran and Collins will travel to the KU Medical Center for additional meetings and a tour.

April 24 Meeting a Chance for 50-Year Water Vision Input

In 2013, Governor Sam Brownback called for development of a 50-Year Vision for Kansas Water. **Representatives of the project's Vision Team will be at KU** on Thursday, April 24 seeking campus and community input for that plan. Feedback from KU faculty, staff, students and the public will help inform the draft vision, to be submitted this fall.

The meeting is scheduled for 4:30-6 p.m. in the Kansas Room at the Kansas Union. Brownie Wilson of the Kansas Geological Survey and Jerry deNoyelles of the Kansas Biological Survey and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology will make invited presentations on the status of the Ogallala Aquifer and reservoirs in Kansas.

Please RSVP by email at KURES@KU.edu, or call Tricia Bergman at (785) 864-3303.



Kevin Boatright
Director of Communications
kboatright@ku.edu
(785) 864-7240

Steve Warren Steps Down; Mary Lee Hummert Named Interim Vice Chancellor



For the past seven years, Steve Warren has encouraged and inspired KU faculty to do more research. Starting this summer, KU's longtime vice chancellor for research will follow his own advice.

Warren, a professor in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science, will step down as vice chancellor at the end of the academic year. He will begin a one-year research leave and return to full-time research and teaching in the fall of 2015.

"Research is my passion," said Warren, "both as an administrator and an investigator. This is a good time for me to shift gears professionally and devote more attention to scholarship. KU is a powerhouse research university. I want to contribute to that continued success."

Warren's research interests are early communication and language development intervention strategies as well as the prevention of intellectual disabilities. He is highly regarded in his field and was the 2013 recipient of the Edgar Doll Award from the American Psychological Association. In 2008 he received the Lifetime Achievement Research Award from the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. He is a past president of the American Association on Mental Retardation.



Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jeffrey S. Vitter has appointed Mary Lee Hummert, vice provost for faculty development, as interim vice chancellor for research, effective May 19. Hummert is a professor of communication studies and was an associate vice provost for

research from 2004 to 2006. A national search for a permanent successor to Warren will begin soon.

"Steve Warren is devoted to KU and has served the university well in this important leadership role," said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. "During his tenure, research across campus has flourished, KU's economic development mission has also grown substantially, and he provided important leadership in the development and implementation of Bold Aspirations, our strategic plan. Making discoveries that change the world is key to our mission, and Steve leaves this role having generated significant momentum toward our goals."



Senior industrial design student and inventor, Sophia Hilleary, above, was an undergraduate award winner at the 2013 KU Innovation Fair.

KU Innovation Fair Highlights Students

Plans are under way for KU Innovation and Collaboration's (KUIC) **second KU Innovation Fair**. It will take place on Thursday, May 1 from 4-6:30 p.m. in the Kansas Union Ballroom. The event is free and open to the public.

Poster presentations in undergraduate and graduate student divisions will be on display during the fair. Three prizes totaling \$2,250 will be announced in each division. The **Jim Baxendale Commercialization Award** will be also be presented at 6 p.m.

"KU continues to make entrepreneurship and commercialization a priority," said Julie Goonewardene, president of KUIC and associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship. "This year's Innovation Fair is a great opportunity for students and faculty to come together to explore avenues for doing research that results in new products and technologies that improve our lives and also grow the Kansas economy."

Poster abstracts will be accepted through April 21, and attendees must register by April 28. Nominations for the Baxendale Award must be submitted by April 15. **More information is available at the KUIC website.**

June 1 Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grants

Information about submitting a Level I proposal is **online at the Provost's web site**. Level II proposals may be submitted at any time.



March 13 panelists included, left to right, Harlan Brownlee, Arts KC; Henry Fortunato; Angela Elam, KCUR; and Mary Madden, Kansas Historical Society.

Hall Center Series Challenges Graduate Students to Consider Applied Humanities

The Hall Center for the Humanities held **three programs in March** designed to help graduate students envision career paths beyond traditional higher education options.

Panelists for the three sessions were individuals with advanced humanities degrees who have obtained positions in media, marketing, museums and archives, foundations, non-profits, entrepreneurial businesses, and arts and cultural organizations. A **final session was a master class** on "What to do to obtain a career in applied humanities."

The series was organized by Henry Fortunato, above, director of public affairs at the Kansas City Public Library. He is the Hall Center's 2013-14 Simons Public Humanities Fellow and the 2003 recipient of an M.A. in history at KU.

Hawley to Speak at Ad Astra Kansas Foundation Space Celebration April 26

Steve Hawley, professor of physics and astronomy, will be the featured speaker April 26 at the **12th Annual Ad Astra Kansas Foundation Space Celebration** in Topeka. The former NASA astronaut will present at 7 p.m. about telescopes and what science has learned by using them.

Hawley will discuss his own experiences with telescopes in space. The title of his talk is "Galileo, the Hubble Space Telescope, and Beyond." The Space Celebration is 5:30 – 10 p.m. at Stoffer Science Hall at Washburn University. The free event includes planetarium shows, stargazing, flight demonstrations, and other family-oriented activities.

Dissertation Award Nominations Sought

The nomination deadline for the Office of Graduate Studies' annual **Argersinger Prize for an outstanding doctoral dissertation** is Thursday, April 24 at 5 p.m. The prize was established in 1992 and recognizes William J. Argersinger, KU's first vice chancellor for research and graduate studies and dean of the graduate school.

Two cash awards will be presented at the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on Saturday, May 17. Each KU department with a doctoral program is invited to submit one nomination. A nomination letter in PDF form should be submitted by the deadline at graduate@ku.edu. The letter should briefly describe the dissertation's quality, originality and significance. The letter should indicate to a person outside the discipline why the dissertation is considered outstanding.

Nominees must have passed the dissertation defense with honors, and must have defended on or after April 25, 2013 and before April 24, 2014.

CNN's Jeffrey Toobin to Discuss "Supreme Court in the Age of Obama"



The final **Humanities Lecture Series** program of the year is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. at Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union. Jeffrey Toobin, senior legal analyst for CNN, will speak on "The Supreme Court in the Age of Obama." His talk is presented by the Hall Center for the Humanities and is free and open to the public.

Toobin is a lawyer and the author of six books, including *Too Close to Call: The Thirty-Six-Day Battle to Decide the 2000 Election* (2001); *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* (2007); and *The Oath: The Obama White House and the Supreme Court* (2012), an insider's account of the ideological war between the current Supreme Court and the Obama administration.

Toobin has offered legal analysis on some of the most high-profile cases in recent history, including the deportation of Elian Gonzalez, the investigation of President Clinton, and the battle for gay marriage in the Supreme Court.



Workers in hazmat suits are shown evaluating century-old animal specimens in the Natural History Museum Panorama. (Photo courtesy Jen Humphrey)

Museum Panorama Work Under Way

A long-awaited [assessment of KU's treasured Natural History Museum Panorama began in March](#). Workers with Tuckerbrook Conservation LLC surveyed each of the animal mounts, plants and backgrounds. They also lightly cleaned the animals, which have endured years of exposure to fluctuating temperature, humidity and light.

Tests have revealed arsenic, lead and mercury in the exhibit. These toxins were commonly used in taxidermy in the past. Tuckerbrook's report will help the museum develop a comprehensive conservation and reconditioning blueprint for the Panorama.

The overall project is funded by private contributions, and \$110,000 has been raised so far. For more information about contributing, and to join [Friends of the Natural History Museum](#), go to the [KU Endowment site](#).

KU Startup Gains Angel Investor Notice

[HylaPharm](#), a KU startup company that specializes in cancer drug delivery technology, was invited to present in March at the 2014 Angel Capital Association Summit in Washington, D.C. It's the [first time a company based on KU research has participated in the summit](#), the world's largest gathering of early-stage venture capitalists.

HylaPharm was founded by Dan Aires of the KU Medical Center and Laird Forrest in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. It is located in the Bioscience & Technology Business Center Expansion Facility, and produces patented HylaPlat technology that delivers chemotherapy drugs directly to cancer cells in tumors and nearby lymph nodes while limiting exposure in kidneys, nerves and auditory organs. This allows targeted treatments with fewer side effects.

Undergraduate Research Highlights

The 17th Annual [Undergraduate Research Symposium](#) is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, starting at 1 p.m. in the Kansas Union. More than 100 students will present talks, poster presentations and creative works. The event is open to all KU students, staff and faculty. Student presenters are eligible for awards and student attendees can sign up for giveaways if they participate in the event. For more information, email the [Center for Undergraduate Research](#) or call (785) 864-5733.

KU's [Journal of Undergraduate Research](#) is now accepting submissions for the 2014 edition. The journal highlights the scholarly works of undergraduate students across campus. Its goal is to provide visibility to undergraduate research at KU, including students' personal stories about the research process and, of course, the products of their hard work. The deadline for submissions is Friday, May 23 at 5 p.m. [Submission guidelines are available online](#).

'Beyond the Lab' Series Starts April 17



The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology is launching a ["Beyond the Lab" seminar series](#). The goal is to enable students, postdocs and other research professionals in the department and the School of Pharmacy to enrich their academic profiles and expand their outlook for career advancement.

The inaugural speaker in the series is Dr. Frances Richmond, professor of clinical pharmacy at the University of Southern California and director of its International Center for Regulatory Science. She will speak on Thursday, April 17 at 3 p.m. in Conference Room 1020 at the School of Pharmacy Building. Her topic is "Positioning Regulatory 'Science' in the Academy: Past, Present and Future."

Future topics covered in this seminar series will include drug development and regulatory science / FDA, translational research and clinical trials, intellectual property and patents / USPTO, scientific writing, public speaking, grantsmanship, academia versus industry, and career mentorship. For more information, contact [Debbie Thompson](#) in Pharmacology and Toxicology.

KU Researcher Kudos

- Chancellor Gray-Little will present the **2014 University Scholarly Achievement Awards** on April 15 to **Michael Detamore**, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering; **Allen Greiner**, Family Medicine; **Steven Spooner**, Music; and **Michael Engel**, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.
- The U.S. Board on Geographic Names has registered the **“Gogineni Subglacial Trench”** in Antarctica in honor of **Prasad Gogineni**, distinguished professor of chemical and petroleum engineering and director of the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets.
- The Consortium for Translational Research of Aggression and Drug Abuse and Dependence (**ConTRADA**), a multidisciplinary project funded by a \$383,000 Level I Strategic Initiative Grant, will host **six faculty lectures on a variety of topics this spring**. All are scheduled for 3-4 p.m. in 3020 Malott Hall (except for May 13):
 - **Paula Fite**, Clinical Child Psychology, April 15
 - **Marco Bortolato**, Pharmacology and Toxicology, April 22
 - **Sean Godar**, Pharmacology and Toxicology, April 29
 - **Julianna Carlson**, Social Welfare, May 6
 - **Bartholomew Dean**, Anthropology, May 13 [1020 Malott Hall]
 - **Speaker TBA**, May 20
- Thanks in part to the efforts of **Kris Krishtalka** of the Biodiversity Institute, **Tylosaurus and Pteranodon were designated Kansas state fossils** in April by an act of the State Legislature. HB 2595 was introduced by the House Vision 2020 Committee, chaired by Rep. Tom Sloan of Lawrence. Tylosaurus was a swimming reptile and is now the state’s official marine fossil. Pteranodon was a winged reptile and is now the state’s official flying fossil. Excellent examples of both long-extinct creatures are on permanent display in KU’s Museum of Natural History.



KU’s Pteranodon specimen is located in a newly renovated exhibit on the third floor of the museum. (Photo courtesy Jen Humphrey)



New Video Calls on Congress to ‘Close the Innovation Gap’

A national coalition of 14 higher education associations, business groups, and scientific organization has created an informative four-minute video (above) that uses hand-drawn images and text to urge strong federal investments in research and higher education. **“Close the Innovation Gap”** is a campaign launched last July with support from 165 university leaders, including Chancellor Gray-Little.

KU Research Notes

“KUIC Update” is May 8 Thursday Research Topic



Jennifer Haaga, assistant director of industry agreements with KU Innovation and Collaboration, will present an update on KUIC at the next Thursday Research Topics, May 8, 11-11:50 a.m., in Simons Laboratories Auditorium. The program is free and open to all interested staff.

Thursday Research Topics is a regular monthly program hosted by the KU Office of Research. On July 10, Elizabeth Bennett-Monroe, finance manager, Core Service Labs, will present on “Establishing Service Rates.” A topic for June 12 will be announced later.

KU Grant Coordinators Meeting is April 24

The spring **quarterly meeting of KU grant coordinators** will take place Thursday, April 24 at the Simons Biosciences Research Labs auditorium. The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Upcoming Events

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

APRIL 14

Science Coalition “Champion of Science” Award Ceremony:

Senator Jerry Moran and NIH Director Francis Collins
9:30 a.m.
Dole Institute of Politics

APRIL 17

Pharmacology and Toxicology “Beyond the Lab” Seminar:

“Positioning Regulatory ‘Science’ in the Academy: Past, Present and Future,” Frances Richmond
3 p.m.
School of Pharmacy Building, Conference Room 1020

Lecture: “The Future of the University,” David Krakauer

8 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons

APRIL 18

“Dare to Design the University of the Future” Panel: David

Krakauer, Richard De George, Mabel Rice, Lisa Wolf-Wendel
10 a.m. – Noon
Spooner Hall, The Commons

APRIL 24

KU Grant Coordinators Meeting

10:30 a.m.
Simons Laboratories Auditorium

Public Meeting: 50-Year Vision for Kansas Water

4:30 – 6 p.m.
Kansas Union, Kansas Room

Humanities Lecture Series: Jeffrey Toobin, “The Supreme

Court in the Age of Obama”
7:30 p.m.
Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium

APRIL 26

KU Undergraduate Research Symposium

Noon – 8 p.m.
Kansas Union

12th Annual Ad Astra Kansas Foundation Space Celebration:

“Galileo, the Hubble Space Telescope, and Beyond,” with
guest speaker Steve Hawley, KU Physics and Astronomy
5:30 – 10 p.m.
Stoffer Science Hall, Washburn University, Topeka

APRIL 30

Deadline: KCALSI Patton Trust Research Development Grant

MAY 1

KU Innovation Fair / Student Poster Competition / Awards

4 – 6:30 p.m.
Kansas Union, Ballroom

MAY 8

Thursday Research Topics: “KU Innovation and Collaboration

Update,” Jennifer Haaga
11-11:50 a.m.
Simons Laboratories Auditorium

MAY 17

Doctoral Hooding Ceremony

3:30 p.m.
Lied Center

JUNE 1

Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grants Level I Proposals

The University of Kansas prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity, gender expression and genetic information in the University’s programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Executive Director of the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access, IOA@ku.edu, 1246 West Campus Road, Room 153A, Lawrence, KS 66045, (785) 864-6414, 711 TTY.