KU Celebrates New Water, Energy Researchers

The KU Water and Energy Initiatives have brought a number of new researchers to campus during the past few years. To celebrate, and to provide an opportunity for 14 of these new hires to get to know one another, the KU Office of Research hosted an informal event on April 3 at The Commons in Spooner Hall.

Shown at left are Chris Brown, associate professor of geography and director of environmental studies and associate professor of geography, with Rachel McDonald, assistant professor of psychology. At right are Pamela Sullivan, assistant professor of geography, and Terry Soo, assistant professor of mathematics.

Researchers introduced themselves and outlined their interests. Senior faculty and administrators then shared information about potential collaborations and funding sources.

The event was Jim Tracy’s first as KU’s new vice chancellor for research. He spoke briefly, noting the importance of celebrating “KU’s greatest research strength: our faculty.” He added, “In everything we do – research administration, technology commercialization, research integrity, and the nurturing of KU’s research centers – we are committed to serving the entire KU research community.”

KUIC Seminar Focuses on NIH Funding Programs

KU Innovation and Collaboration will present a full-day seminar May 12 on “SBIR/STTR Proposal Preparation: How to be Successful at NIH.” The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Clinical Research Center, 4350 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Fairway, and conclude at 4 p.m. The seminar is open to anyone and free for KU faculty, staff, students and tenants of the Bioscience & Technology Business Center. Registration is required and available online, along with more information. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

The federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs require participating small businesses to collaborate with a research institution. Presenter for the seminar will be Becky Aistrup, a principal consultant with BBC Entrepreneurial Training & Consulting LLC. She has extensive industry experience and is a past SBIR/STTR program director for the Minnesota Science and Technology Authority. Her background includes a B.A. in chemistry from KU and an M.B.A. in marketing management from the University of Minnesota.
Hummert Recognized by Research Staff

The KU Office of Research expressed appreciation to Mary Lee Hummert, center, with a farewell gathering and gifts at Youngberg Hall on March 30. Hummert concluded her service as interim vice chancellor for research, having held that position since May 19, 2014. Jim Tracy started as vice chancellor for research on April 1.

In a follow-up note to KU Research staff, Hummert wrote: “My sincere thanks for all that you did to make my time as interim vice chancellor such a good experience. Knowing that there was such a strong staff in the Research Office was a prime reason that I accepted the interim position. The service that you provide for the rest of campus is essential for the success of the KU research agenda and it was an honor to work with you over the past months.”

Hummert has resumed her permanent position as vice provost for faculty development.

Next Humanities Speaker is May 14

Anna Deveare Smith, left, an award-winning playwright and actress, is the final speaker in this year’s Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series. She will appear at the Lied Center on Thursday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m.

The program is free and open to the public, with support from the Sosland Foundation of Kansas City. Her topic is “Snapshots: Portraits of a World in Transition.”

Smith’s Fires in the Mirror was the finalist for the 1993 Pulitzer Prize in drama. She received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama in 2013. Her presentation at KU was rescheduled from February 18.

Symposium Showcases Undergraduates

The KU Undergraduate Research Symposium is scheduled for Saturday, April 25. This annual event celebrates the diversity of undergraduate research and creative activities on campus. All are welcome to attend.

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 projects.

Research Kudos

- The University Scholarly Achievement Awards, to be awarded April 13 at 4:30 p.m. in The Commons at Spooner Hall, recognize mid-career scholars who have made significant scholarly or research contributions to their fields. The 2015 recipients are: Gregory Cushman, History; Wonpil Im, Molecular Biosciences and Center for Computational Biology; Atanas Stefanov, Mathematics; and Andrew Torrance, Law.

- Tyrone Duncan, left, professor of mathematics, is KU’s first-ever recipient of a Simons Fellowship in mathematics. The fellowship provides funds for one semester of leave during fall 2015 for his project: “Studies in Stochastic Control and Related Topics.”

- Kathleen Lane, center, associate professor of special education, received the 2015 Outstanding Leadership Award from the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders. The award is for outstanding leadership in the field of behavioral disorders and significant contributions and effect on the field.

- Karrie Shogren, right, associate professor of special education, received the 2015 Distinguished Early Career Research Award, from the Council for Exceptional Children Division for Research.
NIH Warns of Potential Delays to Research Awards Issued in May

The National Institutes of Health will make a series of software upgrades to accounting and business systems from May 19 until June 3. These upgrades may delay competing and non-competing awards. Extramural research activities affected are as follows:

- No new or revised Notices of Award will be issued, regardless of grant type;
- No processing of No-Cost Extensions of the final budget period. Although eRA Commons will remain available for institutions submitting these requests, and the Payment Management System will remain available for drawing down funds, NIH records will not be updated during the downtime;
- No processing of Fellowship Activations. Although xTrain will remain available for institutions submitting activation forms, NIH records will not be updated during the downtime.

Extramural research activities that NIH does not expect to be affected by the outage are as follows:

- Draw down of funds on existing awards from the Payment Management System;
- Submission and review of new applications through Grants.gov.

Additionally, eRA systems will perform a software upgrade on Saturday, May 23. During this 12-hour downtime, the following functions will not be available, but they will return and remain available throughout the rest of the two-week upgrade period:

- Submissions to eRA Commons including Research Performance Progress Reports, Federal Financial Reports, Just-in-Time documents, institutional registrations, and other items submitted through eRA Commons;
- Submission of new applications through ASSIST.

The anticipated delay in making awards will not change the terms and conditions of any future or existing awards. Grantees will be able to incur pre-award obligations and expenditures up to 90 days before the budget period start date at their own risk throughout this period.

For more details, please see the “Notice of Potential Delays to NIH Issuing Awards in May 2015.”

Research Notes

KUCR Participates at Regional Meeting in Kansas City

The Society of Research Administrators International held its 2015 Midwest/Western Section meeting in Kansas City, March 29 – April 1. This organization provides education and professional development opportunities to persons involved in research management. KU Center for Research staff were active as presenters, including:

- **Pre-Award Services:** Nancy Biles, Brad Bernet, Dan Coonfield, Megan Todd, half-day workshop on “Proposal Budget Development”
- **Post-Award Services:** Anita Abel, Elena Semyonova-Smith, “Cost Transfers – What? Why? and How?”
- **Research Administration:** Bill Sharp, “Post-Submission to Award Acceptance,” and Alicia Reed, “Funding Development: Best Practices from Multiple Disciplines” (joined by Anna Paridis of the KU School of Engineering and Damon Talbott of the KU Office of Graduate Studies)
Regional Events Showcase KU Core Labs

KU Research and the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute hosted the third annual Regional Translational Medicine Meeting April 6-7 at the Simons Biosciences Labs Auditorium. More than 70 people attended, representing companies and universities throughout the area.

The event featured in-depth discussions by KU experts on topics in neuroscience, bioinformatics, protein structure and function, vaccine development, bioengineering, and infectious diseases and cancer. Participants also toured KU’s core research labs and attended a poster session and dinner at the Lied Center. The final agenda is available online and lists all speakers and sessions.

KU was also represented March 31 and April 1 at the BioKansas One Health Summit at Union Station in Kansas City. Among those staffing the KU core research labs exhibit space was Anu Roy, left, director of the High Throughput Screening Laboratory. KU panelists included Julie Nagel, interim associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship, and Cory Berkland, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Chemical and Petroleum Engineering.

Hall Center Celebrates KU Faculty Books

The Hall Center for the Humanities held its 13th annual Celebration of Books March 31. This public event, sponsored by the Friends of the Hall Center, recognized these 30 different works published in 2014 by KU faculty authors in the humanities, social sciences and arts:

- Rafael Acosta, Conquistador
- Tamara Baker, Handbook of Minority Aging
- Philip Barnard and Stephen Shapiro, ed., The Productive Body
- Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Different Shades of Green: African Literature, Environmental Justice, and Political Ecology
- David Cateforis, Rethinking Andrew Wyeth [Presented]
- Lynn Davidman, Becoming Un-Orthodox: Stories of Ex-Hasidic Jews
- Stuart Day, and Debra Castillo, eds., Mexican Public Intellectuals
- Ben Eggleston and Dale E. Miller, The Cambridge Companion to Utilitarianism
- Charles Eldredge, Eloquent Objects: Georgia O’Keeffe and Still-Life Art in New Mexico
- James Gunn and Jack Williamson, Star Bridge
- Don Haider-Markel and Jami Taylor, Transgender Rights and Politics: Groups, Issue Framing, and Policy Adoption
- Antonia Boström, Julia Henshaw, et. al., eds.; design by Tim Hossler, A Labyrinth for the Park: Celebrating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Donald J. Hall Sculpture Park
- Maki Kaneko, Mirroring the Japanese Empire: The Male Figure in Yoga Painting, 1930-1950
- Jill Kuhnheim, Beyond the Page: Poetry and Performance in Spanish America [Presented]
- Paul R. Laird, The Musical Theater of Stephen Schwartz: From “Godspell” to “Wicked” and Beyond
- Stuart Levine, Are You Superman?
- Timothy Miller, Following in His Steps: A Biography of Charles M. Sheldon, 2nd ed.
- David Roediger, Seizing Freedom: Slave Emancipation and Liberty for All
- Edmund Russell and Sally K. Fairfax, CQ Guide to U.S. Environmental Policy
- Norman E. Saul, Historical Dictionary of Russian and Soviet Foreign Policy
- Misty Schieberle, Feminized Counsel and the Literature of Advice in England, 1380-1500
- Elizabeth Schultz, Mrs. Noah Takes the Helm; The Quickening; and The Sauntering Eye: Kansas Meditations
- John C. Tibbetts and James M. Welsh, Douglas Fairbanks and the American Century
- John C. Tibbetts, Peter Weir: Interviews.
- Sherrie Tucker, Dance Floor Democracy: The Social Geography of Memory at the Hollywood Canteen [Presented]
- Faye Xiao, Family Revolution: Marital Strife in Contemporary Chinese Literature and Visual Culture
AAU Publishes University Research Brief

The Association of American Universities (AAU) has produced a quick and easy-to-use resource called Basic Scientific and Engineering Research at U.S. Universities. It contains background and statistics on the role of U.S. universities in conducting research, particularly regarding such issues as federal funding, how federal support varies by discipline, and the definition of basic research. The document uses text and charts to provide an overview of how the nation supports basic research.

Far Above Giving Opportunities Remain

An ongoing theme of Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas is support for KU’s most precious resource: its people. As KU Endowment’s comprehensive campaign moves toward completion in 2016, the focus is even more on student scholarships and fellowships, professorships, and unmet facilities needs.

Far Above donors have helped establish 575 new scholarships and fellowships, as well as 35 professorships. They have also launched a number of construction and renovation projects on all KU campuses. While the original $1.2 billion goal of the campaign was achieved, many opportunities remain to support KU students, faculty and staff. Go to the Far Above website for more information.

Film Festival ‘Challenges the Status Quo’

The Department of Special Education, KU Professionals for Disabilities, and numerous other KU and community sponsors are joining forces to present the See/Saw Film Festival April 24-26 at the Lawrence Public Library. The free event presents an array of award-winning features, documentaries and shorts, including locally produced short films created by Van Go Mobile Arts and Women of Lawrence Film. The common theme of the festival is “exhibiting, disrupting and renegotiating constructions of children and young people from historically underserved and marginalized backgrounds.”

One part of the festival will take place on campus. The film Rich Hill will be shown on the 24th at 7 p.m. in Woodruff Auditorium at the Kansas Union. It is sponsored by the Department of Film & Media Studies, the Office of First-Year Experience and the KU Common Book. As with all films shown during the festival, a 20-minute panel discussion will follow the screening. Panelists will be Tracy Droz Tragos, producer and co-director of Rich Hill, and Laura Moriarty, English.

Also shown that evening at the library will be the animated 2015 Oscar-nominated film Song of the Sea. The online festival program indicates which films are appropriate for children or youth.

The festival is curated by doctoral students Maggie Beneke and Sorcha Hyland with the Department of Special Education and the KUPD graduate student organization. They sought films “that take a unique perspective on the expression and representation of children and youth,” including “local, national and international stories that heighten the visibility of childhood and adolescent experiences often under-considered. The festival challenges the status quo.”
Lecture Explores Spirituality After Darwin

Bron Taylor of the University of Florida, left, will speak at KU on Monday, April 13 on the topic “Spirituality After Darwin: 'Dark Green' Nature Religion and the Future of Religion and Nature.” His 7 p.m. presentation in the Kansas Room at the Kansas Union is sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies. It is free and open to the public.

Taylor is professor of religion and nature, environmental ethics, and environmental studies at Florida, as well as Carson Fellow of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, Germany. In his talk, Taylor will present evidence that, especially since the publication of Darwin’s On the Origin of Species in 1859, a new, global, earth religion has been rapidly spreading around the world.


KU Teams Stress Science in High Schools

The KU Office for Diversity in Science Training is organizing “Kansas DNA Day,” a way to connect KU with high school students while linking their course content to real-life research applications. The goal is to stress the importance of science education in high school and college to future STEM careers.

According to Lynn Villafuerte, director of the project, 65 DNA Day ambassadors from KU will make presentations at high schools starting April 20. The closest school is Lawrence High and the farthest is Maize High in Wichita. Ambassadors will present in teams, and can include KU students, postdocs, faculty or staff.

While the emphasis is on DNA-related research, the ambassadors will discuss anything related to studies and careers in biology, bioscience and health care. The event is tied to the final sequencing mapping of the human genome in April 2003.

For more information, go to the website or contact Lynn Villafuerte, (785) 864-7316.

Postdoc Research Day Coming in May

The KU Postdoctoral Association will hold its annual Research Day on Thursday, May 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The event is a professional development opportunity for KU’s postdocs to share their research and network.

Joanne Kamens, left, executive director of Addgene, will speak twice. At 9 a.m. in Alderson Auditorium in the Kansas Union, her topic is “Smooth Transitions: Top 10 Things Scientists Ask About Finding an Industry Job.” At noon in the Big 12 Room, she will lead a workshop on “Negotiating Work and Life.”

Oral presentations and poster presentations are scheduled during the morning and afternoon in the Kansas Union. Prizes for the best talk and best poster will be given at 4:15.

Research Day is open to the KU community and public at no charge, with support provided by the KU Office of Research. Abstracts are due by April 17 at kupostdocs@gmail.com. The registration deadline is April 24, using the KU Postdoctoral Association website.

‘Waters of Kansas’ Films to be Shown

The Kansas Natural Resource Council, with support from the Kansas Humanities Council, has produced a film series titled “The Waters of Kansas.” The documentary series features water resources and people from across Kansas who interact with groundwater or surface water, reservoirs or rivers. Each film touches on the history of developing and using a water source, the current competing interests for water, and how communities are or are not grappling with the future.

On Friday, April 24 from 4-5:30 p.m., two of these short films will be shown at The Commons in Spooner Hall. The films are "The Waters of Kansas: Cheyenne Bottoms" and "The Waters of Kansas: Farming over the Ogallala". The program is free and open to the public. A short discussion period will follow the screenings.
KU Hosts Aristotle Conference April 24-25

The KU Department of Philosophy, in collaboration with the Hall Center for the Humanities and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is sponsoring a two-day conference this month devoted to “Ethics, Science and Psychology in Aristotle’s Philosophy.”

“Today the thought of Aristotle [left], perhaps the most influential philosopher in the Western tradition, is once again serving as a stimulus in almost every area of philosophy,” says Tom Tuozzo, professor of philosophy. He cites many fields where “contemporary philosophers have been turning to Aristotle for help in solving problems to which the resources of more modern philosophy seem to have proven inadequate.” This has “reinvigorated the study of Aristotle’s work,” he says.

The conference will feature both well-established and younger ancient philosophy specialists. On Friday, April 24, presentations will be made at the Hall Center by David Bronstein of Georgetown University, “Aristotle’s Critique of Innatism,” and David Ebrey of Northwestern University, “Distinguishing Matter from Lack in Physics I.”

On Saturday, April 25, presentations will be made at the Max Kade Center, 1134 West 11th Street, by Mitzi Lee of the University of Colorado at Boulder, “Aristotle on Justice”; Victor Caston of the University of Michigan, "Aristotle on the Unity of Psychology”; Jennifer Whiting of the University of Pittsburgh, “Judgment and Practical Reason in Aristotle”; and Sarah Broadie of the University of St Andrews, “Virtue and Natural Goods: An Aristotelian Perspective.”

The conference is funded primarily through the 2014 Morrison Teaching Award that Tuozzo received. Sessions are open to the public. More information is available by contacting him at ttuozzo@ku.edu, (785) 864-2330.

Also upcoming is the 65th Annual KU Environmental Engineering Conference. It will take place Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day) at the Kansas Union. The conference program and registration information can be found online. Full-time students may attend free if they register online by April 15. More information is available by contacting Stephen Randtke at srandtke@ku.edu, (785) 864-2940.
Upcoming Events

Additional events and details are available at the KU Calendar.

**April 13**
**Ceremony: University Scholarly Achievement Awards**
4:30 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons

7 p.m.
Kansas Union, Kansas Room

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**April 16**
**Quarterly Grant Coordinators Meeting**
10:30 a.m. - Noon
Simons Biosciences Labs, Auditorium

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**April 22 [Earth Day]**
**65th Annual KU Environmental Engineering Conference**
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Kansas Union

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**April 23**
**Kansas DNA Day**
Off-Site Regional High Schools

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**April 24**
**Philosophy Conference: “Ethics, Science and Psychology in Aristotle”**
1 – 6 p.m.
Hall Center for the Humanities

**Kansas Natural Resource Council Documentary Films:**
“The Waters of Kansas - Cheyenne Bottoms” and “The Waters of Kansas - Farming over the Ogallala”
4 – 5:30 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons

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**April 24-26**
**See/Saw Film Festival**
Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street

**April 25**
**Philosophy Conference: “Ethics, Science and Psychology in Aristotle”**
9:30 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Max Kade Center, 1134 West 11th Street

**KU Undergraduate Research Symposium**
12:15 – 7 p.m.
Kansas Union

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**May 7**
**KU Postdoctoral Association Research Day**
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Kansas Union

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**May 14**
7:30 p.m.
Lied Center

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**July 31 – August 3**
**Annual Meeting and Symposia: Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation**
Kansas Union, KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, Fitch Natural History Reservation at the KU Biological Field Station

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