

KU Discovery & Innovation

News from KU Research

May 2015

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KU Researcher Featured on Cancer TV Special



KCPT, the public television affiliate in Kansas City, produced a local one-hour “**Cancer in KC**” program in March. The project coincided with the national PBS broadcast of the Ken Burns documentary *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*.

The KCPT special examined cancer’s impact in the metro area, and featured medical experts, cancer researchers and survivors. A **three-minute segment focused on Jennifer Laurence** (left), KU professor of pharmaceutical chemistry.

KCPT also cited her success as the founder of Echogen, an early-stage company that is commercializing the metal abstraction peptide (MAP) technology she invented. MAP targets the delivery of platinum to cancer tissue, where it is subsequently released internally as the cell toxin. This highly selective delivery increases the efficacy of the drug and dramatically reduces side effects and damage to healthy cells.

Hall Center Activities Climax the Academic Year at KU

KU’s Hall Center for the Humanities is closing out the 2014-15 year with a flourish:



- 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. Her topic is “Snapshots: Portraits of a World in Transition.”

- Emma Scioli, associate professor in classics, is the 2015 recipient of the **Vice Chancellor for Research Book Publication Award**. The award, administered by the Hall Center, is for her *Dream, Fantasy, and Visual Art in Roman Elegy*, to be published in 2015 by **University of Wisconsin Press**.

- Katie Rhine, associate professor of anthropology, received the Friends of the Hall Center Book Publication Award for *The Unseen Things: Women, Secrecy, and HIV in Northern Nigeria*. The book is under contract for publication in 2016 by Indiana University Press.

- On May 13, the **Friends of the Hall Center** will celebrate 10 years of support for the humanities at KU with its members-only annual meeting and dinner. Speakers include Katie Rhine, Graduate Summer Research Award recipient Kenton Rambsy (English), and Simons Public Humanities Fellow Angela Elam, a producer and host for KCUR public radio.



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Cushman Receives Carnegie Fellowship

Greg Cushman, below, associate professor of history and environmental studies, is one of 32 scholars chosen from more than 300 nominees nationally for the [inaugural class of Andrew Carnegie Fellowship recipients](#).



The Carnegie Corporation of New York, in its [announcement](#), described the class as “an exceptional group of established and emerging scholars, journalists, and authors whose work distills knowledge, enriches our culture, and equips leaders in the realms of science, law, business, public policy, and the arts.”

Cushman is an environmental historian known for his research on the human dimensions of climate change. His first book, the award-winning *Guano and the Opening of the Pacific World: A Global Ecological History*, is one of the first studies to examine the environmental and cultural history of the modern world from the perspective of the Pacific Basin.

Fellows will receive awards of up to \$200,000 each. This will enable them to take sabbaticals in order to devote time to their research and writing. Cushman has plans to complete a second book, *The Anthropocene and the Age of Revolution: A People’s History of the Earth Under Human Domination*.

The award, said Cushman, “is a testimony to the amazing climate that exists here at KU for learning how societies engage with the natural world: from the Environmental Studies and IGERT C-Change programs, to my wonderful colleagues who study environmental history and humanities, to the many students who are planning to dedicate their lives to facing these problems head on.”

KUIC Seminar on SBIR/STTR is May 12

KU Innovation and Collaboration will present a free seminar May 12 on “[SBIR/STTR Proposal Preparation: How to be Successful at NIH](#).” The all-day program is at the Clinical Research Center, 4350 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Fairway. Nearly 40 persons have already signed up to attend but some spaces remain. [Registration is required and available online](#), along with more information.

The seminar presenter is KU alumnus 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.

Research Investment Council Advances Three New Strategic Initiative Grants

At its spring meeting on April 4, the Research Investment Council recommended three proposals for funding as [Level I Strategic Initiative Grants \(SIG\)](#). The three join 16 others approved during the first three years of the program, part of KU’s Bold Aspirations strategic plan.

Together, the 19 funded Level I awards total nearly \$6 million for collaborative projects that advance [KU’s four strategic initiative themes](#).

The three new projects and their lead investigators, are:

- “**VENTURES Satellite Mission for Ice Bed Imaging and Mapping of Basal Conditions**,” Rick Hale, Prasad Gogineni, Emily Arnold, David Braaten, Mark Ewing, Carl Leuschen, Chris McLaughlin, John Paden, Fernando Rodriguez-Morales, and Stephen Yan.
- “**Psychosocial Stress as a Vulnerability Factor for Problem Gambling**,” David Jarmolowicz, Laura Martin, and Marco Bortolato.
- “**Smart Bio-Enabled Molecular Materials by Design**,” Mark Richter, Candan Tamerler, Judy Wu, Cindy Berrie, John Karanicolas, and Eric Deeds.

The dollar amount for each of the three new grants has not yet been established. Level I awards are usually in the range of \$100,000 to \$300,000 over one to three years.

Jim Tracy Starts Work at KU Research



[Jim Tracy](#), left, joined KU on April 1 as vice chancellor for research. He succeeds Mary Lee Hummert, who served as interim vice chancellor since Steve Warren stepped down last May.

The former vice president for research at the University of Kentucky had a busy first month – chairing the Research Investment Council, attending the Regional Translational Medicine meeting in Lawrence, speaking at a KU Communicators luncheon in The Commons, making a delegation visit in Washington, D.C. – in addition to meeting countless new colleagues on campus and off.

“I am happy to be in Kansas and at KU,” said Tracy. “I’ve received a warm welcome from everyone and I look forward to working with all of you.”



KU Faculty, Staff Part of Festival in June

The University of Kansas will have a strong presence at the **second annual Free State Festival**, scheduled for June 22-28 at the Lawrence Arts Center and other locations in the Lawrence Cultural District. The complete program is still being developed, but at least eight events in the Festival's "Ideas" category include KU-related presenters and hosts.

Health Information Technology and Privacy

Monday, June 22, 6 – 7:15 p.m.

Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire

- Norbert Belz, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director, Department of Health Information Management, KU Medical Center
- Lauren Pulino, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department Health Information Management, KU Medical Center

Research Speed Dating

Monday, June 22, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Cider Gallery, 810 Pennsylvania

- Whitney Baker, Conservator, KU Libraries
- Kate Meyer, Curatorial Assistant, Spencer Museum of Art
- David Frayer, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology
- Richard Glor, Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Chris McKitterick, Lecturer in English
- Sara Sack, Senior Scientist and Director, Assistive Technology for Kansans Program, Life Span Institute
- Jonathan Brumberg, Assistant Professor of Speech-Language-Hearing

Writing Murder, Kansas-Style

Monday, June 22, 7:30 – 8:45 p.m.

Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire

- Laura Lorson, Host and Producer, Kansas Public Radio

Kansas Start Up Culture

Tuesday, June 23, 7:30 – 8:45 p.m.

Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire

- G.R. Underwood, President and Chief Operating Officer, Bioscience & Technology Business Center at KU
- Wally Meyer, Director of Entrepreneurship Programs, School of Business

Under the Lens: Voyeurism, Surveillance, and Cinema

Friday, June 26, 4:30 – 5:45 p.m.

TownePlace Suites, 900 New Hampshire

- Robert Hurst, Associate Professor in Film and Media Studies
- Christina Hodel, Ph.D. Candidate in Film and Media Studies
- Matt Jacobson, Associate Professor in Film and Media Studies

Science Fiction & Surveillance

Friday, June 26, 6 – 7:15 p.m.

TownePlace Suites, 900 New Hampshire

- Chris McKitterick, Lecturer in English and Director, Gunn Center for Science Fiction
- James Gunn, Professor Emeritus of English
- Philip Baringer, Professor of Physics

Creativity, Collaboration, Commercialization:

From Artist to Entrepreneur

Friday, June 26, 6 – 8 p.m.

Lawrence Creates Makerspace, 512 E. 9th

- Will Katz, Director, KU Small Business Development Center
- Barbara Kerr, Williamson Family Distinguished Professor of Counseling Psychology
- Charlotte Tritch, Associate Director of Entrepreneurship Programs, School of Business

Private Eyes: Drones in History, Politics, and Art

Friday, June 26, 7:30 – 8:45 p.m.

TownePlace Suites, 900 New Hampshire

- Aaron Long, Ph.D. Candidate in English
- Kathryn Conrad, Associate Professor of English
- Terilyn Johnson Huntingon, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science

Research Kudos

- Three **Empower Kansas grants** were awarded in April to researchers affiliated with the Life Span Institute. Recipients were: Assistive Technology for Kansans, **Sara Sack**, \$122,000; KU Center on Developmental Disabilities, **Karrie Shogren**, \$40,000; and Research and Training Center on Independent Living, **Martha Hodgesmith** and **Val Renault**, \$199,500. Empower Kansas is a three-year, \$1.5 million UnitedHealthcare initiative to help Kansans with disabilities find jobs.
- **John Tibbetts**, associate professor of film and media studies, is curator of a Saturday afternoon **film series at the Kansas City Public Library** (Central) May 2-30. Featured are five films directed by Orson Welles, in honor of his centennial year. Tibbetts will personally introduce the May 23 screening of *Chimes at Midnight*.

KU Undergraduate Research Symposium a Success; 30 Students Receive Awards

More than 600 students, faculty, and guests attended KU's **18th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium** April 25 at the Kansas Union. Attendance nearly doubled from 2014, and featured presentations of research and creative projects by 167 students in more than 30 KU departments. The Symposium was sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research and the KU Office of Research.

Presenters prepared for the Symposium by attending workshops with staff from the Center for Undergraduate Research, directed by John Augusto, and by working with their research mentors to refine their oral presentations, poster presentations and performances. Graduate student judges selected 30 **Outstanding Presentation Award recipients**. The 30 were presented with cash awards at the Symposium banquet.

NIH to Require New Biosketch Format

All biosketches on NIH applications submitted on or after May 25, 2015 **must** be formatted per the instructions in the **NIH Grants & Funding Application Guide**:

- Complete each section (A - Personal Statement; B - Positions and Honors; C - Contributions to Science; D - Research Support or Scholastic Performance);
- Include no more than 5 half-page Contributions to Science, with no more than 4 citations per contribution;
- Ensure that the link to one's full list of published work in **My Bibliography** or **SciENcv** is a publicly accessible URL that does not require any login or personal information, and doesn't link to websites that may violate page limit rules by including information that belongs elsewhere in the application;
- Refrain from including information, such as preliminary data, that belongs elsewhere in the application;
- Follow NIH guidance on font type, font size, paper size, and margins (See section 2.6 of application guide); and
- Limit the length to 5 pages or less.

NIH has an **example of the new biosketch format online**. Failure to follow the new policy on submissions on or after May 25th may result in **NIH withdrawing the application from consideration without review**.

Please contact **Megan Todd** or **Bob Szrot** in Pre-Award Services if you have questions about this NIH requirement.

Research Notes



KU Office of Research Cited for Sustainability Efforts

Rex Burkhardt, assistant manager for facilities, accepted a certificate at an April 24 ceremony that recognizes the KU Office of Research as a Level 2 Green Office. Shown with Rex are Jim Tracy, vice chancellor for research, and Joe Heppert, associate vice chancellor for research. The **KU Center for Sustainability** makes the designation to selected campus offices "in appreciation of your efforts to create a more sustainable work environment."

Annual Report of Research Expenditures Posted

The **FY 2014 Annual Report on Sponsored Research** at KU is now available online. The document provides information about the number of active sponsored projects and the dollar amount of expenditures (direct and indirect) in three categories: Academic Unit, Research Center or Other Non-Academic Units, and Sponsoring Agency. KU research expenditures were \$238.8 million. In FY 2014. Similar reports are **posted online to FY 2005**.

Thursday Research Topics is May 14 with Sarah Carver

The next **Thursday Research Topics** program, hosted by KU Research, is May 14 at 11 a.m. in the Simons Labs Auditorium. Sarah Carver from the Comptroller's Office will speak on "Administering Service Rates."

BTBC Luncheon Looks at Legal Issues

Attorneys from the firm of Lathrop & Gage will discuss legal issues for start-up companies at a free luncheon on Thursday, May 14 at the Bioscience & Technology Business Center Main Facility. The program begins at 11:30 a.m. and concludes at 1 p.m. Topics will include company formation, intellectual property protection, data privacy and more. **Register online; space is limited.**



KU ambassadors at Lawrence High School on April 22 were Lynn Villafuerte, Sonia Hall, Haifa Alhadyian, Aleah Henderson, Max Iverson, Adam Miltner, and Eder Davila-Contreras (not shown).



“DNA Day” Visits 14 Kansas High Schools

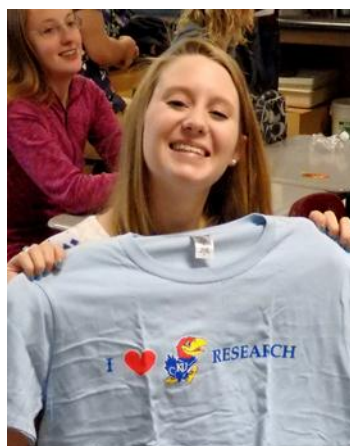
Lynn Villafuerte and Sonia Hall in the KU Office for Diversity in Science Training organized “**Kansas DNA Day**” as a way to connect KU with high school students while linking their course content to real-life research applications. The goal was to stress the importance of science education in high school and college as preparation for STEM careers.

The project was a success, with 52 Kansas DNA Day “ambassadors” from KU making classroom presentations at 14 high schools between April 20 and May 8. Graduate and undergraduate students, as well as KU staff, talked about and demonstrated science research in 48 classes, reaching 1,081 students. Participating high schools were:

- Shawnee Heights
- Lawrence
- Olathe Northwest
- S.O.A.R. Alternative (Olathe)
- Hiawatha
- Wyandotte
- Highland Park (Topeka)
- Olathe South
- J.C. Harmon (Kansas City)
- Shawnee Mission North
- West Franklin (Pomona)
- Santa Fe Trail (Carbondale)
- Maize South
- Bashor-Linwood

Ambassadors presented in teams at each school, conducting simple experiments with students and analyzing the results. Team members also discussed and answered questions about their own research projects.

Hall and Villafuerte say Kansas DNA Day will be held again in 2016. All of this year’s ambassadors plan to participate again, and schools have already begun contacting them.



Top: LHS students Moses Hoy, Tristen Decker, and Kyleigh Naylor took part in an experiment testing sensitivity to taste.

Middle: Olivia Oehlertz won a special t-shirt, while Elizabeth Harms’ blue-tinted tongue was examined in the name of science.

Bottom: KU’s Aleah Henderson spoke to the LHS class. Host teacher Ann Foster is shown second from left.

Upcoming Events

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

MAY 12

KU Innovation and Collaboration: "SBIR/STTR Proposal Preparation: How to be Successful at NIH"

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Clinical Research Center, 4350 Shawnee Mission, Fairway

MAY 13

Friends of the Hall Center Annual Meeting (Members)

6 p.m.

Hall Center for the Humanities

MAY 14

Thursday Research Topics: Sarah Carver, "Administering Service Rates"

11 – 11:40 a.m.

Simons Biosciences Labs, Auditorium

BTBC Legal Luncheon with Lathrop & Gage

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Bioscience & Technology Business Center at KU, Main Facility

Arts Research Collaboration: "Colloquium on Hybrid Practices in the Arts, Sciences, and Technology from the 1960s to Today"

2:30 p.m.

Spooner Hall, The Commons

Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series: Anna Deveare Smith, "Snapshots: Portraits of a World in Transition"

7:30 p.m.

Lied Center

MAY 19-21

NovCare Conference: "Novel Methods for Subsurface Characterization and Monitoring: From Theory to Practice"

All Day

The Oread, Lawrence

JUNE 22-28

Lawrence Free State Festival

Event Schedule Varies

9th Street Corridor and Lawrence Cultural District Venues

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

AUGUST 30-31

KCALSI Symposium: "The Growing Risk of Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease"

Kansas City (MO) Convention Center

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