

# KU Discovery & Innovation

News from KU Research

December 2015

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## Jan. 22 Deadline for Higuchi Nominations

KU Research invites nominations for the 2016 Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards. Complete nominations must be received by January 22, 2016.

The awards, first presented in 1982, are the state's highest recognition for faculty accomplishments in research, scholarship and creative activity. The program was established by Regents Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy Takeru Higuchi, his wife, Aya Higuchi, and KU Endowment.

Awards are made in four categories to faculty at KU or other Regents institutions. Each \$10,000 award may be spent over five years on such research-related activities as research materials, summer salary, fellowship matching funds, equipment and research assistants.

Complete information about the awards can be found [online at the KU Research website](#), including criteria, past recipients and the nomination process. The 2016 recipients will be announced next fall and recognized at a public presentation ceremony.

## Steven Soper Named 10<sup>th</sup> Foundation Distinguished Professor



KU alumnus Steven Soper, left, a professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Biomedical Engineering at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will return to the campus next summer as KU's 10<sup>th</sup> [Foundation Distinguished Professor](#), with appointments in the Departments of Chemistry and Mechanical Engineering.

Soper is a leading international researcher in developing new technologies with important applications for disease detection. His research largely focuses on biomedical devices and the associated assays. In particular, his group concentrates on the development of in vitro cancer diagnostics based on a combination of innovative methods for isolating circulating tumor cells and the development of nanoscale devices for next-generation sequencing.

Soper received his Ph.D. in bioanalytical chemistry at KU in 1989 and was a postdoctoral fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has secured roughly \$57 million in research support from federal and industrial sources and holds 12 patents. His background includes two years as an analytical chemist for Colgate Palmolive. He is also the founder and chief science officer of a successful startup company, BioFluidica, whose research operations will also move to KU.

The Foundation Distinguished Professor initiative is a partnership between KU and the state to attract 12 eminent scholars in support of the four strategic initiative themes.



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## Residence Hall Named for Famous KU Alumni Researchers is a Memory

Bang. Boom. Bye. If you blinked you may have missed the impressive November 25 implosion of KU's McCollum Hall.

The venerable residence hall on Daisy Hill, which opened in 1965, was named for brothers Elmer and Burton McCollum, KU alumni who went on to have separate and impressive careers in scientific research and its application.

The name lives on in the McCollum Laboratories, a Research Circle facility that opened in 1971. It was funded by Burton McCollum's estate and the income from more than 30 patents. Elmer McCollum is buried in KU's Pioneer Cemetery and his portrait hangs in the School of Pharmacy.

## Achievement Award Nominees Sought

Nominations for the 2016 University Scholarly Achievement Awards are now being accepted at the Chancellor's Office. The full call for nominations was announced November 2 and is [available online](#).

These awards recognize up to four mid-career faculty for a significant scholarly or research contribution (an exhibition, performance, composition, article or book, or major collaborative project) or a series of closely related contributions.

Eligible faculty member must hold the rank of associate professor or full professor; be within 10 years of appointment as an associate professor; must have completed three years at KU; and must not have received a prior major KU award for this body of work.

December 18 is the deadline for indicating intent to submit a nomination. The name of the individual to be nominated should be sent via email to [Debra Bia](#). A complete nomination should be sent by January 19, 2016, and must include documentation of the contribution, a letter of nomination, a vita and (by February 8) two reference letters.

Nominations and reference letters should be sent to: Office of the Chancellor, 1450 Jayhawk Boulevard, Room 230 Strong Hall, Lawrence, KS 66045, ATTN: Scholarly Achievement Award Committee; or sent electronically to [kuchancellor@ku.edu](mailto:kuchancellor@ku.edu) with "Scholarly Achievement Award" in the subject line.

### KU Innovation & Collaboration / BTBC

#### 'Technology Thursday' Networking Event

December 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Bioscience & Technology Business Center

Attend a free networking event for researchers, investors, companies and economic development professionals. The sponsor is Lathrop & Gage LLP. No RSVP is necessary.

KUIC staff will pitch partnering opportunities on the following technologies:

- UAV Navigation Using Signals of Opportunity
- Surface Modified Ceramic Filter for Water Purification
- Novel Therapeutics for Pancreatic Cancer
- Duct Occlusion Device

## Research Expenditures Stable in 2015; NSF National Ranking Unchanged

Externally sponsored research expenditures at KU in FY2015 totaled \$238.8 million from all sources for all purposes. This was a scant \$48,200 less than in FY2014, a remarkable result given the ongoing federal budget sequester and the very competitive environment for federal research funding.

The total includes expenditures at all KU campuses for research and development, capital, training and service. It does not include internal research funding.

In a separate measure of research strength, the FY2014 National Science Foundation survey of higher education research and development expenditures (HERD) ranks KU 38<sup>th</sup> among national public research universities in terms of federally funded research. The HERD survey was released in November. KU's ranking in this selected category is unchanged from the previous year.

## KU Workshops Address Challenge of Open, Reproducible Research Results

On December 2, staff from the Reproducibility Project at the Center for Open Science (COS) conducted **workshops at KU on reproducible research** practices, emphasizing factors that contribute to low levels of reproducibility.

More than 135 persons registered to attend, including graduate students, faculty and staff engaged in quantitative research. Attendees learned simple, practical steps to ensure reproducibility in their own work through a combination of lecture and hands-on activities.



Participants included, left, graduate students Nadia Jessop, Educational Psychology, and Mea Benson, Psychology, and, right, Nader Hakim, a graduate student in Psychology.

The principal workshop presenter was Tim Errington, COS project manager for its Reproducibility Project: Cancer Biology. The program was sponsored by KU Libraries, KU Research, the KU Center for Research Methods & Data Analysis, and KU Information Technology. Jamene Brooks-Kieffer, data services librarian, chaired the planning group.

## Researcher Kudos



**Neeli Bendapudi**, left, dean and H.D. Price Professor of business, has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of **MRIGlobal**, an independent organization headquartered in Kansas City, MO that performs contract research for government and industry. In addition to its own labs, MRIGlobal operates research facilities for the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense.

- **Erik Lundquist**, professor of molecular biosciences, and **Ilya Vakser**, professor of computational biology and molecular biosciences, have been **elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science**. New fellows will be recognized in February at the AAAS annual meeting in Washington, D.C. for their distinguished efforts to advance science and its applications.
- **Kevin Willmott**, associate professor of film and media studies, is co-writer with director Spike Lee and an executive producer of ***Chi-Raq, a film that opened nationally on December 4***. A satire inspired by Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*, the film proposes an unusual tactic for ending gun violence in Chicago: a sex strike.
- **Paulyn Cartwright**, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, is principal investigator on a project that reveals how a **jellyfish has evolved over time into "really weird" microscopic organisms**, made of only a few cells, that lives inside other animals. Findings were published in November in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- **Michael Blum**, the Scott and Carol Ritchie Distinguished Professor of Geology, **presented his inaugural distinguished professor lecture** on November 19. His topic was "Bloodlines of a Continent: Snapshots of North American Drainage and Landscapes over the last 150 Million Years."
- **Susan Stover**, geologist and outreach manager at the Kansas Geological Survey, has been **elected a fellow of the Geological Society of America**.
- **Devon Mihesuah**, Cora Lee Beers Price Professor of humanities, published "Nede Wade Christie: 'Ned' Christie and the Outlaw Mystique" in the fall 2015 issue of the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*.

## KU Research Hosts Defense Minerva Program Workshop Dec. 14 at Hall Center

W. Chris King, dean of academics at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, will speak Monday, December 14 at 11 a.m. in Seminar Room 1 at the Hall Center for the Humanities. His topic is “Climate Change: The New ISIS.”



King, left, is a former professor and head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at the U.S. States Military Academy. He serves as a subject matter expert to NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on cleanup of military hazardous wastes.

His background includes a Ph.D. in environmental engineering, an M.S. in civil engineering and a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering.

King’s presentation is part of a workshop, sponsored by KU Research, on the Department of Defense [Minerva Program](#). The program provides funding for interdisciplinary national security social science research. It typically funds 5-7 awards of up to \$1 million per year for three to five years. The average award amount is \$500,000 per year.

The workshop will include an overview of Minerva funding opportunity topics and requirements; suggestions for developing Defense research contacts; resources available to support your proposal development efforts; and networking with colleagues around common themes.

For more information, contact [Doug Bornemann](#), Research Development, 864-6113, or [Bob Rummer](#), Research Development, 864-3149.

## KU Postdoc Group to Meet December 11

The [KU Postdoctoral Association](#) will hold its next luncheon meeting on Friday, December 11, at noon in the Relays Room of the Burge Union. (Lunch is provided for those who RSVPd by December 4, but all are welcome.)

Robert Hanzlik, professor of medicinal chemistry, and Erin Adamson, writing program coordinator for the NIH COBRE in Protein Structure and Function (which Hanzlik directs), will speak on preparing a successful grant proposal. The title of their talk is “Writing Your Way Into the Top 10%.”

## ‘RA-101’ Graduates 44 KU Staff

The 2015 edition of “Research Administration 101” ended November 18 with 44 graduates. Congratulations to the following KU staff:

Adee, Lee Ann	Education, Social & Biobehavioral SSC
Anderson, Patrice	Campus Administration & Operations SSC
Baker, Lisa	Pharmacy & Biomedical Research SSC
Basgall, Ashly	Grant Coordinator, LSI
Bean, Jennifer	Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets
Blair, Jordan	Pre-Award Grant Specialist, KU Research
Blum, Rosemary	Education, Outreach and Diversity Director
Bodmer, Leanne	Research Information Systems, KU Research
Bornemann, Doug	Research Development Officer, KU Research
Brumfield, Randall	Undergraduate Advising Center
Carter, Debra	Campus Administration & Operations SSC
Frederickson, Joey	Education, Social & Biobehavioral SSC
Goetting, Justin	Accounting, KU Research
Harber, Cheryl	IT Technology Coordinator
Harris, Lisa	Transportation Research Center
Holcomb, Gregg	IT Systems Applications
Hosler, George	IT Associate Director
Hulse, Jamie	Education, Social & Biobehavioral SSC
Keidel, Sabrina	Campus Administration & Operations SSC
Kramer, Debbie	Campus Administration & Operations SSC
Sekar, Adithya Kiran	IT Associate Programmer
LaDuke, Sherilyn	Grant Coordinator, LSI
Lewis, Heidi	IACUC Compliance Coordinator
Martin, Ashton	Campus Administration & Operations SSC
Mathews, John	Pharmacy & Biomedical Research SSC
Murphy, Nora	Center for Excellence in Health Communication
Nordhus, Angie	Grant Coordinator, LSI
Nossaman, Cara	IT Project Manager
Ortiz, Suzi	IT Project Manager
Philippi, Morgan	Campus Administration & Operations SSC
Rahder, Bobbi	Research Development Specialist, Hall Center
Roberts, Tina	Grant Specialist, KU Research
Rochelle, Mary Renae	Business Coordinator, IT
Schmits, Sarah	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Sparks, Katie	Liberal Arts & Sciences SSC
Stephens, Kirsten	Pharmacy & Biomedical Research SSC
Szrot, Bob	Pre-Award Grant Specialist, KU Research
Tankhimovich, Aleksandra	Center for Research on Learning, LSI
Thomas-Dykes, Emily	Macromolecule and Vaccine Stabilization Center
Thuro, Misti	Campus Administration & Operations SSC
Trabon, Kaylie	Auditor Senior, Internal Audit
Wade, Lori	Administrative & Fiscal Services, KU Edwards
Welch, Jen	Bioengineering Research Center
Yu, Rensi	Post-Award Grant Specialist, KU Research

## Former VC Research Chairs Provost Search

A national search has begun for a successor to Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jeff Vitter, who is leaving KU to become chancellor of the University of Mississippi.

Steve Warren, professor and investigator in the Life Span Institute and former vice chancellor for research, has been named chair of the search committee. The committee will utilize the services of Bill Funk of **R. William Funk and Associates**.

“This is an exciting and important search for the University of Kansas,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “We have made great progress implementing our strategic plan, *Bold Aspirations*, and will look to our new provost to continue that progress. I am confident this position will attract top candidates from across the country, which is a testament to the work you are doing as faculty and staff to make KU a top-tier public research university.”

The position has been advertised in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and elsewhere. Applications and nominations will be accepted until a new provost is selected. Interested parties are encouraged to submit their materials by February 15, 2016 to receive optimal consideration.

In addition to Warren, other committee members are: Michael Branicky, Dean, School of Engineering; Tammara Durham, Vice Provost for Student Affairs; John Ferraro, Chair, Speech Language Hearing (KU Medical Center); Joshua Hackathorn, Steamfitter, Facilities Services; Aleah Henderson, Doctoral Student, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; Kissan Joseph, Professor, School of Business; Paul Kelton, Associate Dean for the Humanities, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Mechele Leon, Chair, Theatre; Julie Loats, Director, Center for Online & Distance Learning; Susan Lunte, Distinguished Professor, Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry; and Jessie Pringle, President of the Student Body.



Left: Dan Coonfield of Pre-Award Services demonstrates the Pivot online funding opportunities system to Victor Agadjanian, Foundation Distinguished Professor of sociology. Right: Abel Chikanda, assistant professor of geography and African/African American studies, speaks with Claudia Bode of the Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis.

## New Faculty Attend KU Research Fair

More than 30 new and recently hired KU faculty attended a Research Information Fair December 7 at the Kansas Union. The event was organized by the Office of Faculty Development. The purpose was to share information about the resources available at KU to support research and scholarship.

KU Research was represented by staff in Pre-Award Services, Post-Award Services, Research Development and Research Integrity. Jim Tracy, vice chancellor for research, attended, as did Rodolfo Torres, associate vice chancellor, and Kristi Billinger, assistant vice chancellor.

KU Innovation and Collaboration was represented by Julie Nagel, interim associate vice chancellor. The 10 designated university research centers and institutes also participated, as did the Kansas Biological Survey and the Kansas Geological Survey.



Left: Rebecca Gillam spoke with new faculty about the Achievement & Assessment Institute. Right: Among the participating faculty was Ashley Muddiman, assistant professor of communication studies.

# Upcoming Events

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

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## DECEMBER 10

### [Applied Humanities Panel Discussion and Internship Fair](#)

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Hall Center for the Humanities

### [KUIK “Technology Thursday” Networking Event](#)

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Bioscience & Technology Business Center

## DECEMBER 11

### [KU Postdoc Association Luncheon Meeting: Robert Hanzlik and Erin Adamson, “Writing Your Way into the Top 10%”](#)

Noon

Burge Union, Relays Room

### [KUCR Board of Trustees Annual Meeting](#)

2:30

Lied Center Pavilion

## DECEMBER 14

### [Department of Defense Minerva Program Workshop and Speaker: W. Chris King, “Climate Change: The New ISIS”](#)

11 a.m. - Noon

Hall Center for the Humanities, Seminar Room 1

## DECEMBER 17

### [Chancellor’s Annual Holiday Reception](#)

3:30 – 5 p.m.

Adams Alumni Center

## DECEMBER 29

### [Spencer Museum of Art and Lawrence Public Library:](#)

### [Saralyn Reece Hardy, “Home for the Holidays: A Look at Children's Art Books”](#)

10 – 11 a.m.

Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St.

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