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Participating in the BTBC Phase II groundbreaking ceremony were (L-R): G. R. Underwood, BTBC; Dale Seufferling, KU Endowment; Doug Cleverly, Argenta; LaVerne Epp, BTBC; Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little; Governor Sam Brownback; Steve Warren, RGS; and Mayor Mike Dever.

## June 14 Groundbreaking Ceremony Marks Start of \$10 Million BTBC Expansion Project

Less than three years after opening its doors, the Bioscience & Technology Business Center (BTBC) broke ground June 14 for an expansion of its Main Facility on west campus. Governor Sam Brownback spoke at the ceremony, along with Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, Lawrence Mayor Mike Dever, and Doug Cleverly, founder and managing director of Argenta, a New Zealand-based animal health company with a presence in the BTBC.

"The BTBC is already more successful than we dreamed it would be," said BTBC Executive Chairman LaVerne Epp. "We always planned to add more space, but we didn't think we'd need to until 2015. The market demand is there now, so we're moving forward ahead of schedule."

The Main Facility reached full capacity a year ago, with nine tenant companies totaling more than 60 employees. Once completed in fall 2014, the \$10 million expansion will add 30,000 square feet of space to the existing 20,000-square-foot facility. The expanded facility will accommodate 18-24 companies at various levels of development, including startups based on KU research, other early-stage companies, and private industry companies wishing to collaborate with KU researchers.

The KU Center for Technology Commercialization will relocate to the BTBC in 2014. It is KU's principal resource for industry partnerships, intellectual property protection and management, and community economic development, and works closely with the BTBC.

Funding for the expansion is provided by KU Endowment, the KU Center for Research, Inc., the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, and the Lawrence business community. The \$7.25 million first phase of the Main Facility was funded by these organizations and the Kansas Bioscience Authority.

## KU Doctoral Hooding Ceremony a Commencement Weekend Highlight



(Photos courtesy KU Marketing Communications)

420 KU students received doctoral degrees at Commencement in May. For a great many of those students, participating in the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony at the Lied Center (above) was a thrilling and never-to-be-forgotten experience.

At the ceremony, the Marnie and Bill Argersinger Prizes for outstanding dissertations were presented to Anastasiia Aleksandrova, Cell Biology and Anatomy, for “Tissue-Level Mechanisms Driving Cardiac Progenitor and Extracellular Matrix Movements During Early Vertebrate Heart Development,” and Ryan Gibb, Political Science, for “The Politics of Land Reform in Uganda.” Other nominees for the prize were: Shankar Agarwal, Physics And Astronomy; Norberto Baldi Salas, Anthropology; Brett Bricker, Communication Studies; Damayanti Chakraborty, Pathology And Laboratory Medicine; Laci Gerhart-Barley, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; Skye Leedahl, Social Welfare; Erin Whitney Moore, Health, Sport And Exercise Science; Stephen Politzer-Ahles, Linguistics; and Vaughn Scribner, History.

### Level I Strategic Initiative Grant Proposals Due July 1

Proposals are being accepted for the Strategic Initiative Grant program, a research seed-funding process launched in 2012 as part of the Bold Aspirations strategic plan. The intent of the program is to make KU more competitive for larger research grants from external sources, such as the federal government, private foundations, and industry.

Level I proposals – those requesting more than \$50,000, but typically \$100,000 to \$300,000 in total – are due by the end of the day on Monday, [July 1](#). Level II proposals – those requesting \$5,000 to \$50,000 – may be submitted at any time. All proposals are [submitted online at a secure KU website](#). The eight-member Research Investment Council, chaired by Vice Chancellor Steve Warren, evaluates Level I proposals, while the Office of Research and Graduate Studies evaluates Level II proposals.

The program is off to a great start. The council received 20 high-quality Level I proposals the first year and funded seven of them. The total in multi-year commitments so far exceeds \$2.5 million. An additional 10 Level II proposals were received, eight of which have been funded while two remain under review.

Proposals must engage one or more of the Bold Aspirations themes: Promoting Well-Being, Finding Cures; Sustaining the Planet, Powering the World; Building Communities, Expanding Opportunities; and Harnessing Information, Multiplying Knowledge. Proposals are evaluated using five criteria, including the raising of KU’s stature in a given theme area, the degree of multidisciplinary collaboration, the project’s potential for success, future opportunities for sustainable funding, and the extent to which the proposal addresses a critical research need that could not be funded in other ways.

There are two other Level I deadlines during 2013-14: [November 1](#) and [March 1](#). The three dates are all two weeks later than last year, in order to give faculty extra time to develop and submit proposals. Guidelines for proposal preparation and the proposal templates have changed slightly for the second year’s competition and are [available online](#).

## Craig Freeman, Todd Williams Receive KU Research Achievement Awards

For the first time, two recipients have been named for the annual KU Research Achievement Award, the highest honor given to a full-time academic staff researcher working in a department or research center on KU's Lawrence campus.

The 2013 honorees are:

- **Craig Freeman**, curator-in-charge of the Division of Botany and McGregor Herbarium at the Biodiversity Institute and an associate scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey; and
- **Todd Williams**, director of KU's Analytical Proteomics Laboratory and a senior scientist and director of KU's Mass Spectrometry Laboratory.

The award includes a plaque and \$10,000 each in research funds. Williams will be recognized at a ceremony on June 26 and Freeman will be recognized on July 8. The award was established in 2006 and is administered by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.



Freeman (left) came to KU in 1986 as coordinator of the Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory under the auspices of the Kansas Biological Survey and The Nature Conservancy. He has been affiliated with the survey ever since, including three years as acting co-director. He joined McGregor Herbarium in 1990, serving in progressively more responsible roles until becoming curator-in-charge in 1999.

Williams (right) came to KU in 1989 as an assistant scientist and director of the Mass Spectrometry Laboratory. He advanced to associate scientist in 1995 and senior scientist in 2000. He became director the Analytical Proteomics Laboratory in 2005.

Past recipients of the award include Rick Miller, senior scientist in the Exploration Services Section of the Kansas Geological Survey; Debra Kamps, director of the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training; Donald Huggins, senior scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey; Daryl Mellard, director of the Division of Adult Studies in the Center for Research on Learning; and Frank Schoenen, associate director of the Specialized Chemistry Center.

## Steve Warren Named Recipient of 2013 Edgar Doll Award

The American Psychological Association has named Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies and professor of applied behavioral science, the 2013 recipient of its Edgar Doll Award. The annual award, conferred by the association's Division 33, honors an individual for his or her substantial contributions to the understanding of intellectual or developmental disabilities throughout their career. It is the highest recognition of a career marked by outstanding scientific contributions to the field.



The award will be presented August 3 in Honolulu during the association's 121<sup>st</sup> annual convention, and Warren will make a formal presentation to members of the division during the ceremony.

Warren was director of the Life Span Institute at KU from 2000 to 2007, where he also led the Kansas Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center. This followed an 18-year career at Vanderbilt University, where he was a professor of special education and psychology and deputy director of the John F. Kennedy Center for Human Development. He became vice chancellor in 2007.

Warren's research interests include early communication and language development and remediation, early intervention, prevention of mental retardation, and prevention of child neglect. He is the co-author of a dozen books and more than 100 scientific papers. His academic background includes three degrees from KU, including a Ph.D. in child and developmental psychology.

The Edgar Doll Award was established in 1980. Past distinguished recipients with ties to the Life Span Institute include Stephen Schroeder (1995), Donald Baer (1996), and Todd Risley (2002).



The new Hill Engineering Research and Development Center will house research on sustainable energy approaches for automobiles and infrastructure. (Photos courtesy Dan Rockhill)

## Studio 804 Builds New West Campus Home for KU EcoHawks Program

A June 7 ribbon-cutting and open house marked completion of the Hill Engineering Research and Development Center, located west of the Park and Ride lot on west campus. The advanced research facility is the latest constructed by graduate students in Studio 804, a design-build class offered by KU's School of Architecture, Design and Planning. Studio 804 director Dan Rockhill, J.L. Constant Distinguished Professor of Architecture, led the project, whose design and construction began last fall.

The 4,000-square-foot center will house KU EcoHawks, a KU School of Engineering student research program under the direction of Chris Depcik, associate professor of mechanical engineering. His students' work focuses on sustainable energy approaches for automobiles and infrastructure, including alternative fuels and the interconnection between water and energy production.



The facility was made possible by a generous gift to KU Endowment from Ronald and Sue Hill of Lee's Summit, Mo. (left). Ronald Hill received a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from KU in 1957. He is president of HEMCO, an Independence company that manufactures and distributes laboratory equipment research/development laboratories. Sue Hill is HEMCO's vice president of customer development.

In keeping with the KU EcoHawk mission, Studio 804's architecture students packed the center with resource and energy conservation features. It features gleaming aluminum and glass facades. The metal was recycled from a Wichita airplane manufacturer, and the glass panels came from a never-completed building project in Kansas City, Mo. Motorized sunshades are made of Aerogel insulating panels. It is the first use of this high-tech translucent material in the area. Electric vehicle charging stations have been provided, along with showers for those who bicycle to the building. More information about the [KU EcoHawks](#) and [Studio 804](#) programs is available online.

Directly south of the Hill Center is the future site of the School of Engineering's 10,000-square-foot high-bay facility for structural testing. That building is part of the Learned Engineering Expansion Phase 2. Completion is expected by the fall of 2014.

## July 11 "TRT" Session Focuses on Cost Share/Matching Policy

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies offers a monthly "Thursday Research Topics" program that's open to all interested persons. The topic for the July 11 session is "Cost Share/Matching Policy and Request Process." The presentation will be led by Nancy Biles, Alicia Reed, and Brad Bernet. TRT begins at 11:10 a.m. and concludes at 11:50 a.m. in the Simons Labs Auditorium. All TRT presentations are recorded and available online for later viewing.

## KCALSI Symposium Focuses on Technology and Translational Research



The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI) and Frontiers: The Heartland Institute for Clinical and Translational Research are sponsoring a research symposium on Thursday, June 20 that focuses on the integration of technology into translational research.

The symposium will take place in Weaver Auditorium at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, 1750 Independence Ave., Kansas City, Mo. It is open to the public and will feature an outstanding group of national and regional speakers. The [complete agenda](#) is available online.

A light breakfast is scheduled from 7:30 to 8 a.m., and the program will continue through 5:30 p.m., including lunch. [Online registration](#) is required but the \$45 fee is waived for Frontiers partners, including KU faculty, staff, and students at all campuses. The Lawrence and Medical Center campuses are also KCALSI stakeholder institutions.

Frontiers: The Heartland Institute for Clinical and Translational Research is a collaborative network of 3 academic medical centers, 10 health systems and 15 community organizations. Frontiers is part of the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs) consortium, a national group of leading medical research institutions funded by the National Institutes of Health.

## eCompliance System Begins for Human Subjects Research Reporting

The Human Subjects Committee – Lawrence Campus (HSCL) began implementing a new electronic institutional review board submission system – eCompliance – on June 17. New applications, amendments, or status reports must now be submitted using this web-based computer system.

eCompliance provides a transparent and near-seamless application approval and follow-up experience for human subjects researchers. It increases the efficiency of the compliance process and provides more information to researchers than was possible previously.

Stephanie Dyson Elms, HSCL administrator, said the new system enables researchers to log in from any location and check the status of their applications. If a compliance question has been raised that's slowing their approval, they can respond immediately. Using the new system, the researcher always has instant access to the approved version of documents related to a project, such as the approval protocol and informed consent form, thus helping to ensure compliance with federal requirements, even within large study teams and on complex projects.

Training opportunities for researchers will begin this summer and continue into the fall. Implementation of the system at the KU Medical Center will occur later. Information about the new system is available to KU researchers at the [Research Integrity website](#) and its [eCompliance page](#).

## RGS Personnel: Anita Abel Named Assistant Director of Post-Award Services



Anita Abel will rejoin Research and Graduate Studies June 20 as assistant director of post-award services, reporting to Assistant Vice Chancellor Kristi Billinger. Abel has more than 35 years of experience in financial administration, most recently as business manager since 2010 for KU's Life Span Institute. She previously worked for the KU Center for Research for 25 years as assistant and interim manager of post-award services and as an accounts payable specialist and assistant manager of business services.

Also new at RGS is Teresa Reiter, an accounting specialist. She comes to KU from the Kansas Highway Patrol, where she was responsible for accounts payable, travel, PCard, and grant reporting. She is an accounting graduate of Strayer University and has many years of excellent accounting and customer service experience.

## Save the Date: Workshop to Create a KU Water Research Community

A working group is being formed for the purpose of promoting water research on the KU campus. It will host a half-day workshop on Friday, September 13 focusing on the development and support of the community of KU researchers who are interested in projects involving water resources and sustainability. The workshop will feature:

- A forum to highlight the thematic challenges of contemporary research on water, including a keynote presentation and a panel discussion, followed by break-out sessions geared toward identification of the most critical issues relating to water;
- An overview of federal and foundation funding agencies and resources available to facilitate proposal development; and
- An opportunity to suggest, form, and join research groups focused on one or more of the thematic research challenges.

The workshop will take place at The Commons in Spooner Hall from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided. To RSVP, e-mail Tricia Bergman at the Office of Research and Graduate Studies [tricia.bergman@ku.edu](mailto:tricia.bergman@ku.edu).

Others involved in the working group include Chris Brown, Geography, Environmental Studies; Rex Buchanan, Kansas Geological Survey; Kris Krishtalka, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Biodiversity Institute; Ed Martinko, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Kansas Biological Survey; Belinda Sturm, Civil, Environmental & Architectural Engineering; Linda Trueb, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Biodiversity Institute; Becca Peterson, Research and Graduate Studies; and Bob Rummer, Research and Graduate Studies.

## Summer Program Engages Undergraduate Researchers from 24 States



Photo courtesy John Augusto

The Center for Undergraduate Research hosted a kickoff dinner May 19 for 50 participants in the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) summer program. The students were treated to a burger buffet and free bowling at the Kansas Union. At left, Mikhail Barybin, associate professor of chemistry, talks with students at the event, which was co-sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

The students' research experiences this summer are funded by grants from the National Science Foundation awarded to faculty in the departments of Chemistry, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, and Molecular Biosciences, as well as the Center

for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets. All told, there are 73 REU students conducting research projects at KU this summer, representing 48 institutions in 24 states plus Ireland and Puerto Rico.

An all-day professional development seminar for REU participants is planned for Thursday, June 27 at the Adams Alumni Center. Sara Rosen, senior vice provost for academic affairs, will welcome the group and Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, will talk about interdisciplinary research opportunities at KU. Other speakers include Robert Rowland, Communication Studies; Joy Ward, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; and graduate students William Gilbert, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering; Amy Newton, Molecular Biosciences; and Tommy Johnson, Chemistry. The program is supported by the Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship.

A poster session of the students' projects is scheduled for the morning of Friday, July 26 at the Kansas Union Ballroom.

## Upcoming Events

News of interest to the research community. Additional details are available at the [KU Calendar](#).

### June 20

KCALSI Research Symposium: "Integrating Technology into Translational Research"  
8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Kansas City University for Medicine and Biosciences  
1750 Independence Ave., Kansas City (Mo.)

### July 1

Deadline: Bold Aspirations Strategic Initiative Grant Program, Level I Proposals

### July 11

RGS Thursday Research Topics: "Cost Share/Matching Policy and Request Process"  
11:10 – 11:50 a.m.  
Auditorium, Simons Bioscience Labs

### July 25

Quarterly RGS Grant Coordinators Meeting  
10:30 a.m.  
Auditorium, Simons Bioscience Labs

### August 26

KCALSI Animal Health Research Symposium: "Zoobiquitous Research"  
7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Kansas City (Mo.) Convention Center

### September 9-13

International Glaciological Society:  
International Symposium on Radioglaciology  
All Day  
Big 12 Room, Kansas Union

### September 13

KU Water Research Community Development Workshop  
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
The Commons, Spooner Hall

### October 1

KCALSI Annual Dinner  
Sheraton Kansas City (Mo.) Hotel at Crown Center

### October 24

Quarterly RGS Grant Coordinators Meeting  
10:30 a.m.  
Auditorium, Simons Bioscience Labs

### November 20

BioResearch Central Summit, presented by KCALSI, Missouri Bio, and KansasBio  
Ritz Charles Convention Center, Overland Park

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