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Federal Funds Sequester Begins

A sequester of federal funding began on March 1, requiring most federal agencies – including those that fund much of the sponsored research at KU – to reduce their authorized spending by 5.1% for the year-ending September 30, 2013. To assist KU researchers in following issues surrounding the sequester, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies has **created a web page that contains current information**, public statements, agency guidance, and other relevant material. Researchers are also encouraged to submit information they receive from agencies and other reliable sources to **Michelle Ginavan Hayes**, interim director of Post-Award Services, or rgs@ku.edu.

KUCR Staff Tour BioEngineering Research Center



More than a dozen KU Center for Research staff members, led by Kristi Billinger (center), assistant vice chancellor, toured KU's **BioEngineering Research Center (BERC)** February 19. The group, representing Pre-Award Services, Post-Award Services, Research Integrity,

and Contract Negotiations, learned about the work of the center and how KUCR can better serve the needs of researchers. The tour was hosted by Paulette Spencer (right), professor and director of BERC, whose mission is “to develop solutions to improve the lives of people; to create materials, devices and technologies that will reduce human suffering; and to enable people with vision to be successful.” BERC is housed in Learned Hall.

March TRT Session Focuses on New RGS Website

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies offers a monthly “Thursday Research Topics” program that’s open to all interested persons. On Thursday, March 14, in the Simons Labs Auditorium, the topic is “Navigating the New RGS Website and Other Research Administration Resources on the Web.” The presentation will be made by Mary Ann Roesner, RGS web manager, and Bill Sharp, assistant director of research administration. All TRT presentations are recorded and available online.

Advanced Computing Facility Dedication Rescheduled to April 3

The dedication of KU's new Advanced Computing Facility has been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 3. The event was postponed from February 21 due to the snow-related closing of the campus that day.

The Advanced Computing Facility dramatically increases research computing power for the life sciences and other KU research programs. It was funded by a \$4.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health and is a collaborative effort of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center, and KU Information Technology.

On April 3, an 11 a.m. ceremony in the Apollo Room at Nichols Hall will be followed by a ribbon-cutting and reception in the Atrium. To attend, please RSVP by March 29 with [Pam Farr](#), 864-7354.

Senator Moran Tours M2SEC Building, Transportation Research Institute



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran visited the campus in late February. He toured the new Measurement, Materials and Sustainable Environment Center (M2SEC) and met with Bob Honea, director of the Transportation Research Institute (TRI), Stan Rolfe, interim dean of the School of Engineering, and KU researchers Rick Hale (left), Ron Barrett-Gonzalez (right), Susan Williams, Chris Depcik, Caroline Bennett, and Adolfo Matamoros.

Hale demonstrated the application of a reduced-size side-looking radar antenna for use in unmanned aerial vehicles. Using a heat gun, Barrett-Gonzalez demonstrated a "vortex generator" made of materials with shape memory. Installed in aircraft, the device reduces drag and fuel consumption. Williams and her students discussed KU's biodiesel research, while Bennett and Matamoros demonstrated the M2SEC's new four-axis fracture mechanics laboratory, used for testing steel bridge beams. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005, Moran was instrumental in securing the original \$14.5 million in funding for TRI. *(Photos courtesy Jill Hummels, School of Engineering.)*

Postdoctoral Research Day and STEM Career Fair to Feature KUMC Lecturer



The KU Postdoctoral Association (KPA) is sponsoring a Postdoctoral Research Day and STEM Career Fair on Friday, March 15 in the Kansas Union. Postdocs from KU's Lawrence and Medical Center campuses will share their research and network with representatives from industries related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The all-day program begins at 9 a.m. in Woodruff Auditorium with remarks by Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. This will be followed by a plenary lecture by Danny Welch, professor and chair of cancer biology at the KU School of Medicine. The title of his talk is "Metastasis Suppressors: Functioning at the Interface of the Tumor and Stroma." This will be followed by a series of competitively selected presentations by postdocs, with a cash prize for the most outstanding presentation.

A free lunch will be provided from noon to 1 p.m. in the Big 12 Room for postdocs who registered by the March 8 deadline at the [KU Postdoctoral Association website](#). From 1 – 4 p.m., postdoc poster presentations and a STEM Career Fair with industry representatives will take place in the Ballroom. The top poster will receive a cash prize.

The event is supported by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and Coca Cola.

Forty Researchers Receive KU Leading Light Award



The University of Kansas recognized some of its most productive researchers recently, conferring the Leading Light Award on 40 faculty and staff at the Lawrence campus.

The 40 are principal investigators or co-principal investigators on externally funded grants of \$1 million or more awarded during the 2012 fiscal year. Recipients were recognized at a luncheon, where each received an inscribed bronze sunflower symbolic of Kansas and their leadership in research.

This is the second year of the Leading Light Award program. It was established at KU by Jeff Vitter, provost and executive vice chancellor. "By contributing to the research enterprise at KU in a major way," said Vitter, "these individuals and teams serve as leading lights and role models for others."

At the ceremony, recipients of the awards had an opportunity to describe their project. Past recipients of the award also attended the luncheon.

"KU researchers in all fields are competitive with the best in the country," said event co-host Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. "Success in obtaining large grants is just one indicator of that, and this recognition is well-deserved."

The 2013 recipients of the KU Leading Light Award:

- **Brian Ackley**, Molecular Biosciences
- **Mizuki Azuma**, Molecular Biosciences
- **James Basham**, Special Education
- **Cory Berkland**, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- **Cindy Berrie**, Chemistry
- **Brian Blagg**, Medicinal Chemistry
- **Kyle Camarda**, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering
- **Karin Lee Chang-Rios**, Institute for Educational Research and Public Service
- **Keith Chauvin**, School of Business
- **Francie Christopher**, Institute for Educational Research and Public Service
- **Edith Clowes**, Slavic Languages and Literature
- **John Colombo**, Psychology, Life Span Institute
- **Prajna Dhar**, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering
- **John Doveton**, Kansas Geological Survey
- **Dietrich Earnhart**, Economics
- **Jianwen Fang**, Molecular Structures Group
- **Jeannine Goetz**, Dietetics and Nutrition, School of Health Professions
- **Diana Greer**, Center for Research on Learning
- **Michael Johnson**, Chemistry
- **John Karanicolas**, Center for Bioinformatics, Molecular Biosciences
- **Sarah Kieweg**, Mechanical Engineering
- **Jennifer Laurence**, Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- **Young-Jin Lee**, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- **Craig Lunte**, Chemistry
- **Danny Marfatia**, Physics and Astronomy
- **Matthew Mayo**, Biostatistics
- **Douglas McKay**, Physics and Astronomy
- **Edward Meyen**, Special Education
- **Richard Miller**, Kansas Geological Survey
- **Anil Misra**, Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering
- **Kerry Newell**, Kansas Geological Survey
- **John Ralston**, Physics and Astronomy
- **Sean Smith**, Special Education
- **Debra Sullivan**, Dietetics and Nutrition, School of Health Professions
- **Michael Taylor**, Geology
- **David Volkin**, Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- **Jane Wegner**, Speech-Language-Hearing
- **Todd Williams**, Molecular Structures Group
- **Judy Wu**, Physics and Astronomy
- **Qiang Ye**, Bioengineering Research Center

Note: The 2012 recipients of the Leading Light Award are listed in [Table 6a-685 of the KU Profiles](#) document.

KUCTC Innovation Fair to Showcase Students, Recognize Faculty Entrepreneur

The KU Center for Technology Commercialization will hold its inaugural Innovation Fair on Tuesday, April 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Kansas Union Ballroom. The event will showcase the technological innovations of KU students, and the 2013 Jim Baxendale Commercialization Award will be presented to an outstanding entrepreneurial faculty member.

The fair provides an opportunity for students and the public to learn about KU technology, discover opportunities for entrepreneurial collaboration, and network with faculty, students, and company representatives. The focus of the event is a poster session presented by graduate and undergraduate students. A panel of judges will review the posters and students in each division are eligible for 1st (\$1,000), 2nd (\$750), and 3rd (\$500) place prizes.

Nominations for the Baxendale Award are due by April 2. Poster abstracts are due by April 14. Refreshments will be served during the fair, and participants are asked to register by April 26. Use the KUCTC Innovation Fair website http://ctc.ku.edu/innovation_fair.php to make nominations, submit abstracts, and register. For more information, contact Bethany Scothorn, bethanyscothorn@ku.edu, at KUCTC.

KU Energy Club to Hold Energy Conference April 25 at The Oread

The 2013 KU Energy Conference will be held Thursday, April 25 at The Oread hotel in Lawrence. The all-day conference will be hosted by the KU Energy Club, a student organization that strives to promote collaboration between academia, industry, and the public sector on energy-related issues. The conference will include a research symposium, keynote speakers, and panel discussions.

The afternoon keynote speaker will be Greg Rorrer, associate professor of chemical engineering at Oregon State University and a former director of the Energy for Sustainability Program at the National Science Foundation. Panel discussion topics include "Innovation in Energy: Discovering for Tomorrow, Solutions for Today" and "The Water Energy Nexus." Additional conference details will be available as the date approaches.

Students who wish to participate in the symposium should submit a one-page abstract and a 3-5 slide draft of their presentation by March 31 using the [conference web page](#). Two students will be selected to give 15-minute presentations on their research and will each receive a \$300 prize. All other students will take part in the poster presentation, with a \$250 prize for 1st place and a \$150 prize for 2nd place.

For more information, contact aerospace engineering student [Austin Abitz](#), (913) 575-1503.

KCALSI Patton Trust Grants: RFP on Genetic Basis of Diseases in Children

The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI) has issued its annual Patton Trust Research Grants request for proposals. This grant program, funded by the Paul Patton Trust, Bank of America, co-trustee, is focused specifically on the genetic basis of diseases that affect children. A letter of intent is due by 5 p.m. March 29 and the full application is due by 5 p.m. April 29. Awards are limited to \$50,000 each for one year and are intended to lead to highly competitive proposals directed toward future external funding. The number of awards made is subject to available funds. Complete information about the RFP process is available at the [KCALSI website](#).

KU Center for Sustainability Seeks Leadership Awards Nominations

The KU Center for Sustainability is soliciting nominations for its sixth annual Sustainability Leadership Awards. These awards recognize students, faculty, and staff, as well as programs and projects that have made important contributions to sustainability and have promoted the values of environmental, economic, and social responsibility. The nominations should reflect outstanding leadership and creativity in addressing issues of sustainability on the KU campus and/or in the broader community through education, research, service and innovation. Nominations should be submitted by 5 p.m. March 29 to sustainability@ku.edu using the information and forms [available at the center's website](#).

The Commons Hosts Bold Aspirations Lectures, Other Programs in March-April



Upcoming featured speakers include, left to right, Geraldine Richmond, Mark LeVine, Anne Basting, Nathan Brown, and Nancy Baym.

The Commons, a partnership between the Biodiversity Institute, the Hall Center for the Humanities, and the Spencer Museum of Art, will host a variety of presentations in March and April at Spooner Hall. More information on these and other research-related programs you won't want to miss is [available at The Commons website](#).

March 27, 4 p.m. | Bold Aspirations Lecture

Geraldine Richmond, Richard M. and Patricia H. Noyes Professor of Chemistry, University of Oregon
"Doorman, Barrier or Temptress: What Role Does a Water Surface Play in Gaseous Uptake?"

March 28, 7:30 p.m. | Arab Uprising Lecture Series

Leila Hudson, Associate Professor of Modern Middle East Culture and Political Economy, University of Arizona
"The Syrian Conflict: Anatomy of a Perfect Storm"

April 2, 7:30 p.m. | Arab Uprising Lecture Series

Mark LeVine, Professor of History, University of California, Irvine
"From Resistance to Revolution: The Role of Rock, Metal and Hip Hop Music in the Arab Uprisings"

April 9, 7:30 p.m. | Arab Uprising Lecture Series

Nathan Brown, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University
"Can Egypt's Constitution Work?"

April 12-13 | Conference

Global Water: Drought, Conservation & Security in the 21st Century

April 17, Noon | Idea Café

Nancy Baym, Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research New England
"Why Big Data Will Never be Big Enough to Handle the Social"

April 18, 7:30 p.m. | University Lecture Series: Digital Humanities

Trevor Harris, Eberly Distinguished Professor of Geography and Chair, West Virginia University
"Exploring the Spatial Turn in the Digital Humanities: Maps, Deep Mapping, and Immersive Geo-Virtual Reality"

April 18, 11 a.m. | Bold Aspirations Lecture

Anne Basting, Associate Professor of Playwriting and Director, Center on Age and Community, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
"The Promise of Improvisational Health Ensembles: Stories from the Junction of Arts, Science, and Aging"

“Monsters and Science” Lecture: Real Life is More Exciting Than Movies



Predators with ultraviolet vision. Parasites that control the minds of their hosts and burst out of their bodies. These may sound like the stars of the latest Hollywood blockbusters, but they're real creatures that live in our backyards. People often feel that a science like biology is too hard to understand and too abstract to care about. Showing people that real life is more exciting than monsters on the silver screen is a powerful way to turn people towards science.

“Monsters and Science” is the topic for an upcoming Science for the People Lecture Series presentation at KU Edwards Campus, 12600 Quivira Road, Overland Park. Noted author Carl Zimmer (left) will speak at the Regnier Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Zimmer is a lecturer at Yale University, where he teaches writing about science and the environment. He was also the first Visiting Scholar at the Science, Health, and Environment Reporting Program at New York University's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. His 12 books include *Soul Made Flesh*, a history of neuroscience; *Evolution: The Triumph of an Idea*; *At the Water's Edge*, a book about major transitions in the history of life; *The Smithsonian Intimate Guide to Human Origins*; and *Parasite Rex*, which the *Los Angeles Times* described as "a book capable of changing how we see the world."

Zimmer is also author of *The Tangled Bank: An Introduction to Evolution*, the first textbook about evolution for non-majors, and co-author of *Evolution: Making Sense of Life*, a textbook for biology majors. He has also written widely for the *New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Time*, *Scientific American*, *Science*, and *Popular Science*. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Sloan Foundation and is a three-time recipient of the AAAS Journalism Award.

The March 27 presentation is sponsored by KU's Center for STEM Learning, formerly the Center for Science Education. The center, directed by Steven Case, has offices at the Edwards and Lawrence campuses and oversees the UKanTeach STEM teacher preparation program. The center also provides leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education by promoting and improving K-12 through graduate education, developing and expanding innovative interdisciplinary research, and involving citizens through outreach programs.

Native Medicinal Plant Research Program Receives Strategic Initiative Grant

One outcome of the Bold Aspirations strategic plan at the University of Kansas was the creation of a Strategic Initiative Grant program, designed to invest in promising research projects that support the themes and goals of the plan. Two levels of grants are available: Level I, for requests greater than \$50,000, and Level II, for requests less than \$50,000.

During its first year, the program has already committed more than \$1.5 million to multidisciplinary proposals involving autism research, the integration of art and science, the forecasting of threats to public health, the development of a spinal fusion implant and translational research that improves the quality of long life for older adults.

The latest Strategic Initiative Grant provides three years of support for the Native Medicinal Plant Research Program. The grant allows a team of researchers to continue efforts aimed at discovering and commercializing plant-based drugs and other therapies for the prevention and treatment of several forms of cancer.

Barbara Timmermann, a university distinguished professor of medicinal chemistry in the School of Pharmacy, is the lead researcher on the grant. She is joined by Kelly Kindscher, professor in the Environmental Studies Program and senior scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey.

The project ties into the Promoting Well-Being, Finding Cures theme of the Bold Aspirations plan. It was reviewed by KU's Research Investment Council, a panel of researchers chaired by Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. The Council's recommendation was approved by Jeff Vitter, provost and executive vice chancellor.

“KU is already a national leader in this area of research and development,” said Warren, “and the research team is very well-qualified to continue the work they've begun. The potential upside of the project is good, as is the possibility of future funding from the National Institutes of Health or private industry.”

Upcoming Events

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

March 13

Humanities Lecture Series:
“An Evening with Edwidge Danticat”
7:30 p.m.
Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium

March 14

KUCR Thursday Research Topic: “Navigating the New
RGS Website and Other Research Administration
Resources on the Web”
11:10 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Simons Labs Auditorium

March 15

KU Postdoctoral Research Day and STEM Career Fair
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium and Ballroom

Plenary Lecture: “Metastasis Suppressors: Functioning
at the Interface of the Tumor and Stroma,” Danny Welch
9 a.m.
Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium

March 27

Science for the People Speaker Series:
“Monsters and Science,” Carl Zimmer
7:30 p.m.
KU Edwards Campus, Regnier Hall Auditorium

April 3

Dedication: Advanced Computing Facility Project
11 a.m.
Nichols Hall

April 25

KU Energy Conference
The Oread Hotel

April 25-27

2013 Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Humanities
Centers & Institutes: “Humanities, Publics, & the State”
Hall Center for the Humanities

April 30

KU Center for Technology Commercialization
Inaugural KUCTC Innovation Fair
4 – 6 p.m.
Kansas Union Ballroom

May 7

Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI)
Annual Dinner
Sheraton Kansas City (MO) Hotel at Crown Center

June 20

KCALSI/ Frontiers: The Heartland Institute for Clinical
and Translational Research Symposium
Kansas City University for Medicine and Biosciences

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