

Research & Graduate Studies @ KU

News of Interest to the University Community

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July 2013

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KU Sets Research Expenditures Record in 2012, but Federal Sequester Cuts Pose Challenges

The University of Kansas generated a record \$275.2 million in externally sponsored research expenditures in 2011-12, nearly \$20 million more than in 2010-11 and double what it was in 2000.

KU conducts more research than all other universities in Kansas combined, bolstering the state’s economy in a range of ways. “Not only are jobs directly created by this research,” said Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, “but we make discoveries that generate prosperity and well-being for people across the state.”

Warren added that “researchers at all KU campuses are extremely active, competitive and successful in obtaining external support for their work. That reflects a huge return on the state’s investment in talented faculty.”

While the economic benefit of KU research in Kansas is clear, the future of federal funding for research is less certain. Last spring, an automatic 5 percent cut in federal spending went into effect. The sequester is a challenge for KU and other research universities, said Paul Terranova, vice chancellor for research at the KU Medical Center, “but I’m far more concerned about the discoveries in human health, education, energy and many other fields that won’t happen if the sequester is made permanent.”

Warren and Terranova strongly encourage KU researchers to continue to pursue federal funding opportunities, as well as grants from foundations and industry. “The worst thing you could do in this environment,” said Warren, “is to become discouraged and stop seeking research support. The sequester has reduced agency budgets, but the federal government remains the leading source of funding, and we have to pursue it aggressively.”

August “TRT” Session Focuses on eCompliance

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 August 8 session is “eCompliance for Research Administrators: Submitting and Managing Human Subjects Protocols.” The presentation will be led by Stephanie Dyson Elms, coordinator of the Human Subjects Committee – Lawrence Campus, and Christopher Griffith, the assistant coordinator. 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.



Todd Williams (far left) and Craig Freeman are shown receiving their plaques during recent ceremonies at the Shankel Structural Biology Center. Presenting the plaques was Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

Todd Williams, Craig Freeman Receive KU Research Achievement Awards

For the first time this year, two recipients were 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:

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

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

Level I Strategic Initiative Grant Proposals Due November 1

Level I proposals submitted by July 1 for the Strategic Initiative Grant program are now under review by the Research Investment Council. Level I proposals seek more than \$50,000 in funding but typically involve total requests of \$100,000 to \$300,000. The next deadline for these proposals is the end of the day on Friday, November 1.

Level II proposals – those requesting \$5,000 to \$50,000 – may be submitted at any time. These proposals are evaluated by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. All proposals are submitted online at a secure KU website.

Guidelines for proposal preparation and the proposal templates are [available online](#).

KU Graduate Roy Chin to Speak on “How to be a Successful Entrepreneur”



Roy Chin, a 1988 KU electrical engineering graduate with 25 years of professional experience, will speak and take questions on July 23 at 3 p.m. in the Spahr Classroom at Eaton Hall on the topic “How to be a Successful Entrepreneur.” The program is open to the KU community and invited guests. A networking reception will follow. Please confirm attendance by July 19 to bethanyscothorn@ku.edu.

Chin is chairman of Chest Innovations, Inc. in Palo Alto, a company focusing on lung cancer procedures, and CEO of Intrepid Medical, a surgical procedure start-up company. He was previously founder and CEO of SpineView, and an inventor and manager with AFx, CardioThoracic Systems, and Stryker Engineering.

Chin's free presentation as an entrepreneur-in-residence is co-sponsored by the KU Center for Technology Commercialization and the Bioscience & Technology Business Center. Among other topics, he will discuss the passion, commitment, and other personal and organizational attributes that drive a successful venture.



At the June 27 seminar, undergraduate researchers (left) listened intently to Prof. Robert Rowland (right) of Communication Studies.

Self Graduate Fellowship Hosts Event for Summer Undergraduate Researchers

The Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship provided a half-day professional development seminar June 27 for more than 70 students participating in summer undergraduate research programs across the university. The seminar was designed to enhance the students' summer experience at KU and help them prepare for and apply to graduate school.

The students represented 48 universities in Kansas, 23 other states, and Puerto Rico and Ireland. Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, spoke to the group on "Interdisciplinary Research Opportunities at the University of Kansas." Robert Rowland, professor and director of graduate studies in Communication Studies, spoke on "Skills for Success: Effective Communication and Advocacy."

Also on the program was a panel of graduate students, led by Joy Ward, associate professor in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The students spoke and responded to questions about the process of selecting a graduate school and completing a doctoral program. Panelists were William Gilbert, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering; Amy Newton, Molecular Biosciences; and Tommy Johnson, Chemistry.

Students in the Research Experience for Undergraduates program are completing 10-week courses and conducting research under the direction of the following departments and programs: Bioengineering, Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Chemistry, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Medicinal Chemistry, Molecular Biosciences, Office for Diversity in Science Training, and Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Some programs are supported through funding provided by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

The public will have an opportunity to meet the students and see their work during a research poster symposium on Friday, July 26, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Kansas Union Ballroom. That event is also sponsored by the Self Graduate Fellowship, part of KU's Office of Graduate Studies.

Save the Date: September 13 Workshop to Focus on KU Water Research

A working group has 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 multidisciplinary projects involving water resources and sustainability. The workshop will feature a forum on the challenges of water-related research, a keynote presentation, a panel discussion, and break-out sessions designed to identify the most critical issues relating to water. Attention will also be given to sources of federal and foundation funding, resources for proposal development, and opportunities to form or join research groups.

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.

Garibotto Receives Vice Chancellor for RGS Book Publication Award



Verónica Garibotto, assistant professor of Spanish & Portuguese, is the 2013 recipient of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies Book Publication Award. The award will assist with the publication, in Spanish, by the Purdue University Press of Garibotto's forthcoming book, *Crisis and Reemergence: The Nineteenth Century in Contemporary Southern Cone Fiction*. The annual award is administered by the Hall Center for the Humanities.

Garibotto's book is a political examination of a noticeable recent phenomenon in the Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile, Uruguay): the re-emergence of popular 19th-century figures, heroes, and genres in contemporary fiction. Her book uses cultural Marxism, discourse analysis, and post-colonial theory to understand the key political ideas at the center of 19th century Southern Cone culture, to show how these ideas continued into the 1990s, and to look at these ideas' recent transformation, which has led to the so-called "return of the political" to the region.



A second KU faculty author, Hui Faye Ziao, assistant professor in East Asian Languages and Cultures, is the 2013 recipient of the Friends Book Publication Award, made possible by the Friends of the Hall Center. The award will support publication of *Family Revolution in Post-Revolutionary China: Divorce in Literature and Visual Culture, 1980-2010*. The book will be the first full-length qualitative study of divorce narratives in Chinese fiction and will reveal new knowledge of sociocultural transformations of post-revolutionary China.

Friends of the Hall Center is a volunteer organization of faculty, community members, and students that supports the center's programs financially and in other ways.

Next eCompliance Human Subjects Training Session is July 30 at Budig Hall

The Human Subjects Committee – Lawrence Campus 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.

The next eCompliance training opportunity for researchers is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Budig Hall Computer Center. **Online registration is required** in advance. Other training opportunities will be provided this summer and into the fall. Information about the new system is available to KU researchers at the [Research Integrity website](#) and its [eCompliance page](#).

NSF CAREER Proposals Heat Up in July

As summer temperatures rise, the number of proposals submitted by Pre-Award Services also typically reaches triple digits in July. By far, the single most popular initiative during this time is the annual National Science Foundation CAREER competition for junior faculty. According to NSF, "The intent of the program is to provide stable support at a sufficient level and duration to enable awardees to develop careers as outstanding researchers and educators who effectively integrate teaching, learning and discovery."

Investigators who are interested in submitting a proposal to this initiative are encouraged to [review the online solicitation](#) and contact Pre-Award Services at kucrpreamgmt@ku.edu to request assistance.

KCALSI Annual Dinner to Feature Keynote Speaker John Wilbanks



The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI), of which KU is a stakeholder institution, will hold its **annual dinner on October 1** at the Sheraton Kansas City (Mo.) Hotel at Crown Center.

This year's keynote speaker will be John Wilbanks, chief commons officer for Sage Bionetworks and founder of the Consent to Research project. The project, founded in 2011, provides an outlet for people to donate their personal health data for the advancement of research and medicine, as this information is private and expensive to obtain. Sage Bionetworks, a research institute based in Seattle, develops tools that allow patients to store their own medical data.

Wilbanks is also a senior fellow at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, which promotes entrepreneurship through education and training. He was the first assistant director in 1998 at Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet & Society. While there he co-founded Incellico, Inc., a company focused on research and development in pharmaceuticals, for which he served as President and CEO. The company is now part of Selventa, located in Cambridge, Mass.

Animal Health is Focus of Four Kansas City Programs in August

Researchers with an interest in animal and human health have four opportunities next month to expand their knowledge and explore opportunities for industry collaborations. Four events are scheduled August 26-27 at the Kansas City (Mo.) Convention Center under the auspices of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, the KC Animal Health Corridor, and the veterinary schools at Kansas State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia.

- **Animal Health Research Symposium, August 26, 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**



The keynote speaker will be Kathryn Bowers (left), co-author of *Zoobiquity: The Astonishing Connection Between Human and Animal Health*. Her presentation, entitled "Zoobiquity: What Jaguar Breast Cancer, Dolphin Diabetes, & Flamingo Heart Attacks Mean for Human Health," will further explain the book's connection of animal to human disease and how it can lead to diagnoses and cures in the overlapping sub-specialties of medicine. Presentations throughout the day will provide examples of leveraging a zoobiquitous approach in research to accelerate development decisions and commercialization. Among the presenters will KU's Scott Weir ("The Application of Comparative Oncology to Human Therapeutics") and Lisa A. Stehno-Bittel ("Canine and Feline Diabetes: A Cure for All").

- **Animal Health University/Industry Tech Transfer Event, August 26, 2:15 – 4:30 p.m.**

Following the symposium, the Kansas State Institute for Commercialization invites participants to learn about exciting new animal health technologies coming out of 15 universities in close proximity to the KC Animal Health Corridor. The first hour will feature presentations by four universities of their animal health innovations. The second hour will feature a networking and poster session of up-and-coming technologies from the universities.

- **Animal Health Homecoming Dinner, August 26, 5-9 p.m.**

This annual program involves 750 animal health executives from around the world, representing more than 175 different companies. This is the KC Animal Health Corridor's marquee event and a showcase for the region. The event will focus on the human/animal bond, with Victoria Stillwell, one of the world's most recognized and respected dog trainers, as guest entertainer. Stilwell is the star of Animal Planet's hit TV series "It's Me or the Dog," where she shares her insight and passion for positive reinforcement dog training. Also on the agenda is presentation of the Iron Paw Award to James Nave, a Las Vegas veterinarian, graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

- **Animal Health Investment Forum, August 27, 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

The Forum offers an opportunity for early and mid-stage animal health companies to present their business plans to potential investors and strategic partners.

Upcoming Events

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

July 25

Quarterly RGS Grant Coordinators Meeting

10:30 a.m.

Auditorium, Simons Bioscience Labs

July 26

KU Summer Undergraduate Research Experience

Poster Symposium

10 a.m. – Noon

Ballroom, Kansas Union

July 30

eCompliance Training Session

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Budig Hall Computer Center

August 5

Workshop: Writing & Designing NIH Proposals

Presented by The Grant Training Center (\$375)

(Not sponsored or endorsed by KU or RGS)

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Kansas Union TBA

August 6

Workshop: Writing & Designing NSF Proposals

Presented by The Grant Training Center (\$375)

(Not sponsored or endorsed by KU or RGS)

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Kansas Union TBA

August 8

RGS Thursday Research Topics: “eCompliance for Research

Administrators: Submitting and Managing Human Subjects

Protocols,” Stephanie Dyson Elms and Christopher Griffith

11:10 – 11:50 a.m.

Auditorium, Simons Bioscience Labs

August 26

Animal Health Research Symposium:

“Zoobiquitous Research”

Speaker: Kathryn Bowers, author of *Zoobiquity: The*

Astonishing Connection Between Human and Animal Health

7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Kansas City (Mo.) Convention Center

Animal Health University/Industry Tech Transfer Event

2:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Kansas City (Mo.) Convention Center

Animal Health Corridor Homecoming Dinner

5 – 9 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

Speaker: John Wilbanks, Sage Bionetworks

Sheraton Kansas City (Mo.) Hotel at Crown Center

October 24

Quarterly RGS Grant Coordinators Meeting

10:30 a.m.

Auditorium, Simons Bioscience Labs

November 1

Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grants Level I Proposals

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