Five Receive Scholarly Achievement Awards

For the sixth year in a row, a special group of KU faculty has been selected to receive the University Scholarly Achievement Award. The award recognizes KU mid-career faculty in four areas: arts and humanities; clinical sciences; science, technology, and mathematics; and social science and professional programs.

“As a research university, KU has a special responsibility,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, who will host the public awards ceremony and reception on Wednesday, May 11 at 5 p.m. at The Commons in Spooner Hall. “In addition to educating leaders and building healthy communities, we’re responsible for the discoveries and innovations that improve lives, create jobs, and help us better understand ourselves and our world.”

The University Scholarly Achievement Award recognizes an outstanding scholarly or research contribution, or a series of closely related contributions. The 2016 recipients are:

- Christie Befort, Associate Professor, Preventive Medicine and Public Health;
- Wen-Xing Ding, Associate Professor, Pharmacy, Toxicology and Therapeutics;
- William Elliott, Associate Professor, Social Welfare;
- Peter Grund, Associate Professor, English; and
- Greg Rudnick, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy.

“These five researchers have excelled in their fields,” said Gray-Little. “continue to embrace KU’s mission to make discoveries that change the world. Their research is novel and original, and they all show remarkable promise to continue advancing their careers in a way that benefits the world and elevates our university.
Nagel Named Associate Vice Chancellor

Julie Nagel, left, interim associate vice chancellor for innovation and entrepreneurship at KU, has been named to the position permanently. In that role she serves as president of KU Innovation and Collaboration (KUIC), which manages intellectual property and technology commercialization at all KU campuses. She also provides leadership for the university’s overall economic development mission.

Nagel came to KU in 2011 as director of industrial partnerships. She was previously with Discovery Park at Purdue University, where she was managing director of the Oncological Sciences Center. Prior to joining Purdue in 2005, Nagel was a program director for Biotechnology Business Consultants, following service as a technical coordinator with Rubicon Genomics in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her academic background includes a B.S. in biology from John Brown University, an M.S. in zoology from Oklahoma State University and a Ph.D. ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Tennessee.

Cregg Named to Research Finance Posts

Gina Cregg, left, has been appointed on a permanent basis as executive director of the KU Research Division of Fiscal Affairs and chief financial officer of the KU Center for Research, Inc. She has held those positions on an interim basis since last November.

In this role, Cregg oversees business services, accounting, financial reporting, budget, strategic business planning, unit human resources, investments and purchasing.

Cregg came to the Office of Research in 2014 as director of budgeting and financial services. She was previously with KU Professional and Continuing Education as senior associate director and director of its Center for Professional Education Programs. She served at KUPCE for 10 years and was its chief financial officer and chief operating officer.

Prior to that, Cregg was assistant comptroller for central accounting services and purchasing in the KU Comptroller’s Office. Earlier, she was fiscal services director for the Kansas Department of Administration. Her academic background includes a master’s of accountancy and a B.S. in business administration, both from Kansas State University.

New KU Center Hosts First Symposium

KU’s new Center for the Study of the U.S. Military, part of the Institute for Policy & Social Research, will host its first symposium on Thursday, April 28 at the Kansas Union. The topic is the all-volunteer military force (AVF).

Beth Bailey, Foundation Distinguished Professor of history, is director of the center. She is a military historian who came to KU in 2015 from Temple University.

“When the U.S. ended the draft and moved to an all-volunteer military in 1973,” says Bailey, “most political and military leaders assumed that if the U.S. again fought a long, major war the nation would reactivate the draft. It is now the right time, in the wake of costly wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, to evaluate the AVF.”

The symposium agenda will address four key questions:

- Is the AVF fair?
- Is it efficient and sustainable?
- Does it promote militarism, and how well does it provide for the national defense?
- What are alternatives to the AVF?

The symposium begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Centennial Room and continues to 4:30 p.m. It will feature a variety of national experts with diverse perspectives on the AVF.

From 6 - 7:30 p.m., a public conversation on the AVF is scheduled for the KU Alumni Center. Bailey will moderate a panel that includes Lawrence Korb, assistant secretary of defense under President Reagan; Lawrence Wilkerson, a former chief of staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell; Bernard Rostker, a former undersecretary of defense and director of Selective Service; and Maj. General (Ret.) Dennis Laich, executive director of the AVF Forum.

All events are free and open to the public. Registration is requested at the center’s website.
Boatright to Retire May 6 at KU Research

Kevin Boatright, left, director of external affairs for KU Research and editor of KU Discovery & Innovation, will retire May 6 after 11 years in that role. Boatright came to KU in 2002 from the University of Wisconsin (UW) System Administration in Madison, where he held government relations, news media relations and other public affairs roles. He previously worked at UW-Platteville and the University of Northern Iowa, as well as a foundation and a division of Monsanto.

“It’s been an exciting time to be at KU Research,” said Boatright, “with strong research centers and institutes, major investments in infrastructure, a clear economic development mission and rising research expenditures. I’ve been part of all that, working with great scholars and other colleagues to build awareness and appreciation of research at KU.”

“Beyond this office, Kevin’s service to KU has been extensive,” said Jim Tracy, vice chancellor for research. “He was involved at the start in promoting the ‘Research Circle’ and the Bioscience & Technology Business Center, and was a leading staff contributor to the Bold Aspirations strategic planning process. The search for Kevin’s successor will begin soon, but I ask you to join me in thanking him for his service to KU Research and wishing him well as he transitions into retirement.”

Reed Named Interim Asst. Vice Chancellor

Alicia Reed, left, associate director of research administration, has been named interim assistant vice chancellor. She succeeds Kristi Billinger, who left KU in March to become executive director of sponsored research services at Texas A&M University.

In this role, Reed provides leadership for the Pre-Award, Contract Negotiations and Post-Award units, and is the official signatory for sponsored projects from the University of Kansas and the KU Center for Research, Inc.

Reed joined research administration in 2005 in the Pre-Award unit, and has served as a grant specialist, grant officer and research development coordinator. Her background includes an M.A. in sociology from KU.

New SIG Level II Proposals Deadline

KU Research, which administers the Strategic Initiative Grant (SIG) Level II proposal and approval process, has extended the deadline for the third and final solicitation of the 2015-16 academic year. The original deadline was Friday, May 6. The new deadline is Sunday, May 15. Information about the program, and access to the online application form, is available at the website.

Researcher Kudos

- An exhibition of paintings and prints by Roger Shimomura, Distinguished Professor of Art Emeritus, continues through July 17 at the Beach Museum of Art at K-State. “Minidoka on My Mind” features work based on his childhood World War II incarceration experience at Camp Minidoka, Idaho.
- Devon Mihesuah, Humanities Program, is the lead scholar of the NEH two-year grant, "Building the Gap: Building a 21st Century American Indian Studies Program" for the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center at CSU-San Marcos.
- Erik Scott, History, has received a Summer Stipend grant from the NEH. His research project is “Soviet Defectors and the Borders of the Cold War World.”
- Ani Kokobobo, Slavic Languages and Literature, has received an Enduring Questions pilot grant from the NEH for a course entitled “Ethical Boundaries of Community in Russian Literature and Beyond.”
- Antonio Luciano Tosta, Spanish and Portuguese, co-edited Latin America in Focus: Brazil, designed to educate students, travelers and others about South America’s largest country. Tosta also received KU’s 2016 Vice Chancellor for Research Book Publication Award for his forthcoming Confluence Narratives: Ethnicity, History, and Nation Making in the Americas.
- The final Red Hot Research of the year is on a timely topic: “Political Engagement.” It is scheduled Friday, April 29 at 4-5 p.m. in The Commons at Spooner Hall. Faculty participants are Joshua Miner, Film & Media Studies; Tyler Galloway, Design; Jonathan Peters, Journalism & Mass Communication; Laura Mielke, English; and Ari Linden, Germanic Languages & Literatures. Jon Lamb, English, will be the emcee.
HSCL has New Name, Ongoing Mission

Universities and other agencies that conduct research in the U.S. involving humans must have an institutional review board (IRB). Its function is to protect the welfare of humans participating as subjects in a research study.

The Human Subjects Committee Lawrence (HSCL) has long functioned as the IRB. Effective May 1, the HSCL office, housed in KU Research, will become the Human Research Protection Program (HRPP), a name more commonly used today by peer institutions. It is also the name used by the separate IRB at the KU Medical Center.

“The name is new but the mission is unchanged,” said Stephanie Dyson Elms, assistant director of research integrity. “We protect research participants’ rights and privacy. We also protect investigators from legal and ethical missteps and their consequences. There are no changes to the required steps for approval of human subjects research.”

HRPP staff work closely with a committee of researchers which, starting May 1, will be called the IRB. The current email address for the office will also change, from HSCL@KU.edu to IRB@KU.edu.

Five Proof of Concept Awards Made

KU Innovation and Collaboration (KUIC) has awarded five Proof of Concept Fund grants of up to $40,000 each to researchers at the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses. The five recipients and their projects are:

- Cory Berkland, Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, “Antigen-Drug Conjugates as Antigen-Specific Immunotherapy”
- Hongyi Cai, Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, “Self De-Icing LED Signals”
- Robert Dunn, Chemistry, “Scanning Resonator Microscopy”

This is the fourth year for the fund. Awards support research and development for up to one year in any area of innovation and technology, including electronics, software, communications, life sciences and engineering. During that time, the inventor works to make the technology more attractive for licensing. Funded projects require patent protection and a clearly identified commercial product or method.

The Proof of Concept Fund grant program is highly competitive. This year, 15 proposals were submitted by researchers in 12 different KU departments.

KU Postdocs to Explore ‘Mindfulness’

The KU Postdoctoral Association will hold its next noon-hour luncheon meeting on Friday, April 29 at the Ron Evans Apollo Auditorium in Nichols Hall. The speaker will be Sharon Riley, an organizational development coordinator and member of the Organizational Development Unit for KU Libraries. Her topic is “Mindfulness: How Mindful Moments Can Increase Effectiveness and Decrease Stress.” Food is provided, and postdocs are asked to RSVP at the site by April 25.

The KU Postdocs will also meet on Thursday, May 5 from noon–1 p.m. in the Centennial Room of the Kansas Union. This will be an opportunity to brainstorm specific topics on how to make the association even better in the coming year. Food is provided, and postdocs are asked to RSVP at the site by April 28.
KU Announces 12th Foundation Professor

A prominent chemical engineer who helped create a top refrigerant that is safe for Earth’s ozone layer will join KU in August as a Foundation Distinguished Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. He will conduct his research at the Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis (CEBC), and is the 12th and final Foundation Distinguished Professor to be named.

Mark Shiflett, left, has worked for DuPont since 1987 and is currently a technical fellow for DuPont Central Research and Development. He also serves at the University of Delaware as an adjunct professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering.

“Adding Mark Shiflett to our faculty will substantially enhance the research prominence and visibility of the already successful CEBC,” said Michael Branicky, dean of the School of Engineering. “He brings a strong potential to increase research support for the CEBC, the school and the university.”

CEBC focuses on green chemistry and green engineering principles to develop cost-competitive processes to produce chemicals needed by a variety of industries. It also strives to reduce waste and conserve natural resources. DuPont is one of the charter industry members of the CEBC.

Shiflett’s research interests, which center on separations, ionic liquids and green chemistry, led to the development of three environmentally safe refrigerant mixtures for DuPont, one of which has generated more than $1 billion in revenue. He holds 44 patents and has several patent applications pending. He has published more than 70 scholarly articles and recently founded a company that manufactures bioderived lubricants and greases for the cycling industry.

Shiflett is active in the American Chemical Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. In 2006 he was awarded the ACS Heroes of Chemistry Award, and in 2005 he received DuPont’s Bolton Carothers Innovative Science Award for advances in environmental science. He was awarded Fellow status in AIChE in 2014 and in the ACS Industry and Engineering Chemistry Division in 2015.

Shiflett’s academic background includes a B.S. in chemical engineering from North Carolina State University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware.

Research Notes

New F&A Rates Approved for Lawrence Campus

Externally funded research awards include both the direct costs of the project and the indirect facilities and administrative (F&A) costs. The latter is a negotiated reimbursement to the university of part of the institution’s costs that cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular sponsored project.

The current Lawrence Campus F&A rates took effect in 2012. The following new rates have just been approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Previous Rate</th>
<th>New Rate</th>
<th>New Rate Effective Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-Campus Research</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>July 1, 2016- June 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Campus Instruction</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>July 1, 2016- June 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sponsored Activities</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>July 1, 2016- June 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Campus, All Programs</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>July 1, 2016- June 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Pre-Award unit will start applying these new rates to proposals submitted with a start date of July 1, 2016 or later. Currently active awards will not be affected by the new rates, and the Office of Research will work with sponsors for proposals already submitted that have an award date of July 1, 2016 or later.

Guidance on how the new F&A rates will be implemented can be found online. Immediate questions about current projects can be addressed to Nancy Biles, associate director for pre-award services, 864-7781, or Alicia Reed, interim assistant vice chancellor for research, 864-3289.

Effort-Reporting to be Simplified by Online ecrt®

This summer will see the debut of the ecrt® Effort-Reporting Solution at KU. ecrt® will replace the current paper effort-certification forms with an online interface for PIs and departmental and central administrators. With a proven track record among top research universities, ecrt® is a best-of-breed solution for oversight of the effort-certification process and maintaining compliance with federal regulations. Additional details and training opportunities will be announced by KU Research.
KU Part of National Subrecipient Pilot Study

KU is participating in a national pilot study conducted by the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP). The study will create an expanded clearinghouse to function as a central repository to enter, upload, maintain and update all entity-related information about member institutions. This repository will streamline subrecipient risk assessment and monitoring by allowing pass-through entities to obtain and review all necessary institutional information without having to collect it anew for each proposal submission. A list of institutions participating in the pilot is available online.

The pilot went live March 28 and will continue through June 30, 2017. KU pre-award staff will utilize a streamlined subrecipient intent form for pilot institutions that only requests project-specific information (such as title, budget, and applicable compliance approvals) but does not replicate information available on the clearinghouse. Instead, we will download the clearinghouse profile for that institution. If we are a subrecipient in a proposal submitted by another pilot institution, we expect to follow the same process.

If a subrecipient institution is not a part of the pilot, we will continue to do business as usual, by requesting our standard subrecipient intent form. For all institutions, we will collect necessary proposal data from subrecipients, i.e., statements of work, budgets, signatures of sponsored project office representatives, plus any other required documents, e.g., biosketches, current and pending support, etc.

If pre-award staff are asked to complete a subrecipient commitment form by a pilot institution after the go-live date, we will ensure it does not replicate the information provided in the clearinghouse. If it does, we will inform the other pilot institution that we are a member of the FDP Expanded Clearinghouse pilot, and request that they use the information from our profile. Profiles for the participating institutions are available online.

Contract Negotiations is also using these profiles to expedite federally-mandated risk assessment reviews prior to subaward issuance or modification with these pilot institutions. We will be tracking how many subawards we issue that use the new process, and whether or not it speeds up the issuance process.

Please contact Nancy Biles, 864-7781 if you have questions about how this FDP pilot will affect the pre-award process.

Congratulations to KU Research Student Assistant

Ariel Mosley, left, a KU doctoral student in social psychology and a graduate student assistant at KU Research, has been awarded a three-year Graduate Research Fellowship by the National Science Foundation. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions. Fellows benefit from opportunities for international research, professional development, and the freedom to conduct their own research. Congratulations!

KU Research Offers Access to Grantwriting Newsletter

All KU researchers now have appropriate university-wide access to the Research Development Grantwriting Newsletter. The annual subscription is funded by KU Research and is available to anyone with a KU ID (faculty, staff, students).

Copies of the newsletter were emailed upon request. According to Bob Rummer, director of research development, “We will post the current issue on this website so I will no longer be e-mailing copies. Share the link with colleagues and bookmark it to check out new monthly issues. I have found it to be a great resource for keeping up with research sponsor news, emerging trends, and grantwriting tips.” For information about strategic funding opportunities, contact Rummer at 864-3149.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP OF 25+ KU RESEARCH STAFF AND FAMILY MEMBERS, above, attended the April 8 KU baseball game together at Hoglund Ballpark. With their energetic support (fueled by one-dollar hotdogs on a chilly night), the Jayhawks defeated the sixth-ranked Texas Christian University Horned Frogs, 4-3. Rock Chalk!
KU Campaign Seeks Fume Hood Savings

The KU Center for Sustainability is leading a new initiative called Shut the Sash as part of an innovative program designed to reduce energy consumption and costs at the university’s research laboratories.

A “sash” is the sliding window on a fume hood, the safety equipment designed to capture, contain and exhaust hazardous fumes, limiting the user’s exposure. Closing the sash can save a considerable amount of electrical energy.

For health and safety reasons, laboratories use outside air. Vast quantities of electricity are needed to move the fresh air through the building, as well as to heat and cool it. A single fume hood can consume as much energy as 3.5 average homes per year, according to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. With about 750,000 fume hoods in use nationwide, the annual operating cost is estimated at $4.2 billion, with a peak electrical demand of 5,100 MW.

Shut the Sash will be monitored by a newly formed Green Team at the Multidisciplinary Research Building (MRB). The green team is made up of staff and students who volunteer to encourage staff, faculty and students to make their laboratories and workplaces more sustainable.

Shut the Sash began April 1 and concentrates on 45 fume hoods in MRB. The program’s success will be measured by comparing data collected before and during the six-week campaign using monitoring software that shows sash positions in real time.

Among the tools being used in the campaign are reminder stickers on each sash as well as signs at laboratory exits. Emails are sent out weekly, and posters with updated results are shared to let the labs know if they are on track to reduce their sash heights. Additionally, a volunteer in each lab was recruited to help remind others of the importance of keeping the sash closed.

“Our conservation efforts focus on reducing energy consumption while creating more comfortable and productive work environments,” said Jeff Severin, director of the Center for Sustainability. “Encouraging researchers to shut the sash is one way to reduce energy use and reinforce standard safety practices without disrupting the lab.”

On April 22, Ann Smith, facilities manager at MRB, will receive the Center for Sustainability’s Energy Conservation Award. She played an integral role in starting the MRB Green Team and helped identify opportunities for energy conservation in the building, including the Shut the Sash campaign.
Upcoming Events

Additional events and details are available at the KU Calendar.

**THROUGH APRIL 29**
“DNA Day” High School Science Outreach Program

**THROUGH JULY 17**
Exhibition: “Minidoka On My Mind: Paintings and Prints by Roger Shimomura”
Beach Museum of Art, Kansas State University, Manhattan

**APRIL 20**
66th Annual Environmental Engineering Conference
7:30 a.m. – 4:20 p.m.
Kansas Union

**APRIL 20-21**
Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute Regional Translational Medicine Meeting
University of Missouri – Kansas City, St. Luke’s Hospital

**APRIL 22**
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Marvin Hall, The Forum

**APRIL 23**
KU Undergraduate Research Symposium
Noon – 7 p.m.
Kansas Union

**APRIL 24**
“Day of Creativity”
Noon – 3 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons, and Natural History Museum

**APRIL 28**
KU Center for the Study of the U.S. Military:
“Symposium on the All-Volunteer Force”
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Kansas Union, Centennial Room

**APRIL 28**
Symposium: “Finding Justice in the Low-Carbon Transition”
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons

**APRIL 28**
KU Center for the Study of the U.S. Military:
Public Conversation on the All-Volunteer Force
6 – 7:30 p.m.
KU Alumni Center, Summerfield Room

**APRIL 29**
KU Postdoctoral Association Luncheon Meeting:
Sharon Riley, “Mindfulness: How Mindful Moments Can Increase Effectiveness and Decrease Stress”
Noon – 1 p.m.
Nichols Hall, Ron Evans Apollo Auditorium

**RED HOT RESEARCH**
“Political Engagement”
4 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons

**MAY 5**
KU Postdoctoral Association Planning Luncheon Meeting
Noon – 1 p.m.
Kansas Union, Centennial Room

**MAY 11**
Ceremony: University Scholarly Achievement Awards
5 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons

**MAY 15**
144th University of Kansas Commencement Ceremony
10:30 a.m.
Memorial Campanile and Memorial Stadium

**MAY 17**
KUIC: “Technology Tuesday in Kansas City”
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
KU Clinical Research Center, 4350 Shawnee Mission Parkway Fairway

**MAY 23 – JUNE 10**
2016 Stats Camp: Summer Statistical Institute
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Kansas Union, Centennial Room

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