Engineering Celebrates LEEP2 Completion

The KU School of Engineering held a dedication ceremony October 30 for the new Learned Engineering Expansion Phase 2 (LEEP2). Seamlessly integrating with Learned Hall, Spahr Library and the Measurement, Materials and Sustainable Environment Center, LEEP2 adds more than 135,000 square feet to KU’s engineering facilities. Features include six active-learning classrooms, teaching and research labs, a remodeled library and numerous new collaboration and study spaces. LEEP2 also houses the School of Engineering’s new Student Success Suite, the Engineering Career Center, and offices for minority programs and women’s programs.

On October 29, Dean Michael Branicky hosted a Deans Club reception and open house at the Structural Testing and Student Projects Facility (right) on the Research Circle. It houses faculty and student research space as well as a 40-foot tall “strong wall.” This structure allows students to perform real-life structural tests rather than scaling them for smaller labs. The facility also includes space for senior design labs, student groups and clubs.

The LEEP2 expansion was funded through the State of Kansas’ University Engineering Initiative Act, leveraged with funds from KU and KU Endowment. It is part of the School of Engineering’s Building on Excellence Initiative.

HIGHLIGHTS

1 LEEP2 Dedication Events
2 Higuchi Awards Presented
3 Tippett to Speak on Civility
4 Chancellor’s Office Seeks Scholarly Award Nominations
3 ‘KU Elevate’ Event Showcases Four KU Faculty Members
3 New Role for Gina Cregg
3 KU Postdocs to Meet Nov. 20
4 AAU Water Page Cites KU
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ON NOVEMBER 10 THE 2015 HIGUCHI-KU ENDOWMENT RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS were presented at the Lied Center Pavilion to (from left) David Nualart, Black-Babcock Distinguished Professor of Mathematics; Paulette Spencer, Ackers Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Stephen Welch, Professor of Agronomy, K-State; and Michael Wehmeyer, Ross and Mariana Beach Professor of Special Education. The awards are the state’s most prestigious recognition for scholarly excellence and are given in four categories: humanities and social sciences, basic sciences, biomedical sciences and applied sciences. Each award includes a citation and a $10,000 award for ongoing research efforts.

Krista Tippett is Next Humanities Lecturer

Krista Tippett (left), a Peabody Award-winning journalist, podcast host, and entrepreneur, will give the final Humanities Lecture Series talk of the fall semester Tuesday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m. in Woodruff Auditorium at the Kansas Union.

Her presentation is entitled “The Adventure of Civility.” It is supported by the Sosland Foundation of Kansas City and is free and open to the public.

Tippett’s public radio show and podcast, On Being, brings a vast range of voices to the animating questions at the center of life: What does it mean to be human, and how do we want to live? Her Civil Conversations Project has attempted to answer these questions by focusing on a range of communities, from the deep south to Harvard Law School. She will speak at KU on how we can all begin to create the conversations we want to be hearing, where we live.

Achievement Award Nominees Sought

Each year, KU presents University Scholarly Achievement Awards to four mid-career faculty members. The award recognizes a significant scholarly or research contribution (an exhibition, performance, composition, article or book, or major collaborative project) or a series of closely related contributions.

Nominations for the 2016 awards are now being accepted at the Chancellor’s Office. The full call for nominations was announced November 2 and is available online.

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.

Individuals may self-nominate or be nominated by others. 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 scholarly or research contribution as appropriate for the discipline;
- A letter of nomination of no more than 750 words explaining in terms comprehensible to an educated layperson how the contribution meets the award criteria;
- Curriculum vita; and
- Two reference letters (at least one from outside KU) from individuals who are qualified to comment on the merits of the scholarly contribution, to be sent directly to the address below, arriving no later than February 8, 2016.

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 with “Scholarly Achievement Award” in the subject line.

Nominations will be evaluated by an academically diverse panel of eight individuals appointed by Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. The panel may recommend up to four awards each year in any of four academic categories, depending on the number of meritorious nominations. Presentation of the awards will take place near the end of the spring semester.
Gina Cregg Named Interim Executive Director of Fiscal Affairs at KU Research

Gina Cregg has been named interim executive director of fiscal affairs at KU Research, and interim chief financial officer of the KU Center for Research, Inc. She succeeds Linda Sadler, who decided to retire from the university on November 2 after seven years at KU.

“I thank Linda her for her service to the university,” said Jim Tracy, vice chancellor for research, “and wish her well in the future.”

In her new roles, Cregg reports directly to Tracy and has primary responsibility for fiscal affairs: business services, accounting, financial reporting, budget, strategic business planning, unit human resources, and for investments and purchasing for KUCR.

Cregg (left) has served as director of budgeting and financial services for KU Research since March 2014. She was previously at KU Professional and Continuing Education as senior associate director and director of the 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, with responsibilities in central audit, purchasing and fund management. Previously, she was fiscal services director for the State of Kansas Department of Administration. Her background includes a master’s of accountancy and a B.S. in business administration, both from Kansas State University.

Rose Galindo, finance manager for the core services labs and research services, has been named interim budget director for KU Research, reporting directly to Cregg.

KU Postdoc Group to Meet November 20

The KU Postdoctoral Association will hold its next luncheon meeting on Friday, November 20, at noon in the Relays Room of the Burge Union. Mike Rounds, associate provost of human resources management, will speak on “Talent Development Philosophy at KU.” Please RSVP by November 13 at the new KUPA website.
KU civil engineering student Emily Cook (above) and faculty member Belinda Sturm are featured in one of the AAU water webpage stories.

AAU Water Webpage Cites KU Research

The Association of American Universities (AAU), of which KU is a member, launched a new webpage October 26 demonstrating how research at AAU universities is helping address the chronic challenge of fresh water supply and demand.

AAU Universities: Helping Solve the Fresh Water Puzzle features stories about scientific breakthroughs and technical developments at AAU campuses dealing with drought, flooding, climate change, pollution, and the growing demand for fresh water around the country and around the world.

Three stories cite water research at KU. One concerns work by the Kansas Geological Survey to measure groundwater declines in central and western Kansas. A second has to do with growing algae for biofuel and cleaner water. The third involves riverine macrosystems in Mongolia and the U.S. Great Plains.

The webpage is the first of a series AAU plans to launch over time to demonstrate the value of research universities in addressing major societal issues.

Input Sought on Proposed Drone Policy

The KU Policy Office invites input on a draft proposed policy and procedures related to the use of unmanned aircraft systems, or drones, on campus. For draft copies, or to comment, send an email to policy@ku.edu.

The number of requests for use of drones has been on the rise as the technology has become increasingly affordable. Procedures for the purchase and use of drones for personal/commercial or research purposes will be implemented and maintained by KU Marketing Communications and the KU Office of Research, respectively.

KU, Local Community Invited to Forum on Central District Redevelopment

The KU and Lawrence communities are invited to learn more about redevelopment plans for KU’s Central District at an open forum on Monday, November 16 from 6-7 p.m. in the Gridiron Room of the Burge Union.

The forum, hosted by KU Design & Construction Management, will provide students, faculty and staff, Hilltop Child Development Center families, and the public a chance to explore plans to transform portions of the Central District. KU’s comprehensive Campus Master Plan, which was unveiled last year, outlines new integrated structures and spaces that help connect the three distinct districts of the Lawrence campus.

The Central District (above) is bounded by West 15th Street to the north, West 19th Street to the south, Naismith Drive to the east and Iowa Street to the west. The heart of the redeveloped district will be Innovation Way, including new learning and research facilities, student living spaces and necessary infrastructure.

The forum will include a presentation at 6:15 p.m., but will center on a series of conversations between attendees and KU planners. KU will provide visuals to help attendees envision components of the Central District redevelopment and the overall Campus Master Plan.

The 2014–2024 Campus Master Plan is KU’s fifth, and the most comprehensive. It was developed over a 13-month period, and engaged hundreds of individuals though meetings, focus groups, interviews and charrettes. The end result is a document that includes extensive analysis and reports on space and classroom utilization, historic patterns and resources, land use, sustainability, program accommodation, coordination with the local community, and other areas.

Visit the Campus Master Plan homepage for details, including renderings and a video.
KU Workshops to Address Challenge of Open, Reproducible Research

On December 2, staff from the Center for Open Science, home of the Reproducibility Project, will conduct two identical workshops at KU on reproducible research practices, emphasizing factors that contribute to low levels of reproducibility.

The free workshops are aimed at faculty, staff, and students across disciplines who are engaged in quantitative research. No specialized knowledge of programming is required. Attendees will learn simple, practical steps to ensure reproducibility in their own work through a combination of lecture and hands-on activities.

The principal workshop presenter will be Courtney Soderberg, the statistical and methodological consultant at the Center for Open Science. She heads up their training programs for reproducible research methods. Her background includes a Ph.D. in experimental social psychology from UC Davis.

Both sessions of the workshop will take in the Alderson Room at the Kansas Union. The first is from 9 a.m. to noon and the second is from 1-4 p.m. Online registration is required, and seating is limited.

This program is sponsored by KU Libraries, KU Research, the KU Center for Research Methods & Data Analysis, and KU Information Technology.

Next TRT Session is ‘Stump the Champs’

The December 10th edition of Thursday Research Topics will be a question-and-answer session on topics of interest to research administrators. “Stump the Champs” is your opportunity to ask about any policy, issue or procedure that may be unclear to you and others.

Questions must be submitted in writing by noon on Thursday, December 3 to resadmin-events@ku.edu. An appropriate KU Research staff person will respond to each question submitted. Send in questions, and plan to attend from 11-11:50 a.m. at the Simons Labs Auditorium.

Researcher Kudos

Emily Scott (left), professor of medicinal chemistry, is the recipient of a MERIT Award from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of General Medical Sciences.

Rex Buchanan (left), interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey, will present “Reflections on Water & Education” November 19th at the Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas in Manhattan.

• At the 14th Annual Great Plains Infectious Disease Meeting November 6-7 at KU, Mario Rivera, professor of chemistry, presented on “Targeting Iron Homeostasis for Developing Novel Antimicrobials,” and Josie Chandler, assistant professor of molecular biosciences, presented on “Burkholeria, Quorum Sensing and Antibiotics.”

Fernando Estrada (left), a postdoctoral scientist with the Higuchi Biosciences Center, will present at KU’s 8th Great Plains Regional Annual Symposium on Protein and Biomolecular NMR. His topic is “Analysis of the Interaction Between Cytochrome P450 17A1 and the Flavin Mononucleotide Domain of Human Reductase.”

Devon Mihesuah, Cora Lee Beers Price Professor of humanities, presented “Educating and Empowering Students with Campus Indigenous Gardens,” the first of the Dean’s “Indigenous Initiatives” lecture series at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Manitoba, on October 6.
Research Notes

NEW NSF PROPOSAL & AWARD POLICIES & PROCEDURES

New National Science Foundation Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) will be effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after January 25, 2016.

Given the number of important revisions, the community is strongly encouraged to review the by-chapter summary of changes provided in the IPAPPG Introduction section.

Significant pre-award changes include:

- **Stricter enforcement of 5:00 p.m. deadlines**
  
  All proposals will be due no later than 5:00 p.m. local time and no proposals submitted after 5:00 p.m. will be accepted.

- **Revised Biosketch requirements**
  
  The collaborators and other affiliations section will no longer be part of the biosketch, but will be submitted separately as a single copy document.

- **No URLs allowed in the Project Description**

- **Recommended format for all letters of collaboration**
  
  “If the proposal submitted by Dr. [insert the full name of the Principal Investigator] entitled [insert the proposal title] is selected for funding by NSF, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment or Other Resources section of the proposal.”

Significant post-award changes include:

- **No Cost Extensions**: NSF Awards has been revised to reflect that requests for NSF-approved extensions submitted after the grant end date must include justification for why they were not submitted earlier.

- **Grantee Notifications to NSF and Requests for NSF Approvals**: has been revised to state that, with the exception of significant changes in methods or procedures and significant changes, delays or events of unusual interest, all notifications and requests must be electronically signed and submitted by the AOR via use of NSF’s electronic systems.

- **Technical Reporting Requirements**: has been revised to state that, in the case of annual project reports, the reports should be submitted no later than 90 days prior to the end of the current budget period. For final project reports and project outcomes reports for the general public, reports should be submitted no later than 120 days following expiration of the grant. Grants will be closed out on the first day of each month for all awards with end dates of 120 or more days prior to the financial closeout day. Parallel changes have been made to section II.C.3 with regard to annual and final cost sharing reports.

- **Award Financial Reporting Requirements**: has been revised to reflect that grantees must liquidate all obligations incurred under their awards not later than 120 calendar days after the award end date and that NSF will financially close awards 120 days after the award end date.

Additional information will be posted when available.

RECENT RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION APPOINTMENTS

- **Michelle Ginavan Hayes**, research manager of the College & Professional Schools Shared Service Center for the past two years, has been named director of the Engineering, Technology & Environment Shared Service Center, effective November 16.

- **Rensi Yu** has joined the payroll audit staff in Post-Award Services. She will audit payroll documents and process tuition and fellowship sponsorships. She has prior experience in payroll, accounts payable and purchasing, working for a private audit firm in Pennsylvania.

- **Christina Ruiz**, most recently an accounting specialist with the College & Professional Schools Shared Service Center, has joined Post-Award Services, serving on Team 1.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROVOST JEFF VITTER, shown with Paulette Spencer at the Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards ceremony, on his appointment as the next chancellor of the University of Mississippi. Sara Rosen will serve as interim provost, effective January 1.
NIH, AHRQ Announce Upcoming Changes

The National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality have announced changes to Policies, Instructions and Forms for 2016 Grant Applications. The policy and guidance changes will be implemented in two phases.

Phase 1 is effective for applications submitted for due dates on or after January 25, 2016 and includes changes to the following areas:

- Rigor and transparency in research for most research grant applications;
- Vertebrate animals for most research grant applications;
- Inclusion reporting; and
- Research training.

Phase 2 is effective for applications submitted for due dates on or after May 25, 2016 and includes changes to the following areas:

- Rigor and transparency in research extended to institutional training grant and individual fellowship applications;
- Vertebrate animals extended to institutional training grant and individual fellowship applications;
- Additional changes to inclusion reporting;
- Data safety monitoring;
- Additional changes to research training;
- Appendices;
- Font requirements; and
- Biosketch clarifications.

NIH applicants can review the upcoming changes at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-16-004.html. This notice also includes links to related announcements which provide additional details about these changes. More information will be posted when it becomes available.

KU Research Offers Federal Public Access Guidance

In February 2013, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, issued a memorandum requiring all federal agencies with more than $100 million in annual R&D expenditures to provide increased public access to the results of federally funded research.

This policy requires grant recipients whose research results are published in peer-reviewed journals to submit the final, accepted manuscript to the federal granting agency or designated repository upon acceptance of the article for publication (or the final published version if approved by the publisher). NIH began a voluntary program in 2005 that is now mandatory. Many other federal agencies now require compliance with the open access policy.

KU Research has developed a resource page to assist you in finding agency-specific requirements. KU Libraries has additional information online as well.

3-Week ‘Startup School@KU’ a Success

Many KU researchers have great ideas that develop into innovative technologies. Most, however, don’t know how to form a company or bring their invention to market.

To help bridge that knowledge gap, KU Innovation & Collaboration (KUIC) and the School of Business organized “Startup School@KU.” It’s a series of three-hour sessions, taught by Wally Meyer, held November 4, 11 and 18 at the Bioscience & Technology Business Center.

The curriculum and structure were created by the Center for Entrepreneurship in the School of Business, led by Meyer. Attendees learned the fundamentals of how to expand the impact of their research to include licensing and startup applications.

Startup School graduates will be eligible to apply for funding from the KUIC Proof of Concept Fund. These grants enable potential KU entrepreneurs to develop their idea inside the university while further developing the business concept through iCorp@KU, a KUIC program starting in the spring that will provide participants with in-depth analysis of their idea.
Upcoming Events

Additional events and details are available at the KU Calendar.

**NOVEMBER 13-14**
Great Plains Regional Annual Symposium on Protein and Biomolecular NMR
School of Pharmacy

**NOVEMBER 16-22**
Global Entrepreneurship Week

**NOVEMBER 16**
DCM Forum: Central District Redevelopment
6-7 p.m.
Burge Union, Gridiron Room

**NOVEMBER 17**
Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series:
Krista Tippett, “The Adventure of Civility”
7:30 p.m.
Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium

**NOVEMBER 18-19**
Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas
Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center, Manhattan

**NOVEMBER 18**
Startup School @ KU: Final Session
6-9 p.m.
Bioscience & Technology Business Center
Spooner Hall, The Commons

**NOVEMBER 19**
14th Annual GIS Day @ KU and Information/Job Fair
All Day
Kansas Union, 4th Floor

**NOVEMBER 19**
KU Libraries Exhibition and Reception: “Achievement of a Dream: The Birth of the University of Kansas”
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Spencer Research Library, Foyer

**NOVEMBER 20**
KU Postdoctoral Association Luncheon Meeting:
Mike Rounds, “Talent Development Philosophy at KU”
Noon-1 p.m.
Burge Union, Relays Room

**NOVEMBER 22**
20th Annual Carnival of Chemistry
1-4 p.m.
Malott Hall

**DECEMBER 2**
Center for Open Science: Workshop on Reproducible Research Practices
9 a.m. – Noon, 1 – 4 p.m. (identical sessions)
Kansas Union, Alderson Room

**DECEMBER 4**
“Red Hot Research”
4 p.m.
Spooner Hall, The Commons

**DECEMBER 10**
Thursday Research Topics: “Stump the Champs”
11 – 11:50 a.m.
Simons Labs Auditorium

**BioKansas: “Celebration of Women in Bioscience”**
3-7 p.m.
Kansas City (MO) Public Library, Plaza Branch

**KUIC “Technology Thursday” Networking Event**
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Bioscience & Technology Business Center

**DECEMBER 11**
KUCR Board of Trustees Annual Meeting
2:30
Lied Center Pavilion

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