

# Research@KU

Updates on the Lawrence campus from the Vice Provost for Research

## KUCR Offices to Relocate During Youngberg Renovation

Nearly half the staff of the **KU Center for Research (KUCR)** will relocate from Youngberg Hall to other locations in mid-December. The south wing of Youngberg is being vacated in order to renovate its antiquated heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. The project is expected to last five to six months.

"We realize this may pose some hardships for the KU research community," said Jim Roberts, vice provost for research. "We will do everything possible to avoid disruptions and ensure continuity of service to researchers."

Affected KUCR groups include Proposal Services, Contract Negotiations, Sponsored Programs Administration, Networks and Information Systems, Human Subjects, Facilities Administration, Research Training, and Research Communications.

Plans are being finalized to move these groups to four other buildings: Strong Hall, the Life Sciences Research Labs, the Wakarusa Research Facility, and the Multidisciplinary Research Building. Groups will be housed together as much as possible.

"The south wing has had HVAC problems for many years," said Roberts. "A staff survey in February confirmed the situation. It's too hot in summer and too cold in winter, and sometimes it's the other way around. This is a bad situation for the staff, and it needs to be fixed."

The south wing was built in 1960 for the Center for Research in Engineering Science, predecessor to KUCR. The north wing was added in 1985, when Youngberg was home to KU Endowment.

Groups remaining in Youngberg include Research Integrity, Business Services, Finance and Budgeting, Compensation and Appointments, Research Information, Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property, and Business Relations and Development.

Information about the disposition of KUCR staff and updates on the project will be posted online at <http://www.research.ku.edu/hvac>.

## Novak Named Director of Business Relations and Development

Carey Novak has been named KU's first director of business relations and development. Novak will work with potential industry partners and help faculty explore business opportunities for their research. He will be allied with the Lawrence-Douglas County Bioscience Authority to generate local-area industry relationships. The Authority is helping to fund the position as well as travel and marketing expenses.

Novak held similar positions at Iowa State University since 1994. Prior to that, he directed two different regional economic development agencies in Iowa, and spent five years as a senior analyst with the Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau. He also started a company called Technology Marketing, Inc. in Clinton, Iowa and served as its president for three years.

"Carey knows about universities, businesses, government, and marketing," said Jim Roberts, vice provost for research. "That's a great combination for this new position. This is an exciting new initiative for KU and the local community, one that has the potential to benefit all of Kansas."

Novak starts at KU in early December. He will report to Roberts and work closely with Jim Baxendale, director of intellectual property and technology transfer, and the Lawrence-Douglas County Bioscience Authority.

The November Funding Opportunities Bulletin is available online at [http://www.research.ku.edu/kucr/fundops/bulletin/2006/fob06\\_11.pdf](http://www.research.ku.edu/kucr/fundops/bulletin/2006/fob06_11.pdf).

November 2006

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Research@KU is produced by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. For more information, please contact Christine Fosher, OVPR Research Communications, [cfosher@ku.edu](mailto:cfosher@ku.edu).

**KU**  
**RESEARCH**  
The University of Kansas

## **KU Research Launches Company to Improve the Lives of Premature Babies**

A KU professor's research on the care and treatment of premature babies has launched KC BioMediX Inc., a new company that will bring the research to market and help premature babies get a better start in life and get home sooner.

Steve Barlow, professor of speech-language-hearing and director of KU's Communication Neuroscience Laboratories, co-developed the N-Trainer and Actifier as a result of his research at KU.

Barlow's research was supported by a \$2 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. Under the grant, nearly 400 babies at hospitals in Kansas City and Topeka received the devices as part of their neonatal care. Babies in this clinical trial continued to be assessed by the Actifier for up to two years.

If further trials and product development are successful, it's possible the two medical devices could become standard equipment in neonatal intensive care units.

"Technology transfer is one important outcome of certain areas of research at KU," said James Baxendale, director of Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property. "Not all research leads to licensing or a start-up, of course, but when it does it benefits everyone: consumers, inventors and KU."

## **Biological Survey to Host Symposium on Native Endangered Plant**

The **Kansas Biological Survey (KBS)** and the University of Kansas Field Station and Ecological Reserves (KSR) will host a symposium on Mead's milkweed November 27-28 in the Malott Room at the Kansas Union.

Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*) is an endangered plant that grows in native prairies and serves as a food source for monarch and other butterflies. Researchers, as well as representatives of federal and state conservation agencies, will present information about this rare plant and regional conservation efforts.

The symposium is open to anyone interested in the biology and management of Mead's milkweed. To register, contact Berry Clemens ([bclemens@ku.edu](mailto:bclemens@ku.edu)). The symposium schedule is posted at <http://www.ksr.ku.edu/Mmilkweed/index.htm>.

For more information, contact Dr. Helen Alexander ([halexander@ku.edu](mailto:halexander@ku.edu)) or Dr. Dean Kettle ([kettle@ku.edu](mailto:kettle@ku.edu)).

## **Research Administration**

### **Roles and responsibilities in sponsored research administration**

Were the right people paid from the right project? PIs and their administrative units are responsible to review funding sources regularly to ensure that the appropriate individuals were paid from each project. If an error in funding occurs, there is a 60-day window for processing retroactive funding adjustments (RFAs).

The most effective way to avoid an RFA is to review salary certifications and DEMIS gross and fringe reports following each pay calc to catch problems immediately.

The KU Center for Research (KUCR) pre-audits all payroll transactions funded by sponsored agreements or other resources for which KUCR and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) are directly responsible. All units are required to follow the KU RFA policy and procedures ([http://www.payroll.ku.edu/rfa\\_procedures.aspx](http://www.payroll.ku.edu/rfa_procedures.aspx)) when submitting such requests for processing and review. Questions? Contact Angie Loving, manager, compensation and appointments, [aloving@ku.edu](mailto:aloving@ku.edu) or 864-7472.

### **OVPR staff changes**

The following staff changes occurred during November:

- Jeanette Spencer, contracts specialist, contract negotiations.
- Candi Wilbur, grant specialist, proposal services.

*It's coming:* Entrepreneurship Week is February 24–March 3, 2007.

## Upcoming Events

November 16

**Emerging Challenges in Transportation Lecture Series presents John H. Gibbons**  
4:30 p.m.

Spahr Classroom in Eaton Hall  
Contact: Bob Honea, (785) 864-1828

**Difficult Dialogues at The Commons presents Eugenie C. Scott**  
7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

"Faith, Reason, and Assumption in Understanding the Natural World"  
Kansas Union Ballroom

November 29

**Groundbreaking Ceremony**  
9:00 a.m.

KU Field Station and Ecological Reserves

Map and directions: [www.ksr.ku.edu/getthere/index.html](http://www.ksr.ku.edu/getthere/index.html)

RSVP requested. Contact: Berry Clemens, [bclemens@ku.edu](mailto:bclemens@ku.edu)

December 7

**Cancer Research at KU: Current and Future Initiatives with Roy A. Jensen**  
Noon-1:00 p.m.

Simons Auditorium, Simons Research Laboratories, West Campus  
Contact: John Augusto, Unclassified Senate Professional Development chairman, [jaugusto@ku.edu](mailto:jaugusto@ku.edu)

## Researchers in the News

### Multidisciplinary research leads to professional award for KU researcher

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/november/9/wilson.shtml>

The Society of Electroanalytical Chemistry and Bioanalytical Systems is giving George Wilson, Higuchi Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, the Reilley Award for his contributions to the theory, instrument development and applications of electroanalysis.

### KU, Haskell students present research at science society's annual conference

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/november/8/research.shtml>

Students from the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University presented their research at the annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, held Oct. 26-29 in Tampa, Fla.

### KU professor researches blogs' effects on politics

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/november/3/blogwars.shtml>

Associate dean and professor of journalism David Perlmutter's book Blogwars examines the history of blogs and their effect on politics.

### National Inst. on Disability Rehabilitation and Research awards \$3.25 million to KU researchers

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/november/2/rtcilgrant.shtml>

KU's Research and Training Center on Independent Living, directed by Glen White, received funding to help people with disabilities participate more fully in their communities.

### Major research on the family trees of honeybees has ties to KU

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/october/26/honeybee.shtml>

Deborah Smith, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, participated in the investigation of the genetic composition of Africanized bees and European bees in the Americas.

### New publication, maps show depth of bedrock beneath the Ogallala aquifer

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/november/2/bedrock.shtml>

The amount of groundwater available in western Kansas can now be more accurately estimated, based on a recent report from the Kansas Geological Survey based at the University of Kansas.

### American pharmaceutical science group to honor two KU doctoral students

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/october/26/pharmacy.shtml>

Two University of Kansas doctoral students will receive awards for their research in pharmaceutical chemistry at the annual American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists meeting and exposition.

### KU helps adopting families make the transition

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2006/october/20/stable.shtml>

The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded Alice Lieberman, professor in the KU School of Social Welfare, with a \$1.25 million grant over five years to establish Strong and Stable Families: a Marriage Education and Family Support Project.

*A message from the Vice Provost for Research***KU Research Convocation**

I want to thank the more than 100 faculty and staff researchers, university administrators, and students who attended the KU Research Convocation on November 2. The turnout was excellent and the conversation was lively. If you were not able to attend, the slides are available online at <http://www.research.ku.edu/kucr/roberts/speech/2006-11-2.pdf>.

Three faculty members made presentations highlighting their research activities: Joseph Steinmetz, professor of psychology and molecular bioscience and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Susan K. Harris, Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture; and Joseph Evans, Deane E. Ackers Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Their involvement added greatly to this year's meeting.

I also appreciated the positive and constructive tone of the discussion that followed the presentations. The opportunity to discuss university research is always valuable. When we gather as a KU research community, we focus on all we have in common and the responsibility we all share as educators of students. The Provost's endorsement of greater investment in graduate education at KU resonated with this group for that reason, because strong research programs are founded on strong doctoral programs.

Finally, congratulations to David Vander Velde, the inaugural recipient of the KU Research Achievement Award. The award, which honors outstanding research achievement by an academic staff researcher, was presented at the convocation. The award includes \$10,000 to further support his research activities at KU. We are pleased to honor Dave's productive and influential contribution to KU research.

*Jim Roberts*  
*Vice Provost for Research*

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*Got a Minute?* "Research Minute," a weekly program featuring KU research, airs at 2:58 p.m. Mondays and at 6:58 a.m. Saturdays on 91.5 FM, **Kansas Public Radio**.