

Research@KU

Updates on the Lawrence campus from the Vice Provost for Research



Research Rises in National Rankings Among Major Public Universities

The University of Kansas rose four places in the **National Science Foundation's (NSF)** most recent ranking of national, public, research universities. KU was 44th in federally funded science and engineering research expenditures in 2005, up from 48th in 2004. KU's ranking in the NSF report has never been higher.

"This is a significant measure of the quality of our faculty," said Chancellor Robert Hemenway. "Research is central to KU's overall mission. A rise in the NSF rankings demonstrates a competitive spirit and a desire to explore that carries over into the classroom and benefits our students."

Jim Roberts, vice provost for research, noted that federal science and engineering grants, funded by such agencies as NSF and the National Institutes of Health, are the most difficult to get. "KU has risen in the rankings by 11 places in 10 years," he said. "A one-year increase is good, but it's the long-term trend that matters. KU made steady progress during the past decade, relative to peer universities. It reflects sustained investment in facilities, faculty, and doctoral students."

KU research expenditures were \$111 million in 2005. KU passed North Carolina State, Oregon State, Utah State, and Florida State in the rankings, and was passed by no other institution. KU now ranks fifth among the public Big 12 universities, following Colorado, Texas, Texas A&M, and the statewide Nebraska system.

Nominations Sought for 2007 Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

The **Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR)** seeks nominees for the 2007 Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

The nominee must be a KU Lawrence campus tenure track or tenured faculty member, who has had experience mentoring undergraduates. Nominations from students, staff and faculty members are welcome.

Nominators are requested to discuss the nominee's contribution to undergraduate research within his/her discipline including any or all of the following criteria:

1. The enhancement of skills pertinent to undergraduate research.
2. The expansion of a student's knowledge base.
3. The assistance necessary to help students participate in research.
4. Guidance in acquiring necessary techniques for the presentation of research.
5. Help in discovering the many offerings of the university environment.

Nominations must be submitted to John Augusto, research training coordinator, Multidisciplinary Research Building, Room 320. Fax nominations can be sent to 785-864-5272. E-mailed nominations should be sent to jaugusto@ku.edu. All nominations must be received April 10 by 5 p.m.

The recipient will be honored at the Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 14.

Questions? Contact John Augusto at 864-7351 or jaugusto@ku.edu.

Postdoctoral Training Work Group to Host Open Forums

The Vice Provost for Research convened a work group comprised of KU faculty, staff, and postdoctoral researchers to develop a postdoctoral training manual, clarify policies, and

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Research@KU is produced by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. For more information, please contact Christine Foshier, OVPR Research Communications, cfoshier@ku.edu.

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provide recommendations for postdoctoral training on the Lawrence campus. Draft versions of the manual and the summary of recommendations are available for review at http://www.vpresearch.ku.edu/depts/training/postdoc/postdoc_work_group.shtml.

The group will hold open forums on April 16 at 4 p.m. in Simons Auditorium, Simons Research Laboratories, and April 19 at noon in the Big 12 Room of the Kansas Union. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to John Augusto, research training coordinator, at jaugusto@ku.edu. The manual and recommendations will be finalized at the end of the spring semester.

Summer 2007 Undergraduate Assistant (URA) Fund Applications Due April 23

Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) Fund applications for summer 2007 are due 5 p.m., Monday, April 23.

Applications must be submitted by e-mail to John Augusto, research training coordinator, jaugusto@ku.edu, or via paper copy delivered to 320 Multidisciplinary Research Building by the deadline.

The vice provost for research will assign a faculty review committee to oversee the URA Fund awards. The review committee will work to ensure that the URA positions awarded represent the broad spectrum of disciplines and research methods at KU.

These criteria will be considered during the selection process:

- Description of the undergraduate research assistant's role in the faculty's research program;
- How the student's work will contribute to the student's learning about research within his/her discipline;
- Matching funds from other sources to support undergraduate research;
- The faculty member's current and past mentoring of undergraduates and/or graduate students; and
- Research and publication activities of the applicant.

For more information, contact John Augusto at 864-7351 or jaugusto@ku.edu.

Doctoral Student Awarded NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Allison Doores, a doctoral student with the **Biodiversity Research Institute** and the **Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**, was awarded a prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The award provides a \$30,000 stipend each year for three years, plus an allowance of \$10,500 to the institution for research expenses.

With a typical funding rate of 10%-12%, the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship is among the agency's most competitive programs. Ms. Doores' award was one of 910 awards chosen from 8,339 proposals.

Undergraduates to Present Research at Annual Symposium

The 10th annual **Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS)** will be held on Saturday, April 14 in the Kansas Union.

The URS is an opportunity for students to receive recognition for their work, practice presenting in a public forum, and synthesize their results for their mentors and peers. Students make either a poster or an oral presentation.

Following the presentations, students and their mentors will attend a banquet featuring keynote speaker Dr. Barbara Schowen, professor emerita of chemistry and former director of the University Honors Program.

For more information about the URS, contact Dr. Mark Nesbitt-Daly at mdaly@ku.edu, John Augusto at jaugusto@ku.edu, or Chris Haufler at vulgare@ku.edu.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium is sponsored by the **University Honors Program**, the **Office of the Vice Provost for Research**, and the **College of Arts and Sciences**.

Researchers in the News

KU professor teams with renowned artist to build buzz for pollinators

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2007/april/5/pollinators.shtml>

Orley "Chip" Taylor, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology is collaborating with a Kansas-based crop artist to publicize the declining numbers of pollinators.

