

Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

Updates from the Office of Research and Graduate Studies



Workshop prepares researchers for NSF energy initiatives

Kansas **NSF EPSCoR** is hosting a workshop in Topeka designed to help university researchers and collaborators submit successful energy and climate-related grant proposals as part of an NSF initiative in 2008.

“Energy, Climate and the Future: The Role of Kansas,” will be held Wednesday, October 10, from 12:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel, 1717 S.W. Topeka Blvd. Advance registration (<http://www.continuinged.ku.edu/programs/epscor>) is complimentary but required, and includes a wrap-up reception and dinner. The workshop is presented in partnership with the **Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation** (KTEC).

“The workshop will focus on grant preparation in two areas of special interest nationally,” said Kristin Bowman-James, a distinguished professor of chemistry at the University of Kansas and director of Kansas NSF EPSCoR. “Next fall, NSF will ask for a proposal from Kansas which, if successful, could result in a \$9 million grant. Holding a workshop now increases the chance a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional grant from our state will be funded.”

Highlights of the workshop include an address on “The Global Energy Challenge” by George Crabtree, director of the Materials Science Division of Argonne National Laboratory, a presentation on “Climate Challenges” by Charles Rice, professor of soil microbiology at Kansas State University, and closing remarks by Robert J. Noun, executive director of external affairs for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. In addition, participants will work in breakout sessions during the afternoon to help identify colleagues and institutions interested in collaborating on next year’s NSF initiatives.

Oct. 11 conference focuses on energy, environment, economics

KU’s Institute for Policy and Social Research (IPSR) will hold its annual Kansas Economic Policy Conference Thursday, October 11, on the fifth floor of the Kansas Union. The title of this year’s conference is “**Kansas3: Energy, the Environment and Economics**”, and the theme is “How do we meet the often competing demands of our energy and environmental needs while growing and maintaining a healthy economy?”

The conference opens at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:45 p.m. Audiences in Ulysses and Norton will participate via satellite links.

Keynote speakers for the conference are William Downey, president and CEO of Kansas City Power and Light, and Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy, based in Washington, D.C. Downey will speak on “The Increasing National Emphasis on Making Energy Efficient and Renewable”. Callahan will speak on “Energy Efficiency: Driving America Toward a Healthier Economy, a Cleaner Environment and Greater Energy Security”.

Johannes Feddema and Nathaniel Brunsell of KU’s Department of Geography are presenting a panel on “Environmental Impact of Global Warming on the State of Kansas”. Timothy Carr of the Kansas Geological Survey is part of a panel on “Kansas Energy Systems and the Future in a Global Environment”. The afternoon panel discussion on “Kansas Energy and Environmental Policy Realities” will originate in Ulysses and feature energy industry experts from Hays and Liberal, as well as a representative of BP.

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Research and Graduate Studies@KU is produced by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. For more information, contact Gretchen Wieland at rgs-news@ku.edu.

KU
RESEARCH & GRADUATE STUDIES
The University of Kansas

Conference registration in Lawrence is \$85. To register online, go to <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/conferen/kepc071>. For more information, call 864-3701.

Industry research funding opportunities available

The **Kansas Bioscience Authority** (KBA) has introduced a program designed to promote and fund research collaborations with industry. The Eisenhower Innovation R&D Fund provides vouchers, on a competitive basis, to Kansas bioscience companies. The vouchers are then used to fund research projects.

Participating companies can receive up to \$500,000 per project under this program. The company must match the KBA grant dollar for dollar in cash, resulting in a pool of available funds up to \$1 million.

Funds are used to support applied research projects that can lead to commercialization of new technologies. "The goal is to generate economic development in Kansas," said Carey Novak, director of business and industry outreach in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. "There has to be a commercial application in one of five areas: animal health, plant sciences, bio-fuels, bio-composites or human health."

The company is the lead organization in the submission of an application to KBA. To be eligible, the company must:

- Have a major physical presence in Kansas;
- Operate primarily in the biosciences industry; and
- Enter into a partnership with a Kansas research university, i.e., KU, Kansas State or Wichita State

Eligible companies may submit a pre-application to KBA at any time. KBA reviews the document within 30 days. If approved, a formal application is submitted for final review and action by KBA.

At least 51% of the total available funds for any project must be spent at the collaborating Kansas research university. Universities that participate in a project are required to match 20% of the total available funds in cash or in kind.

Novak's role, he said, is "to help KU researchers connect with eligible companies that may have an interest in collaborative research. Many of these companies are too small to have an R&D budget, so this program is ideal for them and a great opportunity for KU researchers."

In addition to his role as "matchmaker", Novak can also assist researchers and companies in preparing pre-applications and applications. For more information about the Eisenhower Innovation R&D Fund, contact him at cnovak@ku.edu or 864-9004.

New faculty introduction to research planned

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) is hosting three meetings in October to introduce new faculty to the grant-funded research process at KU. Topics include applying for a New Faculty General Research Fund grant; working with Proposal Services, Post-Award Services and Research Integrity; and understanding Facilities and Administration (F&A) reimbursement. Meetings are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, October 23, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union
- Thursday, October 25, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Spahr Classroom, Eaton Hall
- Wednesday, October 31, 3:00-4:00 p.m., Hall Center Conference Room

For more information, contact Joshua Rosenbloom, associate vice provost for research and graduate studies, at jrosenbloom@ku.edu or 864-3567. Please RSVP for a specific session by sending an e-mail to tkopsa@ku.edu.

Vice provost for RGS search under way

A national search has begun for a permanent vice provost for research and graduate studies. A full position description, the composition of the search committee, and related documents and websites are online at <http://www.provost.ku.edu/search/vprgs.shtml>. The review of candidates will begin January 15, 2008.

Upcoming Events

October 10

Energy, Climate and the Future: The Role of Kansas—12:30–8:00 p.m.
Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel
1717 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, Kan.

October 11

Kansas Economic Policy conference—
8:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m.
Level 5, Kansas Union

October 18

Matt Mertes Memorial Lecture—4:00-5:00 p.m.
Gregory C. Fu, department of chemistry, Massachusetts
Institute of Technology
1001 Malott Hall

October 19

Matt Mertes symposium—8:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
Simons Biosciences Research Laboratories auditorium

Diana Carlin presentation on “The Bologna Process: How Europe’s Higher Education Reform Will Affect KU,” 1:30 – 3 p.m.
330 Strong Hall

Mertes laboratory dedication—3:30-4:00 p.m.
800 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Laboratory,
Structural Biology Center

October 23

New faculty intro. to research meeting—
3:00-4:00 p.m.
Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union

October 24

Steve Warren presentation on “Creative Campus”—
12:00-1:00 p.m.
The Commons, Spooner Hall

October 25

RGS Open House meeting—10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union

New faculty intro. to research meeting—
2:30-3:30 p.m.
Spahr Classroom, Eaton Hall

October 31

New faculty intro. to research meeting—
3:00-4:00 p.m.
Hall Center Conference Room

November 16

Art@MRB Faculty Art Installation Reception—
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Multidisciplinary Research Building (MRB)
2030 Becker Drive, West Campus

Provost Richard Lariviere has stated: “This is one of the most important positions at the university. It is at the very center of both our research and graduate education missions.” He invites KU faculty and staff to nominate qualified individuals. He also asks you to share the announcement with anyone who might be interested in applying.

KU, Haskell students attend SACNAS national conference

Students from KU and Haskell Indian Nations University will attend and make presentations at the national conference of the **Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science** (SACNAS), October 11-14 at Bartle Hall in Kansas City. KU and Haskell are co-hosts of the event, which is expected to attract more than 3,000 participants from all over the country.

SACNAS provides an opportunity for universities to meet and recruit potential graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. It’s also an academic event, with oral presentations and poster presentations throughout the conference. Thirteen KU and Haskell students – both graduate and undergraduate – are on the program, and another 16 are attending.

KU will have a prominent exhibit at SACNAS, and more than 60 faculty from KU and Haskell will be on hand to help promote graduate programs. Chancellor Hemenway and Haskell President Linda Sue Warner will speak during the Welcome Ceremony on October 11.

KU is also hosting two field trips that day from Kansas City to the Lawrence campus. Participants will visit the Natural History Museum and learn more about the **Kansas Geological Survey** and KU’s NSF-funded **Center for the Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets**.

KU is sponsoring the registration fee for the 29 students, most of whom are associated with one or more of the NIH-funded programs designed to encourage diversity in higher education. These include:

- KU Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP)
- KU/Haskell Bridge Program
- KU Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity
- Haskell Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE)
- KU/Haskell Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award Postdoctoral Training Program

“SACNAS is a real opportunity for KU to shine and to highlight our existing partnerships with Haskell,” said Jim Orr, professor of molecular biosciences and director of KU’s Office of Diversity in Science Training. “We are making every effort to ensure the conference attendees from all over the country have a chance to see KU as a leading national research university.”

Mertes remembered Oct. 18 & 19 with lecture, symposium, ceremony

Gregory C. Fu, a professor of chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will present the annual on Thursday, October 18, at 4:00 p.m. in 1001 Malott Hall. The topic of his lecture is "Asymmetric Catalysis with Planar-Chiral Heterocycles." The lecture is free and open to the public.

The lecture is the first of three events in celebration of the late Matt Mertes, who taught in KU's Department of Medicinal Chemistry from 1960 until his sudden death in 1989. In honor of what would have been his 75th birthday, a symposium is planned for Friday, October 19, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. in the auditorium of the Simons Biosciences Research Laboratories.

Symposium presenters include former Mertes students (Pat Hanna, Christie Brouillette, Chris Bigge and Binghe Wang), Gregory Fu and Kristin (Mertes) Bowman-James. The symposium fee includes lunch, a reception and dinner, and registration is required.

At 3:30 p.m. on the 19th, the celebration will shift to the nearby Structural Biology Center (SBC), where KU's 800 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Laboratory will be named in honor of Mertes. Poster presentations will also be on display in the SBC, and the reception will be held in the lobby area.

Graduate studies task force named

Graduate Studies Task Force Named

Sara Rosen, associate vice provost and dean of graduate studies, has formed a Graduate Studies Task Force to advise her on the roles and functions of this new group within the [Office of Research and Graduate Studies](#) (RGS). The task force will report by December 1. The goal is to evaluate the activities previously associated with the Graduate School and determine which should continue, which should change, what kind of advisory body is useful and how procedures can be streamlined.

Members of the task force are:

- Tim Shaftel, Jordan Haines Distinguished Professor of Business
- Kent Spreckelmeyer, Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
- Ann Schofield, Professor of Women's Studies and American Studies
- Susan Kemper, Roy Roberts Distinguished Professor of Psychology
- Susan Twombly, Professor and Chair of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- Arvin Agah, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- Allen Rawitch, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies, KUMC
- John Colombo, Professor of Psychology
- Mary Anne Jordan, Associate Professor of Design

The task force will be staffed by John Augusto, research training coordinator in RGS.

Invention to Venture workshop teaches about entrepreneurship

More than 100 students from KU, the University of Missouri-Kansas City and other institutions participated in the 2007 "[Invention to Venture](#)" Workshop September 29 at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City. The full-day workshop provided an introduction to the tools – and temperament – needed to become a successful technology entrepreneur.

"The workshop is designed to inform and excite students and others about the technology commercialization process," said Jim Baxendale, director of [technology transfer and intellectual property](#) in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. "The presenters were people with experience identifying technologies that have commercial potential. They also have experience assisting and growing early-stage companies. This workshop gave students a fabulous opportunity to learn from the pros."

Presentations focused on venture capital, marketing, intellectual property, business plans and related topics. Presenters included KU faculty members Val Stella, Lisa Friis and Wally Meyer.

Higuchi awards honor three KU researchers

Three professors from the University of Kansas and one from Kansas State University have been honored for groundbreaking research with Higuchi/KU Endowment Association Research Achievement Awards. This is the 25th year the awards have been presented. Winners will receive \$10,000 to advance their research efforts.

The recipients include:

- **Balfour Jeffrey Award in Humanities and Social Sciences**--Ann Turnbull, professor of special education and co-founder of the Beach Center on Disability
- **Olin Petefish Award in Basic Science**--A. Townsend Peterson, Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and curator in the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Institute
- **Dolph Simons Award in Biomedical Sciences**--Charles D. Little, professor of anatomy and cell biology at the KU Medical Center
- **Irvin Youngberg Award for Applied Sciences**--Paul A. Seib, professor of grain science and industry at Kansas State University

The 2007 Higuchi Award winners will be recognized October 18 in a ceremony at the Adams Alumni Center. Recipients may use their awards for research materials, summer salaries, fellowship matching funds, research assistance or other research-related support. For full biographies on each of the recipients, visit <http://www.oread.ku.edu/2007/september/24/higuchi.shtml>.

Graduate school association seeks nominations for thesis awards

The Executive Committee of the **Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools** (MAGS) is soliciting nominations for the 2008 MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards. The awards are to recognize and reward distinguished scholarship and research at the master's level.

Each recipient of a MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Award will receive a \$500 honorarium. In addition, up to \$500 will be available to the sponsoring graduate dean to help with the recipient's travel expenses to attend the Annual Meeting, April 2-4, 2008, in St. Louis. The faculty mentor or thesis advisor will also be invited to attend the presentation ceremony.

The guidelines for the 2008 MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards can be found at <http://associations.missouristate.edu/mags/ThesisAwards.htm>. The nomination consists of an electronic submission and a hard copy submission, the latter of which may be submitted to Rochelle Bass-Montgomery, Research and Graduate Studies, Strong Hall. Deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on October 12. Each department may submit only one nomination.

For more information, contact Rochelle Bass-Montgomery at 864-7234 or rm218@ku.edu.

Art@MRB faculty reception November 16

An "Art@MRB" faculty artists reception will be held Friday, November 16, at the Multidisciplinary Research Building, 2030 Becker Drive, from 4-6 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and the public is invited to attend.

The reception celebrates the second installation of works by KU faculty artists. Carol Ann Carter will display four pieces of expanded media, Gerald Lubensky will exhibit three paintings, and Alison Luoma will show sculpture that will be placed throughout the building. The artists will be on hand at the reception to talk about their works.

"Art@MRB" is a joint effort of the **Office of Research and Graduate Studies** and the **School of Fine Arts**. For more information, contact Kevin Boatright at kboatright@ku.edu or 864-7240.

BudigOne mini-grants available

This fall, KU faculty and graduate students have the opportunity to apply for mini-grants to support innovative digital content development at KU. The goal of the program is to support the development of scholarly projects utilizing the robust services offered by the **BudigOne Digital Workspace**.

The BudigOne Digital Workspace is located on the first floor of Budig Hall. It supports KU faculty and graduate students in the development of digital projects for teaching and research. It is a collaborative effort between

Instructional Development and Support (IDS, a program of Academic Affairs) and **Digital Initiatives**. Through this workspace, users are offered specialized instruction, staff expertise and access to equipment necessary for creating and editing digital images, sound, video and text.

The Mini-Grant Program will support digital projects through grants consisting of technical consultation and assistance, the use of existing and the potential purchase of new equipment and software and in-kind use of student assistants.

Application Deadline: October 15, 2007.

For a grant application and detailed information, go to the BudigOne Mini-Grants website at <http://kudiglib.ku.edu/budig/grants/index.shtml> or contact Sarah Goodwin Thiel at 864-2299 or sgthiel@ku.edu.

Researchers & Grad Students in the News

KU researcher studies payday lenders

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2007/september/24/payday.shtml>

Robert DeYoung, business professor, co-authored a new study about payday lending, representing some of the first academic work into the controversial industry.

History Channel program features KU researchers

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2007/september/17/historychannel.shtml>

The Sept. 18 episode of "Mega Disasters" explored gamma-ray bursts. The program showed contributions from Bruce Lieberman, paleontologist for the Natural History Museum, and Adrian Melott, professor of physics and astronomy.

Victor Frost steps down as director of ITTC

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2007/september/12/frost.shtml>

Victor Frost, director of the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center, will leave his post August 2008 to focus on research and teaching duties in the fall. He has held this position for seven years.

KU announces graduate initiative with Fort Leavenworth

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2007/september/11/fort.shtml>

An initiative will link KU and the Command and General Staff College with the goal of educating the next generation of Army officers through advanced-degree programs aimed at faculty and students.

Researchers promote positive parenting through cell phones

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2007/september/5/parenting.shtml>

KU senior scientist Judith Carta and her colleagues have received a \$1.6 million grant to study the effects of technology on reducing child maltreatment over four years. The research follows first-time mothers in Kansas City.

Biofuel researchers give Kansas Sec. of Agriculture a lesson

http://www2.ijworld.com/news/2007/sep/19/ku_take_biofuels_road/

Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky toured Burt Hall on a visit to campus last month to learn about KU's biofuel initiative and the bio-refining and bio-fuels initiatives.

Grad student makes a furry find in the Philippines

http://www2.ijworld.com/news/2007/sep/24/ku_student_demand_after_furry_find/

Jake Esselstyn, KU graduate student in mammology, discovered a new species of bat last year. He has named it the "flying fox bat".

Research Administration

Attend Oct. 25 meeting to learn about RGS

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies invites you to attend an open house meeting on Thursday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Jayhawk Room of the Kansas Union.

Sara Rosen, associate vice provost and dean of graduate studies, will be joined by other RGS staff in a discussion of the following topics:

- Functions of the new Office of Research and Graduate Studies
- Updates on the graduate application process
- Introduction of the new KU-Ft. Leavenworth Program for advanced degree study
- Discussion with members of the recently formed Graduate Studies Task Force

Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Rochelle Bass-Montgomery at 864-7234 or rm218@ku.edu.

Steven Warren to present on “Creative Campus”

Steve Warren, interim vice provost for research and graduate studies, will be the featured speaker at an October 24 luncheon at The Commons in Spooner Hall. His topic is “How does Creative or Multidisciplinary Research help me Secure Funding and Publish?”

RSVP's for the noon-hour luncheon are requested by October 18 at smessick@ku.edu. Please indicate vegetarian, turkey or beef. Lunch is provided for those who RSVP, or you can bring a brown bag lunch if you prefer.

The presentation on the 24th is one in a series of programs sponsored by the Lied Center as part of a two-year project: “Creative Campus: Tree of Life: Creative—Origins and Evolution.” The project is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Creative Campus Innovations Grant Program, a component of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

For more information about the Creative Campus project, including other events and available resources, visit <http://www.lied.ku.edu/creative/>.

Annual conflict of interest reporting in progress

Faculty and other unclassified staff are required to file a conflict of interest (COI) report upon employment, annually, and whenever their circumstances change. Annual COI reporting for fiscal year 2008 is now under way.

Please complete your annual conflict of interest report for fiscal year 2008 as soon as possible.

Conflict of Interest Declaration and Disclosure

The web-facilitated COI reporting site has been updated to provide you with more useful information regarding your prior reports. For instance, staff will now be able to see whether or not a fully-executed hard copy of their prior COI report is on file.

Filing an annual conflict of interest statement is a condition of employment according to [Kansas Board of Regents](#) policy and is a requirement of federal funding agencies for investigators on externally sponsored projects. Investigators must have a fully-executed COI report on file with this office prior to submitting a proposal to an external funding agency.

COI reporting is not the same as the KS Statement of Substantial Interests reporting requirement. A request to file a statement of financial interests was sent in April of this year, but that is a separate reporting procedure required of many state employees: the State of Kansas Statement of Substantial Interests. These two reporting procedures are often confused because the questions are similar, but they are separate and unrelated requirements.

Additional information regarding the policies and reporting procedures may be found at <http://www.rcr.ku.edu/coi>. Questions may be directed to Susan MacNally, Compliance Coordinator, Research Integrity, 864-4148, coi@ku.edu.

New receptionist in 222 Strong

Absinthe Algaier, a 2007 KU graduate with a B.A. degree in psychology, joined the Office of Research and Graduate Studies on September 24 as receptionist in 222 Strong Hall. She will work closely with Sara Rosen, Rochelle Montgomery and John Augusto.

Diana Carlin to speak on education reform

Diana Carlin, former dean of the Graduate School and International Programs at KU, will make a presentation October 19 in 330 Strong Hall on "The Bologna Process: How Europe's Higher Education Reform Will Affect KU." Her talk begins at 1:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Higher education in Europe is being restructured as part of the larger European Union effort. There are 46 signatories to the "Bologna Process." All of these countries and their universities will adapt the basic Bologna structure of three degree cycles -- bachelor's, master's, and doctorate -- but there will be variations. Bologna presents both challenges and opportunities for American universities in terms of admissions decisions, study abroad exchange agreements, joint and dual degree programs, and research collaborations.

Carlin is currently in Washington, D.C. as dean-in-residence with the Council of Graduate Schools. Her October 19 presentation summarizes key points about the Bologna Process and its impact on US higher education. The discussion will focus on decisions already made at KU regarding the Bologna Process, as well as steps needed for KU to capitalize fully on the opportunities it presents.

The program is co-sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the [Office of International Programs](#). For more information, contact Alison Watkins at 864-4963.

New KUCR travel per diem rates announced

As of September 1, the following per diem rates apply to business travel using KUCR funds:

Domestic (U.S., Territories) \$44 per day, \$11 per quarter-day

International (includes Canada and Mexico) \$50 per day, \$12.50 per quarter-day

Meals provided by a third party reduce the per diem claim by the following amounts:

Meal	Domestic	International
Morning Meal	\$8.00	\$8.00
Mid-Day Meal	\$12.00	\$12.00
Evening Meal	\$24.00	\$30.00

International travelers may claim reimbursement based on actual meal receipts or on a per diem basis. Only one method may be used per trip, however.

These rates provide a fair reimbursement with a reporting process that is efficient to manage and consistent for all personnel (essential to maintain an IRS-approved accountable plan). More information about travel rates is on-line at [Travel Rate Schedule](#) page.