

# Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

Updates from the Office of Research and Graduate Studies



## Grad students travel to State Capitol to present research

Twelve KU students will travel to the State Capitol to present their research as part of the Graduate Student Research Summit, Thurs., March 13. The Summit, which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., provides graduate students from Kansas State, Wichita State and KU an opportunity to present their research to a broad audience.

“In the past few years, Legislators have met the students, looked at their posters and come away with a greater appreciation of student research,” said John Augusto, assistant dean of graduate studies.

A list of this year’s KU students is provided below.

Abdul Jabbar Mohammad	Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	Weather Tolerant Wireless Gigabit Mesh Architecture
Emily Fall (Ledford)	Psychology	Before and After Working Healthy: Effects of the Kansas Medicaid Buy-In Program on Health Care Claims
James McGuire	Pharmacology and Toxicology	Little Caves and their Role in Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy
Kelly Cook and Pamela Harght	Architecture	Indoor Air Quality in Healthcare Design
Kelly Danaher	Psychology	Maintaining the System: The Effects of Token Women on Meritocracy Beliefs and Organizational Identification
Lisa Barrett Mann	Special Education	Evidence-Based Interventions for Asperger Syndrome
Meredith Poore	Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences and Disorders	Non-Nutritive Suck Spatiotemporal Index Predicts Oromotor Competency in Preterm Infants
Sarah Schmidt	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Preliminary Analysis of Ecosystem Production in the Kansas River
Tona Leiker	School of Nursing	Thriving or Surviving: Nursing Home Case Studies of Leadership, Communication, and Teamwork within the Lens of Complexity Theory
Megan Johnson	School of Medicine	The Role of Epidermal Fibers in the Sensory Symptoms Associated with Diabetic Neuropathy
Elizabeth Taglauer	School of Medicine	Expression and Function of the B7-H1:PD-1 Pathway at the Human Maternal-Fetal Interface
Katie Siengsukon	Rehabilitation Science	Sleep Enhances Motor Skill Learning and Memory Consolidation in Individuals Post-Stroke

## Graduate research competition highlights student posters

The Graduate and Professional Association is sponsoring the annual Graduate Student Research Competition on Wed., March 12. Forty-seven students have

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Research and Graduate Studies@KU is produced by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. For more information, please contact Gretchen Wieland at [rgs-news@ku.edu](mailto:rgs-news@ku.edu).



## Research and Graduate Studies@KU

been invited to participate in this year's competition. The competition features two \$500 awards, four \$250 awards and nine \$100 awards.

The students' research posters will be on display in the lobby of the Kansas Union from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be an award reception beginning at 4 p.m. For a list of the students and their research topics, visit <http://www.rgs.ku.edu/depts/training/pdfs/Participants.pdf>.

### Undergraduate Research Symposium deadline approaching

The deadline for submission to the Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) is Fri., March 14, 2008. Students can apply by going to the following website: <http://www2.ku.edu/~honors/cgi-bin/application/UGRA/ugraapp.pl>. If you have any questions regarding the URS, contact Mark Nesbitt-Daly at [mdaly@ku.edu](mailto:mdaly@ku.edu), John Augusto at [jaugusto@ku.edu](mailto:jaugusto@ku.edu) or Chris Haufler at [vulgare@ku.edu](mailto:vulgare@ku.edu).

The 11th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held April 12 in the Kansas Union. The URS is an excellent opportunity for students to display their work, practice presenting in a public forum, obtain feedback and synthesize their results for mentors and peers. Students may make either a poster or an oral presentation. After the presentations, students and their mentors are invited to a banquet.

This year's symposium will be held in concert with the Sigma XI Student Research Day to further highlight the breadth of undergraduate research at KU. The Undergraduate Research Symposium is sponsored by the University Honors Program, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

### KU Natural History Museum seeks art for new gallery space

Artist submissions for a new rotating art exhibit are welcome by the University of Kansas Natural History Museum Student Advisory Board until approximately April 15. The exhibit, which will be showcased throughout four floors of spiraling new gallery space in Dyche Hall, will display artwork that focuses on artistic interpretations of scientific topics. Artwork will be showcased for six months with an exhibition opening on August 18.

The theme of the exhibit is "Biodiversity is...". Artists are encouraged to explore the meanings and implications of biodiversity in the modern world. Descriptive topics and springboards for artistic ideas include: "biodiversity is vital to every habitat on earth" or "biodiversity is created, enhanced and maintained through evolution." Most media types will be accepted, but artwork will be required to fit in frames that are either 24x36, 18x26 or 6x6. Video may also be submitted. All submissions may be brought directly to the Natural History Museum or submitted electronically to any of the listed contacts below.

"The goal of this project is twofold," said Tristan Smith, staff advisor to the Student Advisory Board. "First, we want to present the community with something they might not expect to see in a Natural History Museum. Second, we want to engage students and the general public in an interdisciplinary discussion and give them a different viewpoint about the scientific topics covered in the artwork."

Award notification will be made June 1, and installation will begin soon thereafter. In anticipation of the rotating exhibit, the gallery space will be completely renovated. A space for visitor comments will be provided along with information about the artists. Accompanying the artwork will be labels featuring statements about the science behind the art and a statement from the artist. An exhibit opening will be held, handouts will be printed and gallery tour podcasts will be produced.

For more information, or if you have a question, please contact:

- Thomas Hardy, Student Advisory Board President, (785) 864-4450 or [tcarylhardy@gmail.com](mailto:tcarylhardy@gmail.com).
- Katie Oberthaler, Student Advisory Board Vice-President (785) 864-4450 or [koberth@ku.edu](mailto:koberth@ku.edu).
- Tristan Smith, Director of Visitor Services and Advisory Board Advisor, (785) 864-2380 or [tgsmith@ku.edu](mailto:tgsmith@ku.edu).

### Upcoming Events

#### March 11

“Effective Proposal Development” video workshop—10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Simons Auditorium, Higuchi Biosciences Center, West Campus

Attendees may bring a brown bag lunch.

To register: Susan MacNally, compliance coordinator of research integrity, at [sumac@ku.edu](mailto:sumac@ku.edu) or 864-4148

#### March 12

Graduate Research Competition reception —4 p.m.  
Kansas Union

Sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies

More information: <http://groups.ku.edu/~gpa/>.

#### March 13

Graduate Research Summit —10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Kansas State Capitol

10th and Jackson, Topeka, Kan.

Sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies

More information: <http://groups.ku.edu/~gpa/>

#### April 12

Undergraduate Research Symposium—12 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Kansas Union

Sponsored by the University Honors Program, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

More information: Mark Nesbitt-Daly at [mdaly@ku.edu](mailto:mdaly@ku.edu), John Augusto at [jaugusto@ku.edu](mailto:jaugusto@ku.edu) or Chris Haufler at [vulgare@ku.edu](mailto:vulgare@ku.edu)

### Governor proclaims “Polar Education and Research Day”

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius proclaimed Feb. 27, 2008 Polar Education and Research Day, citing KU’s involvement in educating students and the public about the importance of polar regions in global climate and sea level.

Sebelius is making the proclamation in recognition of 2007-09 as an **International Polar Year**. This is the fourth such designation, with the first coming in 1882-83. The governor lauds KU’s involvement in research into polar matters both past and present.

“Kansans, since Lewis Lindsay Dyche in the late 1800s, have participated in that scientific exploration, a rich tradition that extends to today’s Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets, headquartered at the University of Kansas,” the proclamation reads.

An International Polar Year is a worldwide scientific program focused on the Arctic and Antarctic. The current designation extends from March 2007 to March 2009. Organized by the International Council for Science and the World Meteorological Organization, the year involves more than 200 projects with scientists from more than 60 countries.

Led by KU, the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CReSIS), is a partnership of six universities. CReSIS designs and deploys state of the art technology such as radar and unmanned aircraft to study ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica. These results, combined with computer models are helping to understand how melting ice caps affect Earth’s sea level changes. The Center works closely

with several Kansas school districts to promote and encourage education in climate change. Additional information on the research, and educational resources can be found at <https://www.cresis.ku.edu/index.php>.

Lewis Lindsay Dyche was a professor of natural history at KU in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A well-known taxidermist, he led research expeditions to locations such as Alaska and presented a panorama of North American mammals at the World’s Fair in Chicago in 1893. Dyche Hall, which houses KU’s Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, is named for him.

## Researchers & Grad Students in the News

### Colombo named interim director of Life Span Institute

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/march/4/colombo.shtml>

John Colombo, associate director for cognitive neuroscience at the Life Span Institute and professor of psychology at the University of Kansas, has been named interim director of the institute. He assumes the position previously held by Steve Warren.

### KU researcher earns fellowship and \$50,000 grant

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/february/29/zhang.shtml>

Yang Zhang, assistant professor of molecular biosciences, recently learned he is one of 118 young researchers to be awarded a prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship. The fellowship includes a \$50,000 grant over a two-year period to further his research.

## Physicists probe 'brave new world' with giant particle accelerator

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/february/26/bean.shtml>

Thanks to a five-year, \$2.5 million National Science Foundation award, students and faculty from KU will be on hand when a new particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider, begins operation this summer in Europe. The KU researchers will help to monitor crashes between subatomic particles that the supercollider will fire at near-light speed along its 16.5-mile underground track.

## Acclaimed scientist joins KU's molecular biosciences department

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/february/21/oakley.shtml>

Berl R. Oakley, an internationally recognized leader in cell cycle research from Ohio State University, has been appointed the first Irving S. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology at KU. He will join the faculty in the Department of Molecular Biosciences in August.

## PBS program 'NOVA' features KU paleontologists

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/february/18/nova.shtml>

Larry D. Martin, professor and curator of paleontology, and David Burnham, dinosaur preparator, appeared in an episode of the nationwide public television program "NOVA," which aired on Feb. 26. It featured the model they created of a microraptor, a four-winged animal about the size of a goose.

## KU researcher says HIV vaccine will be developed through worldwide collaboration

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/february/13/desaire.shtml>

Heather Desaire, an associate professor of chemistry at the KU and one the foremost scientists in pursuit of an AIDS vaccine, heads a team of determined investigators — made of research associates, graduate students and undergraduates.

## Research Administration

### "Effective Proposal Development" video workshop to be held March 11

- Date: Tuesday, March 11
- Time: 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
- Location: Simons Auditorium, Higuchi Biosciences Center, West Campus

(Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch.)

The broadcast is part of the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) broadcast series. The program will cover a number of best practices in proposal development functions, including:

- Identifying funding sources (internal /external)
- Coordinating limited submissions
- Facilitating research collaboration (inter- and intra-institutional /international)
- "NIH Roadmap"
- Bridge funding
- Center development

### Moderator:

Ed Herran, director, Office of Sponsored Projects, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

### Faculty:

Robert Lowman, associate vice chancellor for research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Jerry Pogatshnik, dean of the graduate school & associate vice president for research, Eastern Kentucky University; and Samantha Westcott, grant manager, division of biology, California Institute of Technology

## Continuing Education Credits:

Participants may receive .3 CEUs or 4 CPE units for attending the entire video workshop. Attendees should indicate their interest in earning credits when registering (please indicate CEU or CPE credits).

To register, contact Susan MacNally, compliance coordinator of research integrity, at [sumac@ku.edu](mailto:sumac@ku.edu) or 864-4148.

## Graduate Studies award ceremony coming in April

The Graduate Studies Award Ceremony is scheduled for Wed., April 23, 2008 at 3 p.m. in the Courtside Room, Burge Union. Graduate faculty and students will be recognized for their accomplishments. Refreshments will be served, and the public is invited to attend.

## Got research? REP is for you

The Research Experience Program (REP) is identifying undergraduates who have completed a combination of research coursework and a research product, which could meet the qualifications for certification with the REP program. For more information about the REP, go to <http://www.rgs.ku.edu/depts/training/rep/rep.shtml>.

## Conference opportunity for postdoctoral researchers

The 2008 National Postdoctoral Association annual conference will be held April 25-27, 2008 in Boston. For information about the conference, visit the association's website at [www.nationalpostdoc.org](http://www.nationalpostdoc.org).

## March postdoc workshops

The following workshops for postdocs will be held in the month of March:

Collaborative Research--Thursday, March 6, 2008

Co-sponsored by the Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis (CEBC)  
LSRL, 1501 Wakarusa Dr., Building A Conference Room  
Facilitator: Dr. Claudia Bode, CEBC Education Coordinator

Data Management--Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Co-sponsored by the Center for the Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets.  
Nichols Hall - Rm. 129 - Apollo Auditorium  
Facilitator: Professor David Braaten, Geography

## "Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute Comparative Medicine Research Awards" request for proposals

Application Deadlines--Issued Feb. 22, 2008

1. Letter of Intent is due by 5 p.m., April 4, 2008
2. Full application must be received by 5 p.m., May 2, 2008. Applications received after 5 p.m. will not be accepted.

The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSIS) is pleased to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Research Development Grants to be submitted to the KCALSIS for funding consideration. Background, Scope, Eligibility, Review Criteria, Application Procedures, the Review Process and submission instructions are provided at [www.kclifesciences.org](http://www.kclifesciences.org).