

# Research and Graduate Studies @ KU

Updates from the Office of Research and Graduate Studies



## Grants administration handbook now available

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies has acquired institutional access to an online resource that should be useful for anyone involved in conducting or administering externally sponsored projects. *A Guide to Managing Federal Grants for Colleges and Universities* is a virtual electronic handbook on grants administration. Published by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) and the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) and written by three nationally prominent research administrators, the extensive guide addresses such topics as differences in types of award agreements, grant application processes, the Office of Management and Budget Circulars, facilities and administrative costs, cost accounting standards, intellectual property, reporting requirements, audits, managing subrecipient awards and compliance issues. The guide also explains federal requirements in easy-to-understand language. It is updated regularly and is fully searchable.

*A Guide to Managing Federal Grants for Colleges and Universities* may be freely utilized by any KU employee at [www.managingfederalgrants.com](http://www.managingfederalgrants.com). To obtain the institutional KU user id and password in order to gain access to the guide, e-mail William Sharp, director, Research Integrity, at [wsharp@ku.edu](mailto:wsharp@ku.edu).

## KU Human Subjects Committee reaches applications milestone

Anyone in Lawrence who's conducted research involving people the past 15 years knows David Hann, coordinator of the Human Subjects Committee in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. The committee, or Institutional Review Board (IRB), is charged with ensuring integrity in this very sensitive area of research.

Since its origins in 1966, the IRB has processed more than 17,000 applications for the approval of research protocols. IRB approval is required whenever a faculty member or student conducts research with human subjects. This is true regardless of the origin of the research and whether or not it's funded externally.

The 17,000 figure is a milestone for Hann, who begins phased retirement this year. He's probably been involved in half of those applications and has worked with 66 IRB members over the years, including 18 from outside the university.

"Historically, there was little outside oversight of human subjects research," Hann said. "This was true everywhere. The kind of formal protocols we use today did not exist."

The risks associated with that approach became obvious in the 1970s, when the 40-year U.S. Public Health Service "Tuskegee Study" was exposed as the most infamous research scandal in the nation's history.

May 2008

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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).

"The IRB at KU and other universities ensures that kind of tragedy won't happen again," Hann said. "We operate under a federal statute and federal regulations. Our goal is to find out what researchers want to do and advise them on how best to carry out their plans. It's not our mission to thwart research. It is our mission to make sure human subjects research is carried out appropriately, ethically and lawfully."

All principal investigators on research grants take a tutorial on human subjects research. Hann also meets with classes at KU to explain the protocols.

"In the beginning, the message was 'Do this and you get into trouble,'" Hann said. "Now we focus on facilitating research that adheres to standards required by the government and endorsed by responsible research professionals nationwide."

Hann said the IRB can expedite or waive approval when there's minimal risk. Examples include interviews and surveys, moderate physical activity or the use of attached but non-invasive devices. IRB chair John Colombo, professor and graduate director in the department of psychology and interim director of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies, works closely with Hann to determine whether the proposed research qualifies for such action.

The IRB meets monthly to review proposals that require more discussion. Examples include proposals that involve vulnerable populations, such as minor children outside the classroom or convicted prisoners. Some expedited projects must still undergo further review by the locale where the research is to be conducted.

"Research involving indigenous nations subjects at Haskell Indian Nations University or on tribal lands would most likely require full board review by the IRB or tribal council," Hann said. "Also, school districts and corrections facilities typically require review by their own committees before allowing research to proceed."

"The IRB is not *my* office," Hann said. "In addition to the staff, it includes about 30 KU faculty and graduate students, plus community members from the Lawrence Unified School District, Community Corrections and physicians. They make the decisions my staff and I implement. My measure of success is whether I've made sure the interests of the subjects, the researchers, the IRB and the university have been taken care of. The vast majority of human subjects research is intended to help humanity. I assist researchers in doing that."

In 2006, more than 700 new applications were submitted to the IRB. About 600 received expedited consideration, and 100 received full board review. Currently, the IRB has an oversight role in more than 1,300 active projects.

Growth in research at Lawrence has meant growth in the IRB's work load, Hann said. In addition, federal HIPAA standards protecting the privacy of personal health information were adopted in 1996 and require extra documentation. Hann is assisted by Mary Denning, associate coordinator, and Sharon Anthony, assistant coordinator. They are part of KU's Office of Research Integrity, directed by Bill Sharp.

After retiring in 2009, Hann, who has a degree in public administration, plans to pursue his avocation: researching and writing about little-known aspects of Kansas history.

More information about the IRB, including forms, tutorials and a handbook, is available at <http://www.rcr.ku.edu/hsc/>.

### Upcoming Events

**May 17**

**KU Commencement Doctoral Hooding Ceremony**—4 p.m.

Lied Center

**June 25-26**

**KTEC PIPELINE Primer**—7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation

Enterprise Center of Johnson County

8527 Bluejacket St.

Lenexa, KS 66214

Cost: \$199 before May 31, \$299 after

To register: [info@ktecpipeline.com](mailto:info@ktecpipeline.com) or (913) 307-0004

### Technology transfer offices merge to move research to market

Turning faculty research into products and start-up companies is about to get a significant boost at KU.

Effective July 1, separate technology transfer offices at the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses will combine to form a new KU Center for Technology Commercialization. The goal is to move the results of KU research out into the marketplace, benefiting society while enhancing economic development in Kansas and the region.

“KU has a strong foundation in technology transfer,” said Chancellor Robert Hemenway. “Faculty throughout the university — from education and social welfare to pharmaceutical chemistry, medicine and engineering — come up with new ideas and treatments that may have commercial value. It only makes sense to increase our efficiency by

combining offices. This also makes it easier for businesses and inventors to work with the university.”

If a researcher’s invention shows potential, KUCTC will seek appropriate intellectual property protection, said Jim Baxendale, director of the center. This can result in a new company, or it can lead to the licensing of the invention to an existing company. The inventor and the university benefit financially, but that’s not the reason KU does it.

“We provide this service because it’s part of KU’s mission and we want our research to benefit others,” Baxendale said. “Economically, it’s good for Kansas when local companies start up, expand and prosper because of research coming out of KU.”

Seventeen Kansas companies originated with KU research. KU also has 91 licensing agreements with companies that use KU patents. About a third of these are with Kansas companies. The others bring money into Kansas from other states. The royalty revenue generated is used by the university to support research.

Examples of local companies that started with KU research include KC BioMediX, Cadstone, CritiTech, CyDex, eLearning Creations, Flint Hills Scientific and XenoTech. Some of the companies produce medical devices or enhanced drug delivery solutions. Others involve educational materials or computer software.

According to Baxendale, KU has received invention disclosures from nearly 300 different faculty in a wide range of departments. The university holds 150 active U.S. and foreign patents.

“We receive up to 70 new disclosures each year,” he said. “All of them are important, but not all of them wind up as products. Even so, this growing level of activity demonstrates the strength of KU research and the entrepreneurial spirit of our faculty.”

KUCTC will have a total of six staff, and an office on each campus. A 13-member board — composed of faculty and staff from both campuses and area business leaders — will be chaired by KU Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere.

### **KTEC offers workshop for entrepreneurs**

The Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC) is sponsoring the PIPELINE Primer June 25-26 in Lenexa. This intensive workshop compresses a year of learning into a two-day format to move a business to the next level. It can also help a start-up company refine, define and launch a venture with a higher chance of hitting the mark.

Nationally renowned entrepreneurial expert Rob Adams will lead the workshop, and he will be joined by entrepreneurial and business experts, as well as state and local resource providers.

Topics include: Market validation, business models, the role of the CEO, financing, and communicating your venture. Technology or bioscience companies that are launching new products are welcome, as are entrepreneurs considering high-growth start-ups and companies looking for increased revenue growth.

The event will be held at the Enterprise Center of Johnson County from 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. both days. The workshop is limited to 25 entrepreneurs, and the total cost to attend, with instruction, food, book and materials is \$299 (With an early application by May 31, the cost is discounted to \$199).

To register, please contact [info@ktecpipeline.com](mailto:info@ktecpipeline.com) or call (913) 307-0004. Visit the PIPELINE Primer website at [www.ktecpipeline.com](http://www.ktecpipeline.com) for more event dates and locations.

### **New graduate studies duties for John Augusto**

John Augusto, assistant dean of graduate studies in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, has assumed direct supervision of the Graduate Application Processing Center (GAPC). He succeeds Carole Ross, who retired April 30. Augusto will begin several initiatives, including development of an online admission process to match KU's existing online application process.

Augusto will continue to promote the recruitment of graduate students and will work with the College and professional schools to create a more streamlined process of data collection throughout a graduate student's career. Decisions will be made later concerning responsibility for Augusto's duties in undergraduate research experiences, research training grants for graduate students and professional development for post-docs.

### **Be aware of pending Turnpike construction**

Kansas Turnpike (I-70) reconstruction work near Lawrence begins in June and is expected to continue for three years. That reconstruction will directly affect access to KU. The work will take place in stages and involves replacement of the bridges over the Kansas River near Lawrence as well as reconstruction of the East Lawrence and West Lawrence ramps and toll plazas. The total cost of the project is \$140 million. Additional information is available from the Kansas Turnpike Authority website at <http://www.spanningthefuture.com/>, and will be updated as the project unfolds. University Relations has created a guide with maps and directions to Lawrence during construction, available at <http://www.marketing.ku.edu/i70map.pdf>, and it should be shared widely with campus visitors.

## **Researchers & Grad Students in the News**

### **Researcher named to National Institutes of Health advisory council**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/30/rice.shtml>

Mabel Rice, the Fred and Virginia Merrill Distinguished Professor of Advanced Studies, has been appointed to the advisory council of the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. She will join a group of 18 appointees that includes 12 leading scientists in the areas of deafness and communication disorders.

### **Pharmacy student wins national and state awards for leadership, service**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/30/little.shtml>

Jeff Little, a senior in pharmacy, has won one of 12 awards for student leadership given by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and a state honor from the Kansas Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The national Student Leadership Award Program provides students with \$2,500 awards, a drug information reference library and a plaque.

### **KU establishes autism research center**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/29/kcart.shtml>

KU has established a new bi-campus autism research center supported by a combination of public and private funding. The Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training, or K-CART, will be a multidisciplinary center that promotes research and training on the causes, nature and management of autism spectrum disorders.

### **Researchers study efficiency of road project**

[http://www2.ijworld.com/news/2008/apr/28/building\\_better\\_worker/](http://www2.ijworld.com/news/2008/apr/28/building_better_worker/)

Assistant professors Yong Bai and Luke Huan, and graduate students Seong Hoon Kim, Yue Li and Abhinav Peddi, are nearing the completion of a two-year study to record and evaluate construction project efficiency. They're using the reconstruction of the Iowa Street bridge over the Kansas Turnpike to develop and test their system.

### **Distinguished professor urges drug firms to create new generation of antibiotics**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/23/antibiotics.shtml>

In an issue of the American Chemical Society's Journal of Natural Products, Lester A. Mitscher, a University Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, calls for the development of more potent antibiotics necessary to manage drug-resistant breeds of microbes.

### **Awards given to outstanding graduate teaching assistants**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/18/gradawards.shtml>

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies honored 11 outstanding graduate teaching assistants with about \$6,500 in awards at a reception on April 23. A selection committee chose winners based on their commitment and dedication to teaching, departmental and student comments and level of responsibility.

### **KU, Haskell students present research projects at symposium**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/15/kuhaskell.shtml>

The 500 Nations Bridges to the Future Program sponsored the eighth annual University of Kansas-Haskell Indian Nations University Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 29. Students presented research on topics such as biochemistry, cell biology, chemical engineering, civil engineering, environmental studies, microbiology and psychology.

### **Graduate student's public art project to go on display in Kansas City**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/11/blingz.shtml>

Sarah Kephart, a master's student in sculpture, was recently selected as one of six winners in the Kansas City, Mo., Municipal Art Commission's Avenue of the Arts project. Her creation, "It Blingz," will be installed downtown in May.

### **Kansas Geological Survey to update maps of four central Kansas counties**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/11/maps.shtml>

Researchers at the Kansas Geological Survey have received funding from the U.S. Geological Survey to map the geology of four Kansas counties. The \$206,000 award will be matched by state funding to support ongoing geologic mapping projects in Reno, McPherson, Harvey and Morris counties.

### **KU computer science graduate student wins federal SMART fellowship**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/10/smart.shtml>

Mike Wasikowski, a master's student in computer science from Omaha, is among a select group of students nationwide to receive a 2008 Science Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Defense Fellowship. He will receive a \$25,000 stipend, book allowance, health insurance and full tuition and fees as part of this Department of Defense program.

### **Cancer Center receives \$2 million endowed professorship**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/9/cancer.shtml>

The KU Cancer Center received \$2 million from the Morris Family Foundation to establish the Mark and Bette Morris Family Chair in Cancer Prevention, which will support a physician scientist specializing in breast cancer prevention.

### **Researchers to establish model center on language and early literacy development**

<http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/3/literacy.shtml>

Dale Walker, associate research professor at the institute's Juniper Gardens Children's Project, and Steve Warren, vice provost of research and graduate studies, have been awarded a four-year, \$1.6 million grant to establish a Model Demonstration Center for Promoting Language and Literacy Readiness in Early Childhood.

## Research Administration

### **Research Administration FAQ's**

*Can I purchase a computer on my sponsored project?*

Normally, computers are considered general purpose supplies and are paid for from institutional funds, including returned F&A. There are instances, with prior justification and approval, when computers can be purchased with sponsored funding. Examples may include laptops used for field work or to run project-specific laboratory equipment. As with all project expenditures, computers should be allocable for the benefit of a particular agreement. Desktops for faculty offices are seldom approved or justifiable, since there is no specific benefit allocable to one activity.

*Can I purchase equipment in the last 90 days of my sponsored project?*

Most equipment purchases during the last 90 days of a project are not allowed without prior approval from the contract or grants officials of the sponsoring agency. Such purchases raise reasonable questions from the funding source and risk an audit. The availability of funds late in the project does not, by itself, justify spending unless it benefits the project.

*I'm attending a four-day conference that coincides with my 30-day vacation in the same location. What can my project or F&A return pay for?*

For the transportation costs to be reimbursable, the IRS requires that days of business travel exceed days of personal travel. In this example, the airfare would not be reimbursable from sponsored or other institutional funds. The costs of the conference itself -- including registration, hotel and per diem -- would probably be allowable.

### **KU announces 22 Undergraduate Research Award winners**

Twenty-two University of Kansas students have received Undergraduate Research Awards for spring 2008.

The awards support original, independent research by undergraduates enrolled on the Lawrence campus. The University Honors Program administers the awards with funds from the offices of the provost and the vice provost for research and graduate studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Selection criteria included the quality of the proposal, the student's academic record and ability to complete the

proposed research project, the project's potential contribution to knowledge and the educational value of the research to the student.

The full list of award recipients is available at <http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/9/awards.shtml>.

### **More than 70 undergraduates present research at symposium**

More than 70 undergraduates at the University of Kansas presented research on topics ranging from child welfare to DNA sequences at the 11th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium on Saturday, April 12, in the Kansas Union.

This year, the symposium featured presentations from students at KU and other area schools who are members of Sigma Xi, an international scientific honor society.

The impressive breadth of symposium topics included projects from numerous academic departments at KU. There was a study on narrative style and rhetoric in the documentary film "An Inconvenient Truth," a project on the acoustics of worship spaces, a study on storm water pollution reduction and many more.

The symposium was sponsored by the University Honors Program and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Steven Warren, vice provost for RGS, welcomed the participants and guests to the symposium.

The day ended with an awards banquet, and Edith Taylor, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, was the speaker.

In addition to student awards for exceptional papers and poster presentations, Bill Picking, professor of biology, received the K. Barbara Schowen Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

A full list of students participating is available at <http://www.news.ku.edu/2008/april/8/research.shtml>.