

RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES @ KU

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July 2009

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New RGS Web Site Introduced in June

We hope you have noticed the totally revamped web site for the Office of Research and Graduate Studies www.rgs.ku.edu, which we launched in mid-June.

We listened to KU researchers, the principal users of the site, as it was redeveloped. Many of you are looking only for forms and policies. Those are now grouped together under one tab on the home page. Others said they mostly need to know who to talk to, so we now have a tab on the home page titled "People/Contacts." You can find anyone in RGS, alphabetically or by unit.

It also became clear that travel issues are a frequent concern. We now have six topics under a new "I Want To . . ." menu on the home page. "Travel" is number one on that menu. We've also created a tab, "The Grant Process," designed to walk researchers through the basic steps of submitting a proposal and managing a grant.

In the course of this project we eliminated unnecessary and obsolete pages, updated the content throughout, and improved the navigation. For example, this newsletter, the annual report of sponsored program funding, the *Funding Opportunities Bulletin*, news, and announcements are all accessible directly from the home page, as are Graduate Studies and the KU Center for Technology Commercialization.

(Note also that "Research" and "Graduate Studies" are both highlighted on the new KU home page www.ku.edu. The former link takes you to a second-level page that has been totally revamped by University Relations.)

As with all web sites, www.rgs.ku.edu remains a work in progress. Your feedback about any aspect of our new site is welcome, especially if you encounter a snag, can't locate something, or have suggestions for further improvement. E-mail us at rgswebs@ku.edu.

Kevin Boatright and Megan Gannon
RGS Communications

Federal Stimulus Funding for KU Research Exceeds \$3 Million Mark

KU researchers are beginning to benefit from the federal economic stimulus funding package enacted in February. So far, 11 stimulus grants have been awarded at the Lawrence Campus, with another four at the Medical Center. Together, the 15 awards total \$3.1 million.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contains \$21.5 billion in federal funding for research and development. About half of that amount, \$10.4 billion, is allocated to the NIH. Other agencies investing in research under ARRA include the NSF (\$3 billion), the Department of Energy (\$5.5 billion), NASA (\$1 billion), and the National Institute of Standards and Testing (\$1.2 billion).

Among the latest KU recipients of an ARRA-related grant is Luke Huan, an assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science and a member of the Bioinformatics and Computational Life Sciences Lab at the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center (ITTC). The NSF awarded Huan a five-year, \$500,000 CAREER grant in support of a project entitled "Mining Genome-wide Chemical-Structure Activity Relationships in Emergent Chemical Genomics Databases."

"Large research programs, such as the new Specialized Chemistry Center at KU, produce a huge amount of data," says Huan, who came to KU in 2006. "Interpreting that data is a challenge. Our goal is to develop pattern recognition theory to interpret the data, and then apply that theory to drug design and other fields." Huan will be joined on the interdisciplinary project by two doctoral students and two undergraduate students.

"This is a very encouraging start," said Steve Warren, vice provost for research and graduate studies, "and we are confident there will be more awards to follow. The stimulus package is a tremendous one-time funding opportunity. Our researchers are very competitive and are submitting many good proposals for consideration."

"The new administration is committed to increasing the federal investment in science and technology research," said Warren. "That will pay off in terms of better health, renewable energy, and improved research infrastructure. Another, more immediate, benefit is the creation of jobs and a boost to the U.S. economy."

Huan's award is the second largest so far at KU under ARRA. Other ARRA-related grant recipients, and their funding agencies, are:

- Gonzalo Carrasco, assistant professor, Pharmacology and Toxicology, NIH
- Michael Detamore, assistant professor, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, NIH
- Anna Ghazaryan, visiting assistant professor, Mathematics, NSF
- Brenda Hanna-Pladdy, assistant professor, Psychiatry, NIH
- Heping He, assistant professor, Mathematics, NSF
- Phillip Hefty (2), assistant professor, Molecular Biosciences, NIH
- Joe Heppert, professor and chair, Chemistry, NSF
- Blake Peterson, Regents Distinguished Professor, Medicinal Chemistry, NIH
- Kenneth Peterson, professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, NIH
- Joan Sereno, associate professor, Linguistics, NSF
- Hinrich Staecker, professor, Otolaryngology, NIH
- Martha Staker, director, Project EAGLE, Pediatrics, HHS
- Liang Tang, assistant professor, Molecular Biosciences, NIH

Updated information on ARRA-related funding opportunities is available on-line at <http://www.rgs.ku.edu/leadership/researchstimulus/>.

Pokphanh Named to SACNAS Leadership Program

Roberta Pokphanh, program coordinator in the Graduate Studies Office, is one of 30 individuals nationwide selected to participate in the Leadership Program of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). She will attend the Summer Leadership Conference later this month, held in Washington, D.C. in collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In October, she will also attend the Conference Leadership Institute in Dallas, held in conjunction with the SACNAS National Conference.

Pokphanh received a Ph.D. degree in art history at KU in May. She is a member of SACNAS and a registered member of the Cherokee Nation.

The Leadership Program is described as "an ambitious, year-round initiative aimed at strengthening the leadership skills of postdocs and science professionals." The objective is "to develop the next generation of underrepresented minority scientists whose leadership contributions will serve to strengthen and unify [member] communities at the national and local levels. The institutes prepare participants to assume leadership roles in the global scientific community by offering advanced strategic trainings that develop critical leadership skills."

According to Pokphanh, "SACNAS is a society that focuses on mentoring the next generation of researchers, from undergraduates to graduates and postdocs, so they can succeed and help others succeed. I have witnessed the impact of this society on the lives of the students it serves. The SACNAS annual meeting is about more than just students presenting research, or faculty recruiting students for graduate study. It is about helping students navigate their way toward success as researchers."

Pokphanh became involved with SACNAS in 2005. At the time, she was with KU's Office for Diversity in Science Training. "Then, I worked closely with undergraduates who, like me, were often first-generation college students exploring research careers and applying to graduate school. Now, I have the opportunity to have a greater impact on a larger audience -- hundreds, rather than dozens, of students." She hopes the Leadership Program will help her enhance her goal-setting, team-building, and decision-making skills.

Pokphanh credits Marigold Linton, a past president of SACNAS and director of American Indian Outreach at KU, as a mentor and role model. "We both grew up in an environment where few if any sought bachelor's degrees, let alone advanced degrees. We were both driven to obtain doctorates, and we possess a very strong desire to assist those who have similar dreams to fulfill those dreams."

More information about SACNAS and the Leadership Program is on-line at <http://www.sacnas.org/>.

Recent RGS Personnel Transitions

- With the arrival of **Joanne Altieri** on July 1 as assistant vice provost and director of research administration, **Michelle Ginavan** has relinquished her acting director duties after six months in that role.
- **Susan MacNally** is now assistant director of Research Integrity. She was previously compliance coordinator.
- **Paula Conlin** is now facilities coordinator at Nichols Hall. She was previously with ITTC in the same role.
- **Adrienne Sadovsky** is now process and data analyst in Research Enterprise Systems. She was previously a research coordinator in the Center for Biobehavioral Neurosciences in Communication Disorders at the Life Span Institute.
- **Christine Kosirog**, formerly with the Graduate Studies Office, has begun full-time graduate work at KU.

Jim Bresnahan, director of KU's Animal Care Unit, retired from the university on June 30. A search for his successor is under way. **Rebecca Henry**, DVM, has been appointed interim attending veterinarian for the Animal Care Unit. **Tad Coles**, DVM, has been appointed consulting DVM to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). More information about the Animal Care Unit and IACUC is available at <http://www2.ku.edu/~acu/index.shtml>.

People of RGS

Each month, we introduce you to staff in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) who make a difference on campus and in their community. Is there someone you'd like to see featured? Contact kboatright@ku.edu.

Gale Carter

Title: Grants Specialist, Post-Award Services

Years at KU: I've worked at KU for 22 years, working in various departments, with the last 12 at KUCR.

Duties: If you have a subcontract or award from another university, a non-Kansas state agency, or a foundation, I am your Post-Award Services contact. I manage those projects from initial set up in financials to final reporting and closing. On a daily basis, I act as liaison between agencies and project directors and their departments often troubleshooting and making certain all parties are in sync. Other duties include monitoring spending, reviewing requests for budget changes, sending out invoices, and financial reports as needed. If a project requires cost share, I make certain it's collected and reported. In addition, I manage tuition and fellowship payments (on projects that allow those expenses), review cost transfers, and monitor compliances.

For Fun: Having a background in art history and art [bachelor's degree at Kansas State, M.F.A. degree from Wichita State], I have been a potter for over 20 years and, in the past five years, a wood turner. My husband builds furniture and I enjoy assisting him with design ideas and finishing. One of my passions is gardening and growing plants that are a challenge here in terms of the climate. Another activity I love (and don't seem able to do often enough) is hiking, either on the prairie or in the mountains. For relaxing, there's nothing better than to watch a good British murder mystery.



Spalted maple bowl made by Gale Carter

Upcoming Events

A calendar of events of interest to the research community

July 15

“President Abraham Lincoln,” as interpreted by Fritz Klein
Dole Institute of Politics
7 p.m.

“President Lincoln” will discuss his road to the presidency, life challenges and connections to Kansas. He will also take questions from the audience. Klein is widely recognized for his historically accurate and entertaining portrayal of the 16th President.

July 16-18

Conference on 19th-Century Music
Murphy Hall
All Day
Presentations and performances from scholars across the U.S. and Canada <http://arts.ku.edu/music/19thconference/19thconference/>

July 19-24

Camp: KU Survivor --Engineering Outback
Eaton Hall
All Day
A weeklong technology summer camp for boys entering 10th through 12th grade. Students get hands-on experience completing an engineering project.

July 20

Kansas Bioscience Authority Community Stakeholders Meeting and Reception
Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College, Blvd.
5-7 p.m.
An update on Kansas’ areas of bioscience strength and the KBA’s support for continued economic growth through investments in bioscience research and business.

July 30

High School Government/History Teachers Civic Engagement Conference
Dole Institute of Politics
All Day
Teachers from across the state will discuss the importance of getting young people involved in civic engagement, public service and elections. Presenters will include elected officials, professors, and current and retired teachers.

July 31

Final Day of the KU Summer Session

August 18

Center for Teaching Excellence
KU Teaching Summit: “Engaged Learning”
130 Budig Hall and Wescoe Hall
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

August 20

First Day of the KU Fall Semester

August 25

Hall Center for the Humanities Lecture Series
Lewis Hyde, “Culture as Commonwealth”
Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union
7:30 p.m.

September 9

Third Annual Welcome Reception: KU - Haskell Indian Nations University NIH-Funded Programs
Kansas Room, Kansas Union
4-5:30 p.m.

Through October 5

Exhibition: “xy”
Spencer Museum of Art, Kress Gallery
<http://www.spencerart.ku.edu/exhibitions/xy.shtml>
This exhibition, drawn from the Spencer’s rich collection, delves into the complexities of male identity, masculinity, and maleness across varied historical, cultural, and temporal trajectories.