

## In this issue...

- 1 March 14 Humanities Lecturer Addresses "Religion for Atheists"
- 1 Three Bioengineering Colloquia Set
- 2 Research Centers Team with Spencer Museum to Present Tribute to Alan Turing
- 2 Women's Resource Center to Host Graduate Women's Social
- 3 Grant Specialists Sought in Research and Graduate Studies
- 3 The Commons Announces Seed Grants Competition
- 3 Graduate Student Research Competition Showcases Research Variety
- 4 Graduate Students Receive Awards for Summit Research Presentations
- 4 Hall Center Celebrates Faculty Books, Creative Work
- 5 Proposals Sought for 15th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium
- 5 Call for Nominations: Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award
- 5 Undergraduate Research Awards Competition for Period II 2012
- 5 Worster, Wildcat Featured Speakers at "Making of the Great Plains" Symposium
- 6 Caribbean Novelist Jamaica Kincaid to Speak at KU in April
- 6 KCALSI Annual Dinner to Focus on Translational Research
  
- 7 UPCOMING EVENTS

## March 14 Humanities Lecturer Addresses "Religion for Atheists"



Author and philosopher Alain de Botton is the next speaker in the Humanities Lecture Series, sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities and Kansas Public Radio. His presentation is Wednesday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. in a new location: Woodruff Auditorium in the Kansas Union.

De Botton founded [The School of Life](#), a non-traditional meeting place in London for like-minded individuals to gather for symposia on such topics as "How to Make Love Last" and "How to Face Death." He also founded [Living Architecture](#), a non-profit organization that invites architects to build works of domestic architecture in the UK that can be rented for vacations.

His most recent book – *Religion for Atheists: A Non-believer's Guide to the Uses of Religion* – is the focus of his presentation at KU. In this work, he addresses the painful and often dispiriting debate between believers and non-believers by arguing that, irrespective of one's stance on the supernatural, religions still have some very important things to teach the secular world. He focuses in particular on religious attitudes to community, ritual, morality, art and architecture, and suggests how the secular world might be inspired by certain examples drawn from religions.

## Three Bioengineering Colloquia Set During March, April

The bioengineering graduate program invites faculty, staff, and students with related interests to attend the three remaining programs in their spring semester colloquium series. Each program is scheduled from 4-5 p.m. in 3150 Learned Hall. Speakers are:

### March 30

Delbert E. Day

Department of Materials Science & Engineering  
Missouri University of Science and Technology

**April 13**

Jessie M. Huisinga  
 Department of Neurology  
 Oregon Health and Science University

**April 27**

Brian P. Kelly  
 Department of Biomedical Engineering & Imaging  
 University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Information about the colloquium schedule and speakers can be found at <http://bio.engr.ku.edu/Colloquium/index.html>, or contact Destiny Poole at (785) 864-5258, [dtpoole@ku.edu](mailto:dtpoole@ku.edu).

**Research Centers Team with Spencer Museum to Present Tribute to Alan Turing**

The Information and Telecommunication Technology Center (ITTC) and the Biodiversity Institute are working with the Spencer Museum of Art to co-sponsor “Cryptograph: An Exhibition for Alan Turing.” It opens March 24 and continues through July 20 in Gallery 318 North.

“Cryptograph” is one of many programs taking place around the world in honor of the centenary of Alan Turing (left), the brilliant British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, and pioneering computer scientist. Turing’s world-changing innovations include the Turing Machine, a conceptual machine that built on the notion of the algorithm and laid the foundation of modern computing.

As a cryptanalyst during World War II, Turing’s breakthroughs in logic allowed him to decipher the Nazis’ Enigma Machine. He was also deeply involved in the idea of machine intelligence, and he developed a test for artificial intelligence that is still in use. Late in his career, Turing became fascinated with the field of mathematical biology, a field that explores the mathematical underpinnings of morphogenesis, the origins and evolution of biological form.

The exhibition draws from the Spencer’s permanent collections, featuring works that resonate with the kinds of questions that drove Turing’s research: finding meaning in patterns, and finding connections between mathematics and computing, intelligence and natural form.

On April 6 from noon to 1 p.m., Spencer intern Lindsey Waugh will give a Gallery Talk on “The Elegant Equation: Intersections of Art and Mathematics in Works from the Cryptograph Exhibition in Honor of Alan Turing.” On May 17 at 6:30 p.m., Perry Alexander will give a lecture about Turing and the exhibition at the Kansas City (MO) Public Library, 14 West 10th Street. Alexander is a professor of electrical engineering and computer science at KU and director of the ITTC.

**Women’s Resource Center to Host Graduate Women’s Social**

The [Emily Taylor Women’s Resource Center](#) at KU is organizing a social event for women graduate students on Tuesday, March 27, from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Kansas Room at the Kansas Union. Kathy Rose-Mockry, program director, invites women graduate students at every stage of their programs to come and connect with peers from various fields across campus. The event is free and refreshments will be provided. For more information, call (785) 864-3552 or e-mail [etwrc@ku.edu](mailto:etwrc@ku.edu).

## Grant Specialists Sought in Research and Graduate Studies

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies is currently searching for three grant specialists to work in Pre-Award Services at Youngberg Hall. For details and application instructions, go to [www.jobs.ku.edu](http://www.jobs.ku.edu) and search the postings for position number 00067182. The review of applications will begin on March 30.

## The Commons Announces Seed Grants Competition

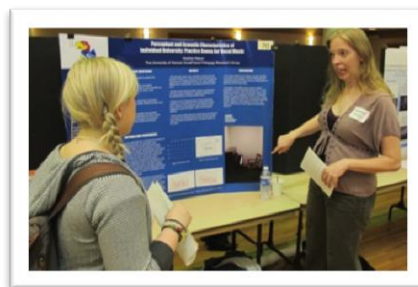
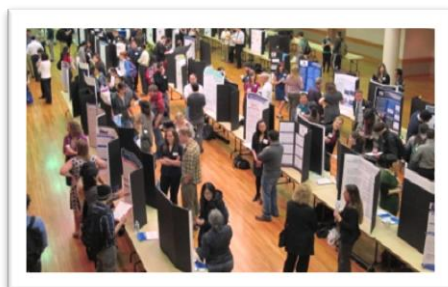
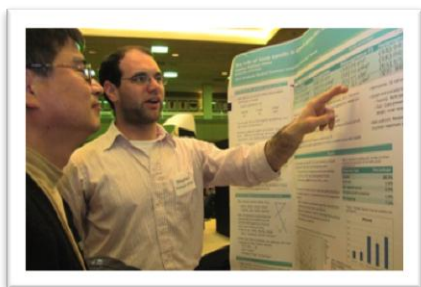
The Commons supports research endeavors that bring together the sciences, arts, and humanities to explore the reciprocal relationship between natural and cultural systems. In so doing, the Commons intends to be a catalyst for bold innovation, unconventional thinking and unexpected discoveries.

The submission deadline is March 30 for The Commons Interdisciplinary Research Initiative in Nature and Culture, a KU-wide, competitive seed-grant program to nurture and develop interdisciplinary, collaborative research ideas at the conceptual stage. Up to \$40,000 is available for one or more awards, co-sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. [Application information](#) is available online, and awards will be announced April 16.

The Commons seed grant program targets concepts and their interdisciplinary synthesis, not the generation of preliminary data. Seed grant activities may include exploratory research workshops, studios, colloquia, symposia, scholarly travel and visits, and other activities that advance interdisciplinary research ideas, collaborations and extramural proposals. Awards do not pay for individuals to attend conferences. Proposals must equally integrate methods and ideas from the three areas represented by The Commons: sciences, arts, and humanities. Research partnerships across KU units and between KU and other universities and institutions are strongly encouraged.

The outcome of a seed grant should be the development and submission of a substantive research grant proposal to a federal agency, foundation or other funding entity.

## Graduate Student Research Competition Showcases Research Variety



The annual KU Graduate Student Research Competition was held March 7 at the Kansas Union. It featured presentations by more than 120 Lawrence Campus students. Poster presenters included Stephen Politzer-Ahles, Linguistics (above left), and Heather Nelson, Music Education (above right). A listing of all participants, along with abstracts of their poster and oral presentations, is [available online](#).

## Graduate Students Receive Awards for Summit Research Presentations

Four projects by KU graduate students from the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses each received \$500 awards at the ninth annual Capitol Graduate Research Summit, held February 16 in Topeka. The KU honorees were:

- Laura Dean, doctoral student in political science
- A.J. Mellott, doctoral student in bioengineering
- Lacey Luense, doctoral student in molecular and integrative physiology (KUMC)
- Jessica Witherspoon, doctoral student in rehabilitation science (KUMC)

Gov. Sam Brownback and members of the State Legislature attended the poster session that featured graduate students from KU, K-State, and Wichita State. Thomas Heilke, dean of graduate studies, said that "The research represented here today is a small sampling of the research being conducted by graduate students at both the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses. The work these students are doing will have positive, long-term impacts on our society in many ways."

Other KU participants were:

- Madhav Ghanta, chemical and petroleum engineering
- Jeff Lamping, bioengineering
- Dennis Eck, geography
- Juli Pitzer, film and media studies
- Clayton Wauneka, bioengineering
- Christine Hober, nursing (KUMC)
- Kyle P. Jansson, molecular and integrative physiology (KUMC)
- Anand Venugopal, molecular and integrative physiology (KUMC)

## Hall Center Celebrates Faculty Books, Creative Work



The creative work of 35 KU faculty and staff was recognized March 8 at the annual Hall Center for the Humanities "Celebration of Books Published by Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts Faculty in 2011." The event featured a reception, a display of books for sale, and brief presentations by authors Tanya Golash-Boza, Sociology, John Tibbetts, Film and Media Studies, and Thomas Tuozzo, Philosophy. Victor Bailey (at left), director of the Hall Center, presided. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> annual "Celebration of Books" and was sponsored by the Friends of the Hall Center. A complete list of the authors and their works can be found on page 12 of the spring edition of the Hall Center's [Communique newsletter](#).

## Proposals Sought for 15th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

Undergraduate students engaged in a research, scholarly, or creative project are encouraged to present at the 15th Undergraduate Research Symposium, scheduled for Saturday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kansas Union. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gain experience sharing the results of their work through a poster or oral presentation. Space is also available for art installations, poetry readings, and other forms of scholarship.

Proposals are due March 30. More information and application materials are online at the [symposium site](#). Questions may also be addressed to the University Honors Program at (785) 864-4225, [honors@ku.edu](mailto:honors@ku.edu).

## Call for Nominations: Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the University Honors Program seek nominations for the Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. This annual award recognizes an outstanding faculty member for his or her outstanding support of undergraduate research at KU. Nominations are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 30, and the recipient will be announced at the Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 28.

Consider nominating a colleague for this honor. More information and nomination forms are [available online](#). If you have questions, please call or e-mail Michael Vitevitch, (785) 864-4225, [mvitevitch@ku.edu](mailto:mvitevitch@ku.edu).

## Undergraduate Research Awards Competition for Period II 2012

Undergraduate Research Awards provide up to \$1,000 in support of original, independent research by Lawrence Campus undergraduate students, under the general guidance of a faculty member. These awards are not intended to provide faculty members with assistants, but students may well be associated with faculty research projects as independent investigators. The application deadline for this cycle of funding is 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5. More information, including applications materials, is [available online](#).

## Worster, Wildcat Featured Speakers at “Making of the Great Plains” Symposium



Donald Worster, the Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Professor of U.S. History at KU, will deliver the opening address March 28 at a three-day symposium at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on “The Making of the Great Plains: 1862-2012.”

The title of Worster’s remarks is “An Unquenchable Thirst: How the Great Plains Created a Water Abundance and Then Lost It.” A featured presenter on the closing day of the symposium is Dan Wildcat, director of the American Indian Studies Program at Haskell Indian Nations University. He will speak on “The Coming Tribal Reclamation of the Great Plains.”

The symposium marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of federal legislation that proved crucial to the development of the Great Plains: The Homestead Act, the Morrill Land-Grant Act, the Pacific Railroad Act, and the act establishing the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Information about the symposium is [available online](#).

## Caribbean Novelist Jamaica Kincaid to Speak at KU in April



Jamaica Kincaid, widely regarded as one of the most important post-colonial authors of our time, is the final speaker in the 2011-12 Humanities Lecture Series. Her talk, “Landscapes and Memory,” is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. in Woodruff Auditorium at the Kansas Union.

Kincaid is a native of Antigua, where she grew up in poverty. She is currently the Josephine Olp Weeks Chair and Professor of Literature at Claremont McKenna College. Caribbean literature was, in some measure, introduced to the U.S. through Kincaid's writings, which include novels, poems, and reflections. She was a longtime contributor to *The New Yorker*, and her loosely autobiographical novels, including *Annie John*, *Lucy*, and *The Autobiography of My Mother*, interweave gender, sexuality, race, ethnic identity, selfhood, and themes of place into evocative and lyrical prose.

Kincaid's presentation is the 2012 Frances and Floyd Horowitz Lecture, devoted to issues related to our multi-cultural society. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities and Kansas Public Radio.

## KCALSI Annual Dinner to Focus on Translational Research



Livingston

The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI) will hold its 2012 annual dinner on Tuesday, April 10 at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center. The theme of the event is “Better, Smarter, Faster: The Need for Translational Research.” The keynote speaker will be David M. Livingston, Deputy Director of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center and the Emil Frei Professor of Genetics and Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Livingston is a recognized champion for the importance of translational research and its significant impact on the future of medicine in our region and nation. KU is a stakeholder institution in KCALSI and a sponsor of the annual dinner, which brings together academic and industry leaders from throughout the region. For more

information about the [dinner](#), or to register to [attend](#), go to the [KCALSI website](#).

## Upcoming Events

News of interest to the research community. Additional details are available at the [KU Calendar](#).

### March 14

Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series:

Alain de Botton

"Religions for Atheists"

7:30 p.m.

Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium [New Location]

### March 24 – July 20

"Cryptograph: An Exhibition for Alan Turing"

Spencer Museum of Art, Gallery 318 North

### March 27

Graduate Women's Social, sponsored by the

Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center

4 – 5:30 p.m.

Kansas Union, Kansas Room

Staff Tour: Center for Design Research

3:45 – 5 p.m.

Westbrooke Circle, West Campus

### March 30

Latin Americanist Graduate Research Competition

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Kansas Union, Big 12 Room

Bioengineering Graduate Program Colloquium:

Delbert Day

4 – 5 P.M.

3150 Learned Hall

### April 6

Gallery Talk: Lindsey Waugh

"The Elegant Equation: Intersections of Art and Mathematics in Works from the Cryptograph Exhibition honoring Alan Turing"

Noon – 1 p.m.

Spencer Museum of Art, 318 Gallery North

### April 10

Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series:

Jamaica Kincaid

"Landscapes and Memory"

7:30 – 9 p.m.

Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium

Kansas City Area Life Science Institute Annual Dinner

"Better, Smarter, Faster: The Need for Translational Research"

Speaker: David M. Livingston, Deputy Director, Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center

5:30 – 8 p.m.

Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center

### April 13

Bioengineering Graduate Program Colloquium:

Jesse Huisinga

4 – 5 P.M.

3150 Learned Hall

### April 24

Graduate Student Awards Ceremony

4 p.m.

Kansas Union, Ball Room

### April 27

Bioengineering Graduate Program Colloquium:

Brian P. Kelley

4 – 5 P.M.

3150 Learned Hall

### April 28

15th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Kansas Union

### May 12

Doctoral Hooding Ceremony

3:30 p.m.

Lied Center

### May 17

Lecture: Perry Alexander

"Cryptograph: An Exhibition for Alan Turing"

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Kansas City (MO) Public Library

### June 18-21

2012 BIO International Convention

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center