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## KU Climbs to 41<sup>st</sup> in Annual National Ranking for Federally Funded Research

Federally funded research at the University of Kansas increased in 2010 to a record \$147.6 million. That figure ranked KU 41st among national public research universities, according to an annual survey released recently by the National Science Foundation.

KU ranked 44th in 2009, 43rd in 2008, and 44th in 2007. In the latest survey, KU ranked higher than any other public university in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma or Nebraska, and third among the current Big 12 universities, public or private. The survey, which always lags by one year, ranked a total of 734 public and private universities nationwide.

"Federally funded research grants are extremely competitive," said Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, "especially for research in science and engineering, where KU excels. Our success in obtaining these grants is a credit to faculty at both campuses, who are entrepreneurial about seeking funding and highly regarded by the federal agencies that make the awards."

Total KU research expenditures from all sources of external grants and contracts exceeded \$224.6 million in 2010, with federal funding accounting for nearly 83 percent of the total. Total research expenditures increased to \$240.1 million in 2011.



**This colorful annual event, the highlight of Commencement Weekend at KU, will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, in the Lied Center. All August, December and May doctoral degree candidates are eligible to participate in the ceremony. Only doctoral candidates who have satisfied all of their degree requirements by the deadline for graduation in May are allowed to participate. More information is [available online](#).**

## Campaign Goal: “Elevate KU to New Heights”

**FAR  
ABOVE**

*The Campaign for Kansas*

*Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*, a comprehensive campaign to advance KU and The University of Kansas Hospital, launched its public phase April 28. The campaign seeks to raise \$1.2 billion by its conclusion in June 2016.

Since July 1, 2008, the campaign’s “quiet phase” has raised \$612 million toward the goal, resulting in 246 scholarships and 14 professorships at KU in a wide range of disciplines – from the humanities to business to engineering.

“The campaign’s name reflects our goal to elevate KU to new heights,” said Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. “We seek to be recognized as a top-tier research university and academic medical center. The success of this campaign for Kansas’ flagship university will benefit people in every corner of our state and region.”

Far Above seeks support to educate future leaders, advance medicine, accelerate discovery and drive economic growth. Campaign priorities were established through extensive consultation with leaders throughout the university and hospital.

For example, the campaign’s goals include raising funds for endowed professorships to attract and retain the best minds. Support for professional development, research initiatives and extensive lab modernization will be critical to faculty and student recruitment in all disciplines, especially the sciences. In addition, the campaign will mount a major effort to fund graduate fellowships, which drive KU’s national capacity to recruit and support the success of outstanding students and faculty.

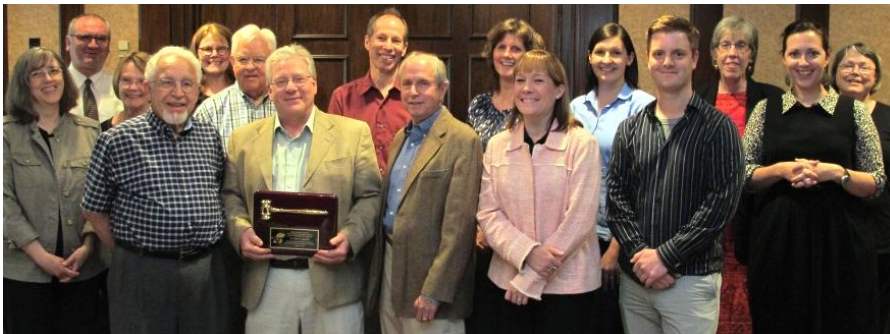
Additional information about Far Above is [available online](#), including a series of case statements that outline the priorities of 17 different schools and units.

## Bruce Frey Named Chair of the Human Subjects Committee of Lawrence

Bruce Frey, associate professor of psychology and research and education, is the new chair of the [Human Subjects Committee of Lawrence](#). He succeeds John Colombo, director of the Life Span Institute, who had served as chair since 1993.

“John has worked hard to establish an institutional review board with a uniquely positive reputation,” said Frey. “The Human Subjects Committee for the Lawrence campus works to support and encourage research, not act as an obstacle. I hope to continue that tradition.”

Frey joined the department in 1998 and has been a member of the HSCL since 2003.



**Past and present HSCL members and staff (left) gathered at the KU Alumni Association on April 26 to congratulate John Colombo (with plaque) for his 19 years of service as chair.**

## Grant Program Seeks Proposals for Seed Funding of External Support

Proposals are now being accepted for the new Strategic Initiative Grant Program, announced April 19 by Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jeff Vitter.

“At each of our four recent strategic initiative summits,” said Vitter, “we explored the great things KU is doing today and the even more fascinating possibilities for the future.” The goals of the Strategic Initiative Grant Program include “seeding initial efforts to seek external support on the one hand to funding established activities to realize a major increase in sustained external funding on the other hand.”

Under the program, Level I proposals (large grant requests of more than \$50,000) must be submitted by June 15. Future Level I deadlines are October 15, 2012 and February 15, 2013. Level II proposals (small grant requests of \$5,000 to \$10,000) may be submitted at any time.

Vitter also announced the formation of a Research Investment Council to review the proposals and advise him on investments to support the four strategic initiatives. “It’s one immediate method in which we will invest in faculty-driven initiatives in order to move great multidisciplinary ideas forward,” he said. The eight-member council will be chaired by Steve Warren, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

Complete information about the program, including the Level I and Level II electronic application and appropriate templates for attachments is [available online](#).

## Frank Schoenen Receives KU Research Achievement Award



A major contributor to two high-profile early-stage drug discovery programs at the University of Kansas is the 2012 recipient of KU’s Research Achievement Award. The award is the highest honor given annually to a full-time academic staff researcher working in a department or research center on KU’s Lawrence campus.

Frank Schoenen is associate director of the Specialized Chemistry Center, a position he’s held since 2008. He was earlier the associate director of the Chemical Methodologies and Library Development (CMLD) Center from 2005 to 2009. He also holds a research associate professor position with the Higuchi Biosciences Center and a courtesy associate professor position with the Department of Medicinal Chemistry.

Schoenen was recognized May 2 at a reception in the Shankel Structural Biology Center. The award includes a plaque and \$10,000 in research funds.

The Specialized Chemistry Center was established in 2008 with a six-year, \$23.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. The CMLD was established in 2003 with a \$9.5 million NIH grant and renewed for \$9.5 million in 2008. Both centers are directed by Jeff Aubé, professor of medicinal chemistry, who nominated Schoenen for the award.

“Frank is a talented, hard-working and generous scientist who deserves a lion’s share of credit for any success these centers have achieved,” said Aubé. “He has been a major contributor to both and has steadily built an enviable reputation in his field of organic medicinal chemistry.”

Schoenen came to KU in 2005 following 12 years with Glaxo Research Institute and its successor companies and three years as vice president for research chemistry and operations with Nuada Pharmaceuticals. He started at KU in the CMLD as director of the Synthesis Core and associate director in the Administrative Core.

Schoenen's academic background includes a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Rockhurst University, a master's degree in chemistry from Xavier University (Ohio) and a doctoral degree in organic chemistry from the University of South Carolina. Prior to joining Glaxo, he was an NIH postdoctoral fellow at Yale University for one year and at Harvard University for two years.

Past recipients of the KU Research Achievement Award include Rick Miller of the Kansas Geological Survey, Debra Kamps of the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training, Donald Huggins of the Kansas Biological Survey, and Daryl Mellard of the Center for Research on Learning.

## Changes to Per Diem Travel Rates

Effective May 1, the meal per diem rates for KUCR travel increased. The travel time table has also been changed to utilize the KU travel table. The new meal per diem rates, per diem calculator, and related information are [available online](#).

## "39 Trails" Exhibition Highlights KU Rain Forest Research



An exhibition that continues through July 22 at the Spencer Museum of Art features creative projects made by University of Kansas researchers who traveled to the jungles of South America in the summer of 2011.

Co-sponsored by the Biodiversity Institute, "39 Trails: Research in the Peruvian Amazon" is located in Gallery 318 South. It shares the [work of an interdisciplinary research team](#) (left) that included seven undergraduate students and two graduate students under the direction of Caroline Chaboo, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator of systematic entomology, and Stephen Goddard, associate director of the Spencer Museum and senior curator of prints and drawings.

"Everyone involved relied heavily on a small map of the base of their activity, the Los Amigos Biological Research Station," said Goddard. "The map detailed 39 trails, underscoring the human presence in the rain forest, as well as the difficulty of navigating it." A full description of the exhibition is available on the [Spencer's exhibition page](#).

Three of the undergraduate students were part of a pilot program: the Rudkin Undergraduate Scholarships for International Interdisciplinary Research Experiences. It strives to give the students an arena for integrating disciplines and synthesizing knowledge across the sciences, arts and humanities in a global setting. (One of these students was English literature and creative writing major [Kelsey Murrell](#), a 2011-12 Hall Center Scholar and KU's 26<sup>th</sup> recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship. She starts graduate work this fall at Oxford.)

In addition to sharing the creative work by the Rudkin Scholars, Goddard said the goal of the exhibition is to include contributions from all members of the cohesive research team to give a fuller account of the different ways the rain forest experience touched everyone involved. The installation consists of small acrylic cases – one for each team member – that the researchers curated individually to summarize their experiences. In addition to the items in these cases and the written and pictorial creative work of the Rudkin Scholars, the exhibition includes printed leaves, photographs, insect specimens, and audio recordings made at Los Amigos, where the group spent 10 days in focused work.

## RGS Begins Search for Director of Research Development

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies is conducting a national search for a director of research development. It is a new, full-time, 12-month, non-tenured, unclassified professional appointment.

The person selected will “help expand KU's entire research enterprise by developing and implementing strategies for increasing research collaboration. The primary responsibilities of this proven research facilitator will be to plan strategically for development of research initiatives that draw upon the strengths and expertise of KU faculty across the University, to cooperate with research centers and academic units to develop and implement strategies for interdisciplinary research collaboration in partnership with a diverse constituency of faculty researchers, and to foster faculty and research center engagement in significant external funding efforts for major collaborative research projects.”

Complete application information is [available online](#), position number 00067244. To ensure consideration, candidates should submit all application materials before May 25. The estimated start date is August 20.

## KC Area Life Sciences Institute to Host Research Symposium May 31



The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI) will convene its annual research symposium on Thursday, May 31, from 8:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn and Reardon Convention Center in downtown Kansas City, Kansas.

The symposium is jointly presented by Frontiers: The Heartland Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. The theme is “Better, Smarter, Faster: The Power of Collaboration in Translational Research.” Admission is free to faculty and staff of Frontiers partner organizations (including KU), but [registration is](#)

[required](#). A light breakfast is available at 7:30 a.m., lunch is provided, and a reception will follow the symposium.

The [complete agenda](#) is available online. Highlights include:

- **Atul Butte**, Stanford University, “Transforming 300 Billion Points of Data into Diagnostics, Therapeutics and New Insights into Disease”
- **Gary Rosenthal**, University of Iowa, “Innovative Approaches for Conducting Efficient Pragmatic Clinical Trials”
- **Julian Solway**, University of Chicago, “Synergistic Use of CTSA Resources to Develop Clinical and Translational Scientists”
- **John Spertus**, UMKC, “Accelerating the Translation of Research to Improve Care Historically”
- **Gabor Forgacs**, University of Missouri, “The Present and Future of Organ and Tissue Printing”

A panel will discuss “The Reinvention of Translational Medicine.” One of the members is Scott Weir, director of KU’s Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation. The program will also feature platform and poster presentations by Frontiers’ scholars, trainees and pilot study recipients.

## Upcoming West Campus Road Closings Will Affect Access

Researchers and others who drive to Youngberg Hall, Nichols Hall, and the Research Circle should note that KU will be completing road construction on West Campus this summer. Plans call for Constant Avenue (including intersections) to be closed from May 14 to August 1 between 19th Street and Irving Hill Road. As a result, north-south vehicular through-traffic on West Campus between Bob Billings Parkway, Iowa Street, and Clinton Parkway will not be possible during the construction.

Direct access to campus buildings will be maintained or provided via detour routes. For example, access to the parking lots for KU Endowment will be provided by a temporary connection with Lot 206 east of Nichols Hall. Access to the north part of West Campus will be entirely from the intersection of Bob Billings Parkway and Crestline Drive. Access to the south part of West Campus will be from the 21st and Iowa entrance near the Higuchi Biosciences Center or the Park and Ride entrance at Clinton Parkway and Crestline.

Note that other road projects on West Campus may also take place this summer if funding permits. A map of all proposed construction impacts is available online. For further information, contact Steve Scannell, Design & Construction Management, 864-5649, [sscannell@ku.edu](mailto:sscannell@ku.edu).

## Upcoming Events

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

### Through July 20

“Cryptograph: An Exhibition for Alan Turing”  
Spencer Museum of Art, Gallery 318 North

### Through July 22

“39 Trails: Research in the Peruvian Amazon”  
Spencer Museum of Art, Gallery 318 South

### May 8

University Scholarly Achievement Awards  
Ceremony  
4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
Spooner Hall

### May 10

KUCR Thursday Research Topics:  
“Effort Reporting: Why and How”  
11:10 a.m. – Noon  
Burge Union, Courtside Room

### May 12

Doctoral Hooding Ceremony  
3:30 p.m.  
Lied Center

### May 31

Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute  
and Frontiers Research Symposium  
All Day  
Hilton Garden Inn and Reardon Convention  
Center, Kansas City, Kansas

### June 14

NCURA Video Presentation: “Technology  
Transfer Issues for the Research Administrator”  
1 – 4:30 p.m.  
Simons Biosciences Laboratories, Auditorium  
Level I Proposal Deadline: Strategic Initiatives  
Grant Program