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Snow in Kansas

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Although the title of this brief introduction to the 2011-2012 issue of the *Journal of Undergraduate Research* may sound poetic, it is an allusion to the Rede Lecture delivered in 1959 by C.P. Snow at Cambridge University entitled "The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution." His lecture focused on the disdain that those in the arts had for the sciences, and that those in the sciences had for the arts. Over 50 years later, it is all too easy to find an English major who can't balance his checkbook, and a major in Physics and Astronomy who thinks Titian is an alternate spelling for one of the moons of Saturn. Ignorance—of the Pythagorean Theorem or of the influence that Edgar Allan Poe had on literature—should not be worn proudly, like a badge of honor. Instead, one must strive to know both cultures. Indeed, being familiar with both cultures is the only way to truly understand the world around us.

Fortunately, the rise of fields like the Digital Humanities can be interpreted as a sign that the gap between the arts and the sciences is decreasing. In an effort to continue to reduce the gap between the two cultures, we made a conscious effort in this issue of the *Journal of Undergraduate Research* to include not just "traditional" or "stereotypical" research from the physical and social sciences, but to also include creative and scholarly works from the arts and humanities. Despite the differences in methodologies used in the arts and sciences, both fields strive to answer the same questions: Who are we? What does it mean to be human? Why do we do the things we do? We hope you enjoy the answers to these and many other questions in the pages that follow.

Thank you to all of those who have contributed in some way to this issue of the *Journal of Undergraduate Research*. The electronic version of this issue, along with previous issues of the *Journal of Undergraduate Research* can be found online at: <http://web.ku.edu/~kujur/>

Contents

Undergraduate Research

- The James K. Hitt Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research.....6**
- Toward an Environmental Assessment of Social Determinants of Health: Direct Observations of Latino Neighborhoods in Kansas City.....7**
Cara Smith, 2012 winner of The James K. Hitt Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research (Faculty Advisor: Stephen Fawcett, *Applied Behavioral Science*)
- Regulatory Oversight of Foreign Clinical Trials: An examination of the industry's influence on FDA pharmaceutical regulation and the implications for enforcement activity both domestic and abroad.....21**
Beeta Kashani (Faculty Advisor: Gary Reich, *Political Science*)
- Taste and Odor Problems in Clinton Lake Reservoir's Drinking Water.....54**
Diana L. Restrepo-Osorio, *McNair Scholar* (*Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*)
- Evaluating the use of DNA Sequences for Species Identification in Medusozoans (Phylum Cnidaria)72**
Rhea Richardson (Faculty Advisor: Paulyn Cartwright, *Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*)
- A New Stabilization Approach to Cadaveric Shoulder Joint Testing.....84**
Cole Bittel (Co-authors: Jessica Witherspoon & Jared Vanlandingham Faculty Advisor: Terrance McIlff, *Orthopedic Surgery*, University of Kansas Medical Center)
- Underground Economies: Infrastructure, equity, and access in Kansas City 1871-1939.....94**
Julia Barnard
- Pavement Through the Prairie, Wheels in the Wetlands: The battle over a road in Lawrence, Kansas.....102**
Kelly Heiman (Faculty Advisor: Leslie Tuttle, *History*)
- Effects of Weight Cue Reactivity on Self-Report Measures of Body Dissatisfaction..142**
Marshall Beauchamp (Faculty Advisor: Ric Steele, *Clinical Child Psychology*)
- Islamabad: The struggle for Pakistan's identity.....156**
Eman Siddiqui
- Social Factors that Encourage Post-High School Education: What Works Across Racial and Socioeconomic Divides.....173**
Beth O'Neill

Scapegoat Theory and the Discursive Representations of Immigration And the Migrant Body	188
Kenneth Stowe (<u>Faculty Advisor</u> : Donn Parson, <i>Communication Studies</i>)	
The National Socialist Courtship of the Arab World: 1938-1943	200
Joe Siess	
Biomimicry: Finding Inspiration for Innovation in Nature	208
Brittany Hodges	
Humanities in the Field: Enhancing learning through Community Service	213
Hannah Vick (<u>Faculty Advisor</u> : Cheryl Lester, <i>English and American Studies</i>)	

Undergraduate Scholarship and Creative Works

Ich bin nicht ein Berliner: A Reconsideration of Marsden Hartley's <i>Portrait of a German Officer</i>	236
Sean Kramer (<u>Faculty Advisor</u> : Marni Kessler, <i>Art History</i>)	
Time Capsule (A collection of poems and short story excerpts)	249
Timothy Barta	
Letters Between Fools or (Words.)	281
Jon Prapuolenis	
Chapter One: Friday	284
Jon Prapuolenis	
Madagascar?	288
Jon Prapuolenis	
Chapter 3 or 4 or something: Schedules	292
Jon Prapuolenis	
Musings in a Cold Store on a Warm Night	294
Jon Prapuolenis	
Chapter 9: Smooth orbs, clean slates, and rough beginnings	295
Jon Prapuolenis	
Eye c a b	298
Jon Prapuolenis	

The James K. Hitt Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research

The year 2012 marks the inaugural year of the The James K. Hitt Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research. This award was presented at the 2012 Undergraduate Research Symposium to three students who engaged in outstanding research and scholarship. These students—Cara Smith, Jessica Ludwig and Santiago Ferreira—presented the keynote addresses that kicked-off the Symposium on April 28, 2012. A written report of the research presented by Cara Smith also appears in this issue of the *Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

The James K. Hitt Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research was established in October, 2011 by his son Alan B. Hitt and his daughter and son-in-law, Nancy Hitt Clark and David Clark. James Hitt was born in 1914 in Everest, Ks and raised in the small town of Hamlin in northeastern Kansas. Hitt first came to the University of Kansas in 1930 and graduated in 1934 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He continued his education at KU, earning his master's in mathematics in 1936. As an undergraduate, Hitt was a Summerfield scholar, ROTC member, and a member of several honors societies including Phi Beta Kappa. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. Hitt first served as a staff member in 1940 as Assistant Registrar, and left on military leave as a second lieutenant for active service in the Army during World War II from 1942-1946. He returned to KU and served in several positions over the next 32 years, including University Registrar, Director of Admissions, Director of the Office of Admission and Records, Associate Director of Institutional Research and Planning, and finally as a Special Assistant to the Chancellor.

Hitt's leadership and dedication at the University of Kansas were evident as a student and continued during his 32 year career as an influential and innovative administrator. Following his retirement in 1977, Hitt continued to engage in his love of music through his piano playing and remained a die-hard KU basketball fan. He spent many years as a loving care-giver to his wife Bernadine and co-founded the Caregiver Support Group for individuals caring for family members with Alzheimer's disease.

James Hitt died in January 2011. Hitt's son, daughter, and son-in-law, all of whom are KU alumni, wished to commemorate Hitt's achievement and dedication to the university. They felt that his sincere attention to KU students and faculty was truly exceptional and well-known across campus. As Hitt was involved both as a Summerfield Scholar and the head of the Summerfield committee, his son and daughter were keenly aware of their father's respect for academic excellence and research. Both felt their father's values are reflected in the University Honors Program's focus on scholarship, research and innovation, and felt that an Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research would be an appropriate way to honor their father. We thank the Hitt family for their generous support of excellence in the domain of undergraduate research and scholarship.