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Bold Aspirations Visitor and Lecture Series an Opportunity to Build KU Collaborations

In August, Provost Jeff Vitter invited the campus to "help in identifying scholars for the Bold Aspirations Visitor and Lecture Series, which will highlight eminent visitors and KU scholars related to the strategic initiative themes." He encouraged the submission of names of outstanding individuals who might meet with the KU community and give a public lecture, with visits ranging from one or two days to an entire semester or longer.

Several events in the series have already been scheduled, including:

- September 13: Vladimir Vapnik
- September 24: Maarten V. de Hoop
- September 26: Bob O'Neill
- October 4: Eula Biss
- October 30-November 9: Dortha Dahl-Jensen
- November 15: Randy Regier

More information about these upcoming visitors is available at the [Provost's web site](#).

To propose someone for the series and receive funding and other support from the Office of the Provost, send names, biographical information, and a brief rationale to provost@ku.edu. It is important that the proposal relate to one or more of the four [Bold Aspirations strategic themes](#).

'Research Administration 101' Relocated, Begins September 12 at Simons Auditorium

This free, 10-week, 20-hour introduction to research administration begins Wednesday, September 12 and continues on consecutive Wednesdays through November 14. The location for "RA 101" has been changed. It was originally scheduled for Nichols Hall but will now be held in the auditorium at the Simons Research Labs on West Campus. A [detailed schedule](#) is online at the KU Calendar for each of the 10 dates. For more information, contact Bill Sharp, assistant director of research administration, at (785) 864-7430 or wsharp@ku.edu.

Molecular Analysis of Disease Pathways is Focus of New KU Research Center



A new \$11 million, five-year grant will enable University of Kansas researchers on the Lawrence campus to better understand the molecular basis of diseases such as cancer and neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and Huntington's.

Funding from the National Institutes of Health will create a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE): the Center for the Molecular Analysis of Disease Pathways. The grant was awarded to Susan Lunte, the Ralph N. Adams

Distinguished Professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry and director of the Adams Institute for Bioanalytical Chemistry.

She is joined on the project by (left to right) co-investigators Blake Peterson, Regents Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, and Professor Erik Lundquist of the Department of Molecular Biosciences, where he is also director of the Genetics Program.

"The center is focused on the use of so-called 'model organisms' to study human disease," said Lunte. "These include zebrafish, fruit flies, and nematode worms, species that share many human genes and molecular pathways. We can study these simpler creatures to better understand molecular signaling pathways that underlie human diseases."

The grant will facilitate the use of modern, cutting-edge technologies to investigate these pathways, said Lunte. The new center will establish three core facilities that can be utilized by researchers at KU and other universities.

The three cores integrate the analysis of disease pathways, said Lunte. "Genes, proteins, or cellular events relevant to human disease can be probed with fluorescent compounds on platforms developed using microfabrication. Genome sequencing can then be used to identify genes associated with the disease pathway."

The center supports the disease pathway-related research of four other KU faculty members: Prajna Dhar, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering; Michael Johnson, Chemistry; and Brian Ackley and Mizuki Azuma, Molecular Biosciences.

While the grant to Lunte is for five years, it can be renewed for additional years. The Higuchi Biosciences Center at KU currently also hosts two other NIH-funded COBRE centers, both of which were renewed. The Center for Cancer Experimental Therapeutics, led by Barbara Timmermann, Medicinal Chemistry, is in its 13th year and the Center in Protein Structure and Function, led by Robert Hanzlik, Medicinal Chemistry, is in its 10th year.

Drop-In Help Sessions Available for KU Conflict of Interest Reporting System

KU faculty and unclassified staff submit a financial conflict of interest report each year. The report is required by the Kansas Board of Regents and KU policy and is intended to ensure any real or potential conflicts with university responsibilities are disclosed and managed. This year, some dramatic changes to the reporting system are being implemented and it's important you be ready to respond promptly.

You will be asked to submit your annual report in mid-September. Turnaround is required within 30 days. This will be a complete new baseline filing, with no option to "confirm no changes." The new system may take more time to complete initially, but subsequent years will be easier. To aid in the process, the Research Integrity office in Research and Graduate Studies is holding drop-in help sessions at the Budig Computer Lab through October 18. All sessions are listed on the [KU Calendar](#). Search all events for "Conflict of Interest" to get the complete list of available dates and times.

Every effort has been made to create a smooth transition with the least amount of burden on researchers and others. Questions and concerns about the new system can be directed to Diane Etzel-Wise, coi@ku.edu, 864-7429, or Susan MacNally, sumac@ku.edu, 864-4148, at the Lawrence campus.

Provost Announces Initial Strategic Initiative Grant Recipients

Recipients of the first round of funding for [Strategic Initiative Grants](#) were announced in late August by Provost Jeff Vitter. Three Level I proposals were funded, and the titles, amounts, and lead investigators are cited below. More [information about each proposal](#) is online.

The Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training: Phase II Expansion (\$250,000 annually for three years)

- Debra Kamps, Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training
- R. Matt Reese, Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training

Initiative for the Arts in Collaborative Research (\$92,000 annually for three years)

- Saralyn Reece Hardy, Spencer Museum of Art
- Stephen Goddard, Spencer Museum of Art

Forecasting Emerging Diseases for Communities and Public Health (\$150,000 annually for two years)

- Townsend Peterson, Biodiversity Institute
- Perry Alexander, Information and Telecommunication Technology Center
- Stephen Goddard, Spencer Museum of Art
- Kris Krishtalka, Biodiversity Institute
- James Beach, Biodiversity Institute
- Jorge Soberón, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

The next deadline for Level I submissions is Monday, October 15, at 5 p.m. Applications are now being accepted [online](#).

Two Level II proposals have also been funded. These involve smaller amounts of money and can be submitted at any time for an immediate review and decision by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Applications are also submitted [online](#).

Tough Piezoelectric Composite Materials for Spine Implants (\$28,500)

- Lisa Friis, Mechanical Engineering
- Paul Arnold, Neurological Surgery, KU Medical Center
- John Domann, Mechanical Engineering

Resilient Lifestyles for Older Adults: Seeding a Center on Sustainable Longevity (\$49,557)

- Keith Diaz Moore, Architecture, Design and Planning
- Dorothy Daley, Political Science
- David Ekerdt, Sociology
- Mahbub Rashid, Architecture, Design and Planning
- Dory Sabata, Occupational Therapy, KU Medical Center
- Amber Watts, Center for Research Methods and Data Analysis
- Stacey White, Urban Planning
- Kristine Williams, School of Nursing, KU Medical Center

Kansas Statistical Abstract: Gold Mine of Online Information

KU's Institute for Policy & Social Research has published the 46th Edition of the [Kansas Statistical Abstract](#) (KSA), available exclusively online as a PDF file with individual pages available in Microsoft Excel and PDF. Prior editions are also available at the website, going back to 1965. It's a gold mine of information for policy makers and researchers.

The KSA contains the latest data collected in 16 categories: Agriculture; Banking and Finance; Business, Industry, and Exports; Climate; Communications and Information; Courts, Crime, and Public Safety; Education; Employment and Earnings; Energy and Natural Resources; Government; Housing and Construction; Income; Parks and Recreation; Population; Transportation; and Vital Statistics and Health. The [enhanced online edition](#) is updated throughout the year as new data becomes available. New visualizations added this year include a Kansas Economic Dashboard, maps of the new political districts, graphs on population change by decade, maps of oil and gas fields, and much more.

KU Names First Director of Undergraduate Research



John Augusto has been named the first director of KU's new Center for Undergraduate Research. In this role, he will work with faculty and students to support and enhance undergraduate research as a part of the experiential learning opportunities included in the new KU Core curriculum, to be introduced next fall. He has served for the past five years as assistant dean of graduate studies.

"John is an ideal individual to create and facilitate the new Center for Undergraduate Research," said Sara Rosen, senior vice provost for academic affairs. "John's experience working with faculty to foster undergraduate research activities and his enthusiasm for student research will be big benefits for KU."

The new center will work with faculty and students to promote undergraduate research within the academic departments and across the campus. This includes current programming housed within the University Honors program and the Research Experience Program, as well as new partnerships with the Office for Diversity in Science Training, Research and Graduate Studies and Center for Service Learning.

Augusto has worked in graduate studies and research in a variety of roles at KU for more than 15 years. His leadership on graduate studies and research issues includes modernizing and putting online the application and admission process for graduate programs, working as a partner in developing the undergraduate research symposium and developing research experiences for undergraduates. He came to KU in August 1996 as director of minority graduate student recruitment.

The Center for Undergraduate Research will be part of the Collaborative for Experiential Learning in the Office of the Provost. The Center will report to Sara Rosen and be located in 151 Strong Hall by January 2013.

KU Entrepreneurship 'Boot Camp' Offers Introduction for KU Researchers

The KU Center for Technology Commercialization will hold a first-ever "boot camp" on October 9, an all-day event designed to introduce key aspects of entrepreneurship to faculty, staff, graduate students, and postdocs at the Lawrence and Medical Center campuses. The program is free, and is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oread Hotel, 1200 Oread Avenue. Registration is required, lunch is provided, and a reception will follow.

Whether you are only curious about the topic, or actively thinking about forming a start-up company, this boot camp is for you. Participants will learn how the company start-up process works at the university, how to raise investment capital, how to protect and value your intellectual property, and what resources are available at KU.

Sessions will be led by nationally recognized experts with Silicon Valley experience. There will also be opportunities for individual coaching by the presenters, based on a short business proposal you can submit in advance. Proposals submitted by September 25 will be reviewed at the boot camp. If you would like to continue pursuing a startup company, you can compete to present your proposal to a group of investors in Silicon Valley in May.

Online registration for the KU Entrepreneurship Boot Camp is now available at the [web site](#), along with the [preliminary agenda](#). Enrollment is limited. For more information, email [KUCTC](#) or phone (785) 864-7189.

Pre-Award Services Welcomes New Staff

Several new grant specialists joined [Pre-Award Services](#) at Youngberg Hall over the summer:

- Kim Wittman and Jessica Small (Team 1)
- Jeremy Fite (Team 2)
- Kathryn Stotts (Team 3)
- Sandra Studley, Megan Todd and Cynthia Walker (Assignment TBA)

To request proposal assistance, email kucrprengmt@ku.edu and a team leader will assign a grant specialist to assist you.

2012 State of the State – Kansas Economic Policy Conference is October 18



KU's Institute for Policy & Social Research is now accepting registrations for its annual [Kansas Economic Policy Conference](#), scheduled for Thursday, October 18. This year's theme is "The Kansas Economy: Investing in People, Business, and Community."

Keynote speakers for the conference, which opens at 8 a.m. and continues through 2:15 p.m. at the Kansas Union, are, left to right:

Joseph A. Aistrup, Professor, Political Science and Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Kansas State University; **Erin Sparks**, Senior Policy Analyst, Economic, Human Services & Workforce Division, National Governors Association; and **Kenny Wilk**, Former Kansas State Representative and currently a member of the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas Bioscience Authority Board of Directors.

Other panelists include: **Barbara Handelin**, President & Principal, BioPontis Alliance; **Bala Subramaniam**, Director, KU Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis; **Sen. Steve Morris**, President of the Kansas State Senate, Hugoton; **Sen. Jeff King**, Kansas Senate District 15, Independence; **Jeff Hofaker**, President, Kansas Western Rural Economic Development Alliance, and Director, Phillips County Economic Development, Phillipsburg; and **Marty Long**, Grant County Commissioner, Ulysses.

Online registration for the conference is \$45. A satellite location in Ulysses, KS will extend access to the conference to the western end of the state.

The conference is organized by IPSR's Center for Science, Technology & Economic Policy, directed by Donna Ginther, professor of economics. Co-sponsors are the Office of the Provost and the Grant County Chamber of Commerce.

Training: Next NCURA Video Workshop Coming in September

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies offers research-related video workshops on a regular basis during the year. The National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) produces the programs on a variety of relevant topics and RGS offers them to the campus at no charge.

The next NCURA video workshop will be shown Thursday, September 13 from 1-4:30 p.m. at the auditorium in the Simons Research Labs on the West Campus Research Circle. The topic is "Export Controls and Other Security Concerns." It will cover these timely topics as they apply to research, addressing export control and its applicability in the everyday life of the pre-award research administrator (proposal review, award negotiations), department administrator (field research trips, foreign travel, shipments), and faculty members (conferences, meetings, sharing of data, etc.).

The session will also include a discussion of other national security issues, e.g., security plans or access to classified information, that may arise in contract negotiations. How to start from the very basics in building an internal export control management plan will be included. New federal export control reform initiatives and their effect on universities will also be discussed.

Moderator for the September 13 NCURA video workshop will be Randall Draper, director of the Office of Contracts and Grants at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He will be joined by panelists Elizabeth Peloso, director of export compliance at the University of Pennsylvania; Lisa Mosley, director of research advancement at Arizona State University; and Ajay Kuntamukkala, partner, Hogan Lovells.

Mark your calendar for the [November 8 NCURA Video Workshop](#): "How to Apply Process Improvement Strategies to Research Administration."

Author and NPR Commentator Sarah Vowell is Next Humanities Lecturer



Sarah Vowell, bestselling author and former contributing editor for NPR's *This American Life*, is next up on the Humanities Lecture Series, sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities. "An Evening with Sarah Vowell" is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Woodruff Auditorium at the Kansas Union. The event is free and open to the public.

Vowell is the author of six nonfiction books on American history and culture. By examining the connections between the American past and present, she offers personal, humorous accounts of everything from presidents and their assassins to colonial religious fanatics, as well as thoughts on American Indians, utopian dreamers, pop music, and the odd cranky cartographer. She is most recently the author of *Unfamiliar Fishes* (2011), an intriguing history of Hawaii. Replete with a cast of beguiling and tragic characters, Vowell's history is told with brainy wit and droll humor.

Other books include *The Wordy Shipmates* (2008), about the New England Puritans and their journey to and impact on America; *Assassination Vacation* (2005), a haunting and surprisingly hilarious road trip to tourist sites devoted to the murders of presidents Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley; two essay collections, *The Partly Cloudy Patriot* (2002) and *Take the Cannoli* (2000); and *Radio On* (1997), her year-long diary of listening to the radio in 1995.

United Way Campaign Begins: "Give, Advocate, Volunteer"



Want to make an impact on education, health, and self-sufficiency in Lawrence and Douglas County? Consider making a generous pledge to United Way during the local 2012 campaign that begins this month. More than [30 partner agencies](#) receive funding support through United Way each year, making our community a better place to live and work.

The local campaign begins Sunday, September 16, 1-4 p.m., with a "Great Start Pack" kick-off at Free State High School in Lawrence. United Way, in partnership with Outreach, Inc. and Just Food, will hold a volunteer meal packaging event to assemble 40,000 meals for families experiencing hunger in Douglas County. For more information, and to [register as a](#)

[volunteer](#), go online or email volunteer@rhvc.org.

On Monday, October 1, the KU United Way Campaign will launch with an event at the Kansas Union, in collaboration with the [KU Homecoming Steering Committee](#). Chair of this year's campus campaign is Ken Audus, dean of the School of Pharmacy. Training for department-level campaign representatives will take place September 25 at 8:30 a.m. at Burge Union and September 6 at 2 p.m. at the Kansas Union.

United Way received \$337,620 last year from current and emeritus KU faculty and staff, as well as students. The 2012 KU goal is \$350,000, part of the larger community goal of \$1.8 million. Look for a campaign letter, brochure, and pledge form by mail at home during the last week of September.

KU Veterans Day Run to Raise Money for Wounded Warrior Fund, Memorials



The Office of Graduate Military Programs, part of the Office of Graduate Studies, invites faculty, staff, and students to participate in the first KU Veterans Day Run on Sunday, November 11. The event is sponsored by the KU Veterans Alumni Chapter and the Collegiate Veterans Association and begins at 9 a.m. at South Park. The route includes the KU campus and KU's memorials, and returns to South Park for food, fun and festivities. All proceeds from entry fees will support the KU Wounded Warrior Scholarship Fund and the KU Memorials Fund. Runners can choose the 10K or 5K, and there is a 1-mile walk for those interested in a more leisurely morning activity. The event promises to be fun while we remember those who are serving and those who have served in our military. Entry [fee information and registration](#) are online.

Upcoming Events

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

September 12 – November 14

Workshop: “Research Administration 101”
2:30 – 4:30 p.m. on consecutive Wednesdays
Auditorium, Simons Research Labs

September 13

NCURA Workshop Video: “Export Controls and
Other Security Concerns”
1 – 4:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Simons Research Labs

Bold Aspirations Visiting Lecturer: Vladimir Vapnik
“Learning with Nontrivial Teacher: Learning
Using Privileged Information”
2 p.m.
Apollo Room, Nichols Hall

September 22

KU Writing Center Graduate/Research Write-In
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Regnier Hall, KU Edwards Campus

September 24

Bold Aspirations Visiting Lecturer: Maarten V. de Hoop
4 p.m.
Malott Room, Kansas Union

September 26

Bold Aspirations Visiting Lecturer: Bob O’Neill
“Unity, Disparity, Division: The Role of
Local Government Managers”
5:30 p.m.
BEST Conference Center, KU Edwards Campus

September 29

KU Writing Center Graduate/Research Write-In
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Watson Library

October 4

KU Common Book: “Who, Then, is One’s Neighbor?”
Eula Biss, Author of *Notes from No Man’s Land*
5 p.m.
Ballroom, Kansas Union

October 9

KU Entrepreneurship Boot Camp
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The Oread Hotel, Lawrence

October 10

Hall Center Humanities Lecture Series: Sarah Vowell
“An Evening with Sarah Vowell”
7:30 p.m.
Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

October 11

Thursday Research Topics: “Using Demis”
11 a.m. – Noon
Auditorium, Simons Research Labs

October 12

Sigma Xi First Annual KU Postdoctoral
Researcher Colloquium
1 – 4 p.m.
Auditorium, Simons Research Labs

October 15

Deadline: Strategic Initiative Grant Program
Level I Proposals
5 p.m.

October 18

2012 State of the State – Kansas Economic Policy Conference:
“The Kansas Economy: Investing in People, Business, and
Community”
8 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.
Kansas Union and Pioneer Communications, Ulysses, KS

November 11

Veterans Day Run for KU Wounded Warrior Scholarship Fund
and KU Memorials Fund
Sponsored by KU Veterans Alumni Chapter and the
KU Collegiate Veterans Association
9 a.m.
South Park, Lawrence

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