Statement of Purpose

The Center for Undergraduate Research fosters research opportunities by working with faculty to develop curricula and models for mentoring; advising students in their development as researchers; and providing campus-wide programs and events that support and celebrate undergraduate research at KU.

CENTER STAFF

Director
John Augusto, Ph.D.

Faculty Fellow
Holly Storkel, Ph.D.

Assistant Director
Nicole Perry

Program Coordinator
Dyan Morgan, Ph.D.

FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS 2012-13

The Faculty Advisory Board represents schools/units on issues related to undergraduate research; advises the Center staff about student mentoring, faculty participation, and measurements of participation; communicates the importance of undergraduate research to faculty across the campus; and identifies models of “best practices” for undergraduate research across the disciplines.

Holly Storkel (Chair), Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences & Disorders
Jennifer Hamer, International & Interdisciplinary Studies
Gene Rankey, Natural Sciences
Claudia Dozier, Social Sciences
Steve Goddard, Humanities
Elizabeth Kowalchuk, School of the Arts
Paola Sanguinetti, Architecture
Laura Poppo, Business
Philip Gallagher, Education
Perry Alexander, Engineering
Barbara Barnett, Journalism
Julia Broxholm, Music
Brian Barnes, Pharmacy
Deb Adams, Social Welfare
Estela Gavosto, Office for Diversity in Science Training
Michael Vitevitch, University Honors Program

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Center, established in September 2012, is a part of Undergraduate Studies, which reports to Academic Affairs within the Provost’s Office. For more about Undergraduate Studies: undergraduatestudies.ku.edu
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS
The Center funded 58 students in spring 2013 and 33 students in summer 2013. For a complete list of winners and their projects: ugresearch.ku.edu/sp2013ugra and ugresearch.ku.edu/su2013ugra

TRAVEL AWARDS
The Center awarded 19 travel awards to sponsor the students presenting at a conference. The travel award provides $500.00 toward their attendance. For a complete list of students, their mentors, and the conferences attended: ugresearch.ku.edu/Travel-Awardees
ARTS ENGAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
The Arts Engagement Certification, co-sponsored by the Center for Undergraduate Research and the School of the Arts, is designed to equip students with the tools they need to become lifelong participants in the arts. Through attending classes and events in the eight participating departments, students gain a broad exposure to the arts while earning a certificate that appears on their official KU transcript. The eight departments include Architecture, History of Art, Dance, Design, Film & Media Studies, Theatre, Visual Art, and Music. The certificate program has more than 150 students enrolled and certified four students in its inaugural year.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
KU’s Research Experience Program (REP) certification acknowledges a student’s participation in the full undergraduate research process, from an initial interest in subject material gained through coursework to the design and implementation of an independent project to the presentation of a research or creative product to others. Each year, the students certified are reported to the Kansas Board of Regents. REP certified more than 400 students for the 2012-13 academic year. For more information, visit rep.ku.edu.

“The REP program helped me decide to pursue graduate studies in chemistry.”
— Kevin M. Allegre, REP recipient
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
The 16th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium featured 93 student presentations and performances from 32 different disciplines.

This year’s symposium included poster presentations, oral presentations, musical performances, poetry readings, and theatrical reenactments.

For a complete list of student participants: ugresearch.ku.edu/symposium-students.

JOURNAL OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
The 2013 Journal of Undergraduate Research features research briefs and manuscripts: ugresearch.ku.edu/jur.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES
The Center hosted a kickoff dinner May 19 for 50 participants in the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) summer programs. The students were treated to a burger buffet and free bowling at the Kansas Union. The students’ research experiences this summer are funded by grants from the National Science Foundation awarded to faculty in the departments of Chemistry, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, and Molecular Biosciences, as well as the Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets. All told, 73 REU students are conducting research projects at KU this summer, representing 48 institutions in 24 states plus Ireland and Puerto Rico.

STUDENT FEATURE
Rena Detrixhe
Visual Arts student Rena Detrixhe describes her research process: “I want to form an object and a space for community contemplation. My work stems from the idea that integrating the natural world into our daily lives is an important aspect of our community and should be thoughtfully considered and valued.”
MENTOR AWARD
The K. Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award honors the contribution of outstanding undergraduate research mentors to their students’ development and to their own discipline. The award recipients are models for other mentors on campus on how to best support undergraduate research and creative scholarship. The outstanding research mentors nominated for the 2013 Schowen Mentor Award are

Elizabeth Asiedu, Economics
Leslie Bennett, Theatre
Nate Brunsell, Geography
Robert Fiorentino, Linguistics
Paula Fite, Clinical Child Psychology & Applied Behavioral Science*
Kathryn Gerry, Art History
John Karanicolas, Molecular Biosciences
Cima Katz, Visual Art**
Tracey LaPierre, Sociology
Cheryl Lester, American Studies & English*
Adrian Melott, Physics & Astronomy**
Renee Perelmutter, Slavic Languages & Literatures
Phil Vardiman, Health, Sport & Exercise Science
Hongguo Xu, Math

*honorable mention
**2013 awardee

Research mentors are nominated through a two-part process: students, faculty, or staff submit recommendations for a mentor to be considered for the award, then home departments select one nominee and submit an application packet. A committee comprised of former winners and Center staff selected the awardees.

FACULTY FEATURE
Cheryl Lester
Cheryl was nominated for the 2013 K. Barbara Schowen mentor award and received honorable mention. One of Cheryl’s students wrote: “The important thing about Cheryl’s process is it empowers students to envision the vastness of their capabilities—and also their limits—in advance, creating an atmosphere where students feel in control of their research, rather than feeling that they must satisfy the professor to get a good grade.”
CAMPUS PARTNERS

COLLABORATIVE FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
The Collaborative for Experiential Learning is a work group that brings together staff from these units: Civic and Social Responsibility (formerly Service Learning), First-Year Experience, Study Abroad, International Programs, University Career Center, and Undergraduate Research. The goal of the Collaborative is to develop, expand, and promote experiential learning on the campus. More information about the Collaborative can be found at experience.ku.edu.

OTHER PARTNERS
The Center for Undergraduate Research partners with these other KU programs:
• Global Scholars Program
• KU Libraries
• KU Writing Center
• McNair Scholars Program
• Minority Scholars Program
• Office for Diversity In Science Training
• University Honors Program

GOALS FOR 2013-14
For the upcoming year, the Center is focusing its efforts on these goals:

Student Programming
Early engagement: Create opportunities for first- and second-year students to be exposed to research and inquiry
REP redesign: Evaluate and revise REP to include interdisciplinary research and learning outcomes

Mentor Programming
Mentor activities: Gather data on mentors’ interests and involvement in undergraduate research
Best practices: Identify and promote models of mentoring throughout the campus

Outreach
Alumni: Highlight KU alumni and how undergraduate research helped them
Campus partnerships: Expand the number of campus partners to increase programming for students and faculty

Communication
Impact on faculty and students: Profile students and faculty involved with undergraduate research
Social media: Engage students and faculty in various social media platforms to communicate and celebrate undergraduate research