History major Jesse Burbank looks at archival sources at the Kansas City Public Library. His research project explores race relations in the Kansas City metropolitan area through the lens of the three-year legal struggle to desegregate the Swope Park Swimming Pool in Kansas City, Missouri.
Mission

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 campuswide programs and events that support and celebrate undergraduate research at KU.

This annual report summarizes the Center’s activities from August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016.

CENTER STAFF

Director
John Augusto, Ph.D.

Assistant Director
Nicole Perry, Ph.D.

Assistant Director
Dyan Morgan, Ph.D.

FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS 2015-16

The Faculty Advisory Board meets four times a year to advise the Center on programs and initiatives offered through the office.

Ruth Ann Atchley, Psychology
Nancy Brady, Speech-Language-Hearing (spring 2016)
Nathaniel Brunsell, Geography
Yvonne Chen, Journalism
Bryon Darby, Design
Stevin Gehrke, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering
Jennifer Gleason, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Jeffrey Hall, Communication Studies, CUR Faculty Fellow
P. Scott Hefty, Molecular Biosciences
Sheyda Jahanbani, History
Kostas Kokkinakis, Speech-Language-Hearing (fall 2015)
Jason Matejkowski, Social Welfare
David Roediger, American Studies, History
Catherine Schwoerer, Business

RESEARCH AMBASSADORS

KU’s Research Ambassadors are student volunteers who encourage their peers to get involved in research through class visits, tabling, and other outreach events. To see a list of this year’s 25 Research Ambassadors, visit www.ugresearch.ku.edu/ambassadors.

Cover: Nicole Humphrey, a senior in Public Affairs & Administration, looks down over the rotunda of the state capitol in Topeka at the 2016 Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. Nicole is a two-time UGRA winner and McNair scholar who studies the role of equity in the decision making processes of public officials.

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STUDENT PROGRAMS

The Center’s student programs are focused on three areas:

▲ Exposure: expose students to research
▲ Experience: create opportunities to experience a part of the research process
▲ Expertise: support students as they gain expertise in a particular area of research

BY THE NUMBERS

$77,000 UGRAs Dispensed
$30,000 Travel Awards dispersed
125+ Office visits
212 Student REP certifications
147 Student presenters at Undergraduate Research Symposium
72 Presenters at Summer Poster Session

The Center provides programs and events that allow students to gain exposure, experience, and expertise in undergraduate research. Here are some examples:

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM ▲▲▲
KU’s Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium provides students an opportunity to present their research and creative projects to a broad audience and exposes students interested in research to the work of their peers.

OFFICE HOURS ▲▲▲
All students can attend the Center’s Friday office hours for one-on-one counseling on topics such as getting involved with research, finding summer research opportunities, and writing successful Undergraduate Research Award applications.

STUDENT EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS ▲▲
Each semester, the Center hosts workshops that teach important research skills, such as proposal writing and presentation preparation.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM CERTIFICATION ▲▲
The Research Experience Program (REP) documents research activity on students’ transcripts.
SUMMER RESEARCH

The Center provides a social kickoff event, skill-building workshops, and an end-of-summer poster session for students taking part in summer research at KU.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (UGRAS)

Undergraduate Research Awards (UGRAs) provide $1,000 scholarships to students on the Lawrence campus for independent research and creative work under the guidance of a mentor.

TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel awards provide $500 for students presenting their research at academic conferences. This program is funded by the KU Student Senate Educational Opportunity Fund and the Office of Research.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Along with other Kansas Board of Regents institutions, the Center takes five students to Topeka each spring to participate in this annual poster session that showcases undergraduate student research for state legislators.

ACE RESEARCH TALKS

The ACE Talks are the keynote presentations for the opening session of the Undergraduate Research Symposium. These TED-style talks challenge students to present their research and creative projects in Accessible, Creative, and Engaging ways. Each presenter received a $500 scholarship.

The three ACE Talk winners for 2016 were:


BY THE NUMBERS

35+
Departments had students present at the Undergraduate Research Symposium

3,978
Views of Research Byte videos this year

25
Classes supported by GRCs

1,240
Students enrolled in GRC classes

MENTOR & INSTRUCTOR PROGRAMS

MENTOR AWARDS
The Center offers two mentor awards to recognize the contribution of outstanding undergraduate research mentors to their students’ development and to their own discipline. Each award comes with a monetary prize and was presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in April.

FACULTY AWARD
Shannon Portillo
Associate Professor, Public Affairs & Administration

Evangelia Chrysikou
Assistant Professor, Psychology

Honorable mentions
Derek Reed
Associate Professor, Applied Behavioral Science

Jane Barnette
Assistant Professor, Theatre

STAFF & GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD
Eric Welch
Visiting Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies Program

Honorable mention
Susumu Iwasaki
Lecturer, Health, Sport & Exercise Science
RESEARCH BYTES
Research Bytes are short videos that teach specific skills (reading a journal article, presenting a poster, etc.) as well as general guidelines for getting involved with research (how to identify a mentor). Mentors and instructors can incorporate these resources into their work with students. Current videos can be viewed at: ugresearch.ku.edu/researchbytes.

GRADUATE RESEARCH CONSULTANTS
The Graduate Research Consultant (GRC) program is designed to support instructors interested in incorporating larger research and creative projects into their undergraduate classes. The Center provides financial support ($500) to a graduate student who works with a particular course to help design a project, mentor students, and evaluate student learning.

Professor Deborah Smith, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, works with students in her BIOL 420 class to prepare a pollen sample for a study focusing on pollen use by *Colletes inaequalis*. Students received additional guidance on the project from Graduate Research Consultant Daphne Mayes.