Courtney Coppinger, an ecology and evolutionary biology and environmental science major, collects soil samples at the Free State Prairie Restoration site. Her project investigates the role of burrowing mammals in grassland prairie ecosystems.
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, 2016 to July 31, 2017.

FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS 2016-17

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

Alice Bean, Physics & Astronomy
Marta Caminero-Santangelo, English
Andrew Denning, History
Tamara Falicov, Film & Media Studies, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies
Mary Fry, Health, Sport, & Exercise Science
John Hachmeister, Visual Art
Jeffrey Hall, Communication Studies, CUR Faculty Fellow
Yo Jackson, Psychology, Applied Behavioral Science
Neal Kingston, Educational Psychology
Kostas Kokkinakis, Speech-Language-Hearing
Mark Mort, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Jenny Olson, Marketing
Arghya Paul, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering, Bioengineering
Bill Picking, Pharmacy
Kapila Silva, Architecture
Candan Tamerler, Mechanical Engineering
Antonio Tosta, Spanish & Portuguese
Stacey Vanderhurst, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

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 29 Research Ambassadors, visit www.ugresearch.ku.edu/ambassadors.

Cover: Jack Hoard, a senior from Topeka majoring in industrial design, won an Undergraduate Research Award in Spring 2017. His research focuses on the development of “Flexible Furniture.”

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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

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

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSUM**
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.

**EMERGING SCHOLARS PROGRAM**
The Emerging Scholars program provides financial and professional support to first year students who work as research assistants for faculty and research staff at KU.

**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 activities that introduce students to the idea of research. We also host workshops that teach important research skills, such as proposal writing and presentation preparation.

**ROCK CHALK TALKS**
Rock Chalk Talks is a monthly event based on the idea of Red Hot Research; undergraduate researchers from different departments share their research in short, 6-minute presentations that connect to a common theme.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM CERTIFICATION**
The Research Experience Program (REP) documents research activity on students’ transcripts.
The Undergraduate Research Symposium celebrated its 20th year on April 22, 2017. The event was first started by Professor Emeritus of Chemistry K. Barbara Schowen to provide an opportunity for students to share their work, and this year featured over 180 student presenters.

**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**

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.

**Karynn Glover**

Karynn Glover, one of three featured speakers at the opening session of the Undergraduate Research Symposium, presents her research about the links between motivational climate and performance in team settings.

**Kareem Wall**

Kareem Wall, a senior majoring in education, presents his research about defining black masculinity in Shakespeare’s *Othello* at a Rock Chalk Talks event.

**20TH ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

The Undergraduate Research Symposium celebrated its 20th year on April 22, 2017. The event was first started by Professor Emeritus of Chemistry K. Barbara Schowen to provide an opportunity for students to share their work, and this year featured over 180 student presenters.
EMERGING SCHOLARS PROGRAM
In 2016-2017, the Center launched the Emerging Scholars Program to provide a pathway for low-income, first year students to get an early start doing research. The program had an overwhelming response from both faculty and potential students, with over 150 student applicants for the 50 available spots. The Emerging Scholars Program has two main components:

Research
- Emerging Scholars work as a research assistant for ~7 hours/week
- Students are matched with a faculty mentor

Professional Development
- Emerging Scholars attend monthly group professional development workshops
- Students meet with Center staff for individual advising sessions

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 $1,000 award and was presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in April.

FACULTY AWARD
Audrey Lamb
Professor, Molecular Biosciences
Lorie Vanchena
Associate Professor, Germanic Languages & Literatures

Honorable mentions
Arghya Paul
Assistant Professor, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering
Kapila Silva
Associate Professor, Architecture

STAFF & GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD
Maria Eifler
Collection Manager, KU Biodiversity Institute

Honorable mentions
Alex Nolte
Graduate Student, Geophysics
Erika Northcutt
Graduate Student, Pharmacology & Toxicology

BY THE NUMBERS
35+
Departments had students present at the Undergraduate Research Symposium

32
Classes supported by GRCs

705
Students enrolled in GRC classes

36
Faculty mentored a student through the Emerging Scholars Program
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 supports 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.

2016-2017 INITIATIVE: RESEARCH IN THE CAPSTONE WORKING GROUPS
Along with Faculty Fellow Jeff Hall, the Center facilitated faculty working groups about research in capstone classes in the fall and spring semesters. Twelve instructors participated in the groups to share ideas, learn about best practices, and discuss the challenges and benefits of having students do larger research projects in courses. The Center also funded a Graduate Research Consultant to work with many of the classes to provide additional support to students in the classes.

Emerging Scholar Karen Vasquez presents her research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium.