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K-BRIN

Kansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network
Training and Mentoring Newsletter

Spring 2003 Volume 1 Issue 4

32 students present research projects at KSU Undergraduate Research Forum

Staff Report

On April 23, the Kansas State University Division of Biology hosted the Undergraduate Research Scholars' Forum.

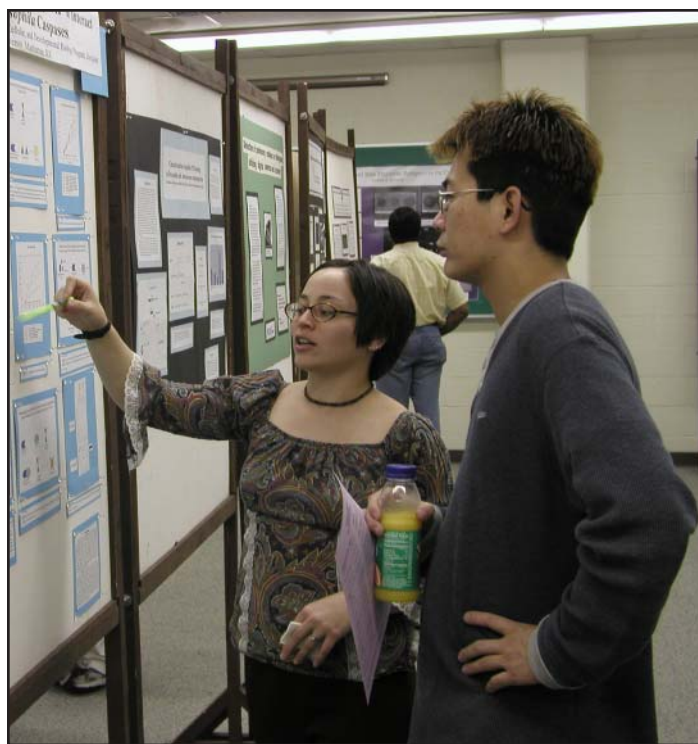
The event was held from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 324 of Ackert Hall. Thirty-two students presented posters summarizing their research from the past year.

People who attended the event were encouraged to stay as long as they wanted and visit and ask the students questions about their projects.

The students who presented projects were sponsored by the Division of Biology, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Biological Sciences Education grant, the Terry C. Johnson Cancer Center or K-BRIN.



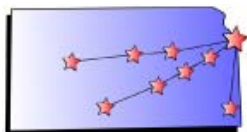
Visitors to the Forum discuss the posters. Visitors had the chance to discuss the projects with the students.



K-BRIN student Taryn Penabaz, left, explains her project to Yoshinori Tomogasu. Penabaz was just one of 9 K-BRIN sponsored students at the event.

The K-BRIN sponsored students who participated in the event were Amber Bledsoe, Christen Buseman, Joseph Coolon, Ken Eilert, Carolina Leon, Jessica Morton, Carrie Norris, Judd Patterson and Taryn Penabaz.

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K-BRIN Director appointed to NIH Advisory Council

Information provided by University of Kansas Medical Center Media Relations

K-BRIN Director Dr. Joan Hunt, has been named to the National Advisory Research Resources Council (NARRC) of the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), National Institutes of Health (NIH).



K-BRIN Director Dr. Joan Hunt

Hunt is the first person at the University of Kansas to be named to one of the NIH Councils.

“The position will provide me with the opportunity to speak for Kansas as research resources are considered,” Hunt said. “I am honored by this appointment and I look forward to giving the council the benefit of my experiences at KU and elsewhere.”

Hunt is a Distinguished Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She is also a senior associate dean for Research and Graduate Education.

Hunt has previous NIH experience. For eight years, she served on an NIH study section, chairing it for the past three years. She also oversees the \$5.6 million NIH K-BRIN grant.

Hunt’s first Council meeting was held on May 15 in Washington, D.C.

The NCRR creates and provides critical research technologies and shared resources. This infrastructure underpins biomedical research and enables advances that improve the health of our Nation’s citizens. The Council meets three times a year and decides on expenditures for new and ongoing programs that include support of primate research centers, original biomedical research, buildings and research space remodeling and shared equipment.

Chapes awarded KSU teaching honor

Information provided by K-State Media Relations

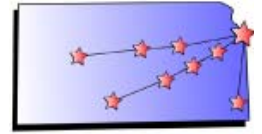
Training and Mentoring Core Director Dr. Stephen K. Chapes was awarded the Commerce Bank Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching.

Chapes was selected after he was nominated by students and colleagues. He was recognized at the College of Arts and Sciences Graduation Ceremony on May 17 at KSU Bramlage Coliseum.

Chapes joined KSU in 1984 and was promoted to full professor in 1999. He teaches at the graduate and undergraduate levels, including sections of KSU’s introductory undergraduate biology course, Principles of Biology.

“I enjoy interacting with the students in the class. However, the thing that is the most gratifying is when

(Continued on page 6)



AIHEC conference held in Fargo

Staff Report

Stephen Chapes, the K-BRIN Training and Mentoring Core Coordinator participated in two BRIN workshops held on Monday, March 31st as part of the 22nd Annual American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) national conference in Fargo, ND.

Tribal college administrators, science instructors, and representatives from six state BRIN programs met to discuss biomedical research capacity and endeavors

between research universities and tribal colleges.

25-30 people attended each session and provided a lively and informative discussion on various state BRIN-Tribal College initiatives.

Issues such as institutional review boards, long-term commitments by NIH to the BRIN program, understaffing at tribal colleges and K-12 remediation were discussed.

Haskell Indian Nations University, in Lawrence, Kansas is one of 9 institutions of higher learning participating in the K-BRIN.



Panelists participate in a BRIN workshop as part of the AIHEC conference in Fargo, ND on March 31. The participants, from the left, include South Dakota BRIN Director Barb Goodman, Nebraska BRIN Director James Turpen, North Dakota BRIN Tribal College and Baccalaureate Science Core Director Donald Schwert and K-BRIN Training and Mentoring Core Director Dr. Stephen Chapes. (photo by Patrick Miller)

Denell named director of Johnson Cancer Center

Information provided by K-State Media Relations

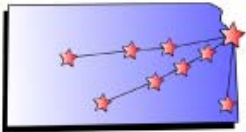
K-BRIN mentor Robin Denell of KSU has been named the director of the Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research at K-State.

“I am delighted to assume these new responsibilities,” Denell said. “My wife, Mardi, and I are both cancer survivors, and I have a deep commitment to pursue the mission of the Johnson Cancer Center.”

Denell joined the KSU Division of Biology in 1973 and became one of the cancer center’s original faculty affiliates in 1982. He is a member of the training faculty for the biochemistry and genetics interdepartmental

graduate programs and has served for the past decade as biology’s associate director for extramural activities. In 2000, he was named a University Distinguished Professor.

Denell conducts genetic, developmental and molecular research on insects, focusing on the genetic control of early embryonic organization. The genes he studies are shared with humans and are especially important because they have been implicated in the origins of some cancers. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate genetics courses. He has mentored 15 postdoctoral fellows, four graduate students and a host of undergraduate students.



Focus on Pittsburg State University

The "Focus on" section is made up of features on students and/or faculty at different K-BRIN Universities and how they see the K-BRIN organization. This issue looks at Pittsburg State University.



Andrew Conard, student

Mentor: Dr. Daniel Zurek

What got you interested in scientific research?

Andrew Conard

"I became interested in research my freshman year when I was fascinated with the possibilities. Research discovers brand new things, and that was really neat to me.

What is the best thing about learning about science at your institution?

"The best thing, by far, is the access to the professors. Every one of my teachers has office hours in which any student can stop by and get help. This is great. I like being able to talk to them about what is going on in my classes, or just chat for a while."

In what ways do you think this experience will help you in the future?

"This experience has allowed me to discover more about research. It has helped me to become more independent, and (able to) schedule my time as experiments needed to be completed in a certain time period."



Brett Dunbar

Brett Dunbar, student

Mentor: Dr. Daniel Zurek

What is the best thing about learning about science at your institution?

"All of the professors are actively involved in helping you in any way they can."

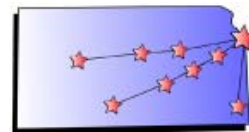
How has K-BRIN helped you to expand your scientific knowledge and experience?

"The additional hands on experience of working in labs add a lot of knowledge, since you are working on projects related to what you have learned."

In what ways do you think this experience will help you in the future?

"Research teaches you to be able to look at problems and find different angles to solve a problem."





Focus on Pittsburg State University

Janae Jarred, student

Mentor: Dr. Virginia Rider

How does your mentor help you?

“Of course, I can go to my mentor anytime with questions, but we also have weekly lab meetings to discuss the progress of our research. She answers any questions I have, and we discuss the next route I should take over the course of the next week. This communication ensures that we run a very efficient lab and projects get accomplished in a timely manner.”

What is the best thing about learning about science at your institution?

“We have such a wonderful, diverse science faculty here at Pitt State, which has been a tremendously valuable resource. I have actually collaborated a lot with another professor, Dr. Daniel Zurek, on my project because of his knowledge on my research subject.”



Janae Jarred

How has K-BRIN helped you to expand your scientific knowledge and experience?

“I learn much better doing things hands on, as I think a lot of people do. In class, we might be talking about PCR or electrophoresis and it is evident to me that these are sometimes hard concepts to grasp for the other students who have never actually seen them performed. I, on the other hand, can visualize the process and feel I have a better understanding of the concepts we learn in lecture because of my K-BRIN experience.”

Sarah Yost, student

Mentor: Dr. Daniel Zurek

What is the best thing about learning about science at your institution?

“The hands on experiences and the truly caring nature of the staff.”

How has K-BRIN helped you to expand your scientific knowledge and experience?

“It has provided the means for continued research and a forum to share my ideas.”

What do you plan to do after you graduate?

“I hope to attend medical school and become a doctor. I would love the opportunity to participate in biomedical research at the medical institution.”

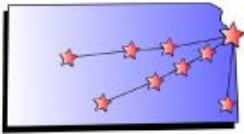
Dr. Virginia Rider, mentor and campus coordinator

How do you help the K-BRIN students at Pittsburg?

Unlike most senior faculty, I am very active in the laboratory. This gives the students first hand experience working with a person who has a lot of laboratory experience. I expect students to do quality research and I try to support each student individually. I encourage students to be independent very quickly.

Why do you think K-BRIN is a good program?

We do not have the resources to support
(Continued on Page 6)



Focus on Pittsburgh State Editor's Note:



Dr. Virginia Rider

undergraduate research on the PSU campus without the additional support from the K-BRIN program. Moreover, K-BRIN provides PSU students with an opportunity to interact with other students and faculty in Kansas. This is a real plus of the program. I think science is best learned by "hands on experience" and there are no substitutes.

Why do you think it is important to involve undergraduates in research?

Research teaches you so much besides actual science. Students learn what it is to fail and have to repeat experiments over and over. Research should teach you to be observant, pay attention to detail, and keep accurate notes. In addition, many students have never really had to work hard until they undertake a research project. Regardless of a student's ultimate career choice, a good research experience will have a very positive impact on their career.

Chapes, cont.

students come back after they graduate and tell me that my high expectations pushed them not only in class, but carried over into their life after K-State," Chapes said.

Chapes has a distinguished record as a researcher with interests in immunobiology of the macrophage, tumor immunology, cell biology and gravitational biology. His work has been supported by the National Cancer Institute, Department of the Army, American Heart Association, NASA and the Bristol-Myers Company.

Chapes' professional affiliations include the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Associate of Immunologists, American Society for Microbiology and several other organizations.

I hope you enjoy reading the Spring edition of the K-BRIN Training and Mentoring Newsletter. This edition is coming out a few weeks late because of many reasons, mainly because I have been upgrading to Adobe PageMaker 7.0. I used this program to give the newsletter a new look. I hope you all enjoy it!

I am also going to remind everyone in the K-BRIN program to send me stories, pictures or ideas for the newsletter. Remember, this is *YOUR* newsletter. For example, on page 2 and 3, we are recognizing the K-BRIN Director, a mentor and a campus coordinator for their accomplishments. If you know of a mentor or student who has won an award or just done something extraordinary, please feel free to tell me.

Let's all look forward to the Summer 2003 edition of the newsletter that should come out later this summer.

Joseph Chapes
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