



Page 4

INSIDE:

- *Student Speakers, Page 3*
- *Symposium Scrapbook, Page 4-5*
- *Chapman becomes Assistant Director, Page 7*
- *Washburn Students attend ACS meeting, Page 7*
- *Faculty Scholars, Page 8*
- *KSU Students attend meeting in Oxford, Page 8*

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Student Speakers, poster sessions part of successful K-INBRE Symposium

Joseph Chapes
Editor

The Fourth Annual K-INBRE Symposium was held on January 14-15, 2006 at the Kansas State University Alumni Center in Manhattan, Kansas.

The event featured student speakers, poster sessions and invited speakers and was attended by about 142 people.

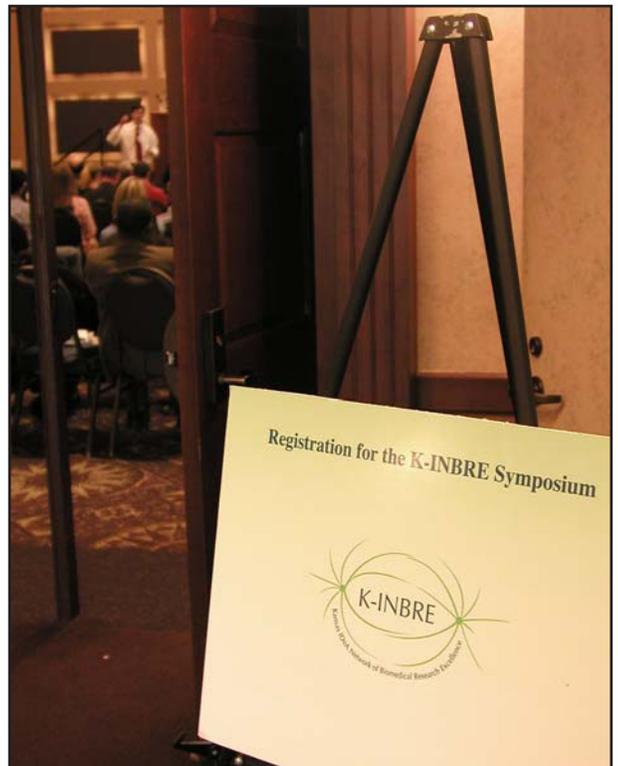
"I think the symposium was a success," said Stephen Chapes, Undergraduate Support Core Director. "The feedback was positive with some excellent suggestions for improving a winning format. The K-INBRE participants seem to like the mix of student presentations and a few keynote speakers. I think we will have more active involvement of our faculty scholars in the future."

K-INBRE Director, Joan Hunt, agreed.

"It seemed to me that the symposium was very well received by our students and trainees, and I know that the faculty very much enjoyed the event, including me," she said.

The symposium opened on Saturday, January 14 with comments from Hunt. The first invited speaker was Dr. John Tomich from KSU with a presentation entitled "Redesigning Nature: The Story of Two Different Peptide Drugs Derived from the Glycine Receptor TM2 Segment."

Later in the day, Dr. John Robertson from KUMC presented "Requirement of
(Continued on Next Page.)



As a sign announces the K-INBRE Symposium, Dr. John Robertson speaks in the KSU Alumni Center in Manhattan, Kan.

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Questions and comments can be sent to jchapes@ksu.edu.

APAF-1 for Procaspase-2 Activation and Apoptosis Induced by DNA Damage.” The last invited speaker of Day 1, Dr. Leanne Wiedeman from the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, spoke on “Tracking Genomic Footprints through Evolution.”

After dinner, symposium attendants had the chance to attend a KSU Women’s Basketball game at Bramlage Coliseum.

“I think the game was well attended,” Chapes said. “I think we needed to find a way to get people all together in one block. I guess some don’t get real excited by sports but our bowling activity from the past also had mixed popularity. It might help if we had one of those intrastate rivalry games but then again, it could get ugly!”

On Sunday, January 15, the final invited speaker was Dr. Virginia Rider of Pittsburg State University. She presented “Wingless (Wnt) Signaling: The Initiator of Progesterone-Dependent Action on Uterine Stromal Cell Proliferation.”

The event closed with remarks by Hunt before attendees departed with complimentary boxed lunches.

“Overall, I think the symposium went well. The evaluations were positive although there is always room for improvement,” Assistant Director Heiata Chapman said, “I enjoyed meeting more of the K-INBRE participants. I think we have a great group of people.”

Many of the students at the symposium enjoyed the chance to interact with other researchers.

“I liked hearing about all the different ways that other students were carrying out their projects,” KSU student Bridget McGuire said. “I also enjoyed discussing how they interacted with their mentors and how they had benefitted from their experiences. Future plans were also fun to talk about because it helped me see how many different paths we were all taking and how these experiences had helped all of us even when we were choosing to take vastly different things from them.”

Pittsburg Student Brent Cameron also enjoyed the interaction.

“The interaction with students from other institutions was great,” he said. “I always like to hear what other students are interested in and working on. It is nice to meet peers who have the same passions that I do. Everyone you meet can teach you a little something different that you didn’t know before.”

Student presenters show scientific strength, personal confidence at annual symposium

Joseph Chapes

Editor

Every year, the K-INBRE Symposium provides a chance for a select few students to present their research to the entire event audience. The 2006 Symposium was no different, with 10 students demonstrating their work.

K-INBRE Director Joan Hunt was impressed with all of the student presenters.

“The students were absolutely great,” she said. “I was really proud of the scientific strength and novelty of their projects and admired their personal confidence and excellent responses to questions from the audience.”

For some of the students, the symposium was the first time they presented their research to such a large audience, like Pittsburg student Brent Cameron.

“The symposium was the first time that I spoke about (my) project in front of an audience,” he said. “It was beneficial to me because it helped to simulate the experiences that I will have in graduate school. I believe that it is a good experience to have to answer questions in front of an audience because it forces you to think on your feet.”

Two students who presented, Washburn student Kevin Kent and Pittsburg student Meryl Twarog, spoke at last year’s symposium and found this year’s experience



Brent Cameron was the first student to present.

a little different.

“I was more relaxed about my presentation this year mostly because I knew what to expect,” Twarog said. Of course, there’s always the last-minute nervousness. As far as my project, I felt I was able to present a more complete story. My presentation was a composite of one and a half years of research; this allowed me to explain the purpose of my project, the methods of evaluating my hypothesis and results, and the implications of my research.”

Kent felt his project had improved from the one he presented in 2005.

“I think my presentation improved because after we completed another summer of research, the data revealed a lot of ideas that I was missing before, and I was more comfortable in front of the audience,” he said.

Whether experienced or new at presenting their projects, most found the symposium a learning experience and had suggestions for others who might present their research.

“When presenting a project, it is important to make sure to be prepared,” Cameron said. “Go over the presentation several times, both by yourself and with others. Have other members of your lab come up with

(Continued on Page 6)



Meryl Twarog



1. Symposium attendees register on the morning of January 14, 2006. 2. Students set up posters before the symposium started. 3. K-INBRE Director, Dr. Joan Hunt, makes the opening remarks for the Fourth Annual Student Symposium. 4. The first invited speaker was Dr. John Tomich. 5. Later in the day, Dr. John Robertson from KUMC spoke. 6. Participants were able to talk during lunch on the first day. 7. Washburn Student Ed Dodge explains his project during the first poster session. 8. There were two poster sessions during the symposium for participants to talk to student researchers.



9. Washburn student Patrick Porubsky describes his research during the first poster session. 10. The last speaker for Saturday was Dr. Leanne Wiedeman from the Stowers Institute. 11. Many other students discussed their work during the symposium, including KSU students Zachary Brown and 12. ESU student Amanda Reeves. 13. Dr. Hunt, Dr. Stephen Chapes and Dr. Wiedeman chat before dinner on Saturday. 14. Several symposium attendee went to a KSU women’s basketball game at Bramlage Coliseum. 15. During the second poster session on Sunday, Kyle Weaver points out an element of his poster. 16. Dr. Virginia Rider was the last presenter of the symposium. 17. The Network Steering Committee met during breakfast on Sunday.

(Continued from Page 3)

as many questions as possible because you can never predict which questions you will be asked. Most importantly stay calm, you never do as badly as you think you did, and don't worry about the time because it will be over before you know it."

Kent found that getting help from his mentor was a big help in his preparation.

"My mentor, Dr. Angel, taught me a lot about collecting all of my data, organizing it in a form that I can look at it in, and then thinking of a story line before I start working on the presentation," Kent said. "I think that process has made my presentations, papers, and conversations about my research more effective at communicating ideas I want to get to the audience."

KSU Student Bridget McGuire also had a suggestion.

"Don't be nervous," she said. "You really are the expert on your work."



Keven Kent

Twarog found this philosophy helped her in her presentation.

"When presenting my research, I try to remind myself that I know more about my project than most of the audience," she said. "With this in mind, I approach presentations as an opportunity to teach the audience about my project and its significance to science."

Stephen Chapes, Undergraduate Support Core Director, thought all of the students' hard work and their mentors' guidance were evident.

"I think the students that presented were outstanding. I don't think many graduate students could do much better," he said. "What is impressive is how much those undergraduates knew about their work. One has to also give credit to all the mentors that work with the students. We have great faculty at all of our K-INBRE campuses. It is clear we are giving the NIH and the citizens of Kansas their money's worth!"



Bridget McGuire

List of all the student speakers, their schools and their projects:

- Brent Cameron, Pittsburg State University, "Beta-Catenin: A Key Modulator of Endocrine- Dependent Proliferation and Differentiation in a Rat Uterine Stromal Cell Line."
- Jennifer Guerra, University of Kansas, "ROMP-Generated Oligomers in Facilitated Protocols for Library Generation."
- Davia Holland, Langston University, "Conformation Dynamics of the ATP Synthase Epsilon Subunit."
- Kevin Kent, Washburn University, "Effects of Bases, Aldehyde Structures and Water in Solid-Solid Wittig Reactions."
- Maycole Mayweather, Langston University, "Investigation of Target Epitopes of Protective Antigen and Lethal Factor in *Bacillus anthracis*."
- Bridget McGuire, Kansas State University, "Cyclical Cellular Immune Response to *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*."
- Jessica Rowland, Kansas State University, "The PRRS virus N Protein Possesses a Non-Classical Nuclear Export Signal Sequence."
- Marquita Rowland, Langston University, "ABC Mutants in *C. Elegans*."
- Anthony Thomas, Fort Hays State University, "Effectiveness of an RT-PCR Protocol for West Nile Virus Detection in Live Birds."
- Meryl Twarog, Pittsburg State University, "Estradiol Increases Beta-Catenin Binding Binding to Nuclear TCF/LEF: A Novel Hormone-Dependent Mechanism for Wnt Signaling in the Rat Uterus."

Chapman becomes K-INBRE Assistant Director

Joseph Chapes
Editor

At the 2006 K-INBRE Student Symposium, former Administrative Officer Heiata Chapman was introduced as the new Assistant Director.

Chapman was named Assistant Director late in Fall 2005 during the annual review of her contributions to the K-INBRE program.

“When our Human Resources office reviewed her credentials and interviewed Heiata regarding job performance, they recommended the title of Assistant Director and I was very much in favor!” Director Joan Hunt said.

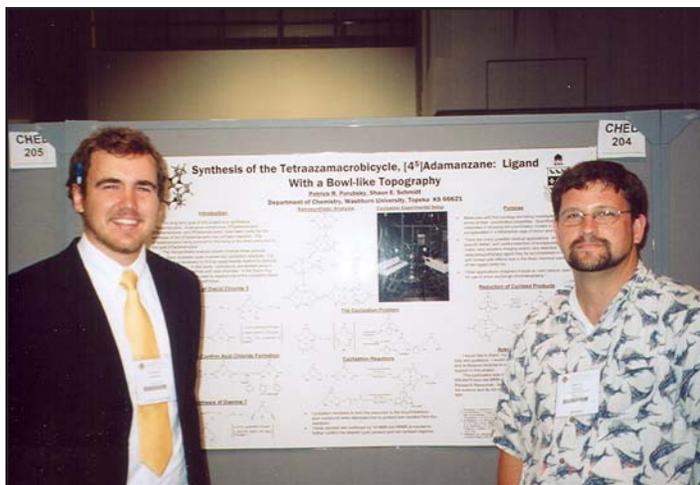
Chapman is upbeat about her new position.

“I feel much busier,” she said. “I enjoy doing the wide variety of tasks that the INBRE offers.”

She hopes to continue to help K-INBRE achieve its goals in the future.

“Dr. Hunt and I are making outreach visits to each campus so we can talk to our INBRE participants and the University Administrators and find out if what we are doing is effective and how we can improve,” she said. “Each University is unique, so I think it will be helpful to visit in these small groups to find out what we can do to make the INBRE funds work more efficiently.”

Washburn Students attend National ACS Meeting



Patrick Porubsky and his mentor, Dr. Shaun Schmidt, at the ACS Meeting in Washington, DC. (Photo Submitted)



Assistant Director Heiata Chapman at the Student Symposium with Dr. Joan Hunt.

Hunt believes Chapman is the best person for the Assistant Director position.

“In my estimation it would be nearly impossible to find another individual with Heiata’s exceptional skills and commitment to the program,” she said. “She really enjoys interacting with all of the students and faculty and is of immense value in the cohesiveness of this program, which has, as you know, many elements, multiple campuses and a variety of participants. Importantly, Heiata manages the office staff and has taken the initiative in developing administrative programs. . . . Heiata’s work is simply outstanding.”

In August 2005, Washburn students Patrick Porubsky and Kevin Kent attended the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC. Both presented their K-INBRE supported research at the ACS meeting.

Both Kent and Porubsky have been accepted into graduate programs. Porubsky will be attending grad school at the University of Kansas in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry.

Kent has been accepted into several prestigious programs including Stanford University, University of Chicago and Washington University, among others. He still has not made a final decision on where he will go.

Information submitted by Dr. Janice Barton.

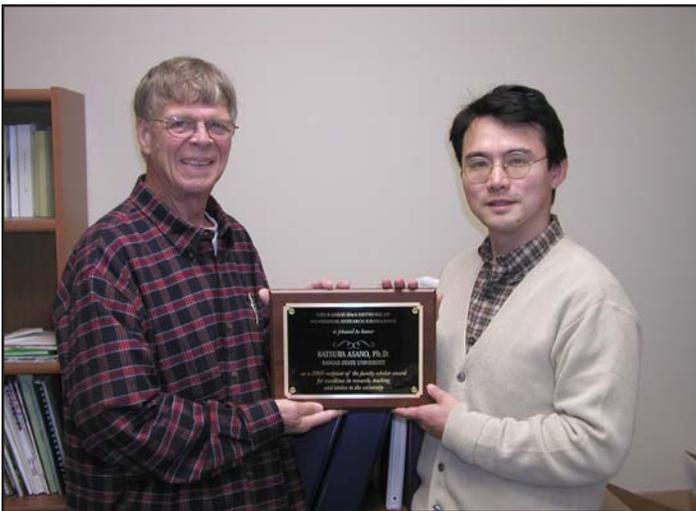
Faculty Scholars: KU, KSU and FHSU researchers awarded



At KU, Kathy Suprenant, professor of molecular biosciences, awards Erik Lundquist the faculty scholar award. (Photo Submitted)



K-State Faculty Scholar Susan Brown is presented her plaque by Brian Spooner, Director of the KSU Division of Biology.



Director of the KSU Division of Biology Brian Spooner hands Katsura Asano the Faculty Scholar Award.



Dr. Jeff Briggs, Dean of the College of Health and Life Sciences, Dr. Elmer Finck, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences Faculty Scholar Eric Gillock and President Edward H. Hammond at the Fort Hays State Award Ceremony. Gillock was the first Faculty Scholar from FHSU. (Photo Submitted)

KSU Students attend meeting in Oxford

On September 21-24, 2005, KSU students Betsey Potts, former K-INBRE summer scholar, Whitney Mordica (Graduate Student in a KINBRE lab), and Bridget McGuire (K-INBRE Undergraduate Student) attended the Society for Leukocyte Biology Meeting in Oxford, England with Mentor Dr. Stephen K. Chapes. Potts presented her work "In vivo responses and trafficking patterns of C2D macrophage after intraperitoneal adoptive transfer." McGuire presented her work, "Introduction of Immunological Memory Phenotypes in Mice using *E. chaffeensis*."



Chapes, Potts, Mordica and McGuire in Oxford. (Photo Submitted)