



# KU CHEMISTRY

## >>> Summer Newsletter



### >>> Summer REU participants are here!

We welcomed 12 REU participants to campus in May to begin their two-month summer research program. This year's cohort consists of 19 total participants, 12 coming from universities such as Ursinus College, University of Puerto Rico Humacao, and Colorado College, and 7 who are current KU undergraduate students. Participants will present their research in a symposium on July 26th from 10 a.m. to noon in the Burge Union. All are welcome to attend!

### Prof. Heather Desaire to lead new <<< biomedical center funded by \$11.3 million NIH grant

Dean's Professor and Keith D. Wilner Chair in Chemistry, Professor Heather Desaire, will serve as director of a new Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) to advance women's health using big data. Research project leaders include Rebecca Whelan and Meredith Hartley, both of KU Chemistry, as well as faculty from psychology, sociology and public affairs and administration.



### >>> Spring Awards & Graduation Recognition Banquet

We ended the spring semester with the annual awards banquet on Saturday, May 4th, where we distributed more than \$387,000 in awards and scholarships to graduate and undergraduate students.





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### >>> Drs. Keith Wilner & Nancy Winchester named Distinguished Alumni

Each year KU Chemistry presents the Distinguished Alumni Award to an alumnus/alumna who has distinguished themselves in their career and in their contributions to chemistry. This year, Dr. Keith Wilner (B.A. 1978) and Dr. Nancy Winchester (B.S. 1990; Ph.D. 1994) are the recipients. Dr. Wilner is currently the Global Clinical Lead, DMD and Lung Cancer at Pfizer. Dr. Winchester is currently the Director of Research Development, Rubber and Adhesives at SI Group.

### Prof. Kristin Bowman-James receives <<< two major recognitions

In April it was announced that Prof. Kristin Bowman-James was elected as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow, recognizing her for contributions to supramolecular anion coordination chemistry. Prof. Bowman-James also received the Joseph G. Danek Award from the EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition and Foundation recognizing her long-term commitment to enhancing the research infrastructure in Kansas through the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).



### >>> Prof. Cindy Berrie named recipient of K. Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

Named after KU Chemistry Professor Emerita Barbara Schowen, the K. Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award is given annually to a deserving faculty member who mentors undergraduate researchers in honor of Prof. Schowen's efforts to promote undergraduate research at KU. Prof. Berrie has mentored more than 30 undergraduate researchers, many of whom have won highly competitive awards such as the Barry M. Goldwater, Astronaut and Marshall scholarships.

### >>> STUDENTS IN THE NEWS



**AUDREY RIPS-GOODWIN**  
KU Astronaut Scholar



**ELEAZAR ABRAHAM**  
Elected to KU Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa



**CECILIA PARANJOTHI**  
2024 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar



**CHIEN-WEI WANG**  
2024 Newmark Award Recipient



**FYNN COOPER**  
2024 SCI America Perkin Medal Scholar



**THERESA READ**  
2024 Fulbright Semifinalist



**RAINA FAIR**  
Summer 2024 Undergraduate Research Award Recipient



**Madison & Lila Self Graduate Fellows**  
2024-2028



**FERNANDO GONZALEZ**



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### >>> Prof. Shuai Sun named Textbook Hero

Prof. Shuai Sun was named the 2024 Textbook Hero by KU Libraries for creating an open textbook, "Breaking Barriers: Diversity and Equity in Chemistry." Prof. Sun created the textbook in collaboration with students and transformed the work to an Open Educational Resource (OER) — a book that is free to use and available to anyone — with the support of KU Libraries. The textbook introduces important minority chemists and their research to students in introductory and General Chemistry courses, showing how chemistry interacts with modern society and affects human life every day.

### Prof. Heather Desaire promoted to Distinguished Professor

Prof. Heather Desaire has been awarded the rank of University Distinguished Professor, effective August 2024. Nominations of current KU faculty members for distinguished professorships come from academic departments and schools on the Lawrence campus. Major criteria for selection include a record of exceptional scholarship, participation in university affairs and professional organizations, service to community and support for the growth and success of their students, colleagues and the institution. Prof. Desaire is the fourth professor currently in the department with this rank.



First-year grad students from 1995.

### >>> A Blast from the Past

Even though our department moved out of Malott Hall years ago, there are still some treasures in storage areas that our staff have been cleaning out. Enjoy some of our favorite finds from this year!



A distant view of the football stadium from many years ago.



Collier's for September 27, 1947

A cut-out of a cartoon from 1947 that a KU faculty or staff member saved in Malott Hall.