

Access

A publication of KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

Research and Grants

The U.S. Department of Education has provided \$507,790 through the Georgia Department of Education's Math and Science Partnership program, which seeks to improve mathematics and science teacher education.

The KSU Northwest Georgia Mathematics and Science Education Partnership Project is an interdisciplinary program directed by **Charlease Kelly-Jackson, assistant professor of science education** and **Brendan Callahan, assistant professor of biology education**. The goal of the NWGMSP is to improve the content knowledge and instructional practices of the 155 participating teachers from area school districts.

The U.S. Department of State (U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, India) has granted \$75,000 for a two-way exchange of Model UN (MUN) team members from a university in India and KSU MUN team members.

Led by **Pamila Dembla, associate professor of information systems**, KSU will host a team of seven Indian university MUN team members for a conference in Atlanta, and will send a team of eight MUN team members to India to participate in programs in India, partner with Indian MUN students to share and discuss best practices, and to establish the foundation for future interaction on global issues.

The U.S. Department of State (U.S. Consulate, Kolkata, India) has provided \$49,000 to organize and present an environmental conference on climate change in Kolkata, India. Conference participants will also take part in an awareness and participation campaign to combat the local challenges of climate change. The conference will be streamed live to satellite sites in Patna and Guwahati, India. **Govind Hariharan, professor of economics**, will direct KSU's efforts which will include the drafting of a final paper with recommendations specific to the three India project sites.

Kennesaw State awarded \$3.2 million grant from Department of Education

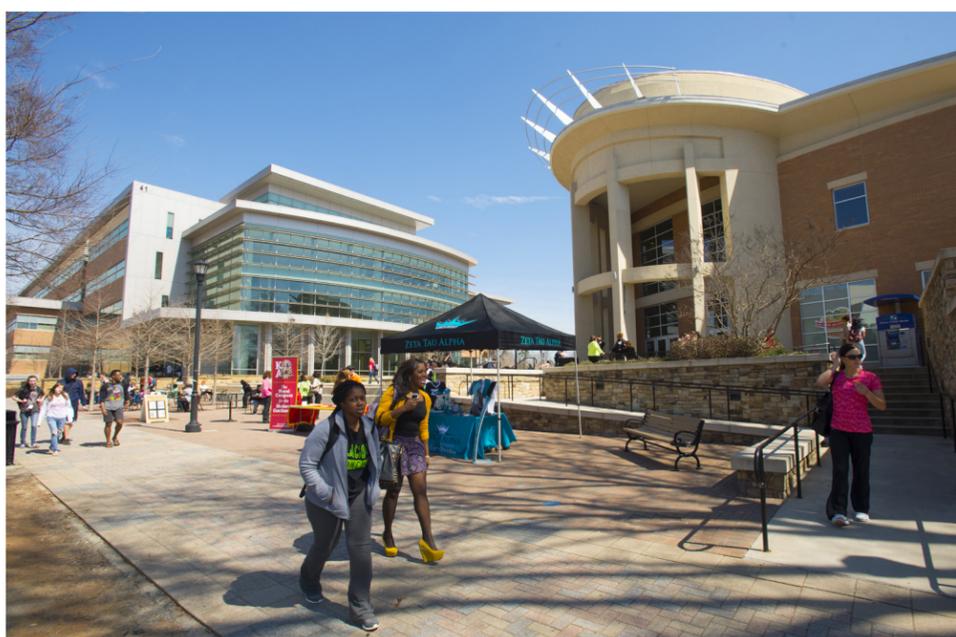
By Tiffany Capuano
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University has been awarded a \$3.2 million "First in the World" grant from the U.S. Department of Education – the second largest grant in the university's history – to increase transfer and completion rates for underrepresented and low-income community and technical college students seeking four-year degrees.

The four-year grant will support the Transfer Advocacy Gateway (TAG), a new program that will combine the areas of enrollment services, advising and academic support to provide transfer students from two-year colleges to Kennesaw State with a more streamlined and enhanced pathway to obtaining a four-year degree. The university plans to serve 4,000 transfer students over the period of the grant.

"This grant is a significant achievement for Kennesaw State and is in direct alignment with our strategic goal of improving retention, progression and graduation rates," said Daniel S. Papp, president of Kennesaw State. "The TAG program will enable us to help transfer students receive a high quality education and prepare them for leadership roles while promoting an inclusive campus environment."

The University will partner with Georgia Perimeter College, Chattahoochee Technical College and Georgia Highlands College,



Robert Anthony Staicup

Kennesaw State was awarded a \$3.2 million "First in the World" grant from the U.S. Department of Education to increase completion rates for underrepresented and low-income students.

KSU's three largest feeder schools. Working with its partners, Kennesaw State will create a "one-stop shop," giving students access to the institution's transfer graduation coaches, enrollment services specialists, peer mentors and transfer advisors, from the time of transfer until graduation. Students also will have the opportunity to engage in specially designed learning communities offered by Kennesaw State's University College, as well

as participate in co-curricular experiences that support their academic, personal and career needs.

Through the program, led by Jennifer Wade-Berg, assistant professor of human services and campus executive director of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, students will be encouraged by enrollment services specialists to complete their associate degrees prior to transfer.

Kennesaw State releases results of first survey of campus climate

By Sabbaye McGriff
smcgriff@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University has released the results of its first comprehensive survey of how students and employees view their experiences and relationships on campus. A summary of "The Assessment of Climate for Learning, Living and Working" was released in October following a series of campus presentations and town hall forums to discuss the results.

The survey measured the attitudes, perceptions and practices of students, faculty and staff related to how well they feel individuals and groups are respected and able to meet their needs, abilities and potential. It is the result of a two-year initiative tied to the University's current strategic plan, which includes a goal "to enhance the collegiate experience and foster a welcoming, diverse and inclusive environment."

"This comprehensive assessment is the culmination of many years of planning and thinking about what kind of institution we are and what we want to become as the University enters a new era

of growth," said Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp, who initiated an effort to assess the status of diversity and equity on campus in 2006. "The results affirm some of the progress we've made and reveals where we must focus in order to achieve and maintain the type of campus environment we envision."

A 40-member task force of faculty, staff and students, guided by the University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, helped design and administer the confidential, on-line survey. The independent consulting firm of Rankin and Associates was hired to support the assessment initiative.

Based on a voluntary survey of 5,128 members of the campus community, the assessment revealed that 83 percent are "comfortable or very comfortable" with the overall climate at Kennesaw State.

Based on the results of the study, Chief Diversity Officer Erik Malewski said the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will identify action items that will improve the campus climate and can be completed in 12-18 months. The office will also continue to analyze the data and work with academic



Robert Anthony Staicup

Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp speaks to a town hall forum unveiling the results of "The Assessment of Climate for Learning, Living and Working."

and administrative units to develop diversity action plans specific to their strengths and challenges. The university will repeat the assessment within five years to track progress on the initiatives.

Kennesaw State scores an 'A' in nationwide curriculum study

By **Tiffany Capuano**
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University is among a select group of 23 colleges and universities that scored an "A" for its high-quality core curriculum in a nationwide study on the state of general education released this week by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni.

This is the fourth year that Kennesaw State earned an "A" in the annual "What Will They Learn?" report. In this year's study, KSU was one of five schools in Georgia – Clark Atlanta University, Georgia Southern University, Morehouse College and University of Georgia – to receive a top score, according to the

Washington, D.C.-based American Council of Trustees and Alumni, an independent, nonprofit organization committed to academic freedom, excellence and accountability at America's colleges and universities.

Schools are assigned a letter grade ranging from "A" to "F" based on how many of the seven core subjects they require: composition, U.S. government or history, economics, literature, math, natural or physical science and foreign language. "A" schools were those that require a course in at least six out of the seven academic subjects.

"This is an honor for Kennesaw State's core curriculum to be recognized among the top 2 percent of the nation's higher education institutions," said

Ken Harmon, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Our core curriculum was designed to provide a broadly based, strong and coherent program that offers a well-rounded educational outcome for every KSU graduate. This award recognizes that our students are acquiring the knowledge and skills to thrive in today's diverse, global society."

According to the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, more than 60 percent of all institutions received a "C" or worse for requiring three or fewer subjects, allowing students to graduate with major gaps in their academic skills and knowledge. Fewer than 20 percent of institutions require U.S. government or history, and 30 percent do not require college-level mathematics.

Google Ideas founder helps launch new center at KSU

By **Sabbaye McGriff**
smcgriff@kennesaw.edu

Jared Cohen, the futurist who founded Google Ideas, wrote a New York Times best-seller on the new digital age and was among Time Inc.'s 2013 most influential people in the world, visited Kennesaw State as the first in a series of speakers to launch The Center for Transnational Research and Engagement in Diverse Societies (TRENDS) in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Cohen discussed the emergence of digital technology around the world during an Oct. 7 event.

Robin Dorff, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, said Cohen's work and his newest book, "The New Digital Age: Reshaping the Future of People, Nations and Business," reflects the importance of the work of TRENDS Center.

"Jared has illustrated that the very important issues of today go beyond na-



Jared Cohen, the founder of Google Ideas, spoke at Kennesaw State during the launch of The Center for Transnational Research and Engagement in Diverse Societies.

tional and international boundaries and are very much intertwined with technology," Dorff said.

The center will use an umbrella approach to organize interdisciplinary clusters of faculty, graduate and under-

graduate students to pursue innovative research and intercultural training that can impact global economic and civil society development.

"Necessity is the greatest driver of technology," said Cohen, recounting story

after story of people he had encountered in conflict situations, repressive regimes and impoverished areas throughout the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Cohen presented a key theme: As more than 4.5 billion new people come online via digital technology — many in parts of the world plagued by instability, a lack of infrastructure, censorship, violence and poverty — they will be the drivers of innovation in technology.

Kennesaw State's new TRENDS Center is "designed precisely to capture some the complexities of the emerging global challenges Mr. Cohen described," said Volker Franke, professor of conflict management and the founding director of the University's Ph.D. program in international conflict management. "TRENDS is intended to serve as an institutional incubator to bring together faculty and students in pursuit of cutting edge research to explore issues of governance, democracy, justice, and social and international conflict."

David Caselli

Kennesaw State University Foundation names new chair

By **Tiffany Capuano**
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Jo Ann Chitty, senior vice president of Selig Enterprises, Inc., was named chair of the Kennesaw State University Foundation.

Chitty succeeds Connie L. Engel, who served as chair of the Foundation since October 2012.

As senior vice president at Selig Enterprises, Chitty is responsible for the company's acquisitions, development and project finance. Prior to joining Selig in 2005, she served as founding executive director and president of the UGA Real Estate Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit created as a public/private entity to acquire, develop and finance

real estate projects for the University of Georgia. She handled more than \$200 million in real estate assets during her five-year tenure.

Prior to her appointment as KSU Foundation chair, Chitty served as vice chair as well as chair of the Foundation's real estate committee. Chitty has earned three Foundation awards during her six-year tenure as a trustee.

In one of her first duties as Foundation chair, Chitty joined Kennesaw State President Daniel S. Papp in presenting the Foundation's Board of Trustees' annual awards, which recognized five individuals who provided outstanding service and contributions to the University. The 2014 awards were

presented during the Foundation's Board of Trustees' annual dinner in Atlanta in October:

- Clarice C. Bagwell Medal for Distinguished Service – Thomas W. Hughes
- Erwin Zaban Prize for Entrepreneurial Spirit – Theodore L. Parrish
- Chairman's Award – Hollister A. Hill
- Horace W. Sturgis Award – Mitzi Moore
- Kalafut Award for Exceptional Services – George W. Kalafut

The Kennesaw State Foundation, founded in 1969, has been instrumental in Kennesaw State's growth through scholarships, real estate acquisitions and construction, faculty recognition, and other financial support.



Jo Ann Chitty has been named the new chair of the KSU Foundation.

KSU Foundation

College of Business earns entrepreneurial leadership award

The Michael J. Coles College of Business has received the Academic Leadership for Entrepreneurs award from The Oxford Center for Entrepreneurs, the nation's largest education, commerce and media organization for entrepreneurs.

The award recognizes excellence in academic programs designed for business owners and entrepreneurs.

The Coles College team, consisting of Dean Kathy Schwaig, Director of Executive Education Mike Salvador, and Senior Associate Dean Rick Franza, received the award for their work on curriculum development. They were given the award at the 2014

Oxford Center for Entrepreneurs' Get Real conference in New York.

College of Continuing and Professional Education claims top honors

Kennesaw State University's College of Continuing and Professional Education recently received nine awards from the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) and the University Professional & Continuing Education Association (UPCEA). The nine awards won include:

- UPCEA South: Outstanding Service to Continuing Education – Brenda Lora, marketing production manager; Professional Continuing Educator

Award – Michelle Girage, assistant dean; Program of Excellence, Noncredit – Paralegal Certificate; Emerging Continuing Education Leader – Karen Smith, strategic initiatives manager; Engagement Award – Training for International Educators (TIE) Program; Continuing Education Student Award – Moises Arroyo.

- UPCEA Marketing: Publications: Newsletter – Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Newsletter; Interactive Media Campaign – Promotional Videos (Information Systems Security, Paralegal and OLLI programs).
- AAACE: Outstanding Service Medallion – Barbara S. Calhoun, dean.

Program provides pathway for culinary transfer students

By Tiffany Capuano
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Students graduating with a two-year degree in culinary studies from Chattahoochee Technical College will now have a pathway to a four-year degree at Kennesaw State University through a new articulation agreement approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia during its October meeting.

“This agreement enables Kennesaw State to provide culinary graduates from Chattahoochee Tech with a smooth and easy transition toward completing their four-year degree,” said Kennesaw State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ken Harmon. “As students in Kennesaw’s Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality program, they will build on their education, fine-tune their skills and gain valuable knowledge that will further prepare them for success in the burgeoning hospitality industry.”

According to the National Restaurant Association, the

state’s restaurant industry is projected to generate \$16 billion in sales this year, and accounts for more than 405,000 jobs, or 10 percent of the workforce in Georgia.

Kennesaw State’s Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality program offers a unique approach to the study of culinary and hospitality management, infusing the curriculum with knowledge in sustainability, while also emphasizing food science, nutritional analysis, resource conservation, and essential business skills and abilities. The bachelor’s degree program moves the farm-to-table concept from the plate to the bottom line, looking at the economic advantages of implementing sustainable practices throughout the food service industry.

Through the agreement, interested graduates from Chattahoochee Technical College’s new Associate of Science degree program in culinary will be able to enroll in Kennesaw State’s Bachelor of Science in Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality program as rising juniors, provided students meet the University’s transfer admissions requirements for the program.

“The culinary and hospitality job outlook continues



David Caselli

A new agreement provides a smoother pathway for students who want to gain a degree in culinary studies.

to thrive in Georgia and the U.S.,” said Christian Hardigree, director of Kennesaw State’s Institute for Culinary Sustainability and Hospitality. “Our program is designed to teach these culinary concepts to stay ahead of changing market trends.”

University System of Georgia honors professor for teaching excellence

By Sabbaye McGriff
smcgrifl@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University psychology professor Pam Marek is among three recipients of the University System of Georgia’s 2014 Regents’ Award for Excellence in Teaching, the state’s most prestigious honor for higher education teachers.

Marek will receive the Felton Jenkins Jr. Hall of Fame Faculty Award at a ceremony in March along with two other recipients of the teaching excellence award. She was recognized for her strengths in teaching and working with students in advisement, mentoring, and undergraduate research. Her professional development and scholarship of teaching and learning were also cited.

“This award is indeed a major milestone in my career and a further inspiration to continue my involvement in the scholarship of teaching and learning,” Marek said. “As a teacher, my overarching goals are to expand students’ minds in ways that encourage questioning and increase understanding of multiple perspectives in the context of a supportive, learner-centered environment. I also aim to reinforce and develop the reading, writing, and quantitative skills that are an integral part of higher education.”

Marek serves as an associate editor for *Teaching of Psychology* and regularly participates in presentations at teaching-related conferences, such as the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology and the Southeastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology.

In conjunction with students and colleagues, she has published research related to materialistic values, affluence cues, and the work ethic, in journals including *Journal of Economic Psychology*, *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, *Personality and Individual Differences*, and *Individual Differences Research*.

The USG annually presents Regents’ excellence awards to faculty members from among its 31 member institutions. In addition to the three 2014 teaching excellence awards, honors are also presented to two faculty members for excellence in the scholarship of teaching and learning and for online teaching excellence. Marek was among 30 faculty members nominated for the 2014 individual faculty awards.



Robert Anthony Stalcup

Kennesaw State psychology professor Pam Marek is a recipient of the University System of Georgia’s 2014 Regents’ Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Kennesaw State ranks among the top 100 institutions in diversity report

By Jennifer Hafer
jhafer@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University continues to rank among the nation’s top degree producers of minority students, according to a special report recently published by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. This is the fourth consecutive year Kennesaw State was included in the publication’s rankings.

The national magazine’s annual “Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producers” report recognized Kennesaw State

as a top producer of college degrees conferred to African-American students. KSU also was recognized as a leading institution for African-American students graduating within seven different academic categories and ranked among the top institutions for Asian-Americans majoring in education.

“We are pleased and proud to receive this national recognition for our commitment to campus diversity from this prestigious publication,” said KSU President Daniel S. Papp. “Diversity, in all its forms, is an important tenet

of our institution, one we strive to see embraced and valued by every member of our community.”

The university’s highest rankings – No. 8 and No. 16 – came in the disciplines of education for students who self-identified as two or more races and mathematics and statistics for African-Americans, respectively.

Overall, KSU was ranked by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* in 12 disciplines. Other report highlights include: 88th in overall undergraduate degree production for African-American

students; 33rd for all Asian-American students in education; 24th for all African-American students in accounting; 35th for all African-American students in finance; 37th for all African-American students in communication, journalism and related programs; 36th across all minority students in education; 34th for all African-American students in education; 31st for all African-American students in parks, recreation, leisure and fitness studies; 41st for all African-American students in computer and information sciences and support services.

Kennesaw State receives national honor for international education

By Sabbaye McGriff
smcgrifl@kennesaw.edu

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities has awarded Kennesaw State University an award for excellence and innovation in international education, one of only two such awards presented among the organization’s 400 member institutions nationwide.

In its inaugural awards program, the AASCU honored Kennesaw State for international education programs that have enhanced the University’s curricula, fostered opportunity and creativity in integrating international students into campus life and encouraged students from

underrepresented groups to study abroad.

“This award validates the extremely high value Kennesaw State places on international education,” said Lance Askildson, the University’s vice provost for global affairs and chief international officer. “The institution is profoundly committed to educating globally competent students who can understand and navigate cultural differences as both successful professionals and engaged citizens.”

Among the initiatives cited for the AASCU honor is Kennesaw State’s 30-year-old “Year of” annual country study program that dedicates each academic year to a particular country or region. The program features more

than 30 lectures, performances, exhibits and other cultural events and an international conference throughout the year. During the 2014-2015 academic year, the University is celebrating “Year of the Arabian Peninsula.”

“The country study program has introduced thousands of Kennesaw State students to the rich diversity of world cultures that make up the human family,” said Daniel Paracka, director of academic initiatives for the University’s Global Affairs Division.

In its announcement of the award, the AASCU said the “Year of” program was selected as “an exemplary work that can serve as a model for institutions seeking ways to advance in the field [of international education].”

University System of Georgia chancellor conducts annual visit

By Robert S. Godlewski
rgodlews@kennesaw.edu

Kennesaw State University President Daniel S. Papp welcomed University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Henry “Hank” M. Huckaby to campus for the chancellor’s annual visit, which came amidst KSU Founders Day and Homecoming 2014 celebrations.

Huckaby said the value of good customer service is central to the USG’s mission.

“I think we’re in an environment now that values service excellence in everything we do. We have a responsibility to inculcate that into everything we do and into every person who works with us,” Huckaby said. “Everyone deserves to be treated as important and valued.

“Everyone on campus, from the gentleman who cuts the grass to the faculty member to the provost’s office – all of us have to understand and expect that we have

skin in the game. We all have a role to play.”

During his visit, which included a lunch with students, faculty and staff at the LeoDelle and Lex Jolley Lodge, Huckaby met with Papp and his cabinet and engaged in dialogues with faculty and students.

In addition to his visit, Papp welcomed several presidents from other USG institutions who were on hand for the 2014 Chancellor’s Service Excellence Awards, which were held at Kennesaw State’s Prillaman Hall. The awards are given annually to recognize outstanding customer service throughout the system’s 31 colleges and universities.

Papp said the essence of providing excellent service and a quality educational experience lies in hiring the right people for the job and giving them the tools they need to succeed.

“The key is to hire good people and then get out of their way,” Papp said. “That’s the real secret to running a successful organization.”



President Daniel S. Papp welcomes University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank M. Huckaby during his annual visit to the Kennesaw State campus in October.

‘Big Thirst’ event examines water scarcity from multiple disciplines

By Sabbaye McGriff
smcgrifl@kennesaw.edu

A panel of Kennesaw State and Southern Polytechnic State University faculty in environmental science, economy and political science each weighed in on the issue of water in an age of scarcity during “The Big Thirst” event, which was held Oct. 9 during the 2014 Homecoming and Founders Week celebrations.

Panelists included Kennesaw State’s Andrew Pieper, associate professor of political science; Michael Patrono, senior lecturer in economics; Matthew Laposata, professor of environmental science and Julie R. Newell, interim dean

of the School of Arts and Sciences at SPSU, who served as moderator. Each presented perspectives on water scarcity related to their academic disciplines.

When it comes to the supply of water, “mathematics are conspiring against us,” said Patrono, who cited commonly accepted statistics on the amount of water consumption, the supply of fresh water and worldwide population.

“We have to find a way to overcome these statistics,” Patrono said. “The question is, ‘How do you get people to treat things as if they are scarce?’ You have to turn them into marketable commodities.”

From a political point of view, Pieper said it should be the domain

of a functioning two-party system of government to allocate a non-elastic resource like water for the public good.

Looking at the problem of water scarcity through a prism of market-driven solutions presents the issue as a “first-world problem,” versus the way the problem is viewed and manifested in the rest of the world, moderator Newell noted.

“For many people in the world, it’s not a matter of whether all access to water should be market driven,” Newell said. “For them, it’s about a basic, fundamental right of access to water, which many do not have. How we use water here affects the extent to which people in other parts of the world have access.”



Professor of Environmental Science Matthew Laposata, left, and senior lecturer in Economics Michael Patrono were panelists for the “Big Thirst” event about the scarcity of world water supplies.

Distinguished alumni, faculty honored during Homecoming 2014

By Tiffany Capuano
tcapuano@kennesaw.edu

Three Kennesaw State alumni were honored with Distinguished Alumni awards from the KSU Alumni Association during the University’s homecoming.

The annual awards were presented Oct. 11 at an awards reception. This year’s recipients are:

- Brad Kehm (marketing and professional sales, ’95) manages global commerce and distribution strategies for Nike Tennis, and was a member of the Nike’s 2010 North America Sales Team of the Year.
- Megan Burton (early childhood education, ’97) is associate professor of curriculum and teaching at Auburn University.
- Nancy Ballard (nursing, ’72) is a WellStar Distinguished Nursing faculty member at Kennesaw State, who has initiated several collaborative efforts between

WellStar Health Systems and the WellStar School of Nursing at KSU.

Established in 1992, the awards honor the University’s most accomplished graduates each year, who have demonstrated high achievement in his or her chosen field at a local, regional or national level.

The KSU Alumni Association also honored David Shock, associate professor of political science at Kennesaw State, as the recipient of the Betty L. Siegel award, named in honor of Kennesaw State’s past president. The award recognizes exceptional service to the University and is bestowed upon an outstanding member of the KSU staff or faculty. Shock teaches courses on American government, state and local government and public administration, and conducts research in a variety of areas including local government home rule, local tax referenda politics and state-level ballot access policies for third-party and independent candidates.



The honorees at the 2014 Distinguished Alumni awards reception are, from left, Megan Burton, Brad Kehm, Nancy Ballard and David Shock.

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Publications Editor - Scott Wiltsee | Writers - Tiffany Capuano, Robert S. Godlewski, Jennifer Hafer, Sabbaye McGriff
Layout Designer - Justin Gotthardt | Photographers - David Caselli, Anthony Stalcup | Director of Strategic Communications - Tammy DeMel
Marketing Specialist - Dallas Bentley | Director of Creative Services - Ray Burgos
Assistant Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing - David Arnold | Vice President for External Affairs - Arlethia Perry-Johnson



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