



September 7, 2021

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I hope you had a wonderful summer, and that this newsletter finds you well. Once again, the hallways are filled with students and the energy on campus is infectious. I continue to be impressed with the hard work and perseverance of the students, faculty, and staff in our department. Every day I look out my window and see historic Allen Fieldhouse and students walking into Learned and feel truly blessed to be a Jayhawk.

In this newsletter you will find a request to provide your valuable feedback, as we ask you to reflect on your experiences at KU and how they have shaped your career. Please take a moment to fill out the survey so that we can continuously improve the department. Thank you for all you do for the Department and KU. Rock Chalk!



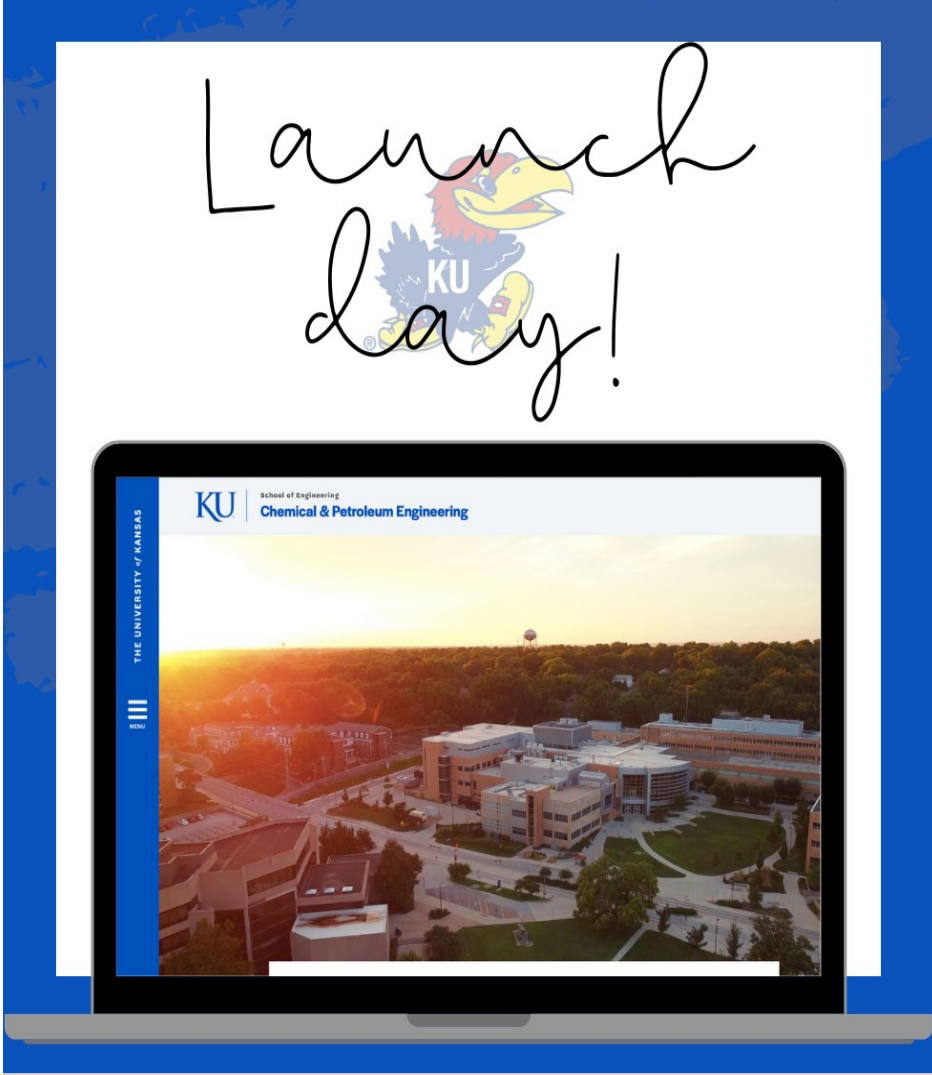
It's here!

We are happy to announce our newly redesigned website. After months of hard work and dedication, the website is launched and more mobile-friendly than ever.

The new site link is: <https://cpe.ku.edu/>

We hope you find the new format easy to use with a fresh look and quickly accessible information. We would also like to thank our amazing staff [Martha Kehr](#) who donated her time and energy to make this site what it is. She did an awesome job!

For any questions, feedback, or comments, please email cpe@ku.edu.



SAVE THE DATE

October 15th is the date of the next CPE Advisory Board Meeting, and we plan to host a social gathering that evening in the Beren Conference Center on campus in Slawson Hall. Please be on the look out for that invitation coming to your inbox in the next few weeks.

The following day, Oct 16th, is a home football game, and The School of Engineering is hosting a Tailgating Suite at the game.

Over this same weekend, the School will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Diversity and Women's Programs with an exciting event hosted by the new Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Elaina Sutley, and IHAWKe.

Find out more details about both School of Engineering events in early October at <https://calendar.ku.edu/engineering/calendar>

SEEKING FEEDBACK

Calling on all Alumni!

With the aim of continually improving our department and the education we provide students, we have developed a survey that we kindly ask you to complete. There are 16 questions, some multiple choice, ranking, and some where we ask for your comments and opinions. You will have the option to remain anonymous, to provide your name, and/or to request a follow up from Susan Williams.

Survey Link: https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eA6Vd9SoH5Qo31s

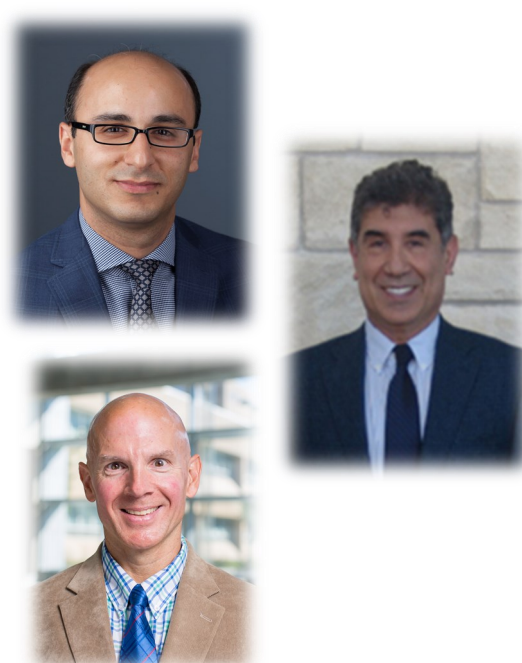
Thank you in advanced for taking the time to provide this valuable feedback.

IN THE NEWS

Introducing COGEiS: The Center for Net Carbon Zero GeoEnergy Intelligence and Sustainability

The Chemical & Petroleum Engineering Department is excited to announce a new research center COGEiS: The Center for Net Carbon Zero GeoEnergy Intelligence and Sustainability. This new center stems from a collaboration between CPE faculty members Amirmasoud (Masoud) Kalantari (top, left), Shahin Negahban (right, center), Mark Shiflett (left, bottom), their respective research groups, and their external collaborators at UCLA and the Illinois State Geological Survey. Through this new center, Dr. Kalantari is the Principal Investigator and leading a \$3.49 million project funded by The US Department of Energy (DOE) to develop a novel "Smart Microchip Proppants" technology for precision diagnostics of hydraulic fracture networks (project duration 2019- 2023).

Learn more about their projects, mission, and objectives on their website <https://c0geis.ku.edu/>



Alumnus Honors Professor With Gift To KU Department of Chemical & Petroleum

Zack Holland didn't know he wanted to be a petroleum engineer. But an opportunity to study the subject at the University of Kansas on scholarship sent him down that path. Now Holland's experience inspired him and his wife, Melissa (pictured, right), to give back to KU with a \$600,000 gift honoring influential professor Don Green in the Department of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering.

Green made a powerful first impression on Holland. He taught his Introduction to Engineering class. He even managed to make classes like heat transfer interesting, according to Holland. "He was an energetic and engaging teacher," Holland said. "He does plenty of academic research, but he's a teacher at heart."

Green, who retired in 2009 after 45 years of teaching at KU, won KU's Honor for the Outstanding Progressive Educator (or H.O.P.E.) Award in 1988 and was a finalist seven more times. He received the School of Engineering Gould Award for Outstanding Teaching five times and in 2001 received the Chancellors Club Teaching Award. He is also a 2015 recipient the School of Engineering's Distinguished Engineering Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by the school.

Arvin Agah, dean of the KU School of Engineering, said that Green's influence will carry forward a legacy of teaching excellence.

"Zack and Melissa's generosity advances the School of Engineering as a leader in research and teaching. We deeply appreciate all they have done for KU Engineering," Agah said.



[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.

National Science Foundation to establish the Research Experience for Teachers: IDEA-BioE



Prajnaramita Dhar

KU has secured a three-year, \$586,645 grant from the National Science Foundation to establish the Research Experience for Teachers: IDEA-BioE. The project will pair six middle school math and science teachers from the Topeka Public Schools and six pre-service science teachers from KU's STEMTeach program with researchers in the School of Engineering.

Prajnaramita Dhar is principal investigator of the project and will partner with Meagan Patterson, co-PI and professor of educational psychology, and Douglas Huffman, professor of curriculum & teaching. "I wanted to do something, and clearly in education, we can make a difference," said Dr. Dhar about this project. "What is unique here is the integration of psychology, bioengineering, and science and engineering education. We will help build and review the education modules the teachers design to ensure all those components are there and show the possibilities of engineering."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.

Jenny Robinson Receives 2021 NIH Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA)

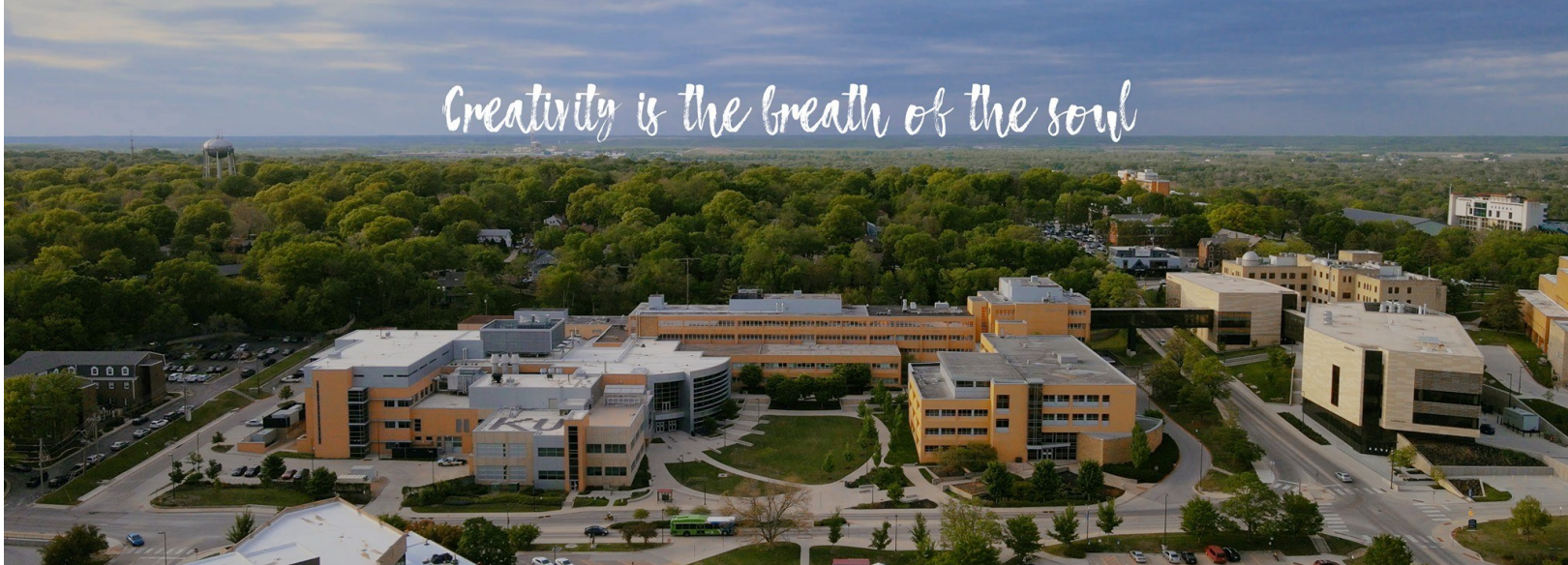
Please join The Chemical & Petroleum Engineering Department in congratulating Dr. Jenny Robinson for being awarded an NIH Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) (R35). This is an R01-equivalent grant that provides \$1.25 million over 5 years. The program distributes funding more widely among the nation's highly talented and promising investigators.

Dr. Robinson will utilize biomaterial technologies to interrogate sex differences in tissue repair by decoupling cell microenvironment and estrogen signaling to determine the role of each parameter independently on tissue repair using mesenchymal stromal cells (MSCs). The work will have broad implications for the design, development, and implementation of biomaterial therapies tailored to a patient's sex to promote tissue repair, regeneration, and homeostasis.

Learn more about this award on [NIH's MIRA Website](#)



Creativity is the breath of the soul



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