



Bioengineering Program

School of Engineering

Dr. Spencer recognized by Society for Biomaterials



Paulette Spencer

Dr. Paulette Spencer was recently honored by the Society for Biomaterials with the Clemson Award for Basic Research. This award recognizes Dr. Spencer for contributions to the basic knowledge and understanding of the interaction of materials with tissue. Her focus has been on characterization of structure/property relationships at material/tissue interfaces.

KU students recognized by Society for Biomaterials



Ember Krech

Ember Krech, a BioE PhD student, was recognized as a rising big star at the Society for Biomaterials, having received the Orthopedic Biomaterials Special Interest Group (SIG) **Star Abstract Award** for her research abstract regarding piezocomposite electrical stimulation for orthopaedic implants in torsion,



Craig Cunningham

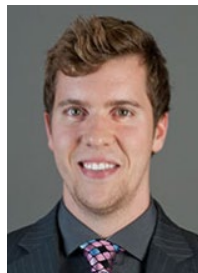
Craig Cunningham (BioE MS student) and **Zach Pessia** (ME MS student) won the 2019 Society for Biomaterials **Business Plan Pitch Competition** and \$1,000 cash award for their Evoke Medical, LLC, pitch "PiezoNail - Stimulating a Pathway to Better Fracture Healing."

Likarda wins Technologies of Tomorrow competition



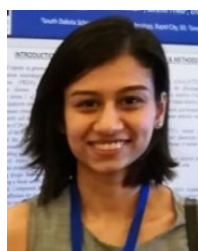
Likarda, is a private biopharmaceutical company, founded by Bioengineering faculty affiliate, Lisa Stehno-Bittel and former BioE student, Karthik Ramachandran. The company was a Buzz of the BIO International Conference winner for Technologies of Tomorrow in January 2019. The company combines early-phase discovery research with analytical services for drug discovery and much more for entrepreneurs, pharmaceutical sectors & animal health.

Dassault Systemes Simulia & PEO honor KU students



Lance Frazer

Lance Frazer, KU BioE doctoral student, was award **1st Place** in the Community Of Experts of Dassault Systemes Solutions (DSS) software Graduate Division ePoster competition, including a \$2,000 prize. He also won **1st Place** as the Jury Prize Winner for Best Simulia (DSS Abaqus) **Project of the Year** for his computational studies on Subchondral Bone Cysts.



Aparna Chakravarti

Aparna Raghavachar Chakravarti, KU BioE doctoral student, received the highly competitive Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) **International Peace Scholarship** from the national organization!

By the Numbers

KU Bioengineering
Ranked 93rd
among all BioE/BME
graduate programs
in the most recent
"Best Graduate
Schools"
rankings by
US News & World
Report

55
current KU
Bioengineering
students

42%
of KU
Bioengineering
students are
women

BioE students top the KU 3MT competition



Kait Howard

The KU 3-Minute Thesis competition was dominated by engineering. Four of the six finalists were from Engineering, and **two were Bioengineering** doctoral students! **Kait Howard**, was awarded **1st Place** with her talk, “You Can’t Be Replaced, But Your Knee Can!”

Also, a finalist, **Jordan Borrell** presented his 3MT “Rewiring the Injured Spinal Cord - Is the Bionic Person a Reality?”



Jordan Borrell

As the overall winner for KU, Kait Howard represented KU at the regional competition.

Two BioE students awarded Self Fellowships

Katie Childers will join KU in Fall 2019 from Bucknell University as a Bioengineering doctoral student and Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellow.

Eryn Gerber, currently a first year KU Bioengineering doctoral student from University of Delaware, will also join the Self Graduate Fellowship in Fall 2019.

Graduate Studies and Engineering School honors!

Several Bioengineering students were honored by Graduate studies for their outstanding work.

- **Pamela Johnson** received the Distinguished Service Award
- **Sebastian Huayamares** received the Carlin Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

Bioengineering students also topped the School of Engineering Research Showcase:

Graduate Research Poster Awardee

1st Place, **Swarnagowri Vaidyanathan**, Bioengineering PhD Student

Graduate Research Presentation Awardee

1st Place, **Ember Krech**, Bioengineering PhD Student

First Bioengineering MD/PhD student for Fall 2019

While Bioengineering has been an option for MD/PhD students for a number of years, **Jacob Hodge** will be the first University of Kansas Medical Center MD/PhD student to get join the Bioengineering program this coming Fall. Welcome Jacob!

The Next Big Step: Developing an Undergraduate Biomedical Engineering Degree Program

Developing a Biomedical Engineering undergraduate degree program was an explicitly stated goal of Dr. Fischer as he accepted the position of Bioengineering Program Director. KU has the potential for a very strong and highly attractive program, but has not yet moved forward. With strong ties to the KU Medical Center, a KU Biomedical Engineering degree program can surpass programs in our region. The past 20 years have demonstrated that Biomedical Engineering (BME) is viable and is here to stay. Why is KU working to develop a program?

- **Student demand for BME is high and national enrollments are steadily growing at 12% per year.**
- **BME job market is strong. Placement rates average 92%. KC life sciences jobs grew 22% in 3 years.**
- **BME increases diversity in engineering, both women and under-represented minorities.**
- **Will grow School of Engineering enrollments and serve Kansas students who otherwise go elsewhere.**

Are there challenges? Yes! It will take new resources in tough budget times.

Is it worth the time and effort? Definitely! To remain a leader, we believe KU must have a BME degree.

80%
of KU
Bioengineering
students are
domestic