



### Prof. Raghunath Chaudhari named Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors

Raghunath Chaudhari, the Deane E. Ackers Distinguished Professor of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering in the School of Engineering, has been named a Fellow of the NAI in recognition of his innovative work in catalysis, reaction engineering, multiphase reactors and kinetic modeling. His research has led to many discoveries — including a smart, energy-efficient method for turning plant sugars into the building blocks for plastics, paints, fibers and many other everyday items.

Chaudhari joined KU in 2007 and has since helped bring in nearly \$14 million in external research funding. He currently serves as the deputy director for KU's Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis, where he leads several projects aimed at inventing cleaner, safer, economically viable technologies for fuels and chemicals. He has partnered with academic researchers from around the world and collaborated with dozens of companies, including ADM, DuPont, GE and INVISTA. His prolific research has generated 282 publications, three books and 71 patents. For the full article, click [here](#).

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### Prof. Kevin Leonard receives Don Green Fellowship Award

Kevin joined the CPE department in 2013 with a multidisciplinary background in chemical engineering, mathematics, and materials science. He holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin and from the University of Texas. Since joining C&PE, Kevin has taught both graduate and undergraduate core classes including the graduate classes “Kinetics and Catalysis,” and “Methods of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Calculations,” and the undergraduate class “Chemical Engineering Kinetics and Reactor Design.” In all three areas, Kevin has excelled as a teacher, developing top quality curricula with significant innovations. In particular Kevin has incorporated the use of reactor simulation software (COMSOL Multiphysics) to reinforce the fundamentals of reactor design and expose both graduate students and undergraduates to reactor simulations, as well as other innovations at the graduate level, teaching crucial scientific techniques. In the graduate calculations course, Kevin revamped the curriculum to cover numerical methods for more applied chemical and petroleum engineering problems. Kevin has received both the 2015 Raymond Oenbring Teaching Award for Excellence in Chemical Engineering Education and the 2014 Kansas EPSCoR Education and Diversity Award, which further attest his outstanding commitment to teaching excellence.

### Applications for Engineering Leadership Fellows Program now available

Applications to join the Self Engineering Leadership Fellows Program are available now for students completing their second year of engineering curriculum. Eligible candidates must have at least two years of engineering coursework left to complete and have at least a 3.0 GPA. Strong candidates will be able to show a track record of attributes that relate to successful leadership and will demonstrate how the SELF Program will help them work toward their passions. In addition to the online application, three letters of reference are required. These will be submitted electronically through a form emailed to the references. [The application](#) is due Monday, February 27. Questions can be directed to Adam Smith at [adam.smith@ku.edu](mailto:adam.smith@ku.edu).

### SPE Wins National Competition

Congratulations to our Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter who have earned 4<sup>th</sup> place at the National PetroBowl Competition out of 32 teams. This qualifies them to compete in the international competition at the SPE ATCE in San Antonio, Texas this fall.

### Congratulations to our Newest Masters and PhD Graduates

Masi Veisi successfully defended her Doctoral Dissertation entitled “Application of Inhibitor in Berea Sandstone Rock” on Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Adisak Nawik successfully defended his Master’s Thesis entitled “An Environmentally Friendly Alternative for The Conventional Acids Used in Matrix Acidizing and Acid Fracturing of Carbonate Reservoirs” on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>.

### C&PE Shows Solidarity in Light of Executive Order

We stand in Solidarity with our International students, staff, and faculty who are affected by the Jan 27<sup>th</sup> [Executive Order](#). We would like to let you know that we will help in any way we can as we maneuver through this tense situation together. While we do not know what will happen in the future or how long these restrictions will last, Provost Neeli Bendapudi made it clear during the Feb 1<sup>st</sup> open forum that everybody at KU is a Jayhawk regardless of their residency status or country of origin.

The following is a list of key resources available to anybody who has concerns about what this executive order might mean: [Legal Services for International students](#), [ISS](#), [International Programs](#), and [CAPS](#). The [International Programs](#) website is adding news and updates as they receive them, and the director, Charles Bankart, has an open door policy and would be happy to speak to anybody with questions or concerns. Off campus resources such as the [ACLU](#) are also ready to fight to protect our shared rights. In addition, many immigration lawyers are volunteering all over the country to help in any way they can. When we stand together we are strong, and that is exactly what we plan to do.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb. 4-5** Drs. Laurence Weatherley and Aaron Scurto will be in Baltimore, MD attending an invitation-only two-day workshop on intensive operations with the American Chemical Society (ACS).

**Feb. 8** Seminar on Undergraduate Research from 12-1pm in room 2112 Learned Hall.

**Feb. 9** The Spring Engineering and Computing Career Fair will be held from 11am-4pm at the Kansas Union.

**Feb. 15** *Leading the Charge: Droplets and Interfaces for Intensive Chemical Processing*, an inaugural lecture presented by Laurence R. Weatherley, PhD, at 5:30pm in the Big 12 Room, Kansas Union.

**Feb. 27** Applications for Self Engineering Leadership Fellows Program due.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS

Dou, J.; **Tao, F.\*** “Selective Epoxidation of Cyclohexene with Molecular Oxygen on Catalyst of Nanoporous Au Integrated with MoO<sub>3</sub> Nanoparticles“, Appl. Catal. A, 2017, 529, 134-142 .

Mokhtari, M., Wood, D., Ghanizadeh, A., Kulkarni, P., Rasouli, V., Fathi, E., Saidian, M., **Barati, R.**, Virtual Special Issue: Advances in the Petrophysical and Geomechanical Characterization of Organic-Rich Shales, Journal of Natural Gas Science & Engineering (2017)

Li, X., Yang, D., and Fan, Z. Vapor-Liquid Phase Boundaries and Swelling Factors of C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>-n-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>10</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-Heavy Oil Systems under Reservoir Conditions. *Fluid Phase Equilibria*, 2017, 434: 211-221.

Shan, J.; Zhang, S.; Choksi, T.; Nguyen, L.; Bonifacio, C.; Li, Y.; Zhu, W.; Tang, Y.; Zhang, Y.; Yang, J.; Greeley, J.; Frenkel, A\*.; **Tao, F.\*** “Tuning Catalytic Performance through a Single or Sequential Post-Synthesis Reaction(s) in a Gas Phase” ACS Catalysis, 2017, 7, 191-204.

#### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community - and this nation.”

-Cesar Chavez



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