
Jonas Salk Artwork Donated to KGI

Keck Graduate Institute celebrated the intersection of art and science on September 10 as KGI President Sheldon M. Schuster accepted a bronze sculpture of Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine.

Created by Claremont artist Barbara Beretich, the Jonas Salk Basrelief was presented as a gift to the school to commemorate KGI's extensive work in disease research. The artwork will be displayed on the KGI campus in Claremont.

Beretich, who received her MFA from Claremont Graduate University in 1965, presented the basrelief to KGI at a brunch attended by KGI staff, faculty and supporters. Also in attendance was Dr. Peter Salk, the eldest son of Dr. Jonas Salk, who worked in his father's laboratory at the Salk Institute from 1972 to 1984.



Dr. Peter Salk, Heather Wood Ion, Barbara Beretich and Sheldon Schuster

Peter Salk discussed his father's legacy and the future of disease research. In his remarks Schuster drew parallels between the practice of art and science, calling both "exercises in experimentation and forays into unexplored territory."

Beretich came to know Jonas Salk through his second wife, French artist Françoise Gilot, whose lifelong friendship with Beretich began during the latter's travels in Europe in 1960. She offered the sculpture as a gift to KGI after meeting Schuster earlier this year. Following the presentation of the piece, Beretich conducted tours of her art collection at Galleria Beretich.

KGI Celebrates 10 Classes of Alumni

Keck Graduate Institute welcomed all of its alumni back to campus in September to celebrate its tenth commencement last spring.

"We are so very proud to have 10 graduated classes, and we wanted to celebrate this achievement," said Merlene Singleton, director of alumni relations.

The casual reunion served as an opportunity for alumni to get together, "show off" their families and catch up with classmates, friends and favorite professors, Singleton added.

The celebration took place on the KGI campus lawn and featured an afternoon of food, entertainment for the children of alums, and a quiet room for new moms with babies.

Darren Leva, outgoing president of the KGI Alumni Board and a 2005 graduate of the Master of Bioscience (MBS) program, was pleased to see KGI celebrating its first decades-worth of alums. "This is an impressive feat for the school—to have graduated 10 classes who are successful, happy and making a difference in the industry," he said. "That says a lot about KGI."

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KGI's 2010-2011 Annual Report is now available online at www.kgi.edu/ar

TRUSTEE PROFILE:

Arthur D. Riggs



Art Riggs

KGI trustee Arthur D. Riggs, PhD, recalls being inadequately prepared when he started directing his first lab at the City of Hope National Medical Center in 1969.

Then an associate research scientist in molecular biology, Riggs spent the bulk of his days interacting with colleagues, writing papers and grants, managing a budget, overseeing employees, and learning the delicate art of organizing and motivating a team.

“I quickly found that I was involved in many activities for which I was not trained,” he remembers. “I learned by doing, along with all the other PhDs in my field at the time.”

Riggs, emeritus director of the Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope, joined KGI’s Board of Trustees in 2005, impressed by the institute’s mission of educating future leaders in the biosciences to fulfill a critical need.

KGI offers graduate and postdoctoral students advanced training at the nexus of regulation, technology and business development. “It’s a transforming endeavor and I’m excited to be a part of it,” says Riggs.

Last year, Riggs participated in an admissions video promoting KGI programs to a wider audience, noting KGI students’ distinct competitive advantage over classically trained scientists.

Riggs can appreciate the struggles of a burgeoning research enterprise and is an ardent supporter of KGI’s approach, says President Sheldon M. Schuster, PhD.

“He shows a level of understanding that is unparalleled,” explains Schuster. “He understands the intersection of science and business because he has lived it.”

Now chair of the Department of Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases Research at City of Hope, Riggs has advanced from research to the upper echelons of management — and then opted to return to research — over a career spanning more than five decades.

In 1979, Riggs, then a senior research scientist at City of Hope, worked with City of Hope chemist

Keiichi Itakura and Genentech to produce human insulin in *Escherichia coli*. Their research led to the mass production of insulin, development of the cornerstone intellectual property for biotech therapeutics, and recognition of Riggs as one of the founding fathers of the modern biotechnology industry. That same year, Riggs was honored with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Research Award.

“We thought of ourselves as doing basic research but it turned out to be applied research,” Riggs remembers.

Riggs then transitioned into a lengthy, successful career in administration at City of Hope, a National Institutes of Health-sponsored cancer center in Duarte. He was appointed associate chairman, then chairman of City of Hope’s division of biology. In the 1990s, he served as dean for City of Hope’s standalone PhD program in biological sciences, which he had helped build. The program now enrolls more than 60 students, about a dozen of whom are pursuing a Certificate in Bioscience Management at KGI through an innovative cross-training opportunity.

In 1999, Riggs became director of the Beckman Research Institute, the City of Hope’s laboratory research arm.

Riggs was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2006. One year later, he returned to research full-time. In addition to his work on insulin, he is lauded for his work on mammalian DNA replication, protein-DNA interactions and the production of recombinant antibodies.

The son of a mobile-home park owner, Riggs as a child often escaped from digging ditches by telling his father he had homework to do. He would read science fiction instead.

Still, he made good grades and received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of California at Riverside, before moving on to his PhD in biochemistry from the California Institute of Technology. He performed his postdoctoral training at the Salk Institute.

In part through Riggs’ involvement, City of Hope is sponsoring a Team Masters Project (TMP) this year. KGI students are conducting marketing research and comparative analysis for a drug candidate to treat diabetes. The medical center also has hired several KGI graduates.

“I’ve always had the idea that I’d like to spend my time helping society solve important problems,” says Riggs. “My efforts at KGI fit nicely in that category.”



Like many alums, Leva relishes his education from KGI. He said it was a good “fit” for him to seek his master’s degree from the institute. “I’m an explorer,” he explained, “and the biggest highlight of my experience at KGI was being part of a new institution that is changing the paradigm of education.”

For Kirsti Zitar, a 2002 MBS graduate, the celebration was an opportunity to reconnect with classmates, professors and fellow KGI alumni. “I am grateful for the education I received and the friendships I made at KGI,” adding the event provided a chance to see how the campus and degree programs had changed in the years since graduation.

Pat Beckman (1933-2011)



The KGI community was saddened to learn of Gloria Patricia (Pat) Beckman’s death this past August. The

daughter of the late Dr. Arnold O. and Mabel M. Beckman, Pat Beckman helped KGI unveil its Science Heritage Center, which features many of her father’s early inventions that helped revolutionize the bioscience and diagnostic industries.

She was an active board member of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, as well as the founding president and member of the Orange County chapter of the ARCS Foundation (Achievement Rewards for College Scholars). She also was a lifetime trustee of the California Institute of Technology, a board member of the Caltech Chemical and Chemical Engineering Division, and a member of the UCI Nursing Program Leadership Council and the UCLA School of Nursing Advisory Board.

Pat Beckman’s philanthropy and dedication to the support of higher learning has been an inspiration to the KGI community, and she will be missed.

SAVE THE DATE

As our student body grows, so does our Fellowship Dinner.

KGI’s Fourth Annual Fellowship Dinner 2011 will be moving to a new, bigger location.

Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center in Pomona

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Reception 6:00 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm



This month we celebrate the 99th anniversary of the birth of KGI Trustee Marsh Cooper, a steadfast supporter of KGI, providing guidance as an active member of the Board of Trustees since 2000. As he begins his centennial year, we raise a toast to Marsh and wish him 12 months of great fishing stories and other tall tales!

President Sheldon M. Schuster



Dr. Jose Ignacio Santos Gives Simon Ramo Lecture

Dr. Jose Ignacio Santos, an international expert from Mexico on infectious disease, pediatrics and public health, served as KGI's 2011 Simon Ramo Distinguished Lecturer on September 30.

Santos spoke on emerging, reemerging and new infectious diseases threatening societies.

"We were honored and delighted that Dr. Santos could provide the Simon Ramo lecture this year," said Sheldon M. Schuster, PhD, KGI's president. "He has been a force in public health reforms that have impacted millions of people in Latin America and around the globe."

Santos currently serves as the Professor of Experimental Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the School of Medicine for Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (National Autonomous University of Mexico).

He has spent 20 years working on public and global health. His efforts include serving on the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) in Vaccines and Immunization of the World Health Organization and as a board member of the Pediatric Dengue Vaccine Initiative (Seoul, Korea).



*Dr. Jose
Ignacio
Santos*

KGI News

Marc Salata Joins KGI as New Marketing Director

In an effort to strengthen its brand and name recognition, KGI has hired Marc Salata as its new director of marketing.

KGI Student Chosen Life Technologies Campus Ambassador

MBS student Paola Hernandez has been selected to serve as campus ambassador at KGI as a part of a pilot initiative launched by Life Technologies to increase the company's profile on college campuses.

*For more on these and other news stories, check out
www.kgi.edu/news*