



Photo courtesy of Kansas State University

Christine AIKENS

Chemistry
Kansas State University

Christine AIKENS current

- Received a National Science Foundation CAREER award of \$600,000 for research. This award is given to scientists early in their career who have shown great promise
- Studies how plants and inorganic systems use light to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. This research can lead to clean renewable sources of energy.
- Working with nanoparticles for cancer research. Some nanoparticles can absorb radiation (which is used in cancer treatment). As a result, the use of nanoparticles may help to develop better cancer treatments that focus on the cancer tumors but do not harm healthy tissue.

EXTRA COOL: Aikens holds a yearly workshop for middle schoolers to study solar power and other renewable energy technology.

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www.adastra-ks.org

2011 **SCIENCE in KANSAS**
150 years and counting



Credit: NASA

Steve HAWLEY

Astronomy
NASA

Steve HAWLEY current

- Born in Ottawa, grew up in Salina. Graduated from Salina Central High.
- Earned physics and astronomy degrees from the University of Kansas in 1973, and a Ph.D. degree from UC-Santa Cruz in 1977.
- Selected by NASA as an astronaut in 1978. Logged more than 770 hours in five space flights, including the first mission of Space Shuttle Discovery in 1984.
- Flew missions that carried the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit (1990), and installed new instruments (1997).

EXTRA COOL: Inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2007. He is now a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Kansas.

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Courtesy of Spencer Research Library, KU

Takeru HIGUCHI

Chemistry / Pharmacy
University of Kansas

Takeru HIGUCHI 1918-1987

- Born in California to Japanese immigrant parents.
- Already a legend in pharmaceutical chemistry (the science of drugs) when he came to KU in 1967, he developed a nationally famous program at KU.
- Brilliant in discovering new drug products and ways of drug delivery, he developed slow-release time capsules, like those found today in cold medicines. That way, the body gets its medicine a little at a time instead of all at once with fewer side effects.
- Awarded more than 50 patents.

EXTRA COOL: The Higuchi Biosciences Center at KU is named in his honor. Considered by many to be the "father of physical pharmacy."

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Kansas Sesquicentennial 2011



Photo credit Spirit Aerosystems, Inc.

CINDY HOOVER

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Spirit Aerosystems, Inc.
Wichita

Cindy Hoover current

- Grew up in Salina. Always good at science and math. High school physics sparked her interest in electrical engineering.
- Earned engineering degree from WSU.
- Has worked in the gas and oil, the high-tech electronics industries and now in aerospace.
- Is the director of fuselage (the central body of aircraft) engineering for several programs at Spirit Aerosystems.
- Also, was recently put in charge of Spirit's 767-KC tanker program, which will build part of the United States Air Force's next line of refueling tanker aircraft.

EXTRA COOL "Engineering is a diverse and interesting career choice that gives you a vast amount of opportunity," says Hoover.

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