



*Courtesy of KHOU-11*

### Neil FRANK

Meteorology

National Hurricane Center, Miami, Fla.

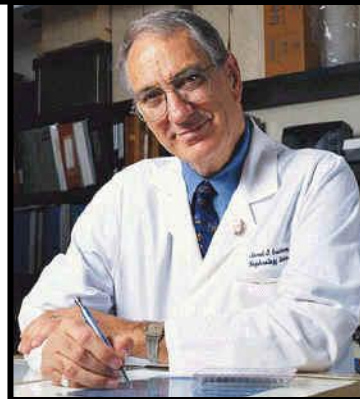
2011 **SCIENCE in KANSAS**  
150 years and counting

### Neil FRANK 1932-

- Born on a farm in Norton County. At age 9, his family moved to Wellington. Earned degree in chemistry at Southwestern College in Winfield.
- Service in the United States Air Force as a weather officer ignited his interest in typhoons and ocean-related weather.
- After earning a Ph.D. in meteorology at Florida State University, he became a weather forecaster at the National Hurricane Center.
- Was director of the National Hurricane Center from 1974-1987. Active in many international meteorological assignments and was chairman of International Hurricane Committee. Later served 21 years as head meteorologist for KHOU Channel 11 in Houston.

**EXTRA COOL:** Was one of the first meteorologists to use weather satellite data to identify tropical weather patterns.

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*Photo courtesy of KUMC Archives*

### Jared GRANTHAM

Medicine

University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC)

2011 **SCIENCE in KANSAS**  
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### Jared GRANTHAM current

- Born in Dodge City. Graduated from Stanton County Community High School in 1954. Earned degree in biology at Baker University in Baldwin and his medical degree at KUMC.
- Has been a researcher at the KUMC since 1969. Is a nationally recognized researcher in nephrology (the study of the function and diseases of the kidneys).
- Kidneys are busy. Besides filtering out waste from our blood hundreds of times a day, they also keep the amount of fluids and minerals in our body in balance and produce a hormone that tells the body to make red blood cells.
- **EXTRA COOL:** In 1982, Grantham co-founded the PKD Foundation, which researches a life-threatening genetic disease of the kidney which affects over 12 million people worldwide.

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*Courtesy of Cessna Aircraft Co.*

### Vicki JOHNSON

Aerospace Engineering

Cessna Aircraft Company, Wichita

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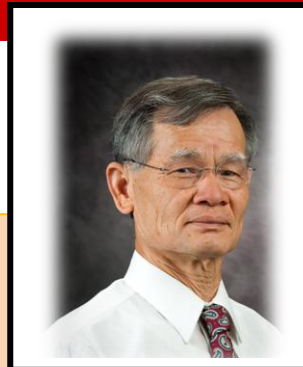
### Vicki JOHNSON current

- Currently is lead investigator at Cessna for a NASA contract to research the use of high-tech protective outer skins on airliners made of composite materials. Composites are lighter and stronger than metals like aluminum.
- This is part of a larger NASA project to develop futuristic planes to be flown by 2030 or 2035.
- Depending on the materials and how many layers are involved, this skin could have many uses. It might protect the plane against lightning or extreme temperatures, or shield it from bumps and bruises. The layers may even have sensors in them that would show when there is an impact. And the smooth surfaces would reduce weight and drag for aircraft.

**EXTRA COOL:** Learned to fly in junior high and high school. Soloed on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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### Kansas Sesquicentennial 2011



*Courtesy of KSU Photo Services*

### CHII-DONG LIN

PHYSICS

J. R. McDonald Laboratory  
Kansas State University



### Chii-Dong Lin current

- Lin uses the Kansas Light Source, a group of high-energy ultrafast lasers at JRML, for basic physics research on atoms and molecules.
- Lin uses attosecond pulses of laser light—lasting one billion billionth of a second. One attosecond is to one second like one second is to the age of the universe. As laser pulses excite atoms, he observes and tries to understand the activity of the even smaller electrons.
- Since electronic motion plays a big part in physical, chemical and biological processes, scientists may one day be able to control molecules to improve health care, energy or security.

**EXTRA COOL:** KSU's Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics (AMOP) Lab is ranked in the top 20 of its kind in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

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