

Photo courtesy of Susan Nissen

**Susan NISSEN**  
Geophysics  
Consultant, McLouth

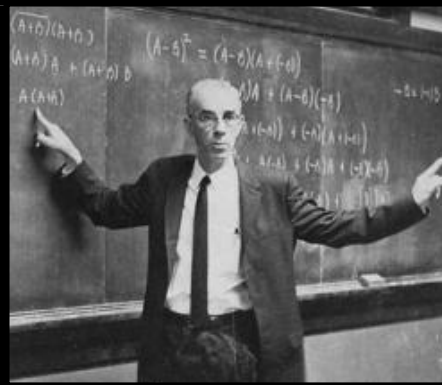
2011 **SCIENCE in KANSAS**  
150 years and counting

**Susan NISSEN** *current*

- As a geophysicist, she makes maps of the structures of rocks underground.
- To do this, she uses seismic data obtained by using a vibrator truck or dynamite to send sound waves into the ground. Sensitive instruments record how the sound waves reflect off underground formations.
- Looks for rock properties that point to better oil production. This includes porosity (empty spaces where oil might be trapped) and permeability (how fast oil can be sucked out).

**EXTRA COOL:** Also working with the Kansas Geological Survey on a U.S. Department of Energy research project to find underground areas where carbon dioxide emissions from industry might be pumped to keep it out of the atmosphere. Often old oil reservoirs might be used.

Project of the Ad Astra Kansas Initiative [www.adastra-ks.org](http://www.adastra-ks.org)



Courtesy of KU Spencer Research Library

**G. Baley PRICE**  
Mathematics  
University of Kansas

2011 **SCIENCE in KANSAS**  
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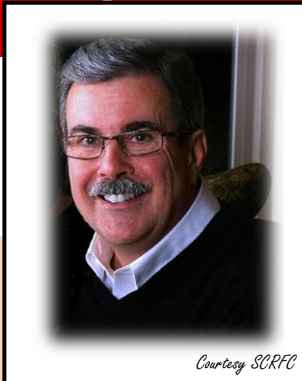
**G. Baley PRICE** 1905-2006

- Joined the KU faculty in 1937. Retired in 1975 as the E. B. Stouffer Distinguished Professor of Mathematics.
- Served in Britain during World War II with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Operation Research Section, using mathematics to improve the accuracy of bombing missions.
- Instrumental in the development of the "New Math" nationally and the purchase of the first computer at KU in 1956.
- Earned a special tribute for his service from the Congress in 2003.

**EXTRA COOL:** Lived to the age of 101, and donated more than \$600,000 to support KU teaching and research.

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[www.adastra-ks.org](http://www.adastra-ks.org)

**Kansas Sesquicentennial 2011**



Courtesy SCRFC

**TIMOTHY P. ROHRIG**  
TOXICOLOGY

Sedgwick County Regional  
Forensics Science Center,  
Wichita



**Timothy P. Rohrig** *current*

- Originally from Wichita. Grew up in Kansas City, Kan.
- As a forensic toxicologist, he uses science to evaluate the role of drugs and poisons in deaths and in human behavior. These results help answer important legal questions.
- As director of the Regional Forensics Science Center, he has a staff of 37. Besides drugs, cases can involve DNA identification, firearms testing, trace (hair, fibers or paint) analysis, arson debris, evidence collection, scene reconstruction or postmortem exams.
- In real life, lab results do not happen as fast as on television. Results are checked, cross-checked and rechecked. "We are not just sort of sure-- we are within a scientific degree of certainty when we release the results of lab tests," says Rohrig.

**EXTRA COOL:** "You will never be bored. And there's the reward of serving the community. We answer questions that keep people safe and help them understand what happened during a crime or why their loved one died," Rohrig says of his job.

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Courtesy of Mark Schneegurt

**Mark SCHNEEGURT**  
Biology  
Wichita State University

2011 **SCIENCE in KANSAS**  
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**Mark SCHNEEGURT** *current*

- Part of a team doing a National Science Foundation study at the Great Salt Plains in northern Oklahoma. The study area is covered with crusty layers of sodium chloride (table salt) left over from when it was a sea. What kinds of bacteria, microbes or algae live in such a harsh environment? How do they survive?
- NASA is interested in the answers to questions like these as they might give clues as to organisms on other planets.
- Mars and Jupiter's moon, Europa, have a lot of salt on them--epsom salts. Schneegurt is also doing a project for NASA. He is studying microbes living in two lakes in the Pacific Northwest that have a lot of epsom salts.

**EXTRA COOL:** Had his own lab notebook and did experiments in his backyard at age seven. Got his science inspiration from the U.S. Space Program.