

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

AgReport

College of Agriculture • Fall 2011



Students and Faculty Experience
International Agriculture

AgReport

Fall 2011

College of Agriculture
and the
Kansas State University
Agricultural Experiment Station
and Cooperative Extension Service

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From the Dean and Director



Interim dean Gary Pierzynski (far right) and agronomist Vara Prasad (second from left) visit with farmers in Niger about improving sorghum productivity.

This issue of the Ag Report has an international theme. It features our efforts to train the Kansas National Guard agribusiness development teams deploying to Afghanistan and some of our international activities in Africa.

I visited Africa in October 2010 and viewed projects in Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Niger. I also accompanied a group led by April Mason, provost and senior vice president, to India in April 2011 to discuss future partnerships and enhance existing ones.

When I return from an international trip — even from countries that I have visited previously — I always have a greater appreciation for the diversity of cultures we have across the globe, a renewed sense of the global economy and the magnitude of the challenges that we face, and a feeling of gratitude to call the United States my home.

Eight of our students earned major scholarships during the last several years. All of them took advantage of study-abroad opportunities. In this issue, they share how travel influenced their attitudes and career goals.

New student enrollment has increased for the third year in a row. Following June orientation and enrollment, the college is up 9.4 percent.

Our faculty continues to earn university and national recognition for their teaching, research,

and extension activities. Plant pathologist John Leslie and grain scientist Susan Sun were named university distinguished professors, the highest honor K-State grants to faculty. We are fortunate to have outstanding faculty who are consistently recognized by their peers, the university, and national organizations.

Welcome Gregg Hadley, who is the new assistant director for extension agriculture, natural resources, and community development. Thanks to James “Pat” Murphy for his excellent work in this position.

During the Wild4Ag activities in May, we recognized three outstanding alumni — Adrian Polansky, Philip Kirk, and Kevin Donnelly — for their service to agriculture and K-State. Go to the last page for information on how to nominate next year’s winners.

We appreciate our alumni, their service on advisory councils and various committees, and their support through donations, recruitment efforts, internships, and especially for sending their sons and daughters to K-State.

The college is hosting a tailgate party in Cat Town October 8 two hours before the K-State vs. Missouri football game. Stop by to visit and enjoy some good food.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Pierzynski".

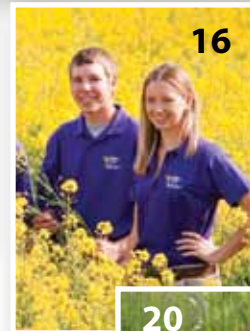
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Jacque LaRue planting rice by hand near Hwacheon, South Korea. Go to page 12 to read how study-abroad programs influenced her and other scholarship winners.

Photo courtesy of Jacque LaRue

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News Briefs

K-State Dedicates New Facility at Olathe Campus

K-State Olathe brings together K-State's expertise in animal health and food safety/security.

It's situated on 38 acres and is part of the Kansas Bioscience Park in Olathe. It will be a resource for the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, which stretches from Manhattan to Columbia, Mo., and includes the Kansas City area. It will be a portal to core laboratories and other resources at K-State's main campus and provide faculty in Manhattan with greater access to Kansas City area resources.

The first building is the International Animal Health and Food Safety Institute, where scientists conduct research aimed at ensuring a safe and secure global food supply. The \$28 million, 108,000-square-foot facility will house research, education, innovation, and commercialization programs in its laboratories and classrooms.



The K-State Olathe International Animal Health and Food Safety Institute building was dedicated on April 26, 2011.

Communications and Marketing

K-State Olathe will collaborate with Manhattan-based faculty, other research and education institutions, as well as public and private companies and the Kansas Bioscience Authority.

The campus will be home to master's and doctoral degree students as they prepare for

careers in the biosciences and biotechnology, including animal health and food safety. The students will work with K-State, as well as industry scientists on research projects as they prepare to become leaders in these fields.

For more information, visit www.olathe.ksu.edu/.



Recruitment Campaign Promotes Kansas 4-H as 'Network of Families That Grows Great Kids'

"Dog eating your shoes again?"

"Love horses but live in town?"

"Wonder why there are butterflies in the freezer?"

These are just a few of the questions posed in a new Kansas 4-H recruitment campaign targeting third graders and their parents. The campaign aims to increase 4-H club enrollment by 10 percent by 2014.

"4-H'ers and alumni know the power of the program, but outsiders are stuck on the perception that it's only for farm kids," said Diane Mack, K-State Research and Extension specialist and adviser to the state 4-H marketing action team. "Growth means recruiting town families who currently don't think 4-H is for them."

Last spring the marketing action team interviewed non-4-H moms from across the state to learn what would prompt enrollment. The result was two key messages: (1) 4-H is a network of families, rather than a group of kids, and (2) it's for city families, too.

"Parents liked the idea that teaching skills and values is easier when you have a group of families behind you," said Mack. "This is unique to 4-H, and our new campaign highlights these messages."

The campaign will first appear at the Kansas State Fair, then roll out online and in local communities throughout the year.



Gregg Hadley Named Assistant Director

Gregg Hadley became assistant director of extension agriculture, natural resources, and community development for K-State Research and Extension on September 1.

Since 2002, Hadley has served as associate professor and extension farm management specialist at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, Department of Agricultural Economics. In that role he was an extension educator and researcher, and taught undergraduate classes.

He also brings years of experience in the private sector, having worked in the dairy industry as a farm and nutrition consultant, grain marketing coordinator with Tomorrow Valley Cooperative, Amherst, Wis., and as a district salesperson with Wayne Feeds, Kalamazoo, Mich., among other positions.

"I am very passionate about the role that extension plays in our society, and I want to help make sure that extension continues and thrives in the future," said Hadley. "Through friends and reputation, I was very familiar with K-State and K-State Research and Extension. I knew it was a system that, like me, put the needs of learners first. I was very excited then to learn of this position opening, and even more excited when I was offered the job.

"In my work at UW-River Falls," Hadley said, "I had a mission of helping farms be more profitable and improving the quality of life of farmers, their employees — and the stakeholders that depend on them. I am most proud of the fact that my colleagues and I worked hard to live up to that mission on a daily basis — whether it be in an undergraduate classroom, at an extension meeting, or providing advice in a farmer's kitchen."

Team Studies Impact of Biofuels Crops on Insects

Brian McCornack, assistant professor of entomology, is part of a team that received a \$938,000 competitive grant to study the impact of bioenergy crops on pests, natural enemies, and pollinators in agricultural and noncrop landscapes. It is a cooperative effort among K-State, the University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, and the USDA/Agriculture Research Service Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center.

Sustainability of the nation's bioenergy feedstock production relies on selection and placement of energy crops that efficiently generate biomass without compromising existing agricultural systems. Pest and beneficial insects occur in these feedstock crops, but whether they will be beneficial or harmful to the feedstock crop or to the surrounding agricultural habitats is unknown.

The group is looking at canola and switchgrass production. This research will advance our knowledge of risks or benefits from placing large biofuel crop monocultures into established agricultural landscapes in the Midwest.

More information can be found at <http://mccornack.info/about>.



In celebration of Arbor Day and the International Year of the Forest, the Kansas Forest Service had three pictures of a cottonwood — the Kansas state tree — framed and engraved as a reminder to increase appreciation, respect, and sustainability of Kansas' forests. The first piece of art was given to Gov. Sam Brownback. Here Larry Biles, state forester (second from left), presents the cottonwood image to Gary Pierzynski, interim dean of the College of Agriculture (second from right), to be displayed in Throckmorton Hall.

Also pictured (left to right): Stu Warren, head, Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources; Keith Lynch, associate professor of forestry; Charlie Barden, forestry specialist; and Cathie Lavis, assistant professor of landscape management. The third picture hangs at the Kansas Forest Service headquarters.

Beneficial Partnerships

K-Staters conduct projects throughout Africa



Africa grows many of the same crops as Kansas, including sorghum and wheat. In fact, sorghum germplasm came from Africa, and now Kansas is the No. 1 sorghum producer in the United States.

K-State has expertise in grain storage issues, wheat and grain sorghum milling, and growing crops under dryland and irrigated conditions — vital information for African producers. Faculty secure grant funding to cover travel and other expenses associated with these partnerships. As an added bonus, they bring international experience into the classroom to share with their students. International collaborations help develop networks to share research, establish new markets, build goodwill, draw in graduate students, and establish internships and job opportunities.

Benefits for Students

Faculty and students realize the importance of international connections. The College of Agriculture offers multiple study-abroad tours to give students firsthand international experience.

Professor Ted Cable, who specializes in natural and cultural heritage interpretation, ecotourism, and park and natural resource management, led K-State's first study tour to Africa in 1998.

"I saw how the experience changed the students' lives," Cable said. "Seeing the poverty of Africa made them appreciate what they have. Some developed an emotional connection and became involved with stewardship and philanthropy."

Cable has taught in Mali, where he had a Fulbright Scholarship to help

Common goals and expertise create good partnerships. K-State faculty share with and learn from their counterparts around the globe, including those in African countries.

train tour guides and establish tourism. He also worked with *National Geographic* and the U.S. Forest Service to study Mali's last herd of nomadic elephants to learn how this herd might be used to bring ecotourism money into the impoverished region.

He recently went to Kenya to observe how they manage their national parks and how increased tourism might be able to improve the quality of life for rural Africans.

For students who can't study abroad, the next best thing is for faculty to share their international research, photos, and personal experiences. Cable — like many other faculty — uses his international experiences to supplement traditional teaching materials.

Job Training Opportunities

Approximately 8 percent of the adult population in Kenya is HIV-positive, and 1.2 million children in Kenya have lost one or both parents to AIDS-related diseases. K-State has established a working partnership with the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology; University of Nairobi; United States International University; and Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner, to educate AIDS orphans.

Shannon Washburn, associate professor of agricultural education, Ted Cable, and faculty from K-State's Leadership Studies program went to the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre near Nairobi, Kenya, to help with the pilot program.

"The goal is to get these kids off the street," Washburn said. "Educating these children about agriculture gives them employable skills, which will strengthen the national economy. Kenya is emerging as a leader in an area that lacks stability. Our involvement with them is good for them and opens future trade opportunities for us."

New Markets for Sorghum

The K-State College of Agriculture formally established international programs in 1958. It has maintained programs through the International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support Program

(INTSORMIL CRSP) since it was initiated on July 1, 1979, by the U.S. Agency for International Development, under the authority of the 1975 Title XII amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

"Kansas State University was one of the original U.S. land-grant universities to be included in the program," said John Yohe, INTSORMIL's program director, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "Currently, we have 15 projects with six U.S. universities and USDA/ARS. Three of our 15 projects with U.S. universities are with Kansas State University.

"K-State has been a key collaborating institution in the INTSORMIL program for the past 32 years."

Agronomists P.V. Vara Prasad, Scott Staggenborg, and Dave Mengel are part of an INTSORMIL-funded project to improve decru sorghum production

regions in Mali and parts of Chad and Niger.

"Their project is a key component of the USAID/Mali Associate Award to INTSORMIL, which focuses on decru sorghum in northern Mali," stated Yohe. "Decru sorghum is planted on receding waters in the Niger water basin after the rainy season. Their project also collaborates in northern Ghana."

"Many of the techniques we employ in our dryland cropping systems in Kansas and the Great Plains region have implications and serve as a background for our collaborations in West Africa," Staggenborg said.

"They are very interested in increasing soil quality and soil organic matter. K-State has two sorghum breeders and support from entomologists and plant pathologists to identify and manage pests when issues arise in West Africa."



Review of a progressive poultry farm in West Africa.

Courtesy of Joe Hancock



At left, recording poultry weights in West Africa.

Help for the Poultry Industry

Joe Hancock, K-State animal scientist, also has grant funding to identify scientists in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria who can test new materials and concepts, and to promote sorghum and millet to feed poultry. He also trains students and professionals to use sorghum and millet in the poultry industry.

“We live in a global society, and awareness of business opportunities outside the borders of Kansas is imperative,” Hancock said.

Hancock hopes to generate new poultry production knowledge in West Africa, provide technical service to poultry farmers, increase demand to feed the poultry industry, and ensure the evolution of sorghum and millet from a subsistence crop to one that generates disposable household income in rural West Africa.

“Research activities associated with my grant require financial support for graduate and undergraduate students from Costa Rica, Panama, Niger, Missouri, Georgia, Nebraska, Arkansas, and yes ... Kansas,” Hancock said. “Grant funds also cover equipment and other expenses, which helps control the

cost of education at K-State.”

“Hancock’s work has demonstrated to these sorghum-producing countries that modern tannin-free sorghum varieties are excellent feed grain sources in poultry feed,” added Yohe.

Know Your Customer

Agricultural economist Tim Dalton was hired four years ago to conduct international research and teach The Global Agricultural Economy, Hunger

and Poverty course. He teaches during the fall semester and spends much of spring semester and summer traveling.

“Our students are interested in international topics and are world savvy,” Dalton commented. “We encourage them to think strategically about marketing agricultural products and to learn about food preferences in other countries. I consider it a basic business premise — know your customer.”

Dalton has four projects in Africa, including water-efficient maize research funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The project involves Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, and Mozambique, where farmers face a decision Kansas farmers are familiar with — the willingness to pay more for drought-tolerant varieties to get higher yields.

His research found that 60 percent of African farmers he surveyed were willing to pay more for drought-tolerant varieties developed in the United States.

“Dalton’s impact assessment work for us has been very effective,” Yohe stated.

View a video about this project at <http://ageconomics.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=598>



Inspecting a handful of poultry feed.



Children in Mozambique eat fortified porridge.

Courtesy of Joann Gruber

Valuable Collaborations

Since 1988, John Leslie, university distinguished professor and plant pathology department head, has made annual trips to Africa for research. The longest standing collaboration is with the Programme on Mycotoxins and Experimental Carcinogenesis (PROMEC unit) of the Medical Research Council in Tygerberg,

South Africa. The research focuses on identifying the *Fusarium* fungi on sorghum and millets and determining if fungi produce mycotoxins that are harmful to domesticated animals or humans.

“I collaborate with local scientists — who work for their national agricultural research system equivalent to our USDA — on INTSORMIL projects in Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Zambia,

Kenya, and Uganda,” Leslie said. “These efforts resulted in a unique collection of more than 20,000 isolates of *Fusarium*. The support for this research is more than \$1.5 million.”

K-State recently hosted a *Fusarium* Workshop that drew scientists from around the world. The location for the annual workshop alternates between Manhattan and another country.

Leslie has a long-term project with the Plant Pathology Institute of the Agricultural Research Center in Giza, Egypt, focused on *Fusarium* diseases of maize and sorghum, which are both similar to and different from those seen in the United States, and a disease of maize, late wilt, in the Middle East, primarily Egypt. He also works with colleagues in Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, and Burkina Faso through the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

“These projects relate closely to my work at K-State,” stated Leslie. “In many cases, the diseases and fungi we have are a subset of what is found in



John Leslie (standing at right) with colleagues from around the world at the 11th annual *Fusarium* Workshop in Manhattan.



Kenyan children take turns looking through Ted Cable's binoculars.

colleagues in the Czech Republic, Argentina, Hungary, and Syria to send samples to South Africa for the aphid genome research project, which began in spring 2011.

Smith, who also has aphid research collaborators in Egypt and Kenya, will teach and conduct research on Russian wheat aphid genomics at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa in September 2011. He also has research grants through the Kansas Wheat Commission and USDA, with the bulk of the research funded through South Africa.

Promote Kansas and Its Products

Whenever agricultural economist Vincent Amanor-Boadu travels, he sees himself as an ambassador of Kansas agriculture and the agri-food sector.

"I look for opportunities to sell and create linkages for our producers to secure markets," Amanor-Boadu said. "As I travel to Zambia and other countries, I'm advertising and talking up what we do here in Kansas in areas that would otherwise be closed to Kansas. As I interact with the agribusiness sector in Africa, I continuously search for opportunities for Kansas wheat, beef, soybean, and other agriculture products. We have three Zambians in our Masters in Agribusiness program and six undergraduates who are considering K-State graduate education opportunities."

The short-term goals of his project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, include understanding how smallholder farmers in Africa do business — and why they do it the way they do — and identifying opportunities for increasing efficiencies and effectiveness.

"The challenges confronting these African smallholder producers are similar to challenges confronting our small farmers in urban Kansas — in how they relate to their upstream and downstream supply chain partners and create value for themselves and the rest of the chain," commented the

Africa. The pathogens present in the United States appear to be a subset of those found in Africa, as the pathogens were probably imported along with the crop hundreds of years ago. The African pathogen populations often are larger, more diverse, and more complete than their counterparts here."

Combating the Russian Wheat Aphid

Wheat producers in northwest Kansas are familiar with the Russian wheat aphid and the damage it can

cause. In South Africa, the damage is more intense. Entomologist Mike Smith has been collaborating with researchers in South Africa to find genes in wheat that could kill the insect or disrupt its reproductive process. Now they are turning their attention to the genome of the aphid itself and hope to find weak links in the aphid's genes that will help wheat resistance genes work better.

He contributed Russian wheat aphid DNA from Kansas and contacted

economist. “We are collecting data in Zambia that will be used by our students. We plan to send a master’s student to help collect field data, exposing him or her to the challenges of working in low-resource environments.”

Soybeans for Dinner

In 2000, the American Soybean Association created the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) to bring the benefits of U.S. soy protein to the more than 800 million people worldwide, including 200 million children, who are undernourished. Soy is well suited to provide the protein, calories, and other nutritional needs for this population.

Through WISHH-sponsored trips to the South African region and funding from the National Sorghum Checkoff Program and Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, grain scientist Sajid Alavi has developed extensive contacts with

nonprofit organizations involved in food aid. He researches new fortified foods such as sorghum/soybean porridge mixes and precooked bean analog products.

Adding hot water to these foods produces a nutritious meal that can help combat micronutrient and caloric deficiencies and conditions such as anemia and stunted growth.

Alavi supervises K-State’s extrusion lab and has worked with Sabetha high-school students and industry partners to produce and ship fortified products to Mozambique and Haiti through the Grains for Hope project.

Alavi explained that K-State also is involved in trilateral efforts, where K-State partners with a more-developed country in closer proximity, such as South Africa or India, to help less-developed countries like Mozambique. Part of this effort is funded by the

USDA International Science and Education program.

“These efforts have multiple benefits,” Alavi said. “We create good will toward the United States, promote physical and food security, and create new uses for U.S. grains and equipment.”

And countries that are food secure — able to feed their populations — are less prone to conflict, Alavi added.

Nina Lilja coordinates international programs in the College of Agriculture and promotes lunch-time presentations for faculty to share their projects. She also created a database that identifies faculty in the college and K-State Research and Extension who have international ties. To access the database, go to www.ag.ksu.edu/INT/.

—Gloria Holcombe

Villagers in Kathonzwani, Kenya, listen intently during a presentation. The patterns hanging from the ceiling are used to make clothing.



Courtesy of Timothy Dillon

Horticulturist Rhonda Janke shows the ADT4 group the student-maintained vegetable garden.



Peaceful Partnership

In a war-torn country, on fields scarred by years of conflict, agriculture is nurturing peace between members of Kansas' National Guard and residents of villages in Laghman Province in Afghanistan.

"The biggest surprise for me," says Col. Howard Wheeler, a guardsman from Manhattan, "is the Laghman farmer's ability to produce in some of the most difficult terrain on the planet. Their processes could be more efficient, but they are very adept at what they do.

"I am sure that if we could turn back the clock 100 years and spend time with our great-granddads on their farms, we would learn many lessons that have been lost. Coming to Afghanistan is a lot like that."

In 2008, the U.S. government forged a unique partnership between the country's land-grant universities and the Army National Guard.

Members of the guard receive training and ongoing support from land-grant specialists before deploying to Afghanistan on what is known as an agribusiness development team (ADT). Nine states have active ADT projects.

"Our primary mission is agricultural development within the province," said Wheeler, who leads ADT3, the third of five teams planned to deploy from Kansas.

ADT3 arrived in Laghman Province on Christmas Day 2010 and will stay through most of this year. They have continued the work started by the two previous Kansas teams. Wheeler's group alone has completed 51 agriculture-related projects and presented 70 training sessions to local citizens.

"These projects have touched 126 villages, trained almost 1,500 farmers, and employed nearly 4,000 local citizens," he said.

ADT4 just completed training on the K-State campus. Plans have not yet been announced for the fifth guard team, but one of the training coordinators says the university is ready to help when called upon.

"We had faculty involved in Afghanistan before we took on the ADT project," said Craig Beardsley, who served 23 years on active duty with the guard and is the program administrator for the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center.

"K-State had experience with issues affecting Afghanistan. We were conducting research and talking with colleagues at other universities who also were doing this type of work. And, we continue to improve our knowledge of the country so we can improve our instruction to ADT team members."

While in Afghanistan, guardsmen stay in touch with K-State faculty by technology,

Entomologist Jeff Whitworth explains how to identify spiders to the first ADT group.

sometimes even taking pictures of insects or plant diseases and transmitting them to a K-State specialist for identification.

“Guardsmen say they really enjoy our training ... and they can ask any questions they want,” Beardsley said. “We teach them to take pictures, list their observation, and query our folks. Our faculty generally know where to go to get those answers.”

Bill Wood, an agent for K-State Research and Extension in Douglas County, also helps soldiers recognize their role in helping citizens.

“From what I’ve read and heard, the ADT team members act a lot like extension specialists; they are helping the local Afghan citizens learn how to become ‘extension agents’ so the system continues after the ADT teams are gone,” he said.

Wood, who co-teaches a session during the campus training, said many other countries are trying to copy the U.S. land-grant system “so they can help their citizens improve their quality of life.”

“If the U.S. armed forces can help the local communities and Afghan government to implement the extension educational process in their country, then their food production and land management can improve, which should improve their quality of life and perhaps help them learn how to live in peace.”

Steven Graham, assistant to the dean and director who coordinates campus training along with Beardsley, noted that the ADT’s work includes a connection to Afghan high schools and a two-year college, whose students get hands-on experience.

“One of the projects I’m involved in is ‘agricultural professionals,’” said Lt. Brian Knipp (BS ’08 agronomy), a guardsman from Hutchinson. “The concept includes bringing



in promising local nationals and developing them to become a resource for their fellow citizens.

“By the time ADT2 arrived in 2010, the interns had grown in competency and their skills allowed them to be integrated into our plans as representatives of the Afghan populace who, with our support, were able to bring improved agricultural methodology into practice within the province.”

Knipp said ADT3 also has worked closely with the country’s director of agriculture, irrigation, and livestock on projects relevant to the province. Recently, 125,000 trees were distributed to people in Laghman.

“Diplomacy determines success or failure in this environment,” Wheeler said. “This is true whether we’re working with farmers in the field or involved in a meeting with the provincial governor or a minister from Kabul. ADT is a diplomatic instrument. Our projects are not the primary method of swaying the populace, but they are the vehicle for interacting with the public.

“The relationship that we build with our fellow farmers and businessmen is what sways the populace to the side of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the coalition forces.”

—Pat Melgares



Agriculture students help maintain K-State's scholarship ranking

We're No. 1

K-State has a national reputation for earning prestigious scholarships, and College of Agriculture students constantly help K-State achieve this goal.

Among U.S. public universities, K-State ranks No. 1 in receiving major scholarships, such as the Rhodes, Truman, and Udall. K-State is also the only public university to make it into the Top Ten ranking of scholarships at all U.S. universities, coming in strong at No. 7.

In the last three years, K-State has had 25 major scholarship winners, with eight from the College of Agriculture. This includes a Rhodes, Vincent Hofer; two Trumans, Dena Bunnell and Amy Sents; two Rotary International Ambassadorials, Molly (Kuhlman) Suing and Jamie Smidt; a Udall, Andrew McGowan; and two Fulbrights, Jacque LaRue and Hyatt Frobose.

The scholarship selection process is not easy and involves more than filling out a form. Applicants work with their advisers to make sure they meet all the qualifications and carefully prepare for interviews to show they are excelling academically and as leaders through their involvement in on- and off-campus activities.

These students epitomize the College of Agriculture's best and brightest. They also positively represent K-State while traveling across the globe.

International Travel Benefits

College of Agriculture faculty explain to students how studying abroad can benefit anyone's education, and these students have seen firsthand what a difference it makes to step out of their comfort zones.

As part of the Rhodes scholarship, Vincent Hofer is studying at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. Hofer (BS '08 agribusiness) knows that when dealing with future business, truly understanding different cultures will be an important strategy.

"International study is a transformative experience," Hofer said. "Studying or working in various countries really helps to instill a knowledge base that cannot be replicated in a book or classroom in Manhattan, Kansas.

"It's interesting to see that no matter how far away from Kansas, America's soft power has inevitably penetrated — from the music on the radio to the McDonald's or Starbucks on the street corner."

Although Hofer has studied in several countries, he said each country offers a valuable new experience.

"There's nothing quite like that huge adrenaline surge when you first land in a foreign country," Hofer said. "From working with subsistence farmers in Central America, U.S. Embassy staff and Peace Corps volunteers in the Dominican Republic or fruit exporters in Australia, all of these experiences will help shape my future pursuits."

The chance to dive head first into a brand new place can be intimidating but extremely rewarding.

"You can learn a language or read books, but you cannot ever truly experience another culture unless you go and actually live in it," Truman scholar Bunnel explained. "The more places you experience, the more perspectives you can learn to understand and pull from."

Udall scholar Andrew McGowan (BS '10 agronomy) learned that his views of China quickly changed when he experienced living there.

"Rural China is totally different than

the big cities like Beijing and Shanghai. Mainly there is much more poverty, and it is much less developed," McGowan said. "I stayed in the homes of a couple families while I was there and got a much more intimate view of what life in China is like, as well as the great diversity that exists within China."

As a Rotary ambassadorial scholar, Suing (BS '08 bakery science and management) used her time abroad to earn her master's degree from University College Dublin in Ireland.

"The benefits of studying abroad are infinite," Suing said. "In my case, where I studied international relations with an emphasis on agricultural development, I was able to utilize my ag background from K-State while learning about the wide realm of international relations from a perspective entirely independent of the United States."

Although no international study was required with the Truman scholarship, Amy Sents (BS '11 animal science) has been to the United Kingdom, Ireland, and South Africa with K-State study



Vincent Hofer stands in front of the Rhodes House, the central building at Oxford University for Rhodes scholars.



Truman scholar Amy Sents working at a large hog operation in central Germany.

abroad programs and to Germany and Switzerland with the International Four-H Youth Exchange (IFYE). In addition to the unlimited opportunities in education, Sents learned more about herself on her travels.

“Studying abroad is an irreplaceable opportunity not only to learn about other cultures and academic programs, but also to grow as an individual,” said Sents. “It challenges your morals, philosophy, communication skills, and perseverance. Upon returning to the U.S., you are a more educated citizen.”

Common Interest in Agriculture

One thing these scholars have in common is their interest in agriculture. After experiencing life in other cultures and seeing different agricultural techniques across the globe, they said their love and respect for its role in society has grown.

Because of her international experience, Sents’ passion for working with animals is stronger than ever.

“On each occasion my international experiences exposed me to animal agriculture and veterinary medicine in a new light, which convinced me further of my decision to work toward

protecting the health of our livestock and public,” Sents said.

During her time as a K-State student, Jamie Smidt (BS ’08) took advantage of several study-abroad programs. After graduation, she took a job with an oceanic research organization and sailed on three two-month expeditions to the Bering Sea, Antarctica, and the South Pacific. Studying in these different environments helped Smidt discover different paths her degree could take her.

“I quickly realized I didn’t want to use my agricultural communications and journalism degree in the traditional sense of editing, writing, or designing for an agricultural publication or newspaper,” Smidt stated. “I think my travels have strengthened my interest in agriculture and focused that interest on sustainable international development.”

As a Rotary ambassadorial scholar, she studies agricultural economics at La Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile in Santiago, Chile.

Dena Bunnell (BS ’10 agricultural communications and journalism) traveled to Kenya and China through K-State programs.

“When I was working at a grade school in Kenya, I saw a child who was so weak from hunger that he could not stand on his own.” Bunnell said. “It made me grasp the magnitude of what many people in low-income countries face every day.”

Her time in China inspired her to take her agriculture career a step further.

“I went thinking I wanted to do something international but not really knowing what,” Bunnell stated. “My experiences there steered me toward international development and particularly to agricultural development.”

“When I went to Korea, I already knew I wanted to be an agriculture teacher,” explained Fulbright scholar Jacque LaRue (BS ’09 agricultural education). “While I was in South Korea, I taught conversational English. Through this experience, I realized how passionate I am for teaching agriculture.”

Leaders Present and Future

These scholars were leaders in department, college, and university organizations while in college. and the chance to study abroad helped each one learn new ways to better their professions through their experiences.

LaRue, who teaches in Marysville, encourages her students to consider all their learning options.

“Using my experiences from Korea, I am able to talk to my students about the opportunities that are available to them,” LaRue explained. “We are able to talk about how our actions in agriculture here in Kansas affect people worldwide. I hope that my experience not only has an impact on me, but that I can use this experience to positively affect others.”

Their individual international experiences benefit their futures and will ultimately help the future of agriculture as a whole. Being able to live in another country and see how different living environments and economies work can help prepare students for their chosen fields on a much larger scale.

While McGowan studied mostly language while in China, the time he spent overseas led to a different view of how he could use his experience in soil science in the future.

“I feel like my time in China made me more aware of the rest of the world, and how closely connected the U.S. is to the rest of the world — China especially,” McGowan said.

“The experience broadened the context in which I view the problems that my field deals with and drove home the necessity of international collaboration. Now, when I’m studying or doing research, I always try to imagine the international dimension of my work and seek out opportunities to collaborate with students and researchers in other countries.”

The chance to live in a different country and get a real feel for how their economy and lifestyle works has helped these alumni understand the impact of agriculture in the United States and Kansas.

While studying in Ireland, Suing had the chance to visit 12 countries and see how what happens here in Kansas can affect other countries’ agriculture.

“Kansas agriculture has immense global impact — some positive and some negative — but I think many Kansas farmers or agricultural workers don’t realize this,” Suing said. “Realizing your impact on not only the nation, but the whole world, can inspire ethical decisions and pride in one’s work.”

“Although I was taught about international trade and agricultural policy at K-State, I understood it far better when I traveled to countries that couldn’t possibly grow wheat or raise cattle, but had ample supplies of bread

and hamburger,” Smidt observed. “In contrast, I’ve been to poor, isolated countries in which there are no imports, and people subsist on perhaps only 15 food items, all of which are grown locally.”

After experiencing life in other cultures and seeing different agricultural techniques across the globe, they said their love and respect for agriculture’s role in society has grown.

Hofer explained that observing the world from outside the United States can open your eyes to the fact that not all global problems are simple fixes.

“World issues that seem easy to resolve from a tractor seat in Kansas quickly become more complex when

immersed in the local politics and economic/social environments,” Hofer stated.

Available Opportunities

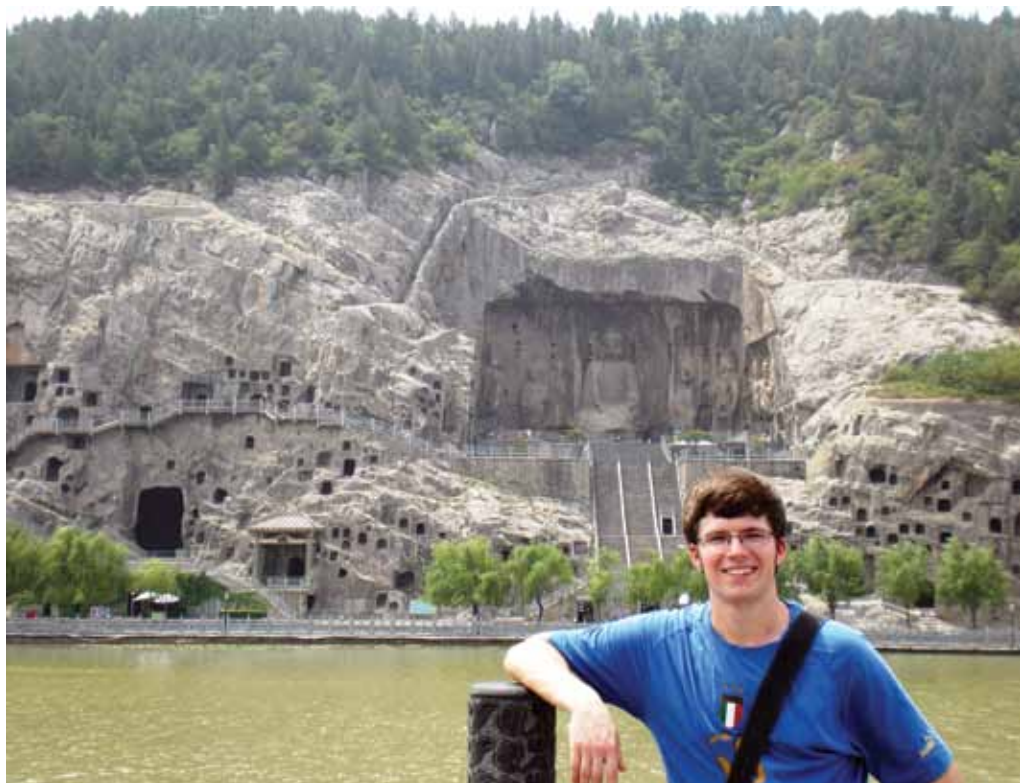
These scholars have seen the world and taken advantage of life-changing experiences, many of which might not have been possible without the guidance and drive to try for these prestigious scholarships.

K-State and the College of Agriculture offer many leadership opportunities, quality advising, and support for students who are interested in applying for scholarships.

“Our philosophy in the College of Agriculture is to help every student find their individualized path to success, said associate dean Don Boggs. “None of these students would have stuck out as national scholarship winners when they first arrived at K-State. But they took advantage of their opportunities, put in the extra time and hard work to excel, and were rewarded for their efforts.

“Their successes should inspire other students to follow their passion, set their goals high, and never think they are not good enough to try for the highest rung of the ladder.”

—Kristen Clarke



At right, Udall scholar Andrew McGowan visits the Longmen Grottoes in Henan, China. It contains more than 100,000 statues of Buddha and his disciples dating back to 493 A.D.

Student Accolades



Borlaug Fellowship Opens Doors for Rachel Opole

Rachel Opole grew up in Nairobi, Kenya's capitol, and the K-State doctoral student developed an early interest in livestock and crop production. Those interests, largely influenced by her parents, inspired her desire to improve crops grown to feed people. To enhance her work in that area, Opole earned the Norman E. Borlaug Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Program (LEAP) fellowship, administered by the University of California–Davis.

The Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, based at Texas A&M University, carries on the work of Dr. Norman Borlaug, an agricultural scientist who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in food production and hunger alleviation.

Vara Prasad, associate professor of agronomy, advises Opole. He also was an adviser to four of the 11 Borlaug fellows who have come to K-State since 2008.

Opole's research focuses on how finger millet, a plant widely used as a cereal crop in arid areas of Africa and Asia, adapts to environmental stresses such as high temperatures and drought. As part of the one-year fellowship, she will return to Kenya to study for three months, then to India for another three months. In Kenya, Opole will replicate the research she's done in Kansas, and in India she will analyze different types of finger millet. She will return to Kansas for the final six months of the fellowship.

"The idea is to evaluate the different varieties and find those that have the most resistance to environmental stresses," said 50-year-old Opole, who has been working toward her doctorate since 2008.

There is an interesting twist to Opole's story. She earned a bachelor's degree, then entered the workforce, then completed a master's degree, and again returned to work before coming to Kansas to pursue her doctorate — all while raising five children who currently live in Kenya with her husband, Philip Oduor.

Once she's completed the fellowship and her doctoral degree in agronomy, Opole plans to return to Kenya to work toward improving food production.

—Mary Lou Peter

Students Win International Case Study Competition

A team of students from the Department of Agricultural Economics earned first place in the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association's case study competition in Frankfurt, Germany, in June.

Graduate students Brady Brewer, David Boussios, Cooper Morris, Jessica Johnson, and Jaeljattin Jean were given four hours to analyze a business case and craft an executive summary of the problem and their proposed solution. The team presented their analysis and answered questions during two rounds of judging.

The case study focused on Grameen Danone Foods, a Bangladesh dairy marketing yogurt. The company is a joint venture between a bank and a popular yogurt brand sold in the United States.

"The problem was that this joint venture wanted to meet a sales target and net income goal, yet they also wanted to be a social company," Brewer said. "Our solution not only had to provide value to the parent company, but also to the poverty-stricken areas in Bangladesh.

"We focused on the sales goal, tightening the supply chain and distribution system, and increasing the per-cow productivity of the small farmers."

The University of California–Santa Clara placed second and InHolland University took third.

"The solutions were very diverse from each of the teams," Brewer said. "While we implemented extension programs, InHolland focused on providing useful capital to the farmers in the form of solar cars, while California–Santa Clara focused on the financial ratios and performance aspects."

The team received support in the form of sponsorships from the following: CHS Inc., Koch Industries, Cargill, K-State Department of Agricultural Economics, and K-State Graduate Student Council.

—Shannon Krueger



Communications and Marketing

Crops Team Claims Another Title

The K-State Crops Team took first place in the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) national crops judging contest. They also took home four of the top five individual placings. This is the second straight title in this contest for the K-State team, and the tenth in the past 13 years. The team members were photographed in a field of blooming canola. From left, Kevin Donnelly, coach; Chad Huffman, Cunningham; Jason Unruh, Peabody; Scott Henry, Goff; Jake Wyrill, Kirwin; Levi Larkins, Belvue; and Kelly Yunghans, Leavenworth.



Courtesy of Stu Warren

Two horticulture students — Christy Postlewait, left, and Jennifer Kiser — strike a pose by topiary yew at Great Dixter House and Gardens near East Sussex. Six students, 13 garden enthusiasts, and three faculty toured English gardens in June. Visit the Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources Facebook page for more photos and current department news.

Scholarship Winners

- Floriculture majors Bridget Baker and Kate Sakaguchi each received a \$1,000 national Joseph Shinoda Memorial Scholarship.
- Caroline Bacon, bakery science and management major, received the 2011 scholarship from the Society of Bakery Women during a breakfast sponsored by the Allied Trades of the Baking Industry at the annual meeting of the American Society of Baking in Chicago.
- Morgan Lindsay, junior in agribusiness, Brookville, received a \$1,000 scholarship for being a student volunteer in Telefund 2011.



Courtesy of Mickey Ransom

Tran and Mangus Receive NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

Angela Tran (BS '10 agronomy), Prairie Village, received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She is shown, above left, serving as assistant coach to the K-State Soil Judging Team at the national competition in Oregon. Tran is an agronomy graduate student and her current research focuses on evaluating the effect of eastern red cedar encroachment on tallgrass prairie-derived soils. She was a member of two national championship soil teams. Emily Mangus (BS '08 biological and agricultural engineering), Manhattan, also won a 2011 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and an honorable mention in 2010. She is studying bioengineering at the University of Kansas. Each NSF student fellow receives more than \$120,000 over three years, which includes a yearly \$30,000 stipend and \$10,500 in lieu of tuition and fees.

Grain Science Teams Win Entrepreneurial Contest

Three teams from the Department of Grain Science and Industry competed in the finals of the Next Big Thing competition.

“Monthly Bread Bakers Club” members Josey Steeples, Tim Becker, Ashley Mueller, and Brandon Hoag took first in the product division. Alexandra Bastian, Nick Meyer, Bethany Vosburgh, and Sara McClanahan placed second with “Midwest Sampling Solutions.”

Jack Peterson, John Hinds, Clinton VenJohn, and Kyle Keller took first place in the service division with “Dominion Pest Elimination.” The first place teams won \$2,000 and the second place team won \$1,500.

Before making their formal presentations, all teams gave a short pitch to a panel of judges. The “Monthly Bread Bakers Club” and “Dominion Pest Elimination” teams also won that competition, earning an additional \$250.

The teams prepared their entries, including written feasibility plans, in Fred Fairchild’s product development class.

This is the third year for the competition, and each year grain science has had one or more winning teams.



Ashley Mueller (from left), bakery science and management student from Hiawatha and president of the Alpha Mu honorary grain science society, handed out goody bags to students during finals week. Here **Josh Groene**, milling science and management student from Winfield, **Sarah Moore**, bakery science and management student from Alabaster, Ala., and **Regan Doyle**, milling science and management student from Alto, Mich., open their bags to find snacks and drinks, along with more information about the society, what it does and, how to be a part of Alpha Mu.

Patents

Research Teams Granted

K-State researchers have been issued two patents — one to supply a plentiful and noncontroversial source of stem cells and the other to control a devastating parasite that causes millions of dollars in crop damage.

The patent for *Cultures, Products and Methods Using Umbilical Cord Matrix Cells* was issued for work by Mark Weiss and Deryl Troyer, professors of anatomy and physiology; Duane Davis, professor of animal sciences and industry; and former K-State professor Kathy Mitchell.

The patent addresses procedures to isolate, culture, and bank stem cells found in Wharton's jelly — the substance that cushions blood vessels in the umbilical cord. These cells are called cord matrix stem cells and are different

than those obtained from the blood cells in umbilical cords.

"While there are ethical controversies with stem cells gathered from other tissues in the body, stem cells in Wharton's jelly can be harvested noninvasively and therefore are not controversial," Davis said.

The team has explored numerous applications for the stem cells, including using them to repair the nervous system, transporting capsules of anti-cancer drugs directly into tumors, and transplantation of the cells from one species to another.

Compositions and Methods for Controlling Plant Parasitic Nematodes was developed by plant pathologists Harold Trick and Timothy Todd and

biologists Michael Herman and Judith Roe.

They focused on the soybean cyst nematode, a destructive parasite that attacks the roots of soybean plants. Farmers across the country lose nearly \$860 million every year because of the nematode. Todd said that every county in eastern and south central Kansas that produces soybeans has soybean cyst nematodes.

Through genetic engineering, the team produced soybean plants with specific traits, so that when nematodes feed on the roots they ingest these traits that turn off specific nematode genes.

The research was funded by the Kansas Soybean Commission and the United Soybean Board.



Duane Davis

Harold Trick

Faculty Notes

Agricultural Economics

Andrew Barkley, professor, is the 2011 outstanding academic adviser for the College of Agriculture.

Animal Sciences and Industry

The department and Cargill co-hosted the Association of Meat Science's 64th Reciprocal Meat Conference June 19–23, with a record 758 registrants. K-State is the first university to host RMC three times. **Michael Dikeman** chaired the program committee, and **John Unruh** serves on the AMSA Board and will chair next year's RMC program committee.

Honors from the American Society of Animal Science/American Dairy Science Association Midwest Section meetings: **Jon Bergstrom**, swine research lab coordinator, received the **Tim S. Stahly** Outstanding Swine Nutrition Midwest Graduate Student Award as well as being named an ASAS Young Scholar. **Mike Brouk**, dairy specialist, was elected to serve on the ADSA Midwest Board. **Karen Schmidt**, professor, received the Milk Industry Foundation Teaching Award in Dairy Science.

Fadi Aramouni, professor of food science, was chosen as one of two Faculty of the Spring 2011 Semester. **Dave Nichols** (MS '79, PhD '82 animal sciences), professor and teaching coordinator, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising.

Agricultural Research Center–Hays

John Jaeger, beef cattle scientist, presented a two-day short course on using ultrasound for Technology of Costa Rica and CORFOGA, Corporation of Cattlemen.

Communications

Eric Atkinson, K-State Radio Network, received a citation for distinguished service to Kansas 4-H.

Results from the Association for Communication Excellence (ACE)/National Extension Technology (NETC) Conference: **Elaine Edwards**,

news media services and marketing coordinator, was installed as ACE president. **Jason Ellis**, assistant professor, joined the ACE board as north central region director. Award winners were: **Deb Pryor** and **Kerri Ebert** — Gold Award and Outstanding Professional Skill Award in Distance Education and Instructional Design for *Youth Livestock Safety*; **Donna Sheffield**, **Bob Holcombe**, **Nancy Zimmerli-Cates**, **Amy Hartman**, **Gina Nixon**, **Jeff Whitworth**, **Phil Sloderbeck**, and **Holly Davis** — Silver Award in Technical Publications for *Crop Insects of Kansas*; **Jeff Wichman** — Bronze Award in Electronic Media, Audio, for *Agribusiness Development Team #3*.

Entomology

Tom Phillips, professor, presented a talk on the fumigation and IPM alternatives for arthropod pests of museums at the Meeting on Cultural Heritage Pests at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Piacenza, Italy, in June.

Grain Science and Industry

GEAPS International, formerly the Grain Elevator and Processing Society, presented the Industry Leader Award to department head **Dirk Maier**. **Jon Faubion** (BS '73 biology, PhD '80 grain science) earned the 2011 AACC International Excellence in Teaching Award.

Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources

Jack Fry, professor of turfgrass science and golf course management, received the 2011 Fred V. Grau Turfgrass Science Award from the Crop Science Society of America.

Steve Keeley, turfgrass scientist and instructor of several courses in the horticulture curriculum, was named a 2011 Teacher Fellow by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture.

Candice Shoemaker (MS '82 horticulture), professor of horticulture and director of graduate studies in horticultural therapy, received the

Horticultural Therapy Award from the American Horticulture Society. **Kim Williams** (BS '88 horticulture), professor of greenhouse management, earned the 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Educator Award from the American Society of Horticultural Science.

Plant Pathology

Bikram Gill, university distinguished professor, was awarded the Frank N. Meyer Medal for Plant Genetic Resources for his distinctive service to the National Plant Germplasm System and recognition of his outstanding record of service.

Gamma Sigma Delta Awards

Gamma Sigma Delta, agriculture honor society, presented these faculty awards: **Anita Dille**, associate professor of weed ecology, Outstanding Teaching Award; **Curtis Thompson**, professor of weed management, Excellence in Extension Award; **Fred Fairchild**, professor of feed science, Distinguished Faculty Award; **Dale Bremer**, associate professor of turfgrass science, Outstanding Research Award; and **DeAnn Presley**, assistant professor of environmental soil science and management, Early Career Award.

In Memorium

Linda (Perkins) Gleason, 56, St. John, died May 24, 2011. She and her son Jeffrey were killed in a car accident during a tornado in the Stafford/Barton County area. She was an extension agent in Stafford County from 1985 to 1991.

Georgia Wertzberger, 78, Manhattan, died May 7, 2011. She served as the 4-H Youth Development office specialist for more than 47 years. She retired in 1997.

Frances M. Wolfe, 91, Kansas City, Kan., died April 6, 2011. She began her career in 1970 as an assistant county extension home economist in Wyandotte County. In 1973, her title changed to Wyandotte County extension home economist, foods and nutrition. She remained in that position until her retirement in 1989.

Plant Pathologist and Grain Scientist Earn K-State's Highest Honor



John Leslie speaks to a class during the 11th Fusarium Workshop.

Two innovative College of Agriculture faculty — John Leslie, professor and head of the Department of Plant Pathology, and Xiuzhi “Susan” Sun, professor of grain science and industry — were selected university distinguished professors, a lifetime title and the highest honor K-State bestows on its faculty.

“By promoting teaching, research and creative endeavors, and service, these professors illustrate the caliber of K-State faculty and their commitment to education,” said April Mason, K-State provost and senior vice president.

Leslie has gained international attention for his work on fungal genetics, particularly with members of the genus *Fusarium*. Fungi in this group are widespread geographically. They can be devastating through epidemic plant diseases or the production of mycotoxins that create trade barriers, pollute food supplies, and threaten the health and livelihood of humans and domesticated animals.

He is the driving force behind the annual Fusarium Workshop. View an audio slide story at www.ksre.ksu.edu/slidestories.

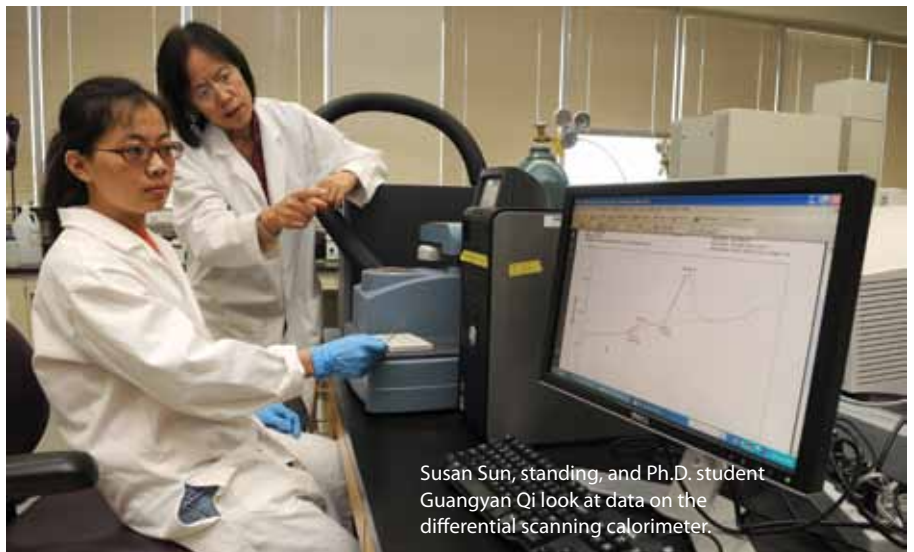
Sun established and leads the Bio Materials and Technology Laboratory and is co-director and founder of the Center for Biobased Polymers by Design. Her expertise focuses on how various plant and grain molecules — such as proteins, lipids, and sugars — can be used to create biobased materials that are safer, more durable, and

environmentally friendly. She has been internationally recognized for her expertise in biobased adhesives and biodegradable plastics, especially soy adhesives.

Although they work in different fields, Leslie and Sun have much in common. Each has authored or contributed to more than 100 journal articles and books. They also have been invited lecturers at numerous international seminars and have secured millions of dollars in grant funding. They also have received various awards and honors from their peers and international organizations.

Leslie’s work has been granted a patent, and Sun has eight patents, the most recent for a peptide-based adhesive that could be used in outer space. Both Sun and Leslie mentor and advise graduate students in their respective departments.

Other university distinguished professors in the college: Barbara Valent and Bikram Gill, plant pathology; Ted Schroeder, agricultural economics; Chuck Rice, agronomy; Jim Marsden, regents distinguished professor of animal sciences.



Susan Sun, standing, and Ph.D. student Guangyan Qi look at data on the differential scanning calorimeter.

Weed Ecologist Wins Outstanding Teaching Award



Anita Dille and Ray Asebedo look at weed specimens in the greenhouse.

earned a \$1,000 undergraduate research award from the Weed Science Society of America to conduct independent research on Palmer amaranth's response to nitrogen fertilizer forms.

He presented his research at the North Central Weed Science Society annual meeting, where he placed first in the undergraduate student poster contest.

She and weed specialist Dallas Peterson

Anita Dille, associate professor of agronomy, teaches her students how to recognize weeds and how to manage them. At spring commencement, Dille received a Kansas Commerce Bank Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for her excellent efforts working with students.

"Dr. Anita Dille's courses are not sit-and-take-notes type courses," said master's student Ray Asebedo. "She presents information in such a way that raises curiosity, stimulating student questions that lead to whole class discussions. Her teaching methods encourage students to pursue knowledge, not wait for it."

During Dille's class, Asebedo (BS '10 agronomy), Olsburg, was inspired to pursue information on Palmer amaranth, a weed that threatens genetically modified cotton and soybeans and is toxic to livestock.

She served as faculty sponsor for his research application, which

coached the K-State weeds team to a second-place finish at the first national WeedOlympics in Knoxville, Tenn.

A native of Canada, Dille came to K-State in 2000. She currently teaches Weed Science, Integrated Weed Management, and Weed Ecology. In addition to her teaching duties, she advises the Wheat State Agronomy Club and up to 20 undergraduate students on their academic programs in consulting and production/business and industry options in agronomy.

She procured grant funds to start the Agronomy Learning Farm. She now coordinates the 80-acre site where students can get hands-on experiences in crop production and pest management within their four-year agronomy curriculum.

The award, which is sponsored by the William T. Kemper Foundation and the Commerce Bancshares Foundation, includes a \$2,500 honorarium.



President's Award of Excellence Goes to Rural Forester

K-State presented a 2011 Presidents Award of Excellence for Unclassified Professionals to Robert "Bob" Atchison, rural forestry coordinator for the Kansas Forest Service, for his productivity and innovation.

Atchison is responsible for statewide coordination and promotion of various programs that provide professional forestry assistance to rural landowners, such as the Forest Stewardship Program.

His leadership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, State Technical Committee secures forestry cost-share assistance funds for landowners to implement forestry practices, including tree plantings that help reduce sedimentation into federal reservoirs.

He is responsible for the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program that annually inventories the size and condition of Kansas forestland.

Atchison also helped develop the Kansas Forest Service's Forest Action Plan for federal fiscal years 2011–2015. The plan prompted continued connectivity to the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program and fiscal authorization levels of approximately \$1.75 million annually. The plan uses geographic information system (GIS) data layers to identify high priority areas to focus resources to protect and sustain forests and windbreaks in Kansas.

Class Notes

Corrections to class notes in the spring 2011 Ag Report:

Anne Hazlett (BS '95 agricultural communications) is the chief counsel of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee.

Mike Seyfert (BS '96 agricultural economics) is the republican staff director of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee. He has worked for Sen. Pat Roberts for 14 years in various positions.

1952

George Jorgensen (BS natural resource management), Troy, retired in 1984 after 39 years with the Soil Conservation Service. He has been recognized nationally for his many volunteer activities with the Lions Club; rural fire department; Chamber of Commerce; First Baptist Church; Doniphan County Historical and Soil and Water Conservation societies; community garden club and cemetery board; the Missouri River Basin Council; and the Glacial Hills Resource, Conservation, and Development.

1953

Family and friends of **Henry Gardiner** (BS animal sciences) kicked off fundraising for K-State's Henry C. Gardiner Scholarship and Lecture Series. The Stockgrowers State Bank of Ashland donated \$25,000 and the proceeds (\$10,000) from the #2 lot in the Gardiner Angus Sale went to the fund. Seventeen Gardiner Angus cooperators donated the proceeds of the average of their bulls. To date, about \$170,000 has been raised.

1970

Lee Borck (BS agricultural economics) was elected to the 2011 Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame. Drovers CattleNetwork published a feature about Borck. www.cattlenetwork.com/drovers/features/Lee-Borck-Visionary-leader-in-the-heartland-125363418.html

1972

John Del Campo (BS bakery science and management) received the Robert A. Fischer Distinguished Service

Award during a ceremony at Baking Tech 2011 in Chicago. The award recognizes outstanding service and leadership to the American Society of Baking.

1977

Don Boggs (MS animal sciences), associate dean for academic programs, was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective all-discipline honor society.

1984

Dennis Fike (BS agricultural economics), Manhattan, is senior vice president, risk management for Frontier Farm Credit. He previously served as senior vice president, credit and has been with the Farm Credit System for more than 27 years.

1989

Scott Eilert (BS animal sciences), Cargill vice president for meat technology, is president-elect of the American Meat Science Association. He also is an adjunct faculty member for the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

1991

Chuck Warta (BS agricultural economics), vice president of Cargill Animal Nutrition, presented "Building Leadership and Company Culture in a Global Organization" for K-State's College of Business Administration Business Ethics Lecture Series and Globalization Initiative. Warta has 20 years of extensive international management and marketing experience.

1997

Ann Brackenridge (BS, MS '99, PhD '03 animal sciences), technology director for Cargill Value Added Meats – Retail, was elected to the American Meat Science Association Board. She also is an adjunct faculty member for the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

Eric Lewis (BS bakery science management) has been promoted to managing director of research and

product development for Flowers Foods. He has been serving as manufacturing manager at their Bardstown bakery.

2000

Teiah (Allen) Cox (BS recreation and parks administration), Littleton, Colo., and husband Chris announced the birth of their daughter, Emma Parker Cox, Aug. 27, 2010. Teiah is a realtor in Denver.

2001

Brandie (Rice) Disberger (BS agricultural education, MS '03 secondary education) is the new agricultural education instructor in the Department of Communications. Her husband **William** (BS '00 ag ed, MS '03 secondary ed) is the assistant director of admissions at K-State.

2002

Deanna (Devereaux) Retzlaff (PhD food science), assistant professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, was honored by the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Corps for outstanding advising and mentoring of distance students in the military who are working toward food science degrees.

2003

Chris (BS milling science and management, MS '08 grain science) and **Brandi** (BS '05 bakery science and management) **Miller**, St. George, announced the birth of their daughter Sophia Marie May 23, 2011. They also have a son Braden. Chris is an instructor, and Brandi is the distance education coordinator for the Department of Grain Science and Industry.

In Memorium

C. Ancel Armstrong, (BS '58 dairy production), 77, Manhattan, died Aug. 5, 2011. He worked for the Kansas Artificial Breeding Service Unit for 11 years. Then after much travel and research, he created New Breeds Industries. He focused on Simmental genetics, serving as founder and president of the Kansas Simmental Association and president of the American Simmental Association.



Kansas Ag and Rural Leadership Announces Class XI Members

Alumni and faculty taking part in the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) Class XI:

Dan Atkisson (BS '09 agricultural technology management), Stockton; **Amy Bickel** (BS '99 agricultural journalism/animal sciences), Burrton; **Debra Bolton**, K-State Research and Extension specialist, Garden City; **Jarrod Bowser** (BS '07 agricultural economics/animal sciences), Circleville; **Randall Debler** (BS '04 animal sciences), Alma; **Brandon Depenbusch** (BS '02, MS '08, PhD '09 animal sciences), Great Bend; **Tanner Ehmke** (BS '00 agricultural economics), Healy; **Andrea Feldkamp**, K-State Research and Extension agent, Manhattan; **Mark Fowler** (BS '92 milling science and management, MS '06 agricultural economics), Manhattan; **Aaron Harries** (BS '95 agricultural journalism), Manhattan; **Kelsey Holste**, (MS '08 agricultural economics, Manhattan; **Todd Jennison** (BS '05 agribusiness), Scott City; **Joe Muller** (BS '07 agribusiness), Coffeyville; **Craig Poore** (BS '03 animal sciences), Alton; **Jonathan Schmidt**, (BS '09 agricultural technology management), Minneapolis; **Tyler Van Winkle**, (MS '08 agricultural economics), Manhattan.

The two-year training will include nine in-state seminars; a "Blue Chip" seminar, which is an executive review of a Fortune 500 corporation's (Monsanto) strategic management processes; and a tour to Washington, D.C., where they will study decision making on the federal level. The class's capstone event will be an international study tour to Peru in 2013.

For more information, visit www.karlprogram.com.



Back row from left: John Mathew, Jim Rempe, Aaron Harries, John Khoury. Front row: Lloyd Rooney, Dale Rodman, Bill Pursley. Fred Merrill was not present.

Grain Science Honors Alumni and Industry Leaders

The Department of Grain Science and Industry recognized eight distinguished individuals at its spring luncheon.

Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Aaron Harries, John Khoury, John Mathew, and Jim Rempe. Outstanding Alumni Awards went to Fred Merrill, Bill Pursley, Dale Rodman, and Lloyd Rooney.

Harries (BS '95 agricultural journalism), Manhattan, is the marketing director for the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

Khoury (BS '90 bakery science and management), Lenexa, serves as president and co-owner of Custom Foods, Inc., in DeSoto, which manufactures frozen dough products distributed throughout North America.

Mathew (PhD '96 grain science) is the principal scientist at Frito-Lay R&D in Plano, Texas, where he has been recognized for developing several trade secrets and nine patents. He helped establish recruiting programs for graduate students at K-State for Frito-Lay

R&D and undergraduate students at the Topeka manufacturing site.

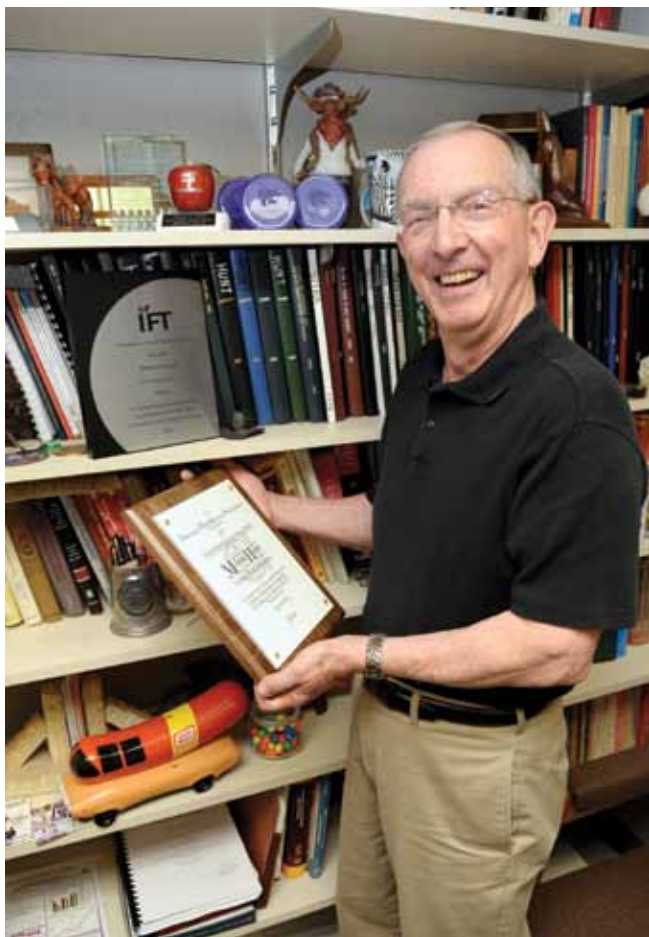
Rempe (BS '61 feed science and management), McPherson, held management positions in the feed industry for 36 years. He retired from Cargill Inc., in 1997.

Merrill (BS '49 milling science and management), Mission, was head of Archer Daniels Midland before founding his own milling business Cereal Food Processors.

Pursley (MS '75 grain science), Manhattan, is the vice president of food safety education for the American Institute of Baking International.

Rodman (BS '63 feed science and management) worked for Cargill Inc., for 37 years. He served as a board member of the Kansas Agricultural Value-Added Center, a precursor to the current Bioprocessing and Value-Added Program. In January 2011, he was appointed secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Rooney (BS '61 feed science and management, PhD '66 grain science) is a regents professor and faculty fellow at Texas A&M University.



Melvin Hunt Honored for Work in Meat Science

Melvin Hunt, professor emeritus of animal science, added two more awards to his impressive collection. In June, he was recognized by both the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) and Institute of Food Technologists (IFT).

Hunt (BS '65, MS '70 animal sciences) was named a Fellow at the IFT Annual Meeting and Food Expo in New Orleans, La. During the AMSA Reciprocal Meat Conference in Manhattan, he received the International Lectureship Award and gave a lecture in McCain Auditorium to encourage AMSA members to take advantage of international events and opportunities.

He was honored for his contributions to meat color research, pigment chemistry, and meat processing, especially his work with the premature browning of ground beef and its significance to food safety.

Along with his research in meat science, Hunt was the primary author of the AMSA Guidelines for Meat Color Measurement, which is widely used in the international meat industry. He now leads the committee to revise them.

He also was recognized for his excellence in undergraduate and graduate instruction and for his administrative leadership of K-State's undergraduate food science programs.

His global involvement has had a major impact on the meat science industry. He serves on the editorial board of *Meat Science* and is the U.S. contact for the International Congress of Meat Science and Technology (ICoMST). In addition to serving on organizing and technical program committees for ICoMST meetings, he has been a speaker or session chair for nine meetings outside the United States.

Hunt is the only U.S. representative on the European Union research project Q-Pork Chains, which has participants from five continents.



Courtesy of Stu Warren

Darrell Westervelt (center), Manhattan, is the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus for the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources. Westervelt (BS '58 dairy science, MS '59 horticulture) ran Blueville Nursery for four decades, where he was an innovator and industry leader. He hired many K-State horticulture students, who are now working in the horticulture industry all over the United States. In retirement, he continues to volunteer in the K-State Gardens and the department greenhouses. He is shown with his son Keith (BS '85 agricultural education), who now runs Blueville, and his wife Lea (BS '74 horticulture), a research associate in the department.

150[★] YEARS and Counting SCIENCE IN KANSAS

Grain scientists R. Carl Hosenev, Paul Seib, Charles O. Swanson, and Robert Schoeff and plant pathologist Anna Whitfield have been added to the Top 150 Kansas scientists list. This is part of the "Science in Kansas: 150 Years and Counting Project" of the Ad Astra Kansas Initiative in celebration of the Kansas Sesquicentennial.

To view the list and printable trading cards, go to www.adastra-ks.org/events/150_scientists_index.html

Alumni Recognized for Lifelong Service

What do a Federal Emergency Management Agency coordinator, the Kansas Farm Service Agency executive director, and an award-winning teacher and coach have in common? They all graduated from the College of Agriculture and were honored during Wild4Ag weekend activities on May 6–7, 2011, for continued service to Kansas State University, Kansas, and beyond.

Philip Kirk (BS '89 agricultural economics), FEMA preparedness coordinator for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, earned the Outstanding Young Alumnus title. In 2009, Kirk graduated from the Homeland Security Executive Leaders Program at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security in Monterey, Calif., and is completing an MA in homeland security studies.

Agriculture Alumni Board member Rick Perkins (BS '88 agricultural education) presented the award and commented that Kirk's many leadership roles in FFA and as Ag Student Council president helped prepare him for his current occupation.



Philip Kirk, Adrian Polansky,
and Kevin Donnelly

Mike Torrey (BS '86 agricultural economics), who earned the award in 2009, nominated Kirk.

"Phil Kirk is compassionate for public service and volunteerism, encourages others, and always exemplifies the highest moral and ethical behavior," Torrey said.

Kirk served on the board of directors of Court Appointed Special Advocate of Shawnee County and has remained involved with Alpha Gamma Rho at K-State and on the national level. In 1999, he was commissioned as a law enforcement officer and still serves as a reserve special deputy

in Franklin County. In addition, he and his brother still own and operate a farm in Decatur County.

As Kirk accepted the plaque he commented, "I never had any doubt that K-State and the College of Agriculture cared about me. I've always bled purple and will continue to do so."

Distinguished Alumnus honors went to Kansas Farm Service Agency executive director **Adrian Polansky** (BS '72 agronomy). Board member John Coen (BS '91 agricultural education), presented the award.

Polansky was appointed executive director in 2009. He also held that post from 1993 to 2001 and was Kansas secretary of agriculture from 2003 to 2009. He owns a 1,900 acre family farm operation and wholesale farm seed company near Belleville.

“Adrian is a farm advocate and works tirelessly to improve the livelihoods of the Kansas farmer and rancher,” said Eric Guenther (BS ’80 animal sciences and industry), who nominated Polansky. “He has used his positions of authority and leadership to improve the quality of life for the Kansas producer, and he works to increase economic opportunities for rural America, especially Kansas agriculture.”

Polansky has received many accolades throughout his career, including being named the College of Agriculture Outstanding Young Alumnus, the USDA Distinguished Service Award, the Biotechnology Industry Organization State Executive of the Year, and the Governor’s Cup in Biosciences Award.

The David J. Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award goes to a College of Agriculture faculty member who personifies former associate dean Mugler’s credo, “They don’t care what you know until they know you care.” The 2011 award went to **Kevin Donnelly** (BS ’72, MS ’74 agronomy).

In 1998, Donnelly was teaching at Oklahoma State University when he accepted the opportunity to return to K-State as assistant dean in the College of Agriculture. After 10 years in administration, he chose to return to the classroom.

Donnelly teaches in the Department of Agronomy and coaches the K-State Crops Judging Team that recently won its second consecutive national title. He also advises the Wheat State Agronomy Club. His colleagues Mary Beth

Kirkham and Gerry Posler and student Kelly Yunghans nominated Donnelly for the Mugler award.

“My first college class ever was Dr. Donnelly’s crop science class,” said Yunghans, senior in agronomy from Leavenworth. “His teaching abilities and his passion for students and the materials he was teaching helped grow my passion for agronomy. Since then I have taken his grain grading, plant and seed identification, and crops judging classes. Crops judging was way more than a class, it was a learning opportunity that helped prepare me for my future in the industry, plus

win a scholarship and awards on the national level.”

The team had a winning legacy under Gerry Posler, who was confident that Donnelly would continue the tradition.

“Since Kevin was a graduate teaching assistant, he has had unlimited enthusiasm and energy and a truly outstanding commitment to undergraduate students,” stated Posler.

Board member Jim Dooley (BS ’72 agronomy) presented the teaching award to his former classmate.

—Gloria Holcombe



*Agricultural Alumni Board members met during Wild4 Ag weekend. Back row from left: **Don Boggs** (MS ’77 animal science), Manhattan; **Matt McCune** (BS ’08 animal sciences), Abilene; **Jim Morgan** (BS ’82, MS ’87 agricultural education), Louisburg; **Lee Weis** (BS ’85 agricultural education), Bavaria*

*Third row from left: **Rick Perkins** (BS ’88 agricultural education), Wichita; **Mike McClellan** (BS ’84 agricultural economics), Palco; **John Coen** (BS ’81 agricultural education), Wellsville*

*Second row from left: **Jim Dooley** (BS ’72 agronomy), Jewell; **Stephen Bigge** (BS ’06 agribusiness), Stockton; **Lindsey (George) Huseman** (BS ’06 agricultural education), Ellsworth; **Sarah (Geiger) Goss** (BS ’02 agricultural economics), Ellsworth; **Larry Whipple** (BS ’93 agricultural economics), Lenexa; **Kevin Suderman** (BS ’96 animal sciences), Hillsboro*

*Front row from left: **Delta George** (BS ’02 animal sciences), Uniontown; **Kelsey Holste** (BS ’05 agribusiness, MS ’09 agricultural economics), Manhattan; **Kelli Ludlum** (BS ’99 animal science), Arlington, Va., president*

*Not pictured: **Janna Dunbar** (BS ’00 animal science), Lawrence, vice president; **Denise George** (BS ’04 agricultural education), Stillwater, Okla.; **William Kirk** (BS ’86 agricultural economics), Vero Beach, Fla.; **David Oliphant** (BS ’86 animal sciences), Offerle; **Bill Spiegel** (BS ’93 agricultural journalism), Manhattan; **Shannon Washburn** (BS ’95 MS ’99 agricultural education), Manhattan; **Tim Luginsland** (BS ’85 agricultural economics), Lenexa; **Tiffany Poet** (senior, agricultural education), Manhattan, Ag Ambassador president; **Carrie Gilliam** (BS ’11 agricultural communications and journalism), Manhattan, Ag Student Council president*



Couple Gives Back to Alma Mater

Dan (BS '62 animal sciences) and Beth (BS '61 business administration) Bird have made a \$1.2 million bequest to K-State to establish scholarships in animal sciences and industry, business administration, and agricultural economics, and to support football and men's basketball.

The couple resides in Anthony, where Dan is an associate broker for Gene Francis & Associates, and part owner in Pratt Feeders, Ashland Feeders, Hays Feeders, and Buffalo, Okla., Feeders. Beth is an administrative assistant at the Harper County Appraiser's Office.

Dan said he believes it's their duty to support these programs and hopes that it will motivate others to give.

"My father always told me 'you're never through learning' and that has stuck with me," Dan said. "Between interacting with students, faculty, and people at athletic events and social events, K-State gave us such a well-rounded education, and continues to do so today. Other students need to have that same opportunity.

"As state funding of higher education continually decreases, alumni and corporations have to step up and do their part," Dan said. "I'm hoping that our gift will encourage others to do the same, in whatever capacity they're able.

—KSU Foundation

Honoring Family

Alan Porter, Santa Barbara, Calif., may not have graduated from K-State, but it still holds a special place in his family and in his heart.

To honor his parents — Clare R. Porter (BS '37, MS '46, agronomy) and Georgiana Avery Porter (BS '38 human ecology) — and the generations of K-Staters from their families, including his uncles Kenneth Porter (BS '40 agronomy) and Thomas B. Avery (BS '68, PhD '84, animal sciences; DVM '74), who was the head of the K-State poultry department, Porter has made a \$1 million bequest to the College of Agriculture to establish the **Porter and Avery Family Agriculture Scholarship**.

Porter has lived in Santa Barbara for the last 25 years and is an independent real estate investor.

"Although I didn't attend K-State, I naturally feel a strong bond with the university. This scholarship honors my mother and father's families, and I hope that it provides students in the College of Agriculture with the financial assistance they need," said Porter.

Investing in Student Success

Philip and Mariette Orth, Milwaukee, Wis., knew and understood the value of scholarships, and through a \$280,000 bequest, will help K-State recruit and retain high-achieving students through the establishment of the **Philip W. and Mariette C. Orth Wildcat Scholarship**.

Philip retired in 1996 as chairman of Ph. Orth Co., a 114-year-old family-held bakery and institutional foods processor. He served as president of the National Baker Suppliers Association, vice president of the American Society of Bakery Engineers, and in both the Carter and Reagan administrations as a member of a Department of Agriculture Special Committee. Mariette devoted herself to her family, the family business, and many charitable and civic causes.

"The baking industry was very good to the Orth family, and Philip was also very close to Dr. William Hoover, who worked for Ph. Orth Co., after serving as department head of grain science at K-State," said Frederick Muth, a friend of the Orths. "K-State is a leader in

educating students entering the food industry, and Philip was devoted to investing in their success."

New Fundraising Record

K-State alumni, friends, and corporate partners contributed \$107 million to the university during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2011, setting a new record. The previous record was \$99.5 million in fiscal year 2008.

"We're proud to say the university has donors from every county in Kansas, all 50 states and the District of Columbia," said Fred Cholick, president and CEO of the KSU Foundation. "We're also grateful for our supporters abroad. K-State received contributions from people in 16 other countries — including Canada, Japan, Turkey, Germany and the United Kingdom — which illustrates the impact the university has across the globe."

To view donations by county, go to www.found.ksu.edu/wp/?p=1025.

—KSU Foundation



You can read archived issues of AgReport, find links to the latest news, share your comments, and update your ag alumni information at www.ksre.ksu.edu/agreport

Alumni Awards Nomination. Nominate someone or several for:

• Distinguished Alumnus Award • Outstanding Young Alumnus Award • David J. Mugler Teaching Award

Criteria

To nominate someone for the Distinguished Alumnus Award or the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award:

- submit a one-page nomination letter (preferably typewritten, using 12-point type) that describes how the nominee meets the award criteria, and
- include a resume, vita, or short biography.

To nominate someone for the David J. Mugler Teaching Award:

- submit a one-page nomination letter (preferably typewritten, using 12-point type) describing how the nominee demonstrates Mugler's philosophy of dedication and caring for students in his or her teaching and advising roles, and
- two additional one-page letters of support also may be submitted.

Please include your contact information, in case we need additional information.

Submit all nominations by November 16, 2011, to:

Don Boggs, Agriculture Academic Programs, 117 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-4015 or dboggs@ksu.edu

Previous winners are listed on the College of Agriculture website.

Go to www.ag.k-state.edu, click on Alumni & Friends, then Ag Alumni Awards.



It's party time, Barry.

Tailgate Party in Cat Town

Football with free food, fun, and fellowship.

Saturday, October 8. Starts two hours before kickoff of the K-State vs. Missouri game.