College of Agriculture

Fall 2008

K-State

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Communications professionals offer a variety of services

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From the Dean and Director



Fred Cholick congratulates Julia Roque, Overland Park, at the College of Agriculture honors program reception. Roque completed a degree in animal sciences and industry with a minor in French.

We weathered a difficult spring with facilities on campus and around the state damaged by tornados and hail. I know many of you sustained damage as well. I am thankful that lives were not lost in the storms. Equipment and buildings can be replaced; people are our most valuable resource.

As I read the articles for this issue, I looked for a common thread. I was pleased to find a common theme of service for both private and public good.

The land-grant university system has a three-part mission of teaching, research, and extension that I like to refer to as learning, discovery, and engagement. To accomplish our mission, we must achieve a private and a public good from all our endeavors.

We accomplish that mission by helping students prepare for their professional and personal lives. Two of our students – Vincent Hofer and Clint Blaes – were recognized on the university level for their outstanding leadership. They excelled on a personal level in the classroom and as members of competition teams and team projects. They also volunteered their time with campus and national organizations on a public level.

Julia Roque, shown with me in the photo above, completed an internship in France and worked one summer at an animal shelter. She has been accepted to the College of Veterinary Medicine. These students are true role models. Vaughn Studer, director of development for the College of Agriculture, has accepted an industry position. Thank you, Vaughn, for six years of outstanding service to the college. Kim Schirer is stepping into Vaughn's position. I'm confident Kim will do a great job.

I want to highlight a few other stories from this issue.

Community colleges are a valuable resource for their communities and for the K-State College of Agriculture. We maintain strong ties with community college faculty and administration to ensure that more students are able to successfully transition to K-State and complete degrees in a timely manner. To learn more about the College of Agriculture, go to www.ag.k-state.edu.

The communications department is an academic unit with a strong service component that benefits the entire system. In addition to training students, faculty, and staff to be more effective communicators, the department disseminates researchbased information in a variety of formats for private and public use.

When we fill vacant positions, we reevaluate how each position can best serve our clientele. For example, we noticed an increase in requests for information on raising meat goats. Brian Faris brings expertise on sheep and meat goats to the expanded position.

K-State Research and Extension programs throughout the state impact society, improve the standard of living, and elevate the quality of life. I invite you to visit our offices in person and online. Go to *www.oznet.ksu.edu* for office locations and information on topics that affect your family, business, health, and the environment.

Fred S. Chalick

Fred A. Cholick Dean and Director



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On the cover

Kris Boone (left), communications department head, and Elaine Edwards, news media coordinator, observe the taping of a K-State Ag Today program. Deb Pryor, television producer, and Martha Murphy, K-State Research and Extension Crawford County agent, are seated on the set. Photo by Dan Donnert, KSU Photo Services



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Three deans from Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU), Hyberabad, India, visited the K-State campus in May. They spent three days listening to presentations and touring facilities. In the above photo, they listen as Eric Maichel explains the extrusion process at the Bioprocessing and Industrial Value-Added Program building. The visit opens the door to more faculty and student interaction and new collaborative research projects.

Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's executive director, Cathy Musick, presents Dean Fred Cholick with a copy of KFAC's new *Exploring Kansas' Natural Resources Educator Guide*. The guide is designed to assist upperelementary level teachers in educating youth about the relationship between Kansas' natural resources and agriculture.

KFAC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the understanding of agriculture by increasing the scope and effectiveness of educational tools. Kansas teachers can request a free copy of the guide by sending an e-mail to ksfac@ksu.edu, or calling (785) 532-7946. Additional resources are available online at *www.ksagclassroom.org.*



Center Seeks to Revitalize Rural Grocery Stores

Continuing a mission to preserve and even restore small towns' vitality, K-State's Center for Engagement and Community Development organized a summit for owners of rural grocery stores.

"We heard from owners and others about the challenges they face, as well as how they've addressed them," said David Procter, center director.

The summit provided an opportunity for elected officials, economic development workers, food distributors, and university researchers to meet faceto-face and exchange ideas.

The summit grew out of the surveys and in-depth interviews the center has completed as part of its Rural Grocery Store Initiative. The surveys and interviews reveal common concerns about growing distribution fees, shrinking sales, and commuting customers.

"This is where K-State can be a real asset," Procter said. "Whether the need is for business plans, analysis of transportation options, or the feasibility of buying equipment like a refrigerated truck to serve a group of stores, we have a tremendous range of expertise on campus, and our faculty and staff are eager to reach out."

Grocer survey results and a list of "best practices" can be found at *www*. *ruralgrocery.org* or linked through the center Web site at *www.ksu.edu/cecd*.

New Grain Science Degree Option

The Department of Grain Science and Industry is addressing industry needs by introducing a degree option in biofuels production and management.

"There is a high demand for degrees in plant management or supervision in biofuels," said Fred Fairchild, professor of grain science and industry. "We've been made aware of the industry needs, and we've adjusted our feed science and management degree to address this."

Starting in fall 2008, students enrolled in the feed science and management program have the option to focus their majors in either feed production or biofuels production.

New District Forms in Southeast Kansas



The K-State Research and Extension offices in Elk and Chautauqua counties joined operations to form the Rolling Prairie Extension District #8 on July 1, 2008.

Since 1991, any two or more Kansas counties can legally work together to form an extension district. When forming a district, the counties involved agree to give up their local authority over programming and budgeting to a district extension board. The district board is elected – much like a school board – with equal representation from each county.

"Districts provide a more efficient use of resources and more effecctive programming because agents are able to specialize and offer more in-depth programming," said Jim Lindquist, assistant director for extension field operations.

Other districts are: Post Rock District #1 (1994) Mitchell and Lincoln counties; Jewell and Osborne counties joined in 2005. Walnut Creek District #2 (1997) Lane Ness and Rush counties Central Kansas District #3 (2004) Saline and Ottawa counties. River Valley District #4 (2005) Clay, Cloud, Republic, and Washington counties. Phillips-Rooks District #5 (2005) Phillips and Rooks counties. Sunflower District #6 (2005) Sherman and Wallace counties; Cheyenne joined in 2006 Meadowlark District #7 (2006) Jackson, Jefferson, and Nemaha counties.



Three undergraduate students participated in the annual K-State Research and Extension summer research program. Laura Whitaker, Tuskegee University, worked with Tanda Kidd, assistant professor, Department of Human Nutrition, and Randy Phebus, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. Kristen Walker, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Jarielle Fluellen, Ft. Valley State University, were advised by Duane Davis, professor, and Theresa Rathbun, research assistant, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. The students gave presentations for faculty members at the end of the program.

Back row (l-r) Zelia Wiley, assistant dean for diversity programs; Ernie Minton, interim associate director for research and technology transfer; Minto Michael, food science graduate student; Whitaker; Karen Schmidt, professor, Department of Animal Sciences and Industry; and Phebus. Front row: Walker, Fluellen, Rathbun, animal science graduate student Kelley Bryan, and Davis.

New Princeton Review Guide Features K-State Among the Top Schools in the Nation

K-State is among the best undergraduate institutions in the nation, according to The Princeton Review.

The 2009 edition of *The Best 368 Colleges* has a two-page profile of each school listed. In K-State's profile, students called K-State "tremendously affordable" and praised the university's extensive variety of student clubs and organizations. Students also described K-State as having a laid-back atmosphere and being a "big school with a smal-school feel."

K-State is ranked among the top 20 in college athletics and in the relationship between town and institution, with Manhattan called a "great college town" that is "just big enough" and that has "everything you need for college life."



Jackie McClaskey, assistant dean, meets with incoming students and their parents during student orientation to explain how to be successful at K-State.

Students come to the College of Agriculture from small towns and large cities – each with his or her individual goals and life experiences.

About 40 percent of the students enrolled in the College of Agriculture have transferred from a community college or another four-year institution. The 2007 fall enrollment class included students from 30 community colleges in Kansas and around the nation.

K-State Faculty Ready to Help

"Our approach to working with community colleges is somewhat unique," said Don Boggs, associate dean of the K-State College of Agriculture. "We view them as collaborators, not competitors."

K-State College of Agriculture administrators and ambassadors routinely visit community colleges to keep the lines of communication open and ease the transition for students and faculty.

To help the transfer students after they arrive at K-State, Boggs teaches a class specifically designed for transfer students.

"Transfer students have two years until they need to be gainfully employed," said Boggs.

"They are on an accelerated time line to get work-related experience to move them smoothly from college to career. Many transfer students need to get more leadership experience. Community colleges have fewer clubs and organizations, which means less leadership opportunities. We help guide them in the right direction."

Students Offer Perspectives

Chelsea Good, Parker, Colo., easily made the transition to K-State from Butler County Community College (BCCC).

"The K-State College of Agriculture was very welcoming and did a great job helping me figure out what classes to take to be on track at K-State," said Good.

"I got involved with several ag clubs – Collegiate Cattlewomen,

Agriculture Communicators of Tomorrow, and Collegiate Farm Bureau – right away when I transferred to K-State. That helped me meet people and immerse myself in the college.

"My advice to students considering transferring is to plan ahead with their course work, meet with advisers at K-State ahead of time, and join a group when they get to K-State. Attending the fall watermelon feed is a great way to meet people, learn about the college, and find places to get involved."

Teresa Manriquez, Hugoton, transferred to K-State from Seward County Community College.

"Coming for a campus visit sealed the deal for me," Manriquez said. "I felt at home here – the people were friendly and helpful. The faculty are willing to help you out with whatever you need or have questions about.

"Transferring to K-State was a little scary at first, but very soon I learned that this was the right place for me. It's going to be sad when I have to leave."



Preparation for Transfer Begins in Communities

Community college faculty become familiar with the College of Agriculture and how to help students be successful.

Transfer students Chelsea Good and Ryan Bennett prepare for a debate tournament.

Chris Mullinix who teaches animal science classes and coaches the livestock judging team at Butler County Community College, is a K-State animal sciences and industry graduate. He describes the relationship between the K-State College of Agriculture and Butler Community College as phenomenal.

"We have an open line of communication and a great working relationship," said Mullinix. "We want to make the transfer of hours from one institution to the other seamless. The goal is for Butler graduates to complete their degree at K-State in two years.

"I went straight to K-State from high school. I can explain the difference in the two systems to students and guide them to what will work best for them.

"To be successful, transfer students need to walk onto the larger K-State campus with the same foundation as the students who have been at K-State for one or two years. A strong partnership between the 2-year and 4-year colleges ensures that students get the best possible education."

The close ties that many of the community college instructors have

with the College of Agriculture enhances the partnership.

For example, Mullinix and several other community college judging coaches – Bill Disberger (BS '00 animal science and agricultural education, MS '03 secondary education), Hutchinson Community College; and Jeff Nemecek (BS '97 animal science), Allen County Community College – help with the K-State livestock judging camps during the summer.

"The camp is a great recruiting tool," said Mullinix. Students come from around Kansas and from other states to learn about livestock judging. "Some aren't able to move directly into the four-year college environment, so a community college is more appropriate for them."



Teresa Manriquez (with pitcher) assists with a dairy science tasting class during a summer session.



Don Woodburn (left), president of Coffeyville Community College, and Don Boggs, K-State associate dean, sign a formal 2+2 agreement.

Don Woodburn, president of Coffeyville Community College, is an avid supporter of the K-State / Coffeyville relationship. He sees the K-State College of Agriculture and Coffeyville Community College as partners. And, this partnership is working, said Woodburn. Coffeyville Community College

has a formal 2+2 agreement with

K-State to facilitate transfers. "We even developed a 'Go to K-State

"We even developed a 'Go to K-State through Coffeyville' brochure," said Woodburn.

2 + 2 = Degree in 4 Years

"K-State has great faculty, great research and extension, and the best vet school," said Woodburn. "What better place to get a degree in agriculture than from the land-grant university in your home state? When our students want to get a degree in agriculture, I tell them to get to K-State and complete their degree."

"Some students can't go to a fouryear school for a variety of reasons," said Woodburn.

"We work closely with the K-State faculty, such as those in horticulture," said Woodburn. "They give us an outline of what needs to be covered to transition smoothly to K-State, and we make sure that's what we are teaching."

Cover Storv



Communication and Service Go Hand in Hand

It seems that Kansans are constantly bombarded with information on their phones, television, radio, and computer. But do we really know how to communicate effectively?

The goal of K-State's Department of Communications is to prepare students to effectively communicate in the business world and teach others in the classroom and to provide comprehensive communications and technology expertise for K-State Research and Extension and the College of Agriculture. "There are no communications departments in the country like ours," said Kris Boone, department head. "While a few departments combine communication and information technology expertise, none has pulled in academic programs. But the benefits to this configuration are tremendous."

The department was established in 1992 and joined publishing, news, media relations, shipping service, duplicating, and the teaching program in agricultural journalism – later renamed agricultural communications and journalism (ACJ). The benefits to the students are great," she said. "They get to work and study alongside professionals in their field. For the professionals, it is always exciting to mentor, teach, and just interact with students. They are a lot of fun."

Boone joined the department in 1995 to teach agricultural communications. She was named interim department head in 2002 and permanent head in 2005.

In 2008 the department extended itself to a new set of students when

agricultural education joined the department.

Focus on Student Needs

This young department has seen significant changes – adding more services and defining how it can best serve its clientele. In ACJ, the department offers agricultural and environmental communications. The environmental program is the only one like it in this region.

"We've set up a five-member advisory council of communication professionals from outside academia to offer advice on the future of the ACJ program and its students," said Boone.

"The ACJ curriculum provides a broad base in both agriculture and communications," said Loren Kruse, editor-in-chief of Successful Farming and Agriculture Online and advisory council member. "Graduates of the program in jobs throughout the industry are a strong testament to their preparation at K-State. The challenge is to continually evolve the curriculum to meet the demands of the marketplace.

"I owe much of my career success to my preparation at K-State in both agriculture and journalism. The future is very exciting for communicators who know agriculture and all the emerging tools, technologies, and channels for connecting with producers and consumers. K-State offers one of the top programs in the country."

Most ACJ students join the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT), which is designed for college students interested in the field of communications related to agriculture. The K-State ACT chapter was named the outstanding student professional development organization in the College of Agriculture for 2007.

The ACJ courses focus on diversifying students' communications skills and giving them hands-on experience. In the capstone course, for example, they produce real work for real clients. Student work from the class was used during a site visit for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

During spring and fall semesters, students in the AG Com 410 class produce the Kansas State Agriculturist. The students determine the content, write the stories, sell the ads, take most of the photos, and design the fullcolor magazine. During the next year, the students will work on an online presence as well.

The Agriculturist routinely places well in publication award contests. The spring 2008 issue placed first and the fall 2007 issue placed second in the recent National Agricultural Alumni Development Association contest.

News Media Reconfigured

In June 2008, print and broadcast news personnel were merged into a news media unit under the leadership of Elaine Edwards, who had a similar position at Iowa State University.

"I've inherited an incredibly talented group," said Edwards. "I'm amazed at the experience and knowledge they have about their subject areas.

"The group has strengths, not only in the talent pool but in what they bring to the audience," said Edwards. "Radio can get the information out quickly; print can provide indepth coverage; and television provides the visual impact. It's a complete information package."

To reach the print audience, news releases on a broad range of topics are sent to local, regional and national newspapers. In 2007, K-State Research and Extension had more news releases posted to the eXtension Web

> Lisa Moser, magazine adviser, and Robin Blume, fall 2008 Kansas State Agriculturalist editor, look over the new issue.

site than any other university. eXtension is an Internet-based, interactive site where land-grant university faculty provide research-based knowledge.

The unit produces a variety of programs, including *Agriculture Today* – a daily, hour-long program distributed to radio stations around the state – and *K-State Ag Today*, a daily 90-second video news story aired on KTKA-TV 49 in Topeka. Both programs are available on the Web.

Help for Authors

In addition to news media work, the department provides professional editing and design of technical manuscripts and consumer publications for both print and electronic media.



Gloria Holcombe (2)



Most publications are available through K-State Research and Extension county and district offices or can be ordered from the department's distribution center. To view the comprehensive online library, go to www.oznet.ksu.edu/library.

The department produces College of Agriculture recruitment pieces, the K-State Ag Report, and the Informal Report to the Kansas Legislature.

"I always carry the Ag Report and the legislative report with me to help with recruiting and fund-raising," said Fred Cholick, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension.

The department also has a printing facility housed in Umberger Hall that serves departments on campus, as well as offices in all 105 Kansas counties and research centers around the state.

"We average 500,000 black and white copies a month, as well as printed publications," said Greg LeValley, who coordinates the duplicating center. "Our main focus is on customer service, which I think has contributed to the steadily increasing number of monthly newsletters and fair books that we print for county and district offices. We also print and burn approximately 10,000 CDs a year."

Katie Starzec, who is working toward a dual degree in agricultural

Communications specialist Nancy Peterson (center) conducts an interview. communications and journalism (environmental option) and natural resources and environmental sciences, worked for two semesters each in the duplicating center and the publications unit.

"Working for the department really kicked off my communications interests, and both jobs helped me choose my major," said Starzec. "The people had to be the best part of the job. Everyone seemed eager to help me learn how to do my job, so I picked up a lot of information that has been and will be Ron Frank, television producer, tapes a presentation.

helpful in other areas of my life."

Demystify Technology

Technology makes the world go round – when it works properly. To ensure that technology runs smoothly, the department provides technology assistance and training. In addition to staff on campus, technology support staff are stationed in western and southern Kansas, assisting all county offices and research centers.

Information and educational technology (IET) faculty pioneered software for the Plant Diagnostic Information System, which allows agents around the state to send digital photos of a plant problem to plant diagnosticians for quick and accurate identification.

Content for the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension Web sites uses a databasebacked content management system (CMS) developed by IET personnel. Department members also offer training on how to use the CMS.

"The new CMS is a great tool to help keep Web sites viable," said Susan Schlichting, Ellis County 4-H agent. "In a few minutes, I'm able to update information and keep the site fresh and





Shannon Washburn, new associate professor in agricultural education, meets one of his advisees.

useful to our clientele. The Web is a great way to provide anytime access to K-State's research-based information and current educational opportunities. More and more of our clientele are using the Web.

"It's great to provide information to youth through a medium that they connect with. Many use our site to access information and register for upcoming 4-H events."

Understand Your Audience

The move to CMS was supported strongly by research conducted by departmental professionals with targeted users.

"We make decisions based on primary and secondary research, much of which centers around finding out what type of information target audiences want and how they like to get it," said Pat Melgares, marketing coordinator.

That approach has worked well in implementing the current five-year marketing plan for K-State Research and Extension, as well as an upcoming marketing campaign "We Know …" that highlights K-State Research and Extension staff members' vast information resources and knowledge base, said Melgares.

"The marketing efforts for K-State Research and Extension have paid off through increased awareness among state citizens," said Boone. "The next campaign is working to increase use among targeted groups."

Agricultural Education Moves to Communications

Agricultural education has moved to the Department of Communications. While the major has been part of the College of Agriculture, it was housed in the College of Education in Bluemont Hall.

Steve Harbstreit, who has been an associate professor in agricultural education for nearly 22 years, remains with the program.

"We will continue to work closely with faculty in the College of Education, but our departmental home has shifted to the Department of Communications," said Harbstreit. "We will share support staff with the agricultural communications and journalism faculty.

"Agricultural education graduates have ample opportunities to teach in Kansas and other states – 48 of 50 states are short of agricultural education teachers," said Harbstreit.

Agricultural education teachers help prepare high school students for careers in agriculture. In recent years, the curriculum has expanded to include more courses in agribusiness, agriscience, and natural resources.

"We also see more females entering the field," stated Harbstreit. "This year's class is 50 percent female."

One of Harbstreit's former

students is now his colleague. Shannon Washburn (BS '95 agricultural education, MS '99 secondary education) returned to K-State in August as an associate professor. He held a similar position at the University of Florida for six years and was an instructor at K-State from 1998 to 2000.

Both Harbstreit and Washburn have experience in high school classrooms. Harbstreit taught agricultural education in Missouri for 13 years, and Washburn taught at Hugoton High School in the mid-1990s.

"I'm a product of agricultural education in Kansas," said Washburn, a native of Norton and former state FFA officer. "I'm thrilled to return to my home state, to the Midwest, and to serve agricultural education in Kansas.

"People in Kansas have a firm appreciation of the agricultural industry. I think Kansans see the value of agricultural education in the public schools."

"We're very excited to have Shannon joining the faculty," said Kris Boone, head of the Department of Communications. "Shannon and Steve are great assets to the university, but even more importantly, to the agricultural education teachers in Kansas."



Associate professor Steve Harbstreit visits with Lindsey George (BS '06 agricultural education). George teaches agricultural education classes at Wilson Junior/Senior High School.

K-State Grain Science Featured in

DERN MARVELS



K-State faculty, staff, and students rolled up their sleeves to help a crew filming a television series about the technology behind everyday objects.

The crew was on campus in February, taping segments for an episode about bread for the History Channel show *Modern Marvels*. The series tells the stories behind everyday items, technological breakthroughs, and man-made wonders. The cable network describes the show as "celebrating ingenuity, invention, and imagination brought to life on a grand scale."

Joined by sound and film crew from Kansas City, Bob Niemack, a producer with *Modern Marvels*, came to K-State to interview faculty about making bread and the science behind it – from milling to baking.

The crew began at the Hal Ross Flour Mill with Kendall McFall, instructor, to learn how grain is milled into flour. McFall's students arrived early to get the mill up and running to process hard red winter wheat. McFall explained that about 75 percent of what is inside a kernel of wheat goes into making white flour while the rest is used for feed or the bran in breakfast cereals and other products.

Crew members next took their cameras to Throckmorton Hall to talk with Rebecca Miller, who directs the wheat quality lab. Miller talked to them about the role gluten plays in the process and showed the crew the lab's testing equipment. This included the extensograph machine that shows how well dough responds to kneading and mixing, as well as the alveograph. This equipment shows how well the dough will retain the bubbles of carbon dioxide created by fermenting yeast.

Then the crew visited Dave Krishock, baking instructor, in the Shellenberger Hall baking lab to learn the steps professional bakers take to make a loaf of bread. He explained how professional processes differ from home baking. Instructor Dave Krishock explains the breadmaking process.

For instance, Krishock said that rather than relying on dry and liquid measures, professional bakers weigh their ingredients, from flour to water. He said this avoids the slight differences in measuring cups that can make a big difference in large-scale baking.

Jon Faubion, professor, followed up by demonstrating more lab equipment like the texture analyzer, which evaluates the firmness of baked bread. Faubion also talked more about the science behind bread, including how ancient people discovered, purely by accident, the leavening abilities of yeast.

Students pitched in at the laboratories as well by helping faculty demonstrate the equipment and the testing processes.

Other K-Staters helped out behind the scenes. Steve Ballou, communications specialist, helped the crew get footage of campus as well as footage of grain being harvested. Media relations staff made the initial contact with the *Modern Marvels* producer and helped facilitate the filming.

The program originally aired on March 24 and again on August 5. Check the *Modern Marvels* Web site for possible future dates.

-From K-Statement, Vol. 30, No. 16



Kendall McFall describes the flour-milling process.

Never Too Old to Farm?



Al Stiebe recently celebrated the completion of his 75th wheat harvest and his 92nd birthday.

Stiebe grew up on the Pawnee County farm he has managed since 1946, and, according to his son Arlyn, "missed only seven harvests since 1926 – two during Soil Conservation Service (SCS) internships while a K-State student, and from 1941 through 1946, while serving in the U.S. Army."

His start as a wheat farmer came early: At age 8, his parents considered him old enough to guide a team of horses pulling wagon loads of wheat to nearby Rozel, his son said.

With times tight and the future uncertain during Depression days, Al Stiebe's parents encouraged him to attend K-State to better his future.

"My dad used to take me up to the highway, and we'd wait by the side of the road. I was like many students who hitchhiked to K-State. We wore letter jackets with a big "K" and usually carried a small suitcase and a laundry bag," said Stiebe, who earned a degree in agricultural administration in 1939.

The degree (which is now known as agricultural economics) offered a broad perspective on agriculture. While waiting for a job to open up with SCS, Stiebe landed a position in Washington, D.C., with the census bureau.

When he concluded military service, he returned to western Kansas and expected to look for an SCS job. His father, however, was exhausted and ready to retire. Stiebe and his younger brother took over.

Keeping the farm, which Al's parents settled in 1922, in the family has been important to Stiebe and his wife. Their son David, who attended K-State, returned to the area before graduating to start his own farming operation when neighboring land became available.

Although the last of the family farm management responsibilities has been turned over to David, Al remains active on the farm.

"I still enjoy it," said the elder Stiebe, who has witnessed much of the evolution of agriculture in western Kansas. He recalls, for example, that in 1928 the family traded 12 horses for their first tractor and a 4-bottom plow.

Arlyn (BS '81 animal sciences and industry) serves as farm loan chief for the USDA Farm Service Agency in Manhattan, but continues to help with the family farm.

Farming with his sons is a great source of pride for Al Stiebe.

Is he looking forward to a new crop year?

"Yes, I am," Stiebe said.

Is he optimistic about agribusiness? "Yes – but that's a guarded yes," he

said. "Commodity prices are at all-time highs, but so are expenses. Prices will have to stay high to cover production costs."

Still, Stiebe plans to keep doing what he likes to do best: farm.

-Nancy Peterson



Al Stiebe stands between his sons Arlyn (left) and David on his 90th birthday.

K-State's Brian Faris



Brian Faris is one busy fellow – conducting programs, judging at livestock shows, preparing for fall classes, helping design a new sheep and meat goat unit, preparing fact sheets, and recruiting students for the wool judging team.

Faris joined the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry as the sheep and meat goat specialist in January 2008. He replaced longtime sheep specialist Cliff Spaeth, who retired in 2007.

"I grew up raising registered and commercial Rambouillet sheep and Angora goats on the Edwards Plateau in Sonora, Texas," said Faris. "I'm excited about coming back to my roots – working with sheep and goats."

Before coming to K-State, Faris served as the extension 4-H youth livestock specialist at North Carolina State University. He earned a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University, a master's degree from Angelo State University, and a doctorate from New Mexico State University, all in animal science.

In his new position, he conducts educational programs for purebred and commercial sheep and meat goat producers and works closely with K-State Research and Extension agents.

He said he can relate well to agents because his father was an extension agent for 31 years.

"I rode along with my dad when he worked with ranchers, gave presentations, and judged around the country," said Faris. "He was my project leader during my 12 years as a 4-H member, showing market lambs." Faris is following in his father's footsteps. About 50 people attended a meat goat program the younger Faris conducted in Miami County.

"We have an exceptional need for information on meat goats because of the influx of people getting involved with the goat industry," said Mark Flory, Miami County agriculture and natural resources agent. "We are seeing more and more small acre landowners looking for something to do with the extra land, and the goats fit that scenario very well."

Dave Kehler, agriculture and natural resources agent in Butler County, attended a program that Faris conducted for the Meat Goat Association.

"Livestock producers are showing interest in meat goats because they need to adapt production to available



resources. They can raise enough goats on a small acreage to have a supplemental income," added Kehler.

Kehler said he has seen an explosion in the 4-H meat goat project.

"The project appeals to young members because it's an animal they can easily handle," said Kehler. "The Kansas Junior Livestock Show added a meat goat class two years ago."

Faris and Kehler noted that goats can help suppress the seed production of Sericea lespedeza, a noxious weed in Kansas. However, most grazing land has barbed wire fencing, which may not adequately restrain goats. If a fence will hold water, it will hold a goat, laughed Faris.

Faris is finding time in his busy schedule to work on publications. He has completed a fact sheet on market lamb showmanship (MF 2828) that is available from the K-State Research and Extension distribution center *orderpub@lists.oznet.ksu.edu*.

In the fall, Faris teaches Wool Grading and Evaluation as well as Sheep Science. During the spring semester, he will coach the wool judging team. "Judging is good training for students," said Faris. "It offers publicspeaking experience and the ability to state reasons, and some travel opportunities."

Faris also oversees the Sheep and Meat Goat Teaching and Research Unit on Denison Avenue. The unit will move slightly north of its present location when the new KSU Foundation building is constructed on the corner of Kimball and Denison avenues.

"We hope construction is under way on the research unit by summer 2009, if not sooner," said Faris.





Airbrush tattoos were a big hit at K-State's All-University Open House.







ils Compuls O O CARIE **A**

Two annual events – All-University Open House and Ag Fest – kept College of Agriculture students extra busy. Ag Fest is a weeklong event that includes Ag Experience, where elementary students get a chance to learn about agriculture; the Cowboy Olympics; and the Ag for a Cure benefit conert, which raised \$5,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



A Cowboy Olympics contestant practices her roping technique.



Open House visitors ate lots of pancakes at the annual Open House pancake feed.







Grain science students sell baked goods at Open House.



Students staff booths outside Waters Hall at All-University Open House.



Students get pumped for Ag Fest activities.



Elementary students transplant seedlings at one of the Ag Experience booths during Ag Fest.

Facilities Weather Spring Storms

Trees, vehicles, and signs were scattered across the parking lot north of Waters Hall after the June 11 tornado.



Like much of Kansas, K-State facilities were hit with severe weather in May and June.

An EF4 tornado struck southwest Manhattan on June 11 at about 10:50 p.m. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and the K-State campus sustained about \$20 million in damage. Most of the repairs were covered by insurance; however, that insurance policy carried a hefty \$5 million deductible.

The tornado was downgraded to an EF2 by the time it hit campus, said Mary Knapp, state climatologist, who maintains the Weather Data Library in the Department of Agronomy.

"We were lucky," said Fred Cholick, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. "No lives were lost, and that is what's most important to remember."

Cholick viewed the tornado damage with members of the congressional delegation, K-State President Jon Wefald, and representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Weber Hall, one of the two buildings that houses the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, was the most severely damaged. Call Hall sustained no damage.

"The arena had significant roof and window damage, and there was a tree limb through one wall," Cholick stated.

The entrance doors and windows of the Don Good addition on the east end of Weber Hall have been replaced. Two cooling units on the roof, including those for the meats lab, are being replaced. Cholick described one piece of the air conditioning unit as looking like a slinky hanging off the side of the building.

"All broken glass will be replaced, except for Weber Arena, by September 1," said Ken Odde, animal sciences department head. "We anticipate that the meats lab will be fully functional by mid-October, and repair work on Weber Arena should be completed by November 1."

The Wind Erosion Research Unit (WERU) lab, operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service, northeast of Weber Hall was heavily damaged. The K-State departments of Agronomy and Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Weber Hall and Arena sustained tornado damage.

have collaborated closely with WERU faculty since the 1940s.

Waters Hall also sustained window and some water damage on the south, west, and north sides.

Some vehicles on campus were totaled. The cars parked in the lot north of Waters Hall had broken glass inside from wind and tornado debris. The glass was sucked out of the vehicles in the lots near Umberger and Throckmorton halls from the pressure differential, said Knapp.

Faculty from the Kansas Forest Service spent three days after the storm cutting and trimming trees for removal. K-State staff worked quickly to remove debris, patch roofs, and seal windows to limit the water damage.

The tornado that hit Manhattan followed several other severe storms.



The HB Ranch, a unit of the Agricultural Research Center-Hays, was hit by a tornado on May 23. The ranch is used for beef cattle and grazing research.

The tornado destroyed a livestock processing barn, an equipment storage building, and two windmills. A metal storage building suffered minor structural damage, and three windbreaks were shattered. Estimated costs for repair and clean-up total about \$124,000.

Repairs to fences, corrals, and livestock water facilities were completed by mid-July. The livestock processing barn will be replaced within the next year; however, the equipment storage building will not be replaced.

A May 29 tornado caused \$36,000 in damage to irrigation systems at the Irrigation Experiment Field in Republic County.

"No major equipment and no animals were lost," said Cholick. "Even the damage to Weber Hall was not structural. We had lots of repair work, but we're back in business."



Thank you to alumni and friends who volunteered time and funds to help with repairs.

The USDA/ARS Wind Erosion Unit lab facilities northeast of Weber Arena were hit hard by the tornado.

Damage from a May 23 tornado at the HB Ranch near Hays

Remains of the wood-frame livestock processing barn.



The spot where the steel-frame equipment storage building used to stand.





Mangled corral fencing.



Wheat State Agronomy Club members Ashley Brillhart (left) and Jenae Skelton rake leaves as Matt Becker, Scott Dooley, and Jason Waite get chore instructions from professor emeritus Clyde Wassom. Each spring, club members help retired faculty with yard cleanup. The club was recognized for outstanding community service at the College of Agriculture Awards Assembly. The club's major fund-raising activity is parking cars at the North Agronomy Farm during K-State football games. The proceeds finance travel to national and regional meetings, community service, and social activities.



College of Agriculture Students of the Month

Each month during fall and spring semesters, a College of Agriculture student is honored for outstanding achievement. Back row (I-r): Kyle Baker, Burden, September; Melissa Bigham, Meriden, December; Kelsey Frasier, Limon, Colo., October; Matt Becker, Centralia, March. Front row: Rebecca Tokach, Anthony, N.D., February; Tina Krafft, Phillipsburg, April; Scott Dooley, Jewel, November. Tokach also was chosen as Student of the Year. Not pictured: Ashley Guenther, Ottawa, January. The award is sponsored by Kansas Farm Bureau.



Derrick Mein demonstrates his award-winning shooting style.

Trapshooting Club Brings Home Honors

The K-State Trapshooting Club competed against 38 universities in the Association of Collegiate Unions 40th Annual Clay Target Championships. The team finished in third place overall – the highest finish ever for the K-State Trapshooting Team.

K-State finished second in the nation in the international trap and American trap events. The team also won the award for "most improved trap team."

Derrick Mein, Walnut, senior in animal sciences and industry, was declared national champion in American trap, first team All-American, and the high overall individual – never won by a K-State shooter before. He also earned champion honors in combined skeet, combined international events, and combined American events.

Other College of Agriculture team members were: Diana Vasquez, Phelan, Calif.; Dillon Stum, Ness City; Ross Fisher and Issac Spare, St. John; Shane Dorsey, Liberal; and Andrew Donahue, Lincolnville.

Novice Debaters Fare Well

Agricultural communications and journalism majors Chelsea Good and Ryan Bennett had a successful debate partnership.

Good earned second team Academic All-American honors with two firstplace finishes, and was in the top 10 in all but one of her performances. Bennett placed second at the Novice National Championships. They won first-place honors at four tournaments, finishing in the top three in all tournaments in which they competed.



Jenae Skelton, Larned, represents K-State as Miss Rodeo K-State for 2008. She keeps a busy schedule attending rodeos around the state. Skelton, who is majoring in agronomy with a minor in international agriculture, is a member of the K-State Rodeo Club and the Wheat State Agronomy Club.

Powercat Tractors Team Wins Again

For the seventh time in the 11-year history of the event, a team from K-State has won the International Quarter-Scale Tractor Design Competition.

The Powercat Tractors Quarter-Scale Design Team placed first overall out of 24 teams from across the United States and Canada by accumulating the most points in performance, written report, oral report, design judging, and maneuverability. K-State was first in the 1,050-pound performance pull and tied for first in the 1,300-pound performance pull.

In addition, the K-State X-Team – freshmen and sophomores who compete using last year's tractor – placed third overall in the X-team competition, including receiving first place on the oral report part of the event.

Members of the team are K-State biological and agricultural engineering majors from the College of Engineering and agricultural technology management majors from the College of Agriculture.



Clint Blaes (left), Associate Dean Don Boggs, Dean Fred Cholick (in window) and Vincent Hofer (far right) enjoy spring weather outside Waters Hall. Hofer, Franklin, received the 2008 Anderson Award for Outstanding Leadership from the K-State Alumni Association. He also has been selected as the K-State finalist for both the Marshall and Rhodes scholarships. He completed a bachelor's degree in agribusiness. Blaes, Cherryvale, was one of 13 graduating seniors recognized for leadership and improving campus life by Pat Bosco, K-State associate vice president for institutional advancement and dean of student life. Blaes earned a degree in agricultural communications and journalism.

The K-State Animal Science Quadrathlon Team placed first overall at the Midwest competition. They placed second in lab praciticum, oral presentation, and quiz bowl and tied for third in the written exam.

From left to right: Kindra Gradert, coach; Adam Hatesohl, Greenleaf; Rebecca Tokach, Anthony, N.D.; Andy Stickel, Bowling Green, Ohio; Cody Schneider, Smolan; and Ernie Minton, coordinator.





Jennifer Wellner (left to right), Rebecca Madsen, and Elizabeth Beilke – all animal science/pre-veterinary medicine majors – work at the K-State Poultry Teaching and Research Unit. Beilke is working on an undergraduate research project – Impact of Foraging on the Nutraceutical Content of Eggs – under the direction of Scott Beyer. Beilke describes her project as looking at the fatty acids, primarily Omega-3 fatty acids, and the Xanthophyll (yellow pigment) levels present in the eggs in each of four treatments. By comparing the results from each treatment over an 8-week period, she hopes to see an overall impact in the amount of Omega-3 fatty acids and Xanthophyll present in the eggs.



Soil Judging Team Takes First at National Contest

The K-State Soil Judging Team won first place overall at the 2008 National Soil Judging Contest. It is the first time K-State has won the national contest. Bringing home the trophy had special significance because the traveling trophy was designed in 1968 by professor emeritus and former team coach Orville Bidwell. The K-State team won second place overall in 2007 and has qualified for the national competition 13 of the last 14 years. The team also has won the regional contest three of the last five years.

The champion soils judging team (left to right): Mickey Ransom, professor of agronomy and coach; Leah Ferdinand, senior in agronomy, Reading; Kelsey McGie, sophomore in milling science and management, lola; Adam Heitman, senior in agronomy, Webber; Ryan Cyr, senior in agronomy, Miltonvale; Angela Tran, junior in agronomy and Andrew McGowan, junior in agronomy, both from Prairie Village; Andrew Newkirk, freshman in agronomy, Manhattan; Scott Dooley, senior in agronomy and assistant coach, Jewell; and Paul Hartley, graduate student in agronomy, Emporia.

Food Science Students Travel to Italy

During spring break, 13 food science undergraduate and graduate students participated in a 10-day study tour to Italy led by Dr. Melvin Hunt, his wife Raejean, and Mishelle Hay, academic administrative assistant.

Some of the stops on the tour included: vineyards, wine processing plants and wine cellars, a Parmesano-Reggiano cheese factory, a balsamic vinegar plant, a prosciutto ham factory, and an olive oil plant. They also visited a cheesemaker to see how sheep's milk is processed into pecorino cheese. The students shopped at a market, where they selected food to prepare a traditional Italian meal at a cooking school.

The group had a chance to do some sight seeing and watch glass-blowing and lace-making demonstrations.

Want to hire a K-State Ag grad?

Here are two opportunities to consider All-University Career Fair September 23 & 24, 2008

or the

Agri-Industry Career Fair January 28, 2009

To register for a fair or to set up an interview, contact: **Mary Ellen Barkley** Career and Employment Services mebark@ksu.edu 785-532-1680 **www.ksu.edu/ces**

Agricultural Economics

Andrew Barkley, professor of agricultural and public policy, received the 2008 Western Agricultural Economics Association Distinguished Scholar Award.

Awards received from the Kansas chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta: Robert Burton, farm and ranch production economist, Outstanding Teaching; Andrew Saffert, Outstanding Graduate Student Research (master's). Vincent Amanor-Boadu, assistant professor, has been awarded a Distinguished Service Award by the Kansas Wheat Commission and Kansas Association of Wheat Growers. It recognizes leadership provided to Kansas Wheat to develop profitable innovations for Kansas wheat producers Michael Boland, professor of agribusiness management, has been selected as a recipient of one of the regional United States Department of Agriculture Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award. The award will be presented in November.

Agronomy

Awards received from the Kansas chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta: **Richard Vanderlip**, professor emeritus, Distinguished Alumni; **Anita Dille**, weed ecologist, Outstanding Advising; **Chuck Rice**, soil microbiologist, Distinguished Faculty; **Gerard Kluitenberg**, soil and environmental physicist, Outstanding Research.

Animal Sciences and Industry

Karen Blakeslee, extension associate, was recognized by the Institute of Food Technologists Extension and Outreach Division as an outstanding volunteer. Beth Ann Crozier-Dodson, food science research assistant, received the Sigma Xi Junior Scientist Award. Michael Dikeman, meat scientist, has been appointed to a three-year term as university ombudsperson.

Melvin Hunt, professor, received the American Meat Science Association's Distinguished Research Award at the Reciprocal Meat Conference. The award, sponsored by ConAgra Foods, recognized Hunt for his expertise in the area of meat color chemistry. **Darla Thomas** was named the K-State Research and Extension / College of Agriculture Employee of the Year.

Biology

K-State's Konza Prairie Biological Station is the subject of a photography exhibition (July 18-Sept.12) in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Department of Interior Museum. The station is dedicated to long-term ecological research, education, and prairie conservation.

Communications

Awards from the Association for Communication Excellence: Gold Award for the 2008 Informal Report to the Kansas Legislature to **Bob Holcombe, Gloria Holcombe, Pat Melgares, Nancy Zimmerli-Cates, Mary Lou Peter-Blecha, Linda Gilmore,** and **David Dunn;** Silver Award for the K-State Research and Extension Web site to **Linda Sleichter, Melgares, Gamage Dissanayake,**

Outstanding Faculty Receive Awards

Cathie Lavis, assistant professor of horticulture, forestry and recreation resources, and Telmo Amado, adjunct associate professor of agronomy, were named the College of Agriculture's Outstanding Faculty of the 2008 spring semester. Lavis also was named Adviser of the Year.

Lavis teaches several upper-division courses on landscape maintenance, irrigation systems and design, and arboriculture. She serves as academic adviser and faculty adviser to the K-State Horticulture Club. She also helps coach the Landscape Contracting Competition Team. Amado teaches a course in tropical soil management. His research interests include no-tillage systems, carbon sequestration in agriculture, cover crops and soil rehabilitation, tropical agriculture, and sustainable agriculture. Through his K-State Research and Extension duties, Amado works with agents, farmers, and agribusiness personnel to improve soil management and alternatives. Sethu Subramanian, Neal Wollenberg, Amy Hartman, and Steven Graham; Bronze Award to Jeff Wichman, Electronic media, audio. Gloria Holcombe received the ACE Service Award.

Kris Boone, department head, was selected as the College of Agriculture professor of the week for the K-State vs. Montana football game.

Diagnostic Medicine/ Pathobiology

T.G. Nagaraja was named a university distinguished professor. His research – partially funded by K-State Research and Extension – focuses on feed additives and on ruminal digestive diseases of feedlot cattle, such as acidosis, bloat, and liver abscesses.

Human Nutrition

Edgar Chambers IV, director of the Sensory Analysis Center, was named a university distinguished professor. He directs research projects – partially funded by K-State Research and Extension – on product evaluation and consumer understanding.



K-State Research and Extension

Paula Peters, assistant director of family and consumer sciences, received the Faculty Extension Excellence Award from the College of Human Ecology. The award recognizes her work with the Kansas Family Nutrition Program, a nutrition education program aimed at low-income Kansans.

Plant Pathology

Judy O'Mara, plant diagnostician, received the Excellence in Extension Award from the Kansas chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta.

In Memorium

Hallie Lee Clonts, Steelville, Mo., died May 1, 2008. She worked for extension in Missouri (1949-1955) and Minnesota before coming to Kansas in 1973 as an associate state leader, limited resources programs. She retired in 1978 as an extension specialist.

Lester "Les" DePew, Garden City, died June 21, 2008. He was hired in 1954 as a research entomologist. Initially, he cooperated with a USDA entomologist to study the biology and control of the brown wheat mite on winter wheat. Later his studies branched out to include insects attacking corn, sorghum, sunflowers, and alfalfa. He retired as professor emeritus in 1989.

Retirees Recognized

The following 17 retirees dedicated a total of 458 years of service to K-State Research and Extension or the College of Agriculture: Ray Aslin, Kansas Forest Service, 33; Michael Bradshaw, School of Family Studies and Human Services, 37; Alberto Broce, Department of Entomology, 29; Forrest Chumley, Associate Director of Research, 6; Jean Clarkson-Frisbie, Pratt County, 37; Karen Elliott, Johnson County, 12; Houchang Khatamian, Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources, 30; Gerry Posler, Department of Agronomy, 33; David Regehr, Department of Agronomy, 26; Jean Rowland, Labette County, 33; Philip Sell, Shawnee County, 30; Roger Terry, Department of Communications, 27; Marilyn Toellner, Sedgwick County, 17; Marsha Weaver, Dickinson County, 35; Kathy Wright, Department of Communications, 21; Carol Ann Holcomb, Department of Human Nutrition, 29; John Murray, School of Family Studies and Human Services, 23.



The Wheat State Agronomy Club presented a personalized K-State rock to Gerry Posler, who recently retired after 33 years in the Department of Agronomy.

Posler was department head from 1989 to 1998. He coached the crops judging team for about 20 years – winning the national championship seven of the last nine years.

From left: Gerry Posler; club members Holly Weber, Brian Lee, Matt Wyckoff, Josh Andres, and Kevin Hecht; and Shirley Posler.



Donnelly Joins Agronomy Faculty

Kevin Donnelly (BS '72, MS '74 agronomy) made a career move – from Waters Hall to Throckmorton Hall. He has accepted a teaching position in the Department of Agronomy.

Since 1998, Donnelly has been an assistant dean in the College of Agriculture Academic Programs Office.

With the retirement of Gerry Posler, professor and former department head of agronomy, a teaching appointment became available.

"When the Department of Agronomy offered me the position, I felt it was the right time and the best fit for the needs of the department," said Donnelly. "I enjoy working in the academic programs office, so it wasn't an easy decision." Donnelly will be teaching Crop Science, Grain Grading, and Plant and Seed Identification, in addition to serving as an academic adviser for students, advising the Wheat State Agronomy Club, and coaching the crops judging team. Donnelly held a similar position for 15 years at Oklahoma State University.

"I really enjoy working with entry level students and feel like I can make an impact," said Donnelly. Christine Wilson, a K-State agricultural economics alumna, has accepted the assistant dean's position.

Faculty Notes

Wilson Named Assistant Dean for Academic Programs



Christine Wilson returned to K-State as assistant dean for academic programs in August 2008.

A native of Jetmore, Wilson has been on the faculty of Purdue University since 2001. She earned a bachelor's degree in agribusiness, and master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural economics – all at K-State.

"It is very exciting to be able to return to K-State," Wilson said. "K-State and the College of Agriculture have such a rich tradition of great faculty and staff in a warm and friendly culture, while providing an outstanding education. It is a tremendous opportunity to be able to be a part of enhancing student success at Kansas State."

"We feel fortunate to have someone of Christine's caliber fill this role at K-State," said Don Boggs, associate dean. "Through her work at Purdue, she has demonstrated a commitment to students and teaching, and that makes her an excellent fit for this position."

Wilson will be responsible for overseeing the college's student records and the course and curriculum committee, coordinating the general scholarship committee, and advising the College of Agriculture Student Council. She also will be responsible for the instruction of Ag Orientation and will teach courses in the University Honors and College Scholars programs, among other duties.

Prior to joining the Purdue faculty, Wilson worked as a senior grains and oilseeds market analyst for Koch Agriculture Co., a division of Koch Industries Inc. in Wichita, and as a K-State associate extension agricultural economist.

Wilson succeeds Kevin Donnelly, who has moved to a position in the Department of Agronomy to follow his passion for teaching, Boggs said.



Wheat Geneticist Often Cited

Bikram Gill, university distinguished professor of plant pathology and director of K-State's Wheat Genetic and Genomic Resources Center, is listed on *www.ISIHighlyCited.com* as one of the world's most influential researchers in the site's plant and animal science category. His work was cited 2,177 times from 1984-2003, which puts Gill among elite company – in the top half of one percent of all publishing authors.

Gill heads a team responsible for mapping the genome of the wheat plant, so breeders can create new varieties with desirable characteristics, whether for disease resistance, high yield, or for use as a biofuel.



Tom Phillips, entomology department head, explains insect habitat to visitors at the Insect Zoo during K-State's All-University Open House. The Insect Zoo has special exhibits during Family Day and Open House, which include cockroach racing and an insect-cooking demonstration. The Insect Zoo recently received an award from the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America for excellence in outreach and educational programming.

The Insect Zoo is open year round and is located in the Glenn H. Beck Dairy Barn on Denison Avenue.

1954

Irwin Porter (BS animal science), Quinter, was elected to the Kansas Agricultural and Rural Leadership Program board.

1962

Elton Aberle (BS animal science) received the R. C. Pollock Award, sponsored by the American Meat Science Association Educational Foundation. It is the highest award given by the association. Aberle is an emeritus faculty member from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Lyle Berges (BS agricultural education, MS '68 adult and occupational education) taught vocational agriculture at Longford and St. George. He also was principal at St. George Elementary School. He retired in 2008 from Farm Bureau, after 19 years as a crop claims auditor.



U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback (BS '79 agricultural economics) spoke at the College of Agriculture spring commencement. He was K-State student body president and president of his class at University of Kansas Law School. He was a White House Fellow in the first Bush administration and was the youngest secretary of agriculture in Kansas history. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1994. In 1996, he was elected to the Senate seat held by former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole.

1976

Raymond Flickner (BS agricultural education, MS '78 adult and occupational education), Wichita, was elected to the Kansas Agricultural and Rural Leadership Program board. He is an officer of the Zions Agricultural Finance Co.

Evelyn Neier (BS, MS '80,

horticulture), Kansas Junior Master Gardener Program coordinator and 4-H Youth Development specialist, earned a Garden Star Award from Botanica, The Wichita Gardens, for leadership in developing a children's garden for area youth. She was cited for extensive research on children's gardens and leadership of the planning committee.

1970

John N. Butts (BS poultry science, MS '71 food science), vice president of research for Land O'Frost Inc., received the Meat Processing Award sponsored by Smithfield Food Inc. at the American Meat Science Association's Reciprocal Meat Conference.

1977

John Carey (BS poultry science, PhD '82 animal science) is the new head of the Texas A&M Poultry Science Department. He had served as interim head of the department since January 2007.

1988

Tom Brown (MS horticulture, BS '85 anthropology), Wichita, has been working in Pakistan and Afghanistan since 1990. His work focuses on agribusiness development, working with various private- and public-sector organizations to start a vegetable seed production and marketing company, a dried fruit production and export company, and numerous village-level seed and fruit tree nursery enterprises. He also manages the development of a USAID-funded initiative to start exporting table grapes and pomegranates from Afghanistan to India. He would like to correspond with other K-Staters who are interested in international agriculture work. Contact Brown at: zeraatllc@gmail.com

1992

Timothy Myers (BS agricultural economics) and **Rebecca (McCready) Myers** (BS '95 agribusiness), Minneapolis, announced the birth of their second child, Ryan Francis, on April 25, 2007.

1993

Lisa Wolters (BS agricultural journalism) was elected the first director of Region 3 (Kansas/west Oklahoma) of the American Boer Goat Association. She is the owner of Lucky Cross Ranch, Ellinwood, where she raises registered/ commercial Boer goats.

1997

Jason Woodworth (BS, MS '99, PhD '02, animal science) received the Outstanding Young Scientist Award from the Midwest American Society of Animal Science. He works for Lonza, a specialty ingredient manufacturer. He began as technical service manager for feed products of all species in North America. In 2005, he became product manager for Lonza's specialty feeds.

1998

Bret Fitzpatrick (BS animal science), Sterling, and his wife, Jill, announced the birth of their daughter, Tia Marie, on April 19, 2008. Bret is a national accounts product manager for Tyson Foods Inc. and runs a cow-calf operation on the family farm. Kenny Kalb (BS agricultural economics), Garden City, and his wife, Shanon, announced the birth of their son, Camren Kenneth, Dec. 22, 2006. They purchased Blick's Phosphate Conversions LLC in February 2008. Justin Kastner (BS food science) received the Early Career Award from the Kansas chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta. He is an assistant professor in the K-State Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology.

1999

Steve Dritz (PhD animal science), associate professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology, has won the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence.

Class Notes

2005

Josh Murray (BS horticulture) and Jessica Keys Murray (BS '04 horticulture), Wichita, announced the birth or their first child, Laird Robert, on Jan. 18, 2008. They sold their ownership in Golden Plains Lawn & Landscape Inc. to a partner. Josh now works with Ryan Lawn & Tree as an arborist. Jessica is a landscape designer for Complete Landscaping Systems. Karaline (Poovey) Mayer (BS animal science) is an agriculture and natural resources agent in the K-State Research and Extension Wabaunsee County office.

2007

Zachary Mueller (BS milling science and management), Saginaw, Texas, is an associate head miller for ConAgra Foods.

In Memorium

Verne Converse (BS '49 agricultural economics), 86, died June 29, 2008. He served as a pilot in WWII and the Korean Conflict and as an aviation evaluator, completing 34 years of military service. He lettered in football and was a season ticket-holder for more than 50 years. He was a farmer and rancher near Eskridge and was an active associate in a car dealership. Paul Leo Kelley (BS '43, MS '46, agricultural economics), 87, Manhattan, professor emeritus, died March 13, 2008. He served as president of the Kansas Association of Future Farmers of America (1939-1940). He was a K-State professor of agricultural economics for several years, then served as head of the Department of Economics. He retired in 1989. Richard S. Kubik Sr. (BS'49 animal husbandry), Wichita, died May 12, 2008. He was the Thomas County agricultural extension agent from 1949 until his retirement in 1988. He was a U.S. veteran during World War II. Edward Leland (BS '39 agricultural economics), 88, Billings, Mont., died Sept. 1, 2007. He worked for the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C., before serving in the U.S. Navy during WW II. He moved to Billings as the water

resources economist for the Bureau of Reclamation until his retirement in 1980. He was involved in dam construction throughout Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota. Frank Orazem (MS '53 agricultural economics), 83, Manhattan, died July 8, 2008. He came to the United States as a political refugee from Yugoslavia in 1949, then served in the U.S. Army. He joined the K-State faculty in 1956. He served as a Fulbright lecturer and visiting professor at the University of Naples, Italy, and as a consultant at seminars in Hungary, New Delhi, and Uganda. Memorial contributions can be made to the Frank Orazem Scholarship Fund for Agricultural Economics. Harold A. Roberts (BS '59, MS '68, dairy production), 77, Manhattan, died April 25, 2008. He taught dairy processing courses and managed the dairy processing laboratory and dairy sales counter, earning the nickname "Mr. Ice Cream." He developed the formula for Call Hall Ice Cream and coached the dairy products judging team. After retiring, he served as a consultant. Raymond Seltzer (MS '42 agricultural economics), 90, Tucson, Ariz., died May 24, 2008. He served as a faculty member and chairman of the agricultural economics department at the University of Arizona. He returned to Manhattan to found Agri Research Inc. He later orchestrated the purchase of the

firm by its employees, renaming it Development Planning and Research Associates Inc. He then returned to Arizona to teach world business at the American Graduate School of International Management. John Sjo (BS '49, MS '52, agricultural economics), 84, Manhattan, died May 21, 2008. He worked as the 4-H club agent in Dickinson County before returning to K-State to earn a master's degree. During his 40year tenure in the Department of Agricultural Economics, he spent two years in Nigeria, West Africa, to establish the ag economics department at Ahmadu Bello University. He also was stationed in Copenhagen, Denmark, for two years. working for the U.S. State Department. He retired as an emeritus professor in 1989. Memorial contributions may be made to the K-State Gardens.

William G. "Bill" Willis (BS '51 animal science; MS '64, PhD '67, crop protection), 81, Manhattan, died June 20, 2008. He served as a county extension agent in Neosho, Ellsworth, Harper, and Sumner counties until his appointment in 1967 as an extension specialist, plant pathology. In the late 1960s, he was instrumental in setting up K-State's first plant diagnostic lab. He retired as extension state leader, plant pathology, in 1989.

Ag Alumni Class Notes Fill out this form and return it to: Gloria Holcombe Department of Communications 315 Umberger Hall Manhattan, KS 66506–3402 or e-mail to: gloria@ksu.edu	
Name	
Spouse's Name	
City	StateZIP
Home Phone	E-mail
Graduation Date(s)	Degree(s)
Employer	Title
Feel free to attach more information.	



College Recognizes Excellence

The College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Alumni Board honored two outstanding alumni – Richard Porter and Michael Doane – and faculty member Arlo Biere during the Wild4Ag Weekend activities.

Rich Porter, farmer and cattlefeeder from east central Kansas, is the Distinguished Alumnus Award winner.

Porter took a nontraditional route to his current occupation. He graduated from K-State in 1972 with a degree in chemical engineering. After graduation, he went to law school and worked in environmental law. In 1979, he returned to his farming roots.

Porter's operation now includes 8,000 head of finishing cattle and 15,000 acres of crops and pasture. He says he can't think of any way of making a living that could make him happier than production agriculture. As a businessman, he is open to new ideas and challenges. One of those challenges was to be a member of K-State's inaugural Masters in Agribusiness class. He completed the degree in 2004.

"It was interesting after 20 years' experience to go back and learn how you are supposed to go into business," laughed Porter. "The ag econ instructors were fantastic. It was a thrill for me to meet instructors who are often quoted in farm magazines."

Porter strongly supports K-State Research and Extension programs and serves on the dean and director's advisory council. He also works with specialists and the Kansas Farm



Attend next year's event on May 9-10, 2009. Go to www.ag.k-state.edu for more details.

Alumni Association

Management Association on various projects.

"We provide the cattle and manpower, and K-State sets up the trials and keeps us on track for data collection," Porter said.

The researchers take data from his operation and compare it with data from other operations. Porter said he sees this as an opportunity to be an "early adopter" and help others in the future.

Michael Doane, director of industry affairs for Monsanto Company in Chesterfield, Mo., is the Outstanding Young Alumnus.

Doane grew up on a farm near Downs in north central Kansas. He said he never had any doubt about where he would go to college.

"I always had a respect for agriculture and what's required to produce the food and fiber we depend on," said Doane. "I wanted to major in ag, and K-State was the logical choice."

He said the relationships that he made at K-State, especially through Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, helped him craft a vision for the future.

Doane graduated from K-State in 1995 with a degree in agribusiness and took a job with the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers (KAWG). In that position, he traveled the state, talking to farmers about the association and discussing ag policy.

"I took what I had learned in the classroom and put it to use," said Doane. "I recommend the opportunity because I made a network of lifelong friends."

After four years at KAWG, he returned to K-State. He initially wanted to pursue an MBA but changed to a master's degree in agricultural economics.

"The ag econ faculty really care if you are learning," said Doane. "They have an open door policy, which isn't the case in all institutions."

After completing his master's degree, Doane accepted a job with Monsanto. He says that even though Monsanto is a large company, it's possible to have influence in areas you care about. He initially concentrated on wheat and now works with sustainability issues.

Doane continues to be involved with

K-State by serving on the dean and director's advisory council.

"Service has been a hallmark of his young career," noted Bryan Schurle, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics. "He distinguishes himself through his servant leadership, dedication, and commitment to the ideals instilled in his youth in all aspects of his career, family life, service to his community, and devotion to K-State."

The David J. Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award was presented to Arlo Biere, professor of agricultural economics.

"I have worked closely with Arlo since 1988," said Andrew Barkley, professor and Coffman distinguished teaching scholar. "He exemplifies Associate Dean Mugler's concern for and positive attitude toward students, learning, and commitment to excellence. As a faculty member, I have benefited enormously from Arlo's leadership, advice, and management."

Biere was part of a team that constructed the basis for current curriculum in 1972 and has led the department's undergraduate program since 1987. He also was instrumental in establishing the agribusiness degree.

"Arlo believes in a participatory classroom," said Allen Featherstone, ag economics professor. "He was the key faculty member in developing tiered classrooms, which let faculty make use of the latest technology while allowing more direct interaction with students.

"He develops a relationship with students to spur them to success," said Featherstone. "Arlo is willing to be a cheerleader when the student needs that, but also is willing to confront them about areas where improvement can be made."

"Dr. Biere's lifelong commitment to undergraduate teaching, advising, and curriculum development – combined with his impact on faculty throughout his 34-year career at K-State – make him a thoroughly deserving recipient of this award," said Bryan Schurle, agricultural economics department head.

See the inside back cover for nomination instructions for next year's awards.



Dave Nichols, animal sciences teaching coordinator, presents Kathleen Arnold with her diploma at the College of Agriculture spring 2008 commencement.

Kathleen Arnold, a 48-yearold Stanton County farmwife, completed her bachelor's degree last spring through distance education.

She had attended K-State as a pre-veterinary science major in the '70s, but chose to get married and start a family instead of completing her degree.

Her life was full with farm and housefhold chores and raising five children. But in the fall of 2002, two of her teenage children were killed in a car accident.

"I thought we always had tomorrow," she said. But here was a different, horrific lesson – the importance of acting now, not waiting until tomorrow.

In 2007, Arnold checked into the distance learning program and discovered she could finish a degree in agriculture in a year. Plus it could be done at home on the computer.

With the help of Deanna Retzlaff, program manager, and Dave Nichols, teaching coordinator, she found the necessary direction.

"I wouldn't have done it without their help with setting goals and doing it on time."

-Information from Hutchinson News



Matt, Molly, and Jim Lindquist stand beside the Lindquist Family Annual Flower Garden. The garden was dedicated at the 2008 Garden Gala. This was the fourth year that Friends of the KSU Gardens have gathered in early June to raise funds to support student internships and work-study programs in the gardens. This year's theme was Let the Good Times Roll: A Night in New Orleans.

Jim Lindquist, Manhattan, made a \$50,000 gift to establish two funds – the KSU Gardens/Lindquist Family Annual Flower Fund and the Jim and Mary Lindquist Extension Administrative Leadership Fund. The annual flower fund will generate funds to support the annual flower beds in front of the visitors' center at the gardens. The leadership fund will be used for professional development for extension professionals in K-State Research and Extension.

Jim Lindquist (BS '73 agricultural education, MS '74 and PhD '87 adult, occupational and continuing education) is assistant director of K-State Research and Extension with responsibility for extension field operations. Mary (Heidrick) Lindquist (BS '74 life sciences) was an active member of the Friends of KSU Gardens for many years. She died in July 2007.

Oklahoma Couple Creates Agriculture Scholarship

M. Hal and Janice J. Taylor, Bartlesville, Okla., have made a gift of \$25,000 to the College of Agriculture to establish the M. Hal and Janice J. Taylor Agriculture Scholarship. A total of nine new \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded over the next three years.

The Taylors both earned degrees from K-State in 1962 – M. Hal in agricultural economics and Janice in home economics education. He also earned a master' degree in 1964 in poultry science from K-State and a doctorate in food science from the University of Maryland. While at K-State, he was a member of the golf team and Alpha Kappa Lambda.

Cargill Supports Animal Science Education

Cargill, Wichita, has made a gift of \$120,000 to the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry to support two graduate research assistantships in the department for three years. The research assistants will focus on the areas of meat science, muscle development, and food safety.

"At Cargill, we recognize these students are the future of the industry," said Scott Eilert, director of Cargill's Meat Technology Development Center in Wichita. "We're thrilled to partner with Kansas State University in order to help provide students with additional educational resources to help them succeed."



K-State Alumni Career Services offers a broad range of services. All alumni can receive free online assistance with resumes, cover letters, networking, career decision-making, and job search strategizing.

Alumni can take advantage of two fantastic online career tools called CareerBeam and QuietAgent. Personal career consulting is a benefit of K-State Alumni Association membership.

Visit www.K-State.com/Careers to learn more.



This November 25, 1913, photo shows steers – ready for the American Royal – being led through campus. To read the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry history and view more historical photos, go to *www.asi.k-state.edu*, click on General (in purple on the left side), then the AS&I Centennial link.

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.
- 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.
- 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 15, 2008, 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 Ag Web site.

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

K-State Ag Alumni

Tailgate Party in Cat Town

Saturday, October 4 Starts two hours before kickoff of the K-State vs Texas Tech game. *Football with free food, fun, and fellowship.*

Kansas State University College of Agriculture Waters Hall Manhattan, Kansas 66506–4015

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