



# ROAR



A Newsletter for Classified Employees of Kansas State University – Summer 2011

## Project SEARCH

We are excited to feature Project SEARCH, which is now located on campus in the K-State Union. Project SEARCH's primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities. This program has become an international program and model of success that provides people with disabilities the training necessary to gain marketable skills that will enable them to secure competitive employment.

Project SEARCH was established 15 years ago, by a medical director who was frustrated with the high turnover rate in entry-level jobs. Today, Project SEARCH has grown to over 150 sites across 39 states and four countries. This high school transition program is a 9 month internship for students with disabilities in their final year of high school. All students have already completed all the graduation requirements, and they are eager to connect with jobs in their own community.

The really great thing about this program is that it not only benefits people with disabilities, but it also benefits local businesses that are willing to help them acquire marketable job skills. Students are trained in three 10-12 week periods in a routine position. They receive no pay for their training, but gain valuable experience, increased independence, confidence, and self esteem.

If you are interested in learning more about this great program, please contact our sponsoring representative, Dr. Pam Russell. She can be reached at 785.587.2000. You are also welcome to visit the program website at [www.projectsearch.us](http://www.projectsearch.us) for more information.

## President's Notes

by *Lesla Reves*

Warm greetings from Classified Senate!

It is my pleasure to serve the Classified Employees of Kansas State University as president.

Since I started at this post on June 1<sup>st</sup>, I have met so many great people. It is a very close knit group of people that make up the K-State Family. I am proud to be a part of this family as we go through many growing stages. We continue to see work towards the K-State 2025 goal that President Schulz has set before us. We will need to put in our best effort to achieve this goal. I know we can do it!

For those who don't know me, my name is Lesla Reves. I have worked for K-State for 18 years. I milked at the KSU Dairy Teaching and Research Center for 9 years and have been at the KSU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital for the last 9 years as a large animal caretaker. I have been married for 20 years to my best friend, Rob. We have two wonderful teenage sons, Sheridan and Morgan. We live on a farm 20 miles NE of Manhattan where we raise Kerry cattle, Boer goats, chickens, and geese. We also have a rat terrier, Kaden, and too many barn cats to count.

As the fall semester is just around the corner, Classified Senate has a busy schedule. We will again this year be hosting the Classified and Support Staff Council in October. This is a time when the Board of Regents Universities support staff come together to discuss lobbying efforts in support of Classified Employees for the current Legislative session. Classified Senate also participates in the Benefits Fair in the Union. Please



# President's Notes

(continued from page 1)

stop by our booth and learn more about what Classified Senate does to support our fellow employees. I will represent KSU Classified Employees while traveling with the President's Cabinet to our sister institution, North Carolina State University in October.

Please feel free to contact the Classified Senators that represent your college or unit. We are here to serve you and help improve your experience here at K-State. We are open to your ideas and suggestions on issues you would like to see addressed.

## Senate Election

Classified Senate is pleased to announce the results of the recent election. Your Classified Senate for 2011 – 2012 is as follows:

### COLLEGES

#### Agriculture & Extension (4)

1. Christina Nash (2013) 1<sup>st</sup> term
2. Maria Sweet (2013) 1<sup>st</sup> term
3. Lois Schreiner (2012) 2<sup>nd</sup> term
4. Janice Taggart (2014) 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### Architecture, Planning & Design (1)

1. Jody Fronce (2012) 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### Arts and Sciences (1)

1. Lindsay Thompson (2013) 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### Business (1)

1. Pam Warren (2013) 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### Education (1)

1. Susan Erichsen (2014) 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### Engineering (1)

1. Doris Galvan (2012) replaced Sharon Hartwich

#### Human Ecology (1)

1. Janet Finney (2012) 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### Veterinary Medicine (2)

1. Rob Reves (2013) 2<sup>nd</sup> term
2. Lesa Reves (2012) 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### Hale Library (1)

1. Pat Fine (2014) 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### KSU Salina (1)

1. Annette Hernandez (2014) 2<sup>nd</sup> term

### ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

#### Administrative and Finance (6)

1. Brad Millington (2013) 1<sup>st</sup> term
2. Dale Billam (2013) 1<sup>st</sup> term
3. Will Hirsch (2014) 1<sup>st</sup> term replaced Michael Seymour II
4. Cherry Rosenberry (2012) 1<sup>st</sup> term
5. Michael Seymour I (2014) 1<sup>st</sup> term
6. Terri Wyrick (2014) 2<sup>nd</sup> term

#### Institutional Advancement (4)

1. Vickey Grochowski (2012) replaced Carolyn Elliott
2. Jackie Yonning (2012) 1st term
3. Hanna Manning (2014) 1st term
4. Kerry Jennings (2014) 1st term

#### President / Provost (1)

1. Ramon Dominguez (2013) 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### Local Agencies (1)

1. Paula Connors (2013) 1<sup>st</sup> term

Congratulations to the newly elected Senators, and thank you to all of those who have served.

## FY 2012 Budget Overview

The FY 2012 budget has been finalized, and key items for Classified Staff are bulleted below.

- No funding for the market adjustments for classified staff or COLA was approved.
- Longevity bonuses will continue as they have in the past.
- The 2.5 percent surcharge on state employee health benefits was vetoed by the Governor.
- \$50 gift card for those who participate in the state health checks has been eliminated.
- KPERS remains unchanged at this time. A study commission was appointed to evaluate possible alternative retirement plans. Recommendations will be made to the Legislature by January 6, 2012.

# Classified Employee Spotlight

## Classified Staff Appreciation Night



K-State Athletic Department hosted a Classified Staff Appreciation Night, Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Tointon Family Stadium. Classified Staff, who RSVP'd, received two complimentary tickets to attend the baseball game which was televised. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fun celebrating all the great work achieved by K-State Staff.

To further recognize the Classified Award of Excellence winners for all their hard work, they were given the opportunity to throw out the first pitch of the game. K-State coaches, athletic director, and baseball players created a fun, memorable night honoring the award winners.

The K-State Classified Award of Excellence winner for the Office and Clerical category was Caron Berges. Caron is a Senior Administrative Specialist for the Office of Research and Sponsored Program. Caron was nominated because of her sense of professionalism and excellence, and she brings an understanding of purpose to her job.

Kealan Schroeder was the award winner for the Service and Maintenance category. Kealen works as an Agriculture Technician in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. She was nominated because of her great deal of initiative in redefining the efficiency of work carried out in her area at the veterinary hospital.

The final category for Award of Excellence is Technical and Professional. Dawn McCune Wall who is a Technology Coordinator/Technology Support Consultant for Career and Employment Services was awarded the winner of this category. Dawn was nominated because of her high quality work. Along with being helpful to students, as well as staff, she is constantly looking for ways to make processes easier and more efficient.

Those who attended had a great evening of fun, and the award winners had a blast being honored that evening. The K-State Staff thanks the athletic department for everything they did to make us feel appreciated, and for the complimentary tickets. Also, thank you to the award winners for all their hard work at K-State. You help make K-State great!



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## Opportunity Fund

The Classified Employee Opportunity Fund is a way for classified staff to receive supplementary financial support. There are two awards available, one is the personal reimbursement for up to 25% (not to exceed \$100) for textbooks for courses taken by classified employees; office equipment, tools and supplies; and professional development travel expenses not covered by their department. The second award is the Meritorious Service Award. This award is for classified employees who have shown exceptional leadership and extraordinary effort in their position. All benefit eligible classified staff members are eligible to be nominated for this award if they have completed one or more years of service to K-State and have not been a recipient of this award within the past five years. Faculty, staff or students may nominate a classified employee for this \$200 award. Annual contributions are made to this fund through the Foundation's annual Changing Lives Campaign. You can learn more about these opportunities by visiting the website at <http://www.k-state.edu/class-senate/award.html>

by Annette Hernandez, Classified Employee  
Opportunity Fund Chair



## Bragging Rights

We know that our Classified Staff work very hard at their jobs and we know you appreciate it. We've chosen this space as a spot for you to show them your thanks! If you want to brag about the staff, we'd love to hear it!

Please look for the Bragging Rights tab under the ROAR section of the Classified Senate website at [www.k-state.edu/class-senate/roar.htm](http://www.k-state.edu/class-senate/roar.htm)



# ROAR



If you have suggestions or comments for the ROAR, please contact Ramon Dominguez ([ramon@ksu.edu](mailto:ramon@ksu.edu)) or Lindsay Thompson ([lindsay@ksu.edu](mailto:lindsay@ksu.edu)).

## Senate Meetings

**All Classified Senate meetings are open to all classified employees.** You are encouraged and welcome to attend any or all of our meetings. Senate meetings begin at 12:30 p.m. Below are the dates and locations:

- September 7, 2011 – Sunflower Room
- October 5, 2011 – Cottonwood Room
- November 2, 2011 – Sunflower Room
- December 7, 2011 – Cottonwood Room
- January 4, 2012 – Cottonwood Room

KSU Classified Senate  
118 Anderson Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

[www.ksu.edu/class-senate/](http://www.ksu.edu/class-senate/)



## NEW DIRECTOR SELECTED



The many restaurants, shops and entertainment options at the K-State Student Union will have a new driving force when Bill Smriga steps into the role of union director August 15. Smriga, appointed to the position by Pat Bosco, vice president for student life, comes to K-State after several years of serving as the director of the Fort Hays State University Memorial Union and the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center. Smriga said he believes K-State Student Union is considered to be one of the best in the country, with great full-time and student staff. "I look forward to working on the K-State campus and living in Manhattan, as well as to the new opportunities and challenges I will have as director," he said.

## BERNARD PITTS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIRES

Kansas State University's Assistant Vice President of Student Life and Executive Director of the K-State Student Union Bernard J. Pitts celebrated his retirement July 13. Several colleagues and friends from out-of-state, the community, and across campus came to pay their respects to Pitts and his accomplishments at the Union. As the Union Executive Director, Pitts provided the oversight for the 1998-2000 student referendum enhancement and renovation project with several other improvements during his term. As the Assistant Vice President of Student Life, Pitts provided support to the KSU Center for Child Development and the KSU Recreational Services. Pitts served two terms on the Executive Committee of the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) and was President from 1996-97. He was recognized for his service to the College Union Ideal in 2005 as the recipient of the highest honor given by ACUI, the prestigious Butts-Whiting Award.



## PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE



*Get your passport at the Union!*

Your K-State Student Union ID Center is pleased to announce that it now accepts passport applications on behalf of the US Department of State. US citizens planning international travel may apply for their passports at the ID Center on the first floor of the Union from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For application forms, information on required documentation, and additional travel information visit [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

## CAT CASH SAVINGS

Receive 5% off your purchases at select Union Foodservice locations and the Cat's Den when you pay with Cat Cash. During special promotions, you can also earn Bonus Bucks for your Cat Cash deposits. For deposits up to \$150, you'll receive 10% Bonus Bucks and for deposits more than \$150, you'll receive 20% Bonus Bucks. Bonus Bucks are free and can be spent at participating Union Foodservice locations. Be sure to look for the Bonus Bucks signs! Use your Cat Cash at your Union Bookstore and receive 10% off any regular priced K-State apparel or gift item.

## VERIZON WIRELESS

The K-State Student Union Bookstore celebrated the grand opening of Varney's Wireless Feb. 23. Students had the opportunity to enter for a chance to win a new Dell Inspiron Mini Laptop, as well as other prizes including Verizon key chains, sillybandz, and playing cards. Verizon koozie's were also available with any purchase of a Verizon cell phone or accessory. With any new upgrade or activation, customers also received a purple sling bag, free car charger, and a 40% off coupon for a K-State apparel item.

## COMING SOON!

The Otis Spunkmeyer cart is a new, exciting way to deliver quality food and beverages to our campus! Provided by the K-State Student Union, the cart is equipped for everything and features a sound and speaker system, hot and cold fridge compartments, coffee dispenser, tray displays, and more! The cart will carry fresh Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, muffins, hot and cold sandwiches, chips, salads to go, coffee, sodas, and other great eats for your convenience. The cart will be launched the week of August 29th, driving around campus between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Be looking for the cart to be coming by you!

- OTIS SPUNKMEYER
- 
- GREEKDOM GIFT SHOP
- GREEKDOM GIFT SHOP
- SALSARITA'S ONLINE ORDERING
- 

## STUDENT AFFORDABILITY



Buy a Mac and our Apple bundle and save up to \$300 of retail.

