January 11, 2013

The Department of Kinesiology and the College of Human Ecology are joining forces to offer K-State students enhanced educational and research opportunities.

This month, kinesiology transitioned from the College of Arts & Sciences to become the fifth major unit in human ecology. The move makes sense academically and scientifically.

Kinesiology shares human ecology’s mission to discover, disseminate and apply science-based knowledge to meet basic human needs and improve the human condition. The department’s focused goal and strategic plan align most appropriately with those of human ecology to promote health and well-being through research and teaching.

A strong, collaborative partnership between kinesiology and human ecology goes back more than 20 years when K-State first offered a dual undergraduate degree in nutrition and kinesiology. The newest partnership is the Physical Activity and Nutrition Clinical Research Lab that should be completely operational within the next two months.

Other collaborations:

• Kinesiology provides 23 hours of required coursework for the athletic training degree in the Department of Human Nutrition.
• Kinesiology collaborates to deliver a master’s of public health degree and a Ph.D. in human nutrition with an emphasis in public health physical activity.
• Kinesiology conducts extramurally-funded research in childhood obesity with the School of Family Studies and Human Services and the Department of Human Nutrition.

Moving to the College of Human Ecology will strengthen collaborations and broaden the programs in kinesiology and the college by:

• Increasing research and the development of extramural funding, especially in areas such as exercise physiology, public health physical activity, physical activity health outcome research and obesity prevention;
• Raising the number of doctorates awarded because of collaborations with the Department of Human Nutrition and new Ph.D. offerings in the college;
• Growing the number of undergraduates involved in research, including a greater number of interdisciplinary research assistants.

Kinesiology is thrilled to become a major part of the College of Human Ecology. Together we can attract a broader range of research and development funding. Together we can give students more opportunities to be involved in meaningful, collaborative research and to be better qualified to meet the challenges in the human condition in today’s world. Together we can more effectively and efficiently move toward the university’s goal to be a top 50 public research university by 2025.

Sincerely,

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Virginia Moxley, Ph.D.
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Peter Dorhout, Ph.D.
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