

Smile for the World Wide Web cam



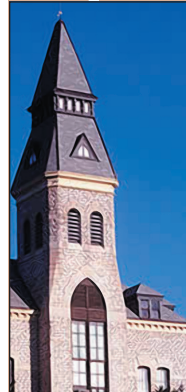
Jack Taylor, assistant director of undergraduate admissions, answers questions from YOUniversity TV producer Kara Matuska about why students choose K-State and the process of becoming a Wildcat. YOUniversity TV, a Web-based video producer, was on campus July 2 to film a tour of K-State that is slated to appear early this fall on its Web site, <http://www.youniversitytv.com>. The short video tours of college campuses are made with a young audience in mind. Matuska also interviewed Michael Wesch, assistant professor of anthropology, and Chris Sorensen, university distinguished professor of physics and 2007 CASE/Carnegie national professor of the year, about the experiences K-State students can expect in the classroom.

Rain garden earns Skabelund design awards

The International Student Center's perennial garden, designed to absorb runoff from storms, has earned recognition from two landscape architecture organizations. The Prairie Gateway Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects presented Lee R. Skabelund, assistant professor of landscape architecture, with a 2008 award of excellence for his work on the project. The society's Central States Conference also has recognized Skabelund with a 2008 award of merit in the built-design category.

points of pride

Konza in the nation's capital



The Konza Prairie Biological Station is the subject of an exhibition in Washington, D.C. "A Sea of Tallgrass: The Konza Prairie" runs through Sept. 12 at the U.S. Department of Interior Museum. The exhibition consists of photographs by Judd Patterson, who earned a master's in geography from K-State in May. The exhibition's curator is Deborah Wallis Wurdinger, who earned a bachelor's in anthropology from K-State in 1993.

Under new management, continued

Most acts illustrate Holmberg's underlying theme for the season, "the spirit of America." Cherryholmes is a chart-topping family band that plays bluegrass, "a uniquely American art form," he said. Savion Glover is a wizard of tap, a dance form with slave roots. The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra will pay tribute to two great Jewish American composers, Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland. Riders in the Sky will revive America's tradition of showbiz cowpoker in "Christmas the Cowboy Way." And the East Village Opera Company brings a thoroughly American rock 'n' roll attitude to the stage.

"I'm looking forward to the totality of the series," said Holmberg, who started booking acts for K-State even as he was packing to leave his previous post as executive director for the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra in Texas. "I really get to use the creative part of my brain, even though I sit behind a desk from 8 to 5 every day."

Already he's deep into planning the 2009-10 season and beyond. "The auditorium also houses numerous K-State theater, music and dance performances," Holmberg said, "along with the Landon Lecture Series and various other activities, so we need to have our series in place earlier to be a resource for all the entities that need McCain."

The complete schedule is available at McCain's revamped Web site, <http://www.k-state.edu/mccain/>, which for the first time al-



The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, led by Leon Botstein, will play selections from Copland and Bernstein during its Nov. 6 concert.

lows patrons to select their seats electronically and buy tickets in real time. But traditionalists still can order their tickets over the

phone, 785-532-6428, or stop by McCain's box office. Discounts are available to faculty, staff and students. ■

McCain Performance Series schedule 2008-09

- Aug. 28 Golden Dragon Acrobats
- Sept. 12 Ensemble Galilei with NPR's Neal Conan
- Sept. 18 East Village Opera Company
- Sept. 22 Garrison Keillor
- Sept. 25 "Sweeney Todd"
- Oct. 3 Claremont Trio
- Oct. 9 Cherryholmes
- Oct. 19 Capitol Steps

- Nov. 2 Savion Glover: Bare Soundz
- Nov. 6 Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra
- Dec. 4 Riders in the Sky: Christmas the Cowboy Way
- Jan. 22 "Nonsense," starring Sally Struthers
- Jan. 31 Russian National Ballet Theater
- Feb. 7 Conrad Tao

- Feb. 20 Aquila Theater: Comedy of Errors
- March 8 Gaelic Storm
- March 11 Hairspray
- April 5 Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
- April 18 Glenn Miller Orchestra
- April 24 Diavolo

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Classified

- A list of employment opportunities is posted at <http://www.k-state.edu/hr/vac.html>
- A recording of classified job opportunities is available 24 hours a day on the Employment Information Line, 532-6271.
- For additional information, call 532-6277 or visit the Division of Human Resources at 103 Edwards Hall. Applications are accepted 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Unclassified

- A listing of vacancies can be seen at <http://www.k-state.edu/affact/Opportunities/unclass.htm>
- For additional information, call the office of affirmative action at 532-6220 or visit 214 Anderson Hall.

Three for all, continued

Lindsborg. Sandzen is known for his colorful, post-impressionist or expressionist landscapes.

"We'll spend some time examining the paintings," Maxwell said, "then try to match our music with the art."

The upcoming winter performance at the Beach Museum is Maxwell's favorite kind.

"This allows us to incorporate other elements of the arts into our music," she said. "In some ways, this is a throwback to chamber music, which was traditionally performed in someone's home or in a smaller venue. It allows for a more intimate and interactive feel to

a performance."

It's not always easy for the Tallgrass Trio to find gigs that cater to their orchestral strengths, and it's not always easy to find arrangements.

But the group hasn't let those factors dissuade them from what appeals to them fundamentally: teaching audiences of all ages about music.

"Being able to expose people to a high level of music is an honor," Mortenson said. "It's wonderful to help people discover something new."

For more information about the trio and audio samples of their work, visit <http://www.tallgrasstrio.com> ■

Changes to student loans, continued

fall 2008 term of this additional available assistance."

The law also introduced a new repayment option for parents of dependent students borrowing under the Federal Parent PLUS Loan program.

"Until now, repayment on a Parent PLUS Loan typically began for the parent borrower 60 days after the loan has been disbursed," Moeder said. "The new repayment option will allow the parent borrower

to begin repayment six months after the dependent student has ceased to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis, which is typically after the student has graduated. This repayment option is particularly beneficial because economic concerns are on everyone's minds."

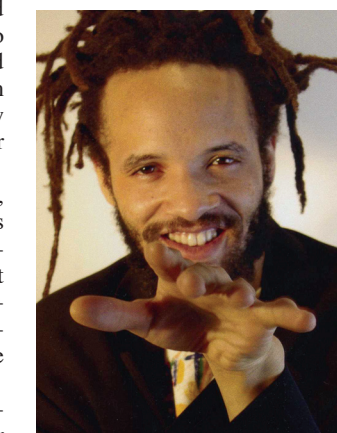
Moeder said K-State has e-mailed information on the changes to all students who have been admitted. ■

Under new management

McCain's 2008-09 Performance Series reaches out to diverse audiences



The McCain Performance Series lineup for the 2008-09 season includes the Claremont Trio (Julia Bruskin, Donna Kwang and Emily Bruskin), tap dancer Savion Glover (below, left) and Garrison Keillor.



"Being program director in an educational setting, that mission is foremost in my mind," he said.



If a popular show such as "Nonsense," starring Sally Struthers, fills every one of McCain's 1,650

seats, that's great, but "it's only one element in the bigger mission."

A string quartet playing contemporary music might draw far fewer people, Holmberg said, but the question should be, "Are these people being transformed in some way? If the answer is 'yes,' then we've succeeded."

Even so, the overall schedule is far from esoteric. "Hairspray" and "Sweeney Todd" are touring musicals spun off recent film successes, and the McCain season opener is the family-pleasing Golden Dragon Acrobats from China.

Continued on back

Changes to student loans can boost K-State value

Two recent changes to the federally guaranteed student loan program are good news for students and can help with their educational costs for the coming school year, said Larry Moeder, assistant vice president for student financial assistance and admissions at K-State.



Larry Moeder

"The changes, part of the recently enacted Ensuring Continued Access to Students Loans Act of 2008, will reduce the need for high-cost private student loans," Moeder said. "They also can help make a K-State education, already cited as one of the nation's best values, even more affordable."

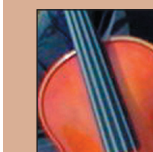
In 2007, K-State was recognized as one of Kiplinger's 100 best values in public college education and was one of the Princeton Review's best value colleges in America.

The first change to the student loan program increases unsubsidized federally guaranteed student loan eligibility by \$2,000 for a typical undergraduate per academic year.

"To continue emphasizing responsible student loan borrowing, K-State is notifying students enrolled for the

Continued on back

Inside



K-State's Tallgrass Trio takes on all genres of music. Up Close

Continued on back

oh, by the way

“Upgrade K-State” survey results available

The “Upgrade K-State: Tell Us What You Need” report is now available at <http://upgrade.k-state.edu/results>

The report, which compiles results from Upgrade K-State e-mail comments, targeted IT focus groups and open forums held this spring, offers a broad scan of the current state of K-State’s information technology services and future needs as perceived by a wide range of K-Staters.

More than 230 people participated in the focus groups and open forums and more than 100 comments were received by email. The information gathered here provides a foundation for future strategic planning for the next generation of IT services at K-State.

The report is being used by the Campus IT Needs Assessment Working Group to develop recommendations this summer for the provost and the computing executive committee regarding next steps to better align central IT services with critical campus needs. In addition, central IT leadership and staff will review the documentation for “quick win” action items to improve central IT services. To provide additional feedback or comments, please visit the Upgrade K-State Web site at <http://upgrade.k-state.edu>

Hot-weather options at the Beach Museum

If it’s too hot or rainy to go outside and the kids are bouncing off the walls, the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art has two new activities that will let families learn about the museum and the world around them.

ARTotes contain worksheets, books, activities and games that help families explore the permanent collection, said Kathrine Schlageck, senior educator at the Beach Museum. Three varieties of totes are available so far.

“The series out now focuses on the elements of art,” Schlageck said. Totes on shape, form and line are available now; color and texture will be available by the end of the summer.

The second new activity is the Exploration Station in the new wing of the museum. The station has activities and resources that will change with the wing’s exhibitions. The station’s current focus is “More Than Words: Illustrated Letters From the Smithsonian Archives of American Art.”

“When people stop at the Exploration Station they can make post-cards and mini travel journals inspired by the exhibition,” Schlageck said. Visitors can take home their creations.

“The overall idea is to provide fun ways for people to learn about the exhibitions and interact with the art,” Schlageck said.

For more information, contact Schlageck at 785-532-7718 or drop by the museum on the southeast corner of the campus at 14th Street and Anderson Avenue. Free visitor parking is available next to the building. Normal museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays; and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. The museum is closed Mondays.

research

Oil exploration in the lab

Lab grows algae in hopes of developing biofuel source

Research by Zhijian “Z.J.” Pei and Wenqiao “Wayne” Yuan could advance the large-scale cultivation and manufacturing of oil-rich algae for biofuel.

Pei, associate professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering, and Yuan, assistant professor of biological and agricultural engineering, have received a \$98,560 Small Grant for Exploratory Research from the National Science Foundation to study solid carriers for manufacturing algae biofuels in the ocean.

Algae are a diverse group of simple organisms that live in or near water. Certain species are high in oil that could be converted into such fuels as biodiesel, according to Pei and Yuan. Algae also have several environmental advantages over corn or other plants: They don’t need soil or fresh water to grow.

Pei and Yuan are looking for the best materials to make floating carriers on which to grow algae.

“Some materials are better for algal attachment and growth than others,” Yuan said, “and we will be identifying what those ‘good’ materials are.”

The project could help with the design of major equipment for manufacturing algae biofuels from the ocean, including solid carriers, in-ocean algae harvesting equipment and oil extraction machines, Pei said.

“This research aims to develop



Samples in Yuan and Pei’s lab are part of their cultivation of oceanic algae that are high in oil. They’re investigating which materials make the best carriers for cultivation.

a cost-effective process for growing algae on solid carriers in the ocean for biofuel manufacturing,” he said. “If successful, it will greatly benefit the energy security of the United States, as well as society in general.”

The research will be conducted with a two-step approach.

“Selected algae species will be grown on solid carriers in a simulated ocean environment and will be evaluated for their ability to attach to solid carriers and grow in seawater, their biomass productivity, and their oil content,” Pei said.

“Top-ranked species in step one will be selected to test the performance of several carrier materials, including natural organic,

synthetic organic and inorganic

materials, with the same evaluation parameters as in step one.”

Pei said the properties of the highly-ranked carriers also will be analyzed.

Yuan, who has studied biodiesel for several years, said the major problem with making the fuel has been finding sustainable sources of oil and fat.

“Algae seems to be the only promising sustainable oil source for biodiesel production,” he said. “In my lab, we have several different projects involving algae and we have been trying different ways to grow it. We have already obtained some encouraging results.”

Pei said the project also will

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noteworthy

Animal sciences and industry

Melvin C. Hunt received the distinguished research award from the American Meat Science Association at the Reciprocal Meat Conference, June 25, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Biochemistry

Michal Zolkiewski has been elected chairman of the Graduate Biochemistry Group.

Gerald R. Reeck and colleagues published “A Protein from the Salivary Glands of the Pea Aphid, *Acyrtosiphon pisum*, is Essential in Feeding on a Host Plant,” in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, early edition, July 7-11.

Clinical sciences

Hans Coetzee will present “Anaplasmosis in Cattle,” “Assessment and Management of Pain in Cattle” and “Antimicrobial Resistance,” American Veterinary Medical Association Convention, July 19-22, New Orleans.

English

The following faculty presented at the annual conference of the Children’s Literature Association: Reimagining Normal, June 12-14, Normal, Ill.:

Philip Nel, “How to Publish Your

Oil exploration in the laboratory, continued

have an educational benefit, with K-State College of Engineering graduate and undergraduate students to be involved in the multidisciplinary research.

Pei, a K-State faculty member since 2000, has expertise in new process development, process modeling of silicon wafering, and traditional and nontraditional



Richard A. Marston published “Presidential Address: Land, Life and Environmental Change in Mountains,” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 98, No. 3.

Book; or, The Little Manuscript That Could” and “Postmodernism.”

Anne Phillips, “American Families of the Cold War Era: Resourcefulness and Resilience in Enright’s ‘Spiderweb for Two.’”

Karin E. Westman, “Power to the (Normal) People? Muggles, Commoners and Magical Power in Rowling’s Harry Potter and Stroud’s *Bartimaeus Trilogy*.”

Naomi Wood, “De-Normalizing the Quest Fantasy: Philip Pullman, J.K. Rowling and China Miéville.”

Nel published “DeLillo and Modern-

ism” in “The Cambridge Companion to Don DeLillo,” edited by John N. Duvall, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Multiple departments

Dolores J. Takemoto, biochemistry; and Duy Hua, chemistry; and colleagues published “Protection of Retinal Cells from Ischemia by a Novel Gap Junction Inhibitor,” *Biochemical & Biophysical Research Communications*, online.

Communication studies, theater and dance

David Ollington served on the faculty of the Missouri Fine Arts Academy June 6-29 at Missouri State University, Springfield. Ollington taught interdisciplinary class, ballet, contact improvisation, auditioning for musical theater, and dance composition. He also premiered an original work of choreography, “New Sun,” June 12. He moderated a panel discussion of academy visual artists. The academy commissioned its ’08 dance faculty to collaborate on an original performance, “Unrendered.” Ollington worked with choreographers Susan Rieger (940 Dance Company, Lawrence) and Rebecca Bryant (Purdue University), percussionists Ray Castrey (Missouri State) and Don Nichols (Purdue), and videographer Natalia Jaeger (Arizona State University).

machining processes. Pei earned his bachelor’s from the Zhengzhou Institute of Technology and his master’s from the Beijing Institute of Technology, both in China. His doctorate is from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Yuan, who joined K-State in 2006, has research interests in biofuels and biomaterials, diesel engine combustion and performance, and algae photobioreactor and bioprocessing systems. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from China Agricultural University, and his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. ■

up close

Three for all

Members of Tallgrass Trio tackle a wide range of musical fare

The members of the Tallgrass Trio are willing to tune up for almost any type of music.

The group has performed everything from original compositions, easy listening tunes and contemporary pop from bands like Radiohead, to traditional classical music. No matter what’s on the page, the members of the group agree that they just want people to enjoy their music.

“If an audience is rewarded by our music, then it makes the performance special,” said Abby Richmond, the group’s clarinet player. “If at a concert people are hearing and enjoying new music from our ensemble, then it’s rewarding for me.”

The group consists of Richmond, who received her master’s in clarinet performance from K-State; Kristin O. Mortenson, a teacher and coordinator of publicity and outreach for the department of music (on violin); and Susan Maxwell, an adjunct instructor in music (bassoon). They got together about two years ago.

“We’d all been talking about doing something like this,” Mortenson said. “I was in between teaching jobs at K-State. Abby had just finished



Tallgrass Trio members Kristin Mortenson (from left), Susan Maxwell and Abby Richmond take their music to school groups, courtesy of Kansas Arts on Tours, but they also play for weddings and parties.

her master’s degree and Susan had just finished her doctorate, and we were all looking for a creative outlet. We really like each other personally, and it’s really worked well for us.”

Since the group’s inception, the Tallgrass Trio has performed dozens of times at weddings, parties, concerts, libraries and museums.

Word of the Tallgrass Trio’s talents have spread. This summer, the group has been part

of the Kansas Arts on Tour, a non-profit venture sponsored by the Kansas Arts Commission that provides state funding for over half of the group’s performance fees.

The Tallgrass Trio will visit schools and other venues across the state to bring their blend of wind and stringed instrumentation to audiences across the state.

“I love to play anything that involves audience interac-

tion,” Richmond said, “and with a children’s concert, the kids tend to be really engaged and willing to participate.”

Group members are also looking forward to a collaboration planned for this winter with the Beach Museum of Art. The trio will work with the art of Birger Sandzen, the Swedish-born painter who taught at Bethany College in

Continued on back