



College of Agriculture • Fall 2017

AgReport

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Rare Corpse Flower
Blooms After 15 Years

Preparing for the Future



John Floros (front row, far left) with attendees at the spring dean and director's advisory council meeting.

Thank you to the alumni, faculty and staff, students, and stakeholders who took part in my five-year review. I appreciate your comments and support to continue as dean and director. It has been my privilege to serve you, the College of Agriculture, K-State Research and Extension, the university, and all Kansas citizens through the last five years.

I look forward to continuing my service for the next five years. My vision remains steadfast: to be a top five College of Agriculture in the nation, and to be a top destination for education, research, and extension.

March 2017 marked the 130th anniversary of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the research arm of K-State Research and Extension. It funds research projects at research facilities across the state plus 20 academic departments in the colleges of Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Human Ecology, and Veterinary Medicine. This year, we will continue to emphasize and improve our research enterprise.

Meeting Needs

Since 2012, the College of Agriculture has received more research award dollars than any other K-State college. In 2016, the college and K-State Research and Extension accounted for about 55 percent of the university's total research expenditures. We are able to attract grant funds because our faculty are very competitive and focus on topics relevant to Kansas, the nation, and the world.

Agriculture continues to be the largest employer in Kansas, contributing 43 percent of the state's economy. We must honor our land-grant mission by educating tomorrow's leaders, conducting relevant research, and distributing pertinent information through our statewide network of county and district offices.

Looking Ahead

Enrollment is stable and the placement rate remains at 97 percent. Staying in touch with alumni and other stakeholders provides valuable feedback to make sure our curriculum adapts to meet industry needs. Leadership

positions in college organizations and competition teams, study-abroad opportunities, and internships also ensure our students are career ready.

As state funding decreases, tuition and the need for scholarships increase. The college provided about \$1.5 million in scholarships this year. Fellowships and professorships that help fund faculty in various departments enable us to hire and retain high-quality faculty. We appreciate your financial support in these important endeavors.

Each semester, students from each department are invited to speak to my advisory council and leadership team. The council is always impressed with the quality, knowledge, and professionalism of our students. **Many undergraduate and graduate students are working on complex research projects; they are the scientists of tomorrow.**

Daryl Buchholz and Steven Graham recently retired. They brought great experience and tremendous service to K-State. We will miss both of them, but we want to wish them many happy and active years ahead.

Gregg Hadley accepted the position of associate director of extension, "replacing" Daryl Buchholz. For the last five years, Gregg served as assistant director for agriculture, natural resources, and community development. I welcome Gregg to our leadership team as we continue toward our vision of making K-State Research and Extension a global leader in education, research, and extension.

I look forward to seeing many of you at events, including the Sept. 11 Henry C. Gardiner Global Food Systems Lecture on Feeding the World, Sustaining the Planet.

Go Cats!

John D. Floros

John D. Floros
Dean and Director



Make a difference by supporting the College of Agriculture.

"My experiences in KSU ag gave me skills to do life, so we will always give back." — Bill Rowland, '94, '96 agricultural economics

Visit www.found.k-state.edu/agriculture

AgReport

Fall 2017

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

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On the cover: A rare titan arum, or corpse flower,
recently bloomed in a K-State greenhouse. See
page 2 for more information.

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News Briefs



After more than 15 years of greenhouse growth, an unusual flower bloomed in a K-State greenhouse. About 1,500 people flocked to see and smell the rare, tree-like flowering plant.

In the photo above, Chad Miller, associate professor of landscape horticulture, explains the plant's growth cycle to Elizabeth Dodd, university distinguished professor of English.

The *Amorphophallus titanum*, more commonly known as titan arum as well as "corpse flower," was cultivated by former faculty members, Ken and Janet Schroeder, around 2001. This is the first time it has bloomed.

"The 'flower' is actually a conglomerate of florets, creating an inflorescence," said Miller. "And this species happens to produce the world's largest unbranched inflorescence."

The plant emits an odor similar to rotting flesh, hence the common name, "corpse flower."

Because the flower takes so long to unfold and is only open for 24 to 48 hours, the horticulture and natural resources department closely monitored and documented the process. In addition to greenhouse visitors, plant enthusiasts watched the plant unfurl on Facebook but missed the pungent aroma.

New Associate Director



Following a national search, [Gregg Hadley](#) has been hired as the associate director for extension.

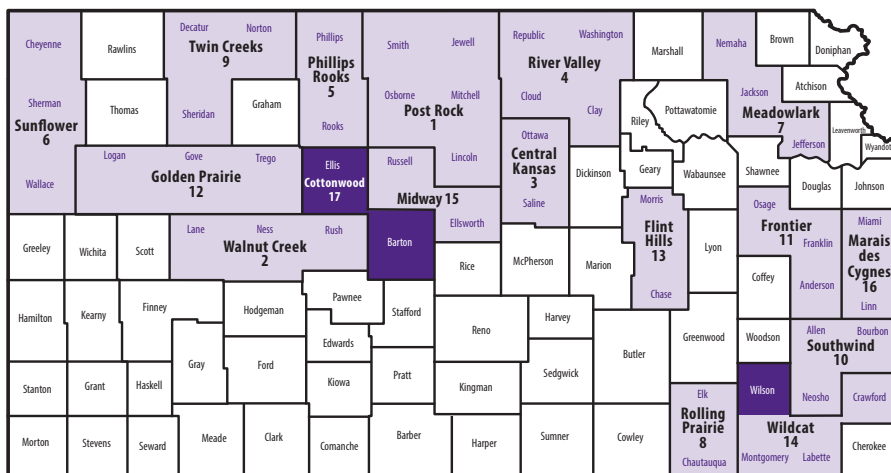
"We are so fortunate to have someone of Gregg's caliber with his experience in industry, academia, and extension in this important role," said Dean and Director John Floros. "Since joining us in 2011 as an assistant director, he has worked with many Kansans throughout the state, as well as with colleagues within our extension system. His moving into the associate director's position gives us a valuable resource as we work to be a national leader and a model public research and land-grant university."

Extension District Updates

Wilson County joined Crawford, Montgomery, and Labette counties to expand the [Wildcat Extension District](#). Barton and Ellis counties formed the [Cottonwood Extension District](#). With these changes, effective July 1, 2017, K-State Research and Extension now has 48 counties organized into 17 districts.

The Kansas Extension District Law, passed in 1991, gives local extension councils the opportunity to partner with one or more counties to form a district. Forming a district involves agreements between the local extension councils and county commissioners.

Districting allows local citizens access to the expertise of additional agents. As part of a district team, agents can dedicate more time to a specific program area. At the same time, agents have access to more resources and support as they work together in a larger team.



Floros Accepts New Role



Kansas State University will have a prominent role in helping the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine identify compelling future directions for research in food and agriculture.

John Floros, dean of the [College of Agriculture](#) and director of K-State Research and Extension, will serve as co-chair of the academies' Science Breakthroughs 2030 project with Susan R. Wessler, distinguished professor of genetics and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor, University of California, Riverside.

The yearlong study will explore novel scientific approaches suggested by members of the scientific community.

Special attention will be given to ideas that include aspects of science and engineering not typically associated with food and agriculture.

Based on community input, the committee will produce a report describing ambitious and achievable scientific pathways to address major problems and create new opportunities for the food and agriculture system.

The [Supporters of Agricultural Research \(SoAR\) Foundation](#) and the [Foundation on Food and Agriculture Research \(FFAR\)](#) are providing major support for the study.

Entomology, Animal Sciences and Industry Earn Worldwide Recognition



Two College of Agriculture departments — [Entomology](#) and [Animal Sciences and Industry](#) — have been recognized among the best places in the world to study, research, and begin a career.

The [Center for World University Rankings](#) (CWUR) publishes “the largest academic ranking of global universities.” In 2017, the center published its inaugural ranking of individual subjects. CWUR ranked K-State’s Department of Entomology fourth in the world and the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry seventh.

The rankings by subject are based on “the number of research articles in top-tier journals. Data are obtained from Clarivate Analytics (previously the intellectual property and science business of Thomson Reuters).”

“We’ve known for years that the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University has an excellent reputation and is highly regarded nationally and internationally,”

said John Floros, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension.

“We also know that we have been making significant progress in recent years, but to have several of our programs ranked in the top five or ten globally, is simply inspiring and energizing.”

Ken Odde, head of the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, says one big advantage that K-State offers its students is quick, easy access to field experience.

“The quality and type of facilities we have are top-notch, but proximity is equally important. It’s important for research, it’s maybe more important for teaching,” Odde said. “If an instructor has to build 30 or 40 minutes of travel time into their lesson plan every time they want their students to work with growing plants or live animals, that not only cuts into teaching time, it also results in distant facilities that are underutilized.”

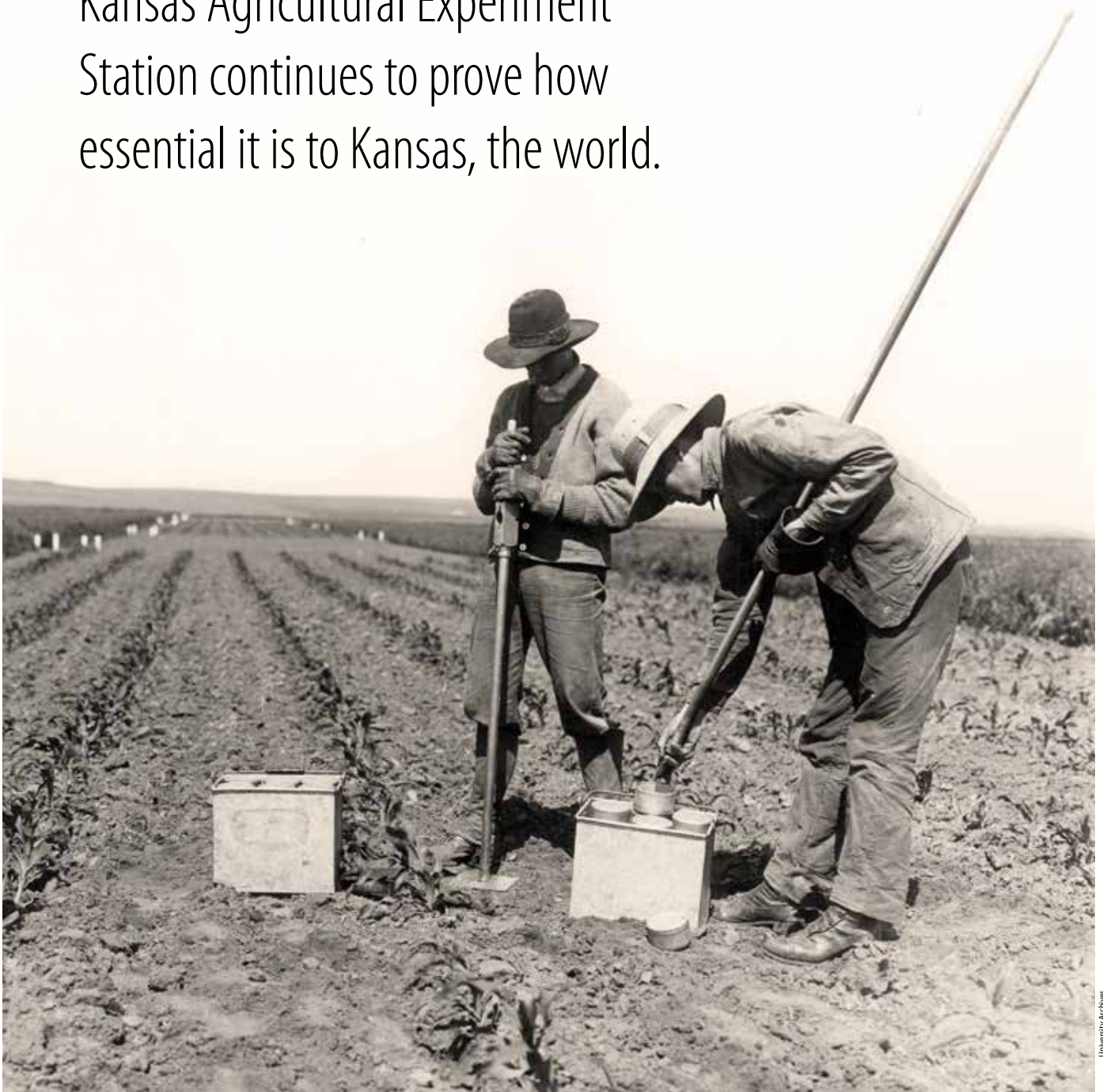
“Having these things close to the main campus means that when there’s a teachable moment — it could be a live birth or a disease outbreak — we’re right on top of it, minutes away.”



Four students completed the eight-week [K-State Research and Extension](#) multicultural fellowship. Each student worked on a research project with a faculty mentor and gave a project presentation for faculty and staff. The students with their mentors (l-r): Zelia Wiley, assistant dean for diversity; Associate Professor Jay Amamcharla, animal sciences and industry, and Riann White, Florida A&M University; Associate Professor John Gonzalez, animal sciences and industry, and Christina Bradshaw, North Carolina A&T University; Lonnie Hobbs Jr., Prairie View A&M University, and Assistant Professor Alex Shanoyan, agricultural economics; Dahlia Sanchez, Kansas State University, and Professor Karen Schmidt, animal sciences and industry. Sanchez also worked on a project with Zelia Wiley and presented an overview of the fellowship’s 11-year history.

Research Longevity

Kansas Agricultural Experiment
Station continues to prove how
essential it is to Kansas, the world.



Kansas did not attain its food-production powerhouse status by accident like a random weed growing from parched ground.

It fittingly followed the path of a well-tended seed, planted earnestly on March 3, 1887, when Kansas became the first state to accept the provisions of the Hatch Act, which established agricultural experiment stations (AES) at land-grant universities.

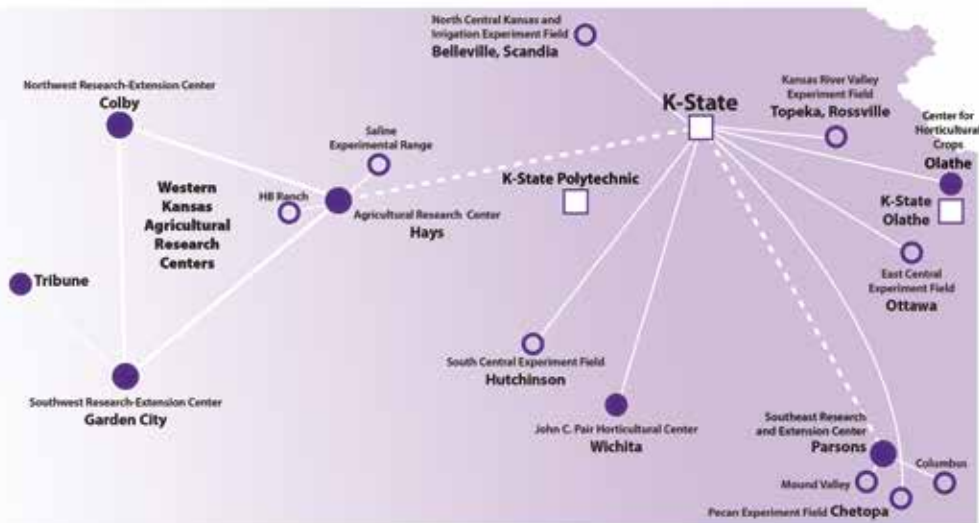
“Adding a research mission with the passage of the Hatch Act was a logical next step following the original Morrill Act of 1862 establishing the land-grant university system,” said Ernie Minton, associate dean for research and graduate programs.

“At that time, the need to teach applied aspects of agriculture was clear, but it was soon apparent that advances in agricultural practices through research were needed to add new, scientifically derived knowledge to practices that were up to that point largely culturally derived.”

What followed began modestly, with 12 scientists working for the Kansas State Agricultural College. Now — 130 years later — a sprawling Kansas State University network of researchers touches every corner of the state. They define and refine best practices for livestock; grow test plots; and ensure crops, gardens, trees, and turfgrass grow well in the varied climatological regions of Kansas. They also study how to manage water resources, soil, and threats from insects, disease, and severe weather.

According to *The Economic Returns to U.S. Public Agricultural Research*, Kansans see a long-term benefit of \$33.60 for every dollar spent on agricultural research. Kansas is a leader in production of wheat, cattle, sorghum, and pork, and K-State’s AES system is world-renowned for its talent and results.

The seeds sown 130 years ago yielded today’s thriving research programs. Many of them are focusing another 30 years into the future, when the planet will have nine billion people to feed. How that will be accomplished requires efforts across the broad spectrum of specializations in K-State’s AES



Kansas’ elevation, soils, and rainfall vary widely across the state. Research centers (●) and experiment fields (○) are strategically located to provide the best research-based information to producers.

network. The following are a sample of recent, long-term research projects.

Safer Beef Supply

One of the lead researchers in a \$25 million grant awarded five years ago says the nation’s beef supply is safer now from Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) than it was before the project started.

Randy Phebus, professor of animal sciences and industry, said the project has given scientists a much better understanding of the ecology and frequency of the potentially deadly *E. coli* pathogen in cattle and beef products.

“We have better diagnostics now, and we have a better understanding of the baseline contamination frequency, both in live animals and in food products,” Phebus said. “We have now developed and validated multiple intervention technologies to control STEC, allowing companies to pick and choose what works best for them, with an end result of keeping it out of the beef supply.”

Earlier this year, the grant funded its 100th internship, which has allowed students across the country to study STEC alongside university researchers. Each student is required to spend 300 to 500 hours on their research project.

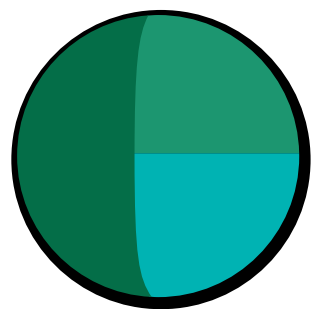


Professor Randy Phebus, second from left, works on a ground beef project with a team of researchers in K-State’s Biosecurity Research Institute, a biosafety level-3 facility located in Pat Roberts Hall.

"It's been pretty remarkable," Phebus said. "A lot of the students have gone on to graduate school in food science or public health-type fields. We've got quite a few who have taken jobs at places that could expand into their future career. It's been a very successful program. We've put more than one-half million dollars of the grant into the internships."

Safe, Accessible Water

"From research focused on the best ways to keep water safe to ensuring an adequate supply in urban and rural areas,



CROP WATER ALLOCATOR

including collaborative efforts with homeowners, agricultural producers, government agencies and others, we're working to keep clean water flowing," said Dan Devlin, director of the [Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources](#) and the Environment at K-State, which is home to several organizations focused on water.

Many of the advances discovered by the university's researchers have been adopted in other states and around the world. But it's not enough to do the research and discover the best methods.

Currently, irrigation accounts for 85 percent of water use in Kansas, which is higher than the 37 percent U.S. average and 70 percent global average. Approximately three million of the 21 million cropland acres in Kansas are irrigated primarily from groundwater sources, mostly in the western one-third of the state, according to a *Water Primer*, part of a series of articles written by Devlin and other K-State Research and Extension specialists.

Research, often years in the making, has focused on such efforts as the development of computer software such as KanSched2 and Crop Water Allocator to help farmers make irrigation decisions about subsurface

drip irrigation and its potential in commercial agriculture and advances in center-pivot irrigation technology, including mobile drip irrigation.

Meatier Pork Industry

University Distinguished Professor Mike Tokach said K-State swine research over the last two decades has allowed the swine industry to safely increase litter sizes and growth rates of finishing pigs.

"It is quite amazing when you look at where we were 20 years ago," Tokach said. "The average sow in the mid 1990s

fast an improvement we've made in the industry. And they do that with about 20 percent less feed per pound of gain than we did 20 years ago."

Tokach noted that in the 1990s, the average litter was 7 to 10 pigs. "Now we have a lot of farms that are weaning over 15 pigs per litter," he said. "That allows you to achieve some very high targets."

Advances in genetics, artificial insemination, and feed nutrition are key factors in the success of the swine industry, according to Tokach. Geneticists have filled an important role in selecting for breeding success and in reducing the mortality rate of piglets.

The university's swine nutrition group is renowned for research that focuses on converting feed to energy in the most efficient way possible. Tokach said he attributes this to an increased emphasis on science.

Farm Business

Through research and outreach, K-State's [Department of Agricultural Economics](#) works with producers who seek to position themselves to take advantage of opportunities and weather any storms.

produced about 14 pigs marketed per sow, and today we are over 22 pigs marketed on that same sow base.

"Pigs grow about 30 percent faster than they did 20 years ago. That's fairly amazing, if you ask me, in terms of how



Swine nutrition team members, Jim Nelssen (left) and Mike Tokach, in a K-State swine facility. The team focuses on efficiently converting feed to energy, increasing litter size, and reducing mortality rates.



Allen Featherstone, agricultural economics department head, shares current research information with students in the classroom.

It's against that backdrop that the department's award-winning website www.agmanager.info was developed more than 20 years ago as a resource for farmers, ranchers, landowners, and lenders to find the most recent economic research pertaining to their businesses. The site averages more than 24,000 hits per month.

Another key component to the department is the Master of Agribusiness, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

"There's quite a bit of research that has come out of that program. It's really a public-private partnership," said Allen Featherstone, head of the agricultural economics department.

Students working toward a master's degree in the distance education MAB program are full-time employees at companies and farming operations across the United States and in other countries and often base their thesis on challenges or activities at their company. Faculty members work with them to research potential solutions, which are often implemented by the companies.

UAV-monitored Crops

Breeding better wheat varieties and monitoring for disease is easier and faster with a bird's-eye view. Researchers at K-State's USAID-funded Feed the Future Innovation Lab

for Applied Wheat Genomics have been accelerating their use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to collect data on thousands of plots in Kansas, Mexico, and India.

"Perhaps the greatest bottleneck currently in plant breeding and genetics is effectively generating precision measurements of plant characteristics in the field," said project director Jesse Poland, assistant professor of plant pathology.

"The goal of this project is to deliver in-season yield predictions by building models that combine genetic information from DNA sequencing and crop physiology that we will gather from UAV measurements on tens of thousands of breeding lines."

Poland said the university uses UAVs to evaluate large populations of candidate varieties under field

conditions in large wheat-breeding nurseries in multiple countries — enabling research to continue all year long, not just in one, U.S.-based growing season — then build a database that breeders can use when developing future varieties.

"Plant breeding is really a numbers game," Poland said. "If we can use new technologies like remote sensing with these low-cost UAVs, then we provide the breeders with the tools to look through many more candidate varieties and increase the chances of finding ones that are really excellent and can become the next best varieties to release to farmers."

Value to the University, Kansas

Associate Dean Ernie Minton summarized the continuing importance of agricultural research.

"The Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station has grown to be a dominant feature in the university's research enterprise. Over the past five years, KAES averaged 54.2 percent of K-State's total research expenditures.

"According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, Kansas ranked sixth among all U.S. states in the value of agricultural products sold. Given the unmistakable importance of the industry to the state and the centrality of food and agriculture to the university's land-grant mission, it is fitting that the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station has a prominent footprint in K-State's total research enterprise."

Learn more about agricultural research at www.ag.ksu.edu/research/



Competition in the Little Apple



Students from across the country came to Manhattan in early April to compete in the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Judging Conference. The event showcased Manhattan, Kansas State University, and the College of Agriculture.



More than 850 college students and faculty from 49 public and private two- and four-year institutions competed in 12 categories — agribusiness, agricultural communications, computer applications, crops, dairy judging, equine management, horticulture, livestock judging, livestock management, meat judging, precision agriculture, and soils



coordinator, led the team that organized the event. As host, K-State wasn't eligible to compete this year.

"K-State has a strong track record in NACTA crops judging, placing first in 12 of the last 18 years," Donnelly said.

Each year, K-State hosts numerous trainings, conferences, and competitions. According to Karen Hibbard, director of the Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau, the NACTA conference alone had an estimated local economic impact of \$242,950.

The conference was supported by contributions from the agricultural industry, including overall event sponsors John Deere and the CHS Foundation.

— plus the Knowledge Bowl, where teams field questions across categories.

Kevin Donnelly, professor of agronomy; Alyson Lister, college events coordinator; and Kim Kerschen, agronomy instructor and academic





Giving Back

A K-State Sorority Raises \$20,000 for Fire Victims

Mark Penner

On March 8, wildfires raged across the Oklahoma–Kansas border, burning nearly 660,000 acres, destroying more than 30 homes, and killing thousands of cattle. Clark, Comanche, and Meade counties were hit the hardest.

Truckloads of hay for surviving livestock, milk replacer for calves without mothers, food, clothing, fencing materials, and people willing to help poured into the area. As resilient residents struggled to save injured animals and evaluated losses, help came from near and far, including the Kansas State University campus.

The Sigma Alpha chapter decided they wanted to help. “As a professional agriculture sorority, we found it extremely important to give back to the agricultural community that has provided for us for so long,” said Celine Beggs, senior in agricultural communications and journalism and agricultural economics.

They initiated a T-shirt campaign with all proceeds from the \$20 “Praying for the Plains” T-shirts going to families affected by the fire. Their original goal was to sell 150 shirts. Within two days, they had nearly hit that target.

Beggs was president at the time and Topanga McBride, senior in agricultural communications and journalism and agricultural economics, is the current president. Sydney Bigger, senior in animal sciences and industry, served as fundraising chair and spearheaded the T-shirt campaign.



“We were truly stunned by the support from our classmates throughout the College of Ag and at K-State,” said Beggs. “We started selling T-shirts expecting our family and close friends to purchase or donate money. Little did we know that by sharing our message from the Sigma Alpha Facebook page that we would have such a great response.

“The link was shared by so many people that our content was spread across the United States, and T-shirts were ordered from coast to coast. We wouldn’t have been able to do this without our College of Agriculture family and their ability to share the fundraiser to their networks!”

Messages poured in from College of Agriculture students who had seen the shirts at a Jackpot Show in Illinois, the Colorado State University campus, the National Junior Angus Show in Des Moines, Iowa, and many others.

The final T-shirt count was 1,595. The sorority received a thank you note from Matt Teagarden (B.S. ’91 agricultural economics), secretary/treasurer of the Kansas Livestock Foundation.

“Thank you for your donation of \$20,111.14 received on April 18, 2017, by the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF) for the benefit of victims of the wildfires in Kansas. Every dollar received by KLF will be distributed to farmers and ranchers impacted by the fires.”

More fire-related [stories and videos](#).



President Richard Myers, Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey, Dean of Agriculture John Floros, and Dean of Veterinary Medicine Tammy Beckham take part in a discussion at Reeve Agri Energy near Garden City.

Courtesy of Kansas Department of Agriculture (2)

President Myers on the Importance of Agriculture

After serving as interim president of Kansas State University for six months, retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers was named the university's 14th president. His inauguration ceremony took place in McCain Auditorium on April 28, 2017.

The *President's Corner*, a monthly radio program hosted by Richard Baker, allows President Myers to communicate with a broad audience about university issues. On June 9, 2017, Myers and Baker discussed the FY2018 budget, the College of Agriculture, and Myers' recent visit to southwest Kansas.

Agriculture makes up 43 percent of the Kansas economy. It is both the largest employer and largest producer of goods for export. K-State plays a major role in making that happen. Are we meeting the educational needs of agriculture?

If we can't do agricultural education well, then we might as well not exist

because it is the essence, one of the pillars of our land-grant institution. I think that without adequate funding for all our colleges — not just the College of Agriculture — we would do a suboptimal job of providing talented graduates. It probably would impact the number of young people and faculty we can attract. It would limit the research needed to produce graduates with the kind of talent we need in this state. We need adequate state funding to conduct the kind of research we need to make progress in agriculture and all other economic sectors in the state.

The college has about 2,700 undergraduate and 545 graduate students with a placement rate of 97 percent. Do you see continued growth for the college?

There's been great growth in the College of Agriculture in terms of student numbers. It has plateaued at this point, and I don't know if there is a lot of room

left for growth. I know that there's not a lot of room left for research because our facilities have either been maxed out or become so old that they're not good any longer. So long term, we need to look at some capital improvements as well. That certainly will take some state help, maybe major state help, to get our facilities back up to where they need to be.

Does your proposal for a budget include funding for new agricultural research facilities?

The current budget proposal does not include funds for needed agriculture research facilities. We have proposed and are still trying to make progress on the geosciences research and classroom renovations in one of our oldest buildings on campus, Thompson Hall. That's right before agriculture. Then agriculture will consume a lot of our time going forward.

The state doesn't help as much as they used to with building facilities or renovating facilities, which means we need to do a lot with philanthropy.

When you look at the recently completed phase IV engineering building or the new College of Business building, philanthropy played a major role in being able to fund those buildings. The state helped of course, especially in terms of engineering.

A lot of improvements like the Berney Family Welcome Center were done through philanthropy. And there's going to be more of that. We're going to need some improvements to Hale Library and McCain Auditorium, which houses many student activities, recitals, and practice. Those both need to be refreshed.

As fewer and fewer folks in our state are directly involved in agriculture, we need to do a better job of educating them about the importance of agriculture.

How do we better communicate to those who decide whether we get money or not about the role K-State plays, not only in agriculture around the state, but also in the Kansas economy?

That's a really good point. Where is the state population? Not in the western part of the state. It's on the eastern side and near Wichita. There's a lot of agriculture around those areas and a lot of the people that live there understand agriculture. But to really understand what K-State contributes, you've got to go to all 105 counties where we have research and extension folks trying to make life better. They are helping people work smarter, more efficiently, and be better stewards of our resources. That's what we do.



Tour participants inspect a center-pivot system converted to a mobile drip irrigation system at the T&O Farms LLC water technology farm in southwest Kansas.

I recently went to western Kansas with John Floros, dean of the College of Agriculture, Tammy Beckham, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey. We went out there to listen and learn about what we need to do better. One thing we need to do better is help people understand the role that talent — agricultural students graduating with bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees — what a difference that can make to our state and our economy.

We can do better. As fewer and fewer folks in our state are directly involved in agriculture, we need to do a better job of educating them about the importance of agriculture. We're not there yet.

Did you bring back anything you hadn't heard before?

Absolutely. We visited dairymen. Dairy is growing at a pretty good clip out in western Kansas. We talked to cattle producers. We visited some water technology farms that are comparing pivot sprinkler systems with a high rate of evaporation to the drip line alternative that reduces the water you need to irrigate crops. It could help protect the Ogallala Aquifer, which is not being replenished as it should. That area could be very unproductive if we

don't take steps to conserve water. We also had a session with veterinarians and saw some swine production facilities. It was quite a tour.

A lot of the people you visited with are K-State graduates. Did they voice some of the same concerns you have about the budget?

Dean John Floros will tell you that we are not producing enough graduates in agriculture to fill the job needs that are out there. We are not even coming close. That also was reflected by the folks out there in western Kansas. They need talent; they need educated talent — the kind of folks we produce here, not only in agriculture but in a variety of disciplines. We heard that loud and clear.

Final thoughts about the budget?

I'm an optimistic person. I've talked to a lot of legislators, and a lot of them want to fund education. The legislative body controls the purse strings and will decide. I hope they understand how important education in general, higher education in particular, is to the state. We've got to do a better job of funding this really important economic driver for the state.

Agronomist Earns Award Trifecta

A lifelong commitment to international advancements in soil improvement and cultural exchanges has earned a Kansas State University professor international recognition.

Chuck Rice, university distinguished professor of agronomy and recipient of the [Mary L. Vanier University Professorship](#), will receive three prestigious awards this fall.

The International Agronomy Award from the [American Society of Agronomy](#) recognizes outstanding contributions in research, teaching, extension, or administration made outside of the U.S. by a current agronomist.

For his outstanding contributions to soil science on the international scene, Rice will receive the International Soil Science Award from the [Soil Science Society of America](#).

The Hugh Hammond Bennett Award is the highest honor bestowed on an individual by the [Soil and Water Conservation Society](#). It recognizes national and international



accomplishments in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Rice represents K-State on numerous boards including the board of trustees for the [International Center for Tropical Agriculture](#) (CIAT).

“For decades, Dr. Rice has been a tireless champion of innovative

soil science and its importance for sustainable agriculture around the world,” said CIAT’s director general, Ruben Echeverria.

Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State associate professor of agronomy, added, “During his career at K-State, Rice has made a significant contribution to international agronomy and soil science through teaching, research, and service.

“Dr. Rice has had multiple international teaching activities through formal classroom teaching and informal student tours. He has encouraged faculty to gain international experience and lead student tours. K-State Agronomy now has a regular course for international experience as a direct result of Dr. Rice’s effort.”

Rice endowed the Chuck and Sue Rice International Agronomy Lecture Series to attract prominent scholars to interact with K-State students and faculty on international aspects of agronomy, agriculture, and the environment.

New Ph.D., Secondary Major Prepare Students to Meet Global Leadership Challenges

Beginning in fall 2018, Kansas State University will offer a doctorate in Leadership Communication. Many colleges offer courses in leadership and communications, but K-State will be the first institution to make it a prime destination, rather than a stepping-stone in the path.

This program of study is designed for men and women aspiring to careers in government or public service, as well as nongovernmental organizations, and extension or university faculty.

This advanced degree program will be the first of its kind at K-State, filling a void for agricultural communications, communications studies, and leadership studies.

“This program is innovative through its interdisciplinary approach and the incorporation of community-engaged scholarship,” said Lauri Baker, associate professor in the Department

of Communications and Agricultural Education.

“While students can learn about communication and leadership theory in other Ph.D. programs, they cannot get this interdisciplinary approach with applied research designed to work with communities to make progress,” Baker said.

Community-engaged scholarship involves the faculty member and student in a reciprocal partnership with the community and integrates faculty roles of teaching, research, and service.

The Ph.D. program responds to the need for interdisciplinary approaches to solving complex challenges.

“Our expectation is that graduates of this program will use community-engaged research to transform the academic, nonprofit, government, private, and civic sectors in which they live and work,” Baker said.

For more information, contact Lauri Baker at lbaker@ksu.edu.

K-State also offers a secondary major in Global Food Systems Leadership, which is intended for students who want to study and exercise leadership on the grand challenges of feeding a growing world population through a systems thinking approach.

An interdisciplinary team from Kansas State University created the program with the goal of helping students enhance their preparation for a diverse range of careers that require integrated knowledge of the global food system and the leadership capacity to skillfully intervene to change the system for the common good.

For more information on the secondary major, contact Assistant Dean Shannon Washburn at sgw@ksu.edu.

A Tale of Two Presidents



Division of Communications and Marketing

Former K-State Pres. Jon Wefald, second from left, watches as Rylee Bergh, president of Wefald Hall governing board, speaks during the April 1 hall dedication.

Rylee Bergh likes to keep busy — really busy. In addition to classwork, the food science and industry student serves as president of the Wefald Hall governing board. She was one of the featured speakers at the dedication of K-State's newest residence hall.

"I wanted to get involved with Wefald Hall because I wanted to be involved in a place that affected many different people in many different ways every day," said Bergh.

As president, she presided over weekly meetings with updates from each of the eight floors and helped organize hall-wide events. She also had regular interactions with the hall's namesake.

"I had many long lunches with President Wefald," Bergh said.

He also was the special guest at the hall ping pong tournament.

"I was not intimidated speaking at the dedication because I have a lot of public-speaking experience," said the former 4-H'er from Louisburg, Kansas. "I was more honored that Pres. Wefald

wanted me to speak at the dedication side-by-side people he felt were important distinguished individuals."

Other speakers included Pres. Richard Myers, Sen. Pat Roberts, Coach Bill Snyder, and current and former Kansas Board of Regents members Dennis Mullin and Clay Blair.

Bergh's schedule didn't slow down over summer. She worked at the K-State Food Science Lab, Housing and Dining Services, and the USDA Hard Wheat Laboratory.

After graduation, Bergh would like to work in an international company or overseas with a focus on worldwide sustainability and earn a master's degree.

Wefald Hall, next to Marlatt and Goodnow halls, houses 540 students in one- and two-person rooms. It also includes academic spaces for student learning.

The newly constructed Kramer Dining Center services the three halls with multiple dining options seven days a week.

Training Youth Water Advocates



Gaea Hock

Katelyn Bohnenblust received the 2017 Marjorie J. and Richard L.D. Morse Family and Community Public Policy Scholarship from K-State Libraries.

Bohnenblust, an agricultural education student from Clay Center, will use the \$3,000 scholarship to support her work as a mentor and undergraduate assistant for a new program called Training the Next Generation of Kansas Water Advocates, a conservation initiative and conference for Kansas teens.

She helped develop the program, write curriculum, and mentor 11 high school students during their year of service. She also helped secure expert speakers for the Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference.

The program will teach innovative high school students to embrace and promote water conservation. Long-term, Bohnenblust and program leaders Gaea Hock, assistant professor of agricultural education, and Susan Metzger, assistant secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, hope the initiative results in industry, community, and educational partnerships that will promote water-related careers, thereby securing Kansas' long-term water supply.

"I grew up on a farm, and I'm passionate about preserving our way of life," Bohnenblust said. "In rural Kansas, maintaining irrigated agriculture and livestock production is directly linked to a community's ability to maintain its schools, hospital, and even its future."



Daryl Buchholz (l-r), John Floros, and Steven Graham

More Than a Career

Nearly everyone in the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension plus thousands of students, alumni, stakeholders, and volunteers have benefited from their interactions with Daryl Buchholz and Steven Graham. Both recently retired after more than 20 years of service.

Guiding Principles

Daryl Buchholz spoke to graduating seniors and their families at the spring 2017 College of Agriculture commencement. He shared three principles that guided his career:

- Give it your best and stay positive,
- Be a team player, and
- Never stop learning.

Buchholz graduated from South Dakota State University, becoming the first college graduate in his family. He earned a master's degree at Oklahoma State University and a doctorate from K-State in 1981.

Next, he worked as an extension soil fertility specialist at the University of Missouri. Buchholz returned to Manhattan in 1992 as a professor of agronomy and assistant director of agriculture and natural resources for K-State Research and Extension.

Twelve years later, he became associate director for extension and applied research, where he provided overall leadership for the day-to-day operations of about 240 agents, 110 faculty, and more than 400 support staff with an overall budget in excess of \$60 million.

At a June 9 retirement reception at the Stanley Stout Center, people thanked Buchholz for his exemplary leadership, dedication to professional development, willingness to listen, fairness, passion for 4-H and all of extension, and being "one who truly walks the talk."

"Daryl reminds me of a table," said Gregg Hadley, who has been chosen to succeed Buchholz. "So many leaders, when being sought out for counsel, stay behind their desks. Daryl's style was different. He would sit at the round table in his office, have you sit next to him, and talk to you. Not as a leader to a subordinate, but as a colleague mentoring another colleague."

Buchholz's leadership skills have also been recognized on the national level. He served as the regional chair of the North Central Cooperative Extension Association and two terms on the

Extension Committee on Organization and Policy. In 2013 he chaired ECOP.

He was elected a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and received the Ruby Distinguished Service Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi, the extension professionals' organization, for his outstanding contributions to the profession.

Buchholz recently received the Kansas 4-H Distinguished Service Award and will be recognized on the national level in November.

Positive Influence

Steven Graham's last official day in his Waters Hall office was June 2; however, he continues to work on several projects.

*Some people make
more than a career
out of their work
... they make a
difference.*

Graham served as assistant to three permanent (John Floros, Fred Cholick, and Marc Johnson) and two interim (George Ham and Gary Pierzynski) deans of the College of Agriculture and directors of K-State Research and Extension.

An Illinois native, he brought a diverse résumé to the position. After completing a business administration degree at Western Illinois University, Graham spent nearly four years in the Peace Corps in Benin, West Africa. He earned a master's degree in grain science from K-State in 1981 and spent 15 years as administrator for the Kansas Wheat Commission.

In addition to his official K-State responsibilities of coordinating events, working with legislative communications, and representing the organizations at various meetings

and events, Graham twice filled in as director of international programs and as director of the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and Environment for 14 months.

In 2011, Graham received the Wallace Kidd Memorial Diversity Award for his efforts to boost multicultural enrollment and retention in the college.

Graham's organizational skills, attention to detail, overall knowledge of the college and K-State Research and Extension, and friendly manner resonate with colleagues, alumni, and students.

Friends, colleagues, and students attended his April 14 retirement reception at the K-State Alumni Center. The phrase that appeared on numerous retirement cards was "Some people make more than a career out of their work ... they make a difference."

Here are a few other sentiments from the reception:

- You are one of the friendliest and most inclusive people I've met at K-State.
- Your outreach to students and the entire K-State academy has truly made a difference. We are a better university because of your leadership and commitment.
- You have made such a positive impact on so many students, faculty, ag producers, and industry leaders.
- It has been an honor to work with and learn from you.
- Your friendship has meant the world to me. You have made a positive impact on many, many people and the world of agriculture.
- I always appreciated you taking the time to discuss ideas and offer advice and support, despite your busy schedule. Your passion and energy will be deeply missed.
- You have made KSU agriculture visible and accessible to students and partners.
- Long after people forget what you did, they will remember how you did it.

Student Highlights



These graduating seniors representing their respective majors were recognized at the May 12 College of Honors Reception. Front row (l-r): **Jared Heiman**, wildlife and outdoor enterprise management; **Audrey Schmitz**, agricultural communications and journalism; **Erin Bush**, agronomy; **Karly Frederick**, agribusiness; **Macy Sherwin**, food science and industry; **Conner White**, horticulture. Back row: **Ross Niehues**, agricultural technology management; **Joseph Limbach**, animal sciences and industry; **Jacob Rutledge**, agricultural education; **Gideon Butler-Smith**, bakery science and management; **Ramsey Hundley**, milling science and management; **Kyle Anderson**, feed science and management. Not pictured: **Kenan Reeh**, agricultural economics.



K-State's Soil Judging Team placed second in the Overall Team and the Group Judging categories at the 2017 National Collegiate Soils Contest. From left: **Mickey Ransom**, coach and professor of agronomy; **Megan Owens**, Harlan, Iowa; **Tessa Zee**, Erie, Colorado; **Tara Wilson**, Highland, Michigan; **Peter Bergkamp**, Garden Plain; **Logan Evers**, Great Bend; **Lucas Scott**, Olathe; **Keren Duerksen**, Newton; **Jacob Reinecker**, Caldwell; **Erin Bush**, Franklin, Indiana, second high individual; **Chris Weber**, Hoxie, seventh high individual; **Kim Kerschen**, assistant coach, agronomy instructor, and academic coordinator.

The K-State Animal Sciences and Industry Academic Quadrathlon team was named Reserve National Champion at the American Society of Animal Science annual meeting. Team members are **Cameron Hayden**, Cassopolis, Michigan; **Jenna Chance**, Lebanon, Indiana; **MaRyka Smith**, Hoyt; and **Taylor Ochsner**, Andover. Karol Fike, assistant professor, coaches the team. The team is sponsored by Fourth and Pomeroy Associates, Inc. of Clay Center.

Blue Key scholarships were awarded to 21 students, including a Neal Atkinson Junior Leadership Award to **Kyler Langvardt**, agricultural communications and journalism, Chapman; and a Roy C. Langford Memorial Scholarship to **Dean Klahr**, animal sciences and industry, Holton.

Taryn Huckabay, animal sciences and industry, Topeka, was one of five K-State students to receive a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

Mortar Board Senior Honor Society selected **Megan Steward**, food science and industry, Garden City, as one of its 29 new members.

Silver Key, a sophomore leadership honor society, has selected 40 new members including **Maci Rockers**, food science and industry, Garnett; **Bryn Swearingen**, agribusiness, Hiawatha; **Clara Wicoff**, agricultural economics, Iola; **Taylor Nikkel**, agricultural economics, Maple Hill; **Trenton Smedley**, agribusiness, Thayer; and **Delaney Keeler**, animal sciences and industry and biotechnology, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Results from the North Central Weed Science Society Collegiate Weed Science Contest: One undergraduate team with **Nicole Sudbeck**, **Keren Duerksen**, and **Sarah Zerger** placed first overall. The graduate team with **Jeffrey Albers**, **Garrison Gundy**, **Joey Rains**, and **Nate Thompson** placed third overall. **Anita Dille**, **Kevin Donnelly**, and **Dallas Peterson** coach the teams.



The K-State Meat Animal Evaluation Team successfully defended its title to win back-to-back national championships at the 2017 Collegiate Meat Animal Evaluation Contest. Chase Gleason won the overall individual title; Shelby Teague placed third; and Brooke Jensen was fourth. Team members and coaches shown above (seated, l-r): **Shelby Teague**, Fort Morgan, Colorado; **Brooke Jensen**, Courtland; **Lauren Ivey**, Montpelier, Virginia; **Leah Scholz**, Lancaster; **Emily Voris**, Atwater, California; and **Maggie Smith**, Lewistown, Illinois. (Standing, l-r): **Chris Mullinix**, Manhattan, coach; **Lauren Prill**, Wichita, assistant coach; **Jessie Vallejo**, Gridley, California; **Matt Marion**, Terre Haute, Indiana; **Dakota Ferguson**, Williamsburg; **Austin Matheny**, Mayslick, Kentucky; **Callahan Grund**, Wallace; **Trevor Birky**, Strang, Nebraska; **Cole Renner**, Norton; **Jake Wagner**, Erie, Colorado; **Chase Gleason**, Uniontown; **Ken Odde**, animal sciences and industry department head; **Travis O'Quinn**, coach; and **Austin Langemeier**, assistant coach.



The 2017–2018 Kansas FFA Officer team (l-r) President **Eli Ohlde**, Clifton-Clyde FFA; Vice President **John Kennedy**, Jackson Heights FFA; Secretary **Marie Reveles**, Hays FFA; Treasurer **Quentin Umphenour**, Jayhawk-Linn FFA; Reporter **Riley Sleichter**, Abilene FFA; and Sentinel **Skyler Denio**, Hoxie FFA. All six plan to enroll in the K-State College of Agriculture; four would like to become agricultural education teachers and FFA advisors.

Graduate Students

Three K-State doctoral students — **Narinder Singh**, plant pathology; **Joseph Weeks**, agronomy; and **Tesfaye Tadesse**, grain science and industry — are among 40 students selected nationally to participate in the U.S. Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security. Singh's research focuses on mining novel genetic diversity in wheat wild relatives. Weeks is working to improve phosphorus fertilizer use efficiency in calcareous soils, such as those found in western Kansas. Tadesse is researching alternative insecticides and technologies on postharvest loss reduction for smallholder farmer's commodities.

Ananda Bandara, plant pathology doctoral candidate, Sri Lanka, was awarded a \$2,000 Sarachek Scientific Travel Award to present his research findings on sorghum-*Macrophomina phaseolina* (a destructive plant fungus) interaction at the American Phytopathological Society annual meeting.

University Recognizes Outstanding Efforts

Cathie Lavis was one of four Kansas State University faculty members to earn a 2017 Commerce Bank and W.T. Kemper Foundation Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. The awards were presented at the All-University Awards Ceremony on May 1.

"Students are my focus. I love hands-on instruction, and I am passionate about all of the courses I teach," said Lavis, associate professor of landscape management.

Lavis (M.S. '93 horticulture, Ph.D. '05 agronomy) teaches seven courses, co-advises the Horticulture Club, co-coaches the landscape contracting team, and has led six student study-abroad trips.

Through her efforts, K-State was the first university to work hand-in-hand with the Irrigation Association to develop an irrigation system design course that leads to certification.

K-State has been declared a Tree Campus USA three years in a row thanks to Lavis and her students.

Awards of Excellence

Dawn Caldwell, senior grant specialist for the Agricultural Experiment Station, and Spencer Casey, business manager for the Western Kansas Agricultural Research Centers, received 2017 President's Awards of Excellence for Unclassified Professionals.

Caldwell was selected for the team building, group activity, and service to the university award. She played a key role in preparing three of the U.S. AID Feed the Future Lab proposals and many other recent grants, bringing more than \$100 million to K-State.

"Dawn always gets the job done and makes faculty-led proposals look their very best," said Ernie Minton, associate dean for research and graduate programs.

In addition to research grant proposals, she helps submit proposals to fund international students and scholars. With her assistance, the number of international faculty, scholars, and researchers in the college increased 118 percent from 2010 to 2016.

Casey (B.S. '94 management) received the productivity, creativity, and innovation award. He supervises the accounting department, handles all information technology issues, administers the state and federal inventory system, and supplies technical support for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the Western Kansas Agricultural Research Centers (WKARC) based at the [Agricultural Research Center-Hays](#) with additional

research centers in [Colby](#), [Garden City](#), and [Tribune](#).

He has written several online software applications and databases that make crucial information readily accessible.

"Spencer is a consummate team player," said Bob Gillen, head of the WKARC. "He doesn't worry about who gets credit, only that the job gets done. He is completely dedicated to his co-workers, his unit, and K-State."



Associate Professor Cathie Lavis receives a Commerce Bank and W.T. Kemper Foundation Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award from President Richard Myers and Provost April Mason.



Dawn Caldwell (l-r), Ernie Minton, associate dean for research and graduate programs, and Spencer Casey at the May 1 awards ceremony. Caldwell and Casey earned President's Awards of Excellence.

K-State Inventors Recognized

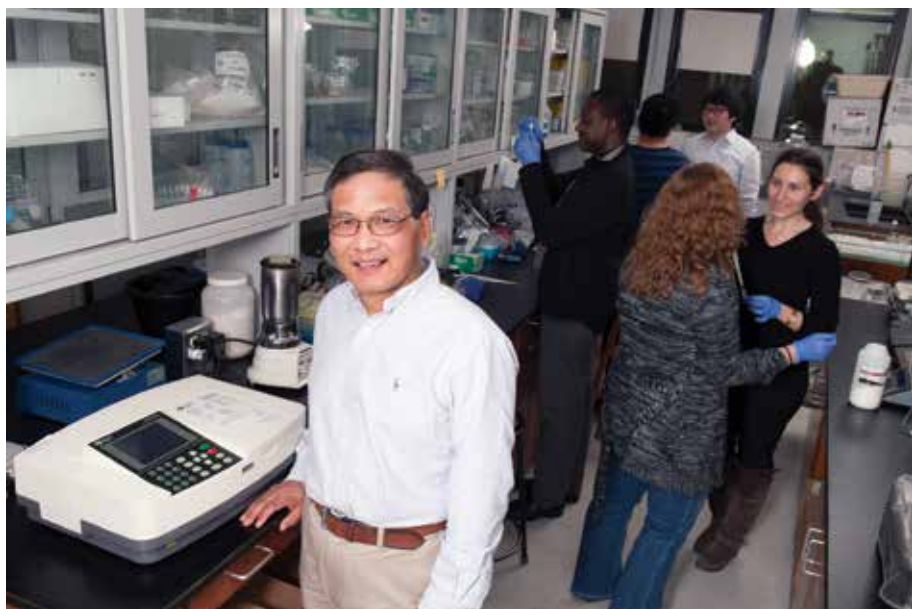
The Office of the Vice President for Research and the Kansas State University Research Foundation honored K-State inventors and breeders who were issued patents or plant variety protection certificates in 2016. Honorees received patent plaques, and first-time inventors received certificates and pins from the National Academy of Inventors.

Inventors from the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension are

- Harold Trick and Timothy Todd: Composition and methods for controlling parasitic nematodes
- Xiuzhi Susan Sun and Donghai Wang: Pressure sensitive adhesives, coatings, and films from plant oils
- Yong-Cheng Shi: Starch esters and method of preparation
- Harold Trick: Transgene construct to improve *Fusarium* head blight resistance in wheat and barley
- Michael Stamm: 'DKW45-24' winter canola
- Andrew Auld, William Bockus, Erick DeWolf, Allan Fritz, Angela Matthews, Jesse Poland, Rebecca Regan, Kimberly Suther, Shaun Winnie, and Guorong Zhang: 'KanMark' wheat variety
- Jeffrey Ackerman, Allan Fritz, T. Joe Martin, Rebecca Regan, Kenneth Rohleder, Clayton Seaman, Dallas Seifers, Andrew Stegman, and Guorong Zhang: 'Joe' wheat variety. The variety was named for T. Joe Martin, longtime wheat breeder at the Agricultural Research Center-Hays.

"K-State has a long history of invention, and this year's group of innovators demonstrates the commitment our faculty, students, and staff make to both basic and applied research that can improve people's lives in many ways, from fighting disease and improving electronics to perfecting crop varieties to help agricultural producers succeed," said Peter Dorhout, vice president for research.

Entomologist Awarded University's Highest Honor



Kun Yan Zhu, professor of entomology, was honored as a 2017 Kansas State University distinguished professor, the highest honor the university bestows on its faculty.

Zhu is internationally recognized for his research and teaching programs in insecticide toxicology and insect molecular biology. He has developed productive research collaborations, obtained research grants totaling \$7.6 million, and generated numerous scholarly publications. His research has been cited more than 4,400 times.

"His scholarly achievements and academic leadership display a diversity that is innovative, international, cross-disciplinary and has beneficial impacts to science, to the university, and to human society," said Professor Tom Phillips, who nominated Zhu.

Zhu was part of a team that discovered a new insecticide target gene in a major agricultural insect pest, which was cited as "a breakthrough in this toxicological riddle" by his international peers. The team received a U.S. patent in

2014 that covers microscopic, genetics-based technology to help safely kill mosquitos and other insect pests.

He was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2012 and the Entomological Society of America (ESA) in 2014. He also has served as editor or editorial board member for 12 scientific journals. He will be the 2018 vice president-elect for the Insect Physiology, Biochemistry and Physiology section of the ESA.

K-State recognized Zhu with the 2014 Commerce Bank and W.T. Kemper Foundation Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award and the 2016 College of Agriculture Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award.

Zhu has directly mentored more than 20 graduate students and served on the advisory committees for many more.

"Dr. Zhu ensures that each student understands the material presented and leaves class with a significant and positive impression and understanding of the subject matter," Phillips said.

For the third consecutive year, SmartAsset, a financial data and technology company, listed Kansas State University as the best education value in Kansas.

Department Updates

[Agricultural Economics](#)

Weldensie Embaye, doctoral student from Eritrea, East Africa, earned a 2017 University Distinguished Professors Graduate Student Award.

Andrew Barkley, university distinguished teaching scholar, was named the college fall faculty of the semester and advisor of the year.

[Agronomy](#)

Vara Prasad, university distinguished professor and director of the USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification, received K-State's Sigma Xi Outstanding Scientist Award.

Results from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) conference: **Kevin Donnelly**, professor, received the Murray Brown Leadership Award; and **Garrison Gundy**, graduate student, earned a Graduate Student Teaching Award. Professor **Anita Dille** advises Gundy.

Gary Pierzynski, department head and university distinguished professor, is president-elect of the American Society of Agronomy. He is the sixth K-State agronomist to serve the society as president.

Mithila Jugulam, associate professor, earned the College of Agriculture Graduate Teaching Award.

[Animal Sciences and Industry](#)

Professor **Randall Phebus** has been named interim director of the K-State [Food Science Institute](#).

Recognition at the American Dairy Science Association convention: **Karen Schmidt**, professor of food science, elected association president; **Jayendra Amamcharla**, associate professor, received the ADSA Foundation Scholar Award in Dairy Foods; the food science product development team earned second place in the 2017 National Dairy Council New Product Competition for their dairy-based drink, Mate Au

Lait Protein Plus. Team members are **Karthik Sajith Babu**, **Mayla Kritski Baez**, and **Conrad Kabus**. Their advisor is Jayendra Amamcharla.

Sara Gragg, assistant professor at K-State Olathe, received a \$4,552 faculty development award from the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Dave Nichols, professor and teaching coordinator, and **David Grieger**, professor, were named college faculty of the spring semester.

[Biological and Agricultural Engineering](#)

Gary Clark, professor and senior associate dean for the College of Engineering, has been named the 2017 Engineer of the Year by the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers. Clark; **Joe Harner**, professor and department head; and **Xiuzhi Susan Sun**, university distinguished professor in the Department of Grain Science and Industry, were named fellows of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

[Communications and Agricultural Education](#)

Awards to agricultural communications and journalism students at the Ag Media Summit: The [fall 2016 Agriculturist](#) magazine won first place in the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow national competition. **Topanga McBride** won the 2017 Forrest Bassford Student Award from the Livestock Publications Council. **Jill Seiler** and **Taylor Matheny** were among the four Bassford finalists and received travel scholarships. **Jackie Newland** won the Dr. Jim Evans Presidential Scholarship from the American Agricultural Editors' Association. **Audrey Schmitz** also was a finalist.

Lauri Baker, associate professor, was elected to the Association for Communication Excellence board of directors.

[Entomology](#)

See department-related articles on pages 3, 19, and 26.

[Grain Science and Industry](#)

Gordon Smith, department head, was elected a fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) for outstanding and extraordinary contributions in the field of food science and technology

The K-State Milling Science Club hosted the Families in Transition Closet Charity Golf Tournament at Colbert Hills Golf Course on April 23. They raised \$3,800 to help a local organization provide clothing and other basic needs for homeless children.

[IGP Institute Year in Review 2016](#)

won first place in the Annual Reports/Strategic Plans Category of the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association competition.

[Horticulture and Natural Resources](#)

Results from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, conference: **Chad Miller**, associate professor, earned the NACTA Educator Award, and **Braden Hoch**, master's degree student, received a NACTA Graduate Student Teaching Award. Hoch works with Miller and Jason Griffin, professor at the John C. Pair Horticultural Center–Wichita.

Jeffrey Skibins, assistant professor of park management and conservation, has been appointed to a three-year term on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Education and Communication.

[Plant Pathology](#)

Kevin McCluskey, research professor and curator of the Fungal Genetics Stock Center, has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council. Recently, the council was charged with advising USDA on ways to ensure that the National Genetic Resources Program serves the needs of all farmers.

K-State Professor **Jim Stack** and Ray Hammerschmidt of Michigan State University received the Distinguished Service Award from the North Central Division of the American Phytopathological Society. They have led the National Plant Diagnostic Network since its inception in 2001.

College of Agriculture

Zelia Wiley, interim associate provost for [diversity](#), has received the national 2017 Legend Award of [Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences](#), or MANRRS.

Students of the Month

September: **Celine Beggs**, agricultural communications and journalism, Bedford, Iowa

October: **Audrey Schmitz**, agricultural communications and journalism, Axtell

November and Student of the Year: **Jill Seiler**, agricultural communications and journalism and animal sciences and industry, Valley Center

December: **Tara Cook**, food science and industry, Atwood, Colorado

January: **Cooper Clawson**, agricultural economics and finance, Meade

February: **Shaylee Arpin**, agricultural communications and journalism, Salina

March: **Anna Setter**, agricultural economics, Humboldt

April: **Cassie Campbell**, agricultural education, Little York, Illinois

In Memoriam

William Lawrence Blair, 86, died April 8, 2017, in Pratt, Kansas. He served as an extension agent from 1960 to 1992 in Butler, Lyon, and Linn counties.

Alice "Lois" Redman, 85, Manhattan, died May 2, 2017. She had worked in Missouri and Oregon before coming to Kansas as an extension specialist in 4-H Youth Development. She was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from Epsilon Sigma Phi for her work in international programs and was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2009.



Honor Society Presents Awards

[Gamma Sigma Delta](#), international honorary society of agriculture, recognized faculty and students on April 21 with these awards. Distinguished Alumni — **Daryl Buchholz** (Ph.D. '81 agronomy), associate director of extension and applied research; Distinguished Faculty — **Vara Prasad**, university distinguished professor of agronomy and director of the Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab; Outstanding Teaching — **Adam Ahlers**, assistant professor, horticulture and natural resources; Excellence in Extension — **Cheryl Boyer**, associate professor, horticulture and natural resources; Early Career Award — **Eduardo Alvarez Santos**, assistant professor, agronomy; Undergraduate Research Awards — **Allison Aubert**, agronomy, and **MaRyka Smith**, animal sciences and industry; M.S. Teaching Award — **Marshall Hay**, agronomy; Ph.D. Teaching Award — **Ananda Bandara**, plant pathology; M.S. Research Award — **Giovani Fontes**, agronomy; Ph.D. Research Award — **Ross Braun**, horticulture and natural resources.

Pictured (l-r): Adam Ahlers, Eduardo Alvarez Santos, Vara Prasad, Ananda Bandara, and Ross Braun.

Retirees Recognized for Service

Even with five people working 8 years or less, the tenure for the 27 retirees totaled 715 years, an average of 26.5 years. They were recognized April 18 at the K-State Alumni Center.

The retirees with their units and years of service: **Joseph Agnew**, communications and agricultural education, 16; **Dana Belshe**, Sunflower District, 34; **William Bockus**, plant pathology, 38; **Daryl Buchholz**, K-State Research and Extension, 27; **Valeria Edwards**, Johnson County, 8; **Dale Fjell**, Northeast Area, 41; **Steven Graham**, College of Agriculture dean's office, 22; **Joe Hancock**, animal sciences and industry, 29; **Steve Harbstreit**, communications and agricultural education, 29; **Curtis Kastner**, Food Science Institute, 41; **David Kehler**, Butler County, 41; **David Margolies**, entomology, 32; **Daryl McVicker**, horticulture and natural resources, 5; **David Mengel**, agronomy, 18; **Donald Moler**, Douglas County, 2; **Joe Moyer**, Southeast Agricultural Research Center, 38; **Evelyn Neier**, 4-H Youth Development, 15; **David Rempe**, Kansas Farm Management Association, 18; **Roberta Riportella**, family studies and human services, 3; **Nancy Schuster**, Frontier District, 44; **Lori Shoemaker**, Rice County, 33; **Bryan Schurle**, agricultural economics, 39; **Phillip Stahlman**, Agricultural Research Center-Hays, 42; **Barbara Stone**, 4-H Youth Development, 5; **Timothy Stucky**, Kansas Farm Management Association, 35; **Denise Sullivan**, Leavenworth County, 28; **Charles Wilken**, Kansas Farm Management Association, 32.

Thank you for your service and commitment.

Class Notes

'70s

Keith Heikes (B.S. '79 dairy production) received the 2017 Kansas Dairy Leader Award. He has 20 years experience with Genex Cooperative Inc. He previously was general manager for NOBA Inc. in Ohio and was a dairy specialist for the Kansas Artificial Breeding Service Unit at K-State.

Maureen Olewnik (B.S. '79 life sciences, M.S. '83, Ph.D. '03 grain science) has been named coordinator of the global food systems initiative. She previously served as principal for innovation and industry affairs, senior vice president for food safety services, and vice president of food safety and technical services at AIB International. She has been elected president of AACC International, formerly the American Association of Cereal Chemists.

'80s

Shad Marston (B.S. '86 agricultural education) is the K-State Research and Extension, McPherson County agriculture and natural resources agent. He recently was the agricultural educator at Moundridge High School in Moundridge, Kansas.

Gregg Doud (B.S. '89 animal sciences, M.S. '91 agricultural economics) was named chief agricultural negotiator in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative by President Trump. Doud was president of the Commodity Markets Council, served as a senior staff member of the Senate Agriculture Committee for Sen. Pat Roberts and Sen. Thad Cochran, chief economist for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and worked for U.S. Wheat Associates and World Perspectives.

'90s

Wendy Hughes (B.S. '91 animal sciences) is the K-State Research and Extension, Rice County director. She had been the 4-H program assistant.

Beth Gaines (B.S. '91 agricultural journalism) is now the executive

director of the Kansas FFA Foundation. She secures funding for scholarships, leadership enrichment programs, and recognition awards for Kansas FFA members and agricultural education programs.

Mark Fowler (B.S. '92 milling science and management, M.S. '06 agricultural economics) is the new vice president of overseas operations for U.S. Wheat Associates. He garnered various international experience working for Cargill, Seaboard Corp., and 12 years with K-State's IGP Institute.

Abbey Nutsch (B.S. '94, Ph.D. '98 food science), assistant professor of food science, received the 2017 K-State Global Campus Outstanding Advisor Award.

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture appointed **Anne Hazlett** (B.S. '95 agricultural journalism) assistant to the secretary for rural development. She will oversee the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Business Service, and the Rural Housing Service within USDA and report directly to the secretary.

'00s

Shannon Blocker (B.S. '00 agricultural education, M.S. '09 agronomy) is K-State Research and Extension, Pottawatomie County agriculture and natural resources agent. She had been the horticulture agent in the Frontier Extension District.

J.J. Jones (B.S. '04 animal sciences) has been appointed interim president of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program. Jones is a graduate of KARL Class 10.

Sarah Reasoner (B.S. '04 animal sciences, M.S. '14 biomedical science), animal sciences and industry distance program coordinator, earned the 2017 Friend of K-State Global Campus Award.

Amanda Tomlinson (B.S. '04 agricultural communications and journalism), technical editor in the Department of Communications

and Agricultural Education, won the Educational Aids Blue Ribbon for the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. Her role was setting up the website plus planning and editing a video series.

Jessie Vipham (B.S. '09 agribusiness) joined the K-State animal sciences and industry department as an assistant professor conducting research for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sustainable Intensification.

Natalie Anderson (M.S. '12 animal sciences) is the communications coordinator for the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. She previously was brand manager for Certified Angus Beef LLC in Wooster, Ohio.

'10s

Nicholas Severt (B.S. '11, Ph.D. candidate food science), was one of 15 students from around the world to receive a \$2,000 travel scholarship to attend the International Association for Food Protection's annual conference.

Ariel Whitely (B.S. '14 horticulture) is the K-State Research and Extension, Shawnee County horticulture agent. She had been the production supervisor at Free State Growers in Linwood.

Jessica Barnett (B.S. '14 agronomy and biological systems engineering) is the K-State Research and Extension, Johnson County agriculture and natural resources agent. She recently worked as an agronomist and agricultural engineer for Agro Engineering in Alamosa, Colorado.

Second-year veterinary student **Samantha Boyajian** (B.S. '15 animal sciences), Gardner, and third-year veterinary student **Sohaila Jafarian** (B.S. '11 animal sciences) joined 70 veterinary students and 20 veterinarians in Washington, D.C., for the American Veterinary Medical Association's Legislative Fly-in.

Garrison Gundy (B.S. '15 agronomy), master's student, received the College of Agriculture Richard Elmore Brown Graduate Teaching Award.

Cassie Wandersee (M.S. '16 agriculture education and communications) earned the outstanding thesis award from the Association for Communication Excellence.

Cassandra Homan (B.S. '17 horticulture) is the K-State Research and Extension, Post Rock District horticulture agent.

Tyler Cates (B.S. '17 agricultural education) is the plant manager for Blueville Nursery in Manhattan.

Barrett Simon (B.S. '17 animal sciences) is the K-State Research and Extension, Post Rock District livestock agent. He recently worked for Opportunity Livestock in Manhattan.

In Memoriam

Kenneth Corke (B.S. '48 animal sciences), 95, Goodland, died Feb. 4, 2017. He was a World War II veteran and retired co-op feed mill manager. In retirement, he worked for many local farmers and volunteered in his community.

W. Gale Mullen (B.S. '50 agronomy), 91, Erie, died May 10, 2017. He served as an agent in Brown, Russell, Allen, and Neosho counties. From 1961 to 1982, he was an area extension agricultural economist for the Kansas Farm Management Association.

Maurice McClure (B.S. '53 animal sciences), 89, Phillipsburg, died June 8, 2017. He was the father of Greg McClure (B.S. '80 animal sciences), K-State Research and Extension, Riley County agriculture and natural resources agent.

Herman Westmeyer (M.S. '65 animal sciences), 104, Manhattan, died May 8, 2017. His extension career spanned from 1936 to 1978 minus four years serving in World War II. He was a county extension agent in Lane, Barber, Harper, Harvey, and Ford counties; extension beef cattle specialist on campus and the southeast area; and southeast area extension director.



Alumni helped organize competitions and coach students when K-State hosted the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Judging Conference in April. Front row (l-r) with graduation years and current employer or K-State department: **Chelsea Ahlquist** '14 Cloud County Community College; **Cathie Lavis** '93, '05 Horticulture and Natural Resources; **Dana Minihan** '03 Kansas Department of Agriculture; **Teresa Douthitt** '00, '01 Animal Sciences and Industry; **Alyson Lister** '12, '14 College of Agriculture Academic Programs. Standing: **Kim Kerschen** '12, '14 Agronomy; **Chris Mullinix** '96 Animal Sciences and Industry; **Jessica Bramhall** '16 Wilbur Ellis Company; **Brad Ramsdale** '92, '95 Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture; **Erin Bush** '16 Agronomy; **Curtis Bensch** '01 Oklahoma Panhandle State University; **Kim Williams** '88 Horticulture and Natural Resources; **Drew Cotton** '04 Black Hawk College; **Jason Ellis** '98 Communications and Agricultural Education; **James Lattimer** '02, '12 Animal Sciences and Industry; **Kevin Donnelly** '72, '74 Agronomy. See page 8 for more competition information.

Thank you to the readers who noticed the caption error on page 28 of the spring 2017 issue. It was Charles Norton, not Harold Roberts, handing the ice cream cone to Lynn Dickey. Here's a note from Heath Schesser (B.S. '01 horticulture). — Editor.

I was surprised to see my grandfather, Dr. Charles L. "Charlie" Norton in a picture along with Lynn Dickey and Harold Roberts, my grandfather's best friend.



Dr. Norton, or Grandpa Charlie, taught for many years at KSU in dairy science, was department head at one time, and coached the judging team for many years. He was so influential both nationally and internationally, that he was inducted into the National Dairy Shrine, which is the dairy industry's Hall of Fame.

I spent many summer days growing up in Manhattan going to the Call Hall Dairy Bar, and you can bet there was always K-State ice cream in grandpa's freezer. While attending K-State, I would cap off a tough test with a strawberry cone from the Dairy Bar. It was, and still is, a very special place to me.

Making a Difference



Jeff Williams (l-r), David J. Mugler Outstanding Teacher; Mike Seyfert, Outstanding Young Alumnus, and Rich Felts; Distinguished Alumnus, were honored by the college with a reception and dinner on April 29.

College of Agriculture alumni make a difference across the state and the country, and dedicated teachers provide the groundwork for students to succeed. Each year, the [College of Agriculture](#) Alumni Association recognizes three individuals for their outstanding efforts to promote agriculture and train tomorrow's leaders. This year's winners are Richard Felts, Mike Seyfert, and Jeff Williams.

Distinguished Alumnus

Montgomery County farmer Richard Felts has served in various leadership capacities contributing to his local community and Kansas on behalf of agriculture. In his current role as president of Kansas Farm Bureau, he leads policy efforts on behalf of the organization at the state and federal levels. He also has initiated greater partnerships with Kansas FFA and has made personal investments in developing programs for youth.

He earned a bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry in 1970 then worked in Arkansas City for two years before returning to the family farm near Liberty. The Felts farm — operated by Rich, his son Darren, brother Larry, and Larry's son-in-law — is a diversified grain operation with wheat, corn, and soybeans. They also grow out breeding stock for a major swine company and maintain a small herd of cattle.

Felts has volunteered as a 4-H community leader and firefighter. He also has served on or chaired multiple county and township boards, including the rural water board, extension council, USD 445 Racial Balance Task Force, and Farm Service Agency.

He toured Germany, Prague, and the Czech Republic in 1993 as a member of the first Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) Class and served a term on the State Extension Advisory Council. He and his wife, Shirley, were honored as part of the Master Farmer/Master Farm Homemaker class in 2006.

Before being elected KFB president in 2014, Felts served as vice president (2011–2014) and as a member of the board since 2001.

Felts credits his involvement with 4-H, his years at K-State, and the KARL program for his passion for civic involvement and much of his career success.

Outstanding Young Alumnus

Mike Seyfert maintains his ties to his family farm, Kansas, and Kansas State University from Washington, D.C., where he works as director of government affairs for FMC Corporation.

Seyfert credited his father, Ron (B.S. '68), who was a K-State Research and Extension agent for 40 years, with providing a strong background for his success.

After graduating summa cum laude from K-State in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics, Mike Seyfert earned a master's of public administration from The George Washington University.

From 1997 to 2002, Seyfert worked as legislative assistant to Sen. Pat Roberts. He then became deputy legislative director/homeland security advisor for Sen. Roberts.

In 2005, he accepted the position of legislative director for the senator. In this capacity, Seyfert served as the senior legislative aide for several Senate committees including finance and agriculture, nutrition, and forestry. He managed a legislative staff of 13 and was directly involved in policy development, legislative recommendations and negotiations related to issues including agriculture, aviation, defense, energy, health care, homeland security, taxation, and trade.

He also coordinated the senator's efforts among the Kansas Congressional Delegation, Kansas Governor, Kansas Bioscience Authority, and Kansas State University to secure awarding the \$600 million National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) to K-State.

"When I came to K-State as a student, I never dreamed I would get to do all the things I have done," Seyfert said. He listed helping rebuild Greensburg and involvement with NBAF, the farm bill, and crop insurance bill as highlights.

In 2011, he accepted the position of Republican staff director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. He founded The Seyfert Group, LLC in March 2013 to provide strategic guidance on federal affairs issues.

Seyfert currently serves as director of government affairs for FMC Corporation, a diversified chemical company serving agricultural, industrial, environmental, and consumer markets.

David J. Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award

Jeffery R. Williams is an exceptional faculty member who combines outstanding teaching and student mentoring at the graduate and undergraduate level with an active research program.

Williams joined the Department of Agricultural Economics faculty in 1980. He currently advises 30 to 35 undergraduate students and insists that his advisees come to their appointments prepared and take ownership of their program of study. Graduating seniors often mention him as one of the department's best advisors. He also mentors graduate students and has served as major or co-major professor for 25 graduate students.

Professor Williams meticulously works with students to help them learn and understand the material. His caring attitude is evident to students and faculty alike. He often goes above and beyond to help a student who may not be aware of his or her potential. Williams does all he can to motivate and encourage and occasionally admonish students to help them perform better in his courses.

Colleagues describe Williams as one of the best teachers on campus because he devotes enormous effort to developing materials and sits in on other instructor's classes to learn new techniques. He also shares materials with other faculty to help them become better teachers.

Williams truly exemplifies Associate Dean Dave Mugler's motto, "They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

The K-State Ag Alumni Golf
Tournament on April 28 Funded

SIX
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Student Scholarships.

2017 Alumni Fellow



It seems like a huge leap to go from studying traits of germplasm in crops to being a human resources manager, but Nandi Nagaraj has successfully made the transition.

Nagaraj, who earned his doctorate in entomology from Kansas State University in 2004, was chosen as the 2017 College of Agriculture Alumni Fellow. He was on campus in late April for recognition ceremonies and to visit with students and faculty.

After completing his doctorate, Nagaraj joined Dow AgroSciences, where he led the identification and development of traits and germplasm in cotton and corn in India. He moved to Indiana in 2010 to assume leadership of characterization of early stage abiotic and biotic transgenic traits in corn. In 2012, he became group leader supporting generation of critical data for trait pipeline projects along with improvements to the trait screening and integration processes.

His career evolved in 2014, when Nagaraj was named human resources manager for research and development. He assumed the role of human resources business partner in 2015, where he works closely with Dow AgroSciences' global leaders to set and implement employee talent and performance development strategies.

During his K-State visit, Nagaraj spoke to a broad range of classes — communications, genetics, and entomology.

In the communications class, Nagaraj said he liked working for Dow because the company truly invests in people's careers. Dow offers all employees a growth plan that features 70 percent on-the-job learning, 20 percent in the classroom, and 10 percent through mentorship.

"With the first two, you listen and learn," Nagaraj explained. "With mentorships, you have a support system where you learn from others how to handle situations. The company does not let you get pigeon-holed."

Over a pizza lunch with plant pathology and entomology graduate students, Nagaraj discussed what to look for when applying for industry jobs as well as things to do and not do during applications and interviews. He also shared his experiences working in industry, how to stay productive, the academic and industry jobs market, and what to include in curriculum vitae.

"He was a wonderful person to talk to," said Elina Adhikari, president of the plant pathology graduate student group. "He gave us really good advice on being a good candidate in the job market. Since that meeting, I am motivated to start working on my résumé for jobs that I want in the future."

John Ruberson, entomology department head, added "Nandi is committed to participating in K-State student development. He worked with Dow to provide cash awards for winners in the K-State Graduate Research, Arts, and Discovery (GRAD) Forum."

Grain Science and Industry Department Recognizes Alumni and Service

Three individuals and the [IGP Institute](#) staff were recognized at the ninth annual Department of Grain Science and Industry awards banquet on April 20, 2017. For more information on these and student award winners, check out the event program at www.ksu.edu/agreport.



Chuck House does communications, marketing, and professional-development programming for the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS), where he helped initiate and build a distance-education program that partners with K-State. It now offers 26 courses focusing on grain-handling and grain-processing topics.



Photos courtesy of IGP Institute

Rolando Flores (Ph.D. '89, grain science), dean and chief administrative officer of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at New Mexico State University, received an alumni award. He previously was professor and head of the Department of Food Science and Technology and director of The Food Processing Center, University of Nebraska–Lincoln. His 13-year career at K-State included various projects in the departments of Grain Science and Industry and Biological and Agricultural Engineering.



In 2016, the IGP Institute served 2,001 participants from 67 different countries in 80 courses. These efforts would not be possible without the teamwork and dedication of the institute staff. Left to right: Jay O'Neil, Brandi Miller, Pat Hackenberg, Kelly Hannigan, Department Head Gordon Smith, Naaz Yasmin, Jason Watt, Carlos Campabadal, Shawn Thiele, Trina Adams, Lisa Long, and Lisa Moser.



Donald P. Morrison Jr., left, (B.S. '81 feed science and management) is an international feed ingredient grain trader for The Rice Company (TRC). He has originated more than 50 million tons of animal feed ingredients for export, helping to improve the U.S. balance of trade by over \$8 billion. While working in New York, he started the K-State NYC Alumni Chapter. Keith Behnke, professor emeritus, presented the alumni award.

Donations and Scholarships

Robinson Family Endows Multicultural Leadership Awards



The K-State Alumni Association's Multicultural Leadership Awards have been renamed the Robinson Family Multicultural Leadership Awards to honor the Roy L. and Sylvia Robinson family who endowed the program. The annual awards recognize four outstanding, multicultural graduating students who are leaving a legacy of enhancing multicultural engagement at K-State through their leadership.

Jessica Elmore, associate director of diversity programs for the Alumni Association, said the Robinsons are a family of K-Staters who came from humble beginnings. She added that exposure to K-State has encouraged and inspired generations of their family. Elmore also said, through this program the Robinsons have committed to core values that include leadership, giving back, and leaving a legacy.

Roy L. Robinson (B.S. '70 milling science and management) was named the College of Agriculture Alumni Fellow in 2005 and has served on the dean and director's advisory council. His father, Roy A. Robinson Jr., earned a degree in milling science in 1938.

"If we are blessed with talents, wealth, knowledge, time and the like, it is expected that we use these well as a testament to our faith and toward the benefit of others," said the younger Robinson. "This is our way of bringing recognition and celebration to those who have continued the legacy of leadership toward the 'common good' while students at Kansas State University."

Sylvia Robinson, Herston and Cynthia (Robinson) Hails, and Roy L. Robinson.



Center Prepares Students to Manage, Evaluate Risk

Risk is inevitable. It's how you recognize, prepare, and respond to it that makes the difference between success and failure. The [Center for Risk Management Education and Research](#) (CRMER) at Kansas State University prepares students to succeed in a world filled with complex and interrelated risk.

CRMER addresses an important industry need — elevating students' knowledge of integrated risk management before entering the workforce.

"Before CRMER, I tended to focus on price and weather risk," said Claire Hilscher (M.S. '14 agricultural economics).

She said the program helped her realize that businesses face many less obvious risks on a daily basis.

Students in the year-and-a-half program attend lectures and workshops, engage with industry leaders about risk in their businesses, conduct a yearlong research project in conjunction with a faculty mentor and industry sponsor, and travel to headquarters of national and global companies.

While many universities have risk management courses, CRMER is

unique. The program includes both undergraduate and graduate students; the center partners with and engages industry leaders; it's multidisciplinary, crossing many departments and colleges; and it offers students risk management research projects and credential certifications.

"CRMER is one of the main reasons I chose to attend K-State for graduate school," said Hilscher, who came to K-State after completing her undergraduate degree at Texas A&M University. "This opportunity was unlike anything that any other school across the country had to offer, and the CRMER fellowship gave me an advantage in the job market."

None of this would be possible without private support.

"Philanthropic resources helped us launch the program," said Ted Schroeder, center director and professor of agricultural economics. "Philanthropy is essential for our program to be a center of excellence rather than just a center of activities, and it allows us to increase the scale and scope of the program."



Dr. Jason Clay

Senior Vice President, Food and Markets
World Wildlife Fund

Monday, September 11, 2017, at 7 p.m.
Kansas State University
McCain Auditorium

Lecture Title:

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