K-State College of Agriculture

AgReport

Spring 2008

Technology Helps Monitor Irrigation

Dean and Director Fred Cholick visits with Mike Zamrzla (BS '95 agricultural journalism) at the Southwest Research-Extension Center centennial.

As I visit with people around the state, I include statistics about Kansas State University, the College of Agriculture, and K-State Research and Extension. Numbers are important, but "what we are" is more important. I had a conversation about this topic with Ralph Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and we developed a list I call the Four P's – People, Purpose, Potential, and Passion.

People tops the list for a good reason. People are our most important resource. Some might argue that technology is the most important, but I view technology as a tool for people. The interaction that College of Agriculture faculty have with their students is incredible. And our research and extension efforts reach out to people in their homes, fields, yards, schools, and offices across the state.

In this issue, you will notice that we have hired two new department heads and selected an interim associate director for research and technology transfer. These people were chosen because of their potential and passion to serve our students, faculty, and Kansans.

I see our **Purpose** as fulfilling the land-grant mission of teaching, research, and extension. For almost 150 years, K-State has been developing knowledge and empowering people with that knowledge. One of the reasons I came to K-State was its unwavering dedication to the land-grant mission.

When I think of **Potential**, I immediately think of our students. On any given day I can walk down the hall from my office to where students gather in the academic programs office. The College of Ag has great students with tremendous potential. After a few minutes talking with them, I feel re-energized.

As you look through this magazine, you will notice stories about a few of our outstanding students. Our students continue to optimize their potential in the classroom and in campus and national organizations.

Some of you may know that I am an avid reader, and one of my favorite authors is Jim Collins, who wrote "Good to Great." Collins says that to be good at something, you must be passionate about it. That's why I include **Passion** as the fourth P. Our faculty and staff are passionate about helping students and serving the people of Kansas.

One of the reasons the College of Ag ranks first among K-State colleges for its quality advising is because our faculty and staff are so passionate about helping students have the best possible experience at K-State.

I have been lobbied to include a fifth P – **Purple**. How K-Staters feel about purple needs no explanation.

Fred A. Cholick
Dean and Director

K-State College of Agriculture
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College of Agriculture and the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.

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On the cover
Mahbub Alam, irrigation and water management specialist at the Southwest Research-Extension Center, explains to Ron Lucas, Haskell County, how he is using a solar-powered data logger, soil sensors, and laptop computer to monitor subsurface drip irrigation in a cotton field.
Photo by Gloria Holcombe

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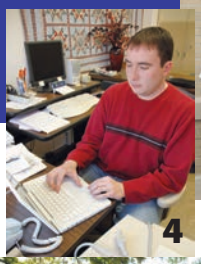


Dan Sweeney, soil and water management agronomist, Dean and Director Fred Cholick, and Barbara Valent, university distinguished professor of plant pathology, were recognized by scientific associations.

National Organizations Honor Faculty

Dan Sweeney has been named a fellow of the Soil Science Society of America. He has been a soil and water management agronomist at the Southeast Agricultural Research Center in Parsons since 1983. His research interests have included examining the effects of fertilizer application (methods, rates, timing, etc.), tillage, and irrigation to improve row and forage crop production and/or alleviate crop stress for those crops grown on claypan soils. His research has demonstrated the importance of fertilizer placement for row crops, especially in conservation tillage systems, and for forage grasses, especially that pertaining to nitrogen fertilizer.

Fred Cholick, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension, has been named a fellow in the American Society of Agronomy. As an agronomist, he has focused on the application of soil and plant sciences in managing soil and crop production. Prior to accepting his dual role at K-State in 2004, he spent 21 years at South Dakota State University. As project leader for the SDSU spring wheat breeding and genetics program, he released six varieties and one germplasm with multiple pest resistance, early maturity to avoid heat and drought stress, and increased yield potential from spring and winter wheat germplasm pools.

Barbara Valent, university distinguished professor of plant pathology, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her contributions in the understanding of plant-microbe interactions, particularly in defining the mechanisms of fungal pathogenesis. She pioneered and developed rice blast disease as an easily manipulated model system to understand how plants and fungi interact to lead to disease or resistance. She was first to clone and study both fungus and rice genes that determine the outcome of this interaction. Her research centers on improving key cereal crops, such as rice and wheat, for durable resistance to fungal diseases.

Greg Zolnerowich

Curators, Librarians Create Insect and Plant Database

Two groups of organisms dominate life on Earth – insects and plants. The entomology and botany research collections at K-State specialize in these groups and have become a unique and irreplaceable source of data for studying the flora, fauna, and ecology of the Great Plains.

Entomologist Gregory Zolnerowich and biologist Carolyn Ferguson are curators of natural history collections started in the 19th century. He heads a museum full of pinned insects, and she's in charge of K-State's plant collection.

They are working with librarians David Allen and Michael Haddock to create computer databases from more than 120 years' worth of detailed written records on everything from species name to collection date, place, and distribution. The combined database will contain 835,000 specimens

"Because of the age of the collection, we can literally see into the past – based on the specimens collected in the 1880s – and that helps us to make meaningful predictions regarding effects of climate change, invasive species, conservation, etc.," Zolnerowich said.

They also want to add high-quality digital photos, "which will enable people such as ecologists, conservationists, applied or extension workers, educators, and students to tap into and use the vast amount of data," Zolnerowich said.

Courtesy David Wetzel

Graduate Student Lands Cover Article in Scientific Journal

A new K-State graduate has earned the cover article in a scientific journal for her research on the biological process of wheat germination.

Work by Hicran Koc, a December 2007 master's graduate in grain science from Istanbul, Turkey, and her research adviser, David Wetzel, professor of grain science and industry, was featured on the cover of the October issue of *Spectroscopy*. The article was based on research Koc had done over a two-year period under Wetzel's direction at K-State and at a federal laboratory.

Koc was invited to write the article following an oral presentation at a national conference attended by 25,000 scientists.

The nine-page article, which included several color graphics, was on research done with synchroton infrared microspectroscopy. Koc used this advanced form of analytical instrumentation and extremely bright radiation to perform experiments on Kansas wheat.

According to Koc, premature germination – or sprouting – of wheat in the fields is of economic concern in Kansas. Using synchrotron infrared microspectroscopy, Koc was able to observe the chemical changes inside the wheat kernel during the germination process that result in sprouting.

"To land a cover article, complete with color graphics, is a rare honor for a graduate student, particularly before they have graduated or even defended their research," Wetzel said.

For her research, Koc used breeding lines from Allan Fritz, professor of agronomy, that are being considered for potential release as varieties to be grown in Kansas.

Virginia Moxley, dean of the College of Human Ecology; Robert Krause, vice president of institutional advancement, Col. Richard Piscal; and Fred Cholick, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension, at signing ceremonies.

K-State Research and Extension Reaches Out to Fort Riley

K-State and Fort Riley will strengthen their commitments to assisting soldiers and their families by creating a program tailored to the needs of military personnel.

A memorandum of understanding – signed Feb. 7, 2008, at the fort – will allow K-State Research and Extension family and consumer sciences programs to give military families information on diverse family-related issues, said Paula Peters, assistant director of K-State Research and Extension.

Topics could include parenting, family communication, child and youth development, nutrition and food preparation, physical activity and health, and money management.

"This new partnership arises in response to the great need the expanding military community has to care for its families and to support its wounded warriors," said Arthur DeGroat, director of military affairs at K-State. "I see this as an act of leadership by K-State to 'move to the sound of the guns,' to support our military families at Fort Riley during this trying time in history."

The proposal is modeled on the Texas Cooperative Extension program that Texas A&M University sponsors at several military installations, including Fort Hood and Fort Bliss.

DuPont Partners with K-State

DuPont and Kansas State University Research Foundation have signed an agreement giving DuPont exclusive commercialization rights to two new herbicide-tolerant traits in sorghum.

The new traits, developed by K-State researchers, include an ALS-herbicide-tolerant trait and an ACCase-herbicide tolerant trait. Both traits will provide growers with new, more flexible post-emergence herbicide options for grass control in sorghum with no restrictions on export marketing.

Growers will benefit from new herbicide solutions developed with the unique blends technology from DuPont Crop Protection for use on sorghum with the new ALS-tolerant trait. Seed companies will have the opportunity to sub-license both traits from DuPont.

"Our partnership with Kansas State will allow us to deliver solutions for grass and broadleaf weed control in sorghum that have never before been available," said James C. Collins, vice president and general manager – DuPont Crop Protection. "We are pleased to work with Kansas State researchers as we continue to deliver products that increase grower productivity."

K-State students and faculty share information with their counterparts in France.

Taking a Global View

Technology brings views of global agriculture into the classroom

College of Agriculture faculty encourage students to study abroad when possible. For those who can't, several classes are bringing instructors from other parts of the world to K-State classrooms. The Comparative Food and Agricultural Systems class and the proposed Certificate in Agricultural Resources and Environmental Management are two examples.

Allen Featherstone, professor and director of the Master in Agribusiness program, started the Comparative Food and Agricultural Systems class six years ago as part of the MAB program – a distance education program for food and agribusiness professionals.

The innovative online class – offered through the Department of Agricultural Economics and the Division of Continuing Education – has received several awards, including the 2007 Distinguished Credit Award from the Association for Continuing Education.

For the last two years, the class also has been offered to undergraduate students on the K-State campus and at the University of Florida.

"The goal of this course is to expose students to what is going on globally in agricultural systems," said Featherstone. "It's a fun class to do and gives the students a better, broader perspective. It helps them be aware of what they may face in their future jobs."

Phil White, senior in agricultural journalism and communications, took the class in spring 2006. He agreed with Featherstone's assessment.

"It did help provide me with a broader view on global agriculture," White said. "We picked up great, firsthand knowledge from folks who know their country's industry inside and out. The class was probably the best possible alternative to studying abroad. It's impossible to replicate that experience, but being able to actually interact with these professors from around the world really helped us understand the ag industry in each particular region we studied."

"The course uses a combination of pre-recorded and live lectures with the international counterparts," said Featherstone. "It initially had instructors from France, Russia, Uruguay, and Thailand. Then we looked at ways to broaden the scope of the class."

Featherstone invited Lisa House from the University of Florida to help write a grant proposal to expand the course to include more regions of the world and to bring the course to undergraduates.

"Our university was seeking ways to expand international opportunities for students, so it seemed like a great fit," House said.

"The USDA grant allowed us to add Uganda, India, and New Zealand," Featherstone said.

The MAB class averages 25 students. The K-State undergraduate enrollment

is much smaller – usually five or six students from several majors. The Florida contingent is the largest.

"I believe they benefit greatly from learning about agriculture from instructors in different regions of the world," said House. "I could lecture about the same topics, but the instructors are much more capable of giving an accurate picture of what agriculture and policy are like in their own region."

"For years, educators have known the value of internationalizing curricula and exposing students to more global viewpoints," said Don Boggs, associate dean of the College of Agriculture.

"...being able to actually interact with these professors from around the world really helped us understand the ag industry in each particular region we studied."

"Initially, global study was taught by sending a professor abroad and having them incorporate the global content into their classes. Then we started sending more students abroad to study and learn about agriculture and culture in different countries. But costs and capacity have restricted the number of students who can participate in this manner.

"We now have the ability to create international study opportunities with technology."

For more information about the class, go to *www.mab.ksu.edu/gaen*.

Another class with an international flavor started in spring 2007. It's the introductory class for a Master's Certificate in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Environment. The class is taught by a team of teachers at K-State and at Ecole d'Ingeneurs (Purpan), Toulouse, France.

Bill Hargrove, director of the Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment, laid the groundwork for the program when he was on sabbatical at Purpan in 2004.

Phil White, senior in agricultural communications and journalism, prepares for the Comparative Food and Agricultural Systems class.

Hargrove enlisted the help of Kyle Mankin, associate professor in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, to apply for grant funding.

Hargrove and Dan Devlin, professor and extension specialist and coordinator of environmental quality programs for the K-State Department of Agronomy, went to France in 2006 on a follow-up trip. They enlisted counterparts in France – a sociologist, an economist, an agronomist, and an ecologist – to help teach the course.

In addition to Hargrove, Devlin, and Mankin, other K-State instructors include: Chuck Rice, soil microbiologist in the Department of Agronomy; Jeff Peterson, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, who specializes in natural resource economics; and Theresa Selfa, a rural sociologist with the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work.

"The course exposes students to new approaches," said Hargrove. "The United States is incentive- or market-based, and the European Union is more regulatory."

The class met for two hours once a week until spring break to match the French schedule. The first part of the course dealt with the interdisciplinary aspects of natural resource management.

"We wanted the students to really think about the importance of sustainability," Hargrove said.

During the second half of the class, students worked on case studies. They took a real problem, analyzed it, and shared results, added Hargrove.

Other components of the Master's Certificate in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Environment will include a summer program in France and a capstone course.

For more information about the program, contact Don Boggs, associate dean, at dboggs@ksu.edu or Bill Hargrove at bhargrov@ksu.edu.

E-mail Allen Featherstone at afeather@ksu.edu.

A Century of Progress

Center leaders stand in front of the office building: (left to right) Ray Mann, former director of the Southwest Area Extension Office (SWAO); Paul Hartman, SWAO director; Pat Coyne, former head of the Western Kansas Agricultural Research Centers (WKARC); Gerald Greene, former superintendent of the Garden City Branch Experiment Station; and Bob Gillen, head of WKARC.

1907. Theodore Roosevelt was president of the United States, Oklahoma became the 46th state in the Union, a regular transatlantic radiotelegraph service was announced, Marion Morrison (movie star John Wayne) was born, and the Garden City Branch Experiment Station was established.

The station was created when the Finney County Commissioners presented the Kansas Board of Regents with a 99-year lease on 320 acres of land about 5 miles northeast of Garden City.

Although research topics at the station have changed over the last 100 years, the basic mission has remained the same – to serve the people of western Kansas by developing new knowledge and technology to sustain long-term, profitable production of crops and livestock while conserving natural resources and assuring food safety.

At one time or another, research projects have addressed dryland and irrigated crop production; crop breeding and genetics; production of lambs, hogs, turkey, dairy cattle, and beef cattle; horticulture; and crop and livestock entomology. The research staff at the station has experienced the drought, dust storms, weed problems, insect infestations, and water issues along with the people they serve.

The station began with one building, a wagon, seven tillage implements, and two horses. It now encompasses almost 1,100 acres. At one time, there were six homes on the property for the superintendent, scientists, and support, staff – making the station a small community. Now only the farm manager and some summer graduate students live onsite.

Dryland research has been conducted at the station since its inception. It was one of 22 experiment stations established in the early 1900s to do dryland agronomic research from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Emphasis has always been placed on crop rotation, proper variety selection, fertility, and efficient water use.

Wheat, grain sorghum, and corn have the longest and most intensive crop research history at the center. Other crops include soybeans, alfalfa, castor bean, sugarbeet, crambe, milkweed, amaranth, winter and spring rape, canola, winter barley, safflower, oil and confectionary sunflowers, and cotton.

In 1969, the Southwest Area Extension Office was established at the station. It was the first area office in the state – not located on the K-State campus in Manhattan – to provide regional administrative and subject-matter support to county extension faculty and citizens. Area office staff moved off-site in 1972 and returned in 2000 to share the center's new office building.

Randy Currie (BS '80 agronomy), weed scientist and coordinator at the Southwest Research-Extension Center, talks with his former professor Richard Vanderlip (BS '60 agronomy).

Agronomist John Holman talks to field day visitors about cropping systems suitable for the area.

In 1986, the Tribune Branch Experiment Station, about 90 miles northwest, became a satellite unit of the Garden City Branch Experiment Station under the name of the Southwest Research-Extension Center.

In 1995, the SWREC was combined with the Agricultural Research Center – Hays and the Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby to form the Western Kansas Agricultural Centers, with a center head located at Hays and a coordinator at each site.

Agriculture and natural resource agents Kurt Werth, Gray County, and Elly Blasi, Meade County, examine corn at a field day event.

The Southwest Area Extension Office and the Southwest Research-Extension Center share the office building, but they operate as independent fiscal organizations. Many faculty have both research and extension responsibilities, and they collaborate extensively.

The center has extension projects in 4-H Youth Development, crops and soils, agricultural economics, livestock production, cropping systems, entomology, family and consumer sciences, farm management, irrigation and water management, and water quality.

Field days have been held since the beginning of the station. Thousands of visitors have been welcomed to the center and the experiment plots. In recent years, a wheat tour in May for winter crops and a fall field day in August for summer crops make results directly available to the public.

The center celebrated its centennial at the August 2007 field day. For the event, current faculty compiled a report, "Another 50 Years of Progress (1957-2007)," to highlight the research efforts and many changes at the center over the last 50 years. This report built upon an earlier history, "50 Years of Progress" published in 1957. Both reports are available online at *www.oznet.ksu.edu/swao/*

"The Southwest Research-Extension Center has been making a difference in southwest Kansas for 100 years," said Robert Gillen, center director. "The current research and extension staff is excited to carry that legacy forward into a second century."

—Photos and story by Gloria Holcombe

Time line: Southwest Research-Extension Center

1908 – Began collecting weather data

1911 – Garden City Industrial Club raised $6,200 to start irrigation research at the experiment station

1914 – First successful wheat crop harvested at station

1933 – Lamb-feeding experiments started

1939 – Entomology project started

1947 - 1952 – Turkey feeding trials conducted

1947 – Fire destroyed a building

1948 – Soil-testing lab was established to analyze soil for local farmers at low cost

1948 – Added an 80-acre tract near Holcomb to expand irrigation research

1954 – Discontinued swine research

Late '60s – Dairy research discontinued

1961 – Garden City Experiment Station Research Advisory Committee was organized

1963 – The station's research advisory committee developed a proposal to build a research center

1967 – Tornado and hail storm struck Garden City: Of the 40 buildings, 20 were destroyed and the remainder suffered serious damage

1968 – Weed science research began

1969 – Southwest Area Extension Office established at the station

1969 – Circular cattle pens were constructed

Late '60s - early '70s – Reduced and no-till cropping systems research began

1970 – Sprinkler-irrigated pasture research initiated

1972 – Southwest Area Office moved into Garden City

1986 – Tribune Branch Experiment Station was combined with the Garden City Branch Experiment Station and named the Southwest Research-Extension Center

1995 – Center was consolidated into the Western Kansas Agricultural Research Centers headquartered at Hays

1999 – Livestock research discontinued

2000 – New office built and the Southwest Area Extension Office returned to the center

On-the-Job Training

Interns Experience Life as a K-State Research and Extension Agent

Nathan Nelson, assistant professor of agronomy, demonstrates an automated water sampler for Andrea Burns, Ford County agriculture and natural resources agent.

You wouldn't buy a car without test driving it. So if you have a chance to "test drive" a job why not give it a try?

Each year three to ten undergraduate students intern in a K-State Research and Extension county or district office. They experience what it's like to be an extension agent.

Andrea Burns, agriculture and natural resources agent in Ford County, interned in Thomas County in 1998.

"As an intern, I got to help at wheat plot tours, 4-H camp in Colorado, and the county fair," Burns said. "It gave me an opportunity to see the other side of 4-H. I hadn't realized how much work goes into each project."

"Learning to be flexible and how to multitask were two of the most important things I learned during my internship," said Burns, who completed her bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry in 1999.

After her internship, she knew she was interested in being an agent. She worked in Kingman County for four years then transferred to Ford County.

"Thomas County had a good horse project, which helped me as an agent in Kingman and Ford counties, where they have similar programs," Burns said. "It also provided me with a network of people to contact when I had questions.

"The thing I enjoy most about being an agent is that I still get to learn something new every day," said Burns. "The job changes with the seasons. That suits me better than sitting behind a desk."

The internship gives students the opportunity to see if working for K-State Research and Extension would be a good fit.

Stacey Warner, extension operations leader who coordinates the internship program, listed three main goals:

To assist agents in expanding local programming;

To recruit future K-State Research and Extension professionals; and

To provide students with internship opportunities.

"The number of internships we offer is determined by the budget and how many counties or districts apply to host interns," Warner said. "The host county or district pays half the salary, and K-State Research and Extension pays half."

"The interns have a major project they take leadership for – planning, implementation, and evaluation," Warner stated. The 2007 interns took responsibility for some of the following projects: financial management workshops for teens; "Character Counts" workshops for 4-H members and leaders; livestock project workshops for 4-H'ers; meat judging teams, and day camps.

"Learning to be flexible and how to multitask were two of the most important things I learned during my internship."

"They work with people in the communities and other agents," Warner said. "It's very similar to what agents do."

Brittany (Phares) Nichepor interned in Ellis County in 2006 and completed her bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry in 2007. She said her internship was a wonderful experience.

"The agents in Ellis County were great," Nichepor said. "They encouraged me and were very positive."

Nichepor is now extension director

in Trego County. As the only agent in the county, she is responsible for programs in all areas – agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H youth development.

"We have hired about 40 percent of the former interns in some role," said Warner. "In addition to that, we have hired interns from other states, and other states have hired ours."

"The internship gives students firsthand experience within a local office," said Daryl Buchholz, associate director of extension and applied research. "It gives them a true look at a career with K-State Research and Extension and helps them know if they like working with the public in such an informal educational setting. And when we hire former interns they tend to stay with us, because they are ready for the challenges and opportunities of the job."

Warner noted another trend – since January 2005, 43 percent of agricultural and natural resources agents hired by K-State Research and Extension were female.

To enhance the experience and meet new people, interns are strongly discouraged from working in their home county or district.

Leavenworth County has hosted an intern nearly every summer for the last 10 years. Beth Hecht, Leavenworth County 4-H agent, agreed with the benefits of experiencing a new community.

Photo courtesy of Ellis County K-State Research and Extension office

As an intern, Brittany Nichepor (left) participated in the Elllis County fair cow milking contest with Kim Smith, office professional; Donna Maskus, Ellis County Extension Board member; and Susan Schlickting, Ellis County 4-H Youth Development agent.

"By living in the community and sharing a house for a summer, our interns tend to develop strong friendships with their house hosts along with discovering more about the uniquenesses of a new community," Hecht said.

The intern often brings a new dynamic to the county or district office.

"An intern provides a fresh look to our programs as well as day-to-day operations in the office," Hecht said. "They often expose us to new uses of technology while we are able to introduce them to the 'behind-the-scenes' work of a summer in extension."

Nathan Nelson, a 1998 agronomy graduate, brought new technology to Johnson County when he interned there in 1997 by helping them with their Web site. Now as an assistant professor in the Department of Agronomy, he works with agents and producers on soil fertility and water quality issues. In December, he led a training session with agents, including Burns.

"After my internship, my career goal was to become a state specialist," Nelson said. "As I continued through graduate school, I realized that I was drawn to the research and teaching side of the land-grant system. The internship helped broaden the picture of where my work in the lab and the classroom connects with the state.

"The internship was a valuable experience for me. Learning how to deal with people and understanding how extension reaches out to people still helps me today. When I advise my students, I encourage them to apply for internships."

For information about the internship program, contact Stacey Warner at swarner@ksu.edu or 785-532-5790.

Heather Baumberger (left), former Central Kansas District intern, helps Justin Wiebers, 4-H events coordinator, with preparations for Discovery Days, while working toward her master's degee.

Faculty continue tradition of excellence

Building for the Future

Dan Donnert, KSU Photo Services

Harold Trick manages K-State's plant tranformation facility.

It may have seemed like business as usual in K-State's Department of Plant Pathology the past three years.

In a sense, it was. In the midst of replacing nearly one-third of its full-time staff, K-State's reputation as a national leader in plant pathology has remained intact, said John Leslie, department head.

As longtime faculty retired or moved to be closer to family, Leslie and other senior faculty resolved to retain the department's excellence.

"We knew we were losing friends and leaders in our field," Leslie said. "We wouldn't be the same, but we could be just as good and prepare the department for another 20 to 30 years of leadership and excellence. We took that attitude toward all of the candidates as we went through the search process."

By summer 2008, the department will have hired seven new faculty members. Five already have begun work, including Anna Whitfield (virology); Megan Kennelly (extension horticulture); Erick De Wolf (extension wheat); Chris Little (sorghum and soybean diseases); and Edward Akhunov (wheat genomics).

The department maintains its balance of research, extension, and teaching on plant diseases – particularly with plants common to Kansas – but is growing to meet new needs, Leslie said. Faculty have proposed a minor in applied genomics and biotechnology that could help provide students with jobs in Kansas' growing biosciences sector.

Currently, there is an undergraduate minor available in plant pathology. The graduate program, which offers extensive research experience, serves 30 to 50 students from around the world at any one time. The department also houses K-State's Integrated Genomics Facility, as well as several U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratories.

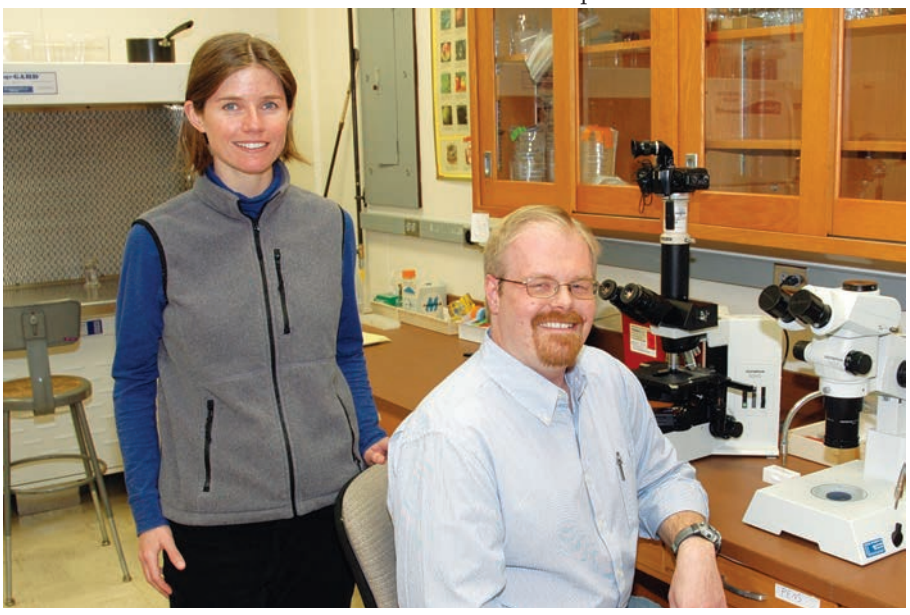
Wheat Improvements Net Millions for Kansas Growers

Even though he's been a K-State wheat scientist for three decades, there are many wheat growers in Kansas that Bill Bockus has never met. Yet his work and the lives of those farmers are closely intertwined.

"A lot of my research is applied," Bockus said. "In 30 years, probably one of the most exciting things that has happened in wheat breeding is the amount of disease resistance that goes into our wheat varieties."

When he started at K-State, Bockus remembers working with wheats that were resistant to "two or three diseases." Today, he says, new releases can be resistant to nine or ten diseases.

"What that's done," Bockus says, "is we've been able to decrease wheat losses in a given year from an average of 17 percent of the crop, to about 10 percent. That amount of savings is a lot in a $1-4 billion crop."



Plant pathologists Chris Little (seated) and Megan Kennelly in a Throckmorton Hall lab.

Bockus says the 7 percent decrease in losses can amount to an additional $280 million annually for Kansas' wheat growers, based on current prices.

Bockus' work focuses on crop rotations, tillage strategies, and fungicides to control wheat diseases in Kansas. He's also one cog in a research and extension team that develops "disease phenotypes" – or maps out resistance to diseases in wheat cultivars and breeding lines.

Biotechnology Continues to Gain Acceptance

When the first biotechnology-produced foods hit American grocery stores in 1996, the country's consumers found themselves asking a question similar to their European counterparts: Are these foods safe?

In the dozen years since, Americans are answering "yes," based on their buying patterns and the fact that more farmers are growing genetically improved crops.

Harold Trick knew well before 1996 that biotechnology would make a positive impact on the world's food supply. Trick, manager of K-State's plant transformation facility, had seen the safety of the process and the good it does for such popular food staples as corn and soybeans.

"I have not heard of a single documented case of anyone in the world becoming ill due to transgenic food," Trick said. Last year, more than 282 million acres were planted to biotech products, he said.

"With that track record, people who were 'middle-of-the-road' about biotechnology are seeing now that biotechnology has not been a health concern, so it's becoming more accepted."

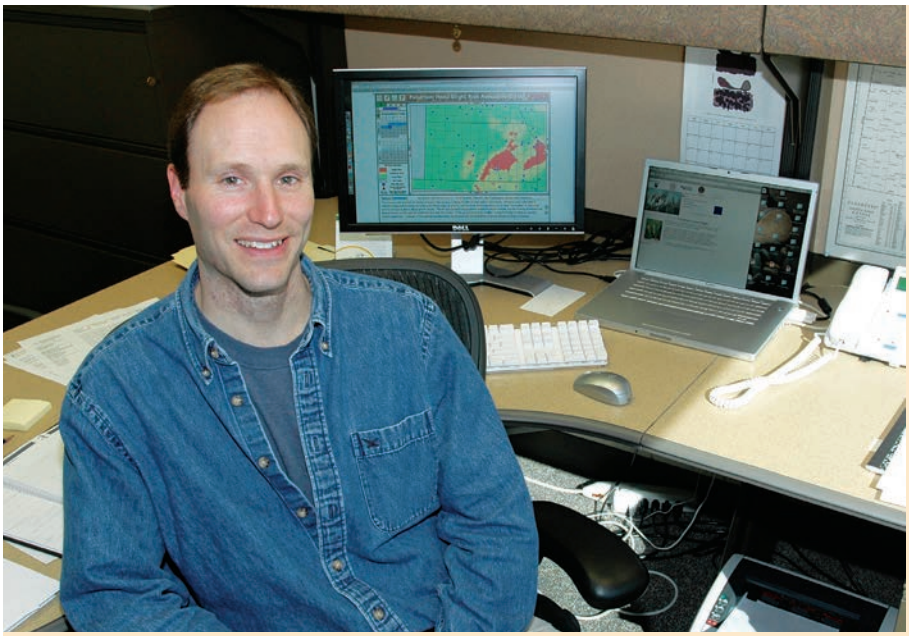
Universities across the country are involved in biotechnology. According to Trick, the K-State lab is one of only two or three public labs in the country that specialize in both soybeans and wheat; other states are involved with such products as corn, cotton, rice, turfgrass, and other plants.

Trick said K-State's work with soybeans includes "silencing" genes in the plant's DNA that cause oils to break down, and another that will kill the devastating soybean cyst nematode. Another project is looking at developing a soybean variety that is free of the amino acid phenylalanine, so that soybeans can become a food source for patients with the genetic disorder phenylketonuria (PKU).

K-State's work with wheat varieties currently includes projects to:

- increase the number of seeds in the plant's head;
- develop resistance against leaf rust, Fusarium head scab, and wheat streak mosaic virus;
- develop a heat-tolerant wheat, to reduce losses during high heat; and
- help researchers best utilize lignin, which is an important component in the production of biofuels.

—Pat Melgares



Erick De Wolf's research could help predict future wheat disease risks.

Fusarium Head Blight Prediction Center

Kansas wheat growers with a computer and Internet connection are getting a heads-up on a pesky disease.

Last year, the Kansas Fusarium Head Blight Prediction Center Web page was accessed more than 600 times by Kansas growers wanting to stay ahead of the disease that can devastate wheat grain during critical growing stages.

The site, located at *www.wheatscab.psu.edu*, creates an image similar to doppler radar (common in television weather forecasts) to predict areas of the state where there is a high, medium, or low risk of a Fusarium head blight outbreak.

"What we are doing," says K-State Research and Extension plant pathologist Erick De Wolf, "is looking at patterns of weather associated with epidemics of disease."

Data from the National Weather Service is fed into the system, then compared to historical patterns and past disease outbreaks to scientifically predict future disease risks.

"We can predict epidemics with an accuracy of 75 to 80 percent, depending on which region of the country we're talking about," De Wolf said.

Knowing this information, growers can base management decisions – such as whether to spray a fungicide – on current and past data. The system further decreases some of the guesswork in farming.

Disease forecasting for agriculture has been around since the '40s and '50s, De Wolf said. The growth of the Web and greater access to weather data have improved the ability to offer disease forecasting to growers.

K-State's FFA Officers Make History

Students Serve as National Officers

Two College of Agriculture students are taking a year off from classes and making history. They are the first students from the same university to serve together as national FFA officers – Morgan Parker as central region vice president, and Becky Sullivan as secretary.

"Serving as a national officer includes a great deal of travel – more than 100,000 miles and 300 to 335 days on the road," Parker said. "Each of us will visit approximately 40 of the 50 states. We serve as ambassadors of the agriculture industry, agricultural education, FFA, and youth.

"We travel to state conventions, present training workshops for state FFA officers, meet with business partners and legislators, and spend time with FFA members all across the nation. As the culmination of our term, we will be hosting 50,000 FFA members, advisers, and supporters at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind."

K-State students Morgan Parker and Becky Sullivan are making history. They are the first students from the same university to serve together as national FFA officers.

Parker and Sullivan attribute their time at K-State to helping them achieve the goal of becoming a national officer.

"I would not be in the position I am today if it weren't for the faculty and students at K-State," Sullivan said. "They invested much of their time and energy into helping me prepare for the competition, because they believed in me."

She mentioned a few people at K-State who helped and encouraged her.

"Ron Wilson (BS '78 agricultural education) of K-State's Huck Boyd Institute for Rural Development is a past national officer and was very helpful to both of us," Sullivan said. "Two graduate students – Michael Burns (BS '06 agricultural economics) and Kelsey Holste (BS '05 agribusiness) – were my personal coaches and mentors. Finally, Mary Kane, Kansas FFA executive secretary, and Jill Zimmerman, Kansas FFA Foundation director, both played a large role in my development. I am truly blessed to have had so many amazing supporters."

Two K-State students who had served as FFA officers were coaches for Parker: Cassie Benz from North Dakota and Casey Bieroth (BS '07 agribusiness) from Nevada. He also recognized Joe (BS '79 animal science) and Cindy (BS '79 horticulture) Frasier from his hometown of Limon, Colo., for their support.

"If it weren't for them and their family, I wouldn't be at K-State today," Parker said. "When they invited me to visit K-State and FarmHouse Fraternity I refused. I just knew I wasn't going to like it. But as soon as I got on campus, I fell in love with K-State. The faculty and staff made me feel so welcome and showed true interest in helping me achieve my educational goals."

After that, it seems like every other day I was getting something in my mail box or a follow-up phone call. K-State and the College of Ag really made an effort to show how much they cared, Parker said.

Sullivan chose K-State for two reasons.

"No. 1, I was very interested in agricultural communications, and K-State has a wonderful program and staff for that major. No. 2, the people. I visited other universities, but none made me feel as special and wanted as K-State," Sullivan said. "Because of

my passion for agriculture and active involvement with 4-H and FFA, I knew that I wanted agriculture to be part of my future. I was introduced to ag communications and journalism when I visited K-State as a junior in high school. It is a perfect fit for all my interests."

Parker is majoring in agricultural economics.

"Ag econ seemed to be a good fit because of the specialty option that allows me to focus on an area," Parker said. "I am planning to get a double degree, with the second being in ag communications and journalism."

Parker and Sullivan are passionate about FFA.

"FFA instills young men and women with premier leadership skills, offers opportunities for personal growth, and prepares students for the more than 300 careers in the agriculture industry," Parker said. "FFA was founded in 1928 with 33 young farm boys who saw the need to form an organization that would teach social interaction skills to those on the farm. They built the legacy of excellence and tradition that the organization continues to stand for today.

"As the agriculture industry changes, FFA has followed suit. FFA, formerly known as Future Farmers of America, changed its name to the National FFA Organization in 1988 to reflect the growing diversity of the agriculture industry. FFA is about production agriculture in farming and ranching, but it is also about science, business, and technology related to the entire food, fiber, natural resources, and fuel of agriculture. FFA gives students the opportunity to find their passion."

As national officers, Parker and Sullivan spent 10 days in Japan.

"The Japan trip is a long-standing tradition for National FFA officers," Parker said. "We traveled to Japan to discover the diversity of agriculture, experience a global view of culture and business, and spend time with the FFJ – an organization modeled after the FFA. And yes, it is called the Future Farmers of Japan."

Where in the World are Becky and Morgan?

At right, Morgan Parker and Becky Sullivan pose with their K-State coaches Cassie Benz, Casey Bieroth, Kelsey Holste, and Michael Burns.

Below, Sullivan and Parker experience life in Japan.

Courtesy College of Agriculture, Academic Programs

Above, Becky Sullivan checks out the fish market in japan.

At left, Morgan Parker and Becky Sullivan by the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

National FFA officers at an Indiana Pacers game. (L-R), Zach Kinne, president; Parker, central region vice president; Kari Boettcher, western region vice president; Pacers mascot; Sullivan, secretary; Brady Revels, southern region vice president, and Tyler Tenbarge, eastern region vice president.

Marty Vanier (left to right), Aaron Hund, Duane Walker, Jack Riley, Marty Tadtman, Caroline Sweeney, Phil Phar, Fred Cholick, Lee Reeve, Joe Downey, Jim Coffman, Charlie White, Duane Nellis, Ken Odde, Pat Koons, and Bob Krause man gold shovels to break ground for the equine center.

Fred Cholick, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension, talks with Duane Walker before the groundbreaking ceremonies.

One Hoofprint Closer

K-State breaks ground on Equine Education Center

On a brisk, sunny morning in late October, about 200 students, faculty, and horse enthusiasts gathered on a hilltop overlooking the K-State campus to break ground for phase one of the K-State Equine Education Center.

The center, built with private funds, will be located on the northeast side of K-State's Manhattan campus.

"We are thrilled that this is coming together," said Fred Cholick, dean the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. "We've had growing demand to expand the equine program. With the state-of-the art facility that we have planned, we will be able to accommodate that demand."

The equine center will be built in two phases. Phase one will include two buildings: One will house a large indoor arena named for R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard, and the other will have a smaller indoor arena, horse stalls, classrooms, and space for K-State's National Collegiate Athletic Association Equestrian Team.

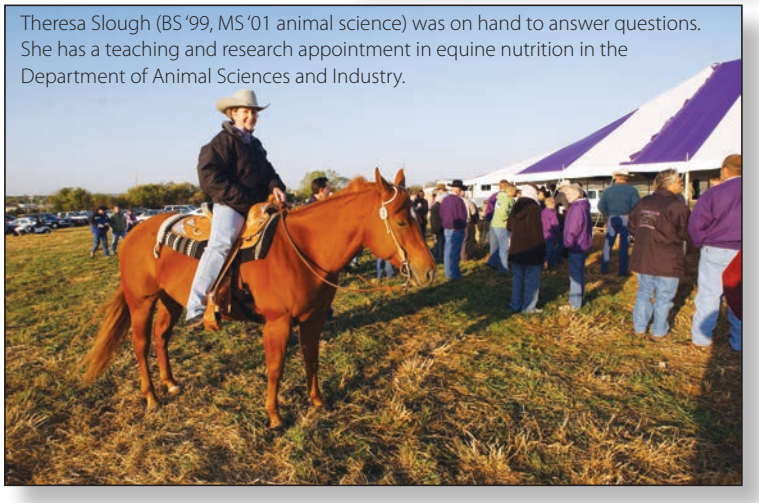
The second phase will include a building with more stalls, a facility to serve as home for the K-State Rodeo Team, and space for a potential equine therapy program.

For more information, contact Ken Odde, 785-532-1259 or kenodde@ksu.edu

Photos by Dan Donnert, KSU Photo Services

Dean and Director Fred Cholick accepts a donation from Jim Stoddard, executive director of the R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard Foundation.

Don Good (left), former department head, and professor emeritus Miles McKee enjoy the groundbreaking festivities.



Theresa Slough (BS '99, MS '01 animal science) was on hand to answer questions. She has a teaching and research appointment in equine nutrition in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

Members of the K-State equestrian team pose with their new trailer.

Members of the K-State Rodeo Club watch the festivities.

The Kansas National Guard Adjutant General's Mounted Color Guard presents the colors at the Equine Education Center groundbreaking.

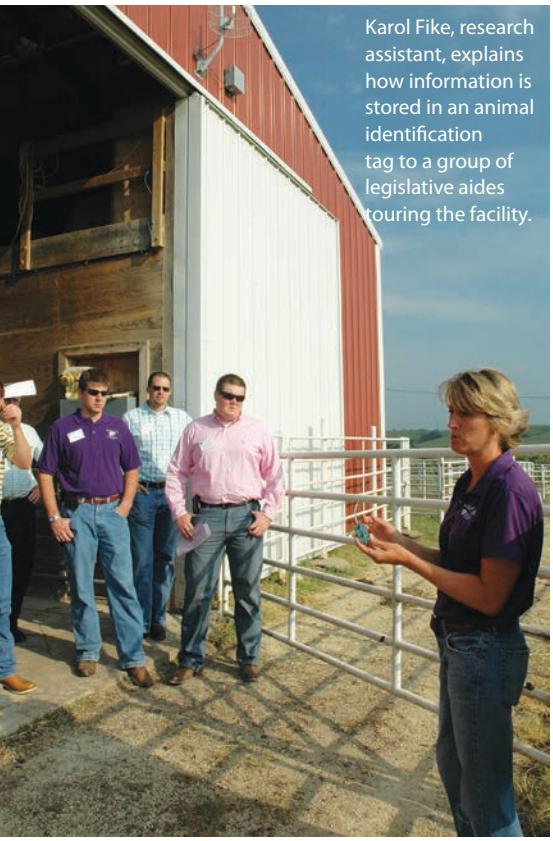
Animal science department heads – Ken Odde (left), current head, Don Good (1966-1987), and Jack Riley (1987-2005) – admire the location.

Bill Snyder, former K-State football coach, visits with Charlie White and others at the groundbreaking.

James Coffman, former K-State provost, serves as emcee for the Equine Education Center Phase I groundbreaking. About 200 people were present for the groundbreaking on Oct. 27, 2007.

Centers Consolidate Research Efforts

Three new centers have been established within K-State Research and Extension – the Center for Animal Identification, the Center for Biobased Polymers by Design, and the Center for Sustainable Energy – to address issues important to the future of Kansas.



Karol Fike, research assistant, explains how information is stored in an animal identification tag to a group of legislative aides touring the facility.

The Center for Animal Identification will allow researchers to build on the work K-State has already begun in evaluating identification systems, such as radio frequency to trace animal movement, said animal science professor, Dale Blasi.

"Our mission," Blasi said, "is to discover, develop, and evaluate livestock identification technologies that might have economic value to livestock producers in Kansas and the United States."

Blasi has headed the university's Animal Identification Knowledge Laboratory since it was established in 2003. K-State established the lab – with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – to provide unbiased evaluation of animal identification technologies being considered by livestock industries. The new center is a logical way to expand on the lab's efforts, he said.

Much of the center's work will be done at the university's Beef Stocker Unit, where there is ready access to large numbers of livestock in typical livestock management situations.

The importance of being able to trace an individual animal's movements has become increasingly apparent, Blasi said. Several high profile events raised consumers' consciousness about tracing animal movements and reinforced the need for the United States to track an animal's movement from the beginning of its life to the end.

"Our objective is to give producers good information on existing technologies, as well as any emerging technologies, to help them better manage their businesses," Blasi said.

"This center also will give K-State students the opportunity to learn about animal identification through working with us during internships and honors classes," Blasi said.

In addition, researchers plan to provide independent performance evaluation services to vendors of animal identification technology.

K-State collaborators in the new center include Kevin Dhuyvetter and Ted Schroeder in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Jim Higgins in the Department of Statistics, and Tim Sobering in the Electronics Design Laboratory.

Other collaborators include the Kansas Animal Health Department, the Kansas Department of Commerce, numerous meat packing companies, auction markets, and animal identification technology companies.

For more information, contact Blasi at dblasi@ksu.edu.

Center for Sustainable Energy

Researchers in 12 departments in three K-State colleges are collaborating to address energy issues through the Center for Sustainable Energy.

Ron Madl, director of the Bioprocessing and Value-Added Program, and Mary Rezac, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, are co-directors of the center. Madl and Rezac collaborated with Richard Nelson, Engineering Extension, to secure funding through K-State's targeted excellence grants in 2007.

Madl listed the center's three primary goals:

- to conduct fundamental and applied research for development of global, sustainable energy systems and lower greenhouse gas emissions;
- to educate students and the public about sustainable energy issues; and
- to facilitate the adoption of new technology by industrial users.

"The center will provide more education for the general public," said Madl. "The colleges of Agriculture and Engineering are working together on curricula and certificates – inter-disciplinary degree programs that industry needs. These programs will be available by distance for people working in the industry."

The center improves coordination across K-State departments, other

K.N. Ananda, a PhD student studying under Praveen Vadlani, uses a fermentor in a lab in the Bioprocessing and Industrial Value-Added Program building.

universities, and industry partners.

Much of the work to date has dealt with ethanol, an alcohol fuel made when the starch in grain is converted to sugar, then fermented. That process also produces distillers grains and carbon dioxide.

Distillers grains (DG) are fed to livestock as a partial replacement for other feed grains; however, increased ethanol production could create an overabundance of DG. Grain scientist Praveen Vadlani and his graduate students are looking for ways to add value to DG and to find new and better uses for it.

Plant geneticist Bikram Gill is developing ways to modify plants so that more of the carbohydrate structural material can be converted into fuel. Today's ethanol is made from the starch in grain. Agricultural materials such as wheat bran or straw, and dedicated energy crops like switchgrass can be converted into what is called cellulosic ethanol.

"It has taken thousands of years for the domestication of plants for use as food. We haven't selected them for their potential to produce fuel," said Madl. "Our goal now is to develop plant resources designed for more efficient conversion to energy or bio-based products."

For more information, go to *http://www.sustainable-energy.ksu.edu*

Center for Biobased Polymers by Design

X. Susan Sun, director of the Center for Biobased Polymers by Design, received a K-State targeted excellence grant for "biomaterials by design" through the provost's office in 2004.

"That grant was the catalyst for the creation of the center, along with the collective effort made by Kenneth Klabunde, professor in the Department of Chemistry and associate director of the center," said Sun. "The goal is to take leftover plant materials to produce products without using fossil fuels."

As a professor in the Department of Grain Science and Industry, Sun has been conducting research since 1996 on how to design plant-based products that will replace petroleum-based. She coauthored a text book, "Bio-Based Polymers and Composites," which is a major reference book for the field.

The center will coordinate faculty working on similar projects in the departments of Biochemistry, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Grain Science and Industry, Mechanical Engineering, and Physics.

"Center faculty have targeted biomolecules derived from crops – proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, and fibers," said Sun. "These polymers cannot be used in their original form for industrial products like adhesives, resins, composites, or coatings. They must be converted into specific material with desirable properties. It takes a chemical or enzymatic conversion of the raw materials to create biobased materials with desirable performance."

The fundamental research involves studying the structure, chemistry, and physics related to the processing and to systematically design the material for a specific application, said Sun.

The center's vision, she continued, is to promote widespread use of biobased materials and products from renewable resources to meet future national and environmental needs, and to educate young people in this cutting-edge field.

Susan Sun shows some of the products made from agricultural products instead of fossil fuels.

Sun's graduate students work with campus scientists associated with the center to stimulate interdisciplinary education.

"This is an important field," said Sun. "I would like to have more applications from U.S. students who want to study this field."

"We plan to start a seminar series soon," said Sun. "We will invite world-class scientists to share ideas with our faculty and graduate students, and our faculty and graduate students also will make presentations."

"Kansas is an agriculture-based state," said Sun. "We hope to use agricultural commodities as a basic resource to produce value-added products rather than exporting raw materials."

For more information on CBPD, go to *http://www.k-state.edu/cbpd/*

Student Shares Native American Culture through Dance

Elizabeth Schrum, senior in horticulture, Lenexa, is president of the K-State Native American Student Association (NASA).

She and other members of the association share their culture through dance. Schrum showcases her Cherokee culture through a traditional dance called jingle dancing, which is a healing dance.

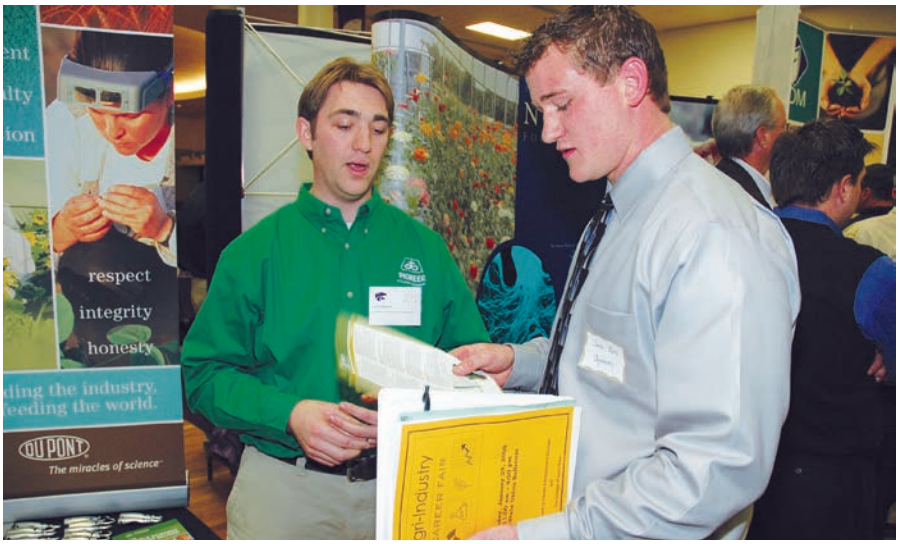
Members also host the Native American Heritage Month observance in April, which usually includes a spring powwow.

Schrum said NASA is an educational outlet for those who have questions about Native American culture. It also serves as a support group for Native American students at K-State who may be experiencing culture shock after coming from a reservation or for Native American students who were raised as "urban Indians" and want to know more about their heritage, Schrum said.

For more information, go to *www.k-state.edu/nasa*.

Elizabeth Schrum in her native regalia.

Photo courtesy of Georgia Perez



Career Fair Brings Students and Employers Together

Les Kuhlman (BS '01 agronomy), representative for Pioneer Hybrid, talks with Jason Mutz, senior in agronomy from Marion, at theAgri-Industry Career Fair in the K-State Student Union. More than 65 businesses attended to talk with students about career and internship opportunities.

Learning About USDA Jobs

Amber Tyler (left), senior in agricultural economics, and Vickie Brown, senior in park management and conservation, were selected for a USDA program that educates college students about job opportunities with the department. The students attended the 2008 Agricultural Outlook Forum in Arlington, Va., in February.

Brown is president of the K-State chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. Tyler is immediate past president.

Gloria Holcombe

Tough Enough to Wear Pink

Two campus organizations – Collegiate CattleWomen and Sigma Alpha – hosted the second annual K-State Tough Enough to Wear Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign to raise funds for the Susan G. Komen Foundation Mid-Kansas affiliate. The organizations sold more than 1,700 of the hot pink T-shirts with the slogan "Save the TaTas" on the back.

The groups raised $9,800 in 2007 and $7,500 in 2006.

Crystal Young (BS '07 animal science and industry/agricultural communications and journalism) served as chairperson both years. She is shown holding the "presentation" check.

Student Studies Abroad

Kathryn Glanville, junior in agronomy from Oskaloosa, has received a 2008 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad. Glanville is studying in Beijing, China, during the spring semester.

She has been a member of the AmeriCorps Campus-Community Youth Service Corps,Wheat State Agronomy Club, and Students for Environmental Action.

The scholarship is a congressionally funded program offered through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and is administered by the Institute of International Education.

Students Win FFA Awards

Photos courtesy College of Agriculture, Academic Programs

K-State President Jon Wefald congratulates Caleb Alexander, senior in agricultural economics from Garden City, who was named National FFA's American Star in Agribusiness for starting his own hay-bailing operation, CA Hay.

Morgan Gauby (center), junior in agribusiness from Washington, talks with K-State President Jon Wefald and fellow FFA members. She received a National Agricultural Proficiency Award from FFA for agricultural sales-placement for developing her interest into a career.

Judging Teams Win Top Honors

The K-State Horse Judging Team brought home the 2007 World Champion title by winning first and second place individual in every category. Overall, the team won by 82 points. Team members were honored at a luncheon where they showed off their team and individual trophies. They are, left to right: Billy Brown, Westmoreland.; Julie Voge, coach; Leo Becker, Shawnee; Kindra Gradert, Cambridge, Ill.; Anna Pesta, Oakboro, N.C.; Heather Frisch, Wichita; Kally Hood, Westmoreland; Kayla Lee, Garden City; Kaitlyn Crow, Winfield; Sharon Breiner, assistant coach; Rachel Sherck, Abilene.

The K-State Crops Team has again claimed the title of national champion, a feat that K-State teams have accomplished in seven of the past nine years.

The team won both the Kansas City Board of Trade and Chicago Collegiate Crops contests to win the national championship. K-State placed first in plant and seed identification and grain grading and second in seed analysis at both Kansas City and Chicago.

The team was recognized at a luncheon in the K-State Student Union. From left: Pat Bosco, associate vice president of institutional advancement; Fred Cholick, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension; Gerry Posler, coach; Mike Popelka, Munden; Clint Patry, Colwich; Cody Duitsman, Washington; and M. Duane Nellis, provost and senior vice president.

Agricultural Economics

Vincent Amanor-Boadu, assistant professor, was recognized for his work with Kansas Inc. by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who noted his "talents, abilities, and commitment to creating better opportunities for economic development in the state of Kansas."

Michael Boland, professor, was elected president of the Western Agricultural Economics Association for the 2009-2010 year.

Bob Burton, professor, has been honored by K-State's chapter of Mortar Board senior honorary for outstanding contributions to scholarship, leadership, and service in the classroom and community.

Rodney Jones, associate professor, was named faculty of the semester for fall 2007. He teaches farm and ranch management and agricultural finance and principles of agricultural economics. He conducts research in livestock production economics, general farm management, business planning, and family business transitions.

Agronomy

Mary Beth Kirkham, professor, won the Carl Sprengel Agronomic Research Award from the American Society of Agronomy. Her research includes physiological drought resistance and crop uptake of heavy metals.

Animal Sciences and Industry

Joel DeRouchey, associate professor, has been selected as the 2008 Midwest Section American Society of Animal Science Outstanding Extension Specialist.

John Smith, professor, received the Outstanding Dairy Industry Educator/ Research Award from Western Dairy Business magazine.

Biochemistry

Subbaratnam Muthukrishnan, university distinguished professor, was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his contributions to plant and insect molecular biology, particularly for studies on plant pathogenesis proteins and insect chitin metabolism.

Biological and Agricultural Engineering

Awards from the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers: **Stacy Hutchinson**, associate professor, received the A.W. Farral Young Educator Award. **James Koelliker**, professor, earned the Presidential Distinguished Award for service and leadership on the board of trustees for the society's foundation.

Communications

Marcus Ashlock, assistant professor, was named faculty of the semester for fall 2007. In addition to teaching, he advises 21 students, the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, and Alpha Phi Omega, a national co-ed service fraternity. His research includes risk and crisis communication studies regarding food, agriculture, and the environment.

Grain Science and Industry

Fred Fairchild, professor, was recognized at the Sept. 15, 2007, K-State football game as the Professor of the Week for the College of Agriculture.

Dirk Maier (center), new head of grain science, visits with Keith Behnke (left), professor of feed manufacturing and technology, and former department head Richard Hahn.

Maier Named Head of Grain Science Department

Dirk Maier, former associate head of Purdue University's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, has been chosen to lead K-State's Department of Grain Science and Industry.

"With innovations occurring in grain processing nearly every day, this is an exciting time in the grain business," said Fred Cholick, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. "We are so pleased to have someone of Dirk's caliber joining us to take the lead in educating our students to face the challenges and opportunities in industry. He also will help guide research and extension programs that will benefit Kansas and U.S. grain producers."

Maier, who earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in agricultural engineering from Michigan State University, has been a professor and extension agricultural engineer at Purdue since 1991 and associate head since 2005.

Maier shared his reasons for coming to K-State and goals for the department.

"During the past 20 years, I've had the opportunity to interact and collaborate with a number of the grain science department's faculty," said Maier. "I have always been impressed with the breadth of teaching, research, and outreach activities the department is involved in, the interaction and close ties with the grain industry, and – last but not least – the loyalty and support of its alumni.

"My top priority as department head will be people. The addition of the Biorefinery Operations Management Option to one of our undergraduate degrees will allow us to provide interns and graduates to the expanding biofuels industry. We also will initiate a national search to fill faculty positions.

"I intend to enhance and expand the department's domestic and international outreach effort through distance education for professional development credits and college degree credits. Another goal is to complete the funding drive for the feed mill/biofuels facility, so we can dedicate it during our centennial celebration in fall 2010.

Maier succeeds former grain science department head Richard "Dick" Hahn, who came out of retirement last year to serve as interim department head.

Paul Seib, professor emeritus, received a $10,000 Irvin Youngberg Award for Applied Sciences from the University of Kansas to support his research. Seib's expertise includes cereal carbohydrates, wheat-based foods, and stable forms of vitamin C. He holds 18 U.S. patents, including two involving a stabilized form of vitamin C used in animal feeds, particularly aquaculture feed.

Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources

Ted Cable, professor of park management and conservation, is one of 400 U.S. faculty and professionals selected for a Fulbright senior specialists project. He will be stationed at the University of Bamako in the West African country of Mali. Cable, who also is assistant department head, will spend May training students, private-sector tour guides, and Peace Corps volunteers in ecotourism and heritage tourism.

Wayne Geyer, professor, was named fellow in the Society of American Foresters. This honor is reserved for the top 3 percent of the 15,000 members of the society. He has been a K-State faculty member since 1966.

K-State Research and Extension

Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County agricultural and natural resources agent for K-State Research and Extension, was recognized by the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development as a Leader of the Year for 2008 in the leadership development category. Brunkow is one of ten individuals in the nation to be selected as part of the Partners in Agricultural Leadership program in 2007. The program, offered by the American Farm Bureau Federation, provides leadership development and training focused on agricultural issues.

In Memorium

Troy Bratton, southwest area district forester, died July 16, 2007, in Ford, Kan. His father, Gerald "Jerry" Bratton, retired from his position as southeast area extension forester.

Kenneth E. "Ken" Thomas, Manhattan, 82, died Feb. 17, 2008. He started his career at K-State in 1953 as a manager of the KSAC radio station. In 1961, he became the state leader and director, Division of University Communications, which included extension communications. He continued in that position until his retirement in 1976. He then worked for Ken Thomas & Associates Real Estate Company until 1997.

Ernie Minton (right), interim associate director of research and technology transfer, talks with Gary Pierzynski, agronomy department head, outside Waters Hall.

Minton Named Interim Associate Director

J. Ernest "Ernie" Minton has accepted the position of interim associate director of research and technology transfer for K-State Research and Extension.

"We very much appreciate Ernie's willingness to take on this responsibility," said Fred Cholick, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. "His research background makes him well qualified to lead our research teams."

Minton has been a faculty member in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry since 1983. His research has most recently focused on responses to disease challenge, immune function, and gastrointestinal health in swine.

In addition to research, Minton has taught undergraduate and graduate level courses. He also served as the graduate program director and research coordinator. In 2004, he was recognized with the College of Agriculture's Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award.

In his new role, Minton will oversee research programs under the K-State Research and Extension umbrella.

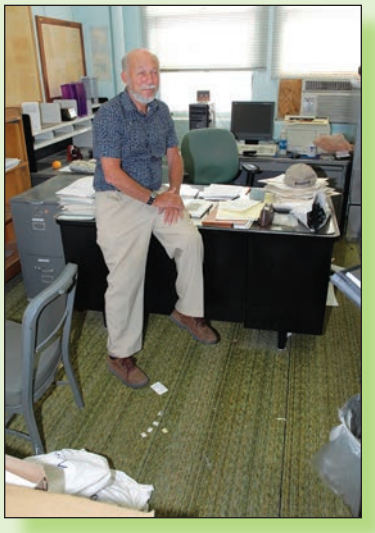
"I think the bottom line for success is to view the position as if I'm the associate director for an interim period of time," said Minton. "My goal is to ensure that high-priority initiatives continue to move forward, and that the research portfolio of the unit continues to grow.

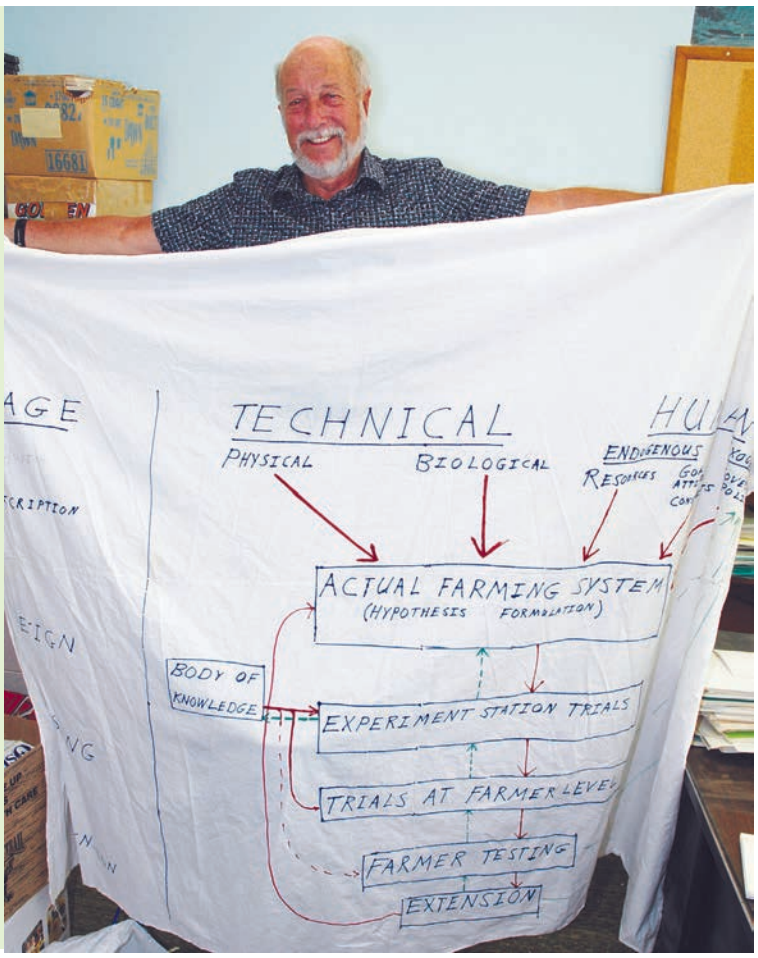
"During this interim period, our scientists will continue to be engaged in 'traditional' basic and applied research programs that directly benefit a diverse base of our stakeholders. In addition, we will certainly be involved with emerging issues such as renewable fuels, food safety, plant and animal health, health of rural communities, etc. I look forward to working with researchers across the full breadth of K-State Research and Extension."

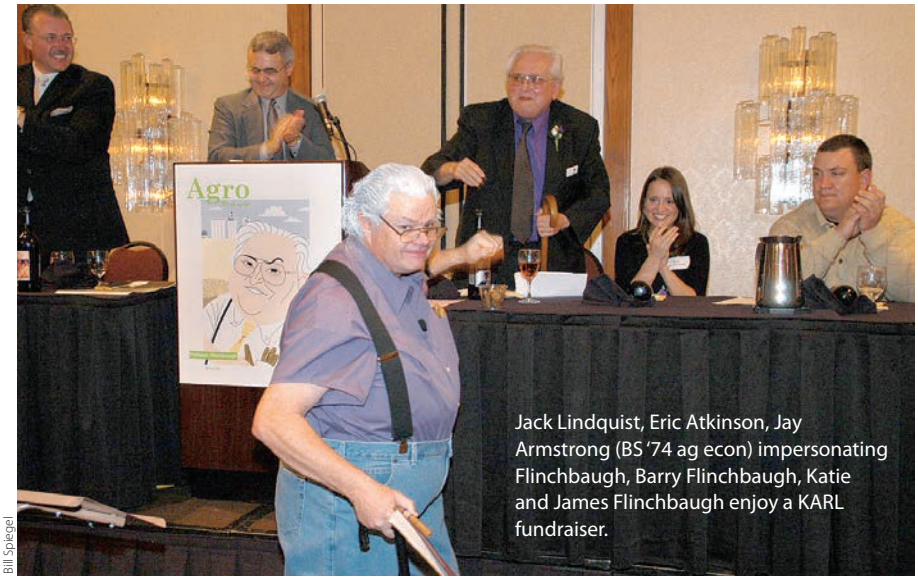
Minton earned a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University and master's and doctoral degrees from Oklahoma State University.

He succeeds Forrest Chumley, who left the university to take an industry position. A national search will be conducted for a permanent associate director in the coming months.

When David Norman cleaned out his office in Waters Hall, he found some interesting mementos of his tenure. One of those was a sheet with the farming systems research approach written in permanent marker. He and some colleagues stayed up all night developing the system in 1976 for a conference in Bamako, Mali, West Africa. The system has been used extensively throughout the world since then. Norman, professor of international agriculture development in the Department of Agricultural Economics, retired from K-State after 38 years.







Jack Lindquist, Eric Atkinson, Jay Armstrong (BS '74 ag econ) impersonating Flinchbaugh, Barry Flinchbaugh, Katie and James Flinchbaugh enjoy a KARL fundraiser.

Bill Spiegel

Flinchbaugh Roast Fires Up KARL Endowment

More than 240 guests attended a dinner and roast in honor of K-State agricultural economist Barry Flinchbaugh, co-founder of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) program.

The event generated $50,000 to enhance the KARL Foundation's Flinchbaugh Endowment Fund.

Speakers included: Sen. Pat Roberts; former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman; Sen. Sam Brownback; Gov. Kathleen Sebelius; Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Adrian Polansky; K-State president Jon Wefald; dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension, Fred Cholick; Jack Lindquist, KARL president; past KARL board chair, Jay Armstrong; National Cattleman's Beef Association vice president, Kendal Frazier; and KARL board member, Mark Coberly.

Organizations that helped underwrite the event included Farm Credit Associations of Kansas, Cereal Food Processors, the Kansas Ag Bankers Association, Kansas Bankers Association, Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Wheat, and U.S. Bank.

The event was emceed by Eric Atkinson, host of K-State Research and Extension's "Agriculture Today" radio program.

K-State Agronomist Shares Nobel Peace Prize

Agronomist Charles "Chuck" Rice collaborated with climate change experts from across the world to prepare a report for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that garnered the Nobel Peace Prize that was shared with Al Gore.

Rice collaborated with more than 2,000 other climate-change experts from around the globe to prepare the IPCC report.

"This was a tremendous responsibility and honor," said Rice. "Research over the past several years has proven that agriculture can become a key player in helping to alleviate global warming and climate change.

"With proper management, such as no-till, organic carbon levels in soils can be increased. Increasing soil carbon levels through a process called 'soil carbon sequestration' helps reduce carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. Soil carbon sequestration is one of the most cost-effective ways available now of reducing greenhouse gases.

"Across all sectors, agriculture could provide as much as 15 percent of the reduction needed to mitigate climate change," Rice said.

Stuart Warren, new department head, visits a horticulture design class in Throckmorton Hall.

Veteran Teacher to Lead Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources

Stuart Warren is the new head of K-State's Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources. Warren came to K-State from North Carolina State University, where he had taught for the last 21 years.

"I believe Stu's the only university teacher I've ever known to earn consistent student ratings of at least 4.99 on a 5-point scale," said Fred Cholick, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. "He's also greatly enlarged his students' learning experiences – expecting good writing, giving research assignments to undergraduates, putting classes in charge of managing the university's arboretum, and taking groups on yearly domestic and international tours."

"It is going to be strange not to be in the classroom," said Warren. "But I will take every opportunity to be involved with our undergraduate and graduate students.

"K-State is a special place in that it has maintained a respect for all three missions of a land-grant university: teaching, extension, and research."

Warren characterizes himself as a strong proponent of the land-grant university model:

- quality teaching and training to prepare tomorrow's professionals,
- basic and applied research to find needed answers, and
- extension programming to supply useful, research-based information to help both industry and individuals succeed.

Department faculty conduct research both on and off campus, including work at K-State's Pecan Experiment Field near Chetopa, Horticulture Research-Extension centers near Wichita and Olathe, and plots at the research centers in Colby and Hays. The department also coordinates the state's volunteer Master Gardener program and includes a separate state agency – the Kansas Forest Service.

Warren earned bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry and soil science at the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in horticulture and soil sciences from NCSU.

"It is an honor to serve as head of the Department of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources," said Warren. "Everyone has been very welcoming. We have excellent faculty and a dedicated and loyal staff. Being able to participate with faculty that are reaching new levels of excellence is going to be fun."

Warren replaced Tom Warner, who is returning to the faculty. Warner had served as a department head since 1988.

1962

Gary D. Reif (BS dairy manufacturing) earned an MS from the University of Nebraska and a PhD from Iowa State University. He recently retired from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, Calif. He taught dairy processing for nearly 40 years. He now grows wheat, milo, and soybeans in Harvey and McPherson counties. He added that he had no idea that one of his grain customers, Phil Timken (BS '73, agricultural economics) of Mid Kansas Co-op, was a Wildcat until he read the fall Ag Report.

1968

Steve Larson (BS dairy production), managing editor for Hoard's Dairyman, received the Industry Person of the Year award at the World Dairy Expo Dinner with the Stars in October 2007.

1978

Dale Fjell (MS, '82 PhD, agronomy), Manhattan, has received the Crop Science Society of America's Crop Science Extension Education Award. He is northeast area director for K-State Research and Extension.

Russell French (BS crop protection), Amarillo, Texas, is an account manager for Pioneer Hi-Bred International.

1986

Glenn Newdigger (BS agricultural education), Stafford County agricultural and natural resources agent, and his wife, Carrie, welcomed a new son, Cody Warren, on December 1, 2007. Cody has a big sister Cali, 4.

1988

Kevin Herbel (BS, MS '91, agricultural economics) and his wife, Paula, announced the birth of their daughter, Calabria Grace, on Jan. 24, 2008. Kevin is administrator for the Kansas Farm Management Association program.

1989

Marshall R. Bird (BS agricultural economics), Wichita, is a global logistics manager, dealing with chemical intermediates/expandable polystyrene for Flint Hills Resources. He and his wife, Amber (Romans) Bird, have two children: Delaney, 8, and Alea, 6.

Steve Riley (BS veterinary medicine, '91 DVM), Bucyrus, and his wife, Kelley, announced the birth of their second son, Cooper Jack, on Oct. 13, 2007.

1992

Michael Musselman (BS agricultural education) is a self-employed farmer. His wife, Melanie (Hundley) Musselman (BS, 1993, agricultural journalism) is the ag editor for The Riley Countian. She works part-time from home and writes ag feature stories and sells advertising for the newspaper's monthly ag section, Ag Matters. They live in northern Clay County and have four children, one girl and three boys, including twins.

1996

Jennifer (Barker) Neef (BS animal science) is the career services coordinator for the University of Illinois. She and her husband, Mike, welcomed a son, Andrew Gene Michael Neff, on May 20, 2007. They have two daughters Noelle and Leah.

1997

Holly (Zahn) Manske (BS animal science), Overland Park, is employed at Schering Plough. Her husband, Matt Manske (BS '95, '96 MS accounting) owns Business Services and Funding. They announced the birth of their second child, Maxwell Warren, on July 27, 2007.

1998

Kari (Brown) West (BS agricultural communications) works for the city of Parsons as the community development director/public information officer. She volunteers with the Crawford County Fair Association and serves on the Parsons Habitat for Humanity board of directors. She and her husband, Matt, live in Girard.

1999

Joel DeRouchey (MS, PhD '01, animal science) and his wife Julene announced the birth of their son, Jacob Mathew, on Nov. 30, 2007. Joel is an associate professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

Bret Glendening (agricultural economics, '01 MPA) and his wife Sarah (Bergman) Glendening announced the birth of their third child, Elliot Joseph. Their other children are Weston and Sydney. Bret is city manager for Osawatomie, and Sarah is an independent distributor for Homemade Gourmet.

2000

Greg Legleiter (BS agricultural economics) transferred from Dodge City Frontier Farm Credit to the Manhattan office as a financial services officer. His duties include retaining, marketing, and servicing mortgage and commercial loans.

Jesse McCurry (BS agricultural journalism, MS '02 speech) and Rhonda (Nida) McCurry (BS '01 agricultural communications and journalism), Colwich, announced the birth of their son, Jackson Dean, on Feb. 3, 2007. Jesse is a business development specialist for Kennedy and Coe LLC, and Rhonda is a freelance writer.

Jeremy Nelson (BS animal science), Cowley County agriculture and natural resources agent, and his wife, Averie, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ellie Jo, on Nov. 16, 2007.

Douglas Shoup (BS, MS '03, PhD '06, agronomy) is the new K-State Research and Extension southeast area agronomist. A native of southeast Kansas, he is a member of the North Central Weed Science Society, the Western Society of Weed Science, and the Weed Science Society of America. He previously worked for Monsanto, where he was a soybean yield pipeline technical representative.

Andy Steinert (BS agronomy), Fort Morgan, Colo., was promoted in August 2007 to MLRA (major land resource area) soil survey leader for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

2002

Mary Diehl-Fisher (BS agricultural communications and journalism, animal sciences and industry), Eudora, is the senior product development specialist for Commerce Bank, Kansas City, Mo. She and her husband James (civil engineering), announced the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Jane on July 1, 2007.

Kerry Priest (BS agricultural education), graduate student in agricultural leadership at the University of Georgia and former state FFA officer, accompanied two other students and a faculty member to the former Soviet state of Georgia to help establish the country's first Future Farmers' Organization – the Future Farmers of Georgia. Through interpreters, Priest and her colleagues taught classes on leadership and parliamentary procedure. "We had an amazing experience working with the FFG leaders. The students there were eager to learn and hopeful about the future. As a young democratic nation, there is much opportunity for positive change. It is a critical time for young people to realize their potential and step up to the challenge of leadership," said Priest.

2003

Matthew Young (BS, MS '07, agricultural economics) joined K-State Research and

Extension, Brown County, as an agriculture and natural resources agent.

2004

Anthony Rathbun (BS animal science) and his wife, Jamie (Vineyard) Rathbun (BS '05 family and consumer sciences education), announced the birth of their daughter, Katherine Lucille, on Sept. 19, 2007.
Melissa Thomas (BS animal science) joined the K-State Research and Extension Logan County office as an agriculture and natural resources agent. She previously worked as a research assistant in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

2005

Kelsey (Andreas) Holcomb (BS horticulture), Winfield, and her husband Nathan welcomed daughter Kennedy Ann on Dec. 14, 2007. Kelsey is the Cowley County 4-H Youth Development agent. Kennedy has a big brother, Blaak.

2006

Jeremy Gugelmeyer (BS animal science) married **Sara Weller** (BS '07 animal science and agricultural communications and journalism) on Sept. 1, 2007. They live in Dalhart, Texas.
Paul M. White Jr. (PhD, agronomy) was granted the Emil Truog Soil Science Award from the American Society of Agronomy. The award is based on the recipient's dissertation.

2007

Cody Miller (BS animal science) joined the staff of the K-State Research and Extension, Phillips-Rooks District office, as an agriculture and natural resources agent. He worked previously for Lala/Townley Farms and for Don Hamit Land and Auction Company.

In Memorium

Stanley M. Creek (BS '52 agricultural journalism), 83, Dearborn, Mo., died Jan. 18, 2008. After graduating with honors, he married his classmate and Collegian editor, Betty Omer. They both worked at the St. Joseph Gazette before moving to Milwaukee, Wis., where Stan started a career in advertising. They moved to Chicago in 1964, where he was an account executive for several large accounts, including Mobil agricultural products. He retired after a severe stroke in 1973 and relocated to the family homestead. In retirement, he traveled the world, participated as an ambassador to China in the People-to-People program in 1981, and managed the farm property. The Creeks received the Outstanding Conservation Landowner Award in 2006.
Harry G. Duckers Jr. (BS '43 agricultural economics), Kansas City, Kan., died Jan. 7, 2008. He served as county club agent in Wyandotte and Jackson counties. He was named Wyandotte County extension director in 1967 and remained in that position until his retirement in 1977.
Robert Ealy (MS '46, horticulture), 93, Manhattan, died Jan. 24, 2008. He served as an Army officer in military intelligence during World War II. He earned a PhD in horticulture with an emphasis on landscape architecture from Louisiana State University in 1955. In 1961, he accepted the position of professor and head of the K-State Horticulture Department. In 1963, he established the landscape architecture program within the department. In 1965, he helped found the K-State College of Architecture and Design. Landscape architecture was moved to the new college in 1966. He was associate dean of the College of Architecture and Design from 1967-1974. He retired in 1979.
Otis Griggs (BS '51, dairy production), Hutchinson, died Dec. 3, 2007. He worked as an extension agent in Stevens, Reno, Osborne, and Finney counties. He retired in 1983. He also served as a livestock specialist with the KSU/AID agricultural project, in Nigeria. A memorial has been established with the Kansas 4-H Foundation.
George H. Fittell (BS '42 milling science and management), 89, Shawnee, died Sept. 29, 2007. He served in the Cavalry Replacement Training at Fort Riley then transferred to the Air Corps and became a pilot. He served as a flight instructor for the duration of World War II. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1966. He then worked for the Hartford Fire Ins. Co., General Mills, and as an accountant with the City of Topeka Finance Department. He retired in 1982.

Paul Shields (BS '87 feed science and management), standing, visits with Vernon Schaffer (BS '81, MS '96 agronomy), manager, at the agronomy farm north of Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Shields farms near Oberlin.

Ag Alumni Class Notes

Fill out this form and return it to:
Gloria Holcombe
Department of Communications
315 Umberger Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506–3402
or e-mail to: gloria@ksu.edu

Name_____

Spouse's Name_____

City_____ State_____ ZIP_____

Home Phone_____ E-mail_____

Graduation Date(s)_____ Degree(s)_____

Employer_____ Title_____

Feel free to attach more information.

Alumni Fellow Shares Keys to Success with Students

Steve Irsik, 2008 College of Agriculture Alumni Fellow, addresses an agricultural economics class.

A would-be business partner's reactions while shooting the rapids on a river raft or negotiating a ropes course will typically offer clues as to how he – or she – will react when pressured to make business decisions, said Steve Irsik, an agribusiness entrepreneur.

Irsik made the comparison during a recent visit to the K-State campus as the College of Agriculture's 2008 Alumni Fellow. While on campus, he spoke with students and faculty.

He earned a degree in agricultural economics at K-State in 1969 and, since that time, has developed an entrepreneurial career in agribusiness that includes crops/forage, a value-added cattle operation, and a dairy with 6,000 cows – in the middle of cattle country, no less.

His career is far different than what he might have imagined as a student, he said.

Irsik had hoped to attend law school after graduating from K-State, but the draft intervened. Steve chose the U.S. Air Force instead. When he completed his service, he had a wife and young family and decided to return to the family's farm operation near Garden City, Kan.

"DNA matters," he said. "I come from a family of hard workers. We've had our share of struggles and have worked hard to overcome them."

His father advised him to "do whatever you want to do, but never get yourself overextended." That advice still applies, said Irsik, who noted that the family has learned to recognize opportunities and do the homework before taking well-calculated risks to expand their businesses and create successful new ventures.

Growth and development is not without risks, said Irsik, who believes that education is a lifelong process – and a key factor in success.

"Education should not stop the day you graduate from college," said Irsik, who advised students to keep learning. "Apply for internships, fellowships, and scholarships. And, if not successful the first time, keep trying."

Irsik also advised students to volunteer, to choose from a variety of campus, civic, and service activities that typically broaden personal interests and experiences, and may also bring unexpected opportunities.

As a businessman with an entrepreneurial flair, he also is supportive of programs such as the Kansas Agricultural and Rural Leadership (KARL) Program, which offers emerging leaders in agribusiness and industry skill-building study, training, and travel opportunities to get acquainted with Kansas and the larger world.

Information on the program, which is based at K-State Research and Extension, is available at *www.karlprogram.com*, said Irsik, who recently completed a six-year term on the KARL Board.

In building successful agribusinesses, Irsik prefers to look at "the big picture."

"Ask yourself: How can expanding the business in one area support – or enhance – profitability in another area?" asked Irsik, who cited the example of hauling 30,000 tons of manure from the dairy operation to use in place of more costly fertilizer on nearby cropland.

The cost to haul the manure – about $70,000 – trims commercial fertilizer costs by several hundred thousand dollars, he said. Operating a commercial grain elevator facilitates cattle feeding, and owning a mill offers time- and money-saving opportunities in delivering fresh oats and wheat flour to food processors and consumers.

With ideas aplenty, Irsik advised students and faculty to be aware of the larger world and how they might serve it. His example? Mexico currently imports 30 to 35 percent of its food. Western Kansas farmers and ranchers might seem well positioned as suppliers, but the question becomes: How can we in Kansas work to fulfill the need?

Working together is key, said Irsik, who believes strongly in the value of relationships in any successful venture and also in rewarding loyal employees who work hard.

The family's ranch and farm managers have, for example, been involved in the operation for more than 20 years, he said.

"Being able to delegate allows more time to look for more opportunities," he said.

—Nancy Peterson

Departments Recognize Outstanding Alumni

The Department of Animal Sciences and Industry honored Max Deets with a 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award for his many years of support to the cattle industry.

Deets, former manager of the Solomon Valley Feedlot, has held leadership roles in many state and national livestock organizations. To recognize his contributions, the Kansas Livestock Association and National Cattlemen's Association underwrote a Max Deets Leadership Scholarship.

Deets was a member of K-State's livestock and wool judging teams. He graduated in 1951 with a degree in agricultural education.

Randy Stoecker (BS '70 agricultural economics), president of Murphy-Brown Western Operations – a division of Smithfield Foods, was honored by the Department of Agricultural Economics. Stoecker, of Ames, Iowa, oversees pork production systems in nine states and more than 3,000 employees.

Melvin Hunt

Max Deets (right) receives a plaque from Ken Odde, animal sciences department head.

Alicia Goheen

Randy Stoecker (center) with Bryan Schurle, ag econ department head, and classmate Loren Kruse.

After college, Stoecker gained experience in banking and sales, then went to work for Yeager and Sullivan, the largest pork producer in the United States at that time. He was assigned to study large scale confinement pig production in Europe. He later was general manager of Pig Improvement Company (PIC), focusing on breeding sows with high productivity. In 1987, Stoecker took on production responsibilities with Murphy Farms.

Borck Receives K-State Medal of Excellence

K-State awarded its highest honor – the Medal of Excellence – to Lee Borck, a longtime university supporter, at the fall 2007 Graduate School commencement.

Borck (BS '70 agricultural economics) and his wife, Kathy, have given time and money to K-State academic and athletic endeavors.

"We conferred the Medal of Excellence on Lee Borck in recognition of his accomplishments in agribusiness and industry, his community spirit, and his support of his alma mater, Kansas State University," said Jon Wefald, K-State president.

Borck, Manhattan, has found success in his many businesses, from cattle feeding and farming to real estate and banking.

The Borcks have contributed to numerous excellence funds and scholarships at K-State, among them the Tami D. Borck Memorial Scholarship and the Borck Leadership Scholarship.

Lee Borck has filled leadership roles at the K-State Foundation, the College of Agriculture, the K-State Alumni Association and intercollegiate athletics. He is a former member of the College of Agriculture/K-State Research and Extension advisory council, current member of the College of Veterinary Medicine dean's advisory council and secretary of the Kansas 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees.

He was named College of Agriculture Alumni Fellow in 1995 and Distinguished Agricultural Economics Alumnus in 1992. In 2003, the Huck Boyd Institute for Rural Development named Borck its leader of the year.

Dan Donnert, KSU Photo Services

K-State President Jon Wefald (second from left) and Lee Borck visit during graduation ceremonies.

Changing LIVES

The Campaign for KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

John LaBarge, J&C Imaging

Nolan and Jean McKenzie have established the Nolan G. and Jean M. McKenzie Excellence Fund and a graduate student fellowship in the College of Agriculture.

"K-State has always meant a lot to us," said Jean. "Hopefully our gifts will help keep good faculty and assist in the fellowship and graduate student areas. We really think K-State put us on the right path."

Even though they were both from Solomon and graduated from the same high school and K-State, their paths didn't immediately join at K-State.

Nolan McKenzie earned his BS in agricultural economics in 1941. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to K-State to complete an MS in agricultural economics in 1947.

For the next 20 years, he worked for a finance company headquartered in Atchison. His second career was with Kemper Securities.

Jean Greenough McKenzie earned a BS in dietetics and institutional management in 1949. She lived in Abilene for 28 years, then moved to Topeka to work for the Department of Education.

After the deaths of their spouses, Nolan and Jean became neighbors. They knew the same people and had a common love of K-State sports. They were married in 1994.

Their gifts were made by establishing a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT).

"We increased our income and greatly reduced our income taxes," said Nolan. "It's enabled us to travel and enjoy life more, and K-State is going to come out the winner instead of the IRS."

The family of O.H. Kruse has made a $2 million commitment to the Department of Grain Science and Industry for the design and construction of a new feed mill and biorefinery.

"Our sincere hope is that our commitment to this project will encourage others in the feed industry and the biofuels industry to lend financial support to this important K-State initiative," said Ronald Kruse, Otto's son.

The family of Margaret M. Ressegieu has made a $250,000 commitment to establish the **Margaret M. Ressegieu Agricultural Memorial Scholarship.**

"My son graduating from K-State was a large part of my desire to give to the university that gave him so much," said Ressegieu.

Roger (BS '68 agricultural mechanization) and Sandra McKee, Kansas City, Mo., have made a commitment of $25,000 to establish the **Roger and Sandra McKee Ag Excellence Fund**.

Cargill, Minneapolis, Minn., has made a gift of $1 million to establish the **Cargill Center for Ethical Leadership** within the Center for Leadership Studies.

The gift honors Warren Staley (BS '65 electrical engineering), the company's chairman and recently retired chief executive officer.

Margaret Beryl Guy, Dallas, has made a commitment of $250,000 to establish the **Guy Family Extension Excellence Fund** and the **Arlene Tinkler Memorial Fund**.

"This bequest is a payback for all the great experiences and the education that our family enjoyed, and we hope other families can now share in the KSU legacy," said Guy.

The estate of Lynn and Martha Braden, Eureka, Kan., gave $551,000 to establish the **Lynn Braden and Martha Braden Scholarship Fund**.

"Although Lynn and Martha were never able to attend college, they always believed that a good education was a great benefit in life," said the couple's nephew, Lonnie Nichols (BS '75 animal science).

Jim (BS '70 milling science operations) and Jane Goins, Pine, Colo., have made a commitment of $200,000 to establish the **Jim and Jane Goins Dean's Excellence Fund in Agriculture**.

"KSU provided the education process that opened the doors of opportunity for us," Jim Goins said. "Now we have the means to help others open the doors of opportunity through their education."

Former K-State provost James Coffman and his wife Sharon, Manhattan, have made a commitment of $100,000 to establish the **Dr. James and Sharon Coffman Equine Program Fund** and supplement two existing scholarships.

Cargill, Wichita, Kan., has made a gift of $120,000 to the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry to support two graduate research assistantships.

"At Cargill, we recognize these students are the future of the industry," said Scott Eilert, director of Cargill's Meat Technology Development Center in Wichita.

Looking Back

This photograph shows a soil fertility analysis lab at the Garden City Branch Experiment Station in 1935.

WILD4AG Weekend

Revisit, Reunite, Reconnect

May 9-10, 2008

☐ **Yes, I will attend Wild4Ag Weekend in Manhattan**

☐ **No, I will not be able to attend, but I'd like to contribute $100 or $_____ to support the mission of the College of Agriculture**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Name for name tag:
First _____ Last _____

List additional attendees: Names for name tags:

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

Friday, May 9

☐ Ag Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament, $125 per person

List team members: _____

_____

_____

Number members _____ x $125 = $_____

Extra steak dinner tickets _____ x $30 = $_____

Saturday, May 10

☐ Awards Reception

Number _____ No charge

☐ New Graduate and Alumni Dinner

Number _____ x $25 = $_____

Total $_____

Method of payment

☐ Enclosed is a check made payable to the KSU Foundation/College of Agriculture

☐ Please charge my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

Complete this reservation form and mail it, along with your payment, to:

College of Agriculture Alumni Association, Kansas State University, 117 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-4015, or call Sharon Thielen 785-532-5121.

Reservations are due April 25, 2008.

WILD4AG Weekend

Revisit, Reunite, Reconnect

May 9-10, 2008

Friday, May 9
Ag Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament, Colbert Hills Golf Course

4 person, 18-hole scramble

10 a.m. – Registration and lunch

Noon – Shotgun start

6 p.m. – Steak dinner and awards (non-golfing spouses and guests welcome at $30 per person)

Cost – $125 per person entry fee includes: cart and green fees, lunch, complimentary beverages, steak dinner, and a tournament souvenir.

For additional information, contact Scott Staggenborg at 785-532-2277 or sstaggen@ksu.edu

Saturday, May 10
Awards Reception – 2008 Award winners

4 p.m. – Alumni Center

Distinguished Alumnus: Rich Porter
Owner, Porter Farms, Reading, Kan.

Outstanding Young Alumnus: Michael Doane
Director, Monsanto Company, Chesterfield, Mo.

David J. Mugler Outstanding Teaching Award:
Arlo Biere, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics

New Graduate and Alumni Dinner
6-8 p.m. – Alumni Center, Recognition of fall and spring graduating seniors
Cost: $25

A block of rooms has been reserved (until April 21) at the following Manhattan hotel:
Clarion 785-539-5311

To register, fill out and return the form on the inside back cover.

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