



December 2018



More than 1,500 students candidates for degrees at fall commencement ceremonies Dec. 7-8

It's time for mortarboards, tassels and gowns as [fall commencement ceremonies](#) at Kansas State University will be Friday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 8. Highlighting the ceremonies will be the awarding of an honorary doctorate to Dan Glickman, the former U.S. secretary of agriculture and Kansas congressman.

More than 1,500 students are candidates for graduation. Degrees to be awarded include nearly 1,250 bachelor's, over 160 master's and more than 100 doctorates. Earning multiple or dual degrees are 75 students, while around 180 students are earning their degrees through distance programs.

Ceremonies will kick off with commencement for the Graduate School at 1 p.m. Dec. 7 in Bramlage Coliseum. The Kansas Board of Regents will be represented at the ceremony by Dennis Mullin, chairman of the board. At the ceremony, Glickman will be awarded an honorary doctorate from the university and serve as the commencement speaker. The awarding of the [honorary doctorate](#) was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents at its Sept. 20 meeting and is the highest honor Kansas State University can give.

Glickman was nominated for the recognition by numerous current and former K-State administrators and faculty members as well as several distinguished colleagues, including U.S. Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas; Peter McPherson, president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; and Dorothy Reddel Caldwell, retired deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service.

"Few individuals can match Dan Glickman's distinguished record of service to Kansas, the nation and the world, particularly on issues involving food and agriculture, and hunger prevention and feed secure communities," said Charles Taber, university provost and executive vice president.

Glickman represented the state's 4th Congressional District from 1977-1995. During that time, he was a member of the House Agriculture Committee, including six years as chair of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over federal farm policy issues. He also was an active member of the House Judiciary Committee, chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and was a leading congressional expert on general aviation policy.

In 1995 Glickman was appointed secretary of agriculture by President Bill Clinton and served in the post until 2001. As secretary, he administered farm and conservation programs; modernized food safety regulations; and forged international trade agreements to expand U.S. markets. Since leaving his cabinet post, Glickman has remained active in several organizations involved with agriculture, public health and more.

Commencement for Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus in Salina will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 7 in the campus's Student Life Center. Related to commencement will be the commissioning ceremony for Kansas State University's Army ROTC unit at 10 a.m. Dec. 7 in the Union's Main Ballroom.

Hill's Pet Nutrition commits major donation for new Pet Health & Nutrition Center at Kansas State University

Primary care for pets has a bright future at Kansas State University's [College of Veterinary Medicine](#) thanks to a record sponsorship by Hill's Pet Nutrition.

With Hill's sponsorship - the largest corporate gift in the college's history - three strategic areas in the college's Mosier Hall will be renovated to provide approximately 16,000 square feet of new space dedicated to clinical training, classroom teaching and research. The Pet Health & Nutrition Center will be named in honor of Hill's Pet

Nutrition.

"This public-private partnership will enhance our educational capacity in small animal nutrition and client communication, strengthening the preparation of our graduates for success in private practice," said Bonnie Rush, interim dean of the college. "We are grateful to Hill's for its tremendous generosity and investment in our students. This integrative partnership enhances the educational experience for K-State veterinary students through shared resources and expertise. The new experiential learning environment will strengthen our training program in nutrition and primary care, and will attract student externs from colleges of veterinary medicine across North America."

By renovating the space and expanding resources, students will have the opportunity to care for their clients in a private practice environment. While pet health faculty will have the capability to operate with more autonomy, specialty services remain available when clients' needs arise, Rush said.



K-State license plate program reaches more than 10,000 plates on the road

It's confirmed: Wildcats truly do drive with pride. As of November, there are more than 10,000 official K-State license plates on the highways.

The K-State license plate is the most popular affinity plate in the state of Kansas.

Since the state-issued K-State license plate program began 22 years ago, the tax-deductible royalties paid on the license plates have raised more than \$4.2 million for student scholarships and recognition of achievements. This includes the K-State Legacy Scholarship and the International Student Scholarship programs.

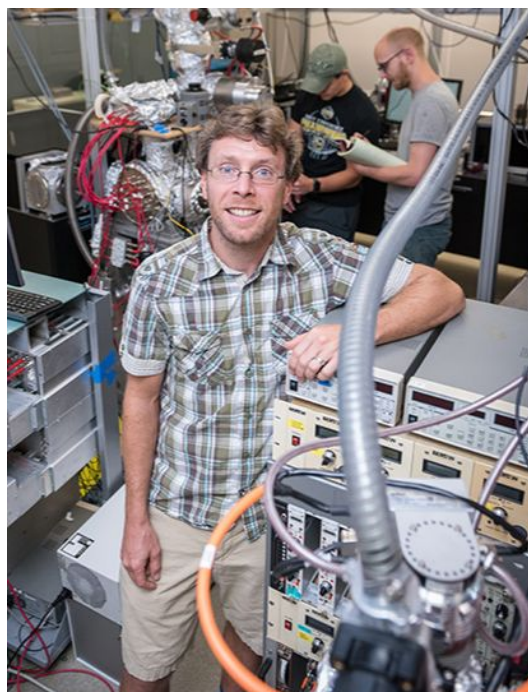
The plates are available for purchase in three states: Kansas, Texas and Maryland.

K-State researcher receives NIH grant to support development of unique psoriasis treatment

Philip Hardwidge, a microbiologist and biochemist at K-State, has received a \$218,593 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for enhancing the development of drug treatments for psoriasis, a chronic inflammatory skin disease.

The study, "Using anti-inflammatory bacterial proteins to treat psoriasis," is in collaboration with researchers from the University of Munster in Munster, Germany.

Hardwidge's research is focused on how bacterial virulence proteins can be developed into anti-inflammatory drugs. This work is derived from the



Prestigious NSF CAREER award given to physics professor

K-State physicist Daniel Rolles was the recipient of a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program award to investigate ultrafast electronic and structural dynamics during light-driven chemical reactions.

The NSF's CAREER Program supports early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization.

Rolles, an assistant professor of physics, will use his five-year, \$500,000 CAREER award to develop new experimental tools for imaging ultrafast dynamics during photochemical reactions in molecules.

"This work will enable new studies of light-induced reactions that are important in several scientific areas," Rolles said. "Such imaging and controlling of reactions at the electronic level can lead to the development of new technologies with several benefits to society."

Rolles works in the physics department's J.R. Macdonald Laboratory where he conducts research in experimental atomic, molecular and optical physics involving ultrafast lasers and x-ray science.

"drugs from bugs" concept. This term refers to the concept that basic research focused on understanding how microbial pathogens have evolved to control and modulate the host immune system during infections can be exploited for novel immune-modulation strategies to treat inflammatory diseases that are unrelated to microbial infections.

Through this grant, Hardwidge and his research team plan to make a more efficient, cost-effective drug by engineering *Escherichia coli* and *Yersinia enterocolitica* - the bugs - virulence proteins to function as cell-penetrating molecules that can enter eukaryotic cell membranes autonomously - the drugs. He said the proposed approach of utilizing these effectors as anti-inflammatory proteins can then be used to treat inflammatory skin diseases.

Interior design program ranked in top 10 by DesignIntelligence

Kansas State University's interior design program in the [College of Human Ecology](#) has again been ranked in the top 10 by DesignIntelligence, an independent company focused on the design and construction industry. It annually publishes results of a survey of design professionals ranking design programs nationwide.

The voter pool was comprised of 6,119 hiring professionals, 359 deans and department chairs, and 5,451 students in the design discipline who were asked "Which interior design schools do you most admire for a combination of faculty, programs, culture and student preparation for the profession?"

KSU's [interior design program](#) was recognized among hundreds of undergraduate programs in the U.S. as one of the top 10 most admired programs.

Along with its top marks as an admired program, the interior design program received top five rankings in 10 of the 12 design education focus areas used in this year's survey.

K-State Dining Services is the Best in Kansas

Kansas State University has the best college dining program in Kansas, according to a set of rankings from Niche, a website that ranks schools, companies and neighborhoods.

In its [2019 list of the nation's best colleges](#), Niche assigned a separate ranking to several individual aspects of college life, including academics, campus residence halls, student life and food. The food category caught the attention of *Foodservice Direct* magazine, which noted the rankings were further broken down by state and published the results in an article titled "[The Best College Dining Program in Each State.](#)"

Housing and Dining Services at K-State has recently undertaken several projects to update or add to its facilities. The new Kramer Dining Center, Union Station by JP's and Fast Track will soon be joined by renovations to Derby Dining Center. What hasn't changed is the department's approach to serving students.

"It is an honor to be recognized by a national publication as the best college foodservice in Kansas. The distinction serves to validate our success in meeting student needs through facilities design, but also through concept development, menu planning, and quality food production and service," said Mary Molt, associate director of housing and dining services. "While we hear accolades daily from students, it is nice to be shown such national regard."

K-State ranked highly in several other categories in the Niche rankings. Student life and the Manhattan campus were also No. 1 in the state, with national rankings of 37 and 26, respectively.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Fiscal Year 2018, Kansas State University received 291 awards from corporate sponsors, bringing in more than \$28.7 million research dollars. This is a 117% increase over the 1,345 awards received 5 years ago.



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