December 2019

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Office of Governmental Relations

Kansas State University celebrates commencement ceremonies on December 13-14

More than 1,500 students are candidates for degrees from Kansas State University at upcoming commencement ceremonies Friday, December 13, and Saturday, December 14, in Manhattan and Salina.

To be awarded include more than 1,250 bachelor's degrees, nearly 250 master's degrees and more than 50 doctorates. More than 200 graduation candidates are earning their degrees through distance education.

Ceremonies start at 1 pm December 13 on the Manhattan campus with the Graduate School in Bramlage Coliseum. At the ceremony, retired Army Brigadier General Chris King, dean emeritus of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, will receive an honorary doctorate and deliver the commencement address.

Carol Shanklin, dean of the K-State Graduate School, said King distinguished himself both as a longtime Army officer involved in environmental health risk assessment to keep U.S. troops safe across the world, as well as in academia where he helped shape the Army's future leaders. He also was instrumental in providing K-State many opportunities to expand its military collaborations at Fort Leavenworth.

The Kansas Board of Regents approved the university's request to present King with an honorary Doctor of Philosophy at its September meeting. Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Gardner, a member of the Kansas Board of Regents, will represent the board at the Graduate School ceremony.

Commencement for Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus in Salina will be on December 13 at 7 pm in the Student Life Center. A virtual commencement ceremony is available at global.k-state.edu/commencement for distance education students unable to attend their commencement ceremony in person.

Related to commencement will be the commissioning ceremonies for Kansas State University's Army and Air Force ROTC units on December 13 in the K-State Student Union.

Partnership with Hill's Pet Nutrition adds dimensions to Kansas State University veterinary college

Healthy pets and nutrition education are key components of a partnership announced a year ago between the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University and Hill's Pet Nutrition.

One of the highlights of the partnership has included the addition of an internship dedicated to nutritional service and education at the Veterinary Health Center, which serves as the college's veterinary hospital. Part of this internship includes the establishment of an obesity clinic for small animal veterinary patients.

"The objective of the K-State Obesity Clinic is to provide a structured program to help overweight dogs and carts reach their ideal body weight," said Elizabeth Davis, head of the clinical sciences department and interim director for the Veterinary Health Center. "The program offers six-month blocks of enrollment that include regular veterinary consults - rechecks will occur every two to four weeks depending upon rates of weight loss."

Vincent Michels was hired as the Veterinary Health Center's primary care/nutrition intern.

"Dr. Michels will be overseeing the majority of the patients enrolled in the program," Davis said. "For the more challenging cases, he will be able to consult with two of Hill's American College of Veterinary Nutrition board-certified clinical nutritionists who are also adjunct faculty of the Department of Clinical Sciences."

This past summer, Hill's Pet Nutrition hosted a summer internship for current veterinary student Abby Ostronic, who is

from Lenexa and is currently in her third year of studies at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Hill's was an incredible experience for me as I would recommend it to any other veterinary student in the future," Ostronic said. "I got the ability to see what daily life is like as an industry veterinarian and the immense number of roles that a veterinarian can have whether it is in marketing, education, finance, product development, research or many other areas that we are not exposed to during veterinary school. Even though I was only at the company for three months, Hill's has forever changed my perspective of possibly working as an industry veterinarian in the future."

Another aspect of the partnership includes the establishment of a new continuing education symposium to be on December 7. The symposium features experts from the college, as well as professionals from the industry who will be lecturing on small animal nutrition. This symposium will include complimentary registration to professionals in the field who are looking to learn more about educating and communicating with pet owners to have healthy animals.

Nagaraja named Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist of the Year

T.G. Nagaraja, distinguished professor of veterinary microbiology at Kansas State University, has been named the 2019 Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist of the Year by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. This award was presented at the organization's annual meeting Nov. 4 in Chicago.

"I am truly humbled by the award," Nagaraja said. "It is special because this recognition is from my peers. I have had a lot of help in my research career - some outstanding graduate students, very good laboratory help and excellence collaborators."

Nagaraja is a member of the diagnostic medicine and pathobiology department faculty in the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine. His research expertise is in gut microbiology, focused primarily on the role of rumen microbes in function and dysfunction of the rumen, and on foodborne pathogens, particularly Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli and salmonella in cattle. His research is a blend of basic and applied studies and involves collaborative interactions with epidemiologists, molecular biologists, pathologists and ruminant nutritionists.

Nagaraja and his graduate students have been responsible for several seminal findings, including describing that the feeding of distiller's grain was positively associated with prevalence of E. coli O157, a major foodborne human pathogen, in cattle. In addition, he and his associates were the first to identify and describe the role and importance of the toxin leukotoxin, produced by Fusobacteroum necrophorum that causes liver abscesses in cattle. Nagarja's group also developed an experimental model to study liver abscess in cattle by inoculating F. necrophorum via ultrasound-guided, percutaneous catheterization of the portal vein, which allowed for

Gift to K-State establishes match funds for 50 new College of Business Administration scholarships

The estate of Otis and Wanda Gilliland of Wellington, KS has given $1.6 million to Kansas State University. This gift has established the Gilliland K-State Family Scholarship, which created match opportunities for 50 scholarships in support of students in the College of Business Administration.

50 new gifts of $30,000 will be matched with $30,000 from the Gillilands' gift. $10,000 will go into an expendable scholarship fund, making $2,000 scholarships immediately available to students for up to five years. The remaining $50,000 will go into the endowment, ensuring future generations of Wildcats will receive scholarships as well.

Both Otis and Wanda Gilliland graduated from Kansas State University. Otis Gilliland earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering in 1948 and a bachelor's in business administration from the College of Business Administration in 1949. Wanda Gilliland earned her bachelor's degree in interior design in 1949 from the College of Health and Human Sciences. Otis worked as an engineer for Boeing Aircraft Company in Wichita before his retirement in 1985.

"The scholarships made possible from the Gilliland family's gift will have a profound impact on our student body," said Kevin Gwinner, Edgerley Family Dean of the College of Business Administration. "With these scholarships, we will attract more student leaders, further challenge high-achieving students, and fully engage those who desire our unique academic offerings and extra-curricular experiences that make our business graduates so highly demanded by employers. Because these scholarships will be endowed the Gillilands' generosity toward the business college will be felt for generations."

the demonstration that leukotoxinis can be used to protect the animal against liver abscesses. This led to the development of a U.S. Department of Agriculture-licensed leukotoxoid-based vaccine to prevent liver abscesses in feedlot cattle. His work has resulted in eight U.S. patents.

First U.S. certificate program in animal health regulatory affairs now available

Kansas State University's Olathe campus is now offering a premier graduate certificate designed for the regulatory affairs sector of the animal health industry.

The Animal Health Regulatory Affairs Graduate Certificate is a 15-credit hour program that combines the knowledge of animal science and veterinary medicine with skills needed to navigate governmental processes and regulations throughout the product lifecycle. The certificate is based on industry input and tailored to industry needs.

K-State Olathe's Animal Health Regulatory Affairs Graduate Certificate is the fist graduate certificate in the U.S. to focus solely on animal health regulatory affairs.

"There is a continuous demand for highly educated professionals who specialize in regulatory affairs," said Bill Zollers, vice president for regulatory affairs for North America at Norbrook Inc. "That demand for talent won't ever slow down. If anything, the need is increasing as the industry continues to discover new pharmaceuticals, therapeutics and products that improve animal health."

Among the regulatory knowledge taught, three separate courses focus on the Food and Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This means graduates exit with not only broader and deeper knowledge about regulatory affairs, but they also are more familiar with each of the three federal agencies that oversee animal drug, vaccine and pesticide development.

To ensure the curriculum is relevant and applicable, courses are taught by faculty who have industry backgrounds. Courses also incorporate industry professionals with regulatory experience to lead in-depth discussions on key topics.

Biochemistry and molecular biophysics professor receives $2 million NIH grant to develop new antibiotics

A Kansas State University professor will lead a collaborative research project exploring new means of treating infections with antibiotics.

Michal Zolkiewski, professor and head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics in the College of Arts & Sciences, has been awarded a four-year $1.9 million-plus grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop new antibiotics.

According to the Infectious Disease Society of America, at least 2 million Americans each year develop infections from antibiotic-resistant pathogenic microorganisms and about 25,000 of them result in death.

"The development of novel antimicrobial strategies and the discovery of new antimicrobials are highly relevant to global public health," Zolkiewski said. "We aim to develop a new paradigm of antimicrobial therapy so future generations do not fact an existential threat of dying from common infections."

The Zolkiewski research group at Kansas State University has been at the forefront of studies on the biological function and biochemical mechanism of a bacterial protein call ClpB. In bacterial cells, ClpB helps other proteins maintain their activity and its role is particularly important in pathogens during infection of a host. Zolkiewski hypothesizes that ClpB could become a promising target for new antibiotics, which would exploit a previously unexplored vulnerability of pathogens: a need to protect the quality of their proteins during infection.

With support from the new NIH award, Zolkiewski and his colleagues, which includes researchers from the University of Kansas, will search for chemical compounds that inhibit ClpB and suppress bacterial growth. An inter-institutional collaboration leverages the protein biochemistry expertise in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at Kansas State University and KU's prominence in pharmaceutical chemistry and drug development. The studies could eventually bring new antibiotics to the market and also provide useful information on pathogen-host interactions during infections.

DID YOU KNOW?

K-State's 2018 Royal Purple yearbook was one of only three in the nation to be name a Pacemaker, the highest award given by Associated Collegiate Press.

Facebook Twitter Website

K-State Government Relations Staff
Sue Peterson, Chief Government Relations Officer
Kristin Holt, Government Relations Coordinator
Sam Pittman, Legislative Assistant
Logan Long, Legislative Assistant

Contact Information
Office of Government Relations
110 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-6227
www.ksu.edu/govrelations