



June 2020



Two-year anniversary of Hale Library fire

Two years ago on May 22, 2018, a fire broke out in Hale Library, the flagship building in the [Kansas State University Libraries system](#) in Manhattan.

While the fire was contained to the roof, several hundreds of thousands of gallons of water flowed through the 550,000-square-foot building during the firefighting efforts. In addition, soot and smoke damaged the interior and its contents, including most of the books.

Hale Library is reopening in phases. The first floor Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons opened for students to use on August 28, 2019. The last phase to open will be the original 1927 portion of the building. The Libraries plan to restore historic Farrell Library to its original grandeur, including the Great Room murals, which are stable and currently protected from the surrounding construction work by large wooden boxes that were built around them.

In addition to the building renovations, the entire 1.5 million-item collection was removed from the library and moved into long-term storage. Because of the soot damage, the items are being cleaned one at a time.

More in-depth information about the books, preservation of historic spaces, the vision for rebuilding and amazing behind-the-scenes photos is available via the Libraries' blog, Hale Library: The Next Chapter, at blogs.k-state.edu/hale/.

College of Veterinary Medicine hosts virtual commencements, confers degrees live online

The College of Veterinary Medicine celebrated its 2020 graduating class of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students through a series of virtual ceremonies and a live conferring of degrees on May 15, 2020.

A celebratory video with a full listing of all the students is posted at the college's [2020 Commencement Page](#). This video includes a greeting from Bonnie Rush, dean; keynote address from Dan Thomson, former faculty member; remarks from Alexandra Allen, the 2020 class president; faculty messages; and a video collage of students reciting the veterinarian's oath. An electronic program, in PDF format, is posted at the commencement page featuring a list of the graduating students and their respective hometowns.

Bonnie Rush, dean of the college, and Charles Taber, K-State provost, greeted the class of 2020 live via Zoom conferencing, an online platform, and then formally conferred the degrees to the students and recited the Veterinarian's Oath. The ceremony was also livestreamed via YouTube. See more information about these virtual events at the college's [2020 Commencement Page](#).





K-State Biodefense: Protecting people, food and agriculture from disease outbreaks

COVID-19 Highlights

Scientists and other experts at K-State have been protecting people, food, and agriculture from disease outbreaks since our founding in 1863. Here are some highlights from our recent contributions to the fight against COVID-19.

- K-State's Biosecurity Research Institute at Pat Roberts Hall, a one-of-a-kind research and education facility, is home to K-State investigators studying multiple aspects of SARs-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Initial projects involve understanding how the disease is spread; identifying and testing potential therapeutics; and developing vaccines.
- A team of researchers from multiple disciplines developed a computer model to identify vulnerabilities in the beef supply chain ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic. The beef cattle industry contributes almost \$9 billion to the Kansas economy and employs more than 40,000 people in the state. The work was sponsored by the National Science Foundation.
- A recent licensing agreement with a pharmaceutical company could yield the first- ever antiviral drug to treat human norovirus and coronavirus infections. The partnership will advance research from a collaboration between scientists at the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine and Wichita State University. The team was recently awarded another \$3.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue related work.

Our July newsletter will feature a series of articles designed to provide a more comprehensive look at the research, educational programs, partnerships, community involvement, and facilities that have helped Kansas State University and the City of Manhattan earn the reputation as the Silicon Valley for Biodefense.

K-State doctoral candidate receives prestigious early



K-State President Myers receives national award for patriotism and service

Kansas State University President Richard B. Myers is the recipient of the DAR Distinguished Citizen Medal from the [Polly Ogden Chapter](#) of the [National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution](#). The national award is presented to an individual who fulfills the qualities of honor, service, courage, leadership and patriotism.

Myers' distinguished career has revolved around service. He has served his country in wartime, his nation in crisis, and the future leaders of his community and nation through his role in higher education.

A four-star general in the U.S. Air Force, Myers served as the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2001-2005. As chairman, he was the highest-ranking uniformed officer of the U.S. military forces. Before becoming chairman, Myers served as vice chair of the Joint Chiefs for 18 months.

As chair, he was the principal military advisor to the president, secretary of defense and the National Security Council during the earliest stages of the War on Terror, including planning and execution of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Myers is the author of "Eyes on the Horizon: Serving on the Front Lines of National Security."

A native Kansan, Myers began serving as the interim president of his alma mater, Kansas State University, in April 2016, and was announced as the permanent president on Nov. 15, 2016. He graduated from the university in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and joined the Air Force through K-State's ROTC program.

Applied Park Science Lab announces partnership with National Park Service

The Applied Park Science Lab in the horticulture and natural resources department will work on improving national parks as a collaborator on a \$40 million contract from the U.S. National Park Service.

career award

Kansas State University doctoral candidate, Paula Silva, has been named a prestigious Borlaug Global Rust Initiative 2020 Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum Early Career Award winner. The award provides training opportunities for innovative women scientists who have demonstrated traction in increasing gender parity in agriculture.

"Paula is an excellent young female scientist, who shows vast potential that will be realized through her hard work and dedication," said Jesse Poland, associate professor of plant pathology and Silva's doctoral advisor. "Along with her demonstrated experience and success, Paula embodies the type of young scientist that we want to cultivate and encourage in their research and career."

Silva joined Poland's lab in 2016 as a Fulbright Fellow, where her research has focused on breeding for economically important and complex diseases such as barley yellow dwarf, rusts and wheat blast.

In addition to her graduate work, in 2019 she was appointed to remotely lead the disease resistance breeding program and coordinate the Precision Wheat Phenotypic Platform for wheat diseases for INIA Uruguay — where she plans to return once completing her doctorate this year.

The lab will study visitor use and social issues for nationwide research projects conducted to assist with park service planning and management. The Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana, Otak of Redmond, Washington, and RRC Associates of Boulder, Colorado, are the leads on the five-year N.P.S. contract.

The Applied Park Science Lab will be specifically available to assist with:

1. Understanding in-park visitor use so land managers can make better decisions on visitor experiences and resources protection.
2. Studying recreation, transportation and carrying capacity issues, including visitor movement, travel pattern studies, visitor use level estimation and evaluations of conditions with changes over time and under various use levels.
3. Conducting non-visitor studies to look at visitor displacement and increase awareness of gateway communities and regional stakeholders, as well as studying potential visitors to assist in future management decisions.

The APS lab at Kansas State University will join researchers from Utah State University, Oregon State University, University of Colorado, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Maine and Virginia Polytechnic University.

DID YOU KNOW?

K-State's College of Education has created a free webinar series: "Teaching in Real-time: How Well Does America's Federal System Respond to Public Health Crises?" [Registration is free](#) and open to the public.



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