

Psychology society names Wright a Fellow

Thomas A. Wright, K-State's Jon Wefald Leadership Chair in Business Administration, has been named a Fellow by the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.



Thomas Wright

This makes Wright the first K-State faculty member ever to have been named fellow by both the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and the Association for Psychological Science, an honor he received in 2007.

Society Fellows are distinguished industrial and organizational psychologists who have made "unusual and outstanding" contributions to the field.

Wright is a professor of management and is best known for his innovative thinking on psychological well-being, which can affect job performance and turnover. He is also director of the College of Business Administration's Center for Character-based Leadership.

Kansas Arts Commission honors faculty

Three K-State faculty members have received Kansas Mid-Career Fellowships from the Kansas Arts Commission. Jonathan Holden, University Distinguished Professor of English and poet-in-residence; Nancy Morrow, associate professor of art; and Julie Pentz, assistant professor of dance, were honored during a reception in Topeka March 4.

Advanced Manufacturing Institute wins Addy award

A new brochure for the Advanced Manufacturing Institute at K-State made in collaboration with Jones Huyett Partners, a Topeka-based marketing and advertising firm, has received an Addy award from the American Advertising Federation.

The brochure emphasizes the institute's broad spectrum of services and ability to work with businesses of all sizes in a wide variety of markets, including manufacturing, transportation, aerospace, consumer, products, agriculture, food, chemicals, plastics, bioprocessing, equipment and machinery.

The Advanced Manufacturing Institute is a part of K-State's College of Engineering and is a Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation Center of Excellence that provides innovative and cost effective engineering and business solutions.

picture perfect



A worker replaces windows in Seaton Court. Visit Photo Services' new Web site at www.k-state.edu/photo

March-April

ON CAMPUS

March 16-20
Spring Break

March 24
'Persépolis'

As part of the Tournées French Film Festival, the film "Persépolis" will be shown with English subtitles. 8 p.m., Forum Hall, K-State Student Union. Admission is free.

Concert

Tuba and euphonium students of Steve Maxwell, assistant professor of music, will perform. 5:45 p.m., All Faiths Chapel.

March 26
'Lili et la Baobab (Lili and the Baobab)'

As part of the Tournées French Film Festival, the film "Lili et la Baobab (Lili and the Baobab)" will be shown with English subtitles. 7 p.m., 106 Kedzie Hall. Admission is free.

Wiki Mania!

As part of the IDT roundtable series for faculty, several K-Staters will take you on a tour of their wikis, both in the classroom and the professional setting. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Room 212, K-State Student Union.



The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center will explore the sound of America at 7:30 p.m., April 5 in McCain Auditorium. The performance will feature American mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe.

March 26
'Black Gold: A film about coffee and trade'

This film follows Tadesse Meskele, general manager of the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union in Ethiopia, as he seeks a fair trade market for more than 74,000 Ethiopian coffee farmers. Summer Lewis, K-State alum and former Equal Exchange employee, will introduce the film. Fair trade tea and chocolate will be served. 7 p.m., Hemisphere Room, Hale Library.

March 28
'The American College Town'

Blake Gumprecht will discuss his book about college towns. 1:30 p.m., Manhattan Public Library auditorium.

opportunities

Classified

- A list of employment opportunities is posted at <http://www.k-state.edu/hr/vac.html>
- A recording of classified job opportunities is available 24 hours a day on the Employment Information Line, 532-6271.
- For additional information, call 532-6277 or visit the Division of Human Resources at 103 Edwards Hall. Applications are accepted 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Unclassified

- A listing of vacancies can be seen at <http://www.k-state.edu/affact/Opportunities/unclass.htm>
- For additional information, call the office of affirmative action at 532-6220 or visit 214 Anderson Hall.

Setting about strategy, continued

five years. The strategic plan is an important component of the review that takes place for the university accreditation process. That process takes place every 10 years with K-State set for reaccreditation in 2011.

"Accreditation is vital to ensuring K-State is offering the most relevant education it can to help students compete in the global marketplace," said M. Duane Nellis, K-State's provost and senior vice president. "It is a validation of the quality of education we offer, as well as an indicator of the outstanding quality of teaching at K-State."

A university committee to begin planning for the next accreditation visit will be established in the fall.

Nellis led the 2008-2012 Strategic Planning Committee, which was comprised of Roger Adams, Pat Bosco, Fred Cholick, Kelli Cox, Ruth Dyer, Lori Goetsch, Rebecca Gould, David Hartnett, Dennis Kuhlman, Lucas Maddy, Larry Rodgers, Bruce Shubert, W. Franklin Spikes, Be Stoney and Matt Wagner. ■

Lehning is all about alpacas, continued

and Westminster.

Side by side over the last year-and-a-half the Lehnings have learned how to care for the animals. Together they take care of the day-to-day physical chores, as well as a few in-depth research projects — like watching YouTube videos on how to properly clip an alpaca's hooves. "I'm the holder and Jeremy's the clipper," Emily Lehning said. "It definitely takes two of us."

Through the experience, the Lehnings have not only learned a lot about caring for alpacas, they've even learned a little more about each other.

"The day-to-day maintenance has been some great, low fanfare couple time," Emily Lehning said. "There's nothing better than after a long day to go out and be with the animals."

She said it's also been fulfilling watching her husband deal with the animals. "It's been fun for me to see someone who did not grow up around animals develop a connection and an appreciation. A lot of times, we'll be out taking care of them and one of us will stop and say 'did you see that?'"

Though they didn't intend to have so many

alpacas, Emily Lehning said as they learned more they were willing to add more to their herd.

"Manny, our fifth animal, and Magellan and Wes, our sixth and seventh, were added after people approached us. The previous owners were looking for a good home and we were able to assist," she said. "I think we agreed because we had gained more confidence in caring for the animals."

As spring approaches, the Lehnings are getting ready for their second harvest, when the animals are shorn and their blankets are sent to a mill in Phillipsburg to be made into yarn.

The Lehnings said they aren't into raising alpacas for money. They call it a lifestyle investment.

"I laugh because when we first started this our friends said you're going to make so much money on it," Emily Lehning said. "What we say is 'money will be made but we're not going to be making money.'"

More information on the Lehnings' alpaca farm and how the animals are doing is available at <http://prairieschoolfarms.blogspot.com/> ■

Setting about a strategic plan

Nine new themes identified as K-State readies for reaccreditation



Timothy Williams Jr. studies in front of Hale Library. Strengthening the "teaching, learning and student life environment" is among K-State's strategic goals. (Courtesy of K-State Photo Services)

- * Enhance international emphases; and
- * Contribute to the state's economic development and environmental health.

In addition to identifying the themes themselves, the committee also identified specific action items for each one.

- * Recruit, retain and develop high quality faculty;
- * Recruit, retain and develop high quality professional and classified staff members;
- * Strengthen the teaching, learning and student life environment;
- * Enhance graduate education and research programs;
- * Improve 21st century academic research library collections, services and facilities;
- * Provide access to technology for information exchange and for the creation of new knowledge;
- * Foster a diverse multicultural environment;

and supporting programs, initiatives, and curricula that emphasize leadership development and civic engagement.

All action items may be viewed at <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/planning/strategy/index.htm>

Senior members of K-State's central administrative team will work in concert with college deans, department heads, faculty members, unit directors, support staff and other important internal and external stakeholders of K-State to develop specific initiatives to address action items for each planning theme. At the same time, the budget challenges that are being faced at the university, state and national level may delay implementation of some of these key themes and related action items.

The plan's overarching purpose is to guide the direction of the university during the next

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K-State's First Ladies honored

The history of K-State's first ladies is being celebrated with an exhibit, program and reception at Hale Library.

The first ladies exhibit is now open through March 27 in the fifth-floor gallery of Hale Library. It features photographs, artifacts and information about each of K-State's 13 first ladies, from original first lady Frances Denison, to current first lady Ruth Ann Wefald and incoming first lady Noel Nunnally Schulz. While their individual interests and activities varied widely, collectively the first ladies became leaders in campus and community organizations; hosted visiting dignitaries, faculty and students; and carried out countless other roles to benefit the university and the Manhattan community.



Ruth Ann Wefald

The first ladies will be the topic of a program co-sponsored by the Friends of the K-State Libraries in Hale Library's Hemisphere Room at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25. The program will feature Michaeline Chance-Reay, K-State assistant professor of secondary education and the author of "Land Grant Ladies: Wives of the K-State Presidents." In addition, Sharon Reagan, president of the Friends of the K-State Libraries, will discuss the evolving first ladies portrait gallery in Hale Library.

Inside



Emily Lehning cares for students by day, and a small herd of alpacas by night. Up Close

oh, by the way

More than 40 earn promotions, tenure

K-State is promoting 17 faculty members to the rank of full professor and 24 faculty members to the rank of associate professor with tenure. In addition, one faculty member has been granted tenure and one has been promoted to associate professor. K-State President Jon Wefald has approved the promotions and tenure, which go into effect July 1.

Promoted to full professor are: Michael Apley, clinical sciences; Charles Barden, horticulture, forestry and recreation resources; Louise Benjamin, journalism and mass communications; Timothy Dayton, English; Brad DeBey, diagnostic medicine and pathobiology; Briana Nelson Goff, family studies and human services; Wayne Goins, music; Eric Higgins, finance; Marianne Korten, mathematics; James Neill, statistics; Jung Oh, arts, sciences and business; Charlotte Shoup Olsen, family studies and human services; Zhijian Pei, industrial and manufacturing systems engineering; Jeffrey Pickering, political science; Michael Sanderson, clinical sciences; Bruce Schultz, anatomy and physiology; and Youqi Wang, mechanical and nuclear engineering.

Promoted to associate professor with tenure are: Patricia Ackerman, arts, sciences and business; Frederick Burreck, music; Leslie Hannah, arts, sciences and business; Peggy Honey, apparel, textiles and interior design; Amy Hubbell, modern languages; Laszlo Kulcsar, sociology, anthropology and social work; Sandra LaPointe, philosophy; Mark Linville, accounting; Jonathan Mahoney, philosophy; Phillip Marzluf, English; L. Tonatuh Melgarejo, human nutrition; Thomas Mertz, engineering technology; Venkata Vara Prasad Pagadala, agronomy; David Renter, diagnostic medicine and pathobiology; Robby, computing and information sciences; Donald Saucier, psychology; D. Kimball Smith, English; Kay Ann Taylor, special education, counseling and student affairs; Iris Totten, geology; Benjamin Torrico, modern languages; Thomas Vontz, elementary education; Donald Wilson, philosophy; Raphael Yunk, architectural engineering and construction science; and Jeffrey Zacharakis, educational leadership.

In addition, K.C. Olson, associate professor of animal sciences and industry, was granted tenure, and Craig Paukert, biology, was promoted to associate professor.

Beach Museum of Art hosting photographic exhibition about the American soldier

An exhibition of more than 100 photographs depicting the life of members of the American military is on display through May 31 at K-State's Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art.

"The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute" is an exhibition of 116 photographs depicting military life in nine wars, from the Civil War to the war in Iraq. The exhibition, suitable for all age groups, also celebrates the contributions made by photojournalists who risked danger at the front lines.

Cyma Rubin, the exhibition's curator, reviewed more than 4,000 photos for the exhibition, selecting those that tell stories of camaraderie, courage, humor and sacrifice. Rubin also was curator of the "Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs" exhibition, which was at the Beach Museum of Art in 2003.

"The American Soldier" is sponsored by EADS North America, Business of Entertainment Inc. and the John B. Stetson Company.

Call the Beach Museum at 785-532-7718 for more information.

research

Grassland birds in the Flint Hills facing decline

K-State ecologist says birds are not as prolific as they should be in this kind of ecological climate

The wide-open spaces of the Flint Hills may no longer provide a secure home on the range for several familiar grassland birds, according to research by a K-State ecologist and her colleagues.

The researchers found that three bird species common to the Flint Hills region of Kansas and Oklahoma are experiencing serious population decline in the face of extensive land-management practices like annual burning and widespread grazing.

The Flint Hills contain the largest remaining tracts of tallgrass prairie, a habitat that once covered much of the Great Plains but of which only 4 percent is now left, mostly in the Flint Hills. Far from being pristine prairie, however, the Flint Hills region supports a major cattle industry and is intensively managed.

"Because of its size, the Flint Hills is assumed to be a population stronghold for grassland birds," said Kimberly With, a K-State associate professor of biology who led the study. "Mostly this has been based on bird counts, but they can be misleading because they don't show what the region is capable of producing. Birds are very mobile and thus birds could come from elsewhere to give the appearance of a stable population year after year. This is especially true if the region attracts birds because of its size, but birds do not breed successfully once they settle here."

With was joined by ecologists Anthony King from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and William Jensen, a former postdoctoral researcher in With's lab at K-State. They conducted a two-year study of regional viability of three grassland birds: the dickcissel, grasshopper sparrow and eastern meadowlark. With and her colleagues found that none of these bird spe-

cies is viable in the 4 million-acre Flint Hills region. They estimated population declines of as much as 29 percent per year during the years studied.

The results were published in December 2008 in the journal *Biological Conservation*, <http://tinyurl.com/cza3xy>

"Although considered to be relatively common, all three of these species have been exhibiting declines at a continent-wide level," With said.

According to a 2007 report by The National Audubon Society, two of these species — the grasshopper sparrow and eastern meadowlark — have lost 62 percent and 75 percent, respectively, of their global population in the past 40 years.

With and her colleagues found that birds are not breeding successfully in the Flint Hills. With said that more than 80 percent of nests were destroyed by predators. They also found that birds nesting in native prairie hayfields were more successful than birds nesting in grazed grassland. She said this might be because in the Flint Hills, the hayfields were mown later than in other prairie regions, enabling birds to finish nesting before the nests are mowed under.

"These hayfields are a less disturbed habitat than other managed grasslands in the Flint Hills, 90 percent of which is grazed and up to two-thirds may be burned," With said.

The researchers suggest that land-management practices may offer only part of the explanation for declining bird populations.

"There was a drought one of the two years we studied the birds, and in that year birds didn't do well anywhere," With said. "Under global climate

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A dickcissel, eastern meadowlark and grasshopper sparrow are three bird species common to the Flint Hills of Kansas and Oklahoma. A K-State ecologist and her colleagues found these birds experiencing serious population decline in the face of extensive land-management practices like annual burning and widespread grazing. (Photos courtesy of David A. Rintoul, K-State Division of Biology)

noteworthy

Biochemistry

Lawrence C. Davis published "Phytoremediation in Education: Textile Dye Teaching Experiments." *International Journal of Phytoremediation*, Vol. 11, No. 5.

English

Wendy Matlock published "Vernacular Theology in the Disputacione betwix the Body and Wormes," Translation, or Transmission of Culture, ed. Laura H. Hollengreen. *Arizona Studies in the Middle Ages and Renaissance* 13 (Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2008): 113-127.

Two faculty members presented at the 18th Annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. In Savannah, Ga., Feb. 27:

Dan Hutt, presented "Outcasts, Outlaws, and Pirates: Counterculture and Rock Music in Salman Rushdie's 'The Ground Beneath Her Feet.'"

cess as Other: The Illusory Agency of Mulan."

Libraries

Jamene Brooks-Kieffer and colleague led "Eathatelephant! Strategies and methods for managing SFX," during the Electronic Resources and Libraries conference, Feb. 9-10, Los Angeles, Calif. **Brooks-Kieffer** also presented "Composing Rock 'n' Roll Stories from the Usage Data Blues."

Management

Diane Swanson served as associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society*, which has been recognized as Outstanding Academic Title by the American Library Association and has received one of two BRASS awards from the Reference and Users Association.

Investing in excellence

One of K-State's priorities for elevating the institution's national and international success is the Targeted Excellence program, which made its first awards in 2004. Awards have helped inter-disciplinary teams in such diverse areas as food safety and security, the Developing Scholars Program, ecological genomics, civic discourse and democracy, geographic information systems, sensors research, nanotechnology, and improving access to careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"The Targeted Excellence program is a strategic investment designed to foster collaboration across disciplines," said M. Duane Nellis, K-State's provost and senior vice president. "These investments have truly created significant seed support that has allowed us to leverage our competitive position for extramural sources while enhancing our research and learning environment for the university."

The Targeted Excellence program is a competitive university initiative that supports cooperative, inter-disciplinary programs that show promise of elevating K-State's stature as a premier land-grant institution. Projects selected for funding must also have a direct impact on the lives of Kansans.

Thirty-one projects have been funded to date, involving 86 faculty from seven colleges, as well as the library, and the offices of student life and the provost. Approximately \$6.9 million has so far been expended, which has brought in over \$89.5 million in extramural grants. "Being able to leverage that kind of external investment is critical to maintaining K-State's high quality research program and to taking it



K-State researchers involved in sequencing the red flour beetle genome - a Targeted Excellence funded project - show off the jars of beetles they had to have to isolate enough DNA for their project. (Courtesy photo)

to the next level." Nellis said. "That's what Targeted Excellence is all about."

An important portion of the investments has been in the areas of animal health and food safety research, which surely played a role in the recent siting of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility adjacent to campus, Nellis indicated.

Targeted Excellence awards in the agriculture and animal health arenas have involved food safety and security, biomaterials, geographic information systems, beef cattle, arthropod genomics and several other genome biology projects.

Additional projects in other disciplines are many and diverse. They include: analyzing the environmental security of aircraft cabins; investigating and cataloging the importance of the grasslands, prairie plants, and insects; coordinating efforts in sustainable energy; and funding breakthroughs in stem cell biology. Projects investigating issues involving African and Asian countries have also been supported, as well as military history and security studies.

"The success of these research and learning initiatives has allowed K-State to enhance our position as a major land grant university," Nellis said.

up close

Tender loving care

Lehning wrangles alpacas in her spare time

She keeps a scrapbook detailing their every milestone. When there's a chill in the air, she wrestles them into homemade fleece jackets. Each has its own personality and they're so adorable that Emily Lehning now has seven of them — and counting.

To say that Lehning, K-State's assistant vice president for student life and accidental alpaca farmer, is dedicated to her animals is an understatement.

"They're not your typical livestock," she said. "They definitely each have their own distinct personalities."

Lehning said she and her husband, Jeremy, randomly came to the idea of alpaca farming one night watching TV when one of those cheesy "I love alpacas" commercials came on.

"We started joking about it and we got to the point where Jeremy said, 'you know, we should really do this.'" Emily Lehning said. "I said, 'you've got to be kidding me.'"

Emily Lehning, who grew up in Olivet, was in 4-H when she was a kid and helped raise many sheep and market pigs. Now, as a busy adult, she wasn't totally on board with the idea of raising alpacas. Working on recruitment and the needs of thousands of new K-State students keeps her occupied. Her husband is just as busy. He teaches at-risk students and coaches multiple sports in the Rock Creek School District.

"It was always something I thought we might do when we retired," Emily Lehning said.

But her husband, who grew



Above, Emily Lehning shows off her bounty — four different natural colors of yarn from her small herd of alpacas. *Right*, Lehning holds Manny, one of her herd's recent additions.



up as a city kid in western Kansas, wanted to do it sooner.

"You got to do 4-H when you were growing up and I want to do 4-H at 30," Jeremy Lehning told his wife. He even came up with a formal proposal, complete with a budget and spreadsheets, detailing the benefits of alpaca farming.

Emily Lehning said she could hardly say no. "For him to be that interested in it was a surprise to me," she said.

So it became a team project. Together they worked out

how to arrange their single acre estate near Westmoreland to accommodate the animals. Then they researched the kinds of alpacas they wanted to get, weighing qualities like demeanor, age and quality of fiber. Part of their plan was to harvest the animals' coats to use for products like yarn and rugs.

"We did a lot of research and tried to be realistic given our busy lives," Emily Lehning said.

In October 2007 they

took the plunge, purchasing two year-old alpacas, Scout and Deja Blue, from a farm near Kansas City. Since then, they've acquired five more: Carl, Rugar, Manny, Magellan

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