Greetings from K-State. Things are greening up as we warm up on campus and the pandemic appears to soon be in our rearview mirror. We have been fortunate to have had excellent speakers via zoom over the past year and students have been as engaged as the environment permitted. Our seniors and graduate students are getting offers and accepting jobs in what has been a strange job market navigation process. Despite conditions, job opportunities and starting salaries have come in strong for student fellows.

Though we are not back to normal yet, we are heading there after enduring a year that cannot resemble future normal for us in any way. We will launch our ninth cohort of new student fellows in August. Though we cannot keep saying this forever, this cohort is again our largest group ever with what will end being somewhere around 50 new fellows representing more than 20 different majors across campus. We had nearly double the previous record applicants for student fellows this round and we had to turn away substantially more applicants than ever before.

We have added some new faces to our advisory council and we are again starting to plan in-person outreach events and executive educational offerings. Thank you so much for the support you provide to K-State and the risk management center. We are ever grateful for having such incredible friends, alumni, supporters, and partners. We look to the future with enthusiasm to further increase the value we can provide students, industry partners, and K-State.

Sincerely,

Ted Schroeder, Director
Center for Risk Management
Education & Research
785.532.4488 | tcs@ksu.edu
NINTH CLASS OF STUDENT FELLOWS

This year we made the decision to change the timing of our recruiting process. Moving forward we will be recruiting student fellows in the spring, then they will start their fellowship in the fall of their Junior year on campus. We anticipate this shift in timing will help us facilitate pairing students and industry partners for internship opportunities, as well as make the Integrated Risk Management Certificate more attainable to fit into students’ curriculum if they wish. This spring, fifty students were selected from a competitive pool of applicants to participate in the Risk Management Student Fellowship. The 2021-2022 class of student fellows includes both undergraduate and graduate students from 23 different majors across campus. We are excited for our largest and most diverse class to start their journey as student fellows in the Fall of 2021!

Adrian Self, Master’s in Public Health, Manhattan, KS
Ahren Gann, Computer Science, Leavenworth, KS
Alexandra Klaudt, Finance and Mathematics, Shawnee, KS
Amber Oerly, Agricultural Economics, Policy Specialty, Booneville, MO
Anabelle Sanko, Finance and Personal Financial Planning, Holdrege, NE
Ashley Augustine, Accounting and Finance, Olathe, KS
Ben Studer, Chemical Engineering and Accounting, Frankfurt, KS
Benjamin DeZube, Finance, Overland Park, KS
Brian Blood, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Roeland Park, KS
Caleb Hildebrand, Animal Science, Pre-Vet, Stafford, KS
Cody Murphy, Computer Science, De Soto, KS
Courtney Sherbert, Agribusiness, Morganville, KS
Cross Allen, Biomedical Engineering, Inman, KS
Dalton Springer, Agricultural Economics, Pre-Law Specialty, Waller, TX
Danielle Stithem, Accounting, Hoyt, KS
Dylan Mayfield, Operations and Supply Chain Management, Nehawka, NE
Emily Verrill, Food Science, Olathe, KS
Erin Hartegan, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Olathe, KS
Evan Rosenow, Agricultural Economics, Clay Center, KS
Jacob Burke, Accounting and Finance, Sidney, NE
Jakob Smith, Mechanical Engineering, Olathe, KS
John Mayer, Agricultural Economics, Aledo, TX
Kaleb Guilfoyle, Agribusiness, Fort Scott, KS
Karyl Brungardt, Bakery Science, Bonner Springs, KS
Kristopher Wagner, Agricultural Economics, Satanta, KS
Laura Peterson, Personal Financial Planning, Assaria, KS
Lauren Benavidez, Agribusiness, Esteli, Nicaragua
Lucy Fischer, Animal Science, Pre-Vet, Hinsdale, IL
Luke Hafner, Accounting and Finance, Prairie Village, KS
Madeleine Rimmer, Finance, Leawood, KS
Marshall Fike, Management Information Systems, Westmoreland, KS
Matthew Davis, Biomedical Engineering, Wichita, KS
Mathias Brouk, Agricultural Economics, Finance Specialty, Manhattan, KS
Michaela Forst, Agricultural Economics & Global Food Systems Leadership, Marysville, KS
Molly Soyez, Agricultural Economics, Elmdale, KS
Paxton Anthony Myers, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Columbus, NE
Phillip Haslouer, Master's in Data Analytics, Manhattan, KS
Ryan Bach, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Kansas City, KS
Sage Collins, Agricultural Economics & Global Food Systems Leadership, Chanute, KS
Shymel Townes, Agricultural Economics, Finance Specialty, Wichita, KS
Somenath Roy, Master's in Business Administration, Manhattan, KS
Stacia Mendoza, Marketing, Lenexa, KS
Sue Chanvannasee, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Maize, KS
Suzanne Roggenkamp, Economics, Indianola, NE
Sydney Henry, Finance and Marketing, Glendale, MO
Tanner Ukele, Agribusiness, Finance Specialty, Sabetha, KS
Usama Najeeb Mangrio, Master's in Data Analytics, Shahdadpur, Pakistan
Walker Clawson, Agricultural Economics & Animal Sciences, Meade, KS
Wayne Hulsey, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Overland Park, KS
Zachary Smith, Biomedical Engineering, Pre-Medicine, Olathe, KS
Zane Williams, Mechanical Engineering, Hutchinson, KS
PARTNERSHIP WITH FOOD SCIENCE INSTITUTE
JEANETTE THURSTON

Jeanette joined K-State in 2019 as the Director for the Food Science Institute. The Food Science Institute (FSI) facilitates the undergraduate and graduate food science education programs and responds to requests from consumers, the food industry, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders for research and science-based information, training, and technical assistance.

Prior to joining KSU, she spent 18 years as a USDA scientist. While at USDA, Jeanette conducted research on pathogens in agricultural environments as a Research Microbiologist at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service, provided leadership and direction to the USDA-National Institute for Food and Agriculture’s food safety science portfolio as a National Program Leader, and served as a team member in the Director’s office overseeing the agency’s agricultural science portfolio and budget.

“I am thrilled with FSI’s partnership with CRMER as our food science students have invaluable CRMER fellowship opportunities.” says Jeanette, “Additionally, our partnership also opens doors to opportunities for identifying and solving food industry risks through collaborative research and outreach.”

ANNUAL CRMER TAILGATE: OCTOBER 2ND, 2021

SAVE THE DATE
CAT TOWN, MANHATTAN, KS
Dhamu Thamodaran is one of the newest additions to the Center’s advisory council. He has more than 30 years of experience in the food industry—most of that with Smithfield Foods. He assumed last role at Smithfield as Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy Officer, and Chief Commodity Hedging Officer in 2016. Based at the global food company’s headquarters in Smithfield, Virginia, he led strategy development and implementation to maximize returns from the company’s vertically integrated business. Dr. Thamodaran also managed Smithfield’s commodity hedging activities and headed the global economics commodities research and analysis group. He retired from Smithfield Foods in December of 2020.

Raised in India, Dr. Thamodaran graduated from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture. After receiving a Master of Science in agriculture and statistics in 1980 from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, he earned a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Iowa State University in 1983. Upon graduating, Iowa State appointed Dr. Thamodaran as a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development to conduct in-depth research on U.S. and global agricultural issues. Dr. Thamodaran joined Farmland Industries in 1985 and spent five years there in various roles before moving to John Morrell & Co. as director of price risk management. Both companies were subsequently acquired by Smithfield—John Morrell in 1995 and Farmland in 2003.

Dr. Thamodaran came to Smithfield in 1995 as director of price risk management. The company had not yet become the world’s largest hog producer and pork processor, with annual revenues just a fraction of today’s $15 billion. Promoted to vice president of price risk management in 1996, he became senior vice president & chief commodity hedging officer in 2008. Three years later, he was named executive vice president and chief commodity hedging officer.

Dr. Thamodaran’s knowledge and understanding of world agricultural markets, macroeconomics, and the pork value chain make him uniquely qualified. In 2019, Dr. Thamodaran joined the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group’s Agricultural Markets Advisory Council and was the recipient of Iowa State’s Henry Wallace Award, which honors notable alumni for their professional achievements. He also serves as an informal advisor to key Smithfield customers via regular presentations on global economic and commodity-market dynamics. Dr. Thamodaran has been a keynote speaker at many conferences and a guest speaker at major agribusiness schools. The Center for Risk Management is thrilled to have his assistance as an Advisory Council Member.

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