 scanty class with approximately 45 students, many of you non-traditional, all of you exceptional. This week the faculty will review incoming applicants for the program. I’m proud to say that we’ve become competitive, turning away many students because we do not have enough open positions. The faculty is getting better all the time. As a group we’ve added faculty while those of us who have been around awhile are trying to learn how to make online instruction interesting and interactive. Each year new electives are created making the learning experience richer and more exciting. Our graduation rates look pretty good for a distance program (we hope to report exact figures at a later date). But mostly I’m really excited about the improvements I believe we’ll be able to make in the coming year. We’ve made some personnel changes at the office so most of the Great Plains IDEA student activity will go through Laci Cornelison. We believe that her singular focus on student services will help us improve. The absolute priority for me is to better connect you with your academic adviser. Typically you don’t get to know them at all until just prior to graduation. We want that to change. The problem has been that most of us have not even known who our student advisees are until we see our name on your program of study form. We’ll fix that.

That’s what we plan to do to get better but this newsletter carries some news about things that YOU can do to improve. Laci has written about student memberships to aging associations. Please consider doing this. The benefits can be great especially in terms of resume building. You’ll also find something about the Conversation project. I was notified about this some time ago by a person affiliated with ABC news. I’m passionate about this issue and urge you to look into it further. I’m trying to figure out how to make this a major focus of the center for this year, urging our students, mentors, faculty and affiliates to have these conversations and report back to us the results. So, I’ll bet you didn’t want to read about more “things” to do but there it is. We challenge you this year to go beyond being a student. Be the gerontologist you want to be!

Gayle

Laci has worked at the Center on Aging for five years while pursuing the online Masters of Gerontology. She graduated from this program in August and will now serve as the student coordinator for GP-IDEA gerontology students. Prior to coming to the Center on Aging, Laci worked at Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community leading special care services for residents with dementia. At the center, she has worked with undergraduate student services including advising the Ambassador program. She leads educational trainings on person-centered care for nursing home personnel and conducts qualitative research on sexuality in residential care settings.

Laci

Advising Notes
As a recent graduate of the GP-IDEA Master’s in Gerontology program, I’m excited to be your resource as you work towards your journey to a master’s. Gayle has charged me with being the “go to” person for you to use as a resource in meeting your personal academic goals. I also hope to find ways to get you more involved with “campus life” at a distance. I would love to hear your suggestions to improve the program and your experience as a Kansas State University student.

Laci
K-State is ranked one of the best colleges in the nation!

In a repeat performance, Kansas State University is recognized on the Princeton Review's "The Best 377 Colleges."

Only 15 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges and three international colleges are recognized in the publication. The list includes detailed profiles of the colleges with rating scores for all schools in eight categories. It also included rankings based on The Princeton Review's survey of students attending the colleges of the top 20 schools in 62 categories.

From the student surveys Kansas State University is ranked No. 2 for great campus and community relations; No. 4 for the best quality of life; No. 8 for the happiest students; No. 12 in best-run colleges category; No. 13 in their students love these colleges category; No. 14 in jock schools category; and No. 16 in the most religious students category.

"K-Staters know it and the Princeton Review confirms it: K-State is one of the best college experiences in the nation," said Pat Bosco, vice president for student life and dean of students. "Our recognition in this elite publication is a direct result of our award-winning and caring faculty and student life staff, and the more than 250 academic programs and majors available to students. It's great to have others in the nation recognize our efforts to make K-State a classic college experience."

Out of all of the top 377 colleges, the publication also ranked Kansas State University No. 64 in fire safety, No. 79 in the green rating and No. 99 in quality of life.

"We commend Kansas State University for its outstanding academics, which is the primary criteria for our selection of schools for the book," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's senior vice president-publisher and author of "The Best 377 Colleges."

The schools listed in the publication are based on institutional data, visits to the university, feedback from current students, and the opinions of staff and a 30-person National College Counselor Advisory Board. The rankings are based on an 80-question student survey.

Earlier this year the university was included in "The Best Value Colleges: 2012 Edition," a book by the Princeton Review that identified the top 75 public and top 75 private colleges and universities as true values when it comes to getting a quality education.

The university was also featured in Forbes magazine's 2012 America's Best Colleges List, which includes 650 colleges nationwide.
Exciting Campus Construction and Renovations

The K-State Welcome Center will serve the entire K-State family as the front door to new opportunities. This unique facility will be one of the first in the country to provide a central location for students and families to connect with New Student Services, Admissions, Financial Aid, Housing and Dining Services, and Career and Employment Services.

The center will create a welcoming, convenient and progressive environment for prospective and current students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff and corporate representatives to interact and engage with each other. Everyone will experience a sense of belonging to the K-State community.

New Welcome Center

Watch this video to learn more about the future welcome center!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Gx2-hHyEmM

Justin Hall

Justin Hall is the research and teaching center of the College of Human Ecology. Other departments in Justin Hall include apparel, textiles and interior design; family studies and human services; hospitality management and dietetics; and human nutrition.

The 13,180-square-foot addition includes space for student services, student collaborative workspace, administrative offices and two classrooms that will accommodate approximately 100 students each.

To see pictures of the Justin Hall additions go to:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/kstatehe/sets/72157630854300170/show/
The West Stadium Center will feature amenities for all fans at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. New concessions, restrooms and ticket offices will replace the current west side facilities, which were originally built in 1968. Additionally, a new Fan Store and Hall of Honor will be included on the main Concourse Level.

In addition to being a first-class facility for K-State student-athletes and fans, the West Stadium Center at Bill Snyder Family Stadium will serve as the northwest gateway to campus and a rallying point for the University’s visionary "K-State 2025" plan. The structure will make a statement to the Big 12 Conference, the nation and prospective student-athletes that K-State is committed to competing at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics.

The Terrace Level will feature a dining hall to serve the daily dietary needs of all K-State student-athletes. The Tailgate Terrace will be a great place to enjoy the unique tailgate atmosphere of a K-State gameday.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th levels of the West Stadium Center will have outdoor Suite, Club and Lounge seating. These seats will have the best sight lines in College Football and will be the premier seating area for Wildcat Fans. All suite, lounge and club season-ticket holders will enjoy an all-inclusive food and beverage experience in the spacious lounges located behind each seating area.

The 5th level of the West Stadium Center will be designated for media and coaches on game-days and will be the new permanent home for the K-State Media relations office.

For more information on the Bill Snyder Family Stadium Addition visit:
http://www.kstatesports.com/weststadiumcenter/index.html

Kansas State Football

vs. Missouri State  WIN 51-9
vs. Miami  WIN 52-13

Upcoming Games
9/22 vs. Oklahoma @6:50PM
10/6 vs. Kansas TBA

Currently Ranked No. 21

Check out this article about the K-State football team:
http://bleacherreport.com/articles/1326964-college-
football-rankings-2012-why-kansas-state-will-soon-
be-a-top-10-team

For more information about K-State football visit:
http://www.kstatesports.com/sports/m-footbl/ksu-m-foot-
bl-body-main.html
Meet Flat Geri, The Gerontologist

Geri originated from the Center on Aging here at K-State and is passionate about making a difference through his interest in aging. Geri’s mission is to encourage and engage the K-State community in learning about and promoting successful aging. Join Geri this year in his journey! To learn more check out Geri’s video.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqXrEirPCb4&feature=plcp

Facebook Page Gets a New Look!

The Center on Aging Facebook page is being upgraded this year! We will be regularly updating our page with information on Center on Aging activities and events. We will provide pictures and videos of our students expanding their knowledge about the field of gerontology. Past graduates of our program will be spotlighted with testimonials of how the Center on Aging helped them as a student as well as how they contributed to their success as a professional. The Center on Aging will post some fun stuff, too—aging related photos, quotes, as well as current articles in the news that involve the lives of seniors. We hope that the K-State students, faculty, and community will join us in creating an engaging environment for students to learn and develop a better sense of understanding of what older adults will need in the future and have an enjoyable time while doing it, too. We want you to know what we are doing and where we are headed throughout the 2012-2013 year.

“Like” the Center on Aging at:
http://www.facebook.com/kstateaging
Gerontology Organizations

Gerontology organizations are a great way to network, build up your resume, learn more about aging, and get involved!

The Gerontological Society of America

Mission:
- To promote the conduct of multi- and interdisciplinary research in aging by expanding the quantity of gerontological research and by increasing its funding resources;
- To disseminate gerontological research knowledge to researchers, to practitioners, and to decision and opinion makers; and
- To promote, support, and advocate for aging education, and education and training in higher education.

Student Membership ($75/year)
For information about the many benefits of membership go to: http://www.geron.org/Membership/Membership%20Types%20&B%20Benefits

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) is the international leader in advancing education on aging and is the only institutional membership organization devoted primarily to gerontology and geriatrics education since 1974.
AGHE’s mission is two-fold:
1. To advance gerontology and geriatrics education in academic institutions.
2. To provide leadership and support of gerontology and geriatrics education faculty and students at education institutions.

AGHE and its members (the KSU Center on Aging has been a member since AGHE began) are strongly committed to the well-being of older adults.
For more information visit: http://aghe.org/

LeadingAge

To expand the world of possibilities for aging, LeadingAge members and affiliates touch the lives of millions of individuals, families, employees and volunteers every day. The LeadingAge community includes 6,000 not-for-profit organizations in the United States, 39 state partners, hundreds of businesses, research partners, consumer organizations, foundations and a broad global network of aging services organizations that reach over 30 countries.

The work of LeadingAge is focused on advocacy, leadership development, and applied research and promotion of effective services, home health, hospice, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care communities, nursing homes, as well as technology solutions, to seniors, children, and others with special needs.

For more information about LeadingAge visit: http://www.leadingage.org/
The Conversation Project, co-founded by Pulitzer Prize winner Ellen Goodman, has a goal that is both simple and transformative: to have every person’s end-of-life wishes expressed and respected. With so many people dying in a manner not of their choosing, The Conversation project aims to bring about a cultural shift through a public engagement campaign that encourages open and honest discussions.

Rather than promote a “desired” or specific choice, The Conversation Project seeks to increase social acceptance of end-of-life wishes, no matter one’s beliefs, religion, or politics. Launched in collaboration with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, The Conversation Project’s cornerstone is a website that offers visitors a Conversation Starter Kit, and asks people to submit their own Conversations to be shared on their website and via YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. By sparking a cultural change that begins around the kitchen table—not in the intensive care unit—The Conversation Project hopes more people will be able to communicate end-of-life wishes that can be expressed in advance and respected at the end.

Founder Ellen Goodman states, “We believe this is the time to change the cultural norm from not talking about how we want to live at the end of our lives to talking about it. The Conversation Project aims to make it easier across cultures, workplace communities, and neighborhoods to share our wishes with our loved ones, before a health crisis occurs.”

For more information about The Conversation Project visit: [http://theconversationproject.org/](http://theconversationproject.org/)

Catching up with Alumni

Featuring: Rachel Bartelsmeyer

Rachel Bartelsmeyer completed her bachelors of science in interior design and gerontology in 2011. She recently designed a kitchen for a couple who needed their kitchen re-done. Rachel’s design was published in the St. Louis *At Home* magazine this past summer.

Visit Rachel Bartelsmeyer’s website at: [http://www.rachelbartelsmeyer.com](http://www.rachelbartelsmeyer.com)
Summer Internships

National PACE Internship

The majority of my internship this summer dealt with two main projects.

1. Analyzing demographic data reports for each Kansas county, determining the number of potential Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) eligible enrollees, and designing viable markets that serve the greatest number of participants possible.

2. Compiled the results of a nation wide survey regarding the use of Electronic Health Record Systems in PACE and benchmarked the results to the 2010 survey. I then developed a presentation and memo containing the findings and disseminated it to 85 PACE associations across the country.

I have no doubt that the knowledge and experience I gained while working with The National PACE Association will be indispensable to my future career in aging. The professionals working for PACE, both in Washington and around the nation, come second to none in their commitment to helping older adults live healthy and fulfilled lives. I consider myself blessed to have had the opportunity to work for the National PACE Association.

Learn more about the National PACE Association at: www.npaonline.org/

Tips for Finding a Gerontology Internship

Do not seek only paid opportunities.
Unpaid experiences can be just as valuable as paid ones. If it is in your research area, the experience and exposure that you gain can prove to be invaluable.

Make sure that you will benefit from the experience.
If the internship is not in an area that you genuinely have an interest in then it may not be the place for you.

Do not be afraid to approach an organization or agency to express your interest in gaining some hands-on experience.
Even if there is not a formal opportunity available, an opportunity may be created for you.

Start looking for opportunities in the fall.
Announcements for various programs during the summer start circulating in the fall. This will provide you with ample time to prepare an application.