

IN A WORLD FOCUSED ON THINGS, WE FOCUS FIRST ON PEOPLE.

FALL 2018

# FOCUS





# GREETINGS FROM JUSTIN HALL

In recent months, there have been a lot of questions and uncertainty surrounding higher education. There is a lot of national talk about changing enrollment rates and funding for higher education. While all of this is going on, it has become obvious to me that we have a lot to be thankful for here in the College of Human Ecology.

This last spring and summer, we saw more students come through Orientation and Enrollment and welcomed a bigger freshman class than previous years. This is proof that students are still interested and desire a college education. Those students have embraced life at K-State and are doing excellent things in the classroom and in their communities.


We have world-class faculty who are continuing to be leaders in the classroom and in their professional fields. They serve on campus, community and national advisory boards as experts in their disciplines, bringing positive light to K-State and higher education. In efforts to support the university's 2025 plan, our faculty have been diligently working on numerous research projects. Last year, they secured over \$4 million in funding for their research, moving the University closer to its goal of being a Top 50 research institution by 2025.

Our college laid the foundation of a new physician assistant program, which you will read about later on page 11. We acquired new and more functional space for the athletic training program which I talked about in the spring 2018 edition of FOCUS magazine. Programs continue to evolve and change to meet the demands of prospective students, service the needs of Kansas and operate in a financially sustainable model.

Alumni and friends of the college exceeded expectations this year through their philanthropic giving. We had a record-breaking total of \$9,713,497 contributed by alumni and friends to support our faculty, students, facilities and programs. I want to extend my appreciation for your generosity and investment in the future of our college through your time and talent as well as treasure.

All of these things are just a few examples of the great things that are happening in this college. We will continue to: 1. evolve and help students achieve their career goals. 2. recruit and retain faculty members who are helping prepare students while also supporting the university's research mission. 3. develop programs that meet the needs of students and fulfill vacancies in society.

I thank you again for your continued support of the College of Human Ecology.

Sincerely,  
  
John Buckwalter,  
Betty L. Tointon Dean

**On the cover:** Ice Family Scholarship recipients. From left, Mackenzie Getz, kinesiology; Emilee Holloway, apparel and textiles; Kami Wells, apparel and textiles; Dominic Lucito, athletic training; and Rachel Friedrichs, nutrition and health.



## PROFESSIONAL MENTORING

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# FOCUS

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY /// DECEMBER 2018 /// COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

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*Five students took their classroom knowledge to the villages of Guatemala. Learn about their adventures on page 4.*



Keep up  
with news  
and events,  
faculty and  
students in  
the College  
of Human  
Ecology



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K-State College  
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# EDUCATION ABROAD: GUATEMALA

*Five students gain new perspective on life outside the U.S. after service-learning trip to Guatemala*



*Gerit Wagner, Anna Biggins, Clayton Jackson, Cordell Neely and Amanda Brown take a weekend excursion up a volcano during their service-learning trip to Guatemala.*



*Cordell Neely and Clayton Jackson give blood pressure screenings to villagers.*

In spring 2016, a group of faculty members from the Department of Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health set out to find a new education abroad location for their students. In exploring ideas and locations, the team was looking to meet five goals they had determined would make a successful educational abroad experience.

The experience was created to provide increased cultural competence; knowledge, skills and values of the local culture; self-confidence, self-reliance, empathy, leadership and the ability to problem-solve global issues; the ability to apply academic knowledge and skills to contribute to the well-being of a population; and the chance to strengthen their career opportunities.

The faculty members chose Guatemala as the destination and designed an education abroad experience that would immerse students in the country's culture and communities. This summer, five students from the department traveled to the Central American nation for six weeks. The students were placed in local villages where they could apply their classroom knowledge to benefit the community members.



Gerit Wagner, Anna Biggins and Amanda Brown, all seniors in dietetics, spent their six weeks with the nutrition and health team at Vivamos Mejor, an organization that focuses on improving the quality of life for individuals. During their time with the organization, they helped to combat malnourishment in the community by educating residents about nutrients, creating recipes from indigenous fruits and vegetables, and starting sustainable vertical gardens to provide villagers with better access to fresh foods.

"We had a large My Plate activity where we asked them to put fruits, vegetables, grains and dairy items into the correct categories, and they wouldn't know where items belonged," Biggins said. "The fruits would be in with vegetables and the grains with the fruits. Once we saw this, we realized we had to start from the very beginning, teaching what category each item fell into. Then we could talk about micronutrients and macronutrients and why you need them."

The students also hosted market simulations where the villagers would shop at the local market. Once they had gathered their items, the students would discuss the items selected and when better choices could be made to meet nutritional needs.

**[ "...this was one of the best experiences of my life." ]**  
- Cordell Neely

Clayton Jackson, senior in nutritional sciences, and Cordell Neely, senior in nutrition and health, spent six weeks with Dr. Francisco Mendez, a physician in San Pedro. The first two weeks of their visit, Jackson and Neely assisted in clinical settings, taking vitals, recording patient notes and checking overall conditions. They also visited the local market each Friday to administer free glucose and blood pressure screenings.

During their third week, 18,000 pounds of donated medical equipment arrived for the hospital that Mendez has been building. The students helped unload and arrange all of the equipment, which allowed the hospital to open a new exam room, a patient room and an emergency room. They also helped install a water filtration system to provide the hospital with clean water.

Once back in the U.S., the students agreed their experiences in Guatemala met the goals that the faculty members had designed.

"I definitely appreciate what I have more after being there with so little," Brown said. "What we realized, though, is that they are very happy with the way that they live, even without having the things we do here in America."

Neely said that while he missed his family and friends, he learned that not everything in life is about material possessions.

"I am just more appreciative for everything we have here," Wagner said. "Being able to experience a different culture was so cool. I think a lot of people are nervous to go to another country, so learning to not be afraid to travel was really important because this was one of the best experiences of my life."



Jackson and Neely take care of an infant patient at the Guatemalan clinic.



Local village members work to identify different food groups with the My Plate activity.



Anna Biggins, Gerit Wagner and Amanda Brown conduct a My Plate activity with Guatemalan villagers.

# STEPPING IN

*Sonya Lutter steps in to serve as Interim Director of the School of Family Studies and Human Services*

The School of Family Studies and Human Services recently saw a change in their leadership with the departure of the school director, Dottie Durband. Sonya Lutter, associate professor of personal financial planning, stepped up to the challenge and assumed the interim director role for the next year. Lutter is a two-time K-State graduate, receiving her Bachelor of Science in personal financial planning and her master's degree in marriage and family therapy. We sat down with her to discuss her plans for the upcoming year.

**WHY WERE YOU LED TO THIS POSITION?**

SL: I had some experience in academic administration from when I was the program director for personal financial planning and managed the budget and oversaw the course scheduling for the program. I had to step away from that position a few years ago for personal reasons, but I realized I really missed that kind of work. When this position opened, I thought it was a good time to get back into it. I really enjoy problem-solving and future planning, which is a lot of what this position does. The timing for this position was rather unique in that I gave birth to my daughter on my first official day of work. It was definitely unusual timing, but it has worked out well and my colleagues are incredibly helpful and understanding of baby noises occasionally coming from my office.

**WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE SCHOOL IN THE NEXT YEAR?**

SL: The top priority is to identify where our strengths and opportunities are within the school to help the permanent school director get a good idea of the landscape and know where there is potential for growth or room for improvement. The second goal is to bring the school even closer together. This is an unusual year with new strategic enrollment management initiatives and the roll out of the new budget model. My goal is to make sure everyone feels informed and educated and yet calm about the situation. The other thing I have been working on is helping our programs continue to see where we have potential for innovation, which goes along with identifying our strengths and opportunities.

**WHAT IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU SEE IN YOUR YEAR AS DIRECTOR?**

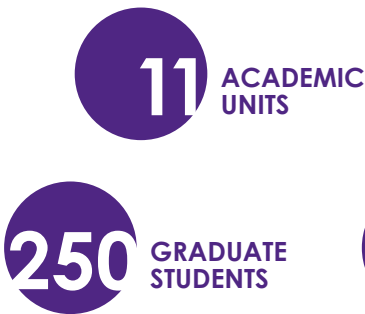
SL: (sigh) The budget. For sure, the new budget model is the biggest challenge because there is so much uncertainty with that. This next year will be very informative in terms of understanding our direct tuition inflows and also getting a better grasp of our inclusive expenses like utility usage. Change has a way of inducing anxiety, so we are spending more time as a school discussing financial issues than has probably ever happened in the past.

**WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH YOUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS?**

SL: I would definitely encourage alumni and friends to reach out to me and I would be happy to talk with them to get to know more of what they are doing and what their interests are in the school. If they have any interest in making a connection with our students, or employing our students in the future, it would be fabulous to make those connections. I want to be educated by our alumni on why they went into our programs, what they're interested in and what they are doing now.



Sonya pictured with husband, Dylan and children, (from left): Madylan (4 months), Noah (3.5), and Will (5).



SCHOOL OF FAMILY STUDIES  
AND HUMAN SERVICES  
**BY THE NUMBERS**





# BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE

By Brynn Carlson

The Bridges to the Future program has been helping increase the number of first-generation and historically underrepresented students completing their bachelor's degrees in the science, technology, engineering and math fields since it was implemented by the College of Human Ecology in 2004.

"The idea is to provide underrepresented students in the STEM fields with the transition between the community college experience and a four-year university like K-State. Students are able to get help, resources and access to research opportunities to help them be successful in their fields," said Sara Rosenkranz, program director of the Bridges to the Future program at K-State and assistant professor of nutrition.

"Clearly, this has been a group where there is inequity and lack of representation, and it's not because of lesser skills and abilities, but rather because of fewer opportunities," Rosenkranz said.

Funded by a grant through the National Institute of Health, the program has been very successful and was renewed for a third cycle of five-year funding in 2016. The students who are served by this program come from three southwestern Kansas community colleges: Dodge City Community College, Garden City Community College and Seward County Community College. Recruitment of potential students is done by program directors at the community colleges, who identify and speak to potential students and then encourage them to go through the application process to join the program. Typically, the Bridges program admits 12 to 15 students each year, and each student is provided with full tuition for up to three years to help them finish their degrees at K-State. As of 2016, the Bridges program had 104 graduates, many of whom have gone on to earn postgraduate degrees in the STEM fields.

The first part of the program takes place the summer before the students enter their first year at K-State. All Bridges students are enrolled in a one credit hour orientation course that helps them get acquainted with the university and learn about available resources. Following the orientation course, the students have the opportunity to complete eight weeks of research in labs across campus. In addition to the initial summer research, all Bridges students become members of the Developing Scholars Program, which matches undergraduates with faculty researchers to conduct research projects. They also get access to a Developing Scholars Program advisor.

"The Developing Scholars Program is great because it's so highly connected with Bridges," Rosenkranz said. "It allows us to stay connected and to make sure that we are monitoring their progress and success."

Current Bridges student Melitza Ramirez, senior in kinesiology, became involved with the Bridges program after her time at Dodge City Community College. Ramirez has been working with Katie Heinrich, associate professor of kinesiology, in her High Intensity Functional Training Laboratory, studying the effect in high-intensity function training on fitness, health and psychosocial outcomes delivered in a group-based context. Her specific research in the lab looks at the effects of caffeine on high-intensity functional training performance.

"Being a member of the Bridges program has benefited my college experience in several ways," Ramirez said. "It made my transition from community college to university life less challenging and I got connections with faculty members right away. It has helped me become a more professionally developed student."

After receiving her bachelor's degree, Ramirez plans to continue her education at K-State and earn her master's degree in public health.

Gina Reyes, junior in nutritional sciences, feels the Bridges program has made a large impact on her college experience. "The Bridges program has allowed me to network and build relationships with people in my field of study," she said. "I am able to participate in undergraduate research, attend seminars and develop critical thinking/analytical skills."

Like many of her peers, Reyes plans to attend medical school. She hopes to practice medicine in a rural area and give back to the community that helped bridge her to K-State.



*Bridges students visit with Dean Buckwalter at his home. Buckwalter hosts many social gatherings for the program participants.*



*The 2018-2019 Bridges to the Future program participants.*



*Michelle Coca Mora, a Bridges participant, works in her research laboratory.*

# HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

By Brynn Carlson

This summer, fourth-year interior design students Madison Larkin, Meredith Verzino and Angie Leek, as well as third-year student Jenny Ast, had the opportunity to complete unique internships at companies to help them gain work experience and improve their professional development and digital design skills. FOCUS magazine recently caught up with these four designers to talk about their internship experience.



Larkin completed her internship with Health Facilities Group in Wichita, Kansas. The company focuses on health care design, including hospitals, clinics, Veterans Affairs facilities and retirement communities, which is Larkin's area of interest within interior design. During the first half of her internship, she was involved in more than 15 unique projects, helping wherever she was needed. In the second half, she worked solely on a critical access hospital.

## HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN INTERIOR DESIGN?

"My dad is a construction worker and he would bring home blueprints and also take us on tours of some of the buildings that he helped complete, so I just got really interested in the buildings. I've always been a creative person who liked doing art, so architecture and interior design were two things I've always known since middle school that I wanted to do. I was one of the lucky ones that knew that interior design was my interest."

## HOW DID YOUR INTERNSHIP HELP YOU IMPROVE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND YOUR DIGITAL DESIGN SKILLS?

"They taught me SketchUp software. Over lunches, we would have reps who sell or promote different materials or furniture pieces who would come in and give a pitch about why their product is so cool and why we should use it. There was also some continuing education about topics of design and new health care models that are out there."

## WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM YOUR INTERNSHIP?

"Learning more about Revit because we use it so much — and almost all the firms use it — but also learning about different design elements within hospitals that we don't touch on in school. A big thing that I took away from it was my confidence as a designer because they were super-impressed with what I was able to do and how the interior design program prepared us. I took that confidence, and now I'm ready for senior year."

## WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER TO YOUNGER INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS?

"Don't be too hard on yourself. It's really easy to get overwhelmed, especially looking at other people in your studios. Be confident in what you are doing and continue to learn."



Verzino completed her internship with Perkins + Will in Denver, Colorado. The firm specializes in sports design, specifically professional and collegiate facilities, which is Verzino's area of interest within interior design. During her time with Perkins + Will, the firm's main focus was on renovations to the San Jose Sharks facility. She also worked on the Saint Louis University, Pepperdine University and Merriam, Kansas, recreation centers.

## HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN INTERIOR DESIGN?

"I knew growing up that I always had an interest in creating environments."

## HOW DID YOUR INTERNSHIP HELP YOU TO IMPROVE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND YOUR DIGITAL DESIGN SKILLS?

"The lunch-and-learns were my favorite part of the internship. As a designer, it's so helpful to learn what materials and products are out there because you can't create something great if you don't know what's out there. They happened at least once or twice a week. Our business finds it very important that interior designers take the time to have lunch-and-learns because it's the only way our designs are going to get better. One thing that they had me learn there was SketchUp, which is something that K-State doesn't teach us. I'm definitely going to use it now. Sketching was also a big thing. For the Saint Louis University project, I did a ton of different sketches for their ceilings, and the fact that you can draw your ideas helps communication and decisions come much more efficiently and quickly. Fine-tuning my sketches and keeping that skill up is definitely something that I'm going to take away."

## WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM YOUR INTERNSHIP?

"It exposed me to the real world, and I think the biggest benefit was the reassurance that K-State's interior design program overprepares you. It hits on every skill that you need to know. Going through my internship, I learned that while design is a good skill, communication, team collaboration and listening to the client's needs are the biggest things outside of learning those design principles. Understanding that there is also a business side to it, it broadened my perspectives on how things are actually run."

## WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER TO YOUNGER INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS?

"Have a portfolio and your resume ready to go by mid-February of your third year. Attend as many presentations as you can to develop those portfolios and resumes, especially because we have to brand ourselves. Network with people at the design expo and symposium and all the things that K-State offers. And, jump on the connections that you already know as that's how I got my internship. During the interview process, have fun and be yourself. The firm is looking for your skills, but they also want someone who fits within the company. It's a good balance of knowing what you're doing but also having a good spirit about it."





Leek completed her internship this summer with BRR Architects in Merriam, Kansas. BRR designs for a large variety of spaces, including hotels, country clubs, offices and restaurants. During her internship, she spent the first half of the summer in the firm's hospitality department, working on hotels and country clubs, including her largest project: Marriott Hotel. In the second half of her internship, she worked on restaurants and offices.

#### **HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN INTERIOR DESIGN?**

"I actually came into college undecided. I thought I wanted to do computer science. I happened to be stuck on the architecture and interior design cluster floor in the residence halls, so I got to see what they were working on all year. The more that I went in and toured and got to see what was going on, I realized that I did have a pretty big interest in interior design."

#### **HOW DID YOUR INTERNSHIP HELP YOU TO IMPROVE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND YOUR DIGITAL DESIGN SKILLS?**

"They took the time to have the summer insider series, where we went to little sessions around a specific project and they taught us all about the project and the problems that they encountered and how they solved it. I'm taking the NCIDQ — National Council for Interior Design Qualification — this fall, and BRR gave me the study material for that. They taught me SketchUp, which they don't teach you in school. BRR actually had a virtual reality station, so I got to take what I built in SketchUp and bring it into the VR station. That was really awesome. On the Marriott hotel project, I designed the whole thing in SketchUp, and then was able to put it into VR and bring the client in. He got to actually walk around in the design."

#### **WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM YOUR INTERNSHIP?**

"This summer I learned a lot about how to communicate with clients and reps because it's not something that you can really learn in school. BRR really values its employees and put a lot of time and effort into teaching even their interns. They encouraged you to ask questions and be engaged, and they gave you all the resources to excel."

#### **WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER TO YOUNGER INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS?**

"Get involved, even if it's just going to a meeting once a month. Exposing yourself to different things is really important — that's how I got to know a bunch of people. If you are trying to get an internship, always follow up and build that connection with the company you are trying to get a position with. I always sent handwritten thank-you notes. I think a lot of them liked that because I got responses from many of the people that I sent them to. It's a pretty small industry, so getting to know people is really important, and keeping those relationships strong is vital."



Ast completed her internship at Textron Aviation in Wichita, Kansas. The company designs new and refurbished private planes. During her time with Textron Aviation, Ast designed the interiors of private jets, met customers and helped with selection of materials used in aircraft interiors.

#### **HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN INTERIOR DESIGN?**

"My first semester I was biology pre-med; I wanted to be a pediatrician. I got into design because I wanted the creative side. I liked drawing and I always wanted to do my interior design major friends' homework because it was creative and I really liked that."

#### **HOW DID YOUR INTERNSHIP HELP YOU TO IMPROVE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND YOUR DIGITAL DESIGN SKILLS?**

"In Photoshop, I learned how to tile, which is very important to make the renderings look more realistic. Textron hosted a lot of intern-based social events with the senior leadership team, which was really cool because I got to talk to the vice president of interiors. Now, leaving the internship, the vice president of interiors knows my name and knows who I am, which is really rewarding in itself. I went through three lunch-and-learns, which was really interesting because they hosted them in the hangars."

#### **WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM YOUR INTERNSHIP?**

"Especially in this industry, the connections were really important. Keeping the customers happy was really important, too, because you want them to come back and get their planes refurbished. I also learned that going back to the project is key and looking at it during production is really important. Even though we are just the designers, we have to look at it all throughout the project. I was in the hangars every day, making sure that the fabric was running the correct direction so that the seams were right, and making sure that the quality was up to par."

#### **WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS IN INTERIOR DESIGN?**

"With my background in health care, I was excited to design health care facilities. I was a certified nursing assistant and I worked as a nurse's assistant at a hospital for a year before I switched to interior design, so I've always liked the health care aspect. While I'm in school though, I want to keep it really broad and get all the experiences I can."

#### **WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER TO YOUNGER INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS?**

"Go for it. The worst that can happen is that you don't get the internship and you try again next year. Make the connections early. Even as a freshman, if you are going to job shadow, make that connection and give them a chance to put a face with a name. If you clicked with them, that's going to make them want to work with you, and it's going to make the process easier. If you have an in with the company, I believe that's how you are going to get the internship — because people hire people."

# NEW LEADERSHIP

*The Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families has new leadership guiding its mission*

The Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families was created to address the health and resiliency of National and International military personnel, veterans and their families after the battle.

New co-directors Phil Vardiman, associate professor of athletic training, and Art DeGroat, executive director of the Office of Military Affairs, are working to build a team that can help make the institute an intellectual center for veterans and those who work with service members.

The two have built a team of research professors from the College of Human Ecology who have research interests in topics involving service members and the military community. Team members include Junehee Kwon, professor of hospitality management; Jennifer Hanson, assistant professor of dietetics; Elaine Johannes, associate professor of family studies and human services; and Katie Heinrich, associate professor of kinesiology. While this is the initial team, Vardiman would like to continue building their team with faculty members from across the K-State campus, particularly those who are already working on projects that have a service member focus.

Along with building a new research team, the co-directors are working to re-engage the community.

"We want people to know we are still here and active," Vardiman said. "We encourage people to reach out to us with ideas and activities that the institute can help facilitate or provide resources for. We are not only able to provide research-based support but also provide service initiatives, including programs like the 4-H Military Partnerships, which is



***"We are a group of like-minded individuals at Kansas State who have the desire to facilitate the college mission and support those in the military through evidence-based practice. We have a passion to serve the military and their communities across the United States through service projects and research."***

***– Phil Vardiman***

housed in our college. We are truly like-minded individuals who have a passion to serve the military and their community across the United States through service projects and research."

The institute's goal is to host an activity or project twice a year to engage with community members and support initiatives developed for service members and their families. While plans are not final, Vardiman and DeGroat hope to host the first event in spring 2019.

To stay up to date with activities and projects, follow the institute on Twitter, @KSUMilFam, and on its website, [militaryfamilies.k-state.edu](http://militaryfamilies.k-state.edu).

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Moxley awarded Lifetime Achievement Award from APLU*

Virginia Moxley, dean and professor emeritus of the College of Human Ecology, was awarded the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The Lifetime Achievement Award honors a nationally recognized leader who has a significant history of promoting and advancing the human sciences in higher education.

Moxley began her higher education administrative career in 1973 as a department head at Emporia State University. She was appointed associate dean of the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State University in 1985, a position she held for over two decades. She became dean of the College of Human Ecology in 2006 and served until her retirement from academic administration in 2013.

She focused her scholarship and much of her leadership creating models, policies and strategies for higher education alliances. She helped establish and operate the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance, which has grown to a nationwide alliance sponsoring multi-institutional undergraduate and graduate academic programs. She has served as national president of Omicron Nu Honor Society (now Kappa Omicron Nu) and collaborated in the development of a human sciences program at the National University of Paraguay.

She has received numerous awards throughout her career, including the Board on Human Sciences Public Service Award in 2009 and the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Distinguished Service Award in 2014.





# FULFILLING THE NEED

*The College of Human Ecology is working to combat the shortage of health care providers with a physician assistant program.*

It's no secret there is a shortage of health care providers in the United States. According to a 2018 report from Parija Kavilanz with CNN Money, the U.S. will need to hire 2.3 million new health care workers by 2025 to adequately care for its aging population.

Recognizing the primary care provider shortages in the state of Kansas and the outflow of Kansas State University students to professional schools, John Buckwalter, dean of the College of Human Ecology, saw an opportunity to explore launching a physician assistants, or PA, program at K-State.

"There is a huge need for physician assistants in the state of Kansas," Buckwalter said. "Currently, Wichita State University has the only physician assistants program in the state."

The initial impetus for starting the program came from a conversation between former K-State Associate Provost Ruth Dyer and current Wichita State Provost Rick Muma.

"Ruth came to me because of our health focus and other accredited health programs already in the college and asked me to explore the possibility," Buckwalter said. "The more research we did, the more the program made sense. After presenting all of the gathered information and research to central administration, it was agreed that this program was something K-State really wanted."

In June 2018, Gwen Ferdinand-Jacob was hired as the first physician assistant program director at K-State. Ferdinand-Jacob is a former U.S. Army physician assistant. She developed an interest in teaching sciences while stationed overseas. After retiring from the Army, she spent several years in full-time clinical practice and decided to focus on physician assistant education.

"Educating PAs feels right; it's a commitment of paying it forward to a profession that has given so much to so many," Ferdinand-Jacob said. "Our goal in PA education is to develop and graduate students who are ready to practice medicine on day one, providing compassionate, dignified, ethical and evidence-based care to the communities served. This is certainly a measure of our success as PA educators."

Ferdinand-Jacob previously served as the program director of Bethel University's physician assistant program in Tennessee before relocating to K-State. As the program director for a brand-new program, she is tasked with everything from developing curriculum to program infrastructure. She is also responsible for creating all course expectations and assessments required for the accrediting process.

"We are excited to have Gwen here at K-State because of her vast experience," Buckwalter said. "Not only has she served as a program director at an accredited school, but she is also a site visitor for ARC-PA, the accrediting body for physician assistant programs."

K-State's physician assistant program is awaiting approval from the Kansas Board of Regents, which is expected to consider it in spring 2019, which will be followed by an accreditation visit scheduled for 2020. K-State anticipates matriculation of the inaugural physician assistant class in spring 2021.

To learn more about the physician assistant program at K-State, contact Susan Watt, health professions advisor, at [swatt@k-state.edu](mailto:swatt@k-state.edu).

*References: Kavilanz, P. (May 4, 2018). The US can't keep up with the demand for health aides, nurses and doctors. CNN Money. <https://money.cnn.com/2018/05/04/news/economy/health-care-workers-shortage/index.html>*

## WHAT IS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT?

According to the American Academy of Physician Assistants, a physician assistant is a medical professional who can diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's principal health care provider. PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting and specialty, improving health care access and quality.

PAs are educated at the master's degree level. They complete a 27-month curriculum, which includes classroom instruction and more than 2,000 hours of clinical rotations.



*Gwen Ferdinand-Jacob, director of the Physician Assistant program.*

# CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

*The College of Human Ecology welcomed nine alumni and friends back to Justin Hall for the annual Celebration of Excellence to recognize their contributions to the college, devotion to their area of specialization and the difference they make in people's lives.*

## DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARD



**LEONARDO F. FERREIRA** – 2006 Ph.D. anatomy and physiology. Leo Ferreira is an associate professor in the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology at the University of Florida. His research career began as a doctoral student at K-State where he investigated skeletal muscle microvascular function in health and disease.



**KHURSHEED P. NAVDER** – 1988 Ph.D. foods and nutrition. Khursheed Navder is the director of the School of Urban Public Health at Hunter College of the City University of New York (CUNY), the largest urban university system in the country. Her research interests involve studying the effects of various food components on biochemical and metabolic regulations of lipid and alcohol metabolism.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



**MARY ANNE TRICKLE** – 1963 B.S. home economics. Mary Anne Trickle is a retired educator out of Salina's USD 305, where she served as the home economics department chair and instructor until her retirement in 2000. She has also served on the USD 305 school board for multiple years, serving as president for two terms.



## ENTREPRENEUR AWARD



**JILL MASON** – 2006 B.S. hotel and restaurant management. Jill Mason is an event planner with experience working in large cities including Kansas City and Los Angeles. She spent time as an event planner for professional sports teams in both cities and for events such as the Grammy Awards. Mason is the owner and founder of Confetti & Cashmere, a Manhattan boutique that focuses on upscale trendy paper products, custom made items and gives and provides event and gala coordination and rentals.

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD



**PHIL PERKINS** – 1993 B.S. hotel and restaurant management. Phil Perkins serves as a market manager for the Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers franchise with FFC Midwest. He has overseen the building and opening of nine new restaurants across four states and directs marketing, local advertising, daily operations and all financial accountabilities.

*Students from the Department of Hospitality Management provided the food and beverage service for the evening. Led by Dr. Kevin Roberts, students prepared and served the evening's meals.*





## FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE



**JAMES REED** –1970 B.S. accounting. Jim Reed founded Reed Financial Services in 1984 and currently serves as president. Reed and his company believe in giving back time, talent and monies to help others. He is currently a member of the College of Business Administration Dean's Advisory Board and the Personal Financial Planning Advisory Board in the College of Human Ecology. He provides professional development and real life experiences to students through seminars and classroom attendance and through mentorship opportunities.



**RICHARD REES** – 1961 B.S. feed technology; 1964 M.S. agricultural economics. Richard 'Dick' Rees spent his career with the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City until his retirement in 2004. Early in his career, he met and married his soulmate, Janet Lee Smith. After her passing in 2010, he was inspired to establish multiple memorial projects at K-State. One of his most devoted projects at K-State is the Department of Apparel, Textiles and Interior Design and its Historic Costume and Textile Museum.

## COLLEGE PARTNER AWARD



**MARINER WEALTH ADVISORS** – A wealth management firm offering comprehensive advice in the areas of tax, estate planning and investment management. The firm holds a strong relationship with the Personal Financial Planning program, supporting the department financially as well as providing its students with internship opportunities.



**ODY MANINGAT** –1986 Ph.D. grain science. Ody Maningat is the chief science officer at MGP Ingredients Inc. and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Grain Science and Industry at K-State. He is an active supporter of research conducted in the Department of Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health, supporting multiple faculty members with their research projects, including the department's Physical Activity and Nutrition Clinical Research Consortium.

*A team of interior design students, led by department head Barbara Anderson and Historic Costume and Textile Museum curator Marla Day, developed the design of the evening's event space.*



# FAMILY FOCUS

*The Ice Family Scholarship match creates new opportunities for students and donors*

"In a world focused on things, we focus first on people." The College of Human Ecology's motto is embodied by its alumni, faculty and students, and is being expressed currently with a focus on increasing meaningful scholarships for current and future students through the K-State Family Scholarship Program.

With the K-State Family Scholarship Program, new gifts of \$30,000 are matched with \$30,000 from a seed fund, for a total of \$60,000. Of that, \$10,000 goes into an expendable fund, making \$2,000 scholarships available to be awarded to students immediately up to five years. The remaining \$50,000 goes into an endowment, ensuring future generations of Wildcats will receive scholarships as well.

Mary and Carl Ice provided the seed funding for the College of Human Ecology to offer 15 new matching scholarship opportunities, which assist in recruiting and retaining students at Kansas State University while inspiring new major gift donors.

"When we talked to the leadership at K-State, they shared providing scholarship money immediately for students would be a great way to boost retention. We want students to feel welcome and able to stay at K-State," Mary Ice said.

Alumni, friends and faculty are taking advantage of the match.

"We have been working for a while as a department on ways to increase our scholarships," said Dr. Craig Harms, professor and head of the Department of Kinesiology. "When this opportunity came about, we were very excited about what this could mean for our students. I approached the senior members of the faculty about this scholarship to gauge interest; there was immediate support and commitment. We know our students appreciate our belief in them and our desire to give back."

The students benefiting from the Ice Family Scholarships all agree that this scholarship has been transformational.

"I am grateful for this scholarship because without it, I may not have been able to return to school this year," said Cameron Horsley, senior in early childhood education. "I'm so excited to continue pursuing my dreams of becoming an early childhood education teacher with the help of this scholarship!"

Dominick Lucito, a sophomore in athletic training, echoes that sentiment. "I'm grateful for the scholarship because it's an opportunity for me to continue my education as part of the Wildcat family and also because, if I didn't have the scholarship, I'm not sure I would have been able to stay enrolled," he said.

Donors taking advantage of the Ice Family Scholarship match appreciate the ability to invest in student success at K-State.

"The opportunity to give back so more families can afford the benefits available with a college degree was a huge motive for this gift," said Debra Gordon. She and her husband, Jim, took advantage of the match opportunity to create one of the new scholarships for the college.

If you'd like to learn more about the K-State Family Scholarship Program and the Ice Family Scholarship matching opportunities, please contact Dana Hunter, senior director of development for the College of Human Ecology, at [danah@ksufoundation.org](mailto:danah@ksufoundation.org) or 785-532-7291.

*Mackenzie Getz (center), senior in kinesiology and pre-physical therapy, is the first recipient of the Department of Kinesiology – Ice Family Scholarship created by Dr. John Buckwalter, Dr. Craig Harms, Dr. Thomas Barstow, Dr. Timothy Musch, Dr. David C. Poole and Dr. Bradley Behnke, with matching funds provided by Mary and Carl Ice.*

***"I am grateful for this scholarship because without it I may not have been able to return to school this year."***

***– Cameron Horsley, senior in early childhood education***





## Ice Family Scholarship **BY THE NUMBERS**

**\$1**  
MILLION  
ENDOWMENT

**15**  
NEW SCHOLARSHIPS  
HELPING STUDENTS  
NOW

**\$150,000**  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED OVER THE  
NEXT FIVE YEARS

**2**  
HUMAN ECOLOGY  
FACULTY FUNDED  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**1**  
ADVISORY  
BOARD FUNDED  
SCHOLARSHIP

# A LOOK AROUND THE COLLEGE



## LYNDA MARCH GIVES COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Lynda March will give the fall 2018 commencement address. March is a registered dietitian who owns and operates Nutrition Services for Rural Communities, helping to care for patients in nursing homes, small hospitals, senior feeding programs and correctional facilities. She is also a staff member of Fresenius Kidney Care, a dialysis services company.

March is active in the nutrition community, serving as editor of the Renal Nutrition Forum and volunteering as a grant writing facilitator for nonprofit organizations in her area. Outside of nutrition, she is an active member of the Texas Scottie (dog) Rescue Foundation.

An active supporter of K-State, March and her three sons have created the March Family Opportunity Scholarship for non-traditional students. March also established the Lynda March Scholarship for dietetics students who plan to work in rural communities, as well as the Lynda March Faculty Award in the College of Human Ecology.

March received her doctoral degree from K-State in Human Ecology with a specialization in hotel, restaurant and institutional management and dietetics. She received her Bachelor of Science from Texas Tech University and a Master of Science from Stephen F. Austin State University.



## APPAREL AND TEXTILE SENIOR SELECTED TO SHOWCASE APPAREL COLLECTION AT PORTLAND'S FASHIONXT

Mason Burns, senior in apparel and textiles with a specialization in apparel design and production, was selected to have his apparel collection showcased on the runway at the 2018 FashionXT Week. The Portland, Oregon, event was held Oct. 3-6, is internationally known for showcasing what's next in fashion.

Burns' debut collection will pay homage to his country upbringing, focusing on looks he observed in a small town high school. The collection will feature camouflage, work wear, and reflect his peer's obsession with NIKE. He will showcase these looks using reworked, second-hand clothing and a "destroy to create" design mentality.

"FashionXT Week shows extraordinary fashion and fashion-tech designers from all over the world," added Tito Chowdhury, CEO of FashionXT. "We made a rare exception for someone still in college to be on the runway after seeing his advanced vision for fashion-forward streetwear that also incorporates upcycling and sustainability, which is a shared commitment between the K-State program and FashionXT."

Burns, originally from Lyndon, Kansas, aspires to become an entrepreneur and designer by creating a high-end retail business following graduation.



## PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNING STUDENT RECEIVES TD AMERITRADE SCHOLARSHIP

For the third year in a row, a K-State personal financial planning student has received one of the 12 NextGen RIA Scholarships from TD Ameritrade. This year's recipient was Thomas Meek, junior from Topeka, Kansas. The NextGen RIA (Registered Investment Advisors) Scholarship is valued at \$5,000 and is awarded to students pursuing a bachelor's degree in personal financial planning.

The 12 winners were invited to spend a day in New York touring the Financial District and visiting the Nasdaq MarketSite in Times Square, where the scholarship winners helped ring the Closing Bell. "I am so thankful for the opportunity that TD Ameritrade Institutional gave me, and it just shows how outstanding our personal financial planning program and faculty are at K-State," said Meek. "It was surreal experience, to go from Kansas to New York City, but I really enjoyed connecting with other winners from around the country and meeting professionals from the financial planning field. The highlight of the trip was definitely being part of the Nasdaq Closing Bell ceremony."

TD Ameritrade Institutional is an industry leader in developing programs designed to raise awareness of the outstanding career prospects in financial planning and in encouraging more universities to expand their degree programs. Two of the 12 scholarship awards are for students from underrepresented demographic groups to help increase racial, ethnic and gender diversity in the RIA industry. Over a period of 10 years, TD Ameritrade has committed to investing more than \$4.5 million through scholarships, grants and other education programs.





## INAUGURAL WORLD OF WINES EVENT BRINGS NEW ATTENTION TO THE HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Department of Hospitality Management hosted the inaugural World of Wines in October. This year's events featured Master Sommelier Frank Kaemmer, who introduced guests to various types of wines, educated on the history of wine making and talked about production processes for various types of wines.

"The World of Wines event consisted of several exciting wine events that the Department of Hospitality Management organized so that students, faculty, alumni and community members could enjoy and learn more about wines around the world", said Michael Ottenbacher, hospitality management department head.

This year's events including a four-course dinner with wine pairings at Harry's Restaurant, a wine and saki pairing with hand-rolled sushi provided by hospitality management graduate students, and two workshops focused on champagne service and the Rieslings of Germany.

## COLLEGE OF HUMAN ECOLOGY RECOGNIZES FACULTY AWARD WINNERS DURING ANNUAL FALL FORUM



**ERIKA LINDSHIELD**, Department of Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health, was awarded the **Myers-Alford Teaching Award**. The Myers-Alford Teaching Award recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates outstanding ability not only in teaching undergraduate and/or graduate students, but also in providing valuable information to colleagues, peers and other practitioners in the field.



**BRAD BEHNKE**, Department of Kinesiology, and **MARTIN SEAY**, School of Family Studies and Human Services, were both awarded the **Faculty Research Excellence Award**. The Faculty Research Excellence Award recognizes superior accomplishment in research, scholarly and creative activities and discovery.



**SARA ROSENKRANZ**, Department of Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health, was awarded the **Hulsing Mentoring Prize**. The Hulsing Mentoring Prize recognizes a faculty member for exceptional mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students in any or all of the areas of leadership, research/scholarship/creative activities/discovery and service.



**ELAINE JOHANNES** and **AMBER VENNUM**, both from the School of Family Studies and Human Services, were awarded the **Reser Family and Community Innovation Award**. The Reser Family and Community Innovation Award recognizes faculty who excel in collaborative applied research and program delivery fostering family and community vitality.



**KEVIN SAUER**, Department of Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health, was awarded the **Dawley-Scholer Award for Excellence in Student Development**. The Dawley-Scholer Award for Excellence in Student Development recognizes outstanding achievement in the area of student development resulting in the personal, professional and educational growth of one or more undergraduate and/or graduate students.



# WHITE TENTS

The College of Human Ecology saw over 750 guests between the Sept. 8 and Oct.13 White Tent events in Cat Town. This was the debut year for Lacy's Fresh Fare and Catering at our White Tent events. All event management and food and beverage service was provided by students, faculty and staff in the college.

It was great to catch up with alumni and friends from around the country who stopped by to enjoy breakfast with us. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2019!





# IMPORTANT DATES



**45TH ANNUAL GRACE M. SHUGART LECTURE SERIES**  
4 p.m. | Manhattan Campus



**THE TONY JURICH LECTURE SERIES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
presented by the Couple and Family Therapy Program



**PERSONAL FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS SUMMIT**  
presented by Personal Financial Planning  
April 18 & 19 | Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan



**23RD ANNUAL TRAVEL AND DINING AUCTION**  
presented by the Department of Hospitality Management  
6:30 p.m. | Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan



**SHOWCASE OF EXCELLENCE**  
presented by the Department of Apparel, Textiles and Interior Design  
5:30 p.m. Mounted Exhibit | 7 p.m. Runway Show | K-State Alumni Center



**ALL-UNIVERSITY OPEN HOUSE**  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Manhattan Campus



**ATID STUDENT SYMPOSIUM**  
presented by the Department of Apparel, Textiles and Interior Design

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FALL 2018 OUTSTANDING SENIORS!

The **Engagement Award** is given to a graduating senior who has made exemplary contributions that impact the well-being of the community or individuals in the community.

### ENGAGEMENT AWARD WINNERS:

Julia Lambert | Manhattan, Kansas  
Dietetics and Kinesiology

Tara Ackerman | Fairfax, Virginia  
Human Development and Family Science

Lily Anderson | Overland Park, Kansas  
Human Development and Family Science

Alexandra Maynard | Overland Park, Kansas  
Communication Sciences and Disorders

### 2018 STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Darah Portenier | Kirwin, Kansas  
Communication Sciences and Disorders

The **Leadership Award** is given to a graduating senior who has exhibited excellence in leadership, contributing to campus, college, program and/or professional organizations

### LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS:

Darah Portenier | Kirwin, Kansas  
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Jaci Kolm | Pratt, Kansas  
Human Development and Family Science

Mary Morrissey | Topeka, Kansas  
Kinesiology

Landon Warmund | Grain Valley, Missouri  
Personal Financial Planning

Gabrielle Ciccarelli | Overland Park, Kansas  
Nutritional Sciences

Abbie Herkelman | Coffeyville, Kansas  
Dietetics

Jennifer Rabung | Mechanicsville, Virginia  
Dietetics

The **Research/Creative Inquiry Award** is given to a graduating senior whose research or creative activity has made a significant contribution to his or her field of study.

### RESEARCH/CREATIVE INQUIRY AWARD WINNERS:

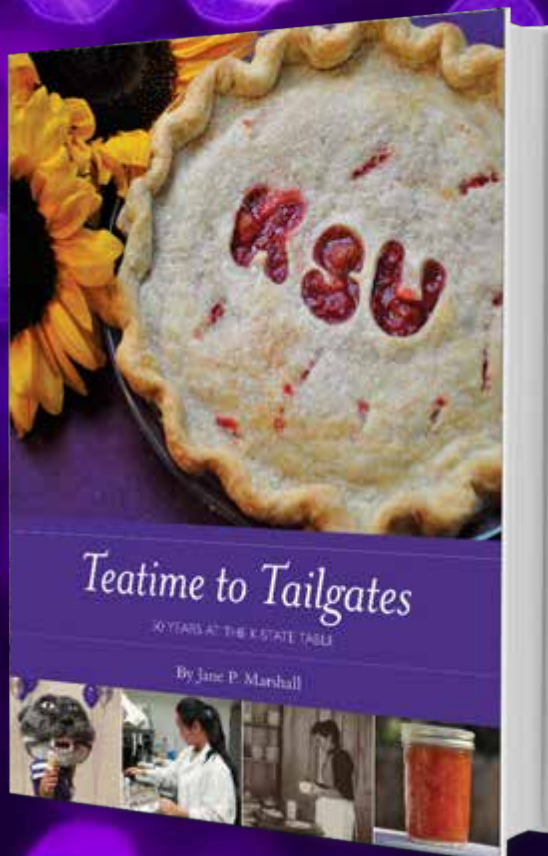
Garrett Lovoy | Topeka, Kansas  
Kinesiology

Emily Andrews | Manhattan, Kansas  
Apparel and Textiles

Kristen Krueger | Clive, Iowa  
Human Development and Family Science

Lauren Studer | Wathena, Kansas  
Communication Sciences and Disorders

Sara Hansen | Wichita, Kansas  
Nutrition and Health and Dietetics



## A SLICE OF K-STATE HISTORY

For the foodie, K-State fan or historian in your life, gift them with *Teatime to Tailgates*.

*Teatime to Tailgates* is a 256-page book, named a 2014 Kansas Notable Book, and is packed with history, stories, recipes and photos connected with K-State.

Jane P. Marshall, a food journalist and former communications director for the college, wrote *Teatime to Tailgates* for the College of Human Ecology.

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRICING!**

**\$15.95**

Order online at [he.k-state.edu](http://he.k-state.edu)  
or by phone at 785.532.5500.