



From the desk of Allen Featherstone

Happy Holidays! I hope this e-newsletter finds you with a bountiful Thanksgiving celebration behind you and you are continuing to enjoy your holiday celebrations.

Change continues and it seems at an ever increasing rate. That certainly is the case within the Department. As we look forward to 2014, we are looking to search for a permanent Department Head, develop our 2025 strategic plan as well as continue forward on a path of growth and development for our students, alumni, faculty and staff. Consistent with the growth occurring in the college, our undergraduate student enrollment has reached a new high of 480 students for the 2013 fall semester, a growth of 33 percent in the last two years. In addition, the M.S. and Ph.D. program enrollment has remained strong; the Masters of Agribusiness enrollment has also increased. Perhaps what is most exciting is the placement rates. The most recent information from the placement office has indicated a placement rate of roughly 95 percent. Our masters and Ph.D. graduates continue to be in demand. Recent Ph.D. graduates have been hired into the Texas A&M University system, Mississippi State University, and at the University of Tokyo.

Our departmental alumni are making an impact both in the public and private sectors as represented by Jorge Gattini (Minister of Agriculture, Paraguay), Jackie McClasky (Secretary of Agriculture, Kansas), Craig Jagger (Bruce Gardner Policy Contribution award), and Matt Wolters (Distinguished Young Alumni Award). Read more about their accomplishments in the following pages. We would love to hear about your career and family developments and share them in upcoming issues of our quarterly E-Newsletter. Please email me at afeather@ksu.edu with information you would like to share.

Change also will continue on the staff as several long-time professors are planning retirements. We will update you on their plans in upcoming issues along with the accomplishments of our other faculty. Best wishes for a successful 2014!

Go State!

Dr. Allen Featherstone,
Interim Department Head, Professor, Master of Agribusiness Program Director

For more information about the department or this e-newsletter, please contact Amanda Erichsen at 785-532-6994 or aerichsen@k-state.edu. [Twitter @kstateagecon](https://twitter.com/kstateagecon) | [Facebook www.facebook.com/kstateageconfans](https://www.facebook.com/kstateageconfans)

Craig Jagger earns Agricultural Economics' 2013 Distinguished Alumnus Award

During the Student and Alumni Awards Banquet held October 11, 2013, Craig Jagger was presented with the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus Award. This award is given to an alumnus who has demonstrated significant professional achievement related to agricultural economics or agribusiness.

During 27 years of government service in Washington, D.C., Jagger worked for ten years as Chief Economist for the House Committee on Agriculture, under two Republican and one Democratic Chairmen; five and a half years as a Principal Analyst for Agriculture at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO); and six years as the Wheat Program Analyst at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). He also held early career positions at the Government Accountability Office and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

While serving the Agriculture Committee, CBO, and FSA, Jagger helped analyze, write, and/or implement five farm bills, two crop insurance bills, and five budget reconciliation bills.

Jagger earned a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Cornell University, and at Kansas State University earned an M.S. in agricultural economics and a B.A. in technical theatre. He is the 2011 recipient of the Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis from the



Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

Upon retiring from government service in October 2012, Jagger founded Legis Consulting, LLC—a consulting practice focusing on agricultural and budget policies.

Jagger has been married for 26 years to Joy Harwood who is Chief Economist for FSA. They have two daughters, Margaret, 13; and Caroline, 9.

Other Distinguished Alumni in attendance at the banquet were Rich Porter and Loren Kruse. Visit the [alumni web page](#) to view the video of undergraduate scholarship winners that was featured at the banquet.

Did you know our students blog?!

The first departmental study abroad trip blog site encompassed the experiences of a study abroad trip held the summer of 2013. Sean Fox, professor, led a group of students through Ireland. Kassie Curran, undergraduate student, was the lead blogger for this trip. View this and future study abroad blogs at <http://ageconstudyabroad.wordpress.com/>.

Another student-led blog site features the experiences and insights of Student Fellows of the Center for Risk Management Education and Research. The Student Fellows share their journey as they go through their academic courses, network with industry leaders and work with the Center's team of faculty to gain the knowledge necessary to help identify, accurately assess, and ultimately manage risks. View this blog site at <http://crmerstudents.wordpress.com/>.

K-State Center for Risk Management Education and Research Announces Student Fellows

The Kansas State University Center for Risk Management Education and Research has announced its second class of student fellows. The Center seeks to enhance the understanding of economic risks inherent in our global society through world-class experiential education and research. The 17 students selected for this class include:

- Logan Britton, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Communications and Journalism - Bartlett, Kan.
- Kurtis Clawson, Agricultural Economics, Agronomy – Satanta, Kan.
- Kassie Curran, Food Science, Agricultural Economics – Farlington, Kan.
- William Damme-Longinaker, Agricultural Economics – Randolph, Iowa
- Joseph Dasenbrock, Economics, Psychology – Cimarron, Kan.
- Ethan Dhuyvetter, Marketing – Manhattan, Kan.
- Thomas Einck, Finance – Marion, S.D.
- MaryLynn Griebel, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering – Stockton, Kan.
- Jonathan Higgins, Finance, Accounting – Lenexa, Kan.
- Shelby Hill, Agricultural Economics, Animal Science and Industry, and earning a master's degree in Agricultural Economics – Satanta, Kan.
- Gerald Mashange, Finance and Economics – Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
- Mario Ortez, Agribusiness, and earning a master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Nicaragua
- Laura Rogers, bachelor's in and earning a master's degree in Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering – Clyde, Kan.
- Nathan Stinson, Agricultural Economics – Allen, Kan.
- Jason Troendle, Agricultural Economics – St. Charles, Minn.
- Lacey Ward, Agribusiness, and earning a master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Superior, Neb.
- Nicholas Wineinger, Agribusiness – Lincoln, Kan.

“We had a phenomenal slate of immensely talented and diverse applicants and the selection process was difficult,” said Ted Schroeder, director of the center and professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics. “A lot of things happen with the Center including guest lectures, industry visits, student research projects, and tremendous interest from industry leaders in this program. New contacts between industry and the Center occur almost daily.”

By providing students and business professionals with the information and tools necessary to identify, quantify and manage risk, the Center complements K-State's strategic plan. Additionally, the Center supports the greater university mission of advancing the well-being of the state of Kansas, the U.S. and the international community.

Flinchbaugh moderates six past U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture at Oct. 21 Landon Lecture

A beaming Barry Flinchbaugh, Ph.D., K-State professor emeritus of agricultural economics, led Mike Johanns, Ann Veneman, Dan Glickman, Ed Schafer, Mike Espy, and John Block through a conversation on a wide range of topics, from the need for a farm bill, to biotechnology, to nutrition programs that serve people in the U.S. and around the world.

“What a treat. This is as good as it gets,” Flinchbaugh

said in a post-lecture news conference. Flinchbaugh, who has advised every one of the secretaries on multiple farm bills, added: “This is a great way to celebrate K-State's anniversary and a feather in the cap to a long career. I'll sleep good tonight.”

Use these links to [read more from the High Plains Journal](#) about the event and to [watch the video on the Landon Lecture website](#).

McClaskey named Kansas Secretary of Agriculture

Gov. Sam Brownback ('78) appointed Jackie McClaskey, a native of Girard, to serve as Kansas Secretary of Agriculture as of Dec. 10, 2013. McClaskey served as Deputy Secretary, an appointment Brownback made in July. She had previously served as an Assistant Dean of the Kansas State University College of Agriculture. She was named an Assistant Secretary in the Kansas Department of Agriculture in July of 2011.

"Jackie has been a wonderful asset for the Kansas

Department of Agriculture," Brownback said. "Her extensive broad-based experience, along with her hard work ethic makes me confident she will do an outstanding job."

McClaskey earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural economics at K-State in 1993, and her master's degree in agricultural and food policy in 1995 at Texas A&M University.

From the news office of the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Gattini named Paraguay's Minister of Agriculture

K-State alumnus Jorge Gattini is Paraguay's new Minister of Agriculture. Gattini, who in 1998 earned a master's degree in agricultural economics at K-State, was sworn in Aug. 15 under President Horacio Cartes. He has held several positions mostly in the agriculture ministry's marketing department under three agriculture ministers.

He also earned a master's degree in applied economic environmental at University of London, Imperial College.

Allen Featherstone, agricultural economics professor at K-State, served as Gattini's professor during his graduate school work and oversaw his master's thesis, "The Agricultural Financial System in Paraguay." The purpose of

the project was to setup a financial system to allow farmers to get credit for purchase.

"I always knew Jorge would have a big future just from the interactions I've had with him as a student," Featherstone said.

In an interview with a radio station in Paraguay prior to assuming his position, Gattini said the country is poor, but it is also poorly managed. He said things can be reviewed to see what has been done wrong.

Article contributions from The Manhattan Mercury, published September 9, 2013.

Wolters earns Distinguished Young Alumni Award

Two recent Kansas State University graduates – Molly Hamm, Kansas City, Mo., and Matt Wolters (Agricultural Economics, '03, Atwood, Kan. – are the recipients of the K-State Alumni Association Student Alumni Board's 2014 Distinguished Young Alumni Award.

The award recognizes two K-State graduates who are younger than 35 years old and are using the scholarship, leadership and service experience they acquired at K-State to excel in their professions and contribute to their communities.

The Alumni Association and Student Alumni Board will honor Wolters when he is on campus Feb. 24-26 to give keynote presentations and visit with student groups and university classes.

Wolters is co-founder and co-owner of SureFire Ag Systems Inc., a company that designs and manufactures solutions to apply fertilizer and chemicals to crops and

fields throughout Kansas, the U.S. and the world. In addition to SureFire Ag Systems, Wolters and his partners founded the Dream Big Foundation, which promotes and provides resources to enhance science, technology, engineering, agriculture and math education in the Rawlins County USD 105 school district.

Wolters also helped reorganize the Kansas FFA Foundation and serves as a member of the Rawlins County Hospital Board and the Kansas Agricultural Rural Leadership Program. While at K-State, Wolters served as a College of Agriculture ambassador as well as a member of the Blue Key Honor Society and Student Governing Association, among other roles.

For more on the Distinguished Young Alumni program, visit www.K-State.com/DYA or call the K-State Alumni Association at 800-600-ALUM (2586).

Gift of grain to Agricultural Economics

The Department of Agricultural Economics is providing another alternative to donating money or other resources that can lead to benefiting farming tax income for our producers.

Producers now have the option of Gifting Grain to the Department, through the Kansas State University Foundation. This can be done by contributing commodities such as corn, wheat, or even livestock to a department Foundation account, instead of making a cash contribution after selling these commodities.

When this type of transaction is made, the Foundation will handle the sale with the local cooperative or grain elevator and the producer will not have the taxable income from the sale. This will minimize producer income taxation.

A producer should always consult with their tax advisor to determine the appropriate commodity contribution. Arrangements will also need to be made with the producer's local cooperative or grain elevator to ensure proper documentation is provided regarding the grain transactions. Any questions you may have regarding this gifting option can be addressed to Allen Featherstone at afeather@ksu.edu or 785-532-4441; or Larry Fox, director of real estate for the Kansas State University Foundation, at larryf@found.ksu.edu or 785-532-7541 / 800-432-1578.

Information is also available at [this Department of Agricultural Economics web page](#) regarding the commodity contribution option.



Account options for commodity contributions to the Department include:

- Ag Econ Departmental Support Fund | D15290
- Ag Econ Emeritus Faculty & Friends Scholarship Fund | O50290
- AG Econ Master of Agribusiness Scholarship Fund (MAB) | O01137
- Arthur Capper Cooperative Center (ACCC) | C55950
- Coolidge (J.H.) Farm Management Fund | D58235
- Center for Risk Management Education and Research | D84855

For more information about the opportunity to gift a commodity to the department, or any other contributions, please contact Allen Featherstone at afeather@ksu.edu or 785-532-4441; or Larry Fox at larryf@found.ksu.edu or 785-532-7541 / 800-432-1578. You are also welcome to mail this form to the office at the attention of Allen Featherstone, Department of Agricultural Economics, 342 Waters Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Interest in giving or requested information: _____
