



From the desk of Allen Featherstone

As we begin to wind down the spring semester, I congratulate all of our graduates. We wish you success as you move into the next stage of life. Please stay in touch with the Department as you move forward. We desire to keep our alumni involved in many different ways within the Department.

Change continues within Waters Hall. The Department Head position recently closed and the search committee is moving forward with that process. We have recently hired an assistant professor with a specialty in international agricultural development, Benjamin Schwab. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin and is currently an associate research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute. Schwab will strengthen the Department's international efforts and will be a key contributor to the University's Global Food Systems Initiative. Schwab will begin at the end of July.

Two faculty members, Orlen Grunewald and Robert Burton, will retire before the next school year begins. They have contributed 34 and 30 years to the Department, respectively. We appreciate their many years of service. Please look forward to reading a dedication to their contributions in the summer newsletter. We wish them success in their retirement.

With those retirements, the Department is beginning a search for two additional faculty positions to help strengthen the undergraduate curriculum. Enrollment continues to be strong with about 450 undergraduate majors for the spring semester.

Several faculty members have received recognition for their outstanding contributions this semester. Glynn Tonsor received the Southern Agricultural Economics Association Extension Award. Jason Bergtold received K-State's Presidential Award for Undergraduate Teaching. Hikaru Peterson received the College of Agriculture Student Council Faculty of the Semester Award. Barry Flinchbaugh will receive the 2014 Agricultural Leadership and Excellence from the Agricultural Business Council of Kansas City on June 2.

Congratulations are also in order to Reagan Kays, newly-elected University Student Body President. He is the 17th student elected as Student Body President from our Department! Other students from our Department elected to the University Senate to represent the College of Agriculture include Garret Kays, Logan Britton, Kurt Lockwood and Wyatt Pracht.

We would love to hear about your career and family developments so we can share them in upcoming issues of our quarterly E-Newsletter. Please email Amanda Erichsen at aerichsen@k-state.edu with information you would like to share with your fellow alumni.

Go Cats!

Dr. Allen Featherstone, afeather@ksu.edu
Interim Department Head, Professor,
Master of Agribusiness Program Director

Student Updates

Reagan Kays is elected K-State Student Body President: 17th from Agricultural Economics

Reagan Kays, senior in agribusiness from Weir, Kan. (center of both pictures), is the newly-elected Student Body President for Kansas State University. Kays is the 17th student elected as Student Body President from the Department of Agricultural Economics.

“After serving the College of Agriculture for three years as a Senator, I developed a passion for advocating for students and that led me to want to be Student Body President,” Kays said. “In October, I decided I wanted to proceed on the journey and I asked Cody Kennedy to be my running mate.”

Cody Kennedy, junior in secondary education and mathematics, is the newly-elected vice president. “I knew that if I was going to go serve the students of K-State for a year, I had to have a great person to serve with,” Kays said. “First, I looked for high moral character in my running mate and someone with student governing experience. Cody has great character with rural Kansas values. He has served as two committee chairs with the Student Government Association (SGA) and was awarded most outstanding senator last year.”

More than 100 students formed an advisory board and staff for Kays’ campaign. “We were blessed to have a great deal of support from students all across campus.”

The campaign team members had specific roles in the success of the campaign. “The advisory board were our feet on the ground and helped us develop ideas for campus outreach,” Kays added.

Kays’ excitement was ignited by the support his campaign received from so many students from across campus. “I felt so humbled at our meetings to have a basement full of people who believed in our ideas and what we stood for,” he said.

Kays enjoys being a student in the College of Agriculture because of his belief that the College serves a high purpose of feeding the world. “I have a deep passion for business and agriculture, so Agribusiness is the perfect fit,” he added. “I also enjoy the professors in the Department of Agricultural Economics and my fellow students are the



best a student could ask for. I couldn’t be more thankful to be a part of the tradition of leadership that our Department has here at K-State.”

After graduation from K-State, Kays plans to attend law school and work in agricultural and food law. “My dream is to be a positive advocate for agriculture, and make a significant contribution to the industry by assisting individual producers and agricultural businesses,” he said. “I aim to enhance the public’s understanding of agriculture and to possibly work with government agencies in developing public policy.”

John Crespi, Kays’ advisor and professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, had the following to say about Kays’ success. “I have had the opportunity to see Reagan not only in my role as his advisor, but serving on committees with him as well. He is intelligent, professional, courteous, imaginative, diligent, broad minded and respectful of others. He represents the absolute best that K-State has

to offer, and I find it of no surprise that he would be chosen by the student body to represent them.”

Kays and Kennedy were sworn in on April 10.

Kays also serves as the Blue Key Senior Honorary President, College of Agriculture Student Senator and Ambassador, Student Foundation Member, and Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity Undergraduate Director.



Herrington and Parman earn Department honors

Matthew Herrington earned Outstanding Masters Thesis for "An Evaluation of Changing Profit Risks in Kansas Cattle Feeding Operations". His major professors were Ted Schroeder and Glynn Tonsor.

Bryon Parman earned Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation "Economies of Scale for Data Envelopment Analysis with a Kansas Farm Application". His major professors were Vincent Amanor-Boadu and Allen Featherstone.

Winners are selected annually by the Department's Graduate Committee.

Spriggs earns award from Alumni Association

Nathan Spriggs, bachelor's graduate in agricultural economics and food science from Galena, Kan., is being recognized by the K-State Alumni Association for his outstanding academics, leadership, inspiration and service. Spriggs earned the Anderson Award for Outstanding Leadership.

"We are excited to honor these individuals for what they have achieved at K-State," said Amanda Brookover, assistant director of student programs for the Alumni Association. "These winners were chosen from a group of exceptional candidates. We appreciate the efforts of the K-State faculty, staff and students and Alumni Association board of directors who nominated and selected these individuals for this outstanding recognition."

Students earn honorary spots for 2014-2015

Elizabeth Allen, majoring in agricultural economics and animal science from Holton, Kan., and Rachel Zimmerman, agribusiness major from Satanta, Kan., have earned spots with Silver Key for the 2014-2015 school year. Silver Key is the sophomore leadership honorary organization at Kansas State University.

To be eligible for Silver Key, students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average, be 2013 high school graduates and be in their freshman year at the university. Silver Key provides service to the campus and the surrounding Manhattan community. Members organize and participate in a variety of community service projects each semester. Past projects have included Sleep Out for the Homeless, food drives, highway cleanup efforts, and providing child care to Fort Riley families.

Department represented by seven students in the College of Agriculture Ambassadors

The Kansas State University College of Agriculture has selected 24 students to serve as ambassadors. Agribusiness students include Karly Frederick, Alden; Linda Bilberry, Garden City; Amelia Vasko, Scott City; Melissa Miller, Sedan; and Bailey McClelland, Bowen, Ill. Agricultural economics students include Elizabeth Allen, Holton; and Cooper Clawson, also majoring in finance, Meade.

The main responsibilities of ambassadors are to recruit prospective students and share their own K-State story. They will assist with more than 650 prospective student visits and represent the college and university at various events throughout the year.

Prior to being selected as a part of the 60-member ambassador organization, the students had to pass the College of Agriculture Training program, an eight-week course teaching students about the college's departments and programs. After completion, candidates went through a very competitive application process. They submitted an application, interviewed with faculty and current ambassadors and presented on three words they would use to describe the College of Agriculture. Would you have guessed, the most popular word is "home"?!

Alumni Updates

Harlan and Hopper earn University promotions

Bill Harlan and Ben Hopper received promotions within the Kansas State University Student Life Administration office.

Bill Harlan was promoted from interim director of the student activities and services office to director, in March. Harlan was the assistant director for the office for many years prior to his appointment as interim director.

Harlan received his bachelor's degree in agribusiness in 2001 and a master's degree in secondary education in 2006, both from Kansas State University. He has been employed with the University's student life office since 2003.

Ben Hopper, recently selected as director of Greek affairs, was the program adviser for the Union Program Council at the K-State Student Union.

Hopper received his bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and journalism, with minors in political science and agricultural economics, in 2002 and a master's degree in college student development with an emphasis in higher education administration in 2009, both from Kansas State University. He has worked as program adviser at K-State since 2004.

Jackie McClaskey earns honor of College of Agriculture Outstanding Young Alumni

Jackie McClaskey has earned the 2014 College of Agriculture Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

A native Kansan, McClaskey grew up on a diversified family farm near Girard. Her family was involved with livestock, as well crop production. She earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture economics from Kansas State University in 1993. She graduated from Texas A&M University in 1995 with a master's of science degree in agricultural economics. McClaskey completed requirements for a Ph.D. in Animal Science from K-State in January 2014. Her Ph.D. dissertation analyzed foreign animal disease response policy.

She was appointed Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture by Governor Sam Brownback in December 2013. McClaskey joined the Kansas Department of Agriculture as Assistant Secretary in January 2011 and served in that role until being named Deputy Secretary in July 2013.

Driven by a meaningful purpose to make a positive difference and maximize the skills and talents of others, McClaskey has utilized these strengths to demonstrate her ability to build and effectively lead teams. During the 1990s, McClaskey worked in Washington D.C. as the press secretary and agriculture and higher education policy coordinator in the office of then-Congressman Sam Brownback.

Prior to coming to the Department of Agriculture, McClaskey served as an assistant dean for the College of Agriculture at K-State for 13 years. Because of her passion for young people and seeing them reach their full potential, she is the co-founder of Roots and Legacies, Inc., an agricultural leadership consulting firm.



Since 1988, the K-State College of Agriculture has presented this award honoring living alumni who personify the College's tradition of excellence - bringing distinction to themselves and to our alma mater through their outstanding achievements. The nominees bring distinction to themselves, their profession, their College, and Kansas State University through their participation, commitment, and leadership. Only K-State College of Agriculture graduates who are 45 years of age or younger, as of the date of the award presentation, are eligible.

Cristina Mansfield honored as K-State Alumni Fellow

Cristina Mansfield earns the honor of being a K-State Alumni Fellow. Mansfield earned a degree from the Master of Agribusiness program in 2004. She is a Juris Doctor candidate at Vermont Law School. Before entering law school, she built a career in international development, working for seven years in Cambodia on democracy and governance issues and participating in national corruption surveys.

She also taught advocacy to non-governmental organizations and activists in countries including Kyrgyzstan, Uganda and Guatemala. Her most recent



consulting work took place in Afghanistan and Libya. Fluent in Spanish and French, she aims to pursue a career in international human rights and has interned with state attorneys' offices in Rutland and Windsor counties in Vermont.

Mansfield earned a bachelor's degree in politics from New York University and a master's degree in

public administration from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. She lives in Manchester, Vt., with partner Edward Hopkins.

Mansfield was on campus to meet with students and faculty April 17 and 18.

Agricultural Economics alumni earn Kansas Master Farmers and Master Farm Homemakers honors

Randy and Kim Fritzeimer of Stafford, Kan., and Phillip and Sharron Knox of Brewster, Kan., are two of the six couples that have been named Kansas Master Farmers and Master Farm Homemakers for 2013. The couples are identified as leaders in farming and in their communities, and were honored at a banquet during March in Manhattan.

The Master Farmer and Master Farm Homemaker award program began in 1927 and is sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and Kansas Farmer magazine.

Randy Fritzeimer earned his bachelor's of science degree in agricultural economics in 1978. Nearly 1,400 acres of wheat is the main crop of the Fritzeimer operation. The couple also raises soybeans, silage, alfalfa, sudangrass, fallow and beef cattle.

The farm uses the latest technologies in AI and EPDs for cattle, and soil testing for precise fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide applications. The Fritzeimers maintain an approved conservation plan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency.

The Kansas Farm Bureau honored the farm as a Century Farm in 2004. Randy, is the fourth-generation of farmers in his family to work the land in Stafford and Reno counties. Outside the farm, he serves on the

Kansas Association of Wheat Growers Board and invests time in other local and area agricultural boards.

Rural communities, the Fritzeimers believe, are changing, and it takes all community members to invest in time, efforts and finances to back and maintain each community.

Phillip Knox earned his bachelor's of science degree in agricultural economics in 1969. He also earned a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of California, Berkeley, and taught at Colorado State University. His family owns Knox Farms, Inc., feedlots, and AgSun—a limited liability company that produces steam-flaked corn to sell to feedlots and dairies in western Kansas.

The Knox operation focuses on employing community members, and most employees are full-time, salaried managers who are responsible for cattle, dryland production, irrigated production or spraying operations.

The Knox operation produces wheat, corn and beef cattle. The farm had an early commitment to no-till and uses a confined feeding operation manure management system with application to the no-till crops. The Knox's are 35-year members of the Thomas County Farm Bureau.

Upcoming events

May 16 | Graduate commencement ceremonies, 1:00 p.m. Bramlage Coliseum

May 17 | Undergraduate commencement ceremonies, 2:15 p.m. Bramlage Coliseum

July 22 – 23 | **Emerging Leaders: Cooperative Finance for Non-CFOs**. An innovative program for emerging leaders to learn basic cooperative finance information to better understand the unique role of a cooperative in the agribusiness community. This event will be held in Manhattan, Kan. and is hosted by the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. Visit acc.k-state.edu/finance.html for more information.

August 21 - 22 | **Risk and Profit Conference**, K-State Alumni Center, Manhattan. Visit agmanager.info/events/.

August 27 | **K-State Symposium on Cooperative Issues**. Held in conjunction with the KCC Leadership Roundtable, leading agricultural and rural experts will present their views and insights on challenges facing cooperatives. The 2014 theme is "Investing in Tomorrow's Agriculture". This event will be held in Manhattan, Kan. and is hosted by the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. Visit acc.k-state.edu/meetings/symposium.html for more information.

September 26 | **Alumni and scholarship banquet**, Manhattan, Kan. More information will be sent in the summer Exchange newsletter and via email.

October 7 | **Ag Lenders Conference**, Garden City. Visit agmanager.info/events/.

October 8 | **Ag Lenders Conference**, Manhattan. Visit agmanager.info/events/.



Congratulations to newly-elected student officers

Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Club

President: Michael Porter | Vice President: Nick Wineinger | Secretary: Cody O'Brien
Treasurer: Shannon Maxwell | Membership Co-Chair: Casey Thyer and Nathan Smart
Social Co-Chair: Bryan Otott and Lucas Sudbeck | Ag Council Representative: Ryan Goetzmann

K-State National Agricultural Marketing Association Club (NAMA)

President: Marie Annexstad | First Vice President – Membership: Shelby Rose
Second Vice President – Programs: Dan Martin | Third Vice President – Team Captain: Kurtis Clawson
Careers Chair: Gordon Harton | Secretary: Kylie Naber | Treasurer: Will Longinaker
Ag Board Student Senate Representative: Kathryn Clawson | Promotions/publicity chair: Amanda Bryant

Gifting opportunities with Agricultural Economics

For information about the opportunity to give to the Department, please contact Allen Featherstone at afeather@ksu.edu or 785-532-4441. 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: _____

For more information about the Department or this e-newsletter, please contact Amanda Erichsen at 785-532-6994 or aerichsen@k-state.edu.

Let's get social!



Facebook

Department: facebook.com/kstateagecon

Master of Agribusiness Program: facebook.com/KstateMAB

AgManager.info: facebook.com/AgManager.info

Arthur Capper Cooperative Center: facebook.com/KStateACCC



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Arthur Capper Cooperative Center: [@ksuaccc](https://twitter.com/ksuaccc)

Dan O'Brien Grain Markets: [@KSUGrains](https://twitter.com/KSUGrains)



Blog sites

Department: kstateagecon.wordpress.com

Master of Agribusiness Program: ksumabblog.blogspot.com

Dan O'Brien's "Focused on Grains": ksugrains.wordpress.com

Center for Risk Management Education and Research: crmerstudents.wordpress.com

Study Abroad: ageconstudyabroad.wordpress.com



YouTube

Department: youtube.com/kstateagecon

AgManager.info: youtube.com/user/agmanagerinfo