

## New Course Examines Global Food and Agriculture Issues

Students entering the agricultural economics and agribusiness programs this fall are among the first who will be required to take a new course, AGEC315 Contemporary Issues in Global Food and Agricultural Systems.

Nathan Hendricks, assistant professor of agricultural economics, joined the faculty in August and is teaching the course.

"A unifying theme to the class will be the question, 'How will we feed the world by 2050 while protecting the environment?'" Hendricks said.

The class will cover issues related to environment, resources, international trade and development.

A class blog provides a forum to discuss current events related to the course material. The blog is open for public viewing and comments at <http://agec315.wordpress.com>.

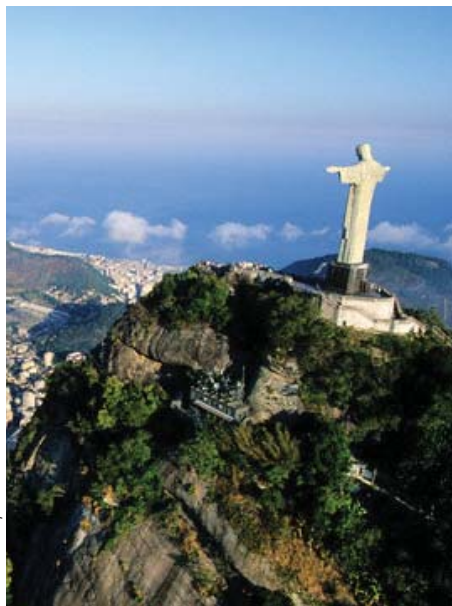
"All of the students will be contributors to the blog so that it provides an open forum for us to discuss relevant topics in agriculture," he said.

To enroll, students must have completed one of the following: AGEC 120, AGEC 121, ECON 110, or ECON 120. The course also will be offered in Spring 2012 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. For more information, contact Hendricks at (785) 477-5430 or [NPHendricks@agecon.ksu.edu](mailto:NPHendricks@agecon.ksu.edu).

### Agricultural Issues

Topics in Contemporary Issues in Global Food and Agricultural Systems include:

- Recent increases in food prices
- Water quality
- Climate change
- Use of Ogallala Aquifer
- Organics
- Local food
- Animal welfare
- Globalization
- Global effect of U.S. ag policy
- Hunger and poverty



Michele Oliveira, Flickr

*A group of students from the Department of Agricultural Economics will travel to Brazil in January 2012.*

## Students to Explore Brazil Agriculture on Study Tour

Andrew and Mary Ellen Barkley will travel with 28 students on a study tour of Brazil agriculture and agribusiness. The group is meeting weekly this fall to learn about Brazil agriculture, history, economics and trade before traveling in January 2012.

Andrew is a professor in agricultural economics. Mary Ellen is the College of Agriculture representative at K-State's Career and Employment Services.

The group will tour farms, ranches, biofuel plants and feedlots. They also will visit JBS world headquarters in Sao Paulo, a meat company that hires K-State graduates. Brazilian

sugar and coffee farms are also on the schedule, as well as a visit with a U.S. Trade Representative. The tour also will include a tour of Rio, including the beaches, Christ the Redeemer statue and Sugarloaf mountain.

These global experiences enrich and diversify undergraduate education by offering learning not available at home. A global outlook also better prepares graduates for the professional world and deepens intellectual and personal skills.

Although this tour is full, information about other tours is available at [www.k-state.edu/studyabroad](http://www.k-state.edu/studyabroad).

# Busy Summer for Student Body President

*From the Manhattan Mercury*

Nate Spriggs has always maintained a busy array of school and community-related activities.

A one-time school board candidate in high school, where he compiled an impressive academic and extracurricular resume, Spriggs never hesitated to become involved. Similar results followed at Kansas State University, culminating in his election as student body president in March.

Few breaks have followed for Spriggs, junior in agricultural economics from Riverton, Kan.

Summer has been no exception, including a part-time internship with the city of Manhattan and preparation for the remainder of his presidential term at K-State.

Spriggs would not have it any other way.

"It's been a good summer, different every single day," he said. "I like whenever life is a little unique every single day."

Following an almost decade-long tradition, Spriggs completed an internship with the Manhattan city manager's office. The internship is offered to the new student body president and vice president.

Many student issues played a role in the projects Spriggs focused on during his internship. He helped with a review of Aggieville safety procedures, specifically regarding Fake Patty's Day. The day is fashioned after St. Patrick's Day and draws

countless people to Aggieville and the surrounding areas for the party-like atmosphere. Many stakeholders in Manhattan have pushed for the event's removal, but Spriggs believes the event could not be removed entirely. He has been working with



Nate Spriggs

separate entities in developing a recommendation to improve the safety and efficiency of the event.

He also assisted with furniture amnesty day, on which community members to recycle old or unwanted furniture.

Economic development played a prominent role in Spriggs' internship.

He worked with a city sales tax program that provides incentives for businesses to start or relocate to Manhattan and that aids existing businesses in the city. Similarly, Spriggs worked with a program that offers small grants for neighborhood improvements.

Spriggs also has been an advocate for K-State students. The city's recently disbanded rental inspection program was supported by organizations such as the K-State Student Governing Association. Spriggs worked with Jim Sherow, Manhattan mayor and professor of history at K-State, on alternatives to the program but none were approved.

Spriggs said he enjoyed the work.

"A lot of times you read in the newspaper about what the City Commission or state Legislature is doing," he said. "It's neat to see the

other side of that -- the administrative side."

But Spriggs also was active in his main job as K-State student body president. A platform issue of his campaign -- a VIP program for student entertainment options -- is prepared to move forward. The program will feature special offers and enhanced seating options for McCain Auditorium and Union Program Council entertainment events.

Increased information about campus services will be more readily available as well, thanks to collaboration facilitated by student government. Welcome back information was made available to all students through the K-State residence halls and the K-State Student Union's Expo and Activities Carnival.

Spriggs also helped welcome many new K-State students to campus this summer through a variety of activities at orientation and enrollment and at Wildcat Warm-Up.

Tuition planning has been an ongoing project for Spriggs. Special fees associated with tuition will likely be reviewed for how they are benefiting students, Spriggs said.

Spriggs even managed to spend some time away from Manhattan this summer. He served as a counselor for the Youth Civic Leadership Institute at the University of Kansas and took a family vacation to Table Rock Lake in Missouri. He also volunteered for a week with his family in tornado-ravaged Joplin, Mo., which is less than 10 miles from the Spriggs' home.

# Ag Econ Students Complete Summer Internships

Eight agricultural economics students spent their summer breaks gaining practical experience through internships. These valuable work opportunities help students try out different career options while applying their classroom knowledge in the real world. It's important to start early. Check out Career and Employment Services on campus for help with your résumé, applications and interviewing skills, as well as a list of internship opportunities.

## KYLEE VAN SLYKE

**Wrangler**  
*Hi Country Stables*  
Estes Park, Colo.



### What I Learned

The most valuable skills I learned throughout my internship were the people relations and communication skills that you need to succeed in life and the business world.

## AUSTIN LANIER

**Summer Management Intern**  
*Rangeland Cooperatives*  
Phillipsburg, Kan.



### What I Learned

No matter how much there is to do, you have to get it done. You have to manage your time very wisely and know who has to be doing what so you can get everything done in the time you have.

## SIERRA KOSTER

**Billing Clerk/Office Assistant**  
*Randall Farmers Cooperative*  
Randall, Kan.



### What I Learned

It's hard to narrow it down to one most valuable experience because the internship as a whole was very valuable. I was able to gain "real-world" experience that relates to my coursework at KSU.

## SONIA GONZALEZ

**Business Management Intern**  
*Cargill Animal Nutrition*  
Coralville, Iowa



### What I Learned

I learned to be much more verbal about my thoughts. When my company asks for my input and opinions I should openly say what I think and let it be considered. I have to open up and know that what I think is important to progress within any team I am apart of.

## KATIE CLIFFORD

**Financial Officer Intern**  
*Farm Credit Services of America*  
McCook, Neb.



### What I Learned

I was often asked for my input on loan decisions and financial advising. This required me to apply class examples to real-life situations. I was equipped with the knowledge necessary because of our faculty.

## ERICA MEYER

**Customer Development and Marketing Executive Assistant**  
*Coffee Haus*  
Istanbul, Turkey



### What I Learned

Keeping immaculate records of everything is extremely important. It's almost impossible to move forward and grow if you don't know from where or what you've come from.

## KALEB DRINKGERN

**Service Associate**  
*Farm Bureau Financial Services*  
Manhattan, Kan.



### What I Learned

The knowledge that you must obtain through studying and experience – every person is a new experience and through trial and error you become a better salesman and gain experience for yourself for future appointments where you can help people out.

## MICHELLE HILL

**Citizenship Washington Focus Program Assistant**  
*National 4-H Council*  
Washington, D.C.



### What I Learned

My internship this summer encompassed multiple aspects. Overall I improved most by developing my soft business skills through facilitation, customer service, mediation and leadership.

## Hanawa Peterson Named New Undergraduate Program Director

The start of the new semester marked a change in leadership for the Department of Agricultural Economics undergraduate program.

Hikaru Hanawa Peterson, professor of agricultural economics, recently assumed duties as the new undergraduate program director for the department. Arlo Biere, professor of agricultural economics, previously held the position for 24 years.

Peterson works very closely with agricultural economics faculty advisors to ensure that all



Hikaru Hanawa Peterson

undergraduate students in the department are on track to meet the requirements for graduation.

"I work with the faculty to assess and improve our courses and curriculum so that we can offer the best experience for our students," she said.

Peterson also serves as a liaison between agricultural economics faculty and the College of Agriculture regarding the department's teaching program.

"It's a privilege to work with undergraduate students," she says.

"I enjoy cheering and coaching others to help them achieve their goals. This position broadens my opportunities to be a part, however small, of your success at K-State."

Peterson said she looks forward to getting to know students and welcomes their feedback.

"If you have any insight on how we can help improve your K-State experience, please share," she said.

Peterson's office is in 318 Waters Hall. She invites students to stop by to say hello at any time.

To set up a more formal appointment, e-mail her at [hhp@ksu.edu](mailto:hhp@ksu.edu).

## Biere Steps Back, Reflects on 24 Years as Undergraduate Program Director

After 24 years as the undergraduate program director, Arlo Biere is getting a change of pace. The professor of agricultural economics recently completed his final year as program director and has transferred the position's responsibilities to Hikaru Hanawa Peterson.

Biere began his duties in 1987, when undergraduate enrollment had dwindled below 200 students. Today there are 380 students in the department.

"One of my first jobs was to work on a recruiting plan to increase enrollment," he said. "We advertised in various magazines and at community colleges."

At the same time, Biere also was busy developing the newly added agribusiness degree.

"I did the detail work of putting together the proposal and working with the curriculum committee to design the requirements," he said.

Not long after launching the agribusiness degree, Biere was able to obtain a grant to send six faculty members on mini sabbaticals to work in agribusinesses to help them better understand business operations.

Reflecting on more than two decades as director, Biere said he valued the personal interaction the position provided.

"I most enjoyed working with both students and faculty," he said.

Over the years, Biere has over-

seen the undergraduate program and worked with the recruitment

coordinator to address improvements, course upgrades and recruiting tactics. That has included cooperating on advertising campaigns to attract prospective students to the department.

"I am pleased that Hikaru is the new director of the undergraduate program," he said. "She is off to a good start and I am convinced that she will do an excellent job."

The Department of Agricultural Economics thanks Biere for his many years of outstanding service to our students.



Arlo Biere

# Ag Econ Department Welcomes New Faculty Members

As students walk the hallways of Waters Hall, they may notice several new names and faces. The Department of Agricultural Economics recently welcomed three newly hired professionals and promoted two current K-State staff members from the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension to new faculty positions within the department. Here's more about these new faculty members.



## **Brian Briggeman, Associate Professor**

**305C Waters Hall • (785) 532-2573 • [Brian.Briggeman@agecon.ksu.edu](mailto:Brian.Briggeman@agecon.ksu.edu)**

Brian Briggeman joined the faculty this fall as associate professor of agricultural economics and director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. Briggeman earned his bachelor's degree in agribusiness from K-State in 2000. He received his master's degree in agricultural economics in 2002 from Texas A&M University. In 2006, he completed his Ph.D. in agricultural economics at Purdue University. Prior to K-State, Briggeman worked as an economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City - Omaha Branch.



## **Gregg Hadley, Associate Professor**

**123 Umberger Hall • (785) 532-5838 • [ghadley@ksu.edu](mailto:ghadley@ksu.edu)**

Gregg Hadley has joined the department as an associate professor of agricultural economics. He is the associate director for agriculture and natural resources for K-State Research and Extension. Hadley earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics at Purdue University in 1989. He earned his master's degree in 2001 and Ph.D. in 2003, both in agricultural economics from Michigan State University. Previously, he was an associate professor and extension farm management specialist at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls.



## **Nathan Hendricks, Assistant Professor**

**304F Waters Hall • (785) 477-5430 • [NPHendricks@agecon.ksu.edu](mailto:NPHendricks@agecon.ksu.edu)**

Nathan Hendricks is an assistant professor of agricultural economics and is specializing in natural resources. He teaches AGEC 315 Contemporary Issues in Global Food and Agricultural Systems. Hendricks earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics from K-State in 2005 and 2007, respectively. In 2011, he completed his Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics at the University of California - Davis, where he taught the course Quantitative Methods in Agricultural Economics.



## **Nina Lilja, Associate Professor**

**144 Waters Hall • (785) 532-5627 • [nlilja@ksu.edu](mailto:nlilja@ksu.edu)**

Nina Lilja is an associate professor of agricultural economics. She also is director of international agricultural programs for the College of Agriculture. Lilja earned her bachelor's degree in international service and development in 1987 from World College West. She completed her master's at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1992 and Ph.D. at Purdue University in 1996, both in agricultural economics. Previously, she was a senior scientist for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research in Columbia.



## **Mykel Taylor, Assistant Professor**

**331C Waters Hall • (785) 532-3033 • [mtaylor@agecon.ksu.edu](mailto:mtaylor@agecon.ksu.edu)**

Mykel Taylor joined is an assistant professor of agricultural economics with a major appointment in extension. Taylor earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural business management in 2000 and master's degree in applied economics in 2001, both from Montana State University. She completed her Ph.D. in economics in 2008 at North Carolina State University. Prior to K-State, Taylor was an assistant professor and extension specialist for the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University.

# Agribusiness Senior Shares Her Study Abroad Experience

Jodie Dugan, senior in agribusiness, shares her experience during her study abroad tour in spring 2011 at University College Dublin in Belfield, Ireland.

## What classes did you take?

While I was in the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, I took classes in:

- International Food Marketing
- Agri-Environmental Economics and Policy
- Fundamentals of Arable Crop Production
- Ireland Uncovered

## What did you learn?

The most significant lesson that I learned is that if someone has a dream or goal, it is up to them to make it happen and if they want to accomplish it they will. I have always wanted to study abroad, but I never really thought I would be brave enough to go through with it if the opportunity came up. It was one of the hardest decisions in my life so far, but in the end I couldn't imagine not taking this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If I had decided not to go, I know I would have regretted it the rest of my life.

## What surprised you about your trip?

The most surprising thing was learning how small the world actually is. It amazed me that a guy from Australia knew where Manhattan, Kan., was and had actually visited the Oz Museum in Wamego, Kan. It also surprised me how easy it was to fit in with the culture and the hospitality they showed toward everyone.

## What is your favorite memory?

We had two weeks for spring break, so a group of us went to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. We made it back in time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Dublin, Ireland.

Also during spring break, we toured Dachau, a former concentration camp in Germany. It was eye-opening to see what happened under Nazi control.

## Why would you recommend studying abroad?

I highly recommend that other Ag Econ/Ag Business students study abroad. This was an agriculture exchange with UCD, so I was able to see agriculture in another country and the role it plays in their lives.



*Jodie Dugan, right, studied at the University College Dublin in Belfield, Ireland, in spring 2011.*

## What did you gain?

I got to see different cultures personally and gain knowledge of how they live their everyday lives. Instead of learning about it from a textbook I was able to experience it first-hand.

## Where else did you travel while abroad?

- Munich, Germany
- Salzburg, Austria
- Vienna, Austria
- Prague, Czech Republic
- Edinburgh, Scotland

## How will studying abroad help your career?

I believe this experience opened up some new doors to finding my future career. I had the opportunity to deal with all different cultures and appreciate them. It was an incredible experience and I know that one day I will travel abroad again; whether it is for a vacation or a career.

# Welcome to the Front Lines: Battling Busyness

by Tom Roesler, instructor  
K-State Leadership Studies

There's a battle raging on campus...a battle with busyness. Will you thrive or merely survive?

Here's your first question of the semester:

*What word best describes your college experience so far?*

- A. Fun
- B. Easy
- C. Successful
- D. Busy

If you're like most students, "D" is probably the best descriptor for your life.

For some, an even better term would be "crazy busy." You might even feel so busy you sometimes wonder if you can avoid having a nervous breakdown.

We have a battle on our hands. A battle against busyness.

Emails, cell phones, social media, over-ambitious schedules and energy drinks have changed the world, particularly on campus and student life. Never before have we had 24/7 access to everything.

We can literally do anything at any time. But, should we?

Grandma used to say, "Just because you can do something doesn't mean it needs to be done." Well, she was right. And, that old-fashioned "good sense" is critical.

The bad news is no one is going step in and protect you from the constant flood of texts, emails and Facebook updates. It's up to you to take control. The good news is you don't have to wait for someone to "save" you.

Here are some tips to help you in your battle against busyness:

**Facebook this!** Facebook has a way of constantly calling our name. It's time to set rules for your relationship with Facebook. No more constant access. Designate small bits of time when you want to talk. Set time limits and experience new freedom.

**Don't chase rabbits.** Have you ever gone to bed exhausted from an incredibly busy day, yet felt like you didn't get anything done?

You can spend all day replying to emails, texting and a million other little things. Meanwhile big things like homework or internship applications get neglected.

Stop chasing rabbits and start hunting "big game." Set one-hour blocks of uninterrupted time for big stuff and shut everything else off.

The world won't end if you're phone isn't on for an hour, and you'll sleep better knowing you made progress on important tasks.

**Manage expectations.** Have you ever had parents or friends ask, "Why didn't you answer when I called?" Or, "Why didn't you text me back?"

Part of our busyness problem is trying to meet the expectations of others. Well, it's time to manage those expectations. That happens by telling others what's going on.

Most of the time, the other person will understand what you mean when you talk about being busy. They'll admire you for taking charge. You might just inspire them to set one-hour blocks of uninterrupted time to focus, too.

There is an ancient Proverb that says, "A man without self-discipline is like a city without walls." In your battle with busyness, these simple tips will help you build some strong walls which will help you thrive, not just survive.

It's time to push back. It's time to tell your "tools" who's in charge. It's time to move from being busy to beating busyness!



*Students are constantly dealing with a barrage of emails, texts, activities, homework and distractions. Take steps to battle busyness before it becomes a problem.*

# New Technology Policy in Effect

Effective Fall 2011 all Ag Econ students are required to have a laptop. A computer is a valuable tool for homework and required in some classes. While you may not need it immediately (until you enroll in AGECE 490, AGECE 505 or another course requiring it), our goal is to help you avoid buying a computer that will not meet all your academic needs as an undergraduate student in our department.

## PC or Mac?

You may choose either a PC laptop running Windows 7 or an Apple MacBook running Apple Snow Leopard 10. Some instructors have limited or no experience with Apple, which may reduce your access to technical support.

## Specifications

- Duo Core or better processor, with processor speed of 2.4GHz or faster
- 4 GB memory
- 320 GB, 7200 rpm hard drive
- 256MB graphic card or higher



- Display/screen: Student's choice
- DVD/RW capable optical drive
- 2 USB 2.0 connections
- Wireless and wired network support
- Windows 7 Home Premium or Professional (or Apple Snow Leopard 10)
- External mouse with 2 buttons (Optical mouse recommended)
- 3-Year manufacturer warranty recommended

## Microsoft Office

Students are required to use Microsoft Office. The current versions (Windows and Apple) are available to students at the K-State Student Union Bookstore. The software is behind the desk at the computer store, not on the shelf. Specify whether you need Windows or Apple.

## FREE Security Software

Buy no antivirus software. K-State requires use of Trend Micro antivirus and also recommends Trend Micro OfficeScan to combat spyware/adware. Both are free to download at [antivirus.k-state.edu](http://antivirus.k-state.edu). K-State also recommends downloading Spybot Search & Destroy (free) from [www.spybot.info](http://www.spybot.info) to complement the other programs.

## Complete Details

Please visit [ageconomics.ksu.edu](http://ageconomics.ksu.edu) and click on Technology Requirements under Student Information. Questions? Call Dr. Arlo Biere at (785) 532-4433.

## September

- 17 Family Weekend
- 19 Last day for 50% refund
- 20-21 University Career Fair, Bramlage Coliseum, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 23 Spring 2012 course schedule available online
- 26 Last day to drop without a "W"

## October

- 12 Time to schedule advising appointment  
Academic Majors Fair, Union Ballroom, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 24 Enrollment for Spring 2012 begins
- 28 Last day to drop a regular session course

## November

- 16 Transfer orientation and enrollment
- 21-25 Student holiday

## December

- 9 Last day of classes
- 10 College of Agriculture graduation, Bramlage Coliseum, 1:30 p.m.
- 12-16 Final exams
- 21 View grades on iSIS

## January

- 17 Spring 2012 term begins

## Undergraduate News

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