

oh, by the way...

Konza environmental education program seeks volunteers for docent training

The Konza environmental education program, offered through K-State's Konza Prairie Biological Station, will begin its 2008 docent training program at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16.

The docent program offers specialized training for people interested in the Konza Prairie and the tallgrass prairie environment. Docents guide educational programs and tours of the Konza Prairie for school groups, organizations, families and other groups, all in support of the Konza Prairie Biological Station's three-fold mission: research, education and conservation.

Starting Feb. 16, classes will meet Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. The classes will run through May and in September. The first orientation session, in the Hulbert Center at the Konza Prairie, will be followed by several field trips and special experiences.

After completion of training, observation by experienced docents and graduation in September, docents will have volunteer opportunities that include guiding hikes, guiding van tours of the bison enclosure, in-service training, work days and special events.

The Konza Prairie Biological Station is six miles south of Manhattan on McDowell Creek Road. Entrance to the station is marked by a sign at Konza Lane.

For more information on the Konza Prairie and its education programs, contact Valerie Wright, Konza environmental educator, at 785-587-0381 or konzaed@k-state.edu.

Deadline for changing K-State eIDs is Feb. 13

Wednesday, Feb. 13, is the deadline for changing passwords on K-State eIDs for spring 2008. Visit <http://www.eid.k-state.edu> to learn how to change passwords.

points of pride

Architecture and design programs receive top rankings from national firms

A nationwide survey rates academic programs offered in the College of Architecture, Planning and Design at K-State as among the best in the nation, as is the interior design program offered through K-State's College of Human Ecology.

According to the 2008 survey of leading design firms across the country, conducted by the journal "DesignIntelligence" and the Design Futures Council in conjunction with the "Almanac of Architecture and Design," K-State ranks:

- * First among bachelor of landscape architecture programs;
- * Fourth among master of interior architecture/design programs;
- * Sixth among master of landscape architecture programs;
- * Eighth among bachelor of architecture programs;
- * Eighth among bachelor of interior architecture/design programs; and
- * 13th among master of architecture programs.

on campus

February

Feb. 1 Lecture at Beach Museum

Artist Marjorie Schick will lecture about her work at 5:30 p.m., Beach Museum of Art. The lecture is part of the exhibit "Sculpture Transformed: The Work of Marjorie Schick," which runs through March 16. Schick uses the body's relation to form, color and texture as inspiration for her full-body jewelry. Call 532-7718.

Feb. 4 Will Ferrell's comedy tour

Will Ferrell's "Funny or Die Comedy Tour Presented by Semi-Pro" will be at 8 p.m., Bramlage Coliseum. For tickets call 532-7606.

Feb. 6 Classified Senate meeting

The meeting will be at 12:45 p.m., K-State Student Union Staterooms 1 and 2.

Feb. 7 Employee orientation

The program will be from 8:30-10:30 a.m. for classified staff and 9:30-11:30 a.m. for unclassified staff and faculty, 103 Edwards Hall. For enrollment requirements visit <http://www.k-state.edu/hr/benefits/enroll.html>

Feb. 11 Landon Lecture

Chinese Ambassador H.E. Zhou Wenzhong will lecture at 2:30 p.m.,

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Forbidden Broadway, New York City's longest-running musical comedy revue, will be showing at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at McCain Auditorium. For tickets call 532-6428.

McCain Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Feb. 12 Vernon Larson Lecture

"Promoting Civil Dialogue Around the World" will be the topic of the Vernon Larson Lecture, presented by David Procter. A luncheon will be at 11:45 a.m. in the Holiday Inn Ballroom, and reservations are required. The cost is \$12. Make reservations by Feb. 9 by calling 532-5590. The lecture is from 12:20-1 p.m.

Faculty Senate meeting

The meeting will be at 3:45 p.m., K-State Student Union Big 12 room.

Feb. 14 Van operator training

K-State at Salina will host van

operator training from 1:30-3:30 p.m., 101 Facilities Room, K-State at Salina. National Safety Council training will be conducted for all operators and potential operators of motor pool vans operated by K-State faculty, staff and students. The training is mandatory. Visit <http://www.k-state.edu/facilities/depts/resources/signup.html> to register for training.

Ongoing 'Exploring Textile Surfaces'

The exhibit will run through March 27 in the Apparel, Textiles and Interior Design Gallery, 328 Justin Hall. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

'Gamma Ray' performance

"The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds" will be at 7:30 p.m., Nichols Theater, Nichols Hall. The show runs Feb. 7-9 and 13-16. For tickets call 532-6428.

opportunities

Classified

- A list of employment opportunities is posted at <http://www.k-state.edu/hr/>
- A recording of classified job opportunities is available 24 hours a day on the Employment Information Line, 532-6271.
- For additional information, call 532-6277 or visit the Division of Human Resources at 103 Edwards Hall. Applications are accepted 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Unclassified

- A complete listing of vacancies can be seen at <http://www.k-state.edu/affact/>
- For additional information, call the office of affirmative action at 532-6220 or visit 214 Anderson Hall.

A way to combat illness continued

in recent years, increasing the threat to public health.

The hope is that once Ganta comes up with a way to fight off the bacteria, the

discovery will pave the way for solutions to other forms of ehrlichia, some of which are devastating for cattle and other food animals. ♦♦

noteworthy continued

plant pathology; students and colleagues, "Prairie Soil Bacteria Induce Expression of C. Elegans Genes Involved in Fitness and Innate Immunity."

Erin Frank, plant pathology; **Jianfa Bai**, diagnostic medicine and pathobiology; **Welti**, biology; "Rust and Drought Effects on Gene Expression and Phytohormone Concentration in the Dominant Species of Tallgrass Prairie."

Richard Jeannotte, Welti, biology; students and colleagues, "Plant Adaptation to Elevated Carbon Dioxide: Using a Lipidomic Approach to Identify Alterations in Lipid Metabolism and Signaling in Arabidopsis thaliana."

Wisely, biology; **Gregory Peterson, Sanjeev Narayanan**, diagnostic medicine and pathobiology; students and colleagues, "Ecotoxicoge-

nomics of Fecal Bacteria of Deer Mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) in a Former Heavy Metal Mine."

Lilia Macovei, Ludek Zurek, entomology; **Aqeel Ahmad**, biology; **Doina Caragea**, computing and information sciences; students and colleagues, "Ecology of Environmental Enterococcus faecalis: Characterization of the fsrABC Operon and Antibiotic Resistance and Virulence Determinants."

Mark Ungerer, biology; students and colleagues, "Investigating Bacterial Diversity Along Hot Spring Thermal Gradients by rRNA-Tag Pyrosequencing."

Srini Kambhampati, entomology; students and colleagues, "Ontological Analysis of Five cDNA Libraries of Reticulitermes flavipes (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae)."

k-statement

For Kansas State University faculty and staff

Jan. 31, 2008 Vol. 30, No. 13

A connected campus

New text-messaging system broadens emergency-communication effort

K-State has introduced a text-messaging system to alert students, faculty and staff of campus emergencies.

The voluntary service, which lets qualified users register their cell-phone numbers via the university's existing eProfile information system, became available Jan. 18.

"The text-messaging system is an additional way for us to immediately inform the campus community of emergencies and to provide information on how to deal with them," said Thomas Rawson, vice president for administration and finance.

Text messaging, an addition to the campus-wide emergency communication effort, will let campus authorities dispatch alerts and information directly to registered users via their cell phones. It dovetails with the existing system of e-mails and postings to the K-State Web page.

Messages will be sent by Leader Alert, a rapid-notification platform.

Rob Caffey, director of K-State's office of mediated education, provided the fol-

lowing information about the new system:

* All current students, faculty and staff are eligible to sign up, but the service is optional. Only one cell-phone number per user can be registered.

* Sign-up is through the university eProfile system. Go to <https://eid.k-state.edu/>, sign in and click the "manage your emergency contact settings" link.

* Users can sign up at any time and can disable and re-enable the service at any time. They also can change their contact phone numbers at any time. Users will receive a confirmation text message when they sign up and when they change numbers. Users who don't receive a confirmation message should contact the IT Help Desk, 532-7722.

* Although the system will be tested twice each year on specified days, K-State cannot guarantee that emergency text messages will be received in a



By visiting K-State's eProfile system, users can register a cell phone to receive text-message alerts of a campus emergency. The message shown above is the initial confirmation sent by Leader Alert, which provides the service. Such confirmation should show up within 24 hours of registering.

timely fashion.

* Users are responsible for any messaging charges from

their phone service providers

and for keeping their contact information up to date. ♦♦

Chinese ambassador to give Landon Lecture

Chinese Ambassador H.E. Zhou Wenzhong's Landon Lecture has been rescheduled for 2:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at McCain Auditorium.

Zhou's lecture was originally scheduled for Oct. 10, 2007, but was postponed at his request. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Zhou, whose official title is ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the United States, was named to his current post in 2005.

Graduate School names part-time interim associate dean

A faculty member who served as director of his department's graduate program is now serving as part-time interim associate dean of the Graduate School.

Kevin Lease, an associate professor of mechanical and nuclear engineering and director of the K-State Mechanical Testing and Evaluation Laboratory, is an award-winning teacher and adviser.

"I am pleased that Dr. Lease has accepted this new challenge," said Carol Shanklin, interim dean of the K-State Graduate School. "Kevin's experience as graduate program director in the department of mechanical and nuclear engineering, as well as his experience mentoring graduate students, will be valuable in his new appointment. The Graduate School staff look forward to having Kevin join our team in support of the graduate enterprise at K-State."

Lease served as director of the graduate program for the department of mechanical and nuclear engineering from 2001-2006.

Dyer elevated to Fellow in IEEE

Ruth Dyer, associate provost and a professor of electrical and computer engineering, is among 295 senior members of the IEEE to be elevated to the grade of Fellow.



Ruth Dyer

Dyer has belonged to the IEEE, formerly known as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, since 1986. The grade of Fellow recognizes unusual distinction in the profession and is conferred by the board of directors upon senior members who have demonstrated an extraordinary record of accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest.

The IEEE is a not-for-profit technical-professional society that promotes the advancement of diverse technologies and offers authoritative standards on areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics.

Russian literature expert is named international educator for 2007

An expert on Soviet-era Russian literature who established K-State's first office of study abroad has been named the university's international educator of the year for 2007.



Walter Kolonosky

Walter Kolonosky, professor of modern languages, was singled out for "his dedication to the internationalization of Kansas State University above and beyond his teaching and scholarship," according to the letter from the award committee announcing the honor.

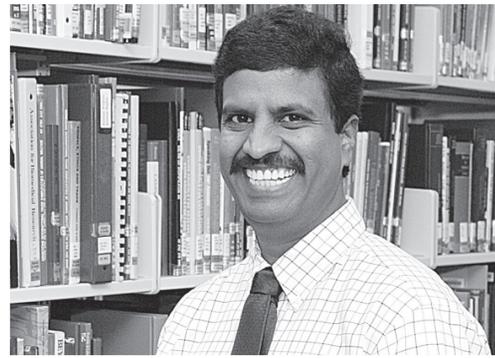
During the 1980s Kolonosky introduced K-Staters to international student exchanges. By the end of that decade more than 100 students had studied abroad and more than 100 students from abroad had studied at K-State.

Kolonosky's office became a clearinghouse for information on study-abroad programs, scholarships, internships and work-abroad opportunities. From this one-person office Kolonosky advised students and negotiated exchanges with schools such as the University of Nottingham, the University of Strathclyde, the University of Sunderland and Moscow Pedagogical University.

Two gain Commerce Bank faculty awards

A chemical engineer who has pushed semiconductors beyond silicon and a biochemist who is investigating the molecular basis for vision are the fall 2007 recipients of Commerce Bank Distinguished Graduate Faculty Awards.

James Edgar, professor of chemical engineering, and Dolores Takemoto, professor of biochemistry, were recognized. Each received a \$2,500 honorarium.



Roman Ganta has been awarded a grant to study a tick-borne bacteria

Roman Ganta, a professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology, has been awarded a grant of \$1,825,000 by the National Institutes of Health to figure out how to stop the tick-borne bacteria Ehrlichia chaffeensis from making animals and people sick.

This is the second grant of roughly the same size Ganta has received for this research.

Ehrlichia chaffeensis affects people and animals primarily in the southeastern and south central regions of the U.S. It is transmitted by the lone star tick. The resulting sickness, termed ehrlichiosis, is hard to diagnose because its symptoms – headache, fever, malaise and muscle aches – are like those of more minor infections. For those with compromised immune systems, the bacterial infection can be fatal.

Though very few cases are reported – around 1,500 since the Centers for Disease Control deemed it "a disease of concern" in the late 1980s – Ganta estimates that as many as 50,000 people have contracted ehrlichiosis. Though relative to the nation's population that doesn't seem sig-

nificant, the ensuing infection and symptoms can be serious, especially if untreated. As many as half of the patients diagnosed with ehrlichiosis require hospitalization.

This particular tick-borne pathogen is also unique because it circumvents the initial defenses of the immune system of the animal or human the tick bites, according to Ganta.

When bacteria enters a mammal's body the response is typically the same: The bacteria multiply and the immune system gears up, sending out its own organisms – cells derived from white blood cells called macrophages – to seek out and destroy the offender. A healthy immune system can clear the body of most bacterial infections. But ehrlichia chaffeensis gets past that first line of defense, making the infection persist and the subsequent illness difficult to get rid of.

"It's like the enemy entering into a battlefield and knowing exactly where the landmines are and diffusing them all," Ganta said.

Over the last five years, Ganta's research team has been working under a prior

federal grant, also from the National Institutes of Health, to uncover exactly how the bacteria works. They recreated the bacteria using cells from mice and from ticks. The current study revealed that the tick cells are what made the difference, and that the tick's ecology changes the bacteria by adding proteins, enabling bacteria to slip by the immune system.

"Understanding the molecular basis for persistence by these bacteria has been critical in developing effective methods to control this and other tick-borne pathogens," Ganta said. "Our research is focused on understanding the pathogen evasion mechanisms, and then using those to defeat it."

The trick now is to learn to turn those proteins off, leaving the bacteria vulnerable, Ganta said. That's the research his new grant will fund.

Ganta said that tick-borne pathogens like ehrlichia chaffeensis have long been recognized as a persistent concern for the health of several companion animals and livestock. The number of cases in humans has also risen

Continued on back

A way to combat a stubborn illness

noteworthy

Economics

Wayne Nafziger chaired a panel discussion on information technology and bio-tech for the International Institute for Labour Studies (Geneva), the Indian Council of Social Science Research (New Delhi), and Institute for Human Development (New Delhi) at an international workshop on "Global Production Networks and Decent Work: Recent Experience in India and Global Trends," Nov. 19, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India.

Nafziger also presented the second annual Distinguished Lecture, "Economic Development, Inequality, and War," Dec. 7, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi.

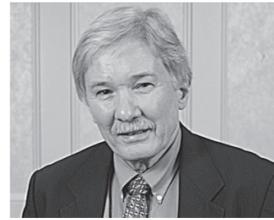
History

Marsha Frey published "Daily Lives of Civilizations in Wartime Europe, 1618-1900," edited by Linda and Marsha Frey, 2007, Greenwood Press, Westport, Conn.

Robert D. Linder published "The Reformation Era," 2008, Greenwood Press.

Modern languages

Jennifer Askey published "Growing into a Nation: Queen Louise and the Lessons of Nationalism in Adolescent



Wayne Nafziger, economics, presented "Software Entrepreneurs in India's Silicon City: Tigers, Copycats, and Mixed Breeds," Institute for Social and Economic Change, Nov. 26, Bangalore, India.

Fiction for Girls," in "Women Against Napoleon: Historical and Fictional Responses to his Rise and Legacy," 2007, University of Chicago Press.

Claire Dehon published "Le personnage victime dans le roman francophone en Afrique subsaharienne" in "Plaisance" 11 (2007): 129-137.

Amy L. Hubbell presented "Repeating or Remembering? Marie Cardinal's Edited Past" at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Conference, Nov. 2, Bellingham, Wash.

Emma Betz presented two papers at the annual Convention of the National Communication Association, November, Chicago. "Syntactic Resources for Managing Speakership and Reciprocity in Everyday

Interaction: Pivots in German Conversation," which won two awards. She also presented "Repair Uptake in German Interactions: Sustaining and Removing Epistemic Asymmetry," (with A. Golato) at the same convention.

Multiple departments

The following K-State faculty members presented at the fifth annual Genes in Ecology, Ecology in Genes Symposium, Nov. 9-11, Kansas City:

Anthony Joern, Samantha Wisely, biology, students and colleagues, "Adaptive Divergence in Host Plant Use and Historical Demography in the Grasshopper Hesperotettix viridis."

Wisely, biology; Rolan Davis, diagnostic medicine and pathobiology; students and colleagues, "Contrasting the Epidemiology of Evolutionarily Independent Strains of Rabies in a Common Host Species."

Brett Sandercock, Wisely, biology; students and colleagues, "Hybrid Molecules Result From Small Deletions on the CHD-Z Intron, But Lead to Big Errors in Avian Sexing Analyses."

Timothy Todd, John Blair, Michael Herman,

Continued on back

Columnist updates retirement advice

Journalism school's Fred Brock enjoys success of book's new edition

Fred Brock can't be accused of not following his own advice.

In 2004 he took early retirement from The New York Times. Then he and his wife, Evelyn, sold an expensive house in a New Jersey commuter city and moved themselves and their equity to a small inland college town: Manhattan, to be specific.

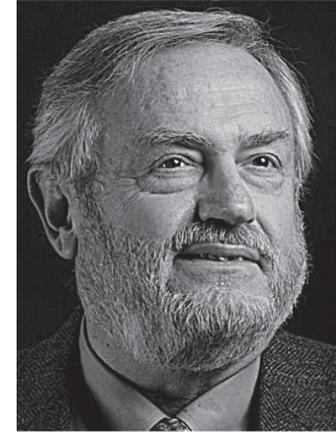
Here Brock continues to work; he holds the R.M. Seaton chair at K-State's A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications. But his ultimate goal is also the title of his most successful book to date: "Retire on Less Than You Think: The New York Times Guide to Planning Your Financial Future." (Times Books/Henry Holt)

The second edition of this best-seller is in stores and available at The New York Times store and on amazon.com. For a time, the book was the No. 1 seller under the "retirement planning" section of amazon.com, and after the first week, the book had sold out at The New York Times store, Brock said. The cover price is \$15.

"Everybody falls into this trap of believing Wall Street and the financial press, that you need 70 percent to 80 percent of your pre-retirement income," Brock said. Such thinking may fuel the mutual-fund market, but it doesn't clarify issues facing those contemplating retirement.

"People become convinced that they can't retire," he said. "What you need to look at is your expenses, not your income. They're going to drop dramatically after you retire."

Particularly if you can shed your mortgage. "That is a humongous cut in your expenses," Brock said. Clothing, commuting, cafe lattes; all those



Moving to a smaller town or smaller home is something retirees may want to consider, says Fred Brock, who holds the R.M. Seaton chair at the Miller School of Journalism.

work-related expenses should diminish as well.

Moving to a smaller town usually brings lower taxes and insurance costs, too. For those already in small towns, Brock suggests outlying areas, or "downsizing in place." Consider a smaller house or a condo instead of the empty-nest but equity-rich family home.

In addition to updating its statistics, the new edition tackles the housing slump and "the elephant in the room of American society": access to health care.

Sagging prices in overheated housing markets won't prevent someone from following Brock's advice, he said. For example, most retirement-age San Francisco homeowners have built up more than enough equity to

cash out and move to Oxford, Miss., or Bloomington, Ind., two other college towns popular with new retirees.

"One of the things that's happening to the housing market is that speculative 'flippers' are being forced out," he said. "That's a good thing, because they had driven prices artificially high in some areas."

But lack of health insurance is not a good thing. Brock still writes for The New York Times, where for years he worked as a business editor and writer. His other books include "Live Well on Less Than You Think" and "Health Care on Less Than You Think." His reporting has taught him that many would-be retirees are staying at their desks to keep group health coverage.

Medicare kicks in at 65. Retire earlier, and your health insurance options are few and expensive. Even in states that mandate universal access to insurance, premiums can turn a nest egg into a goose egg.

"What I really recommend is that people not retire if they can't figure out how to get insurance," Brock said. "You run the risk of bankruptcy."

As free-spending, BMW-leasing baby boomers head into retirement, Brock sees reason for optimism, despite their oft-cited lack of savings.

"Four things will save boomers from their bad habits," he said: Their equity in expensive homes, willingness to move, skills in juggling finances, and a desire to keep working, at least part time, during the traditional retirement years.

"As a generation, they're amazingly flexible," Brock said. "And they're going to change the rules of the game." ♦♦