

Britton takes over gender-equality project

Dana Britton, professor of sociology and editor-in-chief of the journal Gender & Society, has been named executive director of the K-State ADVANCE Institutional Transformation project.

The appointment was announced by Ruth Dyer, associate provost and principal investigator of the ADVANCE project, which is funded by a \$3.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

The project is aimed at enhancing the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women faculty members in science, engineering and math.

"Dr. Britton's research on gendered organizations and how gender affects work makes her a perfect fit," said Dyer. "She is familiar with ADVANCE from having served as a member of the steering and executive committees, and we are very pleased that she is willing to take on this leadership role."

Britton has been a faculty member at K-State since 1995 and was promoted to full professor in 2007.

"I look forward to building on the strong foundation that Beth Montelone and Ruth Dyer have established," Britton said. "Though much has been accomplished already, K-State can move forward as a leader in transforming academic workplaces in ways that promote equality for all members of our faculty."

Since the program began in 2003, 15.7 percent of tenure-track faculty in the targeted disciplines are women, up from 13.3 percent, and 10 women hold administrative positions, up from six. Forty-three women have been hired into tenure-track positions.

Along with Montelone, Britton is also a principal investigator in a recently funded \$440,000 National Science Foundation project to study factors that facilitate or impede the transition from associate to full professor.



Dana Britton

points of pride

K-State rates with Princeton

K-State is among the best undergraduate institutions in the nation, according to The Princeton Review.

The New York-based services company has just released the 2009 edition of its annual book, "The Best 368 Colleges."

Along with academics, schools are selected for the book based on evaluations of institutional data, feedback from students attending each school and campus visits.

"K-State has outstanding faculty who are dedicated to helping our students achieve," said Pat Bosco, vice president for student life and dean of students.



September

ON CAMPUS

Sept. 12

Gaelic get -together

A unique collaboration by the National Geographic Society, Neal Conan and the Celtic group Ensemble Galilei. 7:30 p.m., McCain Auditorium. Staged with the "First Person" exhibition of National Geographic photographs at the Beach Museum of Art.

Exhibition closes

Last chance to view work by architecture student participants in the 2007-2008 Kansas City Design Center. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Chang Gallery, Seaton Hall.

Sept. 14

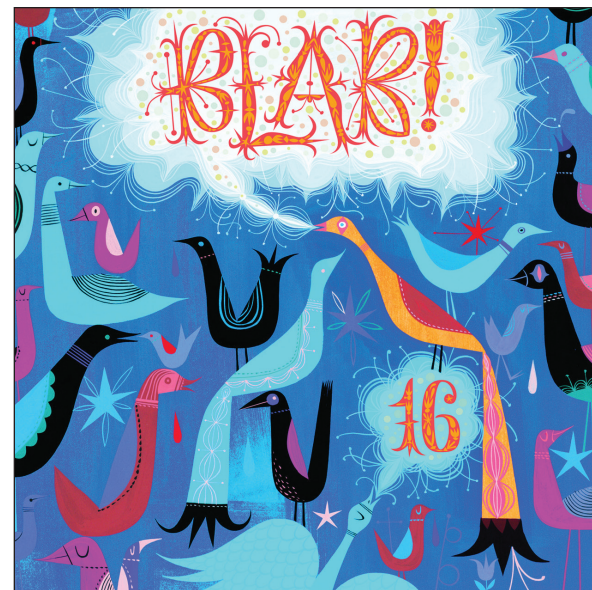
King Corn

Part of Movies on the Grass, this documentary looks at the environmental, economic, and public health effects of the mass production and consumption of corn in the U.S. 7 p.m. for pre-film events, 8 p.m. film showing, Coffman Commons, south side of Hale Library.

Sept. 15

Art from abroad

Exhibition of work by architecture student participants in 2007-2008 study abroad programs. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through Oct. 10, Chang Gallery and first floor east wing, Seaton Hall.



BLAB! session with Bill North, senior curator, who will conduct a gallery tour of the BLAB! retrospective of the magazine's graphic art. 7 p.m., Beach Museum of Art. (Cover art from BLAB! No. 16 by Tim Biskup)

Sept. 18

Rock operatics

East Village Opera Company is a powerhouse group that brings opera into the 21st century. 7:30 p.m., McCain Auditorium. Call 532-6428.

Sept. 22

Garrison Keillor

Spend an evening with bestselling

author and host of "A Prairie Home Companion." 7:30 p.m., McCain Auditorium. Call 532-6428.

Sept. 23

Landon Lecture

Vicente Fox, former president of Mexico. 3:30 p.m., McCain Auditorium.

Classified

A list of employment opportunities is posted at <http://www.k-state.edu/hr/vac.html>
 • 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 listing of vacancies can be seen at <http://www.k-state.edu/affact/Opportunities/unclass.htm>
 • For additional information, call the office of affirmative action at 532-6220 or visit 214 Anderson Hall.

History takes the stage, continued



Bobby Kennedy spoke on March 18, 1968, shortly after he had announced his run for the presidency.

was running for president."

Since nearly all Landon Lectures are available online to view, hear or read, the older lectures reach a new audience each time a news cycle mentions them.

More than 1,000 hits are recorded each month on the Web site that links to audio and video archives, at <http://ome.ksu.edu/lectures/landon/>

Inaugurated in 1966 by former K-State President James A. McCain, the series is a tribute to the late Alfred M. Landon.

Landon was sworn in as gover-

nor of Kansas Jan. 9, 1933, and served two terms. Later he was the 1936 Republican Party nominee for president. On Dec. 13, 1966, he delivered the first lecture in the series: "New Challenges in International Relations."

"Alf set the tone and direction with his first lecture," Reagan said. "It was prophetic in warning the United States to avoid war in Vietnam, and suggesting we normalize relations with China."

"He made important statements. The speakers who followed him have done the same." ■

History takes the stage

Landon Lecture Series remains among the most prestigious in the country



Distinguished visitors to the Landon podium have included Bill Clinton and Donald Rumsfeld, who spoke on the eve of his resignation.

"The fact that these were made outside Washington added to the drama."

Sometimes timing is serendipitous for K-State. Donald Rums-

feld spoke on Nov. 9, 2006, the day after he announced he was stepping down from his post as George W. Bush's first secretary of defense.

"There was speculation in the media over whether Rumsfeld would still come to speak," Reagan said. "But he did and he drew a huge crowd." Rumsfeld also was in town because Gen. Richard Myers, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was being honored with a building named for him at K-State.

The June 2008 issue of Vanity Fair magazine devoted a section to the March 18, 1968, lecture by Robert F. Kennedy, titled "Conflict in Vietnam and at Home." The magazine's focus is typical of the long-lasting value of the Landon Lectures, Reagan said.

(This year's first Landon Lecture, by the former president of Mexico, Vicente Fox, will take place at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 23 in McCain Auditorium.)

"The Landon Lectures remain one of the most prestigious series in American colleges and universities," said Jon Wefald, university president. "The Landons have a long history of attracting speakers who have something important to say." The series has played host to some of the most important figures in public life in America over the past 40 years.

Among recent newsworthy visitors, Reagan cited the 2008 lecture by Gen. Michael Hayden, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and the 2007 lecture by Robert Gates, secretary of defense.

"Both made major policy speeches here," Reagan said.

tion long after the speech. "Bush was quoted extensively because the atmosphere at K-State allowed him to be himself," Reagan said.

The series gets access to A-list speakers mainly through connections, Reagan said. "James Pearson was a senator from Kansas in 1968. He went to law school with Bobby Kennedy, and that's why Kennedy came to K-State to give a Landon Lecture," Reagan said. "It was his first speech after he announced he

The 2006 lecture by President George W. Bush also attracted at-

State of the University scheduled for Sept. 12

This year's State of the University address will take place from 3-5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, in the Alumni Center Ballroom. Presenters include Fred Fairchild, faculty senate president; M. Duane Nellis, provost and senior vice president; and Jon Wefald, K-State president.

The address will be available at <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/about/sou08.htm> once the event starts.

Richt joins advisory board for global journal

Juergen Richt, regents distinguished professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named to the scientific advisory board of the Scientific and Technical Review, a publication of the World Organization for Animal Health.

"Dr. Richt's appointment is a tremendous compliment to his scientific credibility and contributions to animal and public health," said Ralph Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Such recognition also reflects positively on K-State and the efforts that we are all making to enhance the health and well-being of animals and people."



Juergen Richt

Inside



The Konza is a candidate for a national network on climate change. Research

continued on back

oh, by the way

New email and calendar system in the works

K-State is replacing its e-mail and calendar systems, Webmail and Oracle K-Calendar, with the Zimbra collaboration suite. The change will be introduced in stages beginning in January 2009.

"We are excited about K-State's partnership with Zimbra, as it is truly the result of a university-wide effort to address the demand for better e-mail and calendaring services," said K-State Provost M. Duane Nellis. "Zimbra was selected based on significant input from K-State faculty, staff and students."

Zimbra provides integrated e-mail, calendar and roaming file space.

Lynn Carlin, interim vice provost, said expanded services include six gigabyte e-mail accounts, a single system for e-mail and calendaring, improved remote access to files, support of document sharing, more effective filtering of unsolicited e-mail and better synchronization with mobile devices.

'Fresh-Mex' option lands in Union



A new lunch destination has opened in Union Station, on the lower level of the K-State Student Union.

Salsarita's Fresh Cantina offers "fresh-Mex" fare prepared in front of the customer. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. A grand opening, with prizes and games, is planned for 11:30 a.m. Sept. 24.

The menu offers burritos, tacos, quesadillas, nachos and salads.

Union Station and its computer lab will continue to be available for studying, and student groups will still be able to reserve the space for evening meetings and gatherings.

Nominations for Iman awards due Oct. 1

The K-State Alumni Association is once again offering the Dr. Ron and Rae Iman Outstanding Faculty Awards for Research and Teaching, each in the amount of \$5,000.

Please visit <http://www.k-state.com/programs/awards/> to download a nomination form and view a complete list of the criteria for each award. Nominations are due by Oct. 1. The awards presentation and reception will take place Nov. 17.

Contact the K-State Alumni Association with any questions at 785-532-6260.

research



Measuring the potential effects of climate change on the tallgrass prairie requires long-term experiments such as this one set up on the Konza. (Photo courtesy of John Blair)

Climate change and the Konza

Prairie is a candidate for inclusion in national observation network

K-State grassland holds the potential to help scientists understand the effects of global change on the earth's ecosystems.

K-State's Konza Prairie Biological Station has been selected as a candidate core site for the proposed National Ecological Observatory Network, also known as NEON. The network is being developed as a continental-scale ecological observation platform, which will have 20 heavily instrumented core sites designed for at least 30 years of intensive measurements. It also includes mobile and airborne ecological sensing systems.

The network is to help researchers over the next 30 years or more to understand and forecast the effects of contemporary global changes – including climate

change, land-use change and invasive species – on ecosystems as diverse as grasslands, deserts and forests.

The network is being planned with support from the National Science Foundation, and it is the first initiative in the biological sciences being considered for funding through the foundation's major research equipment and facilities construction portfolio, a fund that has built telescope arrays, neutrino detectors and ocean research vessels. In May, the National Science Foundation approved two cooperative agreements with the network's national office totaling \$24 million to complete the design and development of the project as it prepares for its final review.

Konza Prairie was selected as the candidate core site to repre-

sent native grassland ecosystems in the central U.S. Prairie Peninsula region. Konza is jointly owned by K-State and the Nature Conservancy, and it is managed by the K-State Division of Biology. The NEON planning effort for Konza has been led by K-State's John Blair, university distinguished professor of biology, and Leonard Krishtalka, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and director of the Biodiversity Institute at the University of Kansas. The planning has involved numerous scientists across both campuses and collaborators at other institutions.

Konza Prairie's ecological diversity and native grasslands, combined with its proximity to human activity, makes it an ideal location to study environmental

Continued on back

noteworthy

Anthropology

Janet Benson presented "Immigrants to the Heartland: Recent Population Trends and Public Policy Issues in the Midwestern U.S.," Sixth Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas conference, June 25-28, Leiden University, The Netherlands.

Clinical sciences

Dan Thomson presented "Welfare Issues in the Beef Industry," Kansas Livestock Association, Aug. 21, Garden City.

Communication studies, theater and dance

The following K-State faculty members presented at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, July 31-Aug. 3, Denver:

Sally Bailey took part on two panels: For Emerging Scholars in the Senior Theatre Research Group she presented "The Mystery of the Stolen Grocery Carts," an improvisational play developed with the drama group at Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community last summer. For the Technology Group, she presented "Teaching Playwriting Online."

R. Michael Gros chaired a juried panel presentation, "Professional Theatres on University Campuses: A Dialogue on the Professional and Academic Partnership of Resident Theatre Companies with Educational Host Institutions." Gros also began his two-year term as conference planner for the association's Directing Focus Group.

Geography

Kendra McLaughlan has been elected chair of the paleoecology section of the Ecological Society of America. The section has about 200 members across the U.S.



Diane L. Swanson has joined the editorial boards of the journals "Business & Society," "Academy of Management Review" and "Business Ethics Quarterly."

ter presented "Social Image congruence and Tourists' Visiting Intention to Conspicuous Destinations."

International Grains Program

Mark Fowler presented "Quality of the 2008 U.S. Hard Red Winter and Soft Red Winter Crops Appears to have Returned to Relatively Normal Levels Compared to Previous Years," at the joint meeting of the Central and Wheat State districts of the International Association of Operative Millers, Aug. 1, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.

Multiple departments

Amber Howells, Kevin Roberts, Betsy B. Barrett, hospitality management and dietetics; Carol W. Shanklin, hospitality management and dietetics and Graduate School; Valerie K. Pilling and Laura A. Brannon, psychology; published "Restaurant Employees' Perceptions of Barriers to Three Food Safety Practices," Journal of the American Dietetic Association, Vol. 108, No. 8.

Betsy Barrett and student, "Integration of Technology into the Classroom."

Barrett and colleagues, "Switching Barriers: The Development of a Multi-Item Scale in a Full-Service Restaurant Setting."

Political science

Krishna K. Tummala presented the keynote address and "Corruption: The Indian Saga," at The Many Faces of Public Management Reform in Asia-Pacific conference, July 7-9, Bangkok, Thailand.

Sociology, anthropology and social work

Gerard Middendorf and colleagues published "Agrarian Landscape Transition in the Flint Hills of Kansas: Legacies and Resilience," in "Agrarian Landscapes in Transition: Comparisons of Long-Term Ecological and Cultural Change," published by Oxford University Press.

The following received a best paper award at the conference: student, former professor and Deborah Can-

up close

Scholar starter

Anita Cortez has a track record of helping students flourish



"People live up to expectations," Anita Cortez says of the students who participate in the Developing Scholars Program. This year's group consists of 60 undergraduates and their faculty mentors.

Anita Cortez's efforts to turn students into scholars started with one undergraduate, one professor and a belief in the power of beginning.

"It was an immediate match," she said of Aranda Jones, an elementary education major from Salina, and Marjorie Hancock, a professor of elementary education, who had approached Cortez looking for student help on a research project. (Jones graduated in December 2002.) At the end of the school year, Jones and Hancock presented their results to an informal group of faculty members.

The next year Cortez matched a journalism student with a faculty mentor, and then she encountered a physics professor who had a National Science Foundation grant with a student-development component.

"We realized we were both trying to do the same thing," Cortez said: To provide structured, faculty-supported scholarly opportunities for students who have not been well represented in higher education in Kansas.

To keep the program going in its early years, Cortez "went from dean to dean" to fund students in their respective colleges. "Luckily, the deans did support me."

"Anita's dedication and tenacity have helped make K-State a welcoming place for developing scholars of incredibly diverse backgrounds," said M. Duane Nellis, university provost and senior vice president. "She makes good on the K-State promise to

support students in their studies here and to prepare them for distinguished careers after graduation, whether in a profession or academia."

The Developing Scholars Program got off to a formal start in 2000, with 20 students. Steadier funding came from the first pool of Targeted Excellence grants, which provided five years of support. Now in its ninth year, the program finds Cortez looking after more than 60 students in disciplines as diverse as English and veterinary medicine.

"We're bursting at the seams right now," she said. "We've been around long enough that students bring their siblings and friends to us." Such

word-of-mouth proves the program's appeal, but Cortez is torn between expanding to serve deserving students and preserving the close-knit, family-like aspect. "We don't want to just grow it for numbers."

But other numbers prove the value of Cortez' work: Three-quarters of participants graduate in five years, including those who arrive with lower ACT scores. Of three program alumni in medical school, one already is in residency. One student was a finalist for the Rhodes scholarship last year. And with funding from Hills Pet Nutrition, six students have gone on to study veterinary medicine.

"We've been able to get underrepresented students into vet med, which has needed such a pathway," Cortez said. "That's worked beautifully."

Cortez has a record of serving under-represented students at K-State since arriving in 1985. Her most recent post was as coordinator for the PI-LOTS program, designed for the retention of at-risk freshmen, from 1994-2006. She received the Commerce Bank Presidential Award for Distinguished Service to Multicultural Education in 2002.

"We want students who are going to be serious once we get them," she said. "Self-confidence and a sense of purpose equal motivation." ■