

Nelson Goff is interim director of assessment

Briana Nelson Goff, associate professor of marriage and family therapy, has been named interim director of assessment. She will serve through Aug. 3, 2009, when Cia Verschelden, the current director, will return from her leave of absence as a visiting scholar with the Higher Learning Commission.



Briana Nelson Goff

Nelson Goff, who joined K-State in 1998, will continue her duties as associate dean in the College of Human Ecology.

The office of assessment's mission is to support continuous improvement through facilitation of meaningful assessment of student learning and effective methods for feedback and action in response to assessment results.

An Assessment Showcase planned for Oct. 24 will provide workshops on assessment for new faculty and will highlight best-practice assessment efforts across the university.

Kuester to lead Association for Arid Lands Studies

Daniel Kuester, assistant professor of economics, has been named executive director of the Association for Arid Lands Studies, which this year moved its headquarters from Texas Tech to K-State.

The association's next meeting will take place in April 2009 in conjunction with the 51st annual conference of the Western Social Science Association in Albuquerque, N.M.

Kuester, who holds the Roger Trenary Chair in economics, will coordinate the conference. Presentations will include water quantity and quality, business and development, hazardous weather and historical and ethnic issues that affect arid lands.

points of pride

Cookbook marks milestone

A rare cookbook has become the 2 millionth volume acquired by the Kansas State University Libraries.

"The Frugal Housewife or Complete Woman Cook" was written in London in 1765 by Susannah Carter. K-State Libraries acquired one of only two known copies of a 1795 North American printing.

The book is now the oldest American cookbook in the K-State Libraries' world-class cookery collection, according to Roger Adams, associate professor and rare books librarian. It was purchased with funds donated by the Friends of the K-State Libraries.



on campus September-October



Visitors Day at the Konza runs 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Konza Prairie Biological Station. Guided access is available to restricted areas of the field research station, such as the bison herd. At headquarters, view live animal displays and research exhibits and learn about tallgrass prairie conservation and more. Presented by the Division of Biology, the Nature Conservancy and Friends of Konza Prairie. (Photo courtesy of John Blair)

Sept. 25 Comics talk

"From Highbrow Comics to Lowbrow Art: The Shifting Contexts of the Comics Art Object," is a lecture by Bart Beaty, a comics scholar at the University of Calgary. Part of the Arts Above the Arch series; 5:30 p.m., Beach Museum of Art.

'Sweeney Todd'

The winner in 2006 of two Tonys and four Drama Desk Awards comes to McCain Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Call 532-6428 for ticket information.

Sept. 27 Museum open house

Family Day Open House takes place 1-3 p.m., Beach Museum of Art. Refreshments provided.

Sept. 30 Forum on energy

"The Energy Problem: Choices for an Uncertain Future" is the topic of

a 7-9 p.m. forum at K-State at Salina. Part of a series sponsored by the Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy and the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Abilene.

Oct. 1 Classified Senate

Meeting takes place at 12:45 p.m., Staterooms 1 and 2, K-State Student Union.

Oct. 2 Benefits Expo

Learn about retirement and insurance options. Sessions start at 9 a.m., K-State Student Union.

Children's lit lecture

"Minders of Make-Believe: A History of Children's Book Publishing," by Leonard Marcus, biographer and expert on American children's books, 4 p.m., Hemisphere Room, Hale Library.

Guest artist

Violist Margaret Miller will give a concert, 7:30 p.m., All Faiths Chapel.

Oct. 2-4, 9-12 'The Laramie Project'

K-State's student-run Purple Masque Theater presents a story based on the kidnapping and death of Matthew Shepard. 7:30 p.m., East Stadium. Tickets are \$4-\$7 at the McCain Box Office, the Little Theater Box Office or by calling 532-6428. Directed by Ariane Chapman.

Oct. 3 Claremont Trio

Hailed as "def, exhilarating, and imaginative" by Strings magazine, this young trio was the first recipient of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award. 7:30 p.m., McCain Auditorium. Ticket information at 532-6428.

Oct. 7 All Faiths concert

Thomas Labadorf, clarinet, and Slawomir Dobrzanski, piano, will perform at 7:30 p.m., All Faiths Chapel.

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.

Progress and possibilities, continued

of opportunities to extend our knowledge discoveries to new business opportunities."

Extending K-State's assets and expertise across the campus and the state is the essence of engagement, Nellis said. He cited the Center for Engagement and Community Development for "fusing our knowledge base on campus with communities in the state through our Extension network."

Nellis lauded the career-long devotion of retiring deans Stephen White, Arts and Sciences, and Dennis Law, Architecture, Planning and Design.

"These two individuals have committed their lives to the uni-

versity and have done an extraordinary job."

Nellis then summarized plans for searches related to these deanships and other university administrative posts.

He expressed his hope that a new president will be named in time to have a hand in final selections for the deanships.

Despite administrative transitions and a climate of fiscal uncertainty, Nellis expressed enthusiasm for the opportunities ahead for K-State.

"That optimism, which is now a hallmark of Kansas State University, is a tribute to the leadership that Dr. Wefald has provided over the past 22 years," Nellis said. ■

Winning habits, continued

argument. The coach was fired and the debate team eliminated.

"My attitude is, regardless of why he did it, that is not what we as coaches are supposed to do," Brown said. "I do feel sorry for the debaters. I don't know that cutting the whole program was fair. If I did something wrong, I wouldn't want our program punished."

The K-State forensics program allows students to thrive in an environment that fosters creativity.

Brown and assistant coach Bobby Imbody oversee about 20 students. Older teammates mentor the younger ones and help to instill a sense of pride in the program. After all, no

class wants to be known as the one that broke K-State's distinguished winning streak.

"I've always had smart, hard-working students, a great coaching staff and top graduate teaching assistants," Brown said. "The university support we receive is wonderful. This school made a commitment to forensics that a lot of schools haven't."

"At competitions, when some of my colleagues start bemoaning the lack of administrative support at their universities, I can't really say anything. I just have to sit back and be quiet, because the phenomenal university support that we receive helps make the program." ■

State of the University

Wefald attributes success to teamwork and inspirational campus leaders



"At K-State, we empower people."

Jon Wefald



Duane Nellis and Fred Fairchild listen to Jon Wefald deliver his final State of the University address Sept. 12 in the Alumni Center.

Reflecting on the leaps and bounds made since he took the helm at 22 years ago, Jon Wefald delivered his valedictory State of the University address Friday Sept. 12.

Wefald, K-State's 12th president, will have completed 23 years as president when he retires at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year.

In speaking of the accomplishments during his long tenure, Wefald credited "the finest administrative team in the history of K-State" and the strategy of empowering faculty, staff and students to get things done.

"At K-State, we empower people," Wefald said, "and people who are empowered almost always exceed all expectations."

When Wefald came to K-State in 1986, enrollment was declining, the football and athletic programs were struggling, research and graduate programs were limited and faculty morale was low.

Over the past 22 years, he said, all of these things have turned around.

Enrollment has gone from 16,000 to more than 23,000, and the student population is more diverse than ever. K-State has won Big 12 championships in football, volleyball and women's basketball, not to mention its ascendancy in several national rankings.

In addition, competitive research funding rose to more than \$100 million in 2008 – compared to around \$19 million in 1986 – and overall research funding came in at \$220 million.

The number of endowed professorships and University Distinguished Professors increased, and private fundraising has multiplied tenfold since 1986, bringing in nearly \$100 million during the last academic year.

Wefald also recalled that 11 K-Staters have been named either the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching national professor of the year for

the nation's major research universities or the Carnegie/CASE state professor of the year. For 2007-08, K-State had both a national professor of the year and a Kansas professor of the year.

Such excellence creates an environment that caters to student success, Wefald said. He then detailed K-State's unmatched numbers of Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater and Udall scholarships awarded since 1986.

"With 124 of these five prestigious scholarships, K-State ranks first out of all 500 public, four-year colleges and universities in America," he said. "K-State students have won 35 more of these prestigious academic scholarships than any public university in the PAC 10, Big 10, Big 12, ACC, SEC and Big East. Our students have won more of these prestigious scholarships than Brown, the University of Chicago, Cornell and MIT."

Wefald said that the K-State team's ability set and execute priorities has led to this success.

"Our deans and department heads know that in order to be excellent and to be regionally and nationally recognized that we have to set priorities," Wefald

said. "I doubt that there is another land-grant university in America that has so many academic leaders willing to determine their top one or two priorities as K-State is doing right now."

This sort of teamwork, he said, enables the university to get things done quickly.

He cited the daunting task of readying the university for the first days of school after the June 11 tornado.

"People said it could not be done in 60 days," he said. "But we have cleaned up and restored K-State, and K-State has never been more clean, neat and beautiful than it is right now."

Though Wefald praised the university's accomplishments during his tenure as president, he said that the best is yet to come.

"We're red hot," he said. "Academically, administratively and athletically, K-State is at the top of its game. Kansas State's future is nothing but bright." ■

State and nation rely on biosecurity center

Since it was established in 2002, the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center has worked with a variety of state and federal agencies to examine



Marty Vanier

how well the agricultural and law enforcement sectors would work together in case of an animal disease outbreak.

This work has involved the Kansas Animal Health Department, which would lead state response in case of such an outbreak.

"The reality is that the introduction of a highly infectious animal disease, whether accidental or intentional, could cause economic chaos in Kansas," said Marty Vanier, director of operations of the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center.

The center has organized preparedness exercises to test how well ranchers, veterinarians, law enforcement and governmental agencies would work together.

In all, the center's expertise has been tapped for 13 exercises at the local, state, and national level. They have addressed scenarios from radiological contamination of the water supply to a nationwide outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

Inside



Craig Brown, coach of K-State's forensics team, has winning ways. Up Close

oh, by the way

Benefits Expo to provide answers, advice and retirement planning Oct. 2

The Division of Human Resources is hosting its annual Benefits Expo Oct. 2 in the K-State Student Union.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the main ballroom, voluntary and mandatory retirement plan providers, KPERS, health insurance providers, life insurance companies associated with K-State, and many other agencies will be available for questions.

Open enrollment health insurance informational meetings will take place at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Forum Hall. The sessions are identical.

This is an opportunity for employees to learn about the new discount for non-tobacco users, to review a new plan provider and get updated information for 2009. This invaluable session can help employees complete the October online open enrollment.

New this year are retirement planning sessions.

At 10:30 a.m. in Forum Hall, Fred Brock, who holds the R.M. Seaton Professional Journalism Chair, will present a session on "Living Well and Retiring Well on Less Than You Think," based on his books. Brock is a former columnist and editor for The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

Also new this year is a pre-retirement session for all KPERS employees. At 12:30 p.m., Alan Schuler, KPERS field representative, will present information on KPERS calculations, time in service and retirement dates. Employees within five years of their anticipated retirement will benefit most.

In addition, Mercy Health Center will offer flu shots for \$20.

Questions should be addressed to Stephanie Harvey at 532-6277 or e-mailed to BenAdmin@k-state.edu

Improvements planned for campus technology

The consolidation of central information technology units in July 2009 under the leadership of a chief information officer, a new position, is just one of the ways K-State plans to build its information technology services to meet future needs, according to Duane Nellis, provost and senior vice president.

The new central information technology organization will include the current information systems office and information technology services units.

The consolidation and call for a chief information officer are among the 16 recommendations made by the Campus IT Needs Assessment Working Group to the Computing Executive Committee this summer; all of the recommendations were endorsed by the committee.

Search is on for special assistant to provost

The office of the provost is conducting an internal search for a non-renewable, part-time appointment to the position of special assistant to the provost for spring 2009 to assist with academic issues related to enhancing student retention.

This is an opportunity for individuals considering a move into academic administration to work in a high-profile setting and gain valuable experience. Nominations and applications are encouraged for all qualified individuals.

state of the university

Progress and possibilities at K-State

Provost Nellis tells success stories as university moves forward

The experience, expertise, creativity and eagerness of K-State's faculty and administrators have prepared a venerable land-grant university for its 21st century role as a center for innovation, Provost Duane Nellis said during his State of the University presentation Sept. 12.

He listed several initiatives that make K-State "a unique and forward-looking institution," among them "our emphasis on departments setting priorities for academic achievement, our university-based interdisciplinary Targeted Excellence grant program, and our efforts to be more engaged, entrepreneurial and international as an institution."

In addition to crediting research scholars for K-State's increased national prominence, Nellis pointed to impressive tallies in research dollars, national awards for faculty, national and international awards and scholarships for students, and records in numbers of international students and private giving.

But Nellis also raised the importance of continued improvement as the 2011 reaccreditation visit approaches, particularly in enhanced diversity of faculty and students, the need for an updated strategic plan, approval of a new general education curriculum and associated full cycle assessment of student learner outcomes, and enhanced engagement across the



Duane Nellis, provost and senior vice president, addresses attendees of the 23rd State of the University presentations Sept. 12.

university and across the state. Nellis also spoke to the need to improve faculty and staff salaries in line with peer institutions.

Entrepreneurship includes

"being more creative and

taking advantage of

opportunities to extend

our knowledge discoveries

to new business."

Duane Nellis

He praised such initiatives as the Developing Scholars Program, Bridges and Project Impact, which work with underrepresent-

ed students and their families, as ways "to provide a seamless track to success at K-State."

Other efforts to increase K-State's accessibility, including two-plus-two arrangements with community colleges, also have brought more high-quality students to campus, he said.

Just as important as retaining and supporting students and faculty is the need to more aggressively internationalize their university experiences, Nellis said.

That will mean more incentives for faculty to create opportunities for students internationally. Details of a new university grant program for faculty to support such activities will be announced soon, Nellis said.

In emphasizing entrepreneurship, Nellis defined it as "moving our land-grant institution to new levels of innovation, being more creative and taking advantage

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noteworthy

Anthropology

Harald E.L. Prins and colleague's two-volume book "Asticou's Island Domain: Wabanaki Peoples at Mt. Desert Island, 1500-2000," was digitally published by the National Park Service.

Prins published a book review of "Encounters: American Indians in Britain, 1500-1776," Annales canadiennes d'histoire, Vol. 43, No.1.

The following K-State faculty presented at the Lower Missouri River Archaeology and History Conference, Sept. 6, at the Fort Osage National Historical Landmark in celebration of the bicentennial of Fort Osage:

Lauren Ritterbush, "Archaeology of the Early Kansas Indians."

Brad Logan, "Life on the Edge: Cultural Prehistory on the Western Side of the Lower Missouri Valley."

Ritterbush, Logan and Donna Roper participated in the Nebraska Phase Seminar as part of the Loess Hills archaeology symposium, Sept. 13, Glenwood, Iowa.

Architectural engineering and construction science

Sutton Stephens was elected to the national board of directors for the Cold-formed Steel Engineers Institute.

Biochemistry

Qize Wei, Di Wu and colleagues published "Phosphorylation of MyoGEF on Thr-574 by PIK1 Promotes MyoGEF Localization to the Central Spindle," Journal of Biological Chemistry, August 2008.

Robert Peterman, Asad Esmaily and former student were recipients of the 2008 George D. Nasser Award



X. Susan Sun will present the Keynote address, "Surface Active and Interactive Soy Protein Polymers," at the 15th annual BioEnvironmental Polymer Society meeting, Oct. 7-10, Nashua N.H.

presented by the national Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute for the paper "Bond Characteristics of Self-Consolidating Concrete for Prestensioned Bridge Girders," published in the July-August 2007 issue of the PCI Journal. The award will be presented Oct. 6 in Orlando, Fla.

Disability Support Services

Jaclyn Anderson has been appointed to serve as one of the commissioners to the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns. The commission provides policy recommendations to the state of Kansas on changes to laws, regulations and programs that affect people with disabilities. Anderson is the first ever commissioner appointed from higher education.

Entomology

Richard Beeman, Marce Lorenzen, Jeremy Marshall, Yoonseong Park and colleagues published "The Genome of the Model Beetle and Pest Tribolium Castaneum," Nature, Vol. 452, No. 7190.

Beeman, Lorenzen, Park and colleagues published "The Maternal-Effect, Selfish Genetic Element Medea

is Associated With a Composite Tc1 Transposon," Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Vol. 105, No. 29.

Libraries

Donna F. Ekart published "Somewhere Over the Verde Rainbow," in Computers in Libraries, Vol. 28, No. 8.

Multiple departments

Aaron H. Carlstrom, special education, counseling and student affairs; and Eunhee Kim and Fred B. Newton, counseling services; presented "Cluster Analysis of Client Concerns of University Students at Intake," 116th annual convention of the American Psychological Association, Aug. 16, Boston.

Sociology

The following K-State faculty members presented at the 2008 meetings of the Rural Sociological Society, Manchester, N.H.:

Theresa Selfa, Richard Goe, Laszlo Kulcsar, and Gerad Middendorf, "The Biofuels Revolution? Understanding the Promises and Perils of Biofuels Development for Rural Communities."

Goe and student, "Correlates of Ethanol Factory Location in the North Central Region of the U.S."

Kulcsar and student, "If You Build It, Will They Come? Biofuel Plants and Demographic Trends in the Midwest."

Middendorf, Selfa and student, "Environmental Discourse and Biofuels Development."

Selfa and student, "Biofueling Rural Development? Prospects and Challenges at Local and Global Scales."

Selfa and student, "Diffused Water Governance and Forums for Local Participation: Examples from Kansas."

up close

Winning habits

Forensics coach Craig Brown has a history of fostering success

Craig Brown, K-State forensics coach, likes to joke that it's his job to turn his students into people.

It's not that the students who enter the forensics program are unlikable – Brown would argue that most of them are quite charming. But over the course of a college career, most students change. A lot.

"I spend a lot of time with them," Brown said. "You're usually traveling almost every weekend together and working during the evening on weeknights. Over the years, they do a lot of growing up. They acquire certain life skills that come with dealing with people from different backgrounds, and in dealing with winning and losing."

Forensics is competitive speaking that consists of three categories: interpretation of literature, such as a prose piece or poem; limited preparation or impromptu speech, in which competitors usually get seven minutes to prepare a three-minute speech; and a memorized speech intended to persuade or inform. Participants are ranked on their abilities throughout the year, with the goal being a top finish at the year-end national tournament.

K-State forensics students are used to winning. The squad placed fourth nationally this year and has placed in the top 10 nationally since 1993. But Brown says there's more to a win than acquiring another trophy.

"With winning, it's all about how you handle a win," he



"If you want to have a successful program, you have to learn about each person and develop a certain level of trust," says Craig Brown.

said. "It's about not getting complacent and working to do better in the next competition."

"You also have to realize that you're not always going to do well. And, even if you do achieve a win, you still have other aspects of your life that are important -- you still

have to do your homework and things for other classes."

Students also have to deal with losing, which Brown said can be really tough for a student who is used to winning. A new student who was a high school forensics standout may not be used to getting

critiqued, but it's something they have to learn to deal with to be successful.

Brown is definitely someone students can expect a solid critique from: He's an award-winning forensics participant who has coached at K-State for over 20 years. Under his tutelage the program has consistently ranked well nationally, and he's coached three overall national champions, including this year's national champion, Jessy Ohl.

"I'd like to say that having a national champion is a once-in-a-lifetime achievement, but I've had three in 20-plus years," Brown said. "I've just tended to have really good students. Every six to eight years I have someone who's just phenomenal."

Brown says his coaching style is based on mutual trust and understanding.

"If you want to have a successful program, you have to learn about each person and develop a certain level of trust," he said. "You figure out each personality and what would work for that person, and which event may play to their strengths. You then give them guidance for the process."

Forensics is distinct from debate, which Brown calls "a one-on-one clash" between two teams taking opposing viewpoints on a contentious issue. That potential for passion boiled over in early August when a Fort Hays State coach mooned an opposing coach during a post-match

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