



K-STATE ANIMAL SCIENCES & INDUSTRY

FAMILY & FRIENDS REUNION

OCTOBER 4, 2019 | STANLEY STOUT CENTER | MANHATTAN, KS



REUNITE

Laughter and music filled the chilly evening as Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) alumni and supporters gathered on Friday, October 4, 2019, at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan, Kansas. This evening marked the fifth annual K-State ASI Family & Friends Reunion.

More than 1,300 attendees took the opportunity to reunite with each other and interact with current and former students, faculty and staff. The annual event is hosted by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council (LMIC) in cooperation with the ASI department.

We invite you to enjoy this publication that showcases future Wildcats, special moments and laughter shared by many attendees at this year's event. It also features the Kansas Livestock Association, the 2019 Don L Good Impact Award winner, as well as other KSU ASI family and friends and their stories.

SINCERELY,

FAMILY & FRIENDS PUBLICATION EDITORS



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KANSAS LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

*A look back on the 125-year history of the 2019 Don L. Good Impact Award recipient
— Kansas Livestock Association.*

STORY BY: KATELYN HARBERT



The Kansas Livestock Association has served as a voice for Kansas ranchers for the past 125 years. Since 1894, this trade association has been representing thousands of ranchers and strives to improve the business atmosphere of the industry while meeting the needs of consumers.

“The KLA forefathers exhibited a progressive, forward-looking assertiveness to embrace and adopt the changing nature of the business,” says Dee Likes, KLA CEO Emeritus. “In 1894, when the association was founded, the fencing of the open range was almost totally concluded and the mechanization technology was about to begin. Railroad cattle hauling and refrigerated shipping of beef began to overhaul the cattle and beef business.”

Striving to improve the business atmosphere of the industry and meeting the needs of consumers have been key goals of KLA throughout the organization’s history. “For more than 125 years, our focus has been on ensuring a business environment where our members, and livestock producers in general, have the opportunity to thrive, for their businesses to thrive and for their operations to be profitable and grow and to raise cattle over the years,” Matt Teagarden, KLA CEO, says.

Today, KLA represents the state’s multibillion-dollar cattle industry at both the state and federal levels. KLA members are involved in all segments of the livestock industry, including cow-calf, feedlot, swine, dairy and sheep. Membership dues contribute to funding legislative, education and communication activities.

“KLA works to advance the common business interests of our members, and that results in their ability to produce beef and enhances their ability to produce beef and beef products for beef consumers. It’s really important that we meet the demand of our consumers and KLA is really actively involved in that” says Jerry Bohn, NCBA vice president and former KLA president. “KLA staff is the cornerstone of what we do and what the association does, the representation particularly for us at the State House in Topeka, the legislative events that go on there, really we unfortunately have to play defense a lot, and KLA is right there at the forefront of protecting our industry from over regulation. They also play an important role on the national level when we go to Washington D.C., working with the Congressmen and the senators from the state, to

promote and encourage legislation that will be beneficial for the livestock industry here in the state.”

ENCOURAGES ONE MISSION

KLA was the state organization within the National Cattlemen’s Association (NCA) that sparked the idea for the merger between NCA and the National Livestock and Meat Board that formed today’s National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. KLA had been one of the founding organizations or charter member of both organizations representing the beef industry up to that time and was instrumental in successfully lobbying Congress to establish the national uniform \$1/head beef checkoff and the Cattlemen’s Beef Board. Each organization had a separate board, separate staff, separate headquarters and each hosted two major meetings each year.

“Each [organization] was good at the execution of their mission but there was so much overlap that achieving a laser focus on relevant matters wasn’t possible to significantly move the industry into modern times given the changing consumer preferences and issues facing the industry,” Likes explains.

Merging the two organizations allowed them to function in a more unified manner and has greatly benefitted the industry.

“You have the checkoff side in the same organization as the policy side, and even though it has different revenue streams and those funds are all kept separately, the work of both sides support each other and, more importantly, supports beef producers,” Teagarden says. “I think KLA was a model that was looked at by beef industry leaders heading into the merger that led to a more effective national organization working on behalf of beef producers.”

PARTNERS WITH A PURPOSE

KLA’s long-standing relationship with Kansas State University serves as another pillar in the organization’s history. Both working to serve livestock producers, the organizations



CURRENT AND FORMER KLA STAFF

strive toward fulfilling similar purposes. KLA and K-State constantly support each other and commonly collaborate to accomplish their goals.

“The cooperation between KLA and K-State was natural as animal husbandry education and research was critical to the rapidly expanding industry. The two entities formed what has been a friendly and cooperative partnership that’s now well over 100 years in length,” Likes says.

In addition to the programs hosted solely by KLA, the organization works with K-State to provide additional opportunities for Kansas ranchers. Some of KLA’s main partnerships with the university include field days, research projects and the feedlot boot camp. The ranch management field days are the largest of these activities. At the field days, ranchers from across the state are invited to visit a specific ranch and learn about its practices and ways to implement similar ideas in their own operations.

“You look back at 125 years, that’s a long history for both organizations. Our summer field days are put on in partnership with K-State, that is an important educational opportunity for our members across the state. It’s a great partnership with K-State to share some research, some of what those ranchers are doing on their operations and makes for a really nice program. That’s one of the many ways we’ve utilized the talent and the expertise of K-State,” Teagarden says. “You look through our magazines and our newsletters over the years, we frequently feature results of research and other programs that are being conducted by K-State faculty and staff. I think we both have, in large part, the same goals, and that is to serve Kansas livestock producers.”

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Justin Janssen, member of the award’s nominating committee, explains the impact of KLA beyond

the state level. “Many KLA members have served the livestock industry nationally in leadership roles. KLA is widely respected both statewide and nationally,” Janssen says. Along with the members of KLA, the staff and leaders of the organization contribute greatly to the positive reputation KLA has built. Thirty of the 43 KLA employees are graduates of Kansas State University, further demonstrating the organization’s relationship with the university.

Receiving the Don L. Good Impact Award further signifies the relationship and mutual support between KLA and K-State. The award serves as recognition of the positive contributions of KLA to the Kansas agriculture industry.

“Don was recognized as a leader in agriculture, in livestock production and in the academic world. Among K-State’s peers across the country, Dr. Good was a leader and a real visionary,” Teagarden says. “To be associated with Dr. Good is a real honor and if you look at the other recipients of the award, the groundbreaking work of Certified Angus Beef, the CattleFAX team that received the award a year ago, it’s just a real honor to be associated with people and organizations like that.”

All of the work in KLA’s 125-year history has earned the organization the well-deserved honor of receiving the Don L. Good Impact Award.

“There are a lot of reasons why KLA was selected as the Don L. Good Impact awardee in 2019,” Janssen explains. “KLA has had the livestock and meat producer and industry’s best interest at the heart of their mission since the inception of KLA in the late 1800s. The selection committee and the LMIC board want to honor and recognize the positive influence and leadership that KLA staff, leaders and members have on the state of Kansas and the nation. KLA continues to make an impact daily and certainly fits the criteria for the Don L. Good Impact Award.” **K**



"FOR 125 YEARS, KLA MEMBERS HAVE POSITIVELY IMPACTED THE KANSAS AND U.S. LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY. KLA IS HONORED TO JOIN THE DISTINGUISHED GROUP OF PRIOR RECIPIENTS OF THE DON L. GOOD IMPACT AWARD."

*- Matt Teagarden
Kansas Livestock Association CEO*



1915 KLA CONVENTION



DEE LIKES

A highlight of Dee Likes' influence on Kansas Livestock Association and the state's cattle industry.

STORY BY: KATELYN HARBERT

Dee Likes, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) CEO Emeritus, has been a proud leader in KLA since 1976. Prior to working at KLA, Likes began his career at CattleFax, the 2018 recipient of the Don L. Good Impact Award. Throughout his tenure, some of the most prominent accomplishments of KLA include the Beef Checkoff program, use-value appraisal and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) merger, along with many others.

While there have been many significant achievements of KLA throughout Likes' tenure, one stands out to him. "Perhaps the most significant benefit provided by KLA to the broader beef industry has been the staunch leadership to lead the defeat of numerous attempts to legislate restrictions on the producers' freedom of choice to form new or creative marketing techniques and business models," Likes says. "KLA has perpetuated a culture and business-like operating style to the numerous issues and attacks facing the industry, sometimes from within, by using principled, fact-based decision making while valuing the proud traditions and legacy of the past while having the courage to embrace the future and the changes necessary to keep beef relevant to consumers."

Matt Teagarden, current KLA CEO, highlights one of KLA's achievements supported by Likes. "During Dee's time here at KLA, there were some key legislative victories such as the implementation of use-value appraisal for ag land here in Kansas. Dee was a key part of the effort to get that constitutional amendment through the legislature and ultimately through by voters," Teagarden says. "Instead of agricultural land being valued according to its market value, it is valued according to its use value, and that's hugely impactful for not just livestock producers, but all of agriculture from a tax liability standpoint."

Likes continued to explain the impact of KLA on the beef industry, both at the state and national levels. "KLA is one of the most influential state affiliate organizations in the U.S. and viewed by many as the standard to which other state associations are compared," Likes says. "KLA is proud to be the largest affiliate of the NCBA in terms of both national members and dues revenues. There have been five past presidents of KLA who have gone on to serve as president of the national association."

The influence of KLA on other organizations throughout the nation is clear. "KLA was a founder of both the predecessor organizations when the National Livestock and Meat Board merged with the National Cattlemen's Association to form what is today the premier beef and cattle organization in the U.S.: The National Cattlemen's Beef Association," Likes says. "KLA was instrumental in causing and leading the merger in 1995, which was a major highlight of my active duty tenure at KLA, from 1976 through 2014."

Teagarden recognizes Likes' influence in this event. "Dee was a leader of the NCBA merger effort. He believed in the value of the structure that we have in Kansas and was a key part in helping cattle producers from across the country recognize the value of having one organization speaking with one voice on the issues that are important to the beef industry," Teagarden says. "I don't think that merger would have happened without Dee's work and his influence in the process."

Likes is proud of the time he has been able to contribute to the organization's 125-year history. "My 40 years as staff of KLA — 30 of those as CEO — is a nearly a third of that existence," Likes says. "I'm proud and humbled to have been so fortunate to have enjoyed my entire professional career at two of the finest organizations in the beef industry: CattleFax and KLA." **K**

JOHN MEETZ

A recollection of the work and impact of the late John Meetz.

STORY BY: KATELYN HARBERT



A 1967 Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) graduate and Newton native, John Meetz, was the executive secretary of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) from June 1970 to February 1984. Meetz was the driving force behind several initiatives that changed the Kansas beef industry.

“Although KLA has always been a strong, national leader in the livestock industry, John’s commitment and passion for the livestock industry took it to a whole new level,” says Sam Hands, member of the Don L. Good Impact Award nominating committee. Prior to his time at KLA, Meetz was the livestock judging coach at Western Illinois University. Following his tenure at KLA, he served as National Cattlemen’s Association (NCA) CEO from 1984 to 1990.

“John brought in a new, young staff, and together they created national credibility for all segments of KLA. John and his staff were instrumental in starting the CattleFax organization, which is now a branch of NCBA [National Cattlemen’s Beef Association],” Hands explains. “John’s leadership and vision did not go unnoticed. In the early ’80s, he was hired to take over the executive leadership of NCA. He was the primary one responsible for writing the beef checkoff program and guided its board through their initial developmental time frame.”

His KLA tenure covered a time of tremendous transition and change in both the Kansas beef industry and KLA. Under his leadership, membership grew from less than 3,000 to more than 9,000; the KLA Cattle Feeders, Cow-Calf/Stocker and Purebred Councils were formed; the Kansas Beef Council was created and KLA continued to make strides in the state legislature. Key legislative victories included securing the farm machinery and equipment exemption from property taxes.

In the late ’60s and early ’70s, lack of support from the state government and dissatisfaction from Kansas

cattle feeders led to a state of turmoil for KLA.

During this time, KLA relocated and the Kansas commercial cattle feeding industry was beginning to emerge. As these transitions happened, some cattle feeders felt they lacked a voice in the association. This prompted Meetz to implement changes in an attempt to improve the organization. He began by forming the KLA Cattle Feeders Council in 1971 with Virgil Huseman as its first staff director in order to prevent the existence of two associations representing cattle feeders and cow-calf producers in Kansas, a significant factor in KLA’s success.

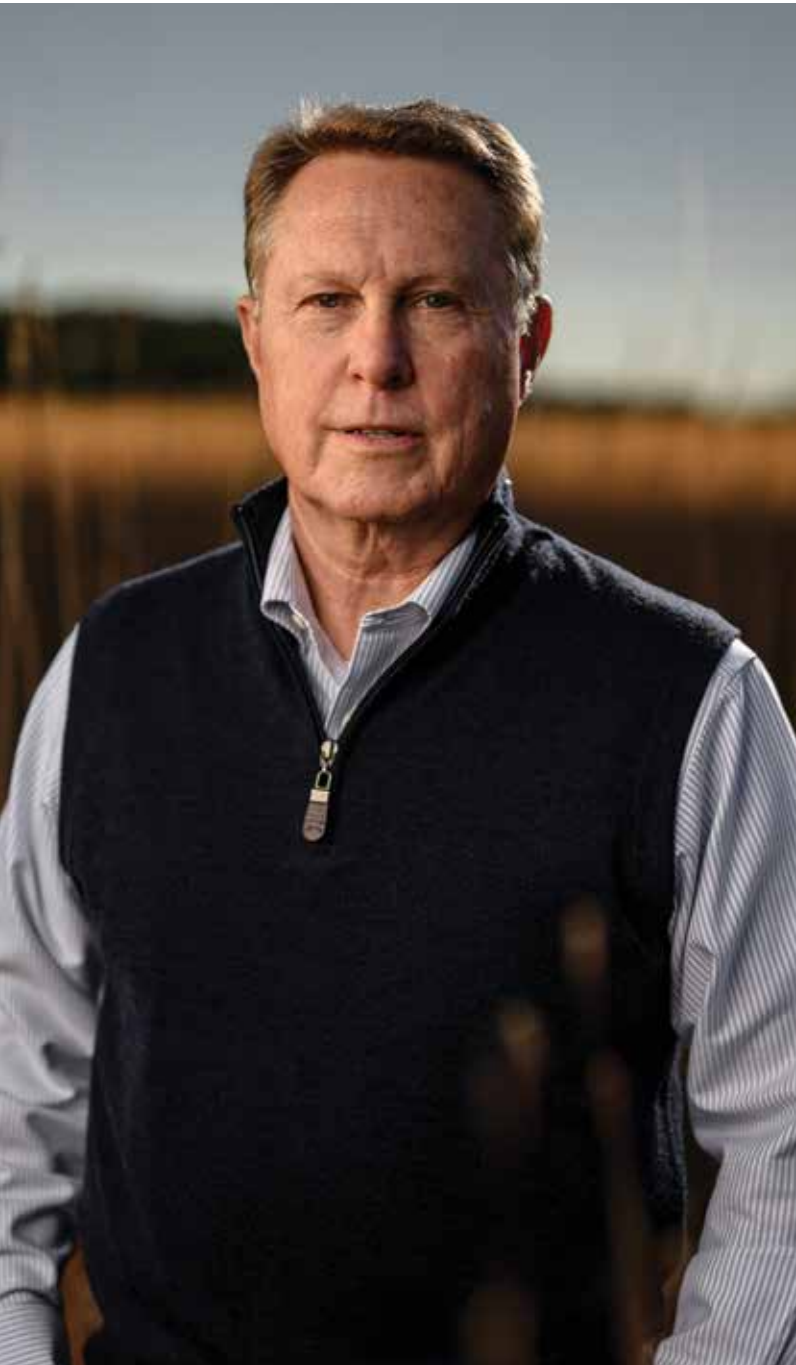
Rising food prices and inflation led to a nationwide boycott of beef as well as picketing supermarkets in 1973. After hearing about the protests and experiencing them himself, Meetz immediately began an industry effort to establish a beef promotion program in Kansas, which led to the inception of the Kansas Beef Council.

Kendal Frazier, current NCBA CEO and a KLA employee during Meetz’s tenure, recognizes the impact Meetz’s actions had on the Kansas beef industry.

“From that April morning in 1973, the Kansas Beef Council has become a real voice and advocate for beef at the state and national levels,” Frazier says. While at NCBA, Meetz directed the successful effort that led to the passage of federal legislation creating the national \$1-per-head beef checkoff.

“John Meetz was influential in future leadership statewide and nationally to lay the groundwork for what is today NCBA, CattleFax and the beef checkoff,” says Justin Janssen, award nominating committee member.

In 1984, Meetz was recognized as Kansas Stockman of the Year by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council. Although he passed in October 2018, members of the cattle industry continue to recognize his impact. “KLA has always been a front leader in the livestock industry, and John Meetz’s vision and ability to guide leadership for the future was second to none,” Hands summarizes. **K**



MIKE BEAM

The ways in which one man has served Kansas agriculturalists for half a century.

STORY BY: MEGAN UNDERWOOD

A household name to many in the livestock industry, Mike Beam has significantly influenced the Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI), the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) and the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA).

Beam always knew there were more opportunities outside of livestock production and came to find those during his time spent in Weber Hall. He became a proud K-State alum when he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences and Industry in 1978. During his time at K-State, he was a member of the livestock judging team which he credits as being one of his favorite college experiences. He enjoyed the many road trips with his teammates who became lifelong friends. He was on the team that was the last to judge at the International Livestock Show in Chicago, Illinois, where he was the high individual in oral reasons and swine evaluation.

He started his career as a county 4-H and youth extension agent but would soon join the team at KLA as a field representative. He later became the executive secretary of the Cow-Calf/Stocker Division and the senior vice president. When asked about his time at KLA, Beam was quick to respond that he favored being a part of a team working to coordinate member issues and assisting with government affairs. He also noted that he learned the importance of patience. Beam was recently appointed and now serves as the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture. He enjoys this position as it gives him the opportunity to serve in a capacity that involves all of agriculture and not just the livestock industry.

While stepping away from being immediately involved in production agriculture was not the ideal career at the time, Beam has been sure to stay true to his production roots over time and teach his family the importance of hard work. He raised his two daughters in Topeka, Kansas, which did not give them the opportunity to grow up on a family farm. However, he has been sure to advocate for the importance of agriculture in their lives. While they did not pursue careers in agriculture they have always been supportive of Beam's passion.

Beam still has a strong influence on the lives of current students, faculty and alumni of K-State. Anyone and everyone has something to say about the way Beam has impacted their lives. "Secretary Beam has always been a contributor to the success of the agriculture industry and an influencer to those in it," says Taylor Nikkel, K-State student and KDA intern. "I have always looked up to him since his time at the Kansas Livestock Association and it has been a privilege working with him at the Kansas Department of Agriculture." **K**



DON L. GOOD

Hired Me Reception

To celebrate the event's 5th anniversary and to honor the faculty hired by Don Good, a pre-event reception was planned. An invitation was sent to those faculty hired during Good's tenure as department head inviting them to attend the Reunion and pre-event reception. We appreciate the impact these faculty members made on the department and were thrilled to have them as special guests in attendance at the 5th Annual KSU ASI Family & Friends Reunion.

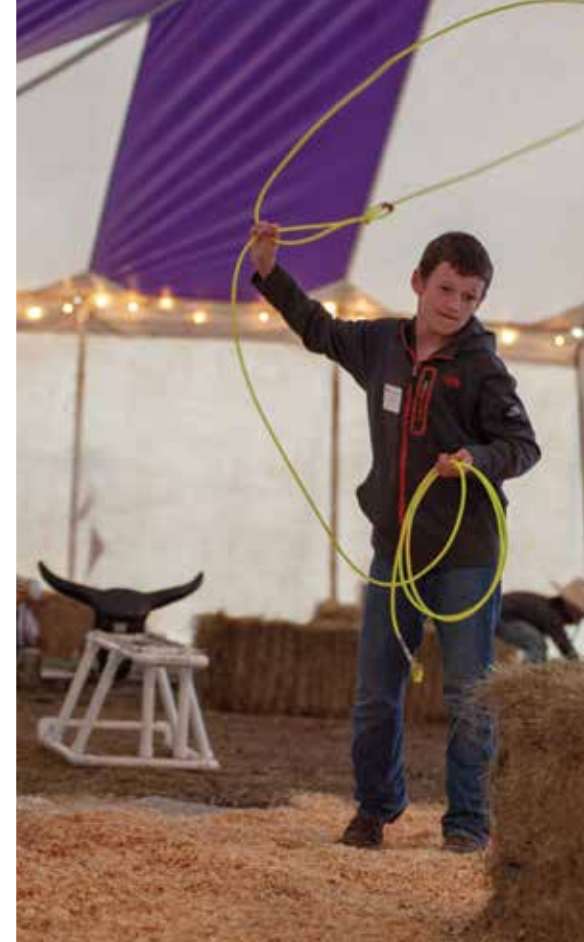


FUTURE *Wildcats*

Event coordinators strive to create a family atmosphere through entertainment, food and activities that are enjoyed by K-Staters of all ages. While adults were reuniting, the Junior Wildcat Barnyard provided entertainment for future K-Staters. Kids of all ages enjoyed life-size rocking horses, rope making, playing in the dirt with farm toys, practicing their roping skills and making s'mores. These images showcase the laughs, smiles and experiences of the event for our future alumni.











THE Lechtenberg Family

Two Nebraska natives find a love for the K-State Family.

STORY BY: EMILY MEINHARDT

Kansas State University's family atmosphere has had a lasting impact on the Lechtenberg family. Born and raised in Nebraska, Kelly and Marcie Lechtenberg attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. With a lifelong passion for animal agriculture, Kelly obtained a bachelor's degree in animal science while Marcie obtained hers in education. It was Kelly's devotion to caring for animals that led him to attend the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine and began a family affinity for K-State.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

In 1983, Kelly started veterinary school while Marcie began teaching at Riley County High School. It was Kelly's educational background and connections made at K-State that built the foundation for his future business endeavors.

Kelly had a strong interest in ruminant nutrition and was quickly introduced to one of his lifelong mentors, Dr. T.G. Nagaraja. At the time, Dr. Nagaraja was part of the Animal Sciences and Industry Department (ASI) faculty focusing on ruminant microbiology. Given Kelly's interest in this area, they developed a strong relationship which helped initiate a unique program between the College of Veterinary Medicine and ASI that allows veterinary students to obtain a graduate degree simultaneously. "This is just one way that the K-State system has gone the extra mile in terms of helping students," Kelly says.

This program led to Dr. Nagaraja serving as Kelly's major professor during his graduate work. Given Dr. Nagaraja's connections within the agriculture industry, he and Kelly met with many different companies that helped fund Kelly's research thesis. Their travels included a trip to Lincoln, Nebraska, to meet with Norden Labs (now

part of Zoetis), and Greenfield, Indiana, to meet with Lilly Corporation (the parent corporation of Elanco Animal Health). These two companies shared the expenses of Kelly's doctoral research.

"The relationships that I formed with these organizations caused the phone to ring and these people to reach out to me and begin contracting with our company," Kelly says.

It was Kelly's time at K-State that allowed him to hone the diverse skill set he developed. "K-State uniquely prepared me for a business that I really didn't have any intention of pursuing. At the time I was working as a feedlot consultant and this other business opportunity kind of came along for me because I had the fortune to be academically prepared for it," Kelly says.

A FAMILY EXPERIENCE

In 1987, Kelly and Marcie founded Midwest Veterinary Services (MVS) in Nebraska and the Veterinary and Biomedical Research Center (VBRC) in Manhattan, Kansas, in 2013. More than 70 people work for the company businesses, 15 with doctorate degrees. Together, these family businesses offer numerous services that are vital to regional universities, medical centers and the animal health community. Their research services are focused on the development and regulatory approval of safe, efficacious products for food producing animals.

K-State has been a special place for all members of the Lechtenberg family. While not natives to Kansas, all of the Lechtenberg daughters and their husbands are K-State alumni. "A unique part about the Lechtenberg family is that they are Nebraskans by birth, but K-Staters by choice," says Patsy Houghton, K-State ASI Family & Friends Reunion

coordinator. "They represent K-State so well."

Jana (Lechtenberg) and Drew Biery both teach in the Manhattan school system. Drs. Brooke (Lechtenberg) and Charley Cull both serve as vice presidents and research scientists at Midwest Veterinary Services in Oakland, Nebraska. Kelly and Marcie's youngest daughter, Dr. Paige (Lechtenberg) Anderson, opened TimberCreek Veterinary Hospital alongside her father on the east side of Manhattan in 2016. Paige's husband, Max, owns Anderson Farrier Services as a Journeyman Farrier. K-State has been such a family wide experience that while Paige was in school, Marcie came back to K-State to earn a Ph.D. and currently serves as the clinic director for the K-State Center in the Couple and Family Therapy program in the College of Health and Human Sciences.

MAKING IT AN EXPERIENCE

The Lechtenberg family carries out their enthusiasm for K-State by supporting the Family & Friends Reunion. By investing in this event, they thought it was a unique way to re-engage alumni. They have been actively involved, serving as platinum sponsors since the first event.

"They have played an instrumental role in ensuring that every kid left the event with a toy," Houghton says. "This is something they are very passionate about to ensure that youth have a memorable experience."

Kelly also serves as an LMIC Royal Board member. "We are so happy to help give back to an institution that gave us so much," Kelly says. "Family & Friends is an event that our whole family looks forward to each year." **K**

A DAIRYMAN'S DEDICATION

Dan Umscheid and his family commit more than 50 years to Kansas State University.

STORY BY: HANNAH FROBOSE

Kansas State University is known for its welcoming environment and family atmosphere. The faculty, students and community that beam with Wildcat pride are committed to what K-State represents for them, whether that be their alma mater, their hometown or their favorite team. For some, the family feeling that K-State bestows is even deeper. For Dan Umscheid and his family, the meaning of being a Wildcat runs generations deep.

Dan grew up on a farm near Flush, Kansas, where he and two siblings — Dave and Ruth — enjoyed being a part of the farming lifestyle. His parents were both employed by K-State — his mom working as a fraternity cook and his father, Julius, being a feeder at the K-State Dairy Unit for roughly 12 years. After finishing two years at Cloud Community College, it was Dan's father's involvement at the dairy that led to his first job as a milker.

EVERY MAN A MILKER

"When Dan applied for a position at KSU [at 22 years of age], he wrote on the application, he wanted to work for 10 years and would accept \$4.50 per hour," says Mike Scheffel, Dairy Unit manager who worked with Dan for more than 29 years.

After Dan had been working for three years as a milker, his father retired, allowing him to step in as a feeder.

"My feeding job included mixing the grain for the many different rations as well as scraping the lots, treating cows and whatever else came up at the Dairy," Dan says. "My fondest memories were coming in early and finding Mary, my first boss, curled up by a sick cow studying for a test for vet school."

The Dairy Unit operates 20 hours a day, and with the help of his dependable morning coffee, Dan's mornings often started around 3:30 to 4:00 a.m.

"He liked early mornings," Scheffel says. "He fed the cows, taught students how to feed and in the early years when we were treating cows in the middle of the night, Dan was always my right-hand person."





GENERATIONS OF WILDCATS

With a clear passion for the dairy industry, Dan was able to take the experience he gained working for K-State and implement that to his own production endeavors.

“It was ideal for me working early mornings and learning about cow health, so that I could take that home and apply it to my own herd,” Dan explains.

While working at the Dairy, Dan was able to impact students by helping them learn to feed the cattle and operate machinery, just as he had at their age.

“You just won’t find a better equipment or cow person than Dan,” Scheffel says. “It was very much a part of his blood.”

To friends and family, the Dairy is truly a part of who Dan is. His daughter, Kylie, smells the dairy when her dad is around, thinking, “That’s my dad!”

Along with his commitment to the Dairy, Dan raised five children who were all involved on the farm, two of which also had K-State ties. His son, Scott, studied at K-State before becoming a chef and his daughter, Briggett, worked at the vet school. Not to mention, he had three cousins who graduated from K-State and his stepdaughter and step-son-in-law both work for the university. This, combined with his parents’ history with K-State, totals more than 50 years of commitment as well as three generations of Wildcat connections.

A LASTING IMPRESSION

Dan’s hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed

during his tenure. He received the Employee of the Year award twice, once in 1988 and again in 2007.

“With the help of his skills and attention to detail in feeding the animals, the dairy has been able to achieve a herd average of over 30,000 pounds of milk per cow per year,” reads Dan’s nomination letter from 2007. “He is ready to help other dairy employees whenever necessary, even when it is not specifically listed in his job description.” After feeding cows every day, eight hours a day, for 38 years, Dan retired in October 2018. Beyond his commitment to the cattle, he had a resounding effect on the students who frequented the Dairy Unit, and especially its employees.

“He has been one of the blessings in my life,” Scheffel says. “I hate to say that he’s irreplaceable, but it’s pretty damn close. We miss him every day, there’s no doubt about that.”

The Umscheid family’s long-standing involvement with K-State truly embodies what being a Wildcat is really about.

“Pick a member of the K-State community at random and ask him or her what it means to be a Wildcat,” reads the university website’s “About” section. “You will most likely get a one-word answer: Family.”

Though the Dairy Unit has a different feel now that Dan is retired, he and his family’s long-time commitment to K-State will continue to impact K-Staters for years to come. **K**



FACES

of Family & Friends

Members of the KSU ASI family enjoyed a fun-filled evening reuniting on October 4. The ASI Department is thankful for its loyal alumni and friends who support the faculty, staff, students and department programs and events. These pages capture just a few of our family and friends who joined us at the Stout Center during our 5th Reunion.









THE *Animal Science* INFLUENCE

A family homesteaded in Coffey County, Kansas, links back to the Department of Animal Sciences & Industry generation after generation with many stories to tell.

STORY BY: SARAH MOYER

Generations of the George family have chosen Kansas State University as their alma mater. Many have also chosen to study animal husbandry or Animal Sciences and Industry, as it is known today.

Jay George, member of the 1972 meat judging team and 1973 livestock judging team, estimates they total about 100 K-State degrees over the span of four generations including their immediate and extended family. That dates back to Jay's grandmother who graduated with a four-year degree in dietetics in 1914.

"Advancing oneself through education has always been a motive in our family," Jay says.

His family is not alone in its constant pursuit of purple and pride in their livestock lineage, but it's one whose story has now been recorded as an example.

IN THE OLD DAYS

From current students to the patriarch of the family, Phil George, each carries their own unique memories, tokens and knowledge from their time in Manhattan. There are also a number of similarities they share.

A Navy veteran, Phil attended K-State before and after the United States was involved in World War II. "I started school in 1939, the weekend the war started in Europe, so you know everything just changed," he

says. "I guess I was a junior by the time Pearl Harbor happened in December 1941."

Jay's father, Phil, age 97, still found excitement for the college stories he articulated one fall day from the living room of his home near Lebo, Kansas. The mark mentors like Professor "Dad" Weber made on him withstand the test of time. He commented with all sincerity as he told stories, "no finer man there ever was."

When he reflected on another influencer, his judging coach Professor F.W. Bell, Phil says he prepared him for more than livestock contests.

"Looking back, I think he prepared us guys for the war, and you can imagine a lot of wartime experiences weren't that pleasant," he says. "Putting up with Prof, I said all the experiences we had during the war seemed mild compared to that."

GENERATIONS OF MENTORS

Recording the long line of respected men and women in the ASI department that George family members have looked to for advice takes some time. Their groundwork stretches out into the industry and links to the lives of alumni and students.

Jay paused at the 2018 ASI Family & Friends Reunion to recall the department's impact on his early career. A role model for Jay early on, Miles McKee, first left an



impression on Jay as a young boy. "He judged my first 4-H steer in Coffey County," Jay remembers.

That was only the beginning of their connections. "He laid the foundation for my professional career in purebred cattle and Quarter Horse marketing," he says. But McKee was not the reason Jay chose to study at K-State.

"I came to K-State, and I wanted to major in animal science, like my dad did," he says. "I wanted to live at the beef barn, like my dad did. I wanted to compete on the judging team, like my dad did." And he did.

NEW WAYS

Today, one of Phil's grandsons, Bob Forbes from Bradford, Pennsylvania, studies at K-State and works at the Purebred Beef Unit.

He didn't grow up on the ranch like generations before him, but he still finds value in his education from the department. Currently a senior, he explains why he chose to pursue his major.

"It was because of my fascination for something that was so foreign to where I grew up," Forbes says. "My uncles and grandpa did a good job at piquing my interest and showing me the variety of things that are done just to go from calf to steak. Things such as genetics, nutrition, pasture management, vaccinations, and economics all go into something that seems so basic from the outside."



1. 1973 Livestock Judging Team—Gary Kohake, Doyle Dingman, Doug Felts, Bill Able, Tony Imm, Doug Deets, Jay George
 2. Today, one of Phil's grandsons, Bob Forbes, from Bradford, Pennsylvania, studies at K-State and works at the Purebred Beef Unit.
 3. Jay George, of Lebo, Kan., was inducted into the Hereford Hall of Merit Oct. 26, at the 2018 Hereford Honoree Reception during the AHA Annual Meeting and Conference in Kansas City, MO. Pictured (l to r) are Bruce Thomas, AHA board member, Jay George and Kevin Schultz, 2018 AHA president.
 4. Phil George, oldest judging alumni at the 2019 ASI Judging Team Reunion, shares stories of Prof. Bell.

He admits he's taken a different path than his uncles and others. "Just getting involved with work here on campus and the clubs are very helpful," he says. "They all grew up on the ranch and I didn't so that's kind of essential for me to get that hands-on experience." He leverages his lack of ranching knowledge to be confident in asking questions.

"One advantage might be that when I'm learning, I already know that I don't know anything," Bob says. "I'm always looking for other people's advice. I'm always asking questions."

Professors welcome him the same as any other student, and Bob says he's still building his network. Graduates in the family continue to see the significance in their K-State ASI network, similar to the one Bob is building.

TRADITIONAL INVOLVEMENTS

Phil's son, also named Phil George, has maintained connections from both his undergraduate and graduate studies at K-State. Several serve in teaching positions, and he's been asked back for the past few years to guest lecture on beef systems.

"I developed a passion for cattle here, but I was able to magnify that greatly at K-State," Phil says, during a visit

home in October. He currently works for a Russian beef and cattle company, Miratorg. In the past, he has managed ranches in Florida, Oregon and Colorado, where he met his wife.

"It's got to be one of the best universities, not just in the United States, but in the world for someone that has a passion for cattle," he says.

Campus involvements such as Block & Bridle played an important role in his college days. His siblings were all members too, and Jay served as president one year.

"One of the strengths of the K-State program is it really does a good job of bridging between very basic science and practical application," Phil says.

He is also impressed by the growth of a group of students that his nephew falls into: out-of-state students. He says peer-to-peer learning adds to a university experience.

A K-STATE WELCOME HOME

After graduation and over time, ASI graduates spread out across the country and across the globe. The Georges have demonstrated this and have seen it play out during their careers. When Jay worked for the American Hereford Association, he discovered pockets of K-State

proud alumni working different territories. This is one of the many reasons they found value in having attended one or more of the five renditions of the Family & Friends Reunion.

"I brought dad up to the first event. He didn't want to come. 'I can't hear. I won't know anybody,'" says Jay of his father, Phil. "He got here, and the bottom line is we were the last ones to leave. Dave Nichols turned the lights off when I finally got dad loaded up in the pickup." Jay's brother Phil attended in 2016 and 2017.

"I actually reconnected with some of the people I hadn't seen in maybe almost 40 years," Phil says. "I think the Family & Friends event is one of those things where it brings alumni back to connect with some students." He said it also allowed him and others to reconnect with faculty members, forming renewed relationships with the university. For the future he keeps high expectations for the department.

"I want it to continue to be one of the leading animal science departments in the country and expect it to be," Phil says.

With strong, supportive families and while welcoming new ones to begin their lineage, the department will influence many generations to come. **K**

CULTIVATING

Career Opportunities

New K-State ASI program developed to train, prepare students for career in feedlot industry.

STORY BY: RACHEL WAGGIE

Kansas ranks third in the nation for cattle on feed with 2.33 million head. The Kansas cattle feeding industry is a growing and expanding sector that is hungry for trained professionals.

Kansas State University's (K-State) Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) department students now have the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and professional relationships in feedlot management as part of the new program entitled the "Kansas State University Undergraduate Feedlot Boot Camp and Teaching Program," made possible through sponsorships by Midwest PMS, Zoetis, Rabo AgriFinance, Phibro Animal Health, several Kansas feedlot operations, and K-State's ASI department. Dr. Pete Anderson, Midwest PMS, with the assistance of K-State's Drs. Karol Fike and Larry Corah, developed this program with the intent to help meet the critical need for trained professionals in the feedlot industry.

THE PROGRAM

Twenty students enrolled in the spring 2019 course returned early from winter break to attend the boot camp, hosted Jan. 14-17, 2019, in and around Garden City, Kansas. Participating feedlots included Reeve Cattle Co. Inc., Garden City; Finney County Feedyard, Garden City; and Poky Feeders, Scott City. While on site, students gained insight to receiving and processing cattle, finding and treating sick cattle, cattle handling and comfort, facility design and evaluation, feed mill operations and software, commodity storage and handling, bunk reading, feed calling, and maintenance, as well as other factors contributing to the success of a cattle feeding operation.

ASI junior Shane Newton says he enjoyed seeing each operation's various business models with the same end goal of being the most efficient at what they do.

Newton is impressed with the course, adding, “This program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I believe I will continue to benefit from.”

In addition to touring these operations and observing practices in the feedyard, students participated in classroom-style learning each day. Topics discussed during the classwork portion included an industry overview, learning how a feedlot operates, cattle health challenges and programs, feeding and nutrition, feedlot maintenance and the business of cattle feeding.

Additional activities provided by this unique program included a group dinner with a program about antibiotic stewardship and responsibility hosted by Zoetis; and a dinner and networking reception hosted by Rabo AgriFinance. Industry sponsors are excited about helping the feedlot industry and creating career opportunities. Course instructors add that sponsors are engaged with the students and never blinked when asked to consider giving their time or money to the program.

“I learned how truly innovative and forward thinking all these operations were and how important that is to the cattle industry,” explains Kyndall Norris, ASI senior. She also enjoyed seeing the variations of practices and set-ups of the operations, and the class far surpassed her expectations.

Madeline Neufeld, ASI senior, adds, “The trip was one of the best learning experiences that I have had at K-State.” She also says that the course allows her to apply what she had already learned in other courses to real-world situations.

HANDS-ON PROCESSING

This program is not limited to the four-day boot camp experience. In April 2019, attendees met again to gain hands-on cattle processing experience at Tiffany Cattle Co. in Herington. Students that complete both sessions of the course, as well as complete a paid feedlot management internship during the summer of 2019 with a participating feedlot, will have the opportunity to earn a \$2,500 scholarship, applied to the fall 2019 semester.



Dr. Pete Anderson played a tremendous role in putting this class together, but credits K-State ASI for seeing the merit to this program and fully supporting it. He says that students were not getting enough exposure to career and business opportunities in the feedlot industry, and notes he hears repeatedly of companies needing help finding more employees, both hourly and for management positions.

“I work all day, every day, in feedlots all over the country, and especially in Kansas,” he says, adding that he is very excited about the future of the course, as well as the future of the cattle feeding industry. “[Students] got up early, worked all day, stayed engaged and were so enthused. At the end, all they wanted was more.”

Opportunities abound for K-State ASI students thanks to generous industry sponsors, gracious host feedlots and dedicated industry professionals. Dr. Karol Fike, K-State ASI teaching associate professor and course academic advisor, said a goal of the course is to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and perspective of the variety of opportunities that exist within the feedlot industry. Dr. Larry Corah, K-State ASI professor emeritus, also provides guidance for the class. Corah is excited about the potential of the class, saying, “It’s not always easy to expose students to the feedlot industry, and this was a great opportunity to expose them.”

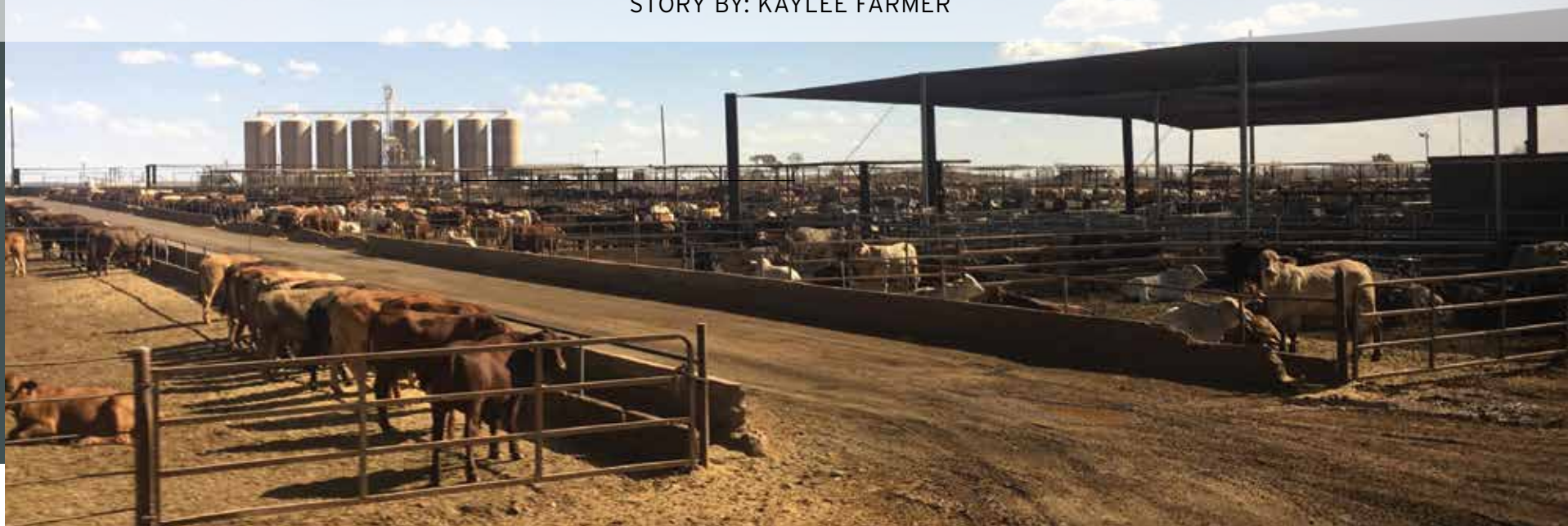
NEXT STEP

Overall, though only 20 students could be accepted, 37 applied for this unique program. This suggests making “boot camp” an annual event, says Corah. Anderson agrees, adding that the course will continue, one way or another. Seventy-five percent of the students from this class have secured or are actively seeking jobs and internships in the feedlot industry. Newton even adds that this class is the sole reason for his interest in pursuing an internship in the feedlot industry. With the help of the “boot camp” course, K-State ASI graduates are well-trained to feed the need for professionals in the U.S. cattle feeding industry. **K**

K-STATERS ACROSS THE POND

Each year ASI students are offered the opportunity to travel internationally by participating in department and college education-abroad programs.

STORY BY: KAYLEE FARMER



A passion for food, farming, livestock and travel urges students to go beyond the bounds of the United States, “cross the pond” and explore new opportunities. For many students at Kansas State University, study abroad trips are a great way to experience agriculture on a global scale. Whether it’s an entire semester or a 10-day experience, K-State Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) and the College of Agriculture provide education abroad programs that open a world of opportunities for students.

The College of Agriculture’s Associate Dean of Academic Programs Don Boggs is a bit of a seasoned traveler himself. He has taken students across the globe on multiple faculty-led programs. The first study tour

he went on after joining the faculty at K-State was a trip to New Zealand. Since then, he has taken students on trips to Brazil, Italy, South Africa and most recently, Australia.

“The advantage of traveling as a student is it’s cheaper to go, but the bigger thing is the trips are the full package. You get to visit places and see things you wouldn’t traveling on your own,” Boggs says.

In 2015, students and faculty were immersed in Brazilian agriculture where they witnessed many species being grass fed, very few regulations and the farming operations were immense and widespread.

“The operations were so different than us in that quality wasn’t really an aspect. It was all about cost, size and scale of production,” Boggs says.

Contrary to this, during the 2016 ASI and Food Science trip to Italy, everything was much smaller scale with more strenuous regulations and focus on quality and direct marketing. “An operation with just 30 cows was considered big,” Boggs mentioned.

With the Italians’ nature of production, value addition was a top priority for producers. One beef operation K-State students visited even tried to sell a majority of their product straight off the farm to the consumer.

Beyond the farm visits, historical stops and good food, the cultural aspect of visiting a new country is likewise a huge learning opportunity for students. Boggs adds, “The 2017 tour to South Africa was a big cultural experience, maybe even the most diverse.”

The political climate, different customs and even the wild game students got to witness proved to be brand new experiences for all. Unique to Australia, K-Stater’s learned how to throw a boomerang and spear a kangaroo.

K-State ASI Senior Keayla Harr also attended the trip to Australia during the spring of 2019. It proved to be an invaluable experience for students to see the iconic Sydney Opera House, Great Barrier Reef and even swim in the Pacific Ocean.

“I was able to cross some of these unique experiences off my bucket list, but my inner stockman greatly enjoyed the opportunity to see and experience livestock production in a different land,” Harr says.

While in Australia, students got to hear about the challenges producers were facing while going through an extreme drought and how they were managing their operations through this hard time. Other management decisions students learned about were their different production systems and how they marketed their seedstock.

“Being able to see some of the prominent cattle genetics from the U.S. being used in a different country was very neat to see as well,” Harr adds.

While all trips have their defining attributes, three things remain the same: they all offer the same level of real-world education, cultural exposure and the ability to witness the global nature of agriculture and food production firsthand. Students get to observe how other countries approach production and what they are capable of producing. This allows the students to evaluate our competition and see what we need to do in the United States to remain competitive. The educational aspect lets students see the different production methodologies, the pros and cons of different markets per country and on an international scale. Beyond this, one of the big takeaways is understanding different cultures and developing an appreciation for their production methods.

“In the real world, not many will work with people from the same cultural environment that we grew up with, so it’s important to learn how to work with people from different cultures,” Boggs says.

For recent K-State ASI Graduate Whitney Whitaker her time abroad was truly a once in a lifetime experience. On the two-week trip to Italy, Whitaker and other students went to Rome, Florence and Orvieto. “Going on a study abroad trip may not be the cheapest or easiest adventure, but I highly recommend that you step outside of your comfort zone, try something new and it will always be there as a once in a lifetime experience to look back on,” Whitaker summarizes. **K**

SUPPORTING STUDENTS’ INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

The dream to create an international study tour travel award ensued because of Dr. Melvin Hunt and his wife, Rae Jean’s, own experience with international travel. The couple attended many international meat conferences that fostered their passion for time abroad.

Dr. Hunt, or Hunter as he is called around the department, joined the ASI faculty in 1975. His reputation as a top meat color researcher is well-known throughout the world, and his service to the meat industry spans more than four decades of teaching, mentoring and research.

“We thought that students needed to be able to experience all of the things we were seeing,” Hunt says.

The endowment, now in its third year, has allowed approximately 15 to 20 students per trip to experience global agriculture. Students are required to go through an application process and, if selected, take part in a class prior to leaving for their trip. They are then required to write a report and give a presentation once they return.

“You never know what might really appeal to a student, so our goal was to design trips that were balanced between different types of agriculture, food and the unique culture of each city,” says Hunt.

Moving forward, Dr. Hunt encourages any sponsors that want to help students to consider contributing toward international study tours.

Hunt adds, “You can learn a lot in a classroom, but once you go out and truly experience the industry on a global scale, you’ll look at the world and the people in it differently.” **K**





STUDENT HELP

Students are an important part of the annual K-State Animal Sciences and Industry Family & Friends Reunion. The event would not be possible without these hard-working, passionate Wildcats. From set-up, parking, registration, serving food and facilitating the Junior Wildcat Barnyard to clean-up, our KSU ASI undergraduate and graduate students give of their time to help make the event for the KSU ASI family. These images highlight some of the students who helped make this year possible.



PASSION *for the* PEOPLE

New ASI Department head focuses on sustaining and building the department's relationships.

STORY BY: SHANE NEWTON



In August, the Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) welcomed its new department head — Dr. Mike Day.

A husband and father of two, Day has prioritized his career by focusing on the three things he enjoys most — animals, science and people. He explains these three interests stemmed from his time growing up on the family farm and through his education and now his career. “I am involved in higher education because this is the place where these three can come together,” he explains.

Day was raised in central Missouri on a farm that included swine, beef and hay production. He explains he was interested most in the cattle, and reproductive management always sparked his interest.

Post-secondary education is not uncommon in Day’s family as his father, Billy Day, was a leading swine reproductive physiologist at the University of Missouri. After obtaining his bachelor’s degree in animal husbandry from the University of Missouri, Day went on to earn his master’s and doctorate from the University of Nebraska in animal science with an emphasis in reproductive physiology.

Upon completion of his doctorate, Day was hired at The Ohio State University (OSU). He was on faculty in the department of animal sciences from 1985-2015, holding a research and teaching appointment focused on reproductive physiology of beef cattle. Day says his teaching responsibilities stretched from introductory classes, through various reproductive classes and the capstone beef production class for seniors. His research at OSU was a continuation of his graduate work in replacement heifer development and also included research in estrous synchronization and gene expression during early pregnancy in cattle.

While at OSU, he took a sabbatical in New Zealand where he worked on early development of the CIDR (controlled internal drug release) device. He was also able to travel to Brazil, Japan and Australia for research and educational programs during his time at OSU. Day says, “One thing my wife and I like to do is to travel and explore different areas, and we plan to continue this as time allows.”

Although Day’s father specialized in swine and himself in beef cattle, they share a distinction no one else can claim. They

are the only father and son to receive the Animal Physiology and Endocrinology Award from the American Society of Animal Science. His father received the award in 1982 and Day in 2015.

For the four years prior to joining KSU ASI, Day served as the University of Wyoming animal science department head. In this position he led a department with a faculty of 15 and with approximately 280 undergraduate students.

In Manhattan for three months, Day says what has impressed him the most about the department is the people. “The people who make up the department, the commitment of the department to the land-grant mission, the students and stakeholders that we have the opportunity to work with are all reasons that make Kansas State Animal Sciences and Industry special,” he adds.

Leading the largest department on campus, Day is excited to continue traditions while expanding its excellence. “After getting a good grasp of where we are as a department, I look forward to helping sustain current programs of excellence, helping existing programs reach excellence, and working with others to build new programs that are impactful and relevant; whether these are related to our teaching, research or extension missions,” Day explains. “Along these lines, guiding and assisting the department in hiring some of the next generation of faculty and staff, and augmenting existing faculty and staff towards excellence are some of the things I most enjoy. This excellence requires functional laboratories that demonstrate state-of-the-art science and production practices. I look forward to continual building of this infrastructure to support excellence.”

His goal is for the department to continue to make discoveries, translate them to usable technologies, and help our industries increase sustainable productivity and efficiency. “Above all, we must continue to train the next generation of animal scientists through our undergraduate and graduate programs. This is the core of why ASI exists,” Day says with enthusiasm.

Day and his wife, Toni, have two grown children. Their son, Travis, lives in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and daughter, Leslie, just started graduate work toward a doctorate in environmental microbiology at the University of Minnesota. **K**



FAMILY *Tradition*

Many K-State ASI events become traditions for alumni and their families.

STORY BY: KELLI SCHRAG

The Little American Royal (LAR) is one of many traditions in the Animal Sciences and Industry Department (ASI) at Kansas State University. The showmanship contest, modeled after the American Royal in Kansas City, is sponsored by the K-State Block & Bridle and Dairy Science clubs and serves as an opportunity for students to exhibit their species of choice from the six offered by K-State's livestock units — beef, dairy, sheep, goat, horse and swine.

LAR is divided into novice and experienced divisions to encompass all levels of showing, from those trying a new species for the first time to those returning to the ring after aging out of eligibility in their show circuit.

Karrie Van Winkle, senior in Agribusiness, chose to participate in LAR to continue her 12-year sheep showing career.

"After I finished showing in 4-H, I was having withdrawals," Karrie says. "I wasn't ready to give up my favorite hobby just yet. With no hesitation, I signed up to show in 2018 and again in 2019."

Evaluated by Judge Dan Shike, Karrie was selected as the reserve champion experienced sheep showman during the 91st annual LAR. Shike, a professor at the University of Illinois, is a K-State ASI alumni and was a member of the K-State Livestock Judging Team during his time at K-State.

"Showing in LAR has been so fun and brings back great memories," Karrie says. "It was great to see the showmen I grew up with again in the show ring at LAR. Being selected reserve champion showman meant a lot to me, as I get to represent the sheep industry, College of Ag and Kansas State University."

Watching and cheering from the bleachers was Karrie's mother, Karen.

"I have always enjoyed watching Karrie show and do her thing," Karen says. "I was so happy that she received reserve champion showman at LAR. She grew up in a show ring with lambs, so she understood the commitment of working with her animal and becoming a team with the livestock."

Karrie was introduced to the agricultural industry at a young age. Both her parents, Karen and Bob, are alumni of the College of Agriculture at K-State and involved in the sheep industry. The LAR showmanship contest has become a mother-daughter tradition for the Van Winkle's, as Karen also showed during her undergraduate career.

"After a couple years of raising sheep with Bob, I thought it would be fun to show a lamb at the Little American Royal," Karen says. "It was last minute, but it gave me a new challenge and opportunity to try something new."

Karen recognizes the lessons that showing livestock instills and says she is proud to have grown up in an amazing industry and raised her daughter with a livestock background. Karrie credits her mom for encouraging her through difficult times to help get her to where she is today.

"I am so thankful for my amazing support team," Karrie says. "My mom was the one who kept pushing me to not give up on showing. I am so glad she motivated me and kept pushing me to never give up because I wouldn't have gained the confidence, patience or motivation that I have now." **K**

MENTORING

Dr. Jeanette Thurston, new Food Science Institute director, hopes to use her knowledge and experience to bring new opportunities to students and the program.

STORY BY: MIRANDA HOAG



Since June 17, 2019, roaming the halls of Call Hall is a new face — the new Food Science Institute (FSI) Director Dr. Jeanette Thurston. As the new FSI Director, she will have the chance to add her expertise and personal touch to the program.

Hailing from Arizona, Thurston chose to start her career by getting not one, but three degrees from the University of Arizona. Thanks to a few of her professors at the university, she discovered a passion for microbiology, public health and the environment early on. She received her bachelor's degree in microbiology and her master's in environmental science. She then stuck around to get her doctorate in soil, water, and environmental science where her research was focused on public health water microbiology.

Thurston has done a considerable amount of research throughout her career, preparing her for her new position at K-State. Starting in 2001, she began her studies as a research microbiologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) where she focused on the fate and dissemination of pathogens in agricultural environments and evaluated the efficacy of drinking water disinfectants. She also worked closely with extension specialists to develop and evaluate manure treatment systems for pathogen and nutrient reduction.

She also brings a national level perspective that will bring new ideas and opportunities to FSI.

“Dr. Thurston comes to us with a great reputation as a national leader, problem solver and innovator,” says Ernie Minton, College of Agriculture dean and director of K-State Research and Extension. “Her impressive work at NIFA (National Institute of

Food and Agriculture) demonstrates that she is adept at working with a wide array of stakeholders while driving strategy for a large organization and diligently advancing food science and safety. We think she meets and will raise our world-class standards for K-State's Food Science Institute.”

Thurston's career began at the USDA-ARS where she worked as a research microbiologist. While she was located on-campus at the University of Nebraska (UNL), she mentored undergraduate and graduate students, obtained extramural research grants, worked alongside UNL researchers and extension specialists, collaborated with other scientists (grant writing and obtaining extramural grants) and built a successful research laboratory.

For the last 10 years, Thurston has had increasing responsibility at USDA's NIFA, advancing basic and applied research, education, extension and strategy in the area of food safety.

While at NIFA, Thurston had the opportunity to work closely alongside stakeholders across the nation and the agency's and Department of Agriculture's leadership to provide national leadership to the development of the agency budget and programs focused on improving the nation's food and agricultural enterprise.

“My goal is to continue advancing our mission of advancing agricultural research, extension and education alongside the outstanding scientists and staff at KSU,” Thurston says. “In this position, I will be back ‘on the ground’ working to advance this mission. Additionally, I will have the opportunity, once again, to work with and mentor students — the most rewarding activity in my career to date.” **K**



MOMENTS

of Family & Friends

The ASI Family & Friends Reunion provides countless opportunities for current, past and future generations of K-Staters to connect, reunite and enjoy an evening of fun, food and fellowship.

Live performances by the KSU Marching Band and live entertainment by the band Too Many Degrees, featuring KSU ASI Professor David Grieger, entertained the crowd. Wildcats of all ages enjoyed a visit by Willie the Wildcat. This year, the crowd was also entertained by K-State's a cappella group In-A-Chord. A meal including a variety of meat choices was topped off with legendary Call Hall Ice Cream. Here's a snapshot of some of those special moments captured featuring the event's amazing entertainment and food.





KSU ASI HEADLINES

Animal Sciences & Industry Tailgate

STORY BY: SHANE NEWTON



The waft of burgers and hot dogs add to the fall air at Bill Snyder Family Stadium as alumni and friends gather underneath the canopies that make up the tailgate organized by the Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI).

Started in the mid 1990s by Dr. Jack Riley, the tailgate has become a home-game tradition, located in Cat Town just southwest of Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Dr. Tom Carr, alumni and regular tailgate attendee, says, “The tailgate is a great opportunity to interact

with old friends and meet new ones. It is really valuable to my wife and I — it is kind of like having a small family reunion every home football game.”

The meal is prepared and served by faculty, retirees and both graduate and undergraduate students.

“When Dr. Riley started this, it was to appreciate alumnus and friends and to build stronger relationships with them. It was just four years ago that we added the Collegiate Cattlemen’s Club to help assist with serving the food. The addition of these students gives industry professionals the ability to

connect and socialize with the next generation of agricultural professionals,” says Dr. Ken Odde, KSU ASI professor and tailgate supervisor.

Due to generous financial support, the department is able to provide lunch at no cost.

No matter the kick-off time, you can count on the ASI tailgate in Cat Town to provide a fun, friendly environment. Join the ASI department before every home football game to reconnect and make new friends. **K**

Stanley Stout Center

STORY BY: SHANE NEWTON

The Stanley Stout Center has proved to be an extremely valuable addition to the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) at Kansas State University. Providing space for multiple events throughout the year, the facility was built to honor famed auctioneer Stanley Stout. Passing away suddenly in 2006, Stout could sell anything — and he often did so for a good cause.

The center was built and named in his honor in 2013. Its primary function is to host the department's annual Legacy Bull and Female Sale. However, its large open area and proximity to campus and the K-State ASI livestock units lends itself to numerous opportunities for teaching activities, industry events and community benefits. The building has multiple available conveniences including a teaching classroom, office complex, auction arena and main assembly area.

Over half of the financial support for the Stanley Stout Center came from K-State alumnus Richard Porter.

Because of his commitment to the project, the large assembly area will be named The Porter Assembly. Porter holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, a master's in agribusiness, as well as a law degree. He resides near Emporia, Kansas, where he has a 7,000-head stocker operation focusing on high-risk cattle.

Walter Porter, Richard's father, was also a K-State graduate, strong supporter of ASI and a founding member of the Livestock and Meat Industry Council (LMIC).

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) has been an industry leader for the past 125 years. They provide a voice for the everyday producer in the policies made in Topeka and Washington. Because of the organization's commitment to the industry, the sale ring was named the KLA Sale Arena.

The classroom is named in memory of Dr. Jack Riley. Riley, who during his 35 years of teaching at K-State



taught more than 7,000 students. He served as the Beef Research Unit faculty coordinator for 16 years and was department head from 1987 to 2004.

The office complex is named in memory of Dr. Calvin Drake. A very well-respected feedlot manager, past ASI faculty member and former LMIC executive director. **K**

Cats' Cupboard

STORY BY: WYATT MINIHAN

Classes, work and extra-curricular activities can cause Kansas State University students stress. Some students also deal with the additional worry of wondering when and where their next meal might come from. The Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) Department has partnered with Cats' Cupboard to help bridge the gap of food insecurity for K-State students.

Cats' Cupboard's mission is to provide access to nutritious food and support through initiatives that promote health, success and well-being. "I don't think there is anything similar to this service and partnership in the nation and I think we're cutting edge on that," says Erin Bishop, Cats' Cupboard food coordinator.

"This partnership was a wonderful opportunity for students to receive fresh products from the campus farms and connect the Animal Sciences and Industry Department to students from all areas of campus."

For the 2018-2019 school year, the ASI department provided \$20 vouchers for 80 students each month during the regular semester which was equivalent to a total of \$12,800. Students used these vouchers to purchase meat, milk, eggs and hard cheeses in the department's Call Hall Dairy Bar.

Students received high-quality, fresh protein sources that helped to provide a more nutritionally-balanced diet and allowed them to diversify their cooking options.



Last spring, the ASI department was selected by Cats' Cupboard staff and volunteers to receive the "Friends of Cats' Cupboard" award. This award was created to recognize those who have provided outstanding support and service in helping further the vision and mission of Cats' Cupboard. **K**

— DEPARTMENT —

Award Winners



Dr. Bob Goodband
*American Society of Animal Science
Outstanding Extension Specialist Award*



Dr. Cassie Jones
*American Society of Animal Science Early Career Achievement
Award; Midwest American Society of Animal Science Outstanding
Young Teacher Award; and College of Agriculture Advisor of the Year*



Dr. Dave Nichols
*Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation
Wall of Honor*



Dr. Travis O'Quinn
*Mark and Eva Gardiner Innovation and
Excellence Faculty Award*



Dr. KC Olson
*American Society of Animal Science Animal
Management Award*



Dr. Michael Chao
K-State Mentoring Fellowship Award



Lexie Hayes
*KSRE Professional Staff Employee of the
Year Award*



John Kessler
*College and Department Employee of the Year
- University Support Staff*



Annie Lerner
Larry R. Corah Outstanding PhD Student



Lauren Prill
Larry R. Corah Outstanding Masters Student



Keayla Harr
K-State ASI Outstanding Senior

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