FOCUS

INNOVATION

Six who made a difference retire

The tweeting dean

Spring 2015
Message from the dean

When Forbes published a list of 25 most meaningful college majors last winter, the magazine editors could have been pointing directly at the College of Human Ecology. Human Ecology offers a third of the majors listed. Other meaningful majors listed link to our programs in unexpected ways. I’m not surprised.

The college motto is “In a world focused on things, we focus on people.” Many of our students come to us because they want to make the world a better place. And we educate them to do that. Our research and outreach are focused on that goal, too.

You might say we are the people college. Every one of the nearly 25 programs we offer is intrinsically linked to people. We focus on people from birth through the aging process — on their families, their apparel, their diets, their mental and physical health, their relationships, their pocketbooks and more.

Bronwyn Fees, associate dean for academic affairs, likes to remind us that our students and our faculty are hard-wired to want to improve the human condition. That is who we are.

Here’s a list of the majors we offer and the ranking in Forbes:

- Child development (No. 4)
- Early childhood education (tied for No. 5)
- Athletic training (tied for No. 5)
- Human services (tied for No. 12)
- Child and family studies (No. 16)
- Dietetics (No. 17)
- Food and nutrition (tied for No. 19)
- Health care administration (tied for No. 21), which both our gerontology and public health programs cover
- Kinesiology (tied for 25)

Several others that rank high on the Forbes list touch us although we don’t offer specific majors. One example is the No. 1 ranked pastoral ministry. Right now several students are combining family studies with classes at Manhattan Christian College. They are looking ahead to careers in counseling ministry.

Others on the list fall under our health and pre-health programs that give students a head start in areas such as nursing (No. 2), sports medicine (tied for No. 5), special education (tied for No. 9) and therapeutic recreation (tied for No. 9).

In case you are curious, others on the list are clinical laboratory science, medical technology, special education, Biblical studies, theology, social work, elementary education, nuclear engineering, petroleum engineering, biomedical engineering and molecular biology.

Forbes’ list came from a survey by Payscale.com that asked people about their paychecks. The company also asked if respondents believed their jobs “make the world a better place.” Then 207 college majors were ranked.

Majors also were listed with mid-career median salaries. Results showed that high salaries did not mean highly meaningful.

Dean John Buckwalter

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Tweeting dean

In case you haven’t noticed, Dean John Buckwalter is a tweeter. At most occasions where students, staff and faculty gather, he draws out his iPhone and snaps a photo or two. Here he photographs a group of hospitality management and dietetic faculty from other universities who met here for a program exchange that was part of the HMD department’s strategic planning process. Follow the dean on Twitter @JohnBuckwalter1.

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College of Human Ecology leadership team

**Administration**

John Buckwalter, dean

Bronwyn Fees, associate dean for academic affairs

Tim Musch, interim associate dean for research and scholarship

Karen Pence, senior assistant dean

Shawna Jordan, assistant dean for student support

**Unit heads**

Barbara Anderson, Department of Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design

Gayle Doll, Center on Aging

Dorothy B. Durband, School of Family Studies and Human Services

Craig Harms, Department of Kinesiology

Mark Haub, Department of Human Nutrition

Melody LeHew, interim, Department of Hospitality Management and Dietetics
Bronwyn Fees has spent her career teaching and conducting research on how to help children develop into healthy, well-adjusted adults.

She continues that role in her new job as associate dean for academic affairs. Only the age changes.

“I am an advocate for development and learning for the student at any age,” said the associate professor in early childhood education and life span development.

“We want our graduates to be knowledgeable, innovative and highly competitive in the marketplace,” Fees said. “We want them to be critical thinkers and problem solvers. They must be able to think and act globally, to be able to understand and appreciate the perspective of others.”

The associate dean will collaborate in developing, implementing and assessing collegewide efforts in student success, faculty development and distance education.

“Dr. Fees brings outstanding credentials as a teacher, a researcher, a collaborator, an innovator and a leader to the position of associate dean for academic affairs,”

Dean John Buckwalter said when he made the announcement in February after a nationwide search, “Her deep understanding of the college’s mission and the challenges ahead will help us create a culture of excellence for our faculty and students in the College of Human Ecology.”

Fees earned a doctorate in human development and family studies/child development at Iowa State University and a Master of Education in vocational education and a Bachelor of Science in family and consumer science education from the University of Nebraska, Kearney. She joined the School of Family Studies and Human Services faculty in 1998.

Fees’ research focuses on physical activity of young children within child care programs, affordances of the physical environment for children with autism and international perspectives on early education. She works collaboratively, and has published and presented nationally and internationally.

She is a licensed teacher and member of the early childhood education unit, teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses. She also is co-chair of the life span human development unit mentoring master’s and doctoral students at K-State. She has led study tours to China and Hungary, and collaborates on research in China and Tanzania.

Fees and her husband, Gary, have two sons.
INNOVATION

the introduction of new idea or method
Innovation is our middle name.

The College of Human Ecology was founded as an innovation — the first college in the nation to offer a science-based program focusing on the home. Domestic science students had to pass chemistry class before they could study food preparation. Leaders articulated the very meaning of the discipline, solidifying K-State’s role as progenitor.

That was nearly 140 years ago.

Innovation continued both in research and classroom instruction.

Today, new faces in the faculty and in labs promise to perpetuate the innovative spirit as they build on the college’s reputation to “focus first on people” in service, research and teaching.

What follows is only a sampling of the innovative work in the College of Human Ecology — past, present and future.

**PAST:**

- **“Practical Cookery”/“Food for Fifty”:** “Practical Cookery” was first published in 1921 and served as a food preparation map for a quantity version, “Food for Fifty,” which was first published in 1928. It is still in print. Recipes from the college cafeteria made about 50 servings and, in most cases, did not appear in any other quality cookery recipe book. It was called “Feeding College Students on a Cooperative Basis.”

  “Food for Fifty” is a K-State legacy that endured because, edition after edition, it offered valuable information such as serving sizes, weights and measures (1 pound tapioca, after cooking, yields 7 ½ cups), and menu terms. More importantly, cooks could trust the recipes. Today the 880-page, 4.8-pound 13th edition is by Mary Molt. She calls herself the “caretaker of the moment.”

- **Sensory Analysis.** Jean F. Caul pioneered the field of sensory evaluation, writing and publishing the first definitive article on descriptive sensory analysis that served as a foundation for a myriad of descriptive methods. She set the standard for the application of good scientific principles in planning, conducting, analyzing and interpreting data from sensory studies and is credited with making sensory analysis a respected research tool. The internationally-acclaimed Sensory Analysis Center works with more than 100 companies around the globe.

- **Textile science.** Elizabeth McCullough’s groundbreaking work on insulation value and evaporation resistance of fabrics and garments applied to military combat uniforms, firefighters and biohazard workers as well as mountain climbers and arctic explorers. She is an emeritus professor in ATID.

- **Distance education.** College of Human Ecology faculty members were among the first to teach online at K-State. In the mid-’90s, Deb Canter and colleagues re-engineered the dietetics curriculum to be offered online, one of the first such projects in the country and still the country’s largest distance education program in dietetics. Today the college offers four undergraduate completion programs, seven Master of Science degrees (including those offered through Great Plains IDEA), one doctoral program and five certificates online.

- **Television and social behavior.** John P. Murray, retired professor in the School of Family Studies and Human Services, conducted research on children’s social development for almost 40 years. He was one of the principals who wrote and coordinated the first surgeon general’s report on television in 1972. He conducted research that found that watching television violence may activate those areas of the brain involved in arousal and attention. He also conducted studies on youth growing up in war zones and conflict areas. Murray published 10 books and more than 80 articles on children and television.

- **Trauma and crisis in Kansas.** Charlie Griffin and Briana Nelson Goff, both in FSHS, worked with farm families caught in the farm crisis in 1985 and established the Kansas Rural Family Helpline in 2000. They extended the work to tornado victims in Greensburg and elsewhere throughout the state.

**PRESENT:**

- **Personal Financial Planning.** The Personal Financial Planning program has been named one of the top 10 in nation; Powercat Financial Counseling for students grew from the PFP program and became a national model; faculty edited the international PFT professional journal, offered the first financial therapy certificate in the nation and published the first textbook in financial therapy. PFP also offers K-State’s only online doctoral degree.
Innovation can be viewed as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, inarticulated needs, or existing market needs.

- **Partner violence.** Sandra Stith, university distinguished professor and internationally known expert in understanding intimate partner violence, has spent her career researching intervention and couples treatment for domestic violence. The work of Stith and others in K-State's marriage and family therapy program continues to investigate solution-focused therapy methods for high-conflict couples.

- **Great Plains IDEA (Interactive Distance Education Alliance).** In 1994, 14 public universities partnered to offer the best educational opportunities to human sciences students by collaboratively developing and delivering online academic programs on graduate and undergraduate levels. Dean emeritus Virginia Moxley, associate dean at the time, was a founding member.

- **ATID’s sustainability focus.** The ATID team continues to forge new pathways with its work in sustainable systems. Among current research about the shared responsibility for improving the quality of life economically, socially and environmentally now and for future generations is Julia Day, issues of sustainability through energy conservation related to the built environment; Kim Hiller Connell, sustainable apparel consumption and social sustainability and the apparel industry; Sherry Haar, sustainable design solutions; and Melody LeHew, consumer behavior and sustainability.

**FUTURE:**

- **Cancer research examining link between exercise physiology and nutrition.** Brad Behnke, kinesiology, conducts groundbreaking research in manipulation of tumor microenvironments to enhance conventional cancer therapy outcomes. Brian Lindshield, human nutrition, looks for ways to inhibit cancer development and/or progression with use of phytochemicals, functional foods, micronutrients and/or botanicals.

- **Physical activity and motivation.** Brandon Irwin specializes in the application of digital technology in understanding and exploiting interpersonal influences in physical activity. He hopes to unlock the secret of what motivational processes influence physical activity behavior. In other words, what's the best way to get people to exercise? He studies the impact of a virtual exercise partner and virtual physical activity groups on motivation.

- **Textiles, health and safety.** Jooyoun Kim's research focuses on textile solutions for environmental health and safety and industrial applications, including engineering of omniphobic textiles, investigation of decomposition and adsorption mechanisms, and development of functional filtration/separation media to provide protection from exposure to hazardous materials.

- **Games, apps and social media.** Emily Mailey, Jared Durtschi and Amber Vennen are among scholars in several disciplines who are investigating ways to use computer games, phone apps, podcasts and online discussions to help people lead happier, healthier lives. Some of the projects in the works are for fathers of young children, the aging population, relationship education and physical fitness in a variety of populations. Who knows where faculty in the College of Human Ecology will venture next?
Meet some of our student stars

Kourtney Foley: A special interest in her research topic

Kourtney Foley, senior in dietetics, received an Undergraduate Research Award to work with Stephanie Kurti on associations between Raynaud’s Phenomenon and fish oil consumption (dietary or supplemental).

Raynaud’s Phenomenon is an autoimmune disease that under certain conditions, such as cold or stress, results in vasospasms of fingers and other extremities.

Foley, who transferred from the University of Kansas, is interested in the disease because she has it. Her hands, especially, are sensitive to cold.

“There is not a ton of lifestyle research out there,” she said about Raynaud’s. Fish oil, she adds, dilates blood vessels and helps circulation.

“I want to help find a lifestyle solution and build on the body of research,” Foley said. “I’m learning so much about the disease.”

Her ideal job would be as a dietitian for a sports team or combining nutrition with the gym and help people with weight loss. She’s at home at the rec center, runs a couple of miles a day with her Boxer named Gabby and loves doing 5Ks. In Lawrence, the future dietitian was a fitness instructor, and in high school she was a rodeo barrel racer.

She will graduate in 2016.

“I’d love to live in Arizona where it’s warm,” she said.

Ryan Broxterman: Mapping out a research career in physiology of aging, disease

Ryan Broxterman is a doctoral student who has published in professional journals, taught college students, presented papers at scientific meetings and conducted life-changing research in kinesiology.

In the Department of Kinesiology, success seems to be contagious. It started for Broxterman with a curiosity to learn how a body functions in health, disease, activity and various environments.

“I was initially drawn to kinesiology at K-State because of the outstanding faculty members who are world-renowned for their work. I wanted the opportunity to interact with and learn from them. Then I discovered a deep passion for research and teaching,” he said.

Broxterman, who is from Topeka, worked with Tom Barstow on studying the physiology of fatigue to provide insight into aging and disease. He hopes to help improve treatment for such diseases as chronic heart failure and improve the quality of life in patients.

“The best part of the kinesiology program is the commitment of the faculty members to the success of their students. As a result, the graduate students are presented with many invaluable opportunities that are not common in many other programs,” he said.

This spring he received the Doctoral Scholar Award from the American Kinesiology Association and the Graduate Award for Outstanding Academics from the K-State Alumni Association.

After graduation, Broxterman will continue his research at the Utah Vascular Research Laboratory in Salt Lake City on a postdoctoral fellowship.

He and his wife, Carrie, have a 2-year-old son.
Carol Kellett, former dean, former assessment director and a professor in the School of Family Studies and Human Service, is retiring from K-State after 17 years. Kellett is the author of an interactive textbook about the human ecological system that has been adopted in programs across the U.S. and of “Legacy of Leadership,” the story of the College of Human Ecology. “My legacy is continuing a history of excellence and enhancing it by encouraging pride and celebrating our accomplishments. This legacy was achieved by dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni and advocates.” One of the keys to the legacy is the college motto, “In a world focused on things, we focus first on people,” which was developed and adopted when Kellett was dean.

Pat Pesci, known to students and faculty as Mr. P., in Hospitality Management and Dietetics, is retiring after 40 years at the university. As the university’s Mr. Etiquette, he conducted dining etiquette workshops on and off campus for more than 15 years. “I would like to think my legacy has been that I cared about students and valued their opinions, and that I listened to their concerns and tried to hold them accountable. I am told I have been very honest and have not ‘sugarcoated’ my comments to a student who was not using his or her God-given abilities,” he said.

Betsy Barrett, or Dr. B., an associate professor in Hospitality Management and Dietetics, is retiring after 22 years at K-State. Among her many accomplishments was inaugurating wine classes at the university. Many students have gone on to take the Levels 1 and 2 Master Sommelier exams. She says technology has changed how she communicates with students and teaches them, too. “Students don’t come and see me as much, but just email with questions. I miss the interaction. Teaching has changed, too. It’s amazing to have the access to the Internet, but I don’t know if I get as much information to the students as I once did.”

Deb Canter, professor in Hospitality Management and Dietetics, adviser, department head, director of coordinated, didactic and graduate programs, researcher, book author and registered dietitian, is retiring following a 38-year career at K-State. An award-winning professor, she received the Lenna Frances Cooper Lecturer award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, one of the group’s highest honors, and she was named Case Professor of the Year for Kansas. She also was instrumental in offering one of the first online dietetics programs — and still the largest — in the country. “The dietetics program(s) here and the graduates of those programs are my pride and joy. When I attend a meeting like the Kansas Dietetic Association and look out over the attendees, most of them have been a student in my classes at one time or another! Graduates that I count as friends and professional colleagues live and work in far-flung places like Botswana, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Turkey, Egypt, Canada ... the list goes on and on. It is those graduates and the meaningful work that they do that are my legacy.”
Ann Bosma Smit, professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the School of Family Studies and Human Services, an author and a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, is retiring after 28 years at K-State. “Linda Hoag and I are partly responsible for the presence of Communication Sciences and Disorders in FSHS and the college. About 20 years ago, the program was in a different college and was targeted for elimination. We were determined not to let that happen. I am eternally grateful to the faculty who welcomed us and helped the program to grow and thrive.”

LuAnn Hoover, instructor/program coordinator at Hoeflin Stone House for Early Childhood Education in the School of Family Studies and Human Services, is retiring after 37 years at K-State. “A gentleman said about my work, ‘What a noble profession. You must feel so proud.’ I am passionate about early childhood education and take great pride in my profession. My hope is that I have instilled in the students that to work with young children, study their development and have the opportunity to contribute to their early development is indeed noble.”

We’ll Miss You. Best Wishes.
In short: A quick look at what’s going on in the college

Larson receives Commerce Bank award

Christian Larson, instructor and academic adviser in kinesiology, received a Commerce Bank Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. Larson worked in the health and wellness business for eight years before he returned to his alma mater to work with students. He teaches a variety of courses, including Biomechanics, and tries to relate to each student in a personal way so he can guide them to achieve his or her highest level. “It also allows me to be honest and hold them accountable without becoming legalistic and rigid,” he said. “My goal with each course is to share my passion for kinesiology with my students.” He also directs K-State CrossFit.

FHS project helps students become state-approved mediators

As part of a new conflict resolution program, students at Kansas State University are becoming eligible for state approval as mediators and are helping families and Kansas communities. The program has three main goals: to provide students with real-life experiences and mentorship; to develop the local capacity of state-approved mediators; and to fill the void for mediation services in the communities comprising the 21st and 8th judicial districts.

College honors outstanding graduating seniors in May

The College of Human Ecology will honor 17 graduating seniors in May: Arianna Levin, apparel design and production; Mackenzie Schmeider, apparel marketing; Foster Kutner, interior design; Eleanor Musil, communication sciences and disorders; Katie Lierz, early childhood education; Caysi Gatts, family studies and human services; Yesica Swenson, family studies and human services; Morgan Streeter, family studies and human services; Logan Wardyn, personal financial planning; Emily Wilson, dietetics coordinated program; Dayna Pachta, dietetics didactic program; Joshua Allen, hotel and restaurant management; Lindsay Schmidt, athletic training; Lauren Fischer, nutrition and health; Samantha Claassen, nutritional sciences; Danielle Dobratz, public health and nutrition; and Taran Carlisle, kinesiology.

College honors outstanding graduating seniors in December

The College of Human Ecology honored 10 graduating seniors in December: Katie Benson, communication sciences and disorders; Tristen Snelling, early childhood education; Scott Calovich, family studies and human services; Rachel Ladenburger, family studies and human services; Shelby Strickland, family studies and human services; Salina; Kathleen Adams, personal financial planning; Jennifer Morris, dietetics coordinated program who was also chosen as student commencement speaker; Cindy Dexter, dietetics didactic program; Haley Kenig, hospitality management; and Andrea Sweetwood, kinesiology.

Honoring Tony Jurich

Human trafficking in Kansas was the topic of the first Jurich Lecture on Social Justice. Speaker for this March event was Dorthy Stucky Halley, director of Victim Services Division of the Office of the Kansas Attorney General. The marriage and family therapy program presented the lecture to honor Tony Jurich, who taught in family studies and human services for more than 39 years before his death in 2010. He believed in social justice and challenged his students and colleagues to value diversity, promote equality and endorse fairness.

The Tony Jurich Community Commitment and Leadership Student Awards, established by Tony’s wife, Olivia Collins, and his brother, Steve Jurich, recognize graduating students who demonstrate a commitment to Tony’s core leadership tenets: strive for resonance; assume value and be respectful; be compassionate; do what is right; seek out, affirm and utilize diversity; and lead by example — provide a road map for sustainable community change. Marcie Lechtenberg, instructor and therapist supervisor and doctoral student, received a Jurich graduate student award in 2014.

Also on campus:

Penny McConnell, widely recognized as a national leader in school nutrition and dietetics, presented the 41st annual Grace M. Shugart Lecture on April 16. The director of Food and Nutrition Services for Fairfax County Public Schools, Springfield, Virginia, spoke on “Navigating the Seas of Change.”

David Bright, senior vice president of communications of Knoll, a furniture and textile design firm that works with office, home and higher education settings, was keynote speaker for the 11th annual Apparel, Textiles, and Interior Design Student Symposium April 16 and 17. The symposium included a juried show with mounted exhibit and runway designs produced by Kansas high school and K-State students. “Always Modern: Using design to connect people, planet and profit” was the theme.

“Sometimes Ya Gotta Laugh,” a performance by Karen Stobbe and Mondy Carter about the world of caregiving for those diagnosed with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia, was part of the Personhood and Dementia Workshop sponsored by the Center on Aging on April
9. The event also featured David Babcock, “The Knitting Runner.”

Chef Paula McIntyre discussed authentic ingredients and trending foods in Ireland and demonstrated several traditional Irish dishes at the annual Culinary Enhancement Workshops sponsored by the hospitality management and dietetics department in February.

Names in the news
Charlotte Olsen, professor and FSHS extension specialist, accepted the 2014 Career Impact Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for her significant contributions to the Cooperative Extensions program… Rebecca DeYoung-Daniels, hospitality management and dietetics, was chosen as the 2015 Kansas State University Excellence in Online Teaching awardee by Global Campus… Briana Nelson Goff, professor of family studies and human services and director of the Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families, received the Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Award, a medal that recognizes her distinguished service to the U.S. Army as a leading member in the K-State-Fort Riley partnership… Kevin Sauer, associate professor in dietetics, received the 2014...
Mary Ruth Bedford — Distinguished Faculty Award for demonstrating excellence in both teaching and research in the food service management and dietetics field.

Richard Rosenkranz, associate professor of human nutrition, will work with 2015 Fulbright scholar Anthony Maeder, professor of health informatics and chair in agriculture and life science at the University of Western Sydney, this fall to develop mobile applications that will support physical activity and nutrition programs.

Connie Fechter, administrative specialist in FSHS, was named University Support Staff Employee of the Year for the College of Human Ecology.

Madai Rivera, academic and diversity coordinator, received one of three Putting Students First awards.

FSHS, was named University Support Staff Employee of the Year for the College of Human Ecology.

Kevin Roberts — Faculty Research Excellence Award. The associate professor in hospitality management was awarded for his accomplishment in scholarship, research and creative activities in food safety research in food service operations, including commercial food service, long-term care and child nutrition programs.

Migette Kaup — Faculty Research Excellence Award. The associate professor in interior design was recognized for her work in environmental and organizational design strategies to support person-centered practice in long-term care. Her research focuses on achieving significant and positive impact for people who live or work in long-term care settings.

Elizabeth Kiss — Faculty Extension Excellence Award. The assistant professor in FSHS was honored for her work in Prepare Kansas, an online challenge designed to help individuals and families be better prepared for disasters. Her specialties are family resource management, family and consumer economics, and personal financial planning.

Gayle Doll — Myers-Alford Teaching Award. The associate professor and director of the Center on Aging was acknowledged for her outstanding ability to teach as well as provide valuable information to colleagues, peers and other practitioners in the field. Doll teaches gerontology courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels both on campus and online.

Students in the news

A team of three PFP students who earned second place in the national Industry Issues competition in Phoenix are Mariah Bausch, junior; Andy Rao, graduate student; and Cole Foster, junior. Bausch and Foster spoke briefly before the Manhattan City Commission in April when the mayor proclaimed May 1 Financial Planning Day. Seniors Colton Rohr and Kaitlyn Ellis coordinated teams that received top honors at the Club of the Future competition at the World Conference on Club Management in San Antonio. They won the software and member services categories.

Kavitha Penugonda, doctoral student in human nutrition, received two scholarships for her research on “Iron bioavailability of sorghum, cowpea, corn and soybean fortified blended foods” at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka.

Alex Fees, junior in nutritional sciences, received a $1,000 research award from the Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry for work associated with a project that will determine the effects of sodium nitrate supplementation on the delivery/utilization of oxygen during exercise in rats with chronic heart failure (CHF) induced by a surgical myocardial infarction (MI). Jessalyn Strahm, hospitality management senior, and Cynthia Arias-Dowling, dietetics senior, were selected for two of only four national $5,000 scholarships from the National Association of College and University Food Services Clark DeHaven Scholarship Trust.

Angela Glean, graduate student in kinesiology, received the beginning scholarship trust...
Abbey Pomeroy: Interior designer on horseback

Abbey Pomeroy can’t seem to stay off a horse.

Classmates from the 2014 graduating class in interior design are starting careers, exploring graduate school and pondering options. Pomeroy is galloping around a rodeo arena keeping a flag waving and her hat on. She is Miss Kansas Rodeo for 2015.

When she was a sophomore she served as 2012 K-State rodeo queen, riding as many as four hours a day to stay in top competitive form.

As a senior, she spent her fall semester studying in Australia then graduated with a plan to work in the area of sustainable design.

But her love of travel and rodeo called. She decided to postpone the career and vie for the state rodeo title. This year she will travel through Kansas and the U.S. representing the state at Cheyenne Frontier Days and other rodeo events.

In December she will compete for Miss Rodeo America at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

The schedule is frantic, she said, but she loves it. Pomeroy lined up sponsors, assembled her wardrobe and worked on “the best way to promote my title.”

She spent last fall riding and taking jumping lessons in her hometown of Hesston. As K-State rodeo queen she usually worked on her own horse. But the state titleholder performs on whatever horse she is handed. Although she has been riding since she could walk, Pomeroy wanted to keep her skills sharp.

The rodeo queen fell in love with interior design at K-State. “We learned to always think about human needs. It is so people-oriented,” she said.

When she starts her career, she won’t abandon her love of the outdoors or her boots. “Being on a horse is a happy place,” she said.

More alumni make news

Nona Prescott Golledge, a 1987 graduate from the Department of Hospitality Management and Dietetics, has been awarded the Silver Plate Award in the colleges and universities category by the International Facility Management Association. She is director of KU Dining at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. She was honored for her service and leadership in the food service industry and in the National Association of College and University Food Services.

Sarinya Sungkatavat, who graduated in 2013 from the HDM program, has been promoted to Master of Management program director in tourism and hospitality, Management Division at Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Bryan Cafferky, MFT doctoral student, has been hired as an assistant professor in the School of Behavioral Health at Loma Linda University.

Nathan Hardy, MFT doctoral student, has accepted a two-year postdoctoral clinical research fellowship at Northwestern University.

Leigh M. Eck, who received a bachelor’s degree in nutritional science, received the 2014 Early Career Achievement in Medicine alumna award from the University of Kansas Medical Center. She is an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Genetics at the KU School of Medicine.

Carole Schwartz, who received a master’s degree in gerontology, was the Alumni Fellow for K-State Global Campus.

A research public health analyst for Research Triangle Institute International, or RTI, she works on projects such as education and implementation of requirements of the IMPACT Act. Schwartz has more than 16 years of occupational therapy clinical experience and has worked as policy advisor at the Illinois Department of Aging.
Bartelsmeyer becomes St. Louis company’s first design consultant
(Adapted from story by Joe Paone in Technology Integrator, a trade magazine for professionals involved in the residential electronics installation industry.)

St. Louis-based Integration Controls thought outside of the box by bringing on an interior designer, Rachel Ellerbe Bartelsmeyer, to interact directly with its clients as the company’s sales and design consultant.

Bartelsmeyer, a 2001 Kansas State University graduate in interior design and gerontology, analyzes design documents, works alongside other contractors, abides by codes within the interior, helps select the finishes of the equipment seen within the client’s space, and works closely with clients to ensure designs will meet their needs for their daily life.

“I also get to work with designers/architects to collaborate and bring our industries together on the project,” she added.

“I am the lead for the system sales and design consultant meeting with clients, gathering scope, assembling their proposal, making selections, and working with the client throughout the project,” Bartelsmeyer said. “Depending on the project, I can create 3-D images of the space for our clients to visualize our goal, meet with the contractors, etc.”

She said her favorite part of the job is working with clients in the initial discussion.

“This is such an exciting time dreaming about their ideal way of life. Custom integrated systems, if designed correctly, make such a huge positive impact on the daily lives of our clients,” the designer said.

Jamie Briesemeister, sales and marketing director for Integration Controls, explained why she hired the K-State graduate.

“I had been volunteering with a design group for a few years, and Rachel happened to be on the team. We got to ‘work together’ in the design world, coordinating events, sharing tasks, pairing up in teams, etc., and through it all, I found her willingness to participate, gentle approach, open dialogue, and positive attitude were a great fit for our company.”

Interior designers tend to be great big-picture thinkers and still have a keen ability to pay attention to details, Briesemeister added.

Dell-St. Clair joins college’s development team

The KSU Foundation has named Suzanne Dell-St. Clair senior director of development for the College of Human Ecology. She will work with donors and prospective donors for gifts to the college.

The new senior director has a Master of Science from the College of Human Ecology, School of Family Studies and Human Services.

Dell-St. Clair, a certified fundraising executive, has 28 years of professional experience in nonprofit fundraising and development, most recently with the KU Endowment Association at the KU School of Medicine where she was associate development director for public health and family medicine.

“I feel honored and very excited to bring my skills, experience and enthusiasm as a development professional back to K-State now to advance not only the mission and vision of ‘my’ college, but also the philanthropic dreams and passions of our alumni,” she said.

“My experience at K-State was very positive. My graduate coursework and the outstanding learning opportunities I was given prepared me so well for my 10-year career as an extension specialist after receiving my degree,” Dell-St. Clair added.

Early in her career she was an extension education specialist at the University of Missouri.

She has served as president of the Mid-America Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and as district president of the Missouri Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.

She is available at 785-532-7542 or suzanned@found.ksu.edu.

Doors wide open

Gerontology undergraduates were among more than 150 Human Ecology students involved in the annual All-University Open House on April 11. They planned, set up and presented dozens of activities and displays to entertain and enlighten fellow students and visitors who passed through Justin Hall and the Campus Creek Complex. Before the university day started in 1980, there was Hospitality Day started in 1931 by the Division of Home Economics.
Donors mean we can be more successful at “focusing first on people.”

Scholarship honors Mary Brooks, speech pathologist and the love of Bill’s life

They met on a blind date in spring 1969. “She was a glorious blonde-haired, blue-eyed Czech,” said Bill Brooks, his eyes welling with tears.

They wed in 1971 after graduating (Mary in three years, magna cum laude) from K-State. Brooks went on to get a medical degree at the University of Kansas and did a radiology residency at St. Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City.

His bride earned a master’s degree in speech pathology at KU and became St. Luke’s first speech pathologist. She started the language preschool there. Her writings on speech and language age-appropriate guidelines for parents are still being used.

They lived what Brooks called a blessed life. “She was just amazing,” he said. “So smart. So capable. So creative. She had all these amazing abilities.”

When Mary Brooks died in 2013 of ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease), her husband of 42 years was devastated and decided to retire. Then he began sorting the boxes throughout the house. “She didn’t throw anything away — that was good and bad,” he said.

He reread the letters they exchanged before their marriage. He looked at hundreds of photographs of Mary and their three children: Adam, Molly and Matthew. He came across preliminary notes for the booklet she wrote, “Your Child’s Speech and Language: Guidelines for Parents.”

Mary Brooks was 62 when she died. In her memory, Bill and others endowed a graduate scholarship in speech pathology at K-State. The first recipient is Allison O’Rourke. When Allison tells stories about her clinical work, he sees the spark of dedication that Mary had. “She would have enjoyed talking with Allie,” he said.

K-State is a longtime family tradition with Mary and Bill Brooks. For Bill, K-State is much more. It’s a special place where he and Mary met and fell in love; a special place where they tailgated and attended football games together, often joined by their children who also “bleed purple.”

Now he is giving back in her honor.

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Meet 2015 Alumni Fellow Lee Wilbur, M.D.

The physician taught at Indiana University for 10 years before joining the University of Arkansas where he is also director of interprofessional education for the medical sciences — medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, health professions and graduate studies.

Watch his presentation in Justin Hall at vimeo.com/125606417.

Lee Wilbur, M.D. and fellow of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine, told students at a collegewide presentation that “pride is concerned with who is right; humility is concerned with what is right.” He encouraged them to avoid assumptions, beware of title-based leadership and seek to understand what drives them.

The professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and vice chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine in the College of Medicine, recommended “The Leader within You” by John Maxwell. Everyone is a leader because everyone influences others, he said.

A graduate of the nutritional sciences program in the Department of Human Nutrition in 1995, he built his career around education and program development that advocates for vulnerable populations.

He earned a medical degree at the University of Kansas. He completed his residency in emergency medicine at Denver Health Medical Center.