Philanthropy changes lives

Read seven amazing scholarship stories, inside.
Scholarships: A powerful tool

Affordability is a growing concern for aspiring college students and their families. As a land-grant institution, Kansas State University’s founding mission was to provide broad, equitable and affordable access to education for those who seek it. The original spirit of this mission was possible through large funding support by the state to supplement the cost of tuition for students. Today, with less than 20 percent of K-State’s budget being provided by the state, families are faced with bearing this shift in cost burden. Philanthropy supporting scholarships is a powerful tool for addressing affordability for students. Scholarships empower students to earn a college degree when other financial aid doesn’t cover expenses. Scholarships encourage and inspire the next generation of innovators and leaders who will positively change the world in big and small ways. Scholarships make a difference — for students and for all of us who benefit from what these students will achieve.

Thank you to all of the generous donors who support K-State students and help the university achieve its mission of making education accessible, equitable and affordable.

With Purple Pride,

Greg Willems
President and CEO
KSU Foundation
Welcome to Good for K-State, a magazine devoted to the inspiration and impact of private philanthropy for Kansas State University. We invite your comments, questions and ideas. Just send an email to good@ksufoundation.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

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DAN AND BETH BIRD RECEIVE 2018 K-STATE MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

Dan and Beth Bird, Manhattan, Kansas, have been awarded the K-State Medal of Excellence, which recognizes those who have advanced Kansas State University through exceptional service, leadership and philanthropic contributions. Dan received his degree in animal sciences and industry from K-State in 1962. Beth earned her degree in business administration from K-State in 1961. The Birds have served as past members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. They are lifetime members of the Alumni Association and members of the Beach Museum Board of Visitors, of which Beth is past chair. They are past members and volunteers with K-State Catbackers. Beth serves on the board for K-State Libraries, and both Dan and Beth serve on the College of Agriculture’s Innovation and Inspiration Campaign steering committee.

Since Dan’s first gift of $10 in 1964, Dan and Beth have established five named funds and scholarships in the colleges of Agriculture and Business Administration, and across K-State through funds for Athletics, the Alumni Association, K-State Libraries, the marching band, K-State Gardens, McCain Auditorium and the Berney Family Welcome Center.

K-State Polytechnic offering UAS training for law enforcement

Kansas State Polytechnic campus in Salina is working with law enforcement partners to offer a training course specifically targeted at how first responders can utilize unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in daily operations and safety procedures. The four-day course will provide attendees the skills necessary to operate UAS for specific law enforcement purposes such as accident scene reconstruction, search and rescue operations, and night operations.

How law enforcement officers can use unmanned aircraft systems in daily operations and safety procedures is the focus of a new course offered at K-State Polytechnic. Developed by K-State Polytechnic, the course uses the campus’s industry-leading technology.
K-State researchers make breakthrough toward understanding glyphosate resistance in pigweeds

Herbicide resistance in weeds has been a problem not only in Kansas, but around the world. In March, researchers at K-State released their discovery of how weeds have developed this resistance to the popular herbicide, glyphosate. This could have a larger significance in agriculture and other industries. The work is detailed in an article in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

From left: Mithila Jugulam, Dal-Hoe Koo, Bernd Friebe and Bikram Gill.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH FUNDS CANCER-RELATED RESEARCH AT K-STATE

Researchers from K-State’s colleges of Engineering and Veterinary Medicine were awarded a $1,321,648 grant to tackle lung cancer with development of a minimally invasive treatment option. The bronchoscopic microwave ablation system for treating lung tumors was funded by the National Institutes of Health’s National Cancer Institute. Punit Prakash, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, is principal investigator for the five-year study “Bronchoscope-Guided Microwave Ablation of Early-Stage Lung Tumors.”

Punit Prakash, K-State assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering.

Kansas State University earns No. 4 spot in ranking of top veterinary schools

College magazine ranked K-State College of Veterinary Medicine at number four as part of the top 10 veterinary colleges in the United States. The magazine recognized K-State’s veterinary program for its dedication to research, learning opportunities, student involvement, identifying and treating diseases, and knowledge of the cattle industry.

USDA-funded multi-robot farming project to aid in increasing world’s food supply

Use of robotic farming on highly sloped land is the focus of a nearly $1.2 million project led by Kansas State University’s Dan Filippo.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued K-State a $1,178,191 grant for the National Robotics Initiative 2.0: Ubiquitous Collaborative Robots. The project is known as the “Multi-Robot Farming on Marginal, Highly Sloped Lands.” K-State researchers explored this initiative after acknowledging the fact that the world will be required to feed approximately 9 billion people by 2050, but crop yield is significantly falling short of meeting projected food needs.

USDA awards funding to implement Master Health Volunteer initiative in Kansas

The United States Department of Agriculture awarded Erin Yelland, extension specialist and assistant professor, and Elaine Johannes, extension specialist and associate professor, a grant of $300,000 to initiate a Master Health Volunteer program in Kansas. The Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grant Program focuses on the needs of rural Americans by providing individual and family health educational services. The program works to promote and advance rural health, while alleviating effects of rural poverty.
Camaraderie fills the workshop as the Kansas State University quarter-scale tractor team shares stories with Carl and Melinda Helwig. The Helwigs, a couple from Columbus, Kansas, have invested in the team, which now carries their name — the Helwig Farms Quarter-Scale Tractor Team.

Participating in tractor pulls has long been a hobby of Carl and Melinda. The shop at their farm is filled with trophies and memories of the time they spent participating in competitions. They know firsthand the valuable skills the students on the team are learning.

“Students are learning mechanical skills, how to work together and how to make a presentation,” Carl said. “They have to build a tractor from the ground up and present what they’ve built to the judges. And they have to work as a team; that’s an important part of their experience.”

The Helwigs gifted grain from their harvest last year and created a charitable remainder trust. With these investments, the Helwigs are able to support the team now and in the future through an endowed gift.

“Having the support of the Helwigs has helped to guarantee the continued success of our team by allowing us to spend more time designing our tractor instead of trying to raise money to build it,” said Braden Mishler, senior in biological systems engineering.

“With the guaranteed source of funds for the future, it allows us to invest in some newer equipment to build our tractor, as well as the financial ability to test different things that we were previously unable to.”
Supervised by the biological and agricultural engineering department in K-State’s College of Engineering, the Helwig Farms Quarter-Scale Tractor team challenges students to harness the power and torque of a specified stock engine in order to maximize performance in competition. Annually, 15 to 20 students representing three degree programs and two colleges make up the team. They gain practical experience in design of drive-train systems, tractor performance, manufacturing processes and material and performance analyses.

“This team brings excellent benefits if you put in the time,” said Megan Workman, senior in agronomy. “The experience gained from designing, building and presenting a tractor for this team gives all of us involved a real look into what is expected from us in the industry after graduation. The benefit professionally is matched with a great personal benefit. The teamwork experiences gained and friendships made while being on this team will last a lifetime.”

The Helwigs and members of the team have had the opportunity to meet and share stories and have come away feeling like family.

“We didn’t have any children,” Melinda said. “So, we’ve kind of adopted the team as our children.”

As with family, the Helwigs are proud to support the accomplishments of their team.

“We have had a good life; been fortunate in grain production… and we’ve enjoyed the thrill of competition,” Carl said. “We want the students to have every opportunity to be on top.”
What makes a scholarship successful?

The most impactful ones are:

**Enduring**
Scholarships that are simply designed and easy to award make the biggest difference. They include funds that can be awarded immediately as well as endowed funds to support students in perpetuity. Scholarships with many criteria attached may limit K-State’s ability to award scholarships over time.

**Meaningful**
While all scholarships make a difference, the most powerful ones cover big ticket educational expenses, such as tuition and housing. These scholarships provide the highest potential for students to persist and graduate, and often inspire today’s students to become tomorrow’s donors.

FAST FACTS: Attacking affordability

**Dollars made available**
In the last seven years, the KSU Foundation has more than doubled the private dollars in scholarships and other student support made available to the university.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dollars Available</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$8.4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$10M</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$14.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$18M</td>
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**New scholarships created**

| FY17 | 124 |
| FY18 so far | 155 |

The number of scholarship created by K-Staters are on the rise. In FY17, K-Staters created 124 new scholarships. In FY18, K-Staters have create 155 new scholarships (and counting!)

**Endowment support**

$254M of K-State's endowment pool is designated for scholarships and student support. That’s just over 50% of K-State’s total endowment pool, valued at more than $500M.*

*As of FY17
Affordability is among the biggest challenges facing K-State students and their families today. To tackle that issue, the KSU Foundation and a handful of signature donors have responded by initiating the K-State Family Scholarship Program. Lead donors have already given seed monies to establish their “family tree” of matched funds.

Learn how you can take advantage of matching opportunities through the K-State Family Scholarship Program and create your family scholarship on page 24 among the Good Ideas.

**How the K-State Family Scholarship works:**

\[
\$30,000 \text{ or } \$6,000 \text{ per year over 5 years} \times 2 \text{ matched by generous donors} = \$60,000 \text{ gift}
\]

\$10,000 scholarship over 5 years + \$50,000 endowment for future scholarships

**How one scholarship makes a difference**

**Paul E. “Pete” Fairbank scholarship**

- Pete was a 1933 K-State graduate in physical education.
- In 1977, Dorothy Fairbank, Pete’s wife, gave $2,500 to create a scholarship for deserving K-State athletes.

**Pete's scholarship went to:**

- An executive director of a therapeutic equestrian center serving adults and children with disabilities
- A company founder, former NFL player and ESPN analyst
- Kevin Lockett, Partner/CFO in Fulcrum Global Capital investments

Kevin graduated in 1996 with an accounting degree from K-State’s College of Business Administration. In 1998, Kevin and his family created the Lockett-up Foundation, through which he has established four K-State scholarships, including one for students in the College of Business Administration.

**Lockett-up scholarships went to:**

- A graphics and web technology manager
- An entrepreneur
- A director in an investment banking services company
- A family practitioner in rural Kansas

**Results by the numbers**

- 4 Family Scholarship Match funds have been created since August 2017.
- 100 new scholarship match opportunities have been created through the Family Scholarship Match funds.
- 73 scholarship matches have been claimed, of the 100 new opportunities created. *as of 6/1/18*

[KSUFoundation.org](http://KSUFoundation.org)
As more students from all backgrounds strive to earn a college degree, scholarships have the power to make dreams come true. At Kansas State University, scholarships helped a cancer survivor stay in school; enabled K-State to recruit and retain a Marshall scholar; inspired a military veteran to find a new career helping others; and made it possible for outstanding students with financial need to attend K-State.

We could tell thousands of stories about the power of scholarships. We bring you seven. These stories represent how you, K-State’s generous donors, make dreams come true with your gifts. For this past academic year, K-State students earned nearly 13,700 scholarships, most of which were made possible with private gifts from donors like you. In fact, private dollars for student support, made available to K-State through the KSU Foundation, have doubled in the last seven years alone.

The K-State family is pulling together to make a difference. The result? Extraordinary students are doing extraordinary things when they graduate — or even before they graduate. Opportunities have been seized. Goals are being set and reached. Dreams are coming true.
“I felt the support of the entire K-State community rally around me.”
Rachael Neihart ’10, family studies and human services, Overland Park, Kansas

By Marisa Larson

With her 10-month-old son cooing in her arms, Rachael Neihart recounts how scholarships helped her beat cancer and get her degree at Kansas State University.

Rachael’s life changed drastically at the beginning of her sophomore year at K-State. It was recruitment week and Rachael had just moved into her sorority house when her parents called to tell her she had to come home right away — she’d been diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome, a rare and deadly blood cancer. She needed chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant.

Rachael took the fall semester off to focus on battling cancer. As her health improved, she was able to take online classes that spring semester and return to campus her junior year. But while she was away, she wasn’t forgotten.

“While going through the hardest time of my life — physically, mentally and spiritually — I felt the support of the entire K-State community rally around me,” Rachael said. “I felt loved and cared for, even during that year off from school.”

During Rachael’s year off, the KSU Student Foundation began a new campaign to help fellow students called K-State Proud, which raises money to give Student Opportunity Awards to students who have exhausted all other forms of financial aid. When Rachael returned to K-State, she still had medical bills and travel expenses for doctors’ appointments in Kansas City, on top of school costs.

“Receiving the Student Opportunity Award was a real blessing,” Rachael said. “It was a struggle — student loans plus a large amount of medical bills. The award was a huge help for my family and me during that time of need. Without this help, I wouldn’t have been able to pay my tuition.”

Rachael always had a desire to help others, and her illness helped her focus that passion. She got her sorority involved in supporting Be The Match bone marrow registry by organizing three large recruitment drives on campus. After graduating from K-State in 2010 with a degree in family studies and human services, Rachael went to work for Be The Match for several years, then on to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

“I really felt my career path and passion was formed while at K-State,” Rachael said. “So I was able to give back in that way as well.”

Rachael’s journey helped both her and her husband, Jim, find their passion helping cancer patients. Jim, also a K-State graduate, is a medical physicist helping cancer patients in radiation oncology. Rachael continues to advocate for blood cancer awareness in her community and volunteers with both Be The Match and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Rachael and Jim look forward to continuing to grow their family through adoption.
“My passion is centered around a moral ambition to alleviate suffering in people...”
Garrett Wilkinson, senior in nutritional sciences and microbiology, Hutchinson, Kansas

By Marisa Larson

Determination. Persistence. Perseverance. These qualities brought Garrett Wilkinson of Hutchinson, Kansas, to Kansas State University, and they’ve led him to earn the prestigious Marshall Scholarship, funding two years of continued education in the United Kingdom. Those characteristics will also help Garrett in the difficult profession he is passionate in pursuing — global health provider and advocate for social justice.

“At a very young age, my parents talked to me about college and how important it was to make sure you could afford it because they were still paying off their student loans,” Garrett said. “As soon as I got to high school, I started thinking about scholarships and where I could go to college. I set my sights on getting the Putnam scholarship. The minimum ACT score to qualify for the Putnam is 32. I’m a pretty terrible test taker, so I had to take the ACT seven times. I developed my own training program, and over the course of a year and a half, I finally got a 32 on my seventh try.”

It was that determination and hard work that landed Garrett the Putnam and many other scholarships that funded his research into a variety of public health, education and social justice projects.

“My passion is centered around a moral ambition to alleviate suffering in people, focused around public health,” Garrett explained. “There is a lot of suffering that is not only unfortunate but also wrong and a part of global and social economic forces that are unjust. I became interested in addressing poverty and its related issues at a young age. My parents, both public school teachers, saw much unnecessary economic suffering and made sure to make me aware of it.”

Garrett’s impressive resume reads as if for someone much older, as he’s done so much in a short amount of time. At K-State, Garrett helped start the food pantry for students, managed Hands On K-State volunteers, and helped land a $25,000 grant for the Healthy Communities Laboratory to produce local journalism on health inequities in Riley County. He also founded RESULTS K-State, an organization that teaches others how to advocate for domestic and international antipoverty policies by lobbying Congress and the state legislature.

Garrett has also used his skills to benefit people around the world. He helped start the nonprofit Open World Cause, which supports educators in Nepal and Kenya and provides school nutrition programs and purified water for those communities. He’s worked with Dr. Brian Lindshield, associate professor of food, nutrition, dietetics and health, to develop food aid supplements that will be used by the United States government to assist people in developing countries who are suffering from famine or food insecurity. Currently, he’s working with Harvard’s Center for Global Health Delivery in Dubai overseeing grants that fund efforts to bridge the gap in global health delivery.

Nearly all of Garrett’s work has been supported by scholarships that gave him the freedom to conduct research, travel and collaborate with colleagues. These scholarships include the Mark Chapman Scholarship, the Nancy Landon Kassebaum Scholarship, the Marjorie J. and Richard L. D. Morse Family and Community Public Policy Scholarship, Kansas State University Civic Leadership Scholarship, the College of Human Ecology Hannah Bluemont Scholarship, and the Child and Family Health International Thomas Hall Scholarship.

With a degree in nutritional science and microbiology, Garrett will continue his studies this fall at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, working toward a Ph.D. in public health.

“Treating illness is a morally righteous project, which is what originally drew me to health,” Garrett said. “In my time at K-State, I began to notice that many sick people I encountered experienced a greater risk of illness because of their social and economic status. Their illnesses were rooted in things like food and housing insecurity or an inability to afford medical care. These problems stemmed from a social and economic order, created by humans, which I came to see as fundamentally unjust. During my time at K-State, I saw how professors I worked with applied their skills to real problems. Seeing how this can save human lives and eradicate poverty made me committed to this work.”
Anne-Marie Kennedy enriched her academic experience by exploring cultural sites such as the Wat Pho Buddhist temple on Rattanakosin Island in Bangkok, Thailand.

COURTESY PHOTO

“Because of my K-State education...I am still dreaming and pursuing education.”
As part of her internship, Anne-Marie worked alongside volunteers to honor mothers residing in the Emergency Home for Women and Children prior to Mothers' Day.

COURTESY PHOTO

Ann-Marie Kennedy '17, social work, Wamego, Kansas

By Allie Lousch

The dreams of seven-year old girls don’t always come true, but for Ann-Marie Kennedy, they did. Growing up in rural Jamaica, Ann-Marie wanted to see the world beyond Garlands, her small farming community in the parish of St. James. Her paternal grandfather cultivated a global perspective and the mobile library van nurtured her curiosity. When she was 35 years old and after her family immigrated to Florida, Ann-Marie joined the U.S. Army. As a soldier, she finally realized her childhood dreams. Within five years as an active-duty medic, Ann-Marie was injured and the identity she’d work so hard to develop came to an abrupt stop.

Before separating from the military, Ann-Marie met with a career counselor who encouraged her to return to school. After researching her options, connecting with other former soldiers and studying online reviews, Ann-Marie chose to study social work at Kansas State University. Social work leveraged her prior teaching career and the experience of having to reassess her identity following her military service.

“I was losing a career that I identified with and that brought me to Kansas,” Ann-Marie said. “I needed to rebuild myself. I needed new skills. Then I had to ask myself if I wanted a glamorous desk job or do I want to help people triumph as they rebuild. Could I care for others as I had needed care?”

As a non-traditional student responsible for a mortgage and her bills, Ann-Marie knew she would have to work and attend school. Fortunately, she pursued scholarships and was awarded several, which allowed her to work fewer hours and study more.

Scholarships also allowed her to become the first social work student with an international practicum placement. The Gilman Scholarship provided travel funds for Ann-Marie to fly to Thailand and work at the Emergency Home for Women and Children in Bangkok, Thailand. There, she helped people who had suffered abuse of every kind navigate their next steps, housing options, legal and medical care, education opportunities and skill development.

“My aim was to give women strength,” Ann-Marie said, “and empower them to acquire skills so they could take care of their basic needs, relationships and job training so they could survive on their own. One central thing I facilitated was to help women find out what they wanted for themselves and help them make it happen.”

Ann-Marie, a “small girl from rural Jamaica” in a large family with limited resources and opportunity, has gone further than she could have dreamed, thanks to the generosity of the K-State family. And she’s not done yet. Her plans are to achieve her graduate degree in social work then assist internationally displaced persons acquire the skills needed to successfully navigate their new environment. She is also building her grant-writing skills on behalf of Garlands Community, Inc., a nonprofit she co-founded that provides scholarships, school supplies and textbooks to primary and high school students in her hometown near Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Ann-Marie Kennedy is already paying it forward on a global scale and shows no signs of slowing her pace. She has more dreams to realize for herself and so many others.

“Because of my K-State education, my story didn’t end in the military; I am still dreaming and pursuing education,” Ann-Marie said. “I feel privileged that I could have a university education and to have experienced so much. People have been so generous to me — someone they didn’t know. Those scholarships encouraged me; they acknowledged my efforts.”
Sam Brinton advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) rights all over the United States as head of advocacy and government affairs for The Trevor Project, a national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ young people.

GETTY IMAGES FOR THE TREVOR PROJECT

“This will be a place where LGBTQ students are going to be welcomed.”
Sam Brinton ’11, nuclear engineering and music, Alexandria, Virginia

By Sara Wallace

The end of the work day was near in Washington, D.C. as Sam Brinton picked up the phone while printing and editing legislation to be sent to California before one last meeting in 20 minutes. One would have to be adept at multitasking when advising the president of the United States on nuclear issues, serving as the head of advocacy for government affairs with the Trevor Project, and on the weekends attending the Oscars representing said LGBTQ youth suicide prevention organization.

“I advise the president of the United States on nuclear issues. I get to testify in front of the Supreme Court, and I get to walk along the halls of Congress in my bright purple heels because I’m good at what I do,” Sam said. “I’m good at what I do because I was trained at one of the best engineering schools in the country — Kansas State University.”

Sam’s initial draw to K-State was the opportunity to study both nuclear engineering and vocal music performance at one school. After receiving a dual degree in nuclear engineering and music from K-State, Sam obtained two Master of Science degrees from MIT in nuclear engineering and technology and policy program. Sam later founded Core Solutions Consulting to serve the national need for expertise on socio-technical translation on issues ranging from nuclear waste management to congressional outreach on advanced nuclear energy innovation.

Before this career in nuclear waste advising took off, Sam started at K-State where the ability to continue as a student depended on the ability to obtain scholarships.

“Many LGBTQ youth are rejected by their families, and I was no different,” Sam said. “I didn’t have a backup, so I threw myself into my academic work and extra curriculars.”

Sam’s devotion led to receiving many large scholarships as a student, including a Student Opportunity Award and several awards from the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, NACME.

“I will never be able to impress upon others what it meant to have that life raft, and it’s one of the many reasons I started my scholarship,” Sam said.

As a student at K-State, Sam was one of the only “out” LGBTQ persons in the College of Engineering, which was not always easy. This led Sam to take a leadership role in making K-State and the country a more welcoming place for LGBTQ students. This included creating a scholarship for LGBTQ engineering students at K-State.

“The reason I created the LGBTQ engineering scholarship was because I wanted every single person who applies for a scholarship in engineering to have to see those two words right next to each other: LGBTQ and engineering,” Sam said. “To remind students this will be a place where LGBTQ students are going to be welcomed.”

Nationally, Sam’s advocacy for LGBTQ persons includes speaking before the United Nations and Congress regarding conversion therapy and LGBTQ rights. Sam is the national vice president for advocacy for oSTEM, Out in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics, and K-State sends one of the largest delegations of LGBTQ engineering students to this conference. Sam is also the head of advocacy and government affairs with The Trevor Project, a suicide prevention program that serves nearly 100,000 LGBTQ youth every year who are in crisis.

“I hear from kids in Kansas who feel like there is no one else like them, and I know exactly what that felt like,” Sam said. “Now I can happily say they’re not the only ones; they are not alone and K-State is becoming a place where you can be yourself and be really good at being yourself.”
“I would like to help my students find as much opportunity as they’ve given me.”
When Bill Hsu’s anticipated research funding was delayed, he was faced with a dedicated team of student researchers who depended on the funds to help pay for their education at Kansas State University. Instead of shutting down the Laboratory for Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD) and putting the project on hold until the monies came through, Bill, a professor of computer science, decided to personally fund his team with a donation to the College of Engineering. Because of Bill’s commitment to his student investigators, the research continued uninterrupted and the student researchers were paid, making it possible for them to continue taking classes at K-State.

“This process of supporting students in the KDD lab means a lot to me,” Bill said. “All of these students are award-winning, high-merit students who are largely underrepresented in engineering, especially in computer science fields. I seldom find students of such caliber of talent or dedication, and I would like to help them find as much opportunity as they’ve given me.”

Bill, winner of the 2018 University Distinguished Faculty Award for Mentoring of Undergraduate Students in Research, directs the KDD lab as an opportunity for students to apply engineering methods in artificial intelligence and machine learning to real-world issues.

Though visitors won’t see white coats in the KDD lab, the energy within is palpable with the first step into this innovative research environment. Students hail from Kansas, Missouri, California, China, El Salvador, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay and an assortment of disciplines across campus. Research assistants have included a K-State student body president, valedictorians, first-generation students and people underrepresented in engineering fields. Fifty percent of the lab’s team are female — beyond the industry average of less than 20 percent — and his students come from a diverse palette of backgrounds and hometowns.

“All of my students have one thing in common,” Bill said. “They want to make a difference in the world with artificial intelligence.”

KDD scholars collaborate among each of K-State’s colleges to address issues regarding refugees, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, in fields of neuroscience and addiction, quality of life in livestock, cybersecurity and education. Students leverage innovations in computer science to discover solutions in their unique areas of study.

Alice Lam and Fernanda De La Torre, 2018 K-State Distinguished Undergraduate Student in Research, co-led a KDD team who designed and created a prototype, business case and marketing plan for Zoobot, a kid-friendly platform aimed to teach programming through robotic toys. Their team received first place honors at the 2017 Kansas City Startup Weekend competition.

Yihong Theis is merging her study of urban planning with machine learning research to remediate air pollution. Yihong is also developing solutions to issues many bilingual users encounter when accessing artificial intelligence found in common consumer products.

The benefits of Bill’s gift do not stay in the classroom. He included critical funding for KDD student researchers to attend conferences in emerging technologies and the ethics of artificial intelligence. Because students have access to this caliber of symposia and learning, they are better equipped to dive deep into the questions society is asking. Participation allows them to network with leaders in computer science and other science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields and incorporate these experiences into the leading-edge research that advances education, industry and culture.

Gifts like the Dr. Bill Hsu Knowledge Discovery in Database Lab Student Support help launch K-State students into influential careers and advance our land-grant institution toward its goal of becoming a top 50 public research university.

Bill said he was inspired to help fund his students’ research due to his desire to pay it forward.

“My undergraduate advisors gave me incredible support,” Bill said, “even including me as a co-author on papers when they had nothing to gain. I created my gift to give these students a chance — many who have no other grant funds available to them. We are lucky to have these students at K-State.”
“My main goal is to graduate and help others do the same.”
Daniuschka Rengifo, freshman in architecture, Overland Park, Kansas

By Marisa Larson

ears filled Daniuschka Rengifo’s eyes as she spoke of the sacrifices her parents make so she and her younger sister can get an education. Just three years ago, two weeks before her 16th birthday, Daniuschka and her family fled their home in Caracas, Venezuela, seeking shelter in Overland Park, Kansas, where Daniuschka’s grandmother lives. Her parents were vocal critics of the Venezuelan government. Because of their political activism, Daniuschka’s mother was kidnapped by pro-government forces who threatened the lives of her family. The Rengifo family couldn’t stay in Venezuela — it wasn’t safe — so they fled to the United States seeking political asylum.

Daniuschka’s parents left behind successful careers and a good life. Her father owned his own company and her mother was a manager of the company where she worked. Now her father works as a custodian.

“There are no bad jobs for anyone,” Daniuschka said, “but after you’ve had a professional career, it’s not what you wish you were doing. The same with my mom. My parents will need to get further accreditation for better jobs, but for now, my parents are putting their dreams on hold so they can put my sister and me through college first.”

Daniuschka, a freshman majoring in architecture in the College of Architecture, Planning and Design, feels blessed to be at K-State studying in a prestigious program. She credits scholarships and the help of others for making it a reality.

“Two weeks prior to school, it looked like I might not get to come to K-State because I didn’t have the money to pay my tuition,” she said. “Thankfully a lot of people helped me find scholarships, which are crucial because of my resident status. We are here legally, but getting our paperwork is a very long process. Because of that, I can’t apply for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) loans, which puts me at a big disadvantage to pay for school. Also, my parents and I don’t have a credit score because we don’t have a long work history in the United States. I am at K-State because of scholarships and because a family friend co-signed a loan.”

Daniuschka’s determination to get a college education is paying off. After her first semester at K-State, she received academic honors for having a GPA of 3.75 or higher. She is working hard to fulfill her dream of becoming a licensed architect and to give back to those who helped her.

“I want to give back to my parents, and also, I want to give back to my community. They didn’t have to help me, but they did anyway,” Daniuschka said. “I want to help people who are in similar situations to mine. Being at college opens you up to so many opportunities and a much different quality of life. Knowledge is power. My main goal is to graduate and help others do the same, and if possible, help the people in my home country.”

Daniuschka (right) with her parents (center), Veruschka Anez and Charles Rengifo, and her sister Andrea Rengifo (left).

COURTESY PHOTO
During his time at K-State, Thomas Anjard, senior in industrial engineering, initiated the Food Recovery Network in Manhattan, served as the director of scholarships for Blue Key honor society and became one of the student founders of IMSE Skill Xcelerator.

“\textquotedblleft}I thought about what I could do on campus to \textit{make a change}.\textquotedblright\n
DAVID MAYES PHOTOGRAPHY
Thomas Anjard, senior in industrial engineering, Overland Park, Kansas

By Alexcia Rodriguez

Passionate, hard-working and service-minded is how those who know Thomas Anjard describe him. A senior in industrial engineering from Overland Park, Kansas, Thomas is thankful for his experiences and accomplishments at Kansas State University, made possible by scholarships and the generous donors who fund them.

“I think scholarships are important because students come from very different backgrounds,” Thomas said. “Scholarships help because they give every student the opportunity to achieve their goals, regardless of whatever their life was like before. I wouldn’t be at K-State if it wasn’t for the scholarships offered to me.”

During his early years of high school, Thomas and his family were financially unstable and experienced food insecurity. Because of this experience, Thomas initiated the Food Recovery Network in Manhattan, which is a national nonprofit group and student movement against hunger and food waste. Thomas and his team collected food from the performance table for athletes and distributed it to local churches to feed the homeless.

“I went through difficult times in high school, but it made me more aware. When I came to K-State, I thought about what I could do on campus to make a change,” Thomas said. “When I found out so many students were food insecure, I wanted to create a way to get these students really nutritious, good food. Food isn’t something students should have to worry about.”

During his time at K-State, Thomas received numerous scholarships, including the Goss Discovery Scholarship, Celebrating Service and Leadership Award, Neal Atkinson Junior Leadership Award, Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity McKee Scholarship and the Koplik Memorial Scholarship. Thomas also received the Gilman Scholarship, which allowed him to study abroad in the Czech Republic at Czech Technical University. Only 27 percent of applicants received the award the year he applied.

“I think every scholarship I’ve received has been personal. I’ve been working since I was 12 to put myself through school,” Thomas said. "When I received any type of scholarship, I was aware of the monetary value and how much of a commitment it takes for someone else to give that away so a student could go to school. It’s something that made me motivated to do well.”

Thomas received an unexpected letter from one of his scholarship donors, expressing appreciation for his hard work and predicting a bright future. Thomas keeps the letter in his backpack for daily motivation.

“When I read the letter, it puts into perspective that it’s more than just some person donating their money to some kid to go to school,” Thomas said. “It’s more personal, and there are so many people that are focused on helping students like myself.”

On top of his commitment to the Food Recovery Network, Thomas is involved in the senior honor society Blue Key as the director of scholarships.

“I had so much experience with scholarships affecting my life that I wanted to be in charge of the whole scholarship process for Blue Key, so I could help students the way Blue Key helped me,” Thomas said.

Thomas said his favorite experiences at K-State included joining a fraternity — Delta Sigma Phi — studying abroad, establishing the Food Recovery Network, and being one of the student founders of the IMSE Skill Xcelerator, which is a program designed to help students develop technical and professional skills. After graduation, Thomas intends to stay involved with K-State by serving as a mentor for students in the Skill Xcelerator.

Thomas’ achievements have been a result of his hard work ethic, along with support from donors. After facing various challenges in life, Thomas looks toward the future and hopes to continue making a difference in the community.

“I definitely know that so many opportunities I’ve had have been because of help from other people,” Thomas said. “They’re giving it to me so I’m able to achieve my goals and have the experiences that will help me grow into the person I’m going to be.”

Thomas Anjard keeps a letter from his scholarship donor in his backpack to remind him why he works so hard and of those who believe in him.
Many programs and projects on campus benefit from philanthropic support. Discover one you care about.

K-State Family Scholarship Program

Affordability is among the biggest challenges facing K-State students and their families today. The KSU Foundation and a handful of signature donors have responded by initiating the K-State Family Scholarship Program. Lead donors, Mary Vanier and Carl and Mary Ice, have already given seed monies to establish their “family tree” of matched funds. New gifts of $30,000 are matched with $30,000 from the seed fund, for a total gift of $60,000. $10,000 goes into an expendable fund, making $2,000 scholarships available to be awarded to students immediately. The remaining $50,000 goes into the endowment, ensuring future generations of Wildcats will receive scholarships as well. Learn more about how you can take advantage of matching opportunities through the K-State Family Scholarship Program at ksufoundation.org/family, or contact John Morris, senior vice president of development, at johnm@ksufoundation.org or 785-532-7587.

See page 7 for more information about the K-State Family Scholarship.
**Resolving conflict in a complex world**

In a world focused on things, K-State’s College of Human Ecology focuses on people. Within the college’s conflict resolution undergraduate, graduate and online studies, the focus is on addressing the complexities of human interaction, community, mutual respect and cooperation. Students in the conflict resolution certificate programs represent every college at K-State. They learn to uncover the sources of home, workplace and societal conflicts and how to effectively resolve them. This program is underwritten, in part, by the Conflict Resolution Excellence Fund and potentially impacts home, work and community life. To support this program, contact Dana Hunter, director of development for the College of Human Ecology, at danah@ksufoundation.org or 785-532-7291.

![Students in the conflict resolution program worked with South African township residents to help repair post-apartheid social disparities.](image)

**Greene Family Insect Zoo Excellence Fund**

Buzzed by the K-State Insect Zoo lately? Housed in the former dairy barn and staffed by students, the insect zoo allows visitors to discover how flying, crawling and pollinating insects influence healthy agriculture, economies and daily life. You’ll encounter scorpions, walking sticks, tarantulas and even an active beehive. To help advance the insect zoo’s scientific and educational mission, Dr. Gerald and Phyllis Greene created the Greene Family Insect Zoo Excellence Fund. Interested in supporting the K-State Insect Zoo? Contact Drew Goering, development officer for the College of Agriculture, at drewg@ksufoundation.org or 785-532-7461.

![Children enjoy the many wonders of the K-State Insect Zoo.](image)

**Engineering teams foster competitive edge**

One of the most effective ways to prepare students for their professional careers is to provide opportunities to address real-world challenges before their post-graduation jobs begin. K-State’s engineering-related competitive teams offer pre-professional discovery and range from the award-winning Cyber Defense Club to the ambitious Concrete Canoe Team. Students put theory into practice as they design, fabricate, test and compete against other universities with their inventions and discoveries. Your support of hands-on investigative engineering teams not only benefits students, it profits the employers who will hire these young professionals. Contact Brett Larson, senior director of development for the College of Engineering, at brettl@ksufoundation.org or 785-532-7519 to support engineering teams.

![2017 K-State Baja team.](image)
#HelpForHale

On May 22, K-State's Hale Library was damaged by a fire, and the historic portion of the building — Farrell Library — was particularly hard hit. Such beloved spots as the Great Room (a.k.a. the "Harry Potter" room) and important library resources suffered fire, smoke and water damage.

Want to help? We have created a giving page where you can make a gift to aid recovery efforts.

ksufoundation.org/HelpForHale