K-Staters share what inspires them to give of their time and treasure.

Charlie and Debbie Morrison give to improve student wellness.

Jenika Hazelbaker gives to help her fellow students.

Lynn Lin gives to honor those who helped him succeed.

GOOD FOR K-STATE

KSU Foundation Magazine  Summer 2021
Connecting donor passions with university priorities

Kansas State University alumni and friends are generous people, looking to make a difference with their financial gifts. All too often, people in our profession are quick to say "yes" to gifts that, ultimately, are not that beneficial for the university and in the end will likely disappoint the donor. We do it differently at the KSU Foundation. We build relationships and use our inside knowledge and expertise to operate as trusted advisors, helping donors create gifts that are meaningful and will have a lasting impact. This professional approach ultimately leads to a more gratifying gift experience for the donor and a better outcome for K-State, aligning your passions with university priorities to boldly advance K-State.

In this issue, you’ll read six stories, from current students to alumni who graduated decades ago, about what inspires them to give to K-State. Often the desire is to give back or pay it forward, but it’s also more than that — it’s a chance to make a difference in the lives of others and a way to honor those who helped them.

We hope you enjoy these stories and consider sending your “why I give” story through the response card inside. We'd love to hear from you!

With Purple Pride,

Greg Willems
President and CEO
KSU Foundation
Good News
Accomplishments that make you proud to be a Wildcat.

Good Plan
Ensuring care for pet companions.

Good Work
All In for K-State raises funds for students’ classroom resources.

Good Word
Alumni share their K-State stories.

Why I Give
K-Staters share what inspires them to give of their time and treasure.

Describing the Future
Donor-funded initiative brings awareness of architecture, planning and design careers to Kansas City metro-area kids.

Prepare for Takeoff
Generous gifts allow K-State aviation program to soar to new heights.

Connecting Community
The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum’s endowment supports efforts to bring art to everyone.

Good Ideas
Our recommendations on how you can make a difference today.
Accomplishments that make you proud to be a Wildcat

ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS RANKED NATIONALLY

Kansas State University’s online portfolio of programs was recognized for excellence in 12 categories in the 2021 U.S. News and World Report. Among these, K-State is ranked No. 10 nationally for its master’s in curriculum and instruction and No. 12 for its master’s in special education. U.S. News and World Report analyzes student engagement, admission selectivity, faculty credentials and other credentials to rank the programs. K-State Global Campus received the highest mark of any school in the state of Kansas for its online bachelor’s degree programs.

NEW BOOK TELLS STORY OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

“Mind Thief,” a new book from the Columbia University Press by Han Yu, professor of English at the Kansas State University College of Arts and Sciences, explores the history of the disease and the vast research taking place to find a cure. “The book is information-rich and it doesn’t dumb down the science,” Yu said. “It also has cultural, historical and philosophical bents throughout. Science is not just about doing lab experiments and crunching numbers. It’s about the people doing the science, it’s about the people in clinical trials and it is about the historical context.” Yu said she wanted to write a book that will give Alzheimer’s patients and their loved ones perspective on how much work, imperfect as it may be, is being done to find a cure.

College of Agriculture professors receive teaching awards

Tiffany Rogers-Randolph, assistant professor of communications and agricultural education, and Colby Moorberg, assistant professor of agronomy, both received the Innovative Teaching Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). This award assists new faculty in creating projects with senior faculty to grow their scholarship of teaching and learning. Along with a partnering researcher from New Mexico State University, Rogers-Randolph is focusing her project on increasing the engagement of students who have had to adjust to online learning. Moorberg is working with faculty from multiple universities to lower the cost of textbooks by replacing traditional textbooks with other free resources.
K-STATE RECEIVES GRANTS TO IMPROVE ANIMAL DISEASE RESPONSE

Researchers at the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, or NABC, have been awarded three grants for research projects to protect animal health. The first of these grant-funded projects will focus on the creation of a toolkit to enable livestock exhibition organizers, local emergency management officials and livestock owners to work together to develop comprehensive plans for the overall safety of the animals being exhibited.

A second grant was awarded to the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, or KSVDL, who will be closely collaborating with the NABC and several other partners to design, refine, implement and assess response in a table-top exercise with a follow-up functional exercise of a simulated African Swine Fever outbreak.

A third grant is to initiate a research partnership with the Department of Homeland Security; Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office; the Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Defense; and Sandia National Laboratories. The group will develop a strategy and program that will build readiness and resilience in food, agriculture and veterinary systems by establishing a defensive program to address intentional and unintentional threats of a catastrophic nature.

Landscape architecture student wins Institutional Excellence Award

Anna Rader, a third-year landscape architecture student, was awarded the Institutional Excellence Award in the UNI Street City Vietnam international design competition. The competition was centered around a site in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where both students and professionals were tasked with revitalizing the street culture through physical structures. Rader prepared her design (left), “Forest City Market,” during the 2020 summer semester. Rader’s design incorporates important parts of Ho Chi Minh City’s history and culture, including traditional fishing traps and bamboo market structures. In addition to Anna, other K-State landscape architecture students were finalists in the competition. Of the 32 finalists, nearly half were K-State students.

Pre-veterinary students awarded prestigious study abroad scholarship

Destiny Serrano (left), senior, and Caitlin Snyder (right), sophomore, both pre-veterinary students, received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. Gilman scholarships are congressionally funded and assist undergraduate students in participating in study abroad programs. Serrano and Snyder will work with Loop Abroad, which provides student veterinary service programs worldwide. Serrano will travel to Thailand to work at a dog shelter and an elephant sanctuary. Snyder will study in South Africa, where she will work with big cats and learn about zoo management.
Richard and Nancy Berner loved their cat Andy. He was their companion, even going on walks around their apartment building with them. But the Berners were older and concerned about what would happen to Andy if they got to the point they could no longer care for him. Kansas State University’s Perpetual Pet Care Program (PPCP) in the College of Veterinary Medicine provided the solution.

PPCP provides pets with a lifetime of medical care and a loving home when an owner is no longer able to provide care. The college’s extensive foster network and veterinary experts are committed to care for enrolled PPCP pets for the rest of their lives. Any remaining funds support patients, students and research at the Veterinary Health Clinic.

The Berners enrolled Andy in the program in 2016. In February 2021, the Berners were no longer able to care for Andy, and their daughter, Connie Spidell, was unable to take Andy in. Spidell contacted K-State and Andy was brought to K-State for a check-up and to be adopted into a new home. Parting from Andy was difficult and emotional for Spidell, but she appreciated that the people behind PPCP would provide Andy the love and care he needs for the rest of his life.

“Knowing that Andy would be taken care of should something happen to them provided great peace of mind to my parents,” Spidell said. “They researched a number of options but felt K-State’s program was the best for them. They were in their early 80s when they signed up for the program and knew there was a chance that Andy would outlive them. The fact that they could document his likes/dislikes and his personality was important to them. It also provided great peace of mind to me. I adore Andy but was not able to adopt him myself. It was very hard for me to let him go, but both Joan and Melissa at K-State were efficient and very compassionate. Their approach made giving him up a bit easier.”

Andy was adopted by a college staff member, Gail Eyestone, who has kept Connie updated on Andy’s new adventures. “I greatly appreciate the updates on his status,” Spidell said. “It

Ensuring care for companion pets

By Marisa Larson
provides great comfort and peace of mind to both my mother and me to know that he has found a new home and is settling in.”

“I learned about Andy when Drs. Kate and Butch Kukanich came into my office one day and told me about his situation,” Eyestone said. “I had been without a cat for a few years since my last cat, Cricket, passed away at the age of 22. They knew I might be open to providing a home for another cat and I had been considering it for a while. I am familiar with caring for an older cat, so it wasn’t a hard sell. They showed me a photo of him — he’s really handsome, with big blue eyes, like Paul Newman.

“For the person who accepts an animal from the Perpetual Pet Care Program, there is a big benefit knowing all the animal’s medical care is paid for by the endowment established by the family,” Eyestone said. “This is especially important if you adopt an older animal, when they start to need more medical care.”

PPCP provides peace of mind for pet owners and ensures continued care of their beloved pets, as Spidell will attest.

“My parents spoke very highly of the program and were very pleased with the enrollment and ongoing support. They felt that K-State cared about Andy’s welfare and would make all efforts to accommodate his preferences,” Spidell said. “While I was not involved in the initial enrollment or selection, once I made the final call, the process was straightforward and simple. I was very emotional about letting him go, and everyone I spoke to was understanding, efficient and just plain nice. I definitely felt that he was going forward to a new home that would be better for him. As well, knowing that if needed, someone could have come to get him very quickly is reassuring. The program definitely provides peace of mind that your pet will be safe and cared for.”

To learn more about the Perpetual Pet Care Program, contact Joan Burton at joanb@ksufoundation.org or 785-775-2057 or visit vet.k-state.edu/about/development/programs/perpetual-pet-care.

Gail Eyestone with Andy, a purebred Ragdoll cat.

“Knowing that Andy would be taken care of should something happen to them provided great peace of mind to my parents.”

— Connie Spidell
March 24, 2021, Kansas State University alumni, faculty, students, staff and friends gave $503,161 to help students save money on textbooks by participating in All In for K-State, KSU Foundation’s second 24-hour fundraising sprint. Once deployed, this investment will save K-State students at least $5 million per year.

K-Staters from every state, Washington D.C. and as far away as Liverpool, England, came together — virtually — to make essential class materials more affordable for K-State students by supporting Textbooks 2.0. Textbooks 2.0 saves students money by replacing expensive traditional textbooks with open/alternative digital resources tailored to the class by the instructor and has saved K-State students $6.8 million in the last six years.

“Once again, the K-State family rallied together to create an extraordinary opportunity to address affordability for students,” said Eric Holderness, associate vice president of development. “It is clear the culture of philanthropy is strong here at K-State and there is not a better display of that fact than what happened on March 24. Thanks to all who made this year’s All In a resounding success.”

**K-State’s day of giving, All In for K-State, tackled the cost of class resources for students**

Digital Development Officer Quinlan Stein Fort celebrates when All In for K-State succeeded in getting gifts from all 50 states.

**By Dalton Burton**
ONE CAUSE. ONE DAY.

ALL IN FOR K-STATE

DONORS IN 50 STATES

THANK YOU FOR GOING ALL IN

$503,161 RAISED

1,135 GIFTS

Greg Willems, KSU Foundation president and CEO, records a thank you video for donors.
In the last issue of Good for K-State, we introduced you to K-State students and faculty who are changing the world in large and small ways. We invited you to share your K-State stories and how you are changing the world. Dozens of Wildcats responded and sent many inspiring and interesting stories. Here are a few.

**Alejandra Juarez, 2007**

“Like many K-Staters, I feel that my time in Manhattan instilled in me a sense of service and a calling to work toward a cause. As part of the BESITOS scholarship program and BESO student organization, I volunteered in my community, worked with my peers to advance education for English language learners, and supported the mission of the College of Education. Now, I serve as a behavioral health advocate, striving to educate organizations and communities on placing a greater focus on mental health and opening up access to care and resources.”

**Karen Nickel-Creusere, 1966**

“I have retired after 33 years in the San Francisco Bay area as a Ph.D. clinical chemist. The last 22 years, I worked for the California Department of Public Health. I never could have done this without my start at K-State.”

During her career, Karen was nationally recognized in the fields of clinical chemistry and endocrinology, holding leadership positions in several national organizations. In 1993, when she accepted the Chief of Laboratory Field Services for the California Department of Health Services role, she was the first person outside the department and woman to fill this position.
**Warren Prawl, 1954**

“...My lifetime of adventure focused on agricultural development around the world. Like many K-State graduates, I came from a very rural Kansas county with little idea of what the world had to offer. After learning about the 4-H International Farm Youth Exchange, I applied, was accepted and spent six months living and working with farm families in Switzerland. Those months abroad changed the way I looked at life and influenced the many decisions I made after graduating in 1954. After the Army and graduate school, I accepted a position with the American Friends Service Committee as an extension worker in an agricultural development project in rural India. After I earned a doctorate in education at Cornell University, K-State took me on as an extension specialist with its agricultural development program in Hyderabad, India. I spent four years in India, four years in Nigeria, four years in Tunisia and two in Cameroon, all with KSU-related programs."

After retirement in 1988, Warren continued as an agricultural development consultant for another 15 years, including several assignments with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in several African and southeastern Asia countries.

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**DeAnne Witherspoon, 1978**

“...There was an optics class that I wanted to take that was only offered once every four semesters. I signed up for the class my senior year, only to be told by the head of the physics department that the class didn’t make enrollment. I explained that I had waited two years to take this class because I was applying to optometry school. The head of the physics department decided to teach me optics one-on-one, two days a week in his office. I served my state as the first female president of our optometry association, held regional board leadership positions and successfully retired after 40 years. I look back on my years at KSU as some of the best. And I really appreciate that head of the physics department in 1978. I hope I have given back as much as he did."
Annie Gough, 1997

“In 1993, the head of the art department, Diane Dollar, allowed me to take art classes even though I was a pre-med student. Her flexibility paved my career path. Biology professors Jerry Weis and Larry Williams were also the most encouraging! I went on to graduate with a Masters of Science in medical illustration from the Medical College of Georgia. Today I am the author of “Injury Illustrated: How Medical Images Win Legal Cases.” I have spent 20 years specializing in attorney and jury education, creating anatomical and surgical drawings for traumatic injury and medical malpractice cases.”

Keith Hooper, 1966 & 1970

“I received a B.A. and an M.S. from K-State. I have always been a Wildcat fan and credit the KSU department of foods and nutrition and U.S. Army for laying the groundwork for my ‘boots on the ground’ approach to helping the less fortunate. While most people our ages (82 and 77) are retired, my wife and I are still in the fast lane!”

Keith was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines, teaching and doing community development work. He and his wife, Paterna, have worked with lepers, organized Special Olympics in Germany, oversaw feeding refugees in Iraq and provided funding for the education of the less fortunate in the Philippines. They formalized their charitable work in 2004 by forming The HELP Foundation.
Mary Margaret Arnold Erlanger, 1943

“I grew up in Manhattan and loved Kansas State. I was the editor of the Collegian and Royal Purple, and I worked at the Manhattan Mercury Chronicle. I graduated in 1943 and took a job as a reporter at the Topeka State Journal. It was the height of World War II and on my beat was a Navy recruiting office, and they persuaded me to apply for officer training at Smith College. I became a communications officer in 1944 and was stationed in Washington D.C. to code and decode messages to and from ships at sea. After the war, I went to New York City where I wound up at CBS, married a New Yorker, Michael Erlanger, and ultimately moved to Connecticut. I became president of the state League of Women Voters and got involved in politics. In 1980, I decided to go back to school and got a doctorate in counseling psychology and went into practice in Athens, Georgia. I retired at the age of 86 (Michael had died in 2002) and I moved back to Connecticut to a multi-level retirement community. I’m in pretty good shape for the age of 98! I spend much of my time embracing my memories, many of which are of my years at K-State.”

Stan Husted, 1967 & 1969

“In 1997, I began volunteering at a nursing home in Palm Desert, California. Later that year, Jill (KSU ’71) and I moved to Danville, California, where I began visiting the homebound and people in assisted living facilities. Making a difference was due in large part to a visit to Manhattan, when I was there to award the fifth annual scholarship to a Manhattan High School senior in memory of Jill who died in 2003. Before going to MHS, I visited my retired KSU major professor, Dr. Robert B. Mills, a resident of Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community. He told me to talk to Meadowlark CEO Steve Shields, who gave me his book, “In Pursuit of the Sunbeam,” a guide to transform nursing homes into facilities devoted to person-centered care. When I retired, I volunteered with the California Culture Change Coalition, a nonprofit organization devoted to changing nursing homes from task-oriented care to person-centered care. Like my 40-year career as an entomologist, K-State and Manhattan were at the center of my 22 years bringing friendship and joy to the elderly.”
For years, Good for K-State magazine has had a simple mission: To show the impact of philanthropy at K-State.

We’ve brought you hundreds of stories demonstrating how the generosity of donors has changed the lives of K-Staters. We’ve introduced you to the students, faculty and staff who have benefited, spaces that have been transformed and programs that have flourished thanks to philanthropic investment.

Rarely have we focused solely on the people behind the generosity. So, in this issue, we’re trying something new. In the following pages, you will get to know some K-Staters and the story behind their gifts. Each one of these K-Staters have their own “why” — their own personal journey that led them to make the decision to give back.

**We hope you are inspired by their stories and can see yourself in their footsteps.**
CARING FOR WILDCATS
Daycare, diapers, family necessities and medical bills. After paying these expenses, Charlie and Debbie Morrison did not have much left for food or extracurricular activities that would make their remaining college experience what it should be. Both attended Kansas State University, meeting their junior year, having come from different circumstances.

Debbie was a first-generation student who put herself through college. “Freshman year was a lot harder than I anticipated. I worked two jobs and took out student loans just to barely get by,” Debbie said. “I came back sophomore year but had to take a semester off to put some money away. My parents didn’t understand. They thought I could just get another job, but they didn’t think about the time I needed to study. It was hard, and I felt alone because the majority of my friends didn’t have this situation.”

Charlie came from a family of successful KU graduates, but he fell in love with K-State when he visited. He had a scholarship to study engineering but discovered that wasn’t the best fit for him. After returning home to Wichita and taking a couple semesters of classes at Wichita State, he returned to K-State to study business. He and Debbie met during their junior year when both returned to K-State.

They married while still students and welcomed their first daughter. “We learned the reality and responsibility of life overnight,” said Charlie. “We were both working. We were both trying to finish school. It was a challenging time.”

And finding support for their challenge proved difficult while also dealing with the stigma and disappointment of being pregnant while in college. “There were a lot of people that thought we would not make it, including those closest to us.”

Lacking health insurance for the pregnancy, the Morrisons managed to pre-pay for their daughter’s birth, which ended up being a c-section. So on top of all their school expenses, they started their journey as a family with significant medical bills. “We didn’t have what we needed so we had to scrape and claw,” Charlie said. “During our first couple of years, we had to pay off our remaining medical bills, finish school, find a job, pay for daycare as best we could, have a car to get us around — all these things we needed. It was a trying time in our life, but we persevered.”

Debbie dropped out of school to support Charlie as he finished his degree. Following advice from a business school professor that would prove extremely beneficial, Charlie learned to code COBOL. While working his first job after graduating from K-State, Charlie learned of an opening at Pizza Hut in their Wichita corporate offices for someone who understood SAS, which is a computer language similar to COBOL. Charlie landed the job and the Morrisons’ journey to financial success was underway. Today, Charlie is the chairman and CEO of Wingstop Restaurants, Inc.
Having first-hand knowledge of how difficult college can be for any student, but particularly for first-generation students and students struggling financially, the Morrisons have invested in several student wellness initiatives at K-State. They've created the Morrison Center for Student Well-being, which will oversee all aspects of student well-being campuswide. They gave a generous gift to the Cats’ Cupboard, K-State’s food pantry, naming the director position the Morrison Family Director of Cats’ Cupboard. They created a scholarship for first-generation students in the College of Business Administration. And they've invested in K-State's student athletes with a gift to help create space and programming for mental health and wellness services.

“Life as a student is difficult,” Charlie said. “It’s a difficult transition. There’s a lot of pressure put on you. You might be away from home for the first time. You might be depressed about that. And then you just have all the challenges of student life — activities, classes … everything. The question is, where are the resources to help students cope with this because it’s going to be hard. We want to make sure people know they have access to assistance while maintaining their dignity and without scrutiny.”

“We found some support, but overall there weren’t many resources to access, but our K-State family supported us,” Debbie said. “That’s what we want to do now; pay it forward. We want to take away the stigma of asking for help. You’re a stronger person if you ask for help.”

The Morrisons’ gifts may provide the extra help a student needs to stay at K-State and finish their degree, whether their struggles are financial or emotional.

“One of the Division of Student Life’s key strategic goals is to ‘champion students’ holistic well-being’,” said Thomas Lane, vice president for student life and dean of students. “The Morrison family’s generous gift will greatly help advance student wellness on campus through the creation of the Morrison Center for Student Well-being. The center will gather data to identify current issues impacting student wellness and be a centralized hub for promoting, coordinating and scaling up Student Life well-being programs, as well as help promote other campus wellness initiatives. Additionally, the center will serve as a home for ‘gatekeeper’ training for faculty, staff and students to recognize and refer students with a well-being concern.
and connect students to information and resources through a number of different engagement activities. This intentional approach to increasing student well-being at K-State would not be possible without the Morrison family’s dedication and commitment.”

Charlie and Debbie hope that with these initiatives in place, students will have access to the help they needed when they were struggling students. “I will tell you that I didn’t do well academically because I was constantly worrying about how much money I had in my checking account and how many hours I needed to work to pay the bills, let alone think about studying,” Debbie said. “You can’t do that at the same time and be successful at either one of them. We hear stories now from the Cats’ Cupboard and how it has really helped.”

The Morrisons have done more for K-State than give money. They give their time, too. All four of their children attended K-State for either undergraduate, graduate school or both. Charlie and Debbie served on the Parents and Family Association board for many years and helped get Cats’ Cupboard started. They also participate in St. Isidore’s Konza Student Table, serving hundreds of K-State students dinner once a week.

“We get involved because it is the example of what you do, not just what you give, that show your children the way to be in life,” Debbie said. “Maybe it goes back to my 4-H days, following the slogan of 4-H; serving with your head, your heart and your hands.”

“Our faith is a big part of our service work,” Charlie said. “Financially, we’ve been blessed, and it’s not the money that drives us, it’s what we can do with it to make a difference.”

While struggling to finish college, it was the opportunity for extracurricular activities — attending basketball or football games or being with friends — that made a difficult experience enjoyable for Charlie and Debbie. They hope their gifts to K-State not only provide the financial and total wellness support students need to succeed academically but should also provide the gift of fun.

“All college students should get to enjoy the full college experience,” Debbie said. “Go to athletic events, go to Aggieville with friends, everything. There are so many experiences of college one can choose to go through. We don’t want there to be any dead ends for them if there doesn’t have to be. Opening the doors is what we really want to do.”
INVESTING IN OTHERS
Jenika Hazelbaker gives to help her fellow students

By Ariana Brancato

While touring K-State as a prospective student, Jenika Hazelbaker was greeted by Dr. Kevin Donnelly, who had just finished a lecture over crop science and was carrying stalks of sorghum. Seeing Dr. Donnelly’s tangible passion for agriculture and commitment to his students, Jenika knew that she wanted to attend a school where people were invested in one another and cared deeply about their work. In that moment, Jenika knew she wanted to be a Wildcat.

Now in her second year as an agronomy and Spanish student, Jenika devotes her time to investing in others — the same reason she was drawn to K-State. As the vice president of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences, Jenika works to encourage students from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue degrees in agriculture. Once doubting that she fit the “typical” definition of an agriculture student, Jenika wants students to know that they have the power to make positive contributions to agriculture.

Jenika also works as the biological science aide for the United States Department of Agriculture where she gets the chance to fight food insecurity. Jenika conducts research that helps scientists find ways to improve crops so that farmers are more successful. As a child, Jenika visited her mother’s native country, the Philippines, and was shocked by the wealth disparity that exists between the U.S. and the Philippines. Seeing farmers face repeated challenges to support their families and find economic security, Jenika was inspired to see how she could improve food security for people around the world and wanted to get a head start on this while at K-State.

“The idea of helping someone have peace of mind pushes me to give my time, energy and money to others,” said Jenika. “I’ve always been very service oriented, and helping someone be better off financially, mentally or otherwise is one of the most rewarding things I can ever do.”

Jenika is also a member of Student Foundation, the student arm of the KSU Foundation, which provides an opportunity for philanthropic leadership. Within Student Foundation, Jenika serves as the chair of campaign marketing for K-State Proud, the university’s largest student-led philanthropy, which raises money for students in financial distress. Inspired by the generosity of the donors who have enabled her K-State education through scholarships, Jenika got involved with K-State Proud so that she can play a role in making sure every student has an opportunity to have a full K-State experience. As the chair of campaign marketing, Jenika creates graphics and puts together marketing pieces to increase awareness for K-State Proud.

In a year that has brought so many challenges, students have looked to Student Opportunity Awards as a way to find financial support. With the Student Opportunity Awards account nearly depleted because of such high demand, Jenika and the K-State Proud team created the first virtual “15k in a Day.” Because of the generosity of alumni, students, faculty and staff, Proud raised $17,238 and was able to keep 17 students on campus.

“Being involved with K-State Proud has enhanced my college experience by showing me just how powerful philanthropy is,” said Jenika. “Philanthropy is important to me because I have personally benefited greatly from it. Without philanthropy, I wouldn’t get the privilege of receiving a high-quality education here at K-State. It’s because of philanthropy that I can pursue my academic and career goals without financial barriers. To pay it forward, I give what I can so that others can hopefully have this opportunity as well.”
PROVIDING THE K-STATE DREAM
Lynn Lin gives to honor those who helped him succeed

By Allie Lousch

With less than $100 in his pocket and after flying two days on a cargo plane, Lynn Lin arrived in the United States in 1961 en route to pursue his Ph.D. in agricultural economics. He soon discovered that his plans to earn a degree in agricultural economics at a Texas university would change because Lynn had already completed the available coursework while at National Chung-Hsing University (NCHU) in Taiwan. Lynn was only able to take a handful of classes before changing his degree program to statistics. He was undaunted. This was not his first hardship, and it would become part of the story of his success and generosity toward K-State.

Lynn was born in 1936 as war approached Taiwan. His orphaned father began working in the salt mines at 11 and eventually he became a self-taught engineer. His mother was from a farming family. By the time Lynn entered the fourth grade, having missed two years of education due to war, he was well acquainted with loss, famine and the dream of education. “I was a good student, but I never had enough to eat,” said Lynn.

Despite the odds, Lynn earned his master’s degree in agricultural economics at NCHU, where he met Liz, his future wife. In 1960, she travelled to Kansas State University to pursue her Ph.D. as he finished his master’s program. While at K-State, Liz boarded with Arliss Honstead, who, with her best friend Ruth Wells, a nutritionist in what is now the College of Health and Human Sciences, treated Liz like a daughter.

When Lynn and Liz married in 1962, Lynn accepted a research assistantship at K-State in the statistics department. The kindness the Lins experienced from their “adopted American parents” Arliss and Ruth, and his familiarity with hardship compelled Lynn to eventually create the Honstead-Wells Scholarship in the College of Health and Humans Sciences so other K-State students could achieve their American dreams.

Lynn earned a master’s degree in statistics from K-State in 1963 before moving in 1964 to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where Liz worked in the Federal Reserve. Though he began his Ph.D. in statistics soon after the move, a series of unfortunate events delayed his finishing until more than a decade later. It was during this time working as a corporate chief statistician at Pillsbury that he created the Booz Allen Sales Estimation System, or BASES, a groundbreaking statistical tool using consumer purchase behavior to determine whether a new product concept would have a successful launch in the market. In 1998, BASES was sold to The Nielsen Corporation and is still used extensively worldwide and among Fortune 500 companies. Lynn’s educational and professional journey prompted him to consider ways he could help students find success in his field. He found that opportunity in K-State’s data analytics program, which trains students to effectively collect, analyze and apply large data sets to help guide decision-making on issues commonly faced in business and industry.

“Dr. Lin is the first donor to give to the data analyst program. In less than three years, the program went from zero to 67 students,” said Dr. Chwen Sheu, associate dean for academic programs and Paul Edgerley Chair in Business Administration. “Dr. Lin’s gift is critical to sustaining the growth and maintaining the quality of the program. It will also help some international K-State students realize their American dreams.”

“I realized my American dream. I know how poor children can grow and earn a good education and contribute to society,” Lynn said. “I appreciate the people who helped us along the way. We hope to pay them back. I don’t know the people who will benefit from our gift, but if I can help one Kansas student go to college, I will feel happy about that.”
Yami Sánchez had always planned to pursue higher education, but after being placed into the foster care system as a senior in high school, she began to doubt that she would even be able to receive her high school diploma. Although Yami decided she would go straight into the workforce following high school to support her brother’s education, she was informed that she had the opportunity to attend college by means of a state program.

When deciding where she would attend college, Yami knew K-State was the perfect fit. While visiting K-State during band camps in high school, she fell in love with the campus and all that K-State could offer her. From her tour guide answering all of her questions to the help she was offered through the Office of Student Financial Assistance, Yami felt assured that K-State was a place where she would be taken care of and supported. Now, Yami is in her second year at K-State studying biology and Spanish.

One of the main things that drew Yami to K-State was the opportunity for leadership. Throughout high school, Yami was involved in band, theater and the Hispanic American Leadership Organization. Through these organizations, she discovered how being an involved leader made a positive impact on those around her. When she arrived at K-State, she looked forward to making the same impact.

The perfect opportunity arose when, in the fall of 2020, Anne DeLuca, director of the Parents and Family Program, reached out to Yami about a group called Fostering Success. Fostering Success began with an initiative that provided 14 former foster youth with gift cards for groceries, made possible by contributions to the Parents and Family Fund.

Inspired by the generosity of others to reduce barriers for former foster youth, Yami has decided to give back in her own way by becoming a leader within Fostering Success. Yami hopes Fostering Success can be a place for former foster youth to turn when facing the challenges that arise during college. Yami also wants to help point former foster youth to the many resources that are available to them, from free tutoring to Cats’ Cupboard.

"I was in a really dark place whenever I had to be removed from my home and I didn’t know anything about my future," said Yami. "I know how negative life can get for students, especially if they don’t have a network they can reach out to or if they are behind on bills. We want to help students in any way, shape or form. It might be a $25 gift card for groceries, but to someone else, that might be a few days’ worth of food."

In the future, Yami wants to become a bilingual doctor. In particular, she wants to help women and people of color within the hospital environment. She hopes that by helping those who are underserved, she can create a chain of paying it forward and encourage others to help those around them.

"My main goal in life is to be a philanthropist. I like the idea of being able to give back whatever I can in the moment. It makes me happy to help others succeed," said Yami.
HONORING MENTORS, ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY
Making an intentional detour through Willard Hall, Suzie Schultz knew she would be greeted by a smile and a story from K-State custodian, Kim Lucky, who quickly became one of her role models. Between sharing insights from the speakers at McCain and his curiosity in hearing other people’s experiences, Kim inspired Suzie by his commitment to learning.

Suzie’s inspiration from the K-State family did not end with Kim. During her time as president of the Silver Key Sophomore Honorary, Suzie connected with Jack Taylor, advisor for the honorary, recognized by his bow ties and friendly greetings. Jack intentionally invested in his students and ensured they had what they needed to make an impact on the world.

Whether it was walking to class and seeing a familiar face, the open-door policy of teachers and advisers or the upperclassmen who were ready to offer counsel or tutoring, Suzie’s time at K-State was surrounded by the example of those who showed her what it meant to be a life-long learner.

“A lot of what I learned at K-State is about the continuous process of learning,” said Schultz. “Not only what I am learning, but how I go about learning alongside others and from others. That is a key aspect of the community and family at K-State. Advisers, professors and other students invested in helping me learn. That is something I try to give back in mentoring and coaching others I work with today.”

In response to the prevalent racial inequality in the United States and recognizing the need for diversity among teachers, Suzie and her husband, Kurtis, decided to start a scholarship for students in the College of Education. The scholarship exists to remove barriers for students of color pursuing a degree in education, with the hopes that they can create an impact for each student that walks into their future classroom. When choosing a name for the scholarship, Kim and Jack’s names immediately came to mind, which led to the creation of the Lucky Taylor-Vanier Family Scholarship.

“The racial injustice in our country is pervasive. If we want something different, then we need to take tangible steps to create that new reality. It is too much for one person to do on their own, but at the same time, everyone has something we can do,” said Suzie. “It hit me — when breaking into the cycle of racial disparities, education is one of those key opportunities. There is a powerful impact in having diverse educators, to be able to see people of color in leadership positions and to be influenced at a young age.”

In the spring of 2021, the first Lucky Taylor-Vanier Family Scholarship was awarded to a student named Ty’Ship Adams. Ty’Ship is living out the Schultzs’ vision for the Lucky Taylor Scholarship through her passion for students and perseverance in learning.

“I want to influence our youth to reach their dreams, and I feel like no one does that better than a supportive teacher,” said Ty’Ship. “This scholarship has been a lifesaver. Ms. Schultz has been extremely supportive and active in conversing with me about my experiences, and I am so thankful for all of the resources she has given me to pursue this experience.”
CREATING CHANGE
Abdul and Alicia Yahaya give to create change

By Allie Lousch

A bdul and Alicia Yahaya took turns tending to their young son, already in his Wildcat purple; their business, Open Minds Child Development Center; and preparations for their niece's art exhibition, which was scheduled to follow our interview. As they wove their conversation around why they give to K-State, it was clear the Yahayas work as a team. Abdul, an '08 graduate from the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering, and Alicia, a KU grad, share a commitment to community and K-State and a motivation to "seek what is in the best interest of something bigger than ourselves."

Before Abdul graduated from K-State, he actively supported development of K-State's Multicultural Student Center as a student leader and chair of the Big 12 Council on Black Student Government. Abdul now serves on the K-State Alumni Association's Multicultural Alumni Council, and he and Alicia are excited to see the work draw to completion and a place to build community take shape.

"K-State opened me to leadership opportunities," said Abdul. "People like Pat Bosco and Dr. Myra Gordon were mentors. They challenged me to speak when I had a concern and to walk into myself. To break the mold. Brandon Clark coached me to meet with a university president—a experience that taught me to be financially, socially and critically responsible." He credits these K-State experiences with how he navigates his professional life today.

And though Abdul emphasized that the multicultural community was available while he was at K-State and before the center was built, he is thoughtful about how influential it would have been to have a place on campus where he could be 100% himself. He believes that such a place would have fostered important connections, conversations to challenge him, free him from limiting assumptions, even confirm that he could wear his hair long and still be an engineer.

Alicia agreed and said that a built center would have provided "a place to help us transition into a world we were not prepared to navigate, nor were our parents. We are steered to be respectable, honorable, to not draw attention to ourselves and to get a good career. We want to offer (students) the freedom to dream differently than many of us have been taught to dream."

Both Abdul and Alicia mentioned how important it is for students to have an established community where they can explore social norms that many K-Staters take for granted. As he has changed careers and experienced greater diversity within cultures, Abdul has discovered the confidence to express himself and wants to help all K-Staters to enjoy that freedom. That is why he and Alicia invested in the Morris Family Multicultural Student Center.

"As an engineer and entrepreneur, I know now that I don’t have to look like the person next to me," said Abdul. "I can be myself. But when I was at K-State, I felt like I needed to follow what an engineer looked like in my classes."

Abdul hopes that the new Multicultural Student Center will foster a community where students feel free to be themselves.

"When my kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews attend K-State, if they do, they will benefit from that freedom to be themselves that is beginning in the Multicultural Student Center," said Alicia. "They will already have a forward motion we did not yet have. They will have the freedom to pursue their truth. Their dreams."
DESIGNING THE FUTURE

Kansas City metro-area kids learn about opportunities and skills needed for architecture, planning and design careers through donor-funded initiative

By Marisa Larson

What do you want to be when you grow up? To answer that, young people need to know about their options. The College of Architecture, Planning and Design (APDesign) at Kansas State University is working to make sure K-12 students know about architecture, design and urban planning careers through an initiative currently focused in Kansas City and expanding soon to other areas.

The KC Metro Initiative is a philanthropically funded effort to attract students, especially from underrepresented communities, to the architecture and design fields and hopefully to K-State as students.

“Design matters to all, but perhaps the positive impact of design matters most to those who are often the least able to afford it,” said Tim de Noble, dean of APDesign. “Sadly, so many communities, underserved and underrepresented, have the least design resources and capital invested in them. For those growing up in these communities, they very
likely have not had design thinking modeled for them, have not seen the enriching potency of design applied to their environments.

“It pains me to drive through these communities and realize that so many — perhaps the next Michelangelo or the next David Adjaye or Zaha Hadid — will never have the chance to learn how they can make a difference in design,” de Noble said. “We want to make our college accessible to all, to raise future generations of designers from underrepresented and underserved communities, more often than not, but not limited to minorities, such that as graduates, they can lead the way in advancing all of society.”

Sumner Academy of Arts and Science in Kansas City, Kansas, is one of the schools partnering with APDesign faculty in this initiative. Giovanni Holguin, a junior at Sumner, appreciated having K-State faculty speak to his class. “When we think of architecture, the first thing that came to my mind were the aspects of the appearance of a building. But through the presentation, I was able to learn it’s more than that. Architecture goes beyond buildings. It also goes into the environment — recreational activities, parks, places to relax. That’s something that made me have an additional interest in it, being able to help others through architecture.”

Giovanni agrees with de Noble that having more people from underrepresented communities in design would be good for society. “I would recommend younger students participate in this program,” Giovanni said. “I know that as a Hispanic, there is a lower representation among architects and engineers of Hispanic descent. This would open more opportunities to them and expand their horizons.”

Vibhavari Jani, associate professor of interior architecture and industrial design (IAID), led a part of the initiative that connected IAID graduate students with students at JC Harmon High School in Kansas City, Kansas. “To assist these high school students in envisioning a better future for themselves, we developed a mentoring model wherein the university students mentored the high school students, helping them to understand the importance of higher education and the different career paths available to them,” Jani said.

Above: Middle school-aged campers at the Kansas City Kansas Community College “Kids on Campus” learn about regional and community planning during a week led by K-State APDesign and local professionals.

Left: After gathering plants from a schoolyard ecosystem, JC Harmon High School students observe and draw what they collected.

Opposite page: Connection to place, found by high school students while drawing regional plants, runs through all the planning and design professions.

continued on next page
“This initiative offered multiple opportunities for students from very different backgrounds to meet and work together collaboratively to solve a design problem,” Jani said. “For example, the high school students worked with IAID graduate students to envision 21st century teaching and learning environments for their high school and made conceptual models for renovation of their existing school.” Similar partnerships have occurred with faculty in landscape architecture and architecture. All told, the initiative has provided transportation to bring over a hundred students from Sumner Academy and JC Harmon High School to the K-State campus to explore the college environment. In the words of one JC Harmon student who visited, “I could see myself here.”

The KC Metro Initiative helps attract students to K-State and to APDesign. Another important aspect of the initiative is to help keep students in the college through financial support. The pandemic created financial difficulties for many students. The online classes required technology they may not have had, and the financial strains on their families may have meant dropping out. This past year, several APDesign students in the KC area received scholarships, which helped pay expenses so they could stay in school. One hundred percent of students who received a retention scholarship stayed in their professional program within the College of APDesign.

“Online classes added some unforeseen fees to my tuition, so I opted to work a part-time job to compensate for those, which made juggling for school and my job difficult at times,” said Avery Neer, a second-year student in architecture. “The scholarship covered the full expenses of my computer that all second-year students are required to have. My family was planning on helping me with this expense, but due to the pandemic, their circumstances...
changed quite a bit. I was also able to purchase software packages that I have been using in my classes. Without this scholarship, I would likely be unable to produce quality work, and completing remote class work would have been difficult.”

Because of the success seen in Kansas City, the anonymous donor supporting this initiative has agreed to add to the fund and remove all geographic restrictions. APDesign can use these resources to recruit and retain students from underrepresented groups and continue to provide an outstanding design education throughout the state and the nation.

“The experience of working with high school students in Kansas City gave me a deeper understanding of why education matters, why aspiration matters,” said Katie Kingery-Page, associate dean of APDesign. “The design and planning professions are all about connections to place, belonging and envisioning resilient futures. Seeing a high school student catch the spark that their own creative and critical thinking matters — seeing them realize they too could be the future designer or planner working with a community — that helps me fulfill K-State’s land-grant mission as a landscape architect and educator.”

To support APDesign or contribute to this initiative, contact Damon Fairchild at damonf@ksufoundation.org or 785-775-2086.

APDesign alumni Lance Klein and Beth Krehbiel tour summer campers at an adaptive reuse project site.

“It pains me to drive through these communities and realize that so many — perhaps the next Michelangelo or the next David Adjaye or Zaha Hadid — will never have the chance to learn how they can make a difference in design if we don’t make an opportunity for them to do so.”

— Dean Tim de Noble

Mural by students, “Drawing the Prairie,” installed at JC Harmon High School thanks to support from K-State, the Kansas Creative Art Industries Commission and the KC Metro Initiative.
Pilots yearn to take to the skies, but before they can fly, they must learn how to fly safely. A couple recent gifts to Kansas State University Polytechnic’s aviation program will help students soar.

The gifts consisted of a generous financial donation from Bill and Elaine Gross and three new flight simulators given by John and Kim Vanier. With these investments, students can now learn about their passion for the skies in new and exciting ways.

“These new training devices, the full trainer (FTD), and the two flat-panel trainers (EFPTs) will give our students the advantage of having hands-on knowledge on how to use an automated flight deck, how highly complex systems integrate with each other, and how crews interact with each other in decision-making processes,” said Neal Bloomquist, aviation professor. “While nothing can beat the act of manning the controls of a real commercial airliner,
these flight simulators are essential for giving the students a feel for what it will be like should they decide to work for an airline.”

Perhaps the most interesting part about these new flight trainers is their ability to give students a variety of different situations to work within. “These new flight simulators can recreate almost any situation, helping students improve their navigational abilities under both visual and instrument flight rules (VFR/IFR),” Bloomquist said. “They enable me to load a flight at a chosen airport with real-world runway layouts, as well as accurate terrain features and weather conditions. They also allow me to create almost any scenario within the software and then to use the simulator to practice Crew Resource Management (CRM) procedures, thereby helping the students gain valuable insight into the skills they will need someday when they command an airliner.”

The simulators can also recreate situations in which an engine or mechanical error occurs giving students hands-on experience on what to do in a code-red aviation situation. “CRM skills are further enhanced when many different types of aircraft failures can be recreated in these simulators to prepare a pilot for similar in-air failures,” Bloomquist said. “From ice buildup and engine problems to electrical malfunctions and maneuver mistakes. These students are given a first-person viewpoint on what it is like to go through an emergency scenario and how to properly respond using CRM techniques.”

Student reception to the flight simulators has been very positive. “The addition of the new simulators has given me the hands-on experience I need,” said Stephen McInnis, senior in aeronautical technology and aviation. “I will have the advantage of having already used an automated flight deck and its integrated systems that are essential when I start working for an airline or private charter.”

Bloomquist wanted to thank the donors for their gifts, as well as stress the importance of giving flight simulators to aviation programs not just at K-State Polytechnic but aviation programs in general. “It’s easy to see why the process can be so useful for the student experience — and why it is so important that KSU offers students a flight school with flight simulation capabilities,” Bloomquist said. “While this gift allows an instructor, like me, to provide the best possible educational experience, this gift does so much more than that; it gives to the aviation profession aviators fully prepared to achieve excellence in the global aviation industry and for that, the donors of these simulators need to be held in high esteem for their commitment to ensuring that KSU students receive the most value out of their education.”

“...” — NEAL BLOOMQUIST, AVIATION PROFESSOR

Kim and John Vanier (left), and Bill and Elaine Gross were honored for their gifts providing the trainers and naming the Bill Gross Professional Pilot Program.
Endowment growth essential to Beach Museum of Art’s mission

By Allie Lousch

K-State’s Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art is an active place. In 25 years of stewarding and making accessible a collection of art representing Kansas and the Midwest, no one could have predicted the challenges the museum would face and overcome during this pandemic year. The year underscored the essential role that the Beach Museum of Art fills to connect, soothe and invite people to experience something greater than their present circumstances. And generous donors make it possible.

“(During the pandemic), the Beach has offered something we can experience together and talk about even if we are not together,” said Tony Crawford, Friends of the Beach Museum of Art president. “They’ve created a variety of meaningful programs from virtual exhibits, film discussions and ArtBytes online to the Inside Out exhibit.”

In this year of unprecedented shift to online delivery of art and the transformational conversations that follow, donors have been the key to bringing these powerful opportunities to life for the K-State and regional communities.
“It is people and their creative contributions that make the Beach an art museum rather than a storehouse,” said Linda Duke, museum director. “Art comes alive and speaks to people when it is presented in contexts that allow it to speak. The design of exhibitions, meaningful public programs and educational outreach — all of these create contexts that allow people to discover new ways of seeing the world and their lives. Donors’ gifts fund all of this activity.”

It takes philanthropy — extraordinary generosity — to increase the endowment funds sufficient to support this essential work of curating art and stories that translate events into history. As this challenging season draws toward a conclusion, the Beach Museum’s endowment is in need of extraordinary generosity.

The essential work of connecting people, cultivating conversations around art and providing sensory adventures, respite even, to Kansans around the world, did not stop. The Beach Museum staff created new ways to bring art to life and drew upon the endowment to ensure the museum remained a relevant community contributor. The museum staff is now preparing to resume in-person programs and hoping to continue serving online audiences as well.

Just as Kansans John Steuart Curry, Gordon Parks, Jim Richardson and Stan Herd translated their rural Kansas lives so the world could appreciate the beauty and resilience of the sunflower state, a new generation of Kansas artists are being featured at the Beach. Artists like Doug Barrett, 400 North Creative photographer who has been featured in TIME magazine, FOX news, CNN and BBC World News. Barrett is an artist and Friends of the Beach Museum of Art board member.

“As a documentary photographer, I have to use due diligence to ensure I’m helping to tell the correct narrative and to help share through my lens. This is why it is important for museums such as the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art to have work created, photographed, sculpted, carved, shaped and painted by us (underrepresented artists),” said Barrett. “The preservation of work to be held in such an institution as the Beach Museum is the pinnacle artist experience.”

Thanks to the many donors who support the meaningful connections facilitated through the Beach Museum of Art, Kansas artists continue to tell their stories in their voices and bring Kansas perspectives to K-State and the global community.

If you would like to join the Friends of the Beach Museum of Art, visit online at beach.k-state.edu/support/friends-of-the-beach.

To invest in the Beach Museum’s endowment to ensure its work continues for generations, contact Linda Duke at lduke@k-state.edu or 785-532-7718 or Jennifer Rettele-Thomas at jenniferr@ksufoundation.org or 785-775-2084.
For many programs on campus, gifts of any size can make a big difference. Discover a program you care about.

**WILLOW LAKE STUDENT FARM**

K-State’s Willow Lake Student Farm fosters the next generation of producers in the horticulture industry by providing the opportunity for students to grow fresh produce and help campus organizations provide fresh food to the community. The seven-acre farm includes various research projects and a fruit and vegetable production operation. “The farm provides meaningful learning opportunities to students outside of the classroom to better understand topics related to food production including those about sustainability, equity, economics and self-sufficiency,” said Regan Hale, farm manager. “Additionally, the farm provides a local source of fresh produce that is distributed to students through our partnerships with on-campus dining centers, as well as resources such as the Cats’ Cupboard.”

**INSECT ZOO**

The K-State Insect Zoo is a space devoted to increasing understanding and appreciation of the natural world and all creatures that are part of it, particularly insects. “We serve the community by offering visitors a closer view, along with a positive message about this often overlooked and misunderstood group of animals,” said Kiffnie Holt, director of the Insect Zoo.

Inside the zoo, visitors will encounter a variety of live insects and arthropods including cockroaches, beetles, crayfish, praying mantises, tarantulas and more. The zoo offers different educational exhibits, such as Observation Beehive and a Freshwater Display. The Insect Zoo employs a crew of student zookeepers year-round where they gain experience in both animal care and customer service.

Due to COVID-19, the Insect Zoo offers guided tours by appointment-only. Visitors are invited to explore the Insect Zoo with a focus on observation and listening.
**K-STATE DEBATE**

The K-State Debate team helps students develop communication skills that will help them academically and with their post-graduation goals. “The K-State Debate team helps students sharpen their research, critical thinking and public speaking skills while they represent K-State in intercollegiate competition,” said James Alexander McVey, director of debate. “Debate teaches students how to engage in civil discourse and deliberation about important and controversial topics.”

The Debate team also helps students gain connections and real-world experience that help them in their career aspirations. “Debate provides rigorous scholarly and practical training that helps debaters excel in careers in law, business and academia,” McVey said.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**

The Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day by hosting the Kansas State University Indigenous Peoples Day conference. Part of an international movement, the conference recognizes that we stand on Indigenous land. Indigenous Peoples Day celebrates Indigenous endurance and the Indigenous intellectual traditions that continue to exist on these lands.

Each year, the Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance brings three keynote speakers and breakout sessions surrounding a theme. The fall 2021 theme is “Sovereignty: Food, Film, and Policy.”

The Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance invites you to join the livestreamed conference offered online and in person at the KSU Student Union on October 11, 2021, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To learn more, visit ksu.edu/indigenous-alliance.
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