

Kansas State University Olathe
Campus Update
September 30, 2013

Academic and Research Programs

Recent Hires

- **CEO/Vice Provost:** Dr. Prema Arasu will begin her role at K-State Olathe on September 30. She comes to K-State from Washington State University, where she directed the Office of International Programs. Dr. Arasu has a DVM, M.S. in food science, MBA, and Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology. She served as a faculty member in the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University prior to moving to Washington State University.
- **Assistant Professor, Biological and Agricultural Engineering (BAE):** Dr. Yu Deng began in August and will be teaching two courses/semester beginning in January 2014.
- **Assistant Professor, Biological and Agricultural Engineering (BAE):** Dr. Mei He will begin in January and will partner with Dr. Deng in delivering the BAE degree program.
- **Research Assistant Professor:** Dr. Paige Adams, DVM and Ph.D., began in August. She will be assisting with the veterinary biomedical sciences degree program as well as working as the business development manager for the US-China Center for Animal Health.
- **Food Safety Specialist:** Dr. Londa Nwadike is a joint hire between K-State Research and Extension and the University of Missouri Research and Extension. She is a specialist in food safety and is housed at K-State Olathe.
- **Two staff positions:** Laboratory/Facility Operations Assistant Andy Stout and Administrative Events Assistant Martha Walker have been hired.

Academic Programs

- **M.S. in Veterinary Biomedical Science** - Two classes are being offered this fall.
- **M.S. in Adult Education** has the largest number of students enrolled (20), and has several classes on the schedule.
- **Ph.D., Ed.D., and a graduate certificate** have been added to Adult and Continuing Education offerings. The response to the Ph.D. and Ed.D. programs has been greater than initially anticipated.
- **M.S. in Horticulture with an emphasis in Urban Food Systems** - Classes are underway.
- **M.S. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering** – Dr. Deng is working to finalize the curriculum, with classes to begin in the spring.
- **Master's in Food Science** - Classes are underway.
- **Master of Agribusiness** launched a cohort of 12 students with an **animal health emphasis** this August; they will be on campus again in October.
- Ten classes have started for the fall 2013 schedule; the spring schedule will be published soon. An information session will be held October 2, 4-6:30 p.m. for prospective students.

Research

Olathe Innovation Accelerator: The U.S. Economic Development Administration has designated Kansas State University Olathe as part of its University Center Economic Development Program. The university has received a \$1.25 million grant over the next five years to support the creation and infrastructure of the K-State Olathe Innovation Accelerator.

The center is a collaborative effort of the university's Advanced Manufacturing Institute, Institute for Commercialization, office of corporate engagement and K-State Olathe to assist industry in developing and expanding animal health and post harvest products and technologies. Work will be conducted in the AMI laboratory housed at K-State Olathe.

Microbial Surveillance Lab: The Microbial Surveillance Lab is a collaborative effort with the K-State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (KSVDL) on the university's Manhattan campus and Merck Animal Health.

The lab on the Olathe campus will provide diagnostic support services that meet the unique needs of our animal health industry partners; create high quality student educational/training programs utilizing the specialized case load; and increase the regional and national visibility of the KSVDL within the animal health industry.

Other Labs: The Urban Water Institute has established a lab under the leadership of program coordinator Joan Leavens; the US-China Center Lab has expanded into a second lab; a food science teaching lab and a food safety research lab have been designated as BSL-2 labs under the supervision of Dr. Sara Gragg; and a post-harvest plant physiology lab has been established under the supervision of Dr. Eleni Pliakoni.

Outreach

K-12: At the end of the school year 2013, programs at K-State Olathe had impacted over 4,700 students and teachers. This is roughly double the activity from the 2011-12 school year. Total impact exceeds 9,300 students/teachers. Activities included animal health, campus, educator, and food programs; intern/mentorships, K12 lecture series, Willie and the Beanstalk, Urban Water / water programs, camps, and others.

K-State Olathe is working with the CAPS Blue Valley program to develop two curricula, one in animal health and a second in food technology.

Events/Conferences: Since the May JCERTA board meeting, over 6,000 people have utilized K-State Olathe for conferences, trainings and events. Of them, major conferences in animal health and food safety included a water management workshop and food safety symposium. Sensory studies were also conducted, including one with the American Royal resulting in national media exposure.

Since opening in 2011, we have hosted 1,434 events, including 48 major conferences.

Highlights

Marianne Swaney-Stueve was awarded Rookie of the Year honors for her leadership of the American Royal steak competition held on the campus last fall. The second contest was conducted September 17, 2013.

K-State Olathe was awarded "Event of the Year" and "Rising Star" honors from Kansas City Meeting Planners International for an event hosted in April.