

July 2023

Department Newsletter

Grain Science Friends and Alumni Golf Tournament

Friday, September 22, 2023



Manhattan Country Club

1531 North 10th Street • Manhattan, KS 66502

8:00 a.m. – Social Hour

9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start

1:30 p.m. – Lunch (Hamburgers) and Awards

[Click here to register or for more information](#)



Alumni Create the Belstra Family Professorship in Feed Science at Kansas State University

Tim and Marta Belstra, from DeMotte, Indiana, have created the Belstra Family Professorship in Feed Science for the Department of Grain Science at K-State. Tim earned his feed science and management degree from K-State in 1971 and Marta earned her elementary education degree in 1972. “Dad followed K-State’s feed program

since its inception, and he hoped one of his sons would attend K-State. While I was at K-State, I met my best friend, Marta, and we've been together for 52 years," Tim said. "We support a scholarship in the grain science program and decided to help the department with a professorship. We hope this relieves a bit of the department's budget and allows for more growth in the program while retaining top-notch professors. Our family has been blessed, and one of life's joys is giving back."

Dr. Chad Paulk, associate professor of feed science and management, is the first to receive the award, which will support his research and teaching activities. Paulk's research focuses on feed processing, feed safety, and monogastric nutrition, and he advises and mentors feed science undergraduate students and serves as Feed Science Club co-advisor. "This endowment will enhance my research, teaching, and outreach in feed manufacturing, monogastric nutrition, and feed safety," Paulk said. "The additional funds will provide great help with travel, equipment needs, and support of undergraduate and graduate students in my program. This support will help us fulfill our mission to provide excellent career paths to students while filling the employee pipeline within the feed industry."

Read the full article here:

Alumni Create the Belstra Family Professorship in Feed Science



Students Tour Milling Lab and Hal Ross Flour Mill

A group of FFA students from Halfway, Missouri, came to K-State for a visit to the College of Agriculture. In addition, the students also toured the milling lab and the Hal Ross Flour Mill during their visit.



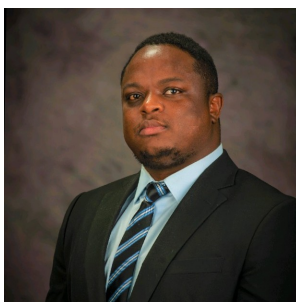
Student Recruitment at Texas FFA Convention

From July 11-13, Casey Doyle attended the Texas FFA Convention at the Hutchinson Convention Center in downtown Dallas. Doyle represented K-State's grain science program. While visiting with nearly 300 students and teachers, Doyle was able to talk to students about the three majors offered by the program and opportunities within the industry. Students and teachers showed great interest in the program, and the high-demand career options available to graduates.



Sweet Treats

Students from K-State's Center of Childhood Development had the opportunity to stop by Shellenberger Hall to do a baking demo in the lab. The students were able to customize and bake their own sweet treats to take home.



Defense of Dissertation

Samuel Kiprotich, successfully presented the defense of his dissertation, "Mitigation of enteric foodborne pathogens in raw and minimally processed pet food using food additives."

Samuel is a Ph.D. candidate and researcher whose dissertation research focuses on investigating different antimicrobial strategies that can be commercially developed and used to control foodborne pathogens (pathogenic bacteria and fungi) in minimally processed pet foods that are mildly treated using heat or other non-thermal pasteurization technologies.



Greg Garrett Visit

On July 19, GSI faculty welcomed Greg Garrett, Ardent Mills Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, to the department. Garrett met with GSI faculty and staff and received a tour of the Hal Ross Flour Mill. Earlier this March, Ardent Mills announced a \$3.5 million gift to K-State's Ag Innovation Initiative. The five-year gift will support the grain science department's growth, research, and development capabilities through 2026.

As part of the gift, Ardent Mills will work with the university's College of Agriculture leadership to establish baseline metrics and goals associated with total student enrollment, recruitment, and retention of diverse students, and leadership development opportunities within the milling and baking science programs.



Students to Superintendents

Harper Zongker and Kirsty Gordon, Milling Science alumnae, were both honored with being the first female Milling Superintendents in their respective companies. Zongker is located in Logan, Ohio, at Mennel Milling and Gordon is with Bay State Milling in Winona, Minnesota.

Zongker completed internships with Ardent (Newton, Kansas, and Decatur, Alabama) and Mennel in Dowagiac, Michigan. After completing Mennel's technical training program she spent two years as a shift miller at the Logan Mill.

Gordon completed internships in Birmingham, Alabama, with Grain Craft and Guyana, South America, with Seaboard. She started at Bay State – Winona as a Technical Miller I, then was Technical Miller II, before being promoted to Milling Superintendent.

Our Mission

The mission of the Department of Grain Science and Industry is to advance the global grain and plant-based food, feed, and bioproduct industries through scholarship, research, and outreach.

Connect With Us

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