

CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2008

*Undergraduate
Research
Opportunities
Abound at
K-State*

*Iris Wilson, junior in geography,
and John Harrington, professor
of geography, take a core sample
from a 100-year old tree*



ARTS & SCIENCES
COLLEGE OF
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



Looking east to the Beach Museum

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Greetings from K-State’s College of Arts and Sciences. As we move toward the middle of the spring semester, we’re only now fully recovering from a whopper of an ice storm that laid into Kansas the second week of December. On Monday afternoon of finals week, freezing rain began to fall and poured down for the next 24 hours. By the time the storm finally passed, things looked pretty grim. Manhattan, like dozens of Kansas towns, lay under several inches of ice, dangerous electrical wires were strewn everywhere, most every home and business was without power, and an indescribable number of trees and branches littered the streets.

Thousands of students with finals scheduled on Tuesday saw their tests — and their trips home for the holidays — postponed until Saturday. If you think back on your own finals-week experiences, you’ll remember that they were stressful enough without closing the university down for a day in the middle of them.

Students weren’t the only ones inconvenienced. Faculty had their grading time pushed back and shortened just as most of them were coping with chilly homes and no electricity (some local residents didn’t get power back for over two weeks!).

“I heard story after story of professors going out of their way to accommodate students, students adjusting their holiday plans as needed, and nearly everyone rising to the occasion...”

Even today, hundreds of piles of limbs still await pick-up around town.

What I want to convey here, however, is no tale of woe. Quite the opposite. Considering the storm, all of us who help oversee things at K-State were amazed at how well everything turned out. The university itself only lost power for several hours and saw far fewer trees destroyed than many other parts of Manhattan. The facilities staff worked almost heroically to clear the campus and make it safe. I heard story after story of professors going out of their way to accommodate students, students adjusting their holiday plans as needed, and nearly everyone rising to the occasion to help sort out the many hundreds of issues, big and small, that this kind of challenge brings.

In what may be the archetypal Kansas story for nearly a century and a half, the weather came at us worse than it seems to have hit anywhere else. And though it took a bit to get back on our feet, our students and the university community responded the way they always do: they took stock, adjusted to the challenge, and went back to work.

We hope that all of you were able to find something to appreciate during the holiday season as much as many of us took pleasure in having lights, heat and good friends.

Best wishes,

Stephen E. White, dean



Ahearn Field House



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CONTENTS

4

WHAT TO WEAR: Alum serves as authority on dressing well in any situation

6

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT K-STATE: Talented undergraduate scientists gain advantage through research

11

PAVING THE WAY: Today's K-State women in science benefit from past determination, kindness

12

VOICES: On-air commentators provide color and context for K-State fans

14

ARTS AND SCIENCES BENEFACTORS

16

TAKING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

First Row (L to R): Phyllis (Coon) Pease '87, Marcia (Hesler) Bailey '58, Doris (Downing) Miller '62, Terry Cupps '78, Ann (McKee) Regnier '74, Scott Thompson '89.

Second Row: Jane (Chandler) Holt '71, Bernie McDonald '64, Mridu Gandhi, Dorothy (Parker) McDonald '62, Ron McDonald '64, Shannon Waggoner.

Third Row: Chuck Scott '71, Doug Blackwood '71, Alex Williams '95, Dean Stephen White, Chris Steincamp '89.

Fourth Row: Ray Waller '63, Tom Clark '99, Ron Iman '73.

Not Pictured: Janet Butel '63, Helen (Packard) Dupre '69, Kent Glasscock '76, Joe Gray '72, Connie (Sterling) Stamets '66.

What to wear

Alum serves as authority on
dressing well in any situation



by Mark Janssen '72



“There is a belief that clothes do make the man.”

Guys don't talk about things like this. They just don't.

Or do they?

At least face-to-computer screen, Andy Gilchrist says, “They do. There is a belief that clothes do make the man.” Don't believe it? Check out askandyaboutclothes.com.

“I've found men really don't want to talk to men about clothes in the real world, but on an Internet forum where they're sitting in their home in shorts and a faded t-shirt, they do have a keen interest in dressing properly,” said Gilchrist. “I think there's an element of insecurity with men, so they're interested in presenting themselves better than they think they are with clothing covering 80 percent of their body.”

The site debuted on Nov. 2, 2001. “We had 14 hits the first week, and most of those were mine,” Gilchrist said. But then the New York Times made note of the website, and so did Playboy, and soon Google recognized the location. Today, Gilchrist says, “We're averaging 700,000 hits per day. The biggest percentage comes from the United States, but not far behind are Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.”

Oh, and that's not to mention Gilchrist's CD, which ships internationally and carries the title: “The Encyclopedia of Men's Clothing.” Both outlets are devoted to, in Gilchrist's words, “what to wear, how to properly wear it, and the history of why we wear what we do.”

A native of Kingman, Kan., Gilchrist graduated from Kansas State University with degrees in sociology in 1965 and journalism in 1966. Growing up, spiffy dress was important in the Gilchrist family, but saved mostly for Sundays.

“I remember we subscribed to Esquire magazine, but it was considered a little racy at the time and we had to hide it when the minister came over,” quipped Gilchrist.

For 40 years, Gilchrist sampled a variety of careers, ranging from newspaper and advertising agency work, to community development. He also served as an occupational safety and fire protection engineer for a defense contractor in Los Angeles County.

In 1990, Gilchrist scratched his itch to tinker in men's clothing by becoming a part-time salesman for a Ralph Lauren Polo store in Redondo Beach, Calif.

“I was the oldest guy there, but I had a passion for what I was doing,” said Gilchrist, who was the top salesman in five out of six years.

When he first established the site, Gilchrist thought Internet questions would come from teenagers wanting to know how to get that dimple in the knot of their tie. Surprisingly, he found questions about shoe-shines and proper hat etiquette. If he didn't have the answer, solutions would come from all over the world, via a forum exchange.

Along with what “to do,” Gilchrist also has his list of what “not to dos.” Among them: Never wear a short-sleeve shirt with a tie, never wear a belt and suspenders at the same time and never wear loafers with a suit.

Gilchrist says his mega-closet is so packed that he has to use brute force to make room for another shirt. Included in his suit collection is one made by Oxxford that carries a price tag of \$4,000. It's the same Chicago-based company that makes suits for President George Bush.

Gilchrist now lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif., with his wife, Malinda, who is also a K-State graduate. They continue to be active in the K-State community, supporting the Beach Museum and providing Arts and Sciences scholarships through the KSU Foundation.



Andy Gilchrist

So what should the K-State fan wear in March when supporting the Wildcat basketball team in the NCAA Tournament? Gilchrist recommends “a sport coat, but no tie; or maybe a nice golf jacket with a V-neck sweater and dress pants. The socks should match the pants, and the leather shoes should match the belt. Don't go overboard with the purple, but a purple pocket square would be a nice touch.”

Ahhh yes, purple: “Purple is a rich color...a royal color, but should not be worn in abundance,” he said.

OPPORTUNITIES

ABOUT AT K-STATE

TALENTED UNDERGRADUATE
SCIENTISTS GAIN ADVANTAGE
THROUGH RESEARCH

by Shanna Williams '05



Jenny Buseman and Dr. Michael Herman

K-State is a place where exceptional students can get valuable research experience before graduate school. Many professors in the biological and physical sciences hire undergraduate assistants in their labs, giving them a chance to forge connections between what they read in textbooks and actual scientific research.

"I can't overstate how important our college's undergraduate research opportunities are in attracting the best and brightest to K-State. Today's lab workers are tomorrow's groundbreaking scientists and physicians," Dean Stephen White said.

If the young women profiled here are any indication, we'll be in good hands.

JENNY BUSEMAN

Overland Park, Kan.

For Jenny Buseman, senior in microbiology from Overland Park, Kan., the decision to get her bachelor's degree at K-State was a given. Both her parents and her older sister earned their undergraduate degrees at K-State.

"I think I decided I was coming to K-State when I was two years old!" Buseman said.

Before Buseman came to campus, her sister gave her some good advice: Get involved in lab research, and get involved fast. She followed her sister's advice and began assisting in labs as a freshman.

"It's really cool, as a freshman, on the first day of school to come into the lab and start working," she said. "It's really useful too, especially as I get into upper-level classes. It's nice to be able to see the connection between what I learn in classes and what I do in the lab."

In September 2006, Buseman set about her research in Dr. Michael Herman's lab, where she is currently studying the cell polarity in nematodes. A nematode is a type of roundworm, and while working with worms day in and day out isn't usually anyone's idea of fun, Buseman understands the importance of

it. Defects in cell polarity can cause serious problems in an organism, and the molecules that control cell polarity have been shown to be involved in the development of certain diseases and various forms of cancer.

"It's a great opportunity for students to really learn about science," Herman, associate professor of biology, said. "That's something that's really lacking in our educational system. Students learn science out of books. That leads to a lot of misconceptions."

Buseman plans to graduate in May 2008 and hopes to continue her education and research at University of Texas Southwestern. But wherever she ends up, the research she has conducted here will allow her to dominate the competition if she chooses to apply for a graduate assistantship.

"I know people that have gone to other schools that didn't have the opportunity at all to do undergraduate research or had to work really hard to even get someone to consider letting them work in their lab," she said. "Here, that opportunity is so readily available."

Jenna Kennedy
and Dr. Stephen Chapes



JENNA KENNEDY Hoxie, Kan.

Sometimes when a student comes to K-State from a small high school in rural Kansas, the educational options seem limitless. This was the case for Jenna Kennedy, senior in microbiology and natural resources and environmental sciences, from Hoxie, Kan.

“I’m the student they talk about in orientation when they say, ‘She changed her major in the parking lot,’” Kennedy joked. “I wanted to major in business when I came here for my campus visit, and by the time my parents and I were walking into the Union, I wanted to major in engineering.”

But eventually the Truman scholar and Rhodes finalist realized she wanted to work with people, not things. So she started exploring careers in the health professions. Eager to get involved in research, Kennedy sought out Dr. Stephen Chapes in his immunology lab in November 2005.

Since then, she’s been studying the effects of bacteria on mice with compromised immune systems. The bacteria are administered to mice carrying two manipulated genes. These genes affect the immune system’s ability to respond to infection. The research has yielded extraordinary results, and Chapes, a professor of biology, readily gives Kennedy the credit.

“Jenna seems to have teased out some evidence that there might actually be some interactions between these two genes that no one else has ever appreciated,” Chapes said.

According to Chapes, lab experience is a necessity for anyone wanting to continue their education past the undergraduate level.

“Students learn better if they’re involved. They tend to have better experiences as undergraduates,” he said. “When they go to class, they have a better appreciation of what they’re learning.”

For Kennedy, the lab experience has opened her eyes to yet another set of possibilities.

“Coming to K-State from such a small town, I had no concept of the possibilities that existed for graduate school and careers in medical research. Because of Dr. Chapes and my experiences in lab, I am looking at graduate school for myself, which is a pretty amazing transition.”

Iris Wilson enrolled in an environmental geography course as a freshman because it was a good way to fill one of her science requirements. But once she got into the subject matter, she realized she loved it.

"I knew I wanted to be in the sciences, but this just seemed like a good fit for me," the Manhattan native said.

Wilson, a junior in geography, has assisted with several research projects since her freshman year. This year, she's assisting with an important part of a grant the department has received to study ecological forecasting. Along with Kendra McLaughlan, assistant professor of geography, Wilson is collecting core samples from trees on the Konza Prairie. This will someday allow them to reconstruct the environmental history of the surrounding area.

"Trees record all sorts of environmental conditions," McLaughlan said. Recently, Wilson assisted McLaughlan in obtaining a core sample from an oak tree that is over a hundred years old.

"This project is the most fun!" Wilson said. "The other projects were all computer and GIS projects. I do want to have those solid computer skills, but getting to do fieldwork like this is a bonus."

At any given time, there are somewhere between five and ten undergraduate research opportunities in the Department of Geography. Wilson's advisor, John Harrington, professor of geography, has been instrumental in finding undergraduate students who will fit the needs of research projects.

"Fortunately, I have some really good advisees," Harrington said. "Iris is one of the best. She's been willing to try different things."

Unlike most other undergraduate research assistants, who focus on one research subject, the range of projects Wilson has assisted with has given her some leverage when it comes to making choices for graduate school.

"I really like the diversity of the projects I've been able to be a part of," Wilson said. "The research that I'm doing now is helping me figure out what I want to do in the future."

IRIS WILSON Manhattan, Kan.

Iris Wilson and Dr. Kendra McLaughlan



Olga Martinez, a senior in biology with a minor in business, came into her research opportunity through the Kansas Bridges to the Future program. The Bridges program supports the transfer of students in underrepresented groups from community colleges to K-State, where they'll earn a bachelor's degree in a biomedical science.

After Martinez graduated from community college in her hometown of Dodge City, Kan., she came straight to K-State to continue her education and get involved in research.

"The Bridges program linked me to the Developing Scholars program, and they set me up with Dr. Passarelli," Martinez said.

Martinez immediately found a place in Lorena Passarelli's biology lab in August 2006. Her current research involves manipulating the genes in viruses that infect insects. The work she is participating in could result in a more bio-friendly way to kill off the crop-destroying creepy-crawlies that plague farmers throughout the Midwest.

"It can be frustrating sometimes, when your experiments don't work and you have to know why they don't work. But I like it because I'm always learning," Martinez said.

Like her peers, Passarelli, an assistant professor of biology, has altruistic reasons for employing undergraduate research assistants.

"If students are enthusiastic about the research and their future goals in biosciences, I give them the opportunity to work in the lab," she said. "I want them to gain experience in research and build their résumé so they can be competitive applicants for graduate school or medical school."

Martinez is headed to dental school after she graduates in December 2008. She realizes that her work with insect viruses is worlds away from her future studies, but believes it invaluable nonetheless.

"It will give me a competitive advantage over other applicants. I'm gaining research skills and critical thinking skills and that will help me," she said.



Olga Martinez and Dr. Lorena Passarelli

OLGA MARTINEZ
Dodge City, Kan.



Amy Twite and Dr. Daniel Higgins

AMY TWITE Olathe, Kan.

When Amy Twite, senior in chemistry, biochemistry and microbiology from Olathe, Kan., came to K-State on a campus visit, she already had two years of research at KU Medical Center under her belt, an amazing feat for a senior in high school. So she was naturally excited to find that the chemistry department offered undergraduate research opportunities on a regular basis, to virtually any student who wanted one.

“The biggest qualification (to work in the lab) is a strong interest in doing the research,” Dan Higgins, professor of chemistry, said.

Twite started experimenting in Higgins’ lab in October 2004, where she was tasked with developing molecules, then exposing them to different levels of light and recording the results. But she soon found ways to incorporate her personal interests in biology into her current research.

“I’ve always been interested in biology and chemistry, since I was in high school,” Twite said. “Working at KU Med Center, I had a lot of research experience in biology and I kind of wanted to mix what I’ve learned in both applications.”

Twite has been able to tailor her research experience to her interests and her plans for further study. She is currently using the molecules she’s developed to experiment with a method for treating cancer, in which the light exposure causes the molecules to “chew up” or destroy the DNA in cancer cells. With plans to graduate in May 2008, Twite has her sights set on Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif., to continue with her graduate work.

“We encourage students to go elsewhere. Chemistry is different everyplace in the U.S.,” Higgins said. “Undergraduate classes are going to be very similar, but what they learn in the research lab is going to be completely different.”

While the research experience Twite has gained in the chemistry department will propel her toward her goal of teaching at the collegiate level, the department has benefited from her time in the lab as well. Twite’s work has given Higgins’ group an opportunity to partner with K-State’s Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research.

“That’s all been pretty much motivated by Amy’s work. Without Amy here, I probably wouldn’t have that opportunity,” Higgins said.

PAVING THE WAY

TODAY'S WOMEN IN
SCIENCE BENEFIT FROM PAST
DETERMINATION, KINDNESS

My, how things have changed in 50 years. And definitely for the better. Marcia (Hesler) Bailey, B.S. '58 medical technology, relished her years at K-State and continues to wear the purple proudly. However, in ways that are largely incomprehensible to the post-baby boom crowd, fifty years ago it was pretty tough to be a woman who was more interested in peering at test tubes and into petri dishes than picking out wedding china.

"I had professors say things like 'Why are you taking this course? Why aren't you looking for a husband?' Women were just not supposed to be taking courses in science, at least that kind of science," Bailey said.

Bailey, who grew up in Kansas City and always loved science — particularly chemistry — decided recently to endow a scholarship to honor a faculty member who didn't care whether she was husband-hunting or not. Dr. Ken Burkhard, a young chemistry faculty member, took the radical position of treating Bailey like...any other student.

"It was just clear that Dr. Burkhard accepted everyone in his class (general biochemistry) as an equal. Besides, it was the most fun class I took! I never noticed anybody getting any differential treatment," Bailey said. She later took a graduate-level course on vitamins from Burkhard as well.

Burkhard earned his Ph.D. from Northwestern and came to K-State in 1950 for several reasons. Aside from the fact that it "far outbid the other universities" he applied to, he was very much impressed with the individuals who conducted his interview. Burkhard's grandparents homesteaded in Harvey County, and his wife hailed from Kansas as well, adding to the location's appeal. He is certainly pleased that Bailey felt welcome in his classroom, but he's unwilling to take much credit for it.

"The fact that we (he and wife Maxine) had four daughters may have had some influence on it, I don't really know," Burkhard said. "I don't think I did anything special, I just treated her like I did everybody. But I remember her. She was a very good student!" Burkhard, who transferred from Chemistry to the then-fledgling Department of Biochemistry in 1960, retired in 1989.

In fall 2007, two biochemistry students and aspiring physicians, Sarah Devlin, of Manhattan, and Libby Matile, of Bucyrus, received the first R. Kenneth Burkhard Scholarship for Women in Biochemistry.

Devlin and Matile — and other women in the sciences at K-State, including those profiled in the accompanying story — benefit today from the willingness of Bailey and others like her to challenge the status quo. These days at K-State, hundreds of young women are preparing for a career in science, with extraordinary faculty support, a development that gives Bailey great satisfaction.

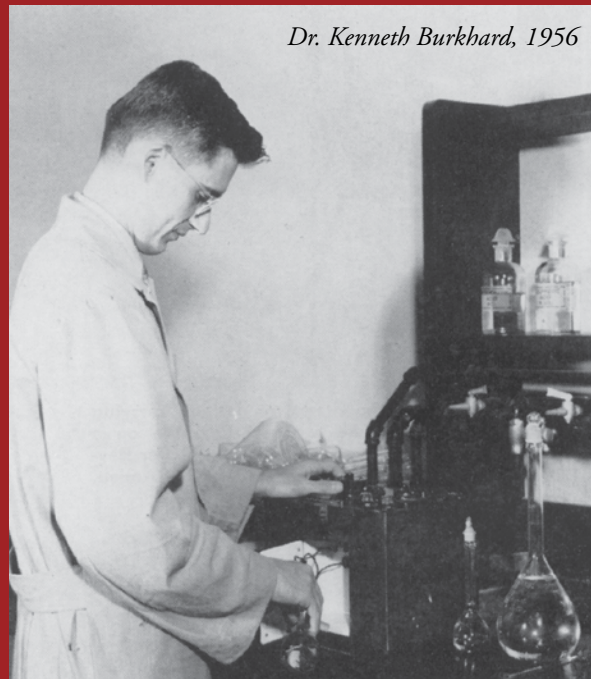
After graduating from K-State, she completed a 12-month residency program at the KU Medical Center, earning her certification as a registered medical technologist. She took her first job in the San Francisco Bay area. She worked until she and her husband Steve started their family, resuming her professional career after their children were older. The Baileys moved back to Kansas City in the mid-1960's.

Bailey says naming a scholarship in honor of Burkhard was a natural choice when she decided to support the next generation of women in the sciences.

"He came to mind immediately as being such an open-minded, accepting kind of person, as well as an excellent teacher. It wasn't hard to make that decision. I so wanted to be able to do it, so he could see it happen."

If you would like information about how you could invest in the education of K-State students, please contact Sheila Walker, director of development, sheilaw@found.k-state.edu or 800-432-1578.

Dr. Kenneth Burkhard, 1956



(from left) Marcia (Hesler) Bailey, Libby Matile, Sarah Devlin and Kenneth Burkhard, in Willard Hall



"I had professors say things like 'Why are you taking this course? Why aren't you looking for a husband?' Women were just not supposed to be taking courses in science, at least that kind of science."



Voices

On-air commentators provide color and context for K-State fans

by Mark Janssen '72

Replacing a legendary “Voice” like Dev Nelson was one “rip-snortin’, hoot-n-nang, double-barrel, deeeep-dish dilly” of a challenge. But through the developmental efforts of Kansas State’s Radio and Television Department, the vibrant voices of Steve Physioc, Mitch Holthus and Greg Sharpe kept the story of Wildcat athletics alive from 1979 to 2002.

Nelson narrated the tales of Kansas State football and basketball for two decades, ending in 1979 when the Wildcat network rights were purchased by Topeka-based WIBW. Since then, the three Arts and Sciences majors have served as the Kansas State Athletic Department’s link to its fans, Physioc from 1979-1982, Holthus from 1983-1996, and Sharpe from 1996-2002.

Throughout his career as an announcer, Physioc has lived by a four-step philosophy.

“Be prepared, be on time, be enthusiastic and be easy to work with,” said Physioc, who is currently an announcer for ESPN, FOX and the Los Angeles Angels. “If you’re all of those, you’ll be difficult to fire. That allows me to be a good teammate and someone you can count on.”

Though he never had a “signature KSU call,” Physioc, a high school graduate of Shawnee Mission North and now 52, calls his style, “typical Midwestern, in that I have a passion for sports, I’m honest in my call and I’m enthusiastic.”



Steve Physioc

Physioc's favorite KSU memories include "any game at Ahearn Field House...so many incredible games," and announcing the 1982 Independence Bowl. "Jim Dickey made the great sacrifice of red-shirting all of those players, and then to have them come back as seniors and make that incredible run to Kansas State's first bowl game was just a tremendous thrill."

And never to be forgotten was the call on Rolando Blackman's baseline jumper against Oregon State in the 1981 NCAA Tournament. The image, with Blackman dressed in the two-tone, lavender-purple uniform, graced the cover of that week's Sports Illustrated.

K-State's most all-purple announcer was Mitch Holthus, who graduated with degrees in journalism and business in 1979 and 1980. In 1978, he served as a KSU Student Ambassador and was a member of the Mortar Board Honor Society, where he met his wife to be, Tammy Johnson, then a member of the K-State women's basketball team.

Holthus and a winning KSU football team gave listeners a big high with his "big, big, big, big" calls for herculean Wildcat victories.

"I tried to have fun with the fans, plus this is an entertainment business," said Holthus, whose signature call today with the Kansas City Chiefs is, "Touchdown... Kan-sas City!"

"You're an informer, but also an entertainer."

Holthus calls K-State the "school of opportunity. I've been given the opportunity to perform and succeed with what I learned at Kansas State."

A native of Smith Center, he said he prepared for broadcasts like a coach prepares his team for a game. Broadcasting highlights included K-State's initial bowl games under coach Bill Snyder in 1993-1995, whom Holthus dubbed "Moses."

"Bill Snyder saved the school in many ways," Holthus said. "When at the lowest depths in 1988, there was a real concern about what the future would be for Kansas State athletics."

In hoops, Holthus says his favorite moments were the 1987 NCAA win over Georgia by Lon Kruger's basketball team, snapping the Kansas Jayhawks' 55-game home winning streak in 1988, and the 1994 win over No. 1 Kansas by Dana Altman's "rag-tag guys over KU's four- and five-star recruits."

Greg Sharpe grew up in Olathe as a son in a mixed marriage—Kansas dad/Nebraska mom. He turned out to be a Wildcat. While his friends were out playing in the leaves on a Saturday afternoon, Sharpe was listening to multiple radios in his bedroom with calls coming from K-State, Kansas and Missouri games. With dreams of being the next Lon Kruger, Sharpe settled on making the radio calls for such favorites as Jonathan Beasley.

"He wasn't Michael (Bishop), but he had such perseverance, and don't forget, he won two bowl games," said Sharpe, who is now director of operations for Topeka's WIBW Radio. "That was such a time for firsts in the late-1990s. I was fortunate to announce the first New Year's Bowl game (Cotton), the first Fiesta Bowl (1997), the first win over Nebraska in 30 years, and to be a part of the 1998 season when K-State was ranked No. 1 for a portion of the year."

With each of those events, and many others, Sharpe defined his delivery as "entertaining and informative." It was a style that harkened back to the basics, and like Physioc, without a signature call. Sharpe was recently named the voice of the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers.

"I followed Mitch, who had the 'big, big, big,' but that just wasn't me," Sharpe said. "I couldn't be, and didn't want to be, something that I wasn't."

Each KSU "Voice" gave credit to those years behind the KSDB microphones, and the hands-on training from Arts and Science instructors. Physioc, a 1977 KSU graduate, remembered doing his first Luckey High School football game and leaving with his hands shaking. "It wasn't because it was a great game, but I knew this is what I wanted to do the rest of my life. I just fell in love with the play-by-play craft."

Physioc pointed to assistant professor Bob Fidler as being most influential in his student life, as did Holthus, who added the names of English instructors Sandra Bussing and Lyman Baker.

"They taught me that the written word was the spoken word, and the spoken word was the written word," said



Mitch Holthus

Holthus, who initially had planned to attend law school.

Each also served time as KSDB sports director, but Sharpe spoke for all when he said, "Kansas State gave me the chance to play radio at a very young age and work out some of the bugs. Kansas State launched me into a profession that I have thoroughly loved."

"I've been given the opportunity to perform and succeed with what I learned at Kansas State."

— Mitch Holthus

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Taking the Show on the Road... Across the Pond

Orchestra members work toward rare opportunity

Traveling abroad opens young people's eyes, forever broadens their horizons, and gives them a new perspective about differences in culture. Or so Dr. David Littrell, distinguished professor of music, hopes is the case when he takes 32 members of the KSU Chamber Orchestra to Great Britain this March for a 10-day tour.

The Orchestra, which in recent memory has never toured out-of-state other than a trip to Lincoln, Neb., will be making its European debut with performances in York, Stratford-upon-Avon and Edinburgh, among others. Students also will have the opportunity to work with a professor at the acclaimed Royal Academy of Music in Glasgow, and, of course, between touring engagements there will be lots of sightseeing.

"We've always wanted to take the Orchestra to Europe," Littrell said. "I traveled to France as a student and it really was a wonderful experience for me. So this year, we just decided to do it."

Students are paying their own way for the trip. To help defray costs, the Orchestra has been soliciting donations at concerts and was featured in a television commercial for Manhattan's Mercy Regional Health Center.

The commercial, which is airing this winter on broadcast and cable television in northeast Kansas, can be viewed online at newbostoncreative.com/index.php/portfolio. If you look closely, the conductor dressed in a physician's lab coat is Littrell himself. The hospital made a donation to the fundraising campaign to compensate the students for their time.

"We weren't quite sure what to expect with the commercial, but it turned out to be a really fun experience for everyone," Littrell said.

If you'd like to support the Orchestra's fundraising efforts, please contact Littrell at 785-532-3804 or dlitmus@ksu.edu.



In addition to his television-acting debut, Dr. David Littrell, distinguished professor of music, recently received the Kansas Professor of the Year Award from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.



298

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