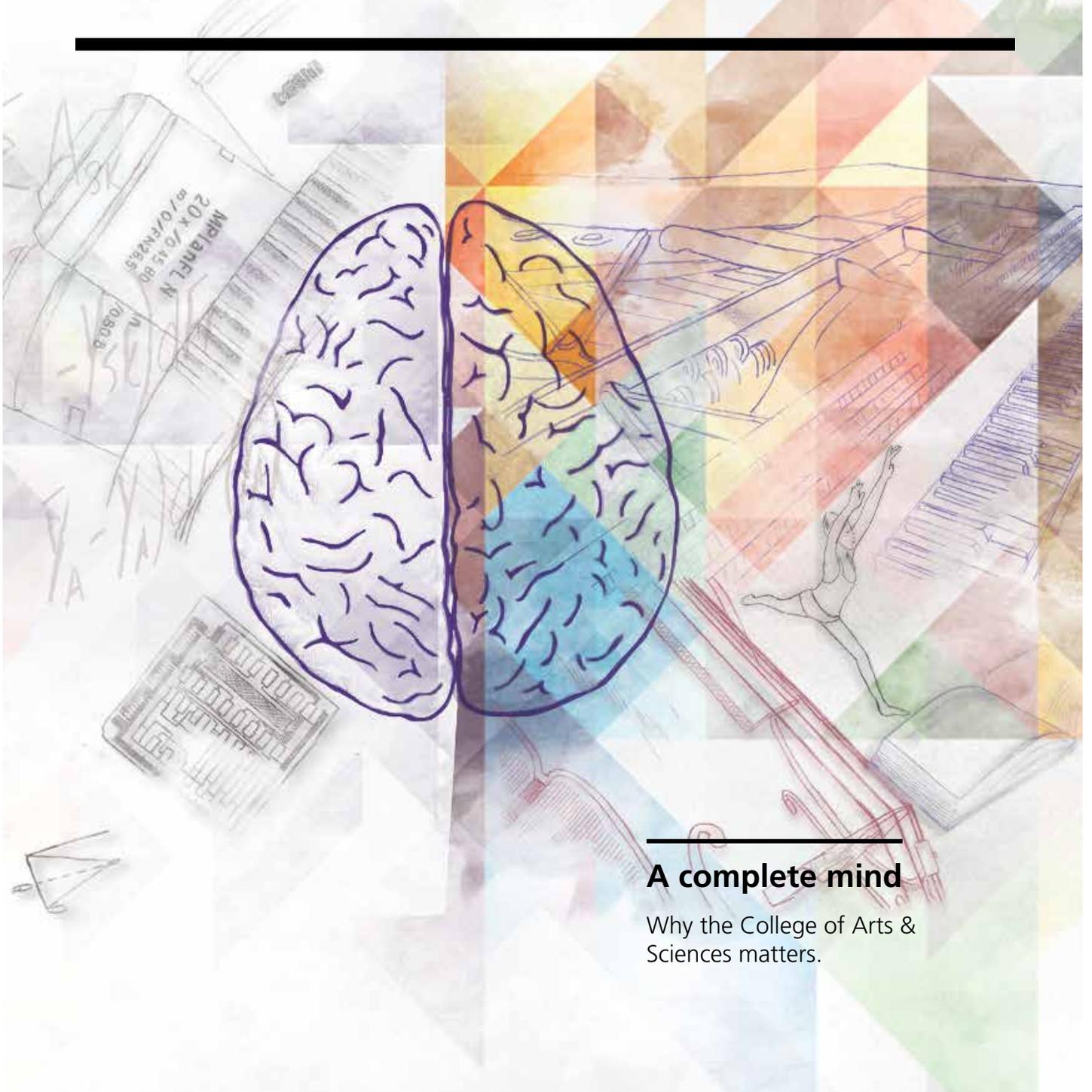


A & S LETTERS



A complete mind

Why the College of Arts & Sciences matters.



Alumni and Friends,

Happy New Year! The start of a new year always brings with it a sense of reflection, as well as a desire to look to the future. The K-State 2025 strategic plan has brought with it an opportunity to sharpen our identity as a college. Over the last few years, we have re-examined the deeper questions: who are we as a college and why are we here? What we have found is a reawakening of what we love about a liberal arts, or as we call it, an Arts & Sciences education.

It's with that mindset that we put together this issue of *A&S Letters*. You will find stories that illustrate that we are not just a collection of random departments. Rather, we are a symphony of academic disciplines with an intentionally interwoven curriculum aimed to develop a complete mind.

One of the most exciting ways we see the blend of art with science is with our famous marching band. In this issue, you'll read about how they are incorporating technology and science into the music and art they create on a weekly basis.

You will have a chance to learn about six faculty, across a range of disciplines, who have been recognized for their teaching excellence and have helped enhance K-State's legacy of providing access to an outstanding education. We also are proud to feature four ArtSci students who are continuing the decorated history of our college and university with regards to nationally recognized scholarships.

This past fall, we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Eisenhower Circle Celebration, which is our annual opportunity to present our alumni awards, as well as recognize our student scholars, and thank our many generous contributors and benefactors. You'll have an opportunity to meet the three outstanding alumni who received our alumni awards this year and read about the history of this great event as we look back on its first five years.

Taking time to re-examine fundamental questions about our mission has been exciting and fruitful. It's allowed us to clarify our identity as the college that provides an education aimed to develop a complete mind. It is my hope you will find the stories in this issue of *A&S Letters* reflect that spirit and also want to extend my warmest wishes for your new year ahead.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Dorhout', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Dorhout
Dean



LETTERS

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Developing a complete **MIND**

— *and why it matters*

by Beth Bohn

For the College of Arts & Sciences at Kansas State University, a successful academic experience means more than just earning a degree. It's all about developing a complete mind — a mind that has been prepared in both arts and sciences to be ready to take on complex challenges, whether in career or life.

More than 500 years ago, one of the world's greatest minds defined the importance of developing a complete mind.

Leonardo da Vinci, the accomplished painter, sculptor, architect, musician, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, geologist, cartographer, botanist and writer, articulated it this way, "Principles for the Development of a Complete Mind: Study the science of art. Study the art of science. Develop your senses — especially learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else."

Connecting arts with sciences and sciences with the arts throughout the curriculum is what the College of Arts & Sciences strives to do, according to Peter Dorhout, dean of the college.

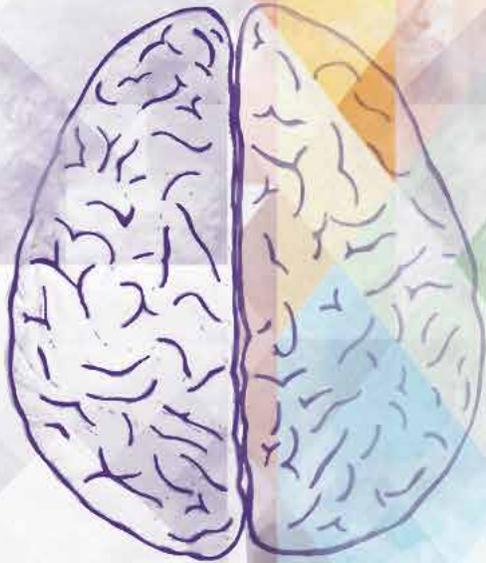
"When you review our comprehensive core curriculum for all majors in the College of Arts & Sciences, you will find significant balance across the disciplines. This is intentional," Dorhout said.

"We believe that an education incorporating the arts, humanities, and social and natural sciences empowers you to think critically, logically

"Our curriculum prepares students to be better leaders, better employees and better Kansans. It develops a more complete mind."

— *Peter Dorhout*





“Principles for the Development of a Complete Mind: Study the science of art. Study the art of science. Develop your senses — especially learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else.”

— *Leonardo da Vinci*

and independently; to write and speak forcefully and effectively; to analyze and interpret data; to frame difficult questions and find answers; to assess values; and to approach others with understanding and compassion,” Dorhout said. “Most importantly, these learned abilities will equip our students to make a difference in the world. Our curriculum prepares students to be better leaders, better employees and better Kansans. It develops a more complete mind.”

Taking a curriculum rich in both the arts and the sciences is important for the challenges students will face in the future, according to Michael Young, professor and head of the Department of Psychological Sciences.

“Today’s complex problems require a multidisciplinary approach to maximize success,” Young said. “Psychological research on problem-solving has demonstrated that a strongly focused approach can help one to make progress very quickly, especially in static environments. However, complex problems and dynamically changing environments require a multifaceted approach in order to ensure ongoing progress toward effective solutions.”

That means students should consider going beyond what is required and find courses in other departments of the college that will enhance those taken in their major, Young said.

“Nearly all psychology majors would benefit from more statistical training or a course in the philosophy of mind. Students interested in neuroscience are directed toward the biological sciences, and those pursuing careers in clinical or counseling are well-served by training in sociology, women studies and American ethnic studies,” he said. “Given the breadth of future careers for psychology majors, every

“The principles that govern all components of music are a measurable science.”

— Wayne Goins



department in the College of Arts & Sciences provides supplemental training of benefit to specific subsets of our students. Psychology majors are interested in careers that run the gamut from art therapy to behavioral economics, psycholinguistics and social work.”

As da Vinci said, study the art of science and the science of art. It’s a connection that Wayne Goins, professor of jazz studies in the college’s School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, sees clearly. He believes science courses can help music majors understand music even more.

“Music is more than art — it is also an exact science,” Goins said. “The principles that govern all components of music — tone, pitch, scales, chords, etc. — are, at music’s very core, based on acoustics, which is a measurable science. The music theories we use on a daily basis are based on laws that govern the movement of such relationships between individual notes, intervals, arpeggios, chord progression and, ultimately, the overall form in composition and arranging.”

Having a background rich in both the arts and sciences also can benefit one’s career path.

When Maritza Segarra arrived at K-State from Puerto Rico in the early 1980s, she was set on becoming a veterinarian.

“I loved the sciences and had always been very good at them, but when I started taking humanities courses in the College of Arts & Sciences, I was exposed to so many new things that I loved.”

Segarra earned bachelor’s degrees in Spanish literature and humanities and then went on to earn her law degree. Today, as a judge with the Eighth Judicial District of Kansas, she says her background in literature and humanities gained through the College of Arts & Sciences has helped her legal career.

“With literature, whether it’s Spanish, American or French, just reading classics, reading different authors and finding out about their world perspectives, what shaped them and what shaped the different eras in our society, it really makes you think,” Segarra said. “The study of humanities goes right along with this. The law deals with inequities, so it’s important to open your eyes and mind to see the different sides and perspectives that humans have. That is what studying in the College of Arts & Sciences did for me. It opened my mind; it really exercises your mind.”

Kurt May is a K-State history alumnus who went on to law school and is now senior litigator for the federal public defender's office in the Western District of Texas.

"The nucleus of my course work at K-State all related to the ability to effectively reason and communicate," May said. "I was a member of the K-State debate team my first two years, earning valuable experience for later use as a courtroom advocate. I took courses in philosophy, which were helpful in constructing and deconstructing arguments. The course work in English was particularly important because it also involved getting behind the printed word and understanding the motivations and point of view of individual writers."

That understanding translates to May's legal career. To be effective in the courtroom, he said it's essential to understand the motives and points of view of every participant in a court case — and he relies on courses he took in the sciences and humanities at K-State to help him.

"In my core history curriculum, I experienced the process of digesting large chunks of information and summarizing that same information to support a theme or hypothesis. This acquired ability is also essential to the practice of law," he said.

"Courses in psychology gave me a foundation for understanding clients and meeting their needs. I also continually have cases that touch on the science course work I completed at K-State, including chemistry, biology and biochemistry. In addition, exposure to the scientific method is

■ THE NEED:

Dean's excellence funds to promote the development of a complete mind among faculty, staff and students.

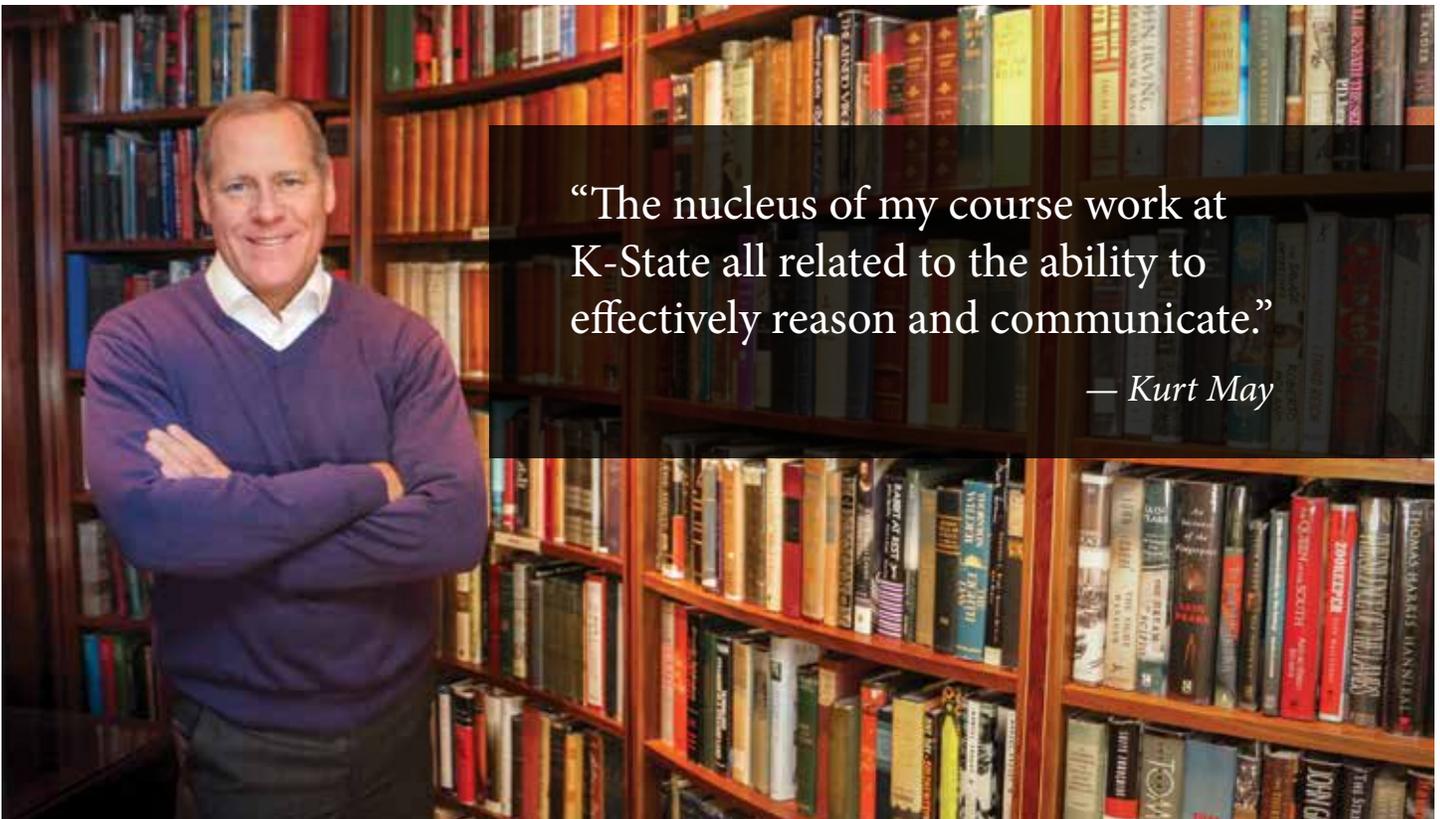
■ TO HELP:

Contact a member of the A&S Development team, 785-532-7603



a great asset when using logic to make compelling arguments, whether those arguments are to a jury or a judge."

With more than 20 departments that encompass studies in the arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, the College of Arts & Sciences is showing it's the place for students to make more of their education — it's the place to develop a complete mind.



"The nucleus of my course work at K-State all related to the ability to effectively reason and communicate."

— Kurt May

Watch two new videos produced for the College of Arts & Sciences to hear what students and alumni say about the college and how studies in the arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences prepare one for success in life and career at artsci.k-state.edu/why-artsci.

CASE statement

Six active college faculty have CASE/Carnegie honors

Kansas State University has a proud history of offering access to an excellent education from outstanding faculty, which has not gone unnoticed around the nation. Since 1990, K-State has had 11 faculty members named either a state or national Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, or CASE.

Of the 11 winners, more than half are in the College of Arts & Sciences. Spend a few minutes with any of the college's six CASE/Carnegie Professors of the Year and it's clear why they were selected as among the best professors in America.



Greg Eiselein — 2013

"It doesn't matter how brilliant and well-spoken you are: If the students are not actively engaged, they won't be getting enough out of what you're saying," said Greg Eiselein, professor of English and university distinguished teaching scholar.

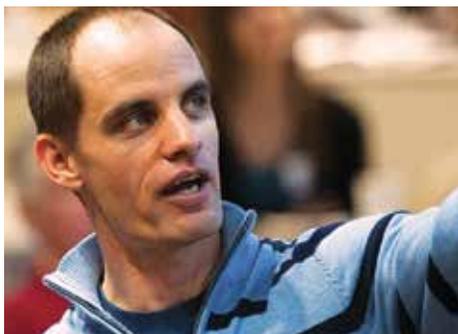
Eiselein would know. In 2013, CASE/Carnegie named him the Kansas Professor of the Year.

Interactive discussions, nontraditional classrooms and incorporating art and other materials into discussions about literature are a staple in Eiselein's courses.

In 2010, Eiselein helped develop K-State First, a program that uses universitywide general education courses to enhance first-year students' educational and social experiences in order to increase their success in earning a bachelor's degree. The program earned praise from The Higher Learning Commission.

For Eiselein, student success is about encouraging, motivating and inspiring students both in and out of the classroom. He said the award allayed some doubts he had about whether his teaching style made him an effective educator.

"As an educator, it's one of those little doubts that you can have in the back of your mind," he said. "You can think teaching is mostly about being an expert at your material and speaking clearly and charismatically about it. But no, that's only part of it. Helping students to learn is the real key. Winning this award made me think that maybe I am taking the right approach."



Mike Wesch — 2008

Michael Wesch, associate professor of cultural anthropology and a university distinguished teaching scholar, is challenging the idea of how students learn in higher education courses as a way to re-examine teaching methods.

Throughout his career, Wesch has advocated subversive teaching methods sometimes labeled as "anti-teaching" or "teaching upside down" that emphasize learning rather than teaching and inspire questions rather than simply giving answers.

In 2008, Wesch was named the CASE/Carnegie U.S. Professor of the Year.

"I was really young when I won and didn't even have tenure yet," Wesch said. "I knew I was taking a lot of chances in my classroom that could either be successful or fail. I took it as not just a recognition of my skills, but also recognizing a whole different way of approaching higher education."

Recently, Wesch began eating lunch with a different student each day, wherein conversations frequently turn to larger questions about identity and the future.

"It reminds me of what it's like to be a student again and to be in that transformative process in your life," Wesch said. "They're asking the same big questions about life and purpose that we still ask ourselves all these years later. Finding answers to those questions is an ever-changing and transformative process rather than something aggregated. I believe the same is true for how we learn."



David Littrell — 2007

David Littrell's passion for teaching music is infectious, and he hopes to inspire his students in the same way that an educator inspired him.

Littrell, university distinguished professor of music, was named the 2007 CASE/Carnegie Kansas Professor of the Year. He credits the award to his father, who served as a professor in K-State's College of Education for 28 years and was the reason he became an educator.

"Several former students who were taught by my father have told me what a wonderful professor he was," Littrell said. "He had a huge influence on my life and on my style of teaching, which is using humor and also setting high standards for my students. I believe I won this award from what I gained from him."

Littrell tries to keep both his K-State and youth orchestra classes lively but also professional. He said he sets high standards for his students, which in turn helps them become better disciplined, set high standards for themselves and learn valuable life skills.

"My youth orchestra, for example, is teaching civic responsibility in addition to teaching music," Littrell said. "Students have to be on time and have their instruments unpacked. I make them toe the line but also have fun. I think that students like to have high standards. It helps them know that I'm really invested in them and that their actions affect everybody."

■ THE NEED:

Endowed faculty positions to retain award-winning professors.

■ TO HELP:

Contact a member of the A&S Development team, 785-532-7511



Chris Sorensen — 2007

In the course of a few minutes, Christopher Sorensen can explain how the coil of a spring relates to the age of the universe, to climate change, to doubts about global warming and scientific evidence for it, to why having his engineering physics studio class study a spring's coil is the basis for "good science."

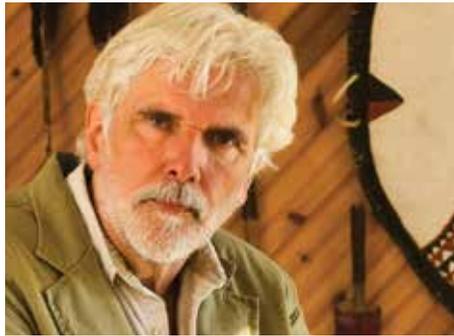
Sorensen, Cortelyou-Rust university distinguished professor and university distinguished teaching scholar, can easily turn the abstract into the understandable.

In 2007, Sorensen was named the CASE/Carnegie U.S. Professor of the Year.

"Teaching is a wonderful experience," Sorensen said. "Sometimes I would wonder whether I was getting too intense with my teaching. This recognition basically affirms the fact that I can let myself go full speed ahead when I'm lecturing and interacting with the class because I'm doing a pretty good job."

Sorensen said that in addition to teaching his students physics and helping them understand how the world around them works, the classroom is an opportunity to motivate and inspire students to follow their interests.

"It's OK to be passionate about something," Sorensen said. "If you're a nerd, be a nerd, dog-gonnit, and be a good one. If you're into poetry or business, do it well. Ideally we would each have our own individual passion and one of my goals every class is to show them how wonderful it is to be wrapped up in that passion."



Harald E.L. Prins — 2006

Harald E.L. Prins sees his role in the classroom as a springboard for his students and their accomplishments.

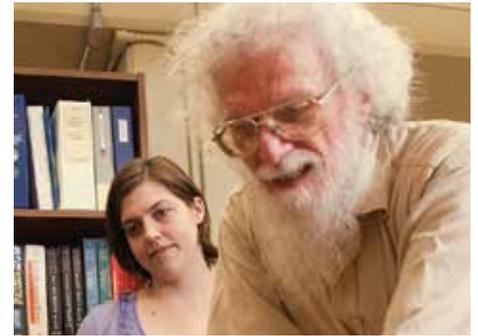
"Civilization is part of a great chain, and each generation builds on the ethics, morals and knowledge that have been brought to them by previous generations," Prins said. "I'm very aware of the great teachers I had and what I learned from them, including from my father who was a teacher. Knowledge is something to treasure and a huge privilege to pass on."

Prins, university distinguished professor of anthropology, makes it a point to pass the wisdom from previous generations to students.

Prins was named the 2006 CASE/Carnegie Kansas Professor of the Year. While Prins said the Professor of the Year recognition was meaningful, the bigger honor has been to see the success of his students, including Michael Wesch.

"It was quite extraordinary to see Mike Wesch win the same award — but for the entire country rather than the state," Prins said. "It's a great pleasure to see one of your students outshine you as an educator."

Several of Prins' former students, now colleagues, recognized the influence he had with the 2010 American Anthropological Association/Oxford University Press Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching of Anthropology — the highest international teaching honor for anthropology.



Dean Zollman — 1996

Dean Zollman has built his career around how to effectively teach students physics.

Zollman, university distinguished professor of physics, said his approach to teaching is that regardless of class size, all of the students are actively involved in the classroom.

"It's learning versus teaching," Zollman said. "Even if I have a lecture class with 150 students, the students don't just sit there and listen to me talk; they are involved in the discussion, an experiment or a small group. By getting them intellectually engaged and having fun with the material, I'm helping them learn physics."

Being named the 1996 CASE/Carnegie U.S. Professor of the Year was affirmation that he was reaching students in the classroom.

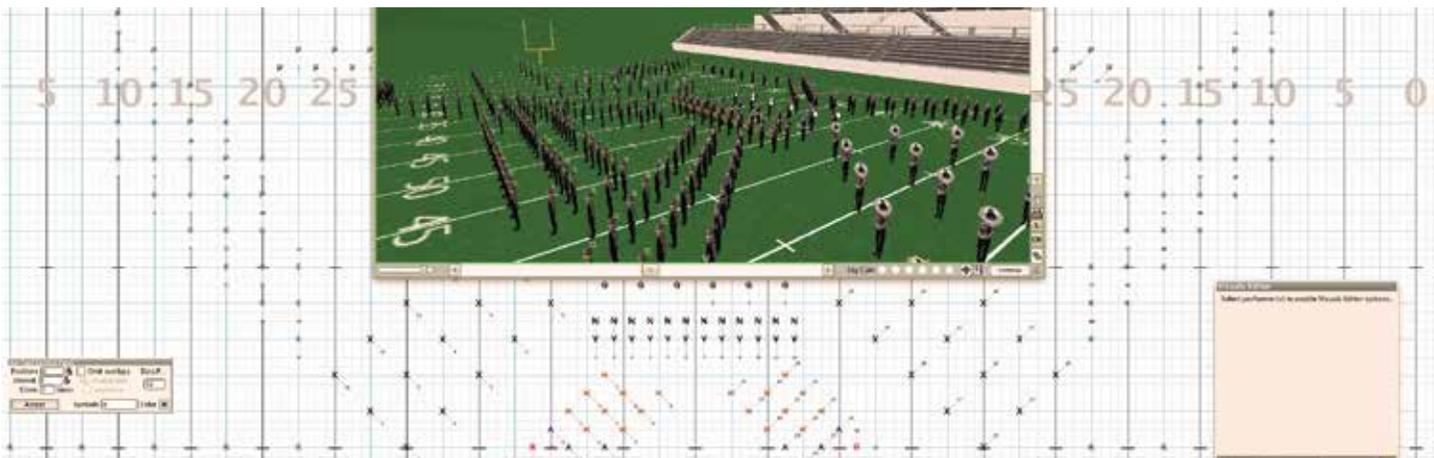
At the award ceremony in Washington, D.C., several of Zollman's students read letters of praise.

"I was really impressed and touched," Zollman said. "I felt like I had reached these students and the students had appreciated the type of teaching I was trying to do. A lot of students come to a physics course thinking that they'll dislike it or that they won't understand it. I hope that I'm able to dispel that and make physics intellectually interesting and understandable and help put them on that path to intellectual growth."

A MAJOR KEY

K-State Marching Band harmonizes science and art to bring music to life

by Megan Saunders



Early in his career as a band director, Frank Tracz charted marching formations on an engineer's drafting table covered with a laminated football field.

"I had different types of bolts and screws that represented the different instruments," said Tracz, Kansas State University's director of bands. "I would move them into position by hand and then marked their position on paper. I even made little tools out of rulers."

Today, Tracz and his assistant band director, Donald Linn, direct the 400-member Pride of Wildcat Land with much more technology and even more heart. Students come from all academic majors and colleges — only 19 percent are music majors.

"It's an eclectic, diverse band," Tracz said. "It's a lot of work and a lot of time, but we don't look at it that way. Life takes time when you do it right."

A strong testament to this mindset is the directors' efforts in arranging and charting performances, using science to turn their creativity into musical art. The band uses Pyware, specialized software that allows directors to chart members on the field over a count track. Linn said it is an organized way for students to see where they're going from point A to B.

"We see the football field as a grid," Linn said. "We use the yard lines and

hash marks as reference points. There are eight standard steps between 5-yard lines. We chart each step out on a square grid across the entire field. It helps students see the big picture."

Each formation on the field takes up to two hours of work. For a standard show, that adds up to 60 to 80 hours of work. But arranging the musical selections for performances can take months. Linn said the band's arrangement software,



Sibelius, allows him to set up any sort of musical score by manually entering each individual note for every instrument.

“We start thinking about what music we want to play for the next season starting in the fall,” Tracz said. “We look for songs that fit together as a theme. Sometimes we use source material, but if not, we write the individual pieces on our own by ear.”

Tracz said the use of technology is important in a college band. Because the university offers multiple ensembles that also require rehearsal time, the marching band actually rehearses less frequently than other college marching bands.

“We can’t waste any time,” said Tracz. “Technology allows us to spend more of our time getting students involved and motivated. It just facilitates our bigger mission, which is to teach students.”



One of those students is Brett Eichman, a fifth-year senior in music education and a five-year marching band percussion veteran. Eichman said while the long days sometimes make focusing difficult, the band’s positive atmosphere makes it worth the effort.

“In band, there is no instant gratification,” Eichman said. “If you work hard at something, you get better. Then it’s a lot more fun. It’s amazing

to see how such a diverse group can pull together for music. When we reach a goal, Dr. Tracz pushes us to the next one.”

Tracz’s ability to motivate applies to himself, as well. The director helped write the first computerized drill when he worked at Ohio

■ THE NEED:

Scholarships, travel awards and technology funds for the K-State Marching Band.

■ TO HELP:

Contact Gordon Dowell, Gift Planning, gordond@found.ksu.edu, 785-532-7565



Hitting the right notes

by Megan Saunders

Kansas State University’s School of Music, Theatre, and Dance was recently named an All-Steinway School by the makers of the famed Steinway pianos.

“This recognition is only given to schools in which 95 percent of the pianos are Steinways,” said Gary Mortenson, school director.

Earning the All-Steinway School designation was made possible with a generous donation by Mark A. Chapman. The K-State alumnus donated the funding to purchase 40 new pianos — which can cost \$150,000 — and to refurbish four existing pianos.

“Each Steinway is made with up to 100 sets of hands and takes a year to craft,” Mortenson said. “You could make a Steinway efficiently on an assembly line, but you would lose the soul of the music, the humanity. When you mix pure talent with quality, you get the best possible results.”

Sadly, Chapman died just days before the school was scheduled to celebrate with him during a spring campus dedication. His legacy, however, will live on through the many hands that will grace the Steinway keys for years to come.

Virginia Houser, associate professor of piano pedagogy, said being an All-Steinway School is a situation of which all pianists dream.

“The magic of these instruments draws students in to create perhaps the most hard-to-find thing in today’s noisy world: gorgeous musical sound,” she said.

The Steinway pianos are in music studios and stages across campus. Mortenson said becoming an All-Steinway School helps advance the K-State 2025 vision by demonstrating the university’s commitment to quality education.

To learn more, visit: artsci.k-state.edu/news/2014/steinway_100614.html.

State University, where it hangs with his signature. As a firsthand witness to the changing capabilities of technology, Tracz and his team recognize that band is still an art that requires more than computer programs.

“We can have all the technology in the world, but if the kids aren’t motivated, the show isn’t going to work,” he said. “Band is the antitechnology world. You still have to march, push buttons and move air through a horn. There’s no app for that.”

A place for BRILLIANT MINDS and BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

“The Goldwater scholarship could very literally open new possibilities for my future studies.”

— Max Goering

2014 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1986 to honor Sen. Barry M. Goldwater from Arizona, the scholarship awards up to \$7,500 annually for college-related expenses.

Max Goering, senior in mathematics, McPherson, is working with Pietro Poggi-Corradini, professor of mathematics, to research the mathematical modulus of finite graphs, which could be helpful in analyzing epidemics, social networks and many biological processes.

“In the cutthroat arena of graduate applications, anything that helps my application catch the eye of admissions personnel could be the difference between being accepted or rejected,” Goering said. “The Goldwater scholarship could very literally open new possibilities for my future studies.”

The connections Goering has made through his classes in the College of Arts & Sciences have helped him stay focused on his long-term goals.

“The professors in the math department have always been very helpful in guiding me to make wise choices in my academic studies and research topics,” Goering said. “Since my freshman year they have made sure that I remain focused on achieving my long-term goals and not be distracted by the present semester.”

Kansas State University is known as one of the top universities in the nation for the number of national scholarship recipients. The College of Arts & Sciences consistently attracts and mentors students who continue the legacy. The college’s academic requirements, research opportunities, extracurricular activities and dedicated professors are critical to student success. Meet four students from the college who have been awarded a prestigious scholarship this year.

“If my degree only required math and science courses, I probably would not have become as well-rounded of a writer or researcher, and I certainly wouldn’t have developed the skills necessary to win the Goldwater.”

— Christine Spartz

2014 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

Christine Spartz, junior in chemistry, Ellington, Connecticut, is working with Christer Aakeröy, university distinguished professor of chemistry, to alter the water solubility of the cancer drug 5-fluorouracil and explore different drug administering methods.

“The Goldwater scholarship has helped me financially a great deal this year,” Spartz said. “However, the award means much more to me than just the money accompanying it. I am honored the scholarship committee recognized me for my academic and research achievements.”

Spartz’s experiences as a chemistry undergraduate researcher have helped her develop a better understanding of science, but it is the college’s academic diversity that has helped her balance her knowledge and skills in areas outside of science.

“I truly appreciate the education I am receiving from the College of Arts & Sciences,” Spartz said. “If my degree only required math and science courses, I probably would not have become as well-rounded of a writer or researcher, and I certainly wouldn’t have developed the skills necessary to win the Goldwater.”



■ THE NEED:

Scholarships to attract and retain the best and brightest students to K-State.

■ TO HELP:

Contact a member of the A&S Development team, 785-532-7603

“Friendly debate and the opportunity to toss ideas around with critically minded people allowed me to develop the quick-thinking skills necessary to succeed in the conversational interviews.”

— Ross Allen

“It’s amazing to see a group of students from different backgrounds and disciplines come together to work on developing skills to be effective future leaders.”

— Sierra Lekie

2014 Harry S. Truman Scholarship

The Truman scholarship is a national competition that provides up to \$30,000 for graduate study to students committed to future careers in public service.

Ross Allen, senior in economics and philosophy with a minor in nonprofit leadership, Soldier, intends to pursue master’s degrees in divinity and public policy.

“I feel incredibly honored to have been awarded this scholarship and the opportunities it affords,” Allen said. “I never would have been able to get here if it weren’t for all the people who helped me along the way, though.”

The philosophy department in the College of Arts & Sciences has weekly Rationalitea meetings, where students and faculty meet to evaluate and debate ideas. The activity provides a venue for students to take what they learn in their classes and put it into action outside the standard classroom.

“This is an invaluable resource, which definitely contributed toward my success with the Truman,” Allen said. “Friendly debate and the opportunity to toss around ideas with critically minded people allowed me to develop the quick-thinking skills necessary to succeed in the conversational interviews.”

2014 Cargill Global Scholarship

The Cargill Global Scholarship awards first- or second-year high-performing students studying in a field that relates to Cargill’s business goals with \$2,500 a year for up to three years, leadership opportunities and a Cargill mentor.

Sierra Lekie, sophomore in economics and political science, Lenexa, is interested in political science, economics, sustainable development, conflict resolution and international relations.

“I am honored to have been selected as a Cargill Global Scholar,” Lekie said. “It’s amazing to see a group of students from different backgrounds and disciplines come together to work on developing skills to be effective future leaders.”

Lekie is a member of the university’s Model United Nations, which has been an asset to her education and an advantage when she applied for the Cargill Global Scholars program.

“The Model United Nations team has helped me learn more about regions of the world and gain an in-depth knowledge about a country’s particular problems,” Lekie said. “This research helped me explain my interest in sustainable development and conflict resolution to Cargill.”

by Stephanie Jacques



Merited success

From academia to public service, Alumni Award recipients stand out in their fields

by Jennifer Tidball

They share a passion for purple and a drive to succeed. Recipients of this year's alumni awards from the College of Arts & Sciences credit Kansas State University for encouraging their career interests and supporting them along the way.

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Sara Baer

*Professor, Department of Plant Biology
Southern Illinois University*



Sara Baer is widely recognized for her work in ecosystem, soil and restoration ecology. As a tenured professor of plant biology, she has established a highly productive research and training program in restoration ecology.

She credits her doctoral research on the Konza Prairie Biological Station with advisor John Blair, university distinguished

professor of biology in the College of Arts & Sciences, for providing her with scientific opportunities that still influence her career. She graduated with her doctorate in biology from Kansas State University in 2001.

"My involvement with the Konza Prairie Long-Term Ecological Research program as a graduate student engaged me in high-level, big-picture science and inspired me to pursue and sustain collaborative long-term research projects at Konza Prairie and throughout the tallgrass prairie system," Baer said.

Baer also credits graduate courses in Arts & Sciences for empowering her with the analytical tools and experience needed to effectively communicate science.

She continues to conduct research at Konza Prairie and is a co-principal investigator on the proposal that funds Konza Prairie research. She has received national and international funding to develop and test more effective methods of restoring ecosystems and the services they provide for society.

She credits her success to support from her husband, family and collaborators. Now, as a professor herself, she strives to follow the examples of her academic mentors.

"I am most gratified to be in a position where I can offer students the opportunities that were presented to me," Baer said.

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Damon Hininger

*President and CEO Corrections
Corporation of America*

Damon Hininger is one of America's "20 most powerful CEOs age 40 or under," according to Forbes Magazine.

As president and CEO of Corrections Corporation of America, Hininger leads the nation's fifth largest owner and operator of jails and prison centers in the U.S. This includes operating more than 60 facilities with approximately 90,000 beds in 19 states and the District of Columbia.

Hininger started with Corrections Corporation of America 22 years ago — just a few months after he graduated from Kansas State University with a sociology



bachelor's degree and a criminal justice minor. He quickly moved up in the ranks of the company, which he credits to College of Arts & Sciences faculty for providing career guidance.

"Many of my instructors were good mentors and reached out to students to offer advice and feedback on classes, but also on potential careers and opportunities," Hininger said.

While attending Kansas State University, Hininger met his wife, Carrie, who is a Kansas State University business graduate. They live in Nashville with their twins, 7-year-olds Mildred and Robert. Hininger continues to be involved with the college and he and Carrie have funded two scholarships in the sociology, anthropology and social work department.

"The comprehensiveness and richness of the program in the College of Arts & Sciences was very helpful and has empowered me to be successful in my career," Hininger said.

ALUMNI MERIT AWARD

Retired Air Force Col. Paul Laugesen

Assistant deputy director for analysis and production for a Department of Defense agency

As a member of the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service, retired Air Force Col. Paul Laugesen is one of Kansas State University's highest-ranking government alumni. Throughout his career, he has been instrumental in developing U.S. cyberpolicy and technology.

Laugesen received his bachelor's degree in mathematics at Kansas State University and a commission from Air Force ROTC in 1983.



"My arts and sciences education taught me how to think and solve problems," Laugesen said. "Kansas State University has always been a very positive environment and it helped reinforce for me the importance of a positive attitude and commitment to excellence."

Laugesen is now the assistant deputy director for analysis and production at a major Department of Defense agency. Among his many career achievements, he is particularly proud of serving as commander of Royal Air Force Menwith Hill, a U.S. military base in northern England.

Laugesen is a longtime supporter of Kansas State University and met his wife, Cathy, while both were students. He has returned to the university to give two guest lectures. Although he has lived all over the world during his years in active military duty, he has managed to make it back to Manhattan for at least one football game every year since 1994.

"K-State has remained very important to me during the past 31 years since I graduated and it has been very gratifying and inspiring to me to see it grow and continuously improve," Laugesen said.



THE CIRCLE OF GIVING

College of Arts & Sciences commemorates student excellence, donors and alumni

by Sheila Ellis-Glasper

This October, the College of Arts & Sciences celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Eisenhower Circle Celebration, with an elegant evening of music, food and award recognition at the K-State Alumni Center.

Established in 2010, the Eisenhower Circle Celebration is a special event to recognize the college's alumni award recipients, student scholarship winners, and loyal alumni and friends who give \$250 or more to the college annually. The Eisenhower Circle recognition society is named for Milton S. Eisenhower, the ninth president of the university and for whom Eisenhower Hall is named. The hall is home to the dean's office.

"We are thrilled to be able to celebrate five years of this event," said Peter Dorhout, dean. "There are so many generous supporters to our college and the Eisenhower Circle Celebration allows us to thank them in style."

The celebration also gives the college a great platform to recognize outstanding alumni who are making a difference in their careers as well as the students who are doing great things.

In the tradition of gifts for anniversaries, the fifth anniversary is the wood anniversary. This year, all attendees received a commemorative wooden coaster made from beetle-kill wood from Colorado.

The Eisenhower Circle Celebration began as a thank-you event for donors and to present the college's alumni awards, which recognize the accomplishments of alumni — both young alumni and established professionals. In 2012, the celebration added recognizing student scholarship recipients as a way to have those who benefited from the gifts to be able to say "thank you" in person.

"We want to have our alumni and friends of the college connected to what's happening now, so they may continue to feel a part of our college and departments," Dorhout said. "We also highlight our student ambassadors, who are wonderful volunteers."

"Every K-Stater had some help getting through their schooling, whether directly with scholarships or through state investment in the university," Dorhout said.

Giving to a specific college and department means the resources are directed to where the donors prefer. Faculty and college leadership understand where the needs are the greatest.

The college sees students challenged by finances, in need of specific classroom upgrades or students who are motivated to get involved in their discipline through undergraduate research or internships, but need financial support.

"We see how investments in the future of higher education can pay dividends by creating new knowledge or by moving people through the arts or humanities," Dorhout said. "I consider supporting the academic mission of the university as a way of paying it forward. Someone provided me with the opportunity to attend college and graduate school with financial support. I want to be sure that another student facing financial hardships is able to stay in school and complete his or her degree."

In the first five years of this event, the College of Arts & Sciences has seen it grow from a few close supporters in attendance to a ballroom full of proud alumni and successful students. As the college continues to grow, the future of the Eisenhower Circle Celebration is on solid ground.

For more information about the Eisenhower Circle Celebration, visit artsci.k-state.edu/events/eccc.html.

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Members of the Eisenhower Circle recognize that annual gifts of \$250 or more provide a crucial source of funds to allow college leaders to respond to emerging opportunities as well as ongoing needs that are not fully funded through state sources. Your membership in the **Eisenhower Circle** this past year (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) sustains excellence in the College of Arts & Sciences.

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The Land Grant Legacy Society represents the past, present and future of Kansas State University. The society, which is part of the KSU Foundation President's Club, honors alumni and friends who have chosen to support the university by including K-State in their estate plans in FY 2014. By remembering the College of Arts & Sciences in their estate plans or deferred gift arrangements, these alumni ensure future opportunities for the students and faculty of tomorrow.

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