Student Highlights

Courtesy of K-State Athletics

Devin Dick, senior in agribusiness from Hutchinson, earned second in the heptathlon at the Big 12 Indoor Championships, and he will compete at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. The heptathlon includes the pole vault, high jump, long jump, shot put, 60-meter hurdles, and the 1,000-meter and 60-meter events. He transferred to K-State in 2011, after surviving two bouts of cancer. His adviser, Bryan Schurle said, "It's a pleasure to work with someone so dedicated and focused."

Courtesy of McKayla Brubaker

McKayla Brubaker (far right), freshmen in agricultural communications and journalism from Delphos, receives a $50,000 check on the Grand Ole Opry stage in Nashville, Tenn. She won a national "My Teacher My Hero" essay contest with a story about her Minneapolis High School math teacher Cynthia Beall (second from right). Dollar General sponsored the award.

Curran a 2013 Truman Scholarship finalist

Kassie Curran, senior in food science and industry from Farlington, is a 2013 Truman Scholarship finalist. She has served as president and career fair coordinator for the College of Agriculture Ambassadors, vice president of community outreach for Collegiate Farm Bureau, beef promotions director for Collegiate CattleWomen, and Kansas FFA vice president.

Curran's honors, scholarships, and awards include: American Royal Scholar; Institute of Food Technologists Scholarship; National Cattlemen's Foundation Scholarship; Quest freshmen honorary; and Gamma Sigma Delta, the agriculture honorary.

Her undergraduate research project on consumer concerns, preferences, and opinions of a variety of food safety and technology practices is funded through a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Career Development Grant.

Academic Quadrathlon Team Wins Regional Award

K-State team members Chase Miller, Kiah Gourley, Angela Sesco, and Analena Simmon won first place in the 2013 Midwestern Section Academic Quadrathlon. They competed in a lab practicum, oral presentation, written exam, and quiz bowl. In July, the team will compete at the American Society of Animal Science National Academic Quadrathlon in Indianapolis.

George Dille, senior in horticulture, was selected as a Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) student ambassador. He is one of only eight students nationally to receive this recognition. He is Horticulture Club president and serving his second year as a K-State PLANET Landscape Contracting Team student coordinator. The photo above shows (from left): Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman, students Dille and Emily Frasier, associate professor of landscape management Cathie Lavis, and K-State President Kirk Schulz at PLANET 2012 in Manhattan.

Food science students Josh Sinning and Krista McKay placed second in the DuPont Knowledge Award product development competiton. Their entry, Sweet Potato and Carrot Crisps, combines sweet potatoes, carrots, and whole wheat into a cracker-like snack with a barbecue flavor. They won $5,000 and a trip to the Prepared Foods New Products Conference in Palm Beach, Fla. Associate professor Kelly Getty is their adviser.

Student shorts

- **Lindy Singular**, junior in agricultural economics from Linn, was crowned Miss Rodeo K-State at the 57th annual K-State Collegiate Rodeo February 22–24. In spite of winter weather challenges, all performances of the K-State Rodeo were held as scheduled and drew large crowds.
- **Jared Crain** and **Sarah Battenfield**, K-State doctoral candidates in genetics, are two of 14 fellows in the prestigious Monsanto Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars Program for 2013. Crain, Woodward County, Okla., will work with Jesse Poland, adjunct assistant professor of agronomy, to improve productivity in wheat through advanced breeding tools. Battenfield, Hennessey, Okla., will research ways to improve yield and end-use quality of wheat crops under the guidance of K-State wheat breeder Allan Fritz.
- **Michael Gibson**, master's student in grain science, Meriden; **Melissa Lynes**, doctoral student in agricultural economics, Kissimmee, Fla.; **Michael Joseph**, doctoral student in grain science, Karimanoor, State-Kerala, India; **Vahid Rahmani**, doctoral student in biological and agricultural engineering, Shiraz, Iran; and **Kabita Kharel**, master's student in entomology, Bharatpur, Nepal, were among the students chosen to present their research at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit on Feb. 14, 2013, in Topeka.
- **Jared Wynn** and **Tyler Schultz** are the 2013 Henry C. Gardiner (BS '53 animal science) Scholarship winners. They each received a $3,000 scholarship presented by Henry's son Mark Gardiner (BS '83 animal science).
- Entomology doctoral student **Shelly Wiggam-Ricketts** won the award for best student presentation by the Kansas chapter of The Wildlife Society at the 2013 Kansas Natural Resources Conference. Her poster presentation was titled "Pollinator Resource Use in Rangelands that Utilize Patch-burn Grazing." She is mentored by entomology professors Gregory Zolnerowich and David Margolies.
- Five K-State students have been nominated for Morris K. Udall Undergraduate Scholarships, including **Anthony Meals**, Clay Center, and **Kaitlin Morgan**, Deerfield**.** Meals, a senior in agricultural education, is a member of Kansas FFA, the university's Heifer International Club, and the Agricultural Education Club. Morgan, a sophomore in agricultural communications and journalism/animal sciences and industry, is a member of Sigma Alpha professional agricultural sorority, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, and is a College of Agriculture ambassador.
- **Claudia Montoya Nunez**, master's student in agribusiness, Bayonne, N.J., received a spring 2013 $1,000 Maurine Allison O'Bannon Memorial Scholarship from K-State's Division of Continuing Education.