

February 2010 Update

- A K-State documentary on how deployment affects the families of military reservists is airing on public television stations. "On Our Behalf: Supporting Guard and Reserve Families" focuses on families of those who have been activated for military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and other countries. The documentary was created by Charles Smith, professor of family studies and human services, and Ron Frank, emeritus professor of communications.
- K-State was one of the linked institutions that won the only Distributed Graduate Seminar award from the U.S. National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis for a spring 2007 seminar on the topic "Biodiversity, conservation and ecosystem services in managed landscapes." Faculty member Karen Garrett, associate professor in plant pathology, along with Matthew Rouse, who earned a master's degree in plant pathology in 2007, led the development of the paper from that seminar: "Beyond yield: Plant disease in the context of ecosystem services." Also involved were K-State's Paul Esker, postdoctoral researcher, and Adam Sparks, research associate, along with collaborators at CATIE, in Costa Rica, and the International Potato Center in Lima, Peru, as part of the USAID-sponsored project. The paper, published in December 2009, was designated by the American Phytopathological Society as one of the Top 9 Papers of 2009 (ranking 5th) in the journal *Phytopathology*.
- Megan Kennelly, an assistant professor in plant pathology, was a co-author on the second-highest article (in terms of current downloads) for *Plant Disease*. The paper, "Disciplinary, Institutional Funding, and Demographic Trends in Plant Pathology: What Does the Future Hold for the Profession?" was published in December 2009.
- For more than 60 years, Kansas 4-H has participated in international 4-H exchange programs. Hundreds of 4-H members and alumni 13 to 26 years of age have gone abroad, and thousands of international youth have been hosted by Kansas 4-H families. The purpose of the Global Citizenship Program is to promote cross-cultural and global education through family home stays. In 2009, Kansas 4-H sent six youth to Japan, three to Finland and one to Costa Rica for 4- to 7-week visits. Kansas families hosted 25 youth and 4 adults from Japan for a 4-week visit and two Taiwanese IFYE adults for two weeks. In addition, a Kansas 4-H volunteer leader served as a LABO exchange chaperone for a 4-week visit in Japan.
- Marshall County agent Susie Latta is saving seniors money through education. The family and consumer sciences agent serves as a counselor for SHICK (Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas) and advises clients about Medicare. In the past Medicare open enrollment season, she served 440 people in Marshall County. Of those, 67 percent changed their prescription drug plans, resulting in a cost savings of \$159,142 or approximately \$540 each for 295 individuals. Statewide data will be available soon.