

Kansas State University Olathe
Campus Update
May 7, 2013

Academic and Research Programs

Hires

- **Assistant Professor, Urban Food Production and Post-Harvest Handling:** Dr. Eleni Pliakoni started at K-State Olathe April 1 and will teach in the Urban Food Systems program, conduct research and collaborate with the Horticulture center in Olathe, the food science program, and research and extension.
- **Assistant Professor, Food Science, Safety & Quality:** Dr. Sara Gragg will start on May 13. She will set up a research lab and program this summer and begin teaching Food Microbiology and lab with the fall semester.
- **Assistant Professor, Biological and Agricultural Engineering:** A search is underway for the first of two faculty positions; Interviews are on-going and expected to be filled in June. Classes will begin this fall.
- **Project Coordinator, Urban Water Institute:** Joan Leavens began at Olathe on March 4. This position will help accelerate the development of the Institute at K-State Olathe, working with government, industry, schools, and municipalities.

Academic Programs

- **Emphasis in Animal Health** for the **Master's of Veterinary Biomedical Science** is expected to be approved this spring, with anticipation of courses beginning fall 2013 or spring 2014.
- **Master's in Adult Education** is offering five classes in Olathe this spring. A second cohort of students in the program began this January, bringing the total number of students in the program to 62.
- **Master's in Horticulture with an emphasis in Urban Food Systems** classes will begin in fall 2013.
- **Master's in Food Science** classes will begin in fall 2013.
- Students are being admitted into the **PhD in Adult Education** program and two certificate programs
- **Master of Agribusiness** will launch a cohort with an **animal health emphasis** this August and October at K-State Olathe.
- Twenty four classes are on the course schedule for spring, summer and fall 2013 at this time.

Research

The **U.S.-China Center** is expanding into a second laboratory and will be performing contract research for companies evaluating potential animal health technologies. They are also creating a partnership with a Chinese animal health company that will occupy an office at K-State Olathe.

The **Sensory and Consumer Research Center** has secured a year-long study contract with a Fortune-500 company, with monthly tests for over 100 participants each. Studies are occurring on a near daily basis within the center. A full-time sensory analyst search is in progress.

Outreach

The College of Engineering and the College of Business have both presented professional development programs for area professionals and are planning for additional programming in 2013.

K-12 programs this spring feature lecture series in Physics, Life Science and Veterinary Medicine.

Two summer teacher workshops and three summer camps for students will be offered through the K-12 outreach program, in collaboration with Pathways to Public Health, One Health Kansas and K-State Salina.

Highlights

The Olathe campus portion of the Kansas State 2025 Strategic plan has been completed and is posted at <http://www.k-state.edu/2025/initiatives/kstate-olathe/>. This reflects the work of a planning committee that worked throughout 2012 to articulate a strategic vision/plan for the campus and to integrate it into the larger University plan, which is available at <http://www.k-state.edu/2025/>

Dan Richardson, CEO of the Olathe Campus will retire effective June 15. A retirement celebration is planned for June 27, 4-6 p.m. at K-State Olathe to recognize Dan and his wife, Kathy. Dan reduced to half-time Jan. 22 and continues to lead the campus until his successor begins this summer. A search committee has met with the initial round of candidates and the final 3-4 candidates will be brought to the Olathe and Manhattan campuses for interviews this month.

K-State Olathe was part of the University-wide annual open house on April 20. At Olathe's inaugural event, more than 600 people were in attendance, generating leads for all of the degree programs, sensory database, undergraduate programs, distance education, and research and extension.