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From the Dean and Director

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Kansas State University

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From the Dean and Director



Interim dean Gary Pierzynski (far right) and agronomist Vara Prasad (second from left) visit with farmers in Niger about improving sorghum productivity.

This issue of the Ag Report has an international theme. It features our efforts to train the Kansas National Guard agribusiness development teams deploying to Afghanistan and some of our international activities in Africa.

I visited Africa in October 2010 and viewed projects in Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Niger. I also accompanied a group led by April Mason, provost and senior vice president, to India in April 2011 to discuss future partnerships and enhance existing ones.

When I return from an international trip — even from countries that I have visited previously — I always have a greater appreciation for the diversity of cultures we have across the globe, a renewed sense of the global economy and the magnitude of the challenges that we face, and a feeling of gratitude to call the United States my home.

Eight of our students earned major scholarships during the last several years. All of them took advantage of study-abroad opportunities. In this issue, they share how travel influenced their attitudes and career goals.

New student enrollment has increased for the third year in a row. Following June orientation and enrollment, the college is up 9.4 percent.

Our faculty continues to earn university and national recognition for their teaching, research,

and extension activities. Plant pathologist John Leslie and grain scientist Susan Sun were named university distinguished professors, the highest honor K-State grants to faculty. We are fortunate to have outstanding faculty who are consistently recognized by their peers, the university, and national organizations.

Welcome Gregg Hadley, who is the new assistant director for extension agriculture, natural resources, and community development. Thanks to James “Pat” Murphy for his excellent work in this position.

During the Wild4Ag activities in May, we recognized three outstanding alumni — Adrian Polansky, Philip Kirk, and Kevin Donnelly — for their service to agriculture and K-State. Go to the last page for information on how to nominate next year’s winners.

We appreciate our alumni, their service on advisory councils and various committees, and their support through donations, recruitment efforts, internships, and especially for sending their sons and daughters to K-State.

The college is hosting a tailgate party in Cat Town October 8 two hours before the K-State vs. Missouri football game. Stop by to visit and enjoy some good food.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gary Pierzynski". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "G" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.