

F O R T H A Y S S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y FOR PARENTS ONLY

FALL 2013

NEWS FROM THE FHSU CAMPUS

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New Heather Hall dedicated for student living

Fort Hays State University dedicated the last half of a total \$9.2 million residence hall project during Homecoming, when Heather Hall was officially opened.

With Agnew Hall, its sister building, occupying the opposite corner of the same block at the intersection of Custer and Dwight Drive, the replacement of old Agnew Hall is complete. New Agnew Hall was dedicated at Homecoming 2012. Together, the two buildings are Tiger Place, a total of 230 beds.

The newest addition to suite-style student living at FHSU is named for the late Jack Heather, who began teaching at the university in 1950. He was hired by what was then the Speech Department to found and develop the radio curriculum.

Today's Heather Hall not only helps replace the original Agnew, it replaces the name of the building built in 1981 to house the broadcasting program.

That building is now called the Center for Media Studies. It is scheduled to be replaced with an open green space sometime after the Center for Networked Learning, under construction next to Tomanek Hall, opens and houses radio and television studios as well as the Virtual College, the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning technology, the Department of Informatics, and laboratories for the information system engineering program.

The original Agnew Hall, costing \$650,000, was completed in 1957 to house 170 women. It was named for Elizabeth Jane Agnew, hired in 1910 to teach domestic economy, who became dean of women before her retirement in 1943.

Tiger Place, with its two residence halls, is the third project to be completed of four major construction projects, totalling \$30 million, initiated to accommodate the university's growth. From an enrollment of 5,800 in 2000, FHSU enrollment grew to 13,441 this fall.

A recent study by The Chronicle of Higher Education found that, in the first 10 years of this century, FHSU was the third-fastest growing university in the United States.



A moveable meet & greet, ending in a party



Several hundred FHSU students, faculty and staff were led by President Edward H. Hammond, **above**, on a walk from campus to Union Pacific Park on Aug. 29 for the inaugural Core2Campus event to introduce students to downtown Hays. Along the way, Hammond was met by Hays Mayor Kent Steward, **inset**, and the two finished the march together.

At the park, two or three hundred townspeople joined in, a couple blocks of Main Street were blocked off, the band played, there was feasting on barbecue, **right and lower right**, with trimmings, and members of the community and the campus got to know each other. That was the idea, conceived by the Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau, which also gave away goodie bags, **below**.

And it was a fine, fine day to get to know your neighbor in Hays America.



Photos by Kurt Beyers
University Relations

■ The President's View

Fort Hays State University is a different kind of university, unlike any other institution in the Kansas Board of Regents system. There is no other place I would rather be, but in May of 2014 I will be 70 years old and in my 28th year as president. It is in the university's best interest to begin the transition to new leadership. Therefore, I will retire as president when my contract ends June 30, 2014.



FHSU is where I wish to conclude my career. Our university deserves the best in a leader, and I want to give the Regents ample time to select the next president. I am also committed to work with the Regents to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

Leading FHSU has been the most challenging and rewarding work of my 48-year career in higher education. It is a tremendous privilege and one that continually energizes me. I am extremely proud of the work we have done together to make FHSU more vibrant, more accessible and more global. I fully anticipate the next eight months will be like my previous 27 years – very busy. I have often said that I have the best job in higher education and I look forward to continue to work with faculty, students, staff and alumni to make FHSU great!

When a new president is in place, Mary and I will continue to live in Ellis County. We have always lived in college towns and believe there is no place like Hays, America. We did not think twice about where we wanted to call home after the presidency.

I watched my father retire "at the top of his game," and I wanted to do the same. FHSU is doing very well. We are on sound financial footing, our enrollment continues to grow and our students continue to excel in their academic performance. Numerous old buildings on campus have been renovated. We have added new residence halls, a first-class indoor training facility, and Tomanek Hall, which is home to the sciences and our computing center. The new Center for Networked Learning will open next fall.

These improvements contribute to the high-tech, high-touch learning environment that helps to make your children successful. We can also boast of a tuition rate that is the lowest in the Regents system and among the lowest in the nation. During my years here, we have nearly tripled our enrollment to 13,441 students. Our growth rate was recently recognized as the third fastest in the nation over the past decade.

I will stay on at FHSU as a consultant for a year after I retire. I'm just stepping down from the presidency.

This decision is also right for my personal life. I have been blessed with three children and seven grandchildren who live in three different states. The oldest two are 12, and I've only seen them dance once and play athletics once. I want to be able to spend more time with them.

Thomas Jefferson said, "If in my retirement to the humble station of private citizen, I am accompanied with esteem and good wishes of my fellow citizens, it will be because of the hard work of many." I know that applies to me as well.

I know you can have complete confidence that your children will have access to a great education that opens the door to a successful and fulfilling life. Thank you for all you have done to make FHSU the great place that it is.

Sincerely yours,

Edward H. Hammond, Ph.D.
President

■ Music students excel in regional contest

Twenty-two FHSU students competed at the recent West Central Region National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) student auditions in Emporia against singers from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado. Six were selected as regional finalists.

Karl Pratt, Hoxie, was awarded second place in the graduate student men's division. Morgan Soldan, Salina freshman, was awarded third place in the freshman women's division. Pratt and Soldan also qualified to compete in the inaugural national student auditions in spring 2014.

Max Haverfield, Hays junior, took fourth place in the junior men's division. Eriana Holle, Hays junior, was awarded fifth place among senior women. Clayton Capra, Dighton freshman, took fifth place in the freshman men's division.

Lauren Kohpay, Winfield freshman, received an honorable mention in the college freshman women's division.

■ University 3rd fastest growing in U.S.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the No. 1 source of news, information and jobs for college and university faculty members and administrators, reported in its latest edition that FHSU was the third-fastest-growing university in the United States from 2001 to 2011. The report was contained in the Chronicle's annual Almanac edition, released on Aug. 23, which is an exhaustive listing of higher-education data in tables and charts.

FHSU grew from an enrollment of 5,626 in fall 2001 to 12,802 in fall 2011, which was an increase of 127.6 percent. That placed FHSU as the second-fastest-growing university in the category of public master's institutions. Only Florida Gulf Coast, a relatively new university, had a higher rate of growth, at 200.2 percent. There are more than 620 public master's institutions in the nation.

■ 2 tech teams take first-place awards

FHSU's Technology Education Collegiate Association won two first-place finishes at the 76th International Technology and Engineering Educators Association's Regional Conference and TECA contests in Branson, Mo.

The Robotics Team, made up of Mason Younger, Hays senior, Cole Studer, Atwood freshman, and Jacob Keener, Rush Center senior, won the Regional Robotics Championship.

The Manufacturing Team, consisting of Adam Wells, Garden Plain senior, Chase Berg, Gem junior, Daniel Honas, Ellis sophomore, Kellan Ziegelmeier, Colby sophomore, Ross Addison, Cimarron senior, and Younger also placed first.

Two problem-solving teams competed, creating an "Angry Birds Launcher" that ended up placing just outside the top three. Two technology challenge teams also placed fourth.

■ Director recognized for social justice

Becky Peterson, director of residential life at Fort Hays State University, has been awarded the Drake Martin Commitment to Social Justice Award by the Upper-Midwest Region of the national Association of College and University Housing Officers. Peterson was selected based on her outstanding demonstration of commitment to social justice. Alexandra Shaw, an FHSU hall director, nominated Peterson based on her dedication to programs she works with at Fort Hays State. Peterson teamed up with various student affairs professionals to offer the Safe Zone Training program and collaborated with others to create the Gender Equality Alliance organization.

Shaw said Peterson "truly believes in equality in all areas" and "demonstrates this belief in every interaction she engages in."

Peterson began at FHSU the fall of 2011 as the assistant director of residential life. She received the Drake Award at the recent regional conference in St. Louis.

FORPARENTSONLY

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From Student Affairs Home after college – making the transition

By Dr. Keegan Nichols

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs

Your student has been at Fort Hays State University for at least 12 weeks now. The semester is nearly over! You are probably excited for your son or daughter to come home over the winter break!

Holidays can be stressful, and conflicts are normal, especially for parents of students returning home after experiencing independent life at college. How can you make the transition into having your student back in the house – if even for a short period – more peaceful?

We have some ideas to offer:

1. Communicate! Are you sure your student is coming home over the break? Different expectations may create surprises. Give your student a call and talk about your expectations for the breaks so there are no hurt feelings or misinterpretations.

2. Establish ground rules. Your student has been living an independent life. Do the rules that were established when your son or daughter was a high school senior still apply?

Don't make assumptions. Discuss the house rules and how they might differ from what the student has lived at college, or from what they were when the student lived at home.

3. Allow free time. Sure, your student is excited to see the family. But she or he probably also wants to catch up on what is happening in the hometown. Make sure your student has time to visit with high school friends – and even some time to be alone.

Enjoy your student's presence, but give yourself and your student space.

4. Know there WILL be conflicts. Things have changed in the past few months. Understand that disagreements between students and parents will happen, and that they should be discussed.

Keeping your sense of humor and laughing off the small things will help.

5. Keep a "guest" mentality in mind. Sure, your home is also your son or daughter's home. But it may be helpful to remember that he or she is also now a guest, no longer living under your roof. Your student should be encouraged to be a considerate guest – not hogging the computer or television, blasting music.

But try to keep your tolerance levels up, as well.

6. Be realistic. When your student lived at home, was every day magical? Look forward to your son or daughter being back in the house, but don't expect fairy dust simply because your student has been away at college.

Your student has been transforming since birth. Yet these changes may be more obvious now that you are not seeing him or her every day. Keep in mind that while your student has been changing, you and other family members have, too. Share what is different and enjoy what is new.

Enjoy the upcoming breaks.

Leader returns as part of new media group

After a semester-long hiatus of overdrive task forces, committees and symposiums all discussing the future of student media at Fort Hays State University, and just in time for Homecoming, a printed edition of *The University Leader* was back on campus newsstands on Oct. 3. A second issue followed on Nov. 21.

The printed issues are an integral part of a fully integrated print, digital and broadcast media strategy carried out by a newly-formed organization called Tiger Media Network.

Ron Rohlf, assistant professor of informatics and faculty advisor, said the "mobile-friendly website is a 'tip of the spear' for TMN news coverage and storytelling.

"It fills the need for immediacy, depth, context and updates," said Rohlf. "Stories best suited for audio and video delivery will flow from the website re-purposed for spoken delivery to TMN's audio/video producers. From there, the best informative, investigative or evergreen content will be re-purposed for TMN's special edition print issues published at key times of the year."

Student writers, photographers, graphic artists, audio/video producers and Web developers come from all

corners of the FHSU campus, but the heart of this activity revolves around a joint curricular program created by communication studies and informatics faculty and department chairs.

In this integrated media program, students move through coursework necessary to prepare mobile journalists for the kind of work common to integrated-media news and information organizations.

Dr. Chris Crawford, interim provost, serves on the board of directors of this new media dissemination organization. He stressed the importance of innovation in this changing landscape of community journalism.

"The university community is the recipient of a bold new way of sharing real-time campus knowledge with the introduction of the Tiger Media Network," said Crawford. "Knowledge just wants to be shared, and today our students can pick it up from the newsstand or go online."

"Tiger Media Network is dedicated to the principle of 'by students, for students' and this unique learning lab will provide real-world experience they can directly apply as they graduate," said Crawford.

Students experience China as part undergrad careers

By Dawne Leiker

Office of Strategic Partnerships

The world is very big, and Fort Hays State University offers a multitude of ways students can experience it.

An opportunity to spend a month at Sias International University in Xinzhen, China, is offered through FHSU, with expenses paid by Sias and FHSU. Those expenses include: round trip airfare from Denver to China (paid by FHSU); room and board (paid by Sias); optional travel package for excursions in China available for a fee; and the opportunity to enroll in and earn FHSU credit.

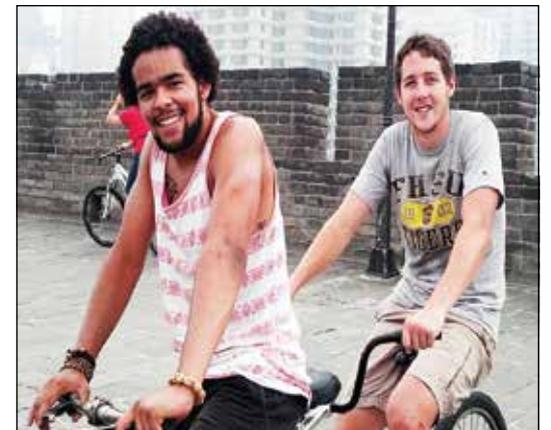
"It's such a great experience," said Tre' Giles, a Colorado Springs, Colo., sophomore and a leadership studies major who participated in the China summer study abroad trip in July 2013 with fellow FHSU student Kyle Calvin, a Ness City senior and a finance major. Karla Murguia, Hays senior, a justice studies major, also went to China this past summer.

"We would never have gotten to ride a tandem bike around an ancient city on top of a 50-foot wall if we didn't go to China," said Giles. That was one adventure he and Calvin went on together.

"You can't experience those types of things in America. It's so important to go abroad and see those types of things, especially since this is the most affordable way to do it," he said.

The next China study abroad program will be July 2014. The program offers stimulating courses which include Chinese culture, art, martial arts, dance, folk songs, calligraphy, cooking and physical education. All cultural courses and major subject studies are offered in English.

For Giles and Calvin, who shared highlights of their China trip with Hays High School students in mid-October, the month-long experience in China



Courtesy photo

Giles, left, and Calvin on a tandem bicycle in Xi'an, the 3,100-year-old capital of Shaanxi Province in east-central China.

was full of adventures. Maneuvering through the hustling streets of Xinzhen on mopeds, they made quick friends with folks along the way. They said another highlight was visiting Xi'an and seeing for themselves the Museum of Qin terra-cotta warriors and horses.

"I really enjoyed the experience," said Calvin. "Xi'an was our favorite. We loved it."

"It was cool because it was an ancient culture mixed with a city that is really becoming modern at the same time," Giles said. "It was really a pure immersion of western culture meets eastern. That's why we liked it so much."

Three undergraduate FHSU students will be selected to participate in next July's study abroad experience.

To be considered, students must be enrolled full-time as undergraduate FHSU students for the fall 2014 semester and have a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average.

Sternberg, Forsyth establish digital fossil collection

The Sternberg Museum of Natural History and Forsyth Library at Fort Hays State University have established a digital collection of about 900 Mosasaur fossils.

“Our goal is to present a collection that appeals to the research community as well as to K-12 students,” said John Ross, library director.

“We wanted to bring global access to our collections,” said Dr. Reese Barrick, director of the Sternberg Museum. “For instance, researchers in Finland can compare their specimens to ours.”

“Basically this means an eighth-grader in Hays working on a research project and a researcher doing post-doctoral work on the other side of the world can access our collections via the Forsyth Library Web page,” said Ross.

The final part of this two-year project involved the 3D scanning and display of select specimens. Each digital image includes the metadata that show the species the fossil came from, the Sternberg collection it is a part of, Sternberg’s identification number and the specimen’s size.

“The smallest fossil that we scanned was pea-sized,” said Ross. “The biggest piece we can scan is up to 1.5 feet tall and 1 foot wide currently. With the addition of some attachments, bigger objects can be scanned. The library is also hoping to get a hand-held digital 3D scanner to scan large objects, architecture or the parts of spacecraft.”

“From an education standpoint, we hope to provide sample lesson plans that have digital photos, videos and 3D images embedded,” said Ross. “We also have a 3D printer that we hope to be able to print fossil replicates for teachers to use in the classroom without fear of damage.”

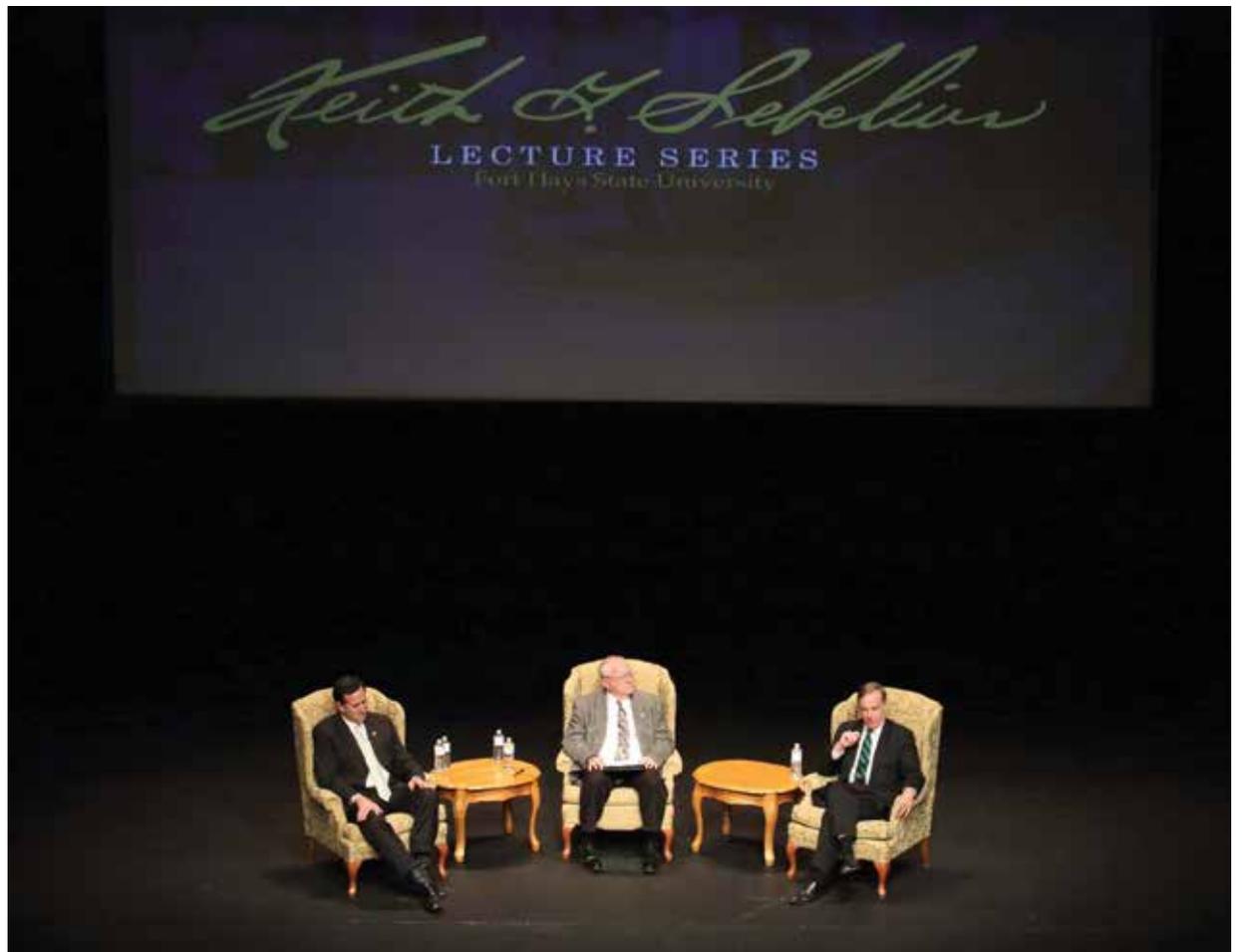


Photo by Mitch Weber, Fort Hays State University

Beginning a new tradition

Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, left, R-Pa., and former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, a Democrat, right, inaugurated FHSU’s new Sebelius Lecture Series on Nov. 4 in a debate moderated by Kent Steward, center, director of University Relations at FHSU. About 800 people attended the meeting of the two former presidential candidates. The next event in the series will be Feb. 4 with Karl Rove, former advisor to President George W. Bush.

New service streams online TV to on-campus students

Eagle Communications and Fort Hays State University are providing on-campus students the ability to watch TV anywhere on the FHSU campus through a service offered by Tivli.

Eagle2Go allows FHSU students who live on campus to stream 21 cable television channels while connected to the FHSU wireless network.

During a demonstration of Eagle2Go at a news conference in the Memorial Union, Dr. Edward H. Hammond, FHSU president, said that he had become a fan of the service. “Like many of our students, I also live on campus and have access to Eagle2Go,” he said. “It is extremely valuable to be able to monitor the news right at my desk as I’m working.”

Gary Shorman, president and CEO of Eagle Communications, said, “Eagle2Go brings in the best of both worlds to FHSU students – television programming from popular cable networks in a format that allows them to watch it where they want to.”

Eagle2Go also provides for an online DVR to record programs to watch later.

4 big gifts in Sept.-Oct. will support scholarships, programs

A period of a little more than three weeks, from Sept. 20 to Oct. 15, saw four major gifts to Fort Hays State University for scholarships and programs.

Dr. Ed and Donna Stehno pledged \$1 million on Sept. 20 to the FHSU Foundation, primarily for athletic scholarships.

Stehno began teaching at FHSU in September 1971 and retired in May 2004 as a professor in the Department of Education Administration and Counseling.

Next, on Oct. 3, came the announcement of a large gift from Hays native and FHSU alumnus Peter J. Werth, who announced at a news conference that he and his wife, Pamela, would give \$1.6 million to FHSU over the course of four years for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics initiative in the Institute

of Applied Technology in the College of Education and Technology; for assistance with development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem; and for the Department of Chemistry.

The following day, Oct. 4, another alumnus and his wife, Richard “Dick” and Pat (Redden) Selensky, Shawnee, joined the Wooster Society, pledging a portion of their total estate to the FHSU Foundation in support of scholarships for the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science.

Dick Selensky was born and raised in Park, in Gove County, and he earned a bachelor’s degree in technology studies in 1956 and a master’s degree in education administration in 1963, both from FHSU.

A former California couple – who graduated from

Fort Hays State University, went west for careers in education and then returned to Kansas upon retirement – announced in a news conference Oct. 15 that they had donated approximately \$1 million to their charitable remainder unitrust to benefit scholarships at their alma mater.

Richard and Dolores (Wills) Fischli both earned bachelor and master’s degrees from FHSU and then taught in the Los Angeles Unified School System for many years. They grew up in rural Phillips County. Their long-term commitment will ensure that this support continues in perpetuity. Students are already benefiting from their charitable spirit. They established scholarships 10 years ago that are awarded to students attending FHSU from Phillips County each year.