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Scientific Advancements

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Scientific advancements

The American Association for the Advancement of Science — the world's largest scientific society — recently named four Kansas State University faculty members as fellows.



Walter Dodds, university distinguished professor of biology, was named for his distinguished contributions to research and education in

freshwater ecology and environmental sciences, particularly for advancing the understanding of nutrient dynamics and pollution in streams.

Dodds is a freshwater ecology expert. He has studied the effects of nitrogen contamination in stream waters and the effects stream drying and flooding have on the habitat and species that live in streams.



Donald Kaufman, professor of biology, was honored for his distinguished contributions to mammalian ecology, in particular for novel long-term experimental studies

of fire, grazer and weather impacts on small mammals in native prairies.

Kaufman specializes in mammalian ecology. Since 1981, he has conducted studies on the small mammal populations at the Konza Prairie Biological Station, looking at

the effects of fire and grazers on the prairie rodents and shrews, the effects of woody invasion on prairie mammals, nongame wildlife conservation and prairie ecology.



John Leslie, university distinguished professor of plant pathology and head of the plant pathology department, was named a fellow for

pioneering genetics of the fungal genus *Fusarium*, for leading laboratory and scientific writing workshops worldwide, and for service as department head.

Leslie is one of the world's leading experts on devastating fungi in the *Fusarium* genus. These fungi cause billions of dollars in losses annually from plant diseases and through the production of mycotoxins, which can sicken and kill humans and domesticated animals. He specializes in biochemical, molecular and population genetics of model and plant pathogenic fungi.



John Reese, professor of entomology, was recognized for his distinguished contributions to entomological sciences, particularly in the fields of plant-insect

interactions and plant resistance to insects.

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences by a student he co-advised demonstrated the ability to silence a gene that is expressed in

aphid salivary glands. One-hundred percent of the aphids in which the gene had been silenced died when placed back on their host plant, leading to a better understanding of RNAi host plant resistance and a step forward in transgenic safety.

— Greg Tammen

Entomology department ranks No. 8 in nation

The U.S. National Research Council has ranked Kansas State University's entomology department No. 8 in the nation. The council's rankings are based on responses to questionnaires filled out by faculty, students and administrators at cooperating institutions.

The ranking puts K-State's entomology department higher than schools such as Cornell University, Purdue University and Auburn University.

Faculty members specialize in plant resistance, integrated pest management, stored-product entomology and molecular entomology.

The department is among several K-State programs to rank highly with the council.