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Table of Contents and Introduction

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Research that moves
Kinesiology makes everyday lives better

Bugs with benefits
Appreciating the creepier, crawlier life forms

When the wells run dry
Racing for solutions to declining aquifer
All heart

This vascular structure of a sheep’s heart was injected with colored liquid plastic solution, which was allowed to harden, and the tissue was corroded away with potassium hydroxide. The red designates the arterial system — arteries and arterioles — and the blue the venous system — veins and venules. The cast is preserved in 10 percent formalin. The model is from the laboratory of David C. Poole, professor of exercise physiology and of anatomy and physiology. Learn more about some of Poole’s research on pages 26-31.
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Researchers, scholars and artists at K-State help us examine and understand the world in new ways. They help us by creating new knowledge, and they also help us dispel myths. This issue is full of examples of K-State “myth busting.”

One myth is that research doesn’t enrich undergraduate education. In “Experimenting for success” on page 12, explore how students benefit from engaging in research. From learning how to pursue answers to difficult questions to learning resilience when studies don’t succeed, students who work with researchers learn a range of skills that will serve them well after they graduate. Attending a research university is an excellent way to identify challenges, meet difficult projects head-on, make mistakes and work with colleagues to discover a path forward. K-State is a leading university offering these experiences, which embrace the best possible preparation for career success.

Another widely held myth is that insects are only here to bug us. On page 20, find evidence to the contrary in “Bugs with benefits.” Many insects fly under our radar as they help us pollinate crops, fight pests and understand the human genome. Entomologists aren’t the only ones working to reveal nature’s secrets: On page 26, meet K-State kinesiologists who are enabling us to understand how to fight heart failure and address sedentary behavior as well as helping the U.S. Army and NASA astronauts attain and maintain health and fitness so they are mission-ready.

As our state has worked to dispel the myth that irrigation wells will never run dry, K-State researchers have developed innovative technologies and conducted crucial social science and economic research to help conservation efforts succeed. Read “When the wells run dry” on page 32 for more.

If those examples aren’t enough to convince you that our researchers are doing a fabulous job of unveiling myths, take a look at “Fighting fallacies” on page 16. In that article, you’ll find out that Kansans do have an accent, that the phrase “natural ingredient” might not mean what you think it means, and that fleas don’t behave like you think they do.

All of this work — not to mention the individuals and results highlighted in our short features — underscores the value of K-State research to our state, region and world. We invite you to learn more about how our researchers influence tomorrow by visiting k-state.edu/influence-tomorrow or reading the news brief about our efforts to spread the word on page 4.

Peter K. Dorhout, Vice President for Research