Seek: research magazine for Kansas State University.
[Introductory matter] Fall 2021

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Cause or effect
How researchers are analyzing misinformation

Greater spaces, better places
Making the experience worth the visit

Riding the wave
Interdisciplinary teams find water solutions
Park and go

This photo — taken by a drone — shows the trails at the Top of the World, which is a scenic overlook area northwest of Manhattan, Kansas, in Washington Marlatt Memorial Park.

Kansas State University researchers are involved in multiple park-focused research projects.

See page 11 to learn how researchers in the College of Health and Human Sciences are studying how park prescriptions could be a part of mental health treatment plans.

See page 20 to learn how the Applied Park Science Lab is enhancing visitor experiences at state and national parks while conserving natural and cultural resources.
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Greetings from Manhattan and the Office of the Vice President for Research. I can’t tell you how excited I am to be joining Kansas State University at this time and in this role. The opportunity to join one of the nation’s premier land-grant universities at a time of such opportunity and need for research, discovery and innovation, both energizes and excites me. K-State is favorably positioned in all ways — expertise, facilities and energies — to advance its research mission, impact and visibility. The culture here is second to none. That is our ace in the hole. Together we can achieve great things. And I am excited to champion that mission, to help create new opportunities and to celebrate our successes.

By way of background, prior to joining K-State, I served for six years as provost and senior vice president at the University of Vermont, where I led significant growth in the research enterprise, the launch of several new transdisciplinary centers and institutes, and the creation of a universitywide innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. I am excited to continue that work to drive research, innovation and economic development at K-State. I will also work to connect and leverage our teaching, research and service missions, and to create additional opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in research and scholarly activities.

This issue of Seek magazine offers a glimpse into the impressive array of research being conducted at K-State — from the use of drones to monitor state and national parks to interdisciplinary water research that brings together faculty from three K-State colleges. Additional stories feature the use of artificial intelligence to track worldwide bee populations, important initiatives around public health and mental health in Kansas and understanding the role of social media in propagating disinformation and misinformation. This magazine issue tackles pressing challenges both statewide and nationally and the use of advanced technologies to address those challenges.

This issue also features outstanding faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and new industry engagements. We have so much to celebrate at K-State and I look forward to continuing to find ways to both recognize and promote our achievements, our stars and our points of pride.

Go ’Cats!

D. Rosowsky, Vice President for Research