

CHAPTER 1:

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HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

HISTORY

K-State: your first history lesson

Our beloved university began as Bluemont Central College, and opened to its first students in 1860. Settlers in the area were well-educated and felt that a college was an important addition. Serving first as a primary and preparatory school for students underprepared for college, Bluemont College was privately run until 1863. At that time, Kansas had already become a state (January 29, 1861—be ready to celebrate Kansas Day next semester!) and had accepted the Morrill Act, which allotted each state 30,000 acres of land for each member of the House and Senate. The land, or proceeds from selling the land, could be used to start a college. With 90,000 acres, the state of Kansas was ready to establish its first college, following the provisions set forth by the Morrill Act:

“...the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.”

To put it in everyday terms, the Morrill Act aimed to create colleges that focused on agriculture, engineering, and military training, while not

excluding other areas of study, including liberal arts, which had long been the focus for higher education. The goal was to offer educational opportunities to a wider variety of students. These democratic ideals set the stage for the culture and feel of K-State then and now.

At this time, Bluemont College was experiencing financial difficulties. Its board offered 100 acres, a building and library volumes to the State of Kansas. The State accepted on February 16, 1863—K-State’s official Founder’s Day. On March 3rd of the same year, the legislature passed an act establishing Kansas State Agricultural College.

Because of the land “granted” to the state through the Morrill Act, KSAC became a “land grant college”. The first class of 52 students was exactly 50% male, 50% female, and included studies in mental and moral sciences, mathematics and natural sciences, and music. From the beginning, our history proves our dedication to being a co-educational and racially integrated institution.

KSAC became Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science in 1931, and Kansas State University of Agriculture and Applied Science in 1959. Buildings have been added, razed, burned, and rebuilt. Our mascot started out as a black Labrador named Boscoe (no relation to our current Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Pat Bosco, but what a coincidence!) Later, K-State used a real wildcat named Touchdown, and, finally, adopted Willie in 1947. Willie has also changed significantly. You can see the many faces of Willie and his full history here: www.k-state.com/s/1173/social.aspx?sid=1173&gid=1&pgid=411.

Throughout the many changes that K-State has seen throughout the years, there are a few things that remain the same. We have developed many traditions that honor our history and will continue to shape our future.

TRADITIONS

At K-State, we do FRIENDLY

Can't find the building where you have class starting in t-minus two minutes? Ask that person walking by you on the sidewalk. We have all needed help, and our friendliness and willingness to help is what makes us K-Staters.

K-Staters are known for their friendly demeanor. Open a door for a fellow classmate or professor. Direct a visiting family fumbling with a map. Walk the group of new first-year students, standing in the quad with a bewildered look, to the building they need, then sprint to your own class. Extraordinary? Nope, just the K-State way!

At K-State, we do PURPLE

Purple Pride ice cream at Call Hall dairy bar. One of 30-plus flavors, all made by students!

Purple Power Play at the Park. Join more than 20,000 students, alumni and fans for food, fireworks and more at the pep rally held the Thursday and Friday evenings before our first home football game.

Purple Masque Theatre, home to student-directed performances, is housed in the renovated West Stadium.

Purple! Purple shirts, purple shoes, purple bags, purple water bottles, purple pens. If it can be made in purple, you will find it here. Wear your purple with pride!

At K-State, we do the WABASH

After a fire in the 1960's left the music department with only one piece of music, "The Wabash Cannonball" has become an easily recognizable tune that rouses any K-State crowd. Find a short video history here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDBAf6yPZS0. Stand up, clap your hands, and get ready to WABASH. You can view a great video and start practicing here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMOQ2wU6vGk.

Another great tradition occurs at basketball games. Students at men's basketball games tear up newspapers into tiny bits, throwing them into

the air at the introduction of the home team. You can watch how to do it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUBoa-89m6Q.

At K-State, we are FAMILY

Invite your family to join you on Saturday, October 14, 2017 for our 89th Annual K-State Family Day! You can view details here: www.k-state.edu/familyday/.

Parent and Family Association helps families of K-State students feel connected to the University. Access to a hotline and invitations to family events on campus help our extended family stay close wherever they are.

Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Need we say more?

At K-State, we do GREAT FOOD

Remember that Call Hall ice cream? You can also get your fill of fresh-made cinnamon rolls and hot cocoa (among other mouthwatering goodies) at T-H-E BAKERY in the lobby of Derby Dining Center. Also, each Wednesday during the school year, the Bakery Science Club hosts a bake sale where you can stock up on fresh baked bread, monster cookies, brownies and more. The chocolate milk at the residence hall dining centers is also a student favorite.

Off-campus, you will find student favorites Varsity Donuts, Radina's Coffeehouse, and Taco Lucha, as well as many other local eateries and shopping, in nearby Aggieville.

At K-State, we do OPEN HOUSE

Every year, for one Saturday in April, the entire campus throws open the doors and welcomes over 20,000 visitors to see all of the cool projects students and faculty have been working on all year. See robots in action, watch a glassblowing experiment, ride a weed-eater powered bicycle and enjoy free food throughout campus. Open house will be held on a Saturday in early April, and look for opportunities to get involved in your department and student organizations.

At K-State we CELEBRATE STUDENTS

Check in with #kstate, @KansasStateUniversity and the K-State Today emailed directly to your inbox daily to see what accolades your fellow students are earning.

Become part of the action by getting involved in research, taking leadership in one of our 475-plus student organizations, or serving your residence hall, sorority or fraternity through committee work.

At K-State, we LEARN TOGETHER

In your K-State First First-Year Seminar or CAT Community, you will find that gone are the days of lecture after lecture. From co-curricular activities that have you rappelling down a cliff and walking the history of the Overland Trail to participating in hands-on activities side-by-side with your professor, everyone is engaged in academic endeavors.

Each year, a committee of students, faculty, and staff choose a common book for the campus. This year, you received—and hopefully read!—your own copy of this year’s book. People all over campus have read it, and you will be hearing more about it in your classes, at campus-wide activities, and when the author visits our campus! (See KSBN chapter for more in-depth information.)

Research opportunities are plentiful for undergraduates, and it’s not just for scientists! Work with a professor to study sustainable energy, work with preschoolers at the Hoefflin Stone House Child Care Center, or dream big in the Electronics Design Laboratory. In fact, K-State is working towards being a Top 50 Research Institute by 2025. Learn more about Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities, and Discovery and see what each college offers here: www.k-state.edu/2025/initiatives/rscad/.

Take advantage of the numerous opportunities for co-curricular learning offered throughout campus. Whether it is a Landon Lecture (www.k-state.edu/lectures/landon/), a class field trip, or a comedy act sponsored by UPC (see the UPC line-up of presentations, concerts, and more at www.k-state.edu).

[edu/upc](http://www.k-state.edu/upc)) you will learn just as much outside of the classroom as you will in it—though it is still necessary to attend those classes!

At K-State, we SERVE

K-State Proud, a student-led fundraising campaign, has raised more than \$830,000 over eight years to help fellow students in need. Students raise money through selling t-shirts to wear at a specified home basketball game and through student donations. That money is used to help fellow students who are facing a hardship and need help in order to stay enrolled at K-State.

Students help students, and students help others. HandsOn K-State places students in many service and volunteer opportunities around campus and in the community. Student Program Coordinators are available to help you find opportunities connected to your interests provide service-learning training when necessary. If you are a service-minded individual, add joining HandsOn K-State to your bucket list this first semester.

Join a Staley School of Leadership Studies International Service Team to serve abroad. You can master a language, gain leadership experience, and develop cultural appreciation during a summer of service.

Extend your leadership beyond campus through involvement in the Manhattan Good Neighbor program. Partnering with the City of Manhattan, Riley County Police Department, USD 383, Manhattan Housing Authority and others, you can help maintain safe, clean and welcoming neighborhoods for University students.

At K-State, we INCLUDE

From our first days as KSAC, inclusion has been the K-State way. Throughout our history, we have maintained a near 50/50 enrollment of men and women. Our first black alum graduated in 1899, and presently one of every six students is black, Hispanic, American Indian, or multiracial.

Military men and women are part of our K-State family. Our Army ROTC program earned K-State a designation as a Top 30 College for Military Students in Military Advanced Education

Magazine. The Air Force ROTC program continues to commission excellent officers, and the campus building which houses military sciences has been renamed General Richard B. Myers Hall after one of AFROTC's distinguished alums.

Every year, military men, women and families are honored at various sporting events on campus. In fact, Athletic Director John Currie received the Outstanding Civilian Service award, one of the highest awards a civilian can be given by the U.S. Army.

Thank you for joining the K-State family. We hope that participating in some of the time-honored traditions becomes your K-State bucket list!

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Academic life

Don't be afraid to ask for help. I was a part of a CAT Community during my freshman year and when I didn't understand something or needed help I spoke to my professor about it. It took a couple weeks for me to ask for that help, but once I understood that this professor really cared I went to her not just for class, but recommendations or just to vent about life. During the end of my sophomore year the same professor that taught my CAT Community class recruited me to be her LA for the following fall semester. Through this LA experience I've grown as a leader, but more importantly as a person. As my mom always said, 'A closed mouth doesn't get fed.'

Shaun Dowdell, Residential Learning Assistant for the Be the Change: Social Justice CAT Community*

*Contained in each speech bubble within the book are quotes from students that detail some of their experiences.