CONGRATULATIONS!
Dr. Zifei Liu and his wife, Jing Yang, are the proud parents of a baby girl! Helen Jiayi Liu was born on October 15, weighed in at 7.10 lbs., 20 inches long. Helen is also welcomed home by big sister Sabrina.

COA’s GRAIN SCIENCE & INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HEAD CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED:
Drs. Gerald Reeck, David Hahn, Gordon Smith and Kumar Mallikarjunan are the four candidates selected to interview for the department head position in Grain Science & Industry. Dr. Gerald Reeck interviewed on October 2-3. Dr. Mallikarjunan is the next candidate to interview on October 20-21. His seminar will be at 10:20 a.m. in Waters 137 on October 21. Candidates’ information is available at: http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/Seminars/p.aspx?tabid=620

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2015 HEALTH INSURANCE NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 31 (information from HR email of October 15):
Kansas State University employees may use their eID and password to view and enroll in health benefits. Select Kansas State University as the identity provider in the drop down box, then press Select. Sign in with your K-State eID and password or if you are already logged into one of the K-State administrative systems, you will be signed on automatically.

Employees complete open enrollment elections online through the new Membership Administration Portal (MAP). You may easily access MAP in one of the following ways:

a) Click the Membership Administration Portal (MAP) link; or
b) Access MAP through HRIS/Employee Self Service using this path: Employee Self Service > Benefits > Health Insurance Enrollment; or
c) Access MAP when you sign in to K-State Connect: “View/enroll health benefits” under HRIS Links

Key changes for Plan Year 2015:
- Two plans to choose from -- Plan A or Plan C. Plan B is no longer offered effective January 1, 2015.
- Two medical vendors to choose from -- Aetna or Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas. (Coventry was purchased by Aetna.)
- There will be only one full-time salary tier for employee premiums and one for part-time.
- Healthcare Flexible Spending Account will allow a rollover of up to $500 of unused amounts at the end of a plan year starting with plan year 2015 rolled over to plan year 2016.

Webinars regarding Plan Year 2015 changes:

Thursday 16-Oct-14 1:30 PM https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/797334518
Wednesday 22-Oct-14 1:30 PM https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/119682622

Unless you pre-ordered an open enrollment booklet, information for the 2015 Plan Year is only available online. For more information see the State Employee Health Plan website or go directly to the Open Enrollment Book.

Note: You may also use this link to access the Membership Application Portal; however, you will then need to create a new user ID and password as this link does not use our K-State user authentication.

Questions for the State Employee Health Plan staff: benefits@kdheks.gov.
Questions for the K-State Benefits Office: benefits@ksu.edu.
UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN 2014 IS UNDERWAY:
Local needs > Local solutions > UNITED WAY. Konza United Way’s goal is to create long-lasting changes by addressing issues relating to health, education and income in our community. It takes everyone working together to create a brighter future. Community health partners are Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan, Community Health Ministry, Crisis Center, Flint Hills Community Clinic, Sunflower CASA Project, Inc. Education community partners are Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan, Flint Hills Volunteer Center. Income community partners are Flint Hills Area Transportation Agency (ATA Bus), Housing and Credit Counseling, Kansas Legal Services, Manhattan Emergency Shelter, Inc., Northeast Kansas Community Action Program, and Shepherd’s Crossing. We all win when a child succeeds in school, when families are financially stable, when people are healthy. For more information: www.konzaunitedway.org. Please donate today!

2014 ALL-UNIVERSITY CAMPAIGN CONTINUES THROUGH NOVEMBER 14:
The All-University Campaign is an internal fundraising effort specifically focused on the participation of all employees including the Manhattan, Salina and Olathe campuses; K-State Alumni Association; KSU Foundation and K-State Athletics. For more information on the campaign, go to: http://www.found.ksu.edu/auc/. The campaign continues through November 14.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:
“In the eyes of a child...there is joy, there is laughter...there is hope, there is trust, a chance to shape the future...”
--Air Supply

LOOKING AHEAD:
October 19-25 – Homecoming Week: “Coast to Coast”
October 27 – Enrollment for Spring 2015 term begins
October 28 – Research and the State Graduate Poster Session, Union Ballroom, 9:00 a.m. poster judging
October 31 – Last day to drop a course
November 6 – COE Faculty meeting, 3:30 p.m., Fiedler Auditorium
November 12 – COE Fall Undergraduate Research Poster Forum abstract submission deadline
November 13 – COE Faculty Meeting on Research: “Interdisciplinary Opportunities through Engineering Centers and Institutes – Part 1,” 3:30-5:00 p.m., Fiedler Auditorium
November 24-28 – Fall break
November 27-28 - University holiday
December 4 – COE Fall Undergrad Poster Forum, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Engineering Atrium
December 12 – Fall 2014 semester ends
December 12 – COE Graduate Student Graduation Reception, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., International Grains Program facility
December 13 - Commencement
December 15-19 – Finals week
December 23 – Deadline (noon) for submitting final grades in iSIS. Deadline for KSOL is 11:00 a.m.
December 25-26 – University holiday

Please submit your news and travel information to Barb Moore bjmoore2@ksu.edu