

Kansas State University **LIBRARIES**



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Kansas State University **LIBRARIES**

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UNWRAPPING Potential

K-STATE LIBRARIES SUPPORT REMARKABLE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

BY: SARAH HOYT

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K-State Libraries' services, materials and faculty help students in their academic pursuits year-round.

The Libraries are also proud to recognize outstanding original research once it's completed. In 2013, the Libraries established the Kirmser Undergraduate Research Award thanks to the generous support from the Philip and Jeune Kirmser estate. Eleven projects on topics as varied as U.S. presidential assassinations, the criminal justice system and stereotypes in children's nonfiction have been honored since then.

Sometimes, though, research projects come from more unexpected sources. Like a hay bale.

Every year instructor Edwin Brokesh asks his biological systems engineering seniors to identify a challenge in their field. Then they work together as a team on a design solution to overcome that obstacle.

When three K-State students with deep roots in agriculture tackled the assignment last year, they thought about the work that goes into feeding cattle.

Most farmers feed their cattle large, round hay bales that weigh 1,500 pounds or more. They move the bales, which are often wrapped in plastic net wrap, with a tractor or skid-steer loader. The wrap is a necessary evil: It protects the bale during transport and prevents spoilage, but it could be fatal to cattle if ingested. That means the farmer must exit the tractor and manually remove and dispose of the wrap, all while maneuvering around a hay bale that could crush a person if it slipped the wrong way.

And so the three Kansans—David Leiszler (Clifton), Peter Masters (Troy) and Austin Schmitz (Axtell)—hit upon their senior research project. They set out to create an attachment for a skid-steer loader that could lift a bale and safely remove the net wrap while the farmer remains in the vehicle.



Austin Schmitz makes final adjustments to a machine he invented with two classmates. Their implement safely cuts and removes net wrap from hay bales.

Before Brokesh would approve the project, he asked the team to find a customer, which led them to Kerri Ebert, project coordinator at Kansas AgrAbility. Kansas AgrAbility, based out of K-State's biological and

they refined their design and error-proofed it before starting the building stage.

The team completed all of that just in time to apply for the 2016

services that the Libraries provide that I had taken for granted, and the accessibility of information made it possible for us to research and design our project."

"THE KIRMSEY AWARD REALLY SHOWS HOW OUR UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SUPPORTS STUDENTS. RECOGNIZING THE RESEARCH, WORK AND EFFORT PUT INTO STUDENT PROJECTS IS CRUCIAL. THROUGHOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS I GAINED A DEEPER APPRECIATION FOR SERVICES THAT THE LIBRARIES PROVIDE THAT I HAD TAKEN FOR GRANTED, AND THE ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO RESEARCH AND DESIGN OUR PROJECT."

— AUSTIN SCHMITZ



agricultural engineering department, works to enable a high-quality lifestyle for farmers, ranchers and other agricultural workers with disabilities. Ebert put the team in contact with Neal Gugler, a livestock farmer.

Six generations of Gugler's family have farmed on their land southeast of Chapman, Kansas. The students visited Gugler to hear about his feeding routine, which is complicated by mobility impairment, and he showed them the multi-step process he uses to get bales to his cattle. Next, the team researched existing implements, safety standards and more, a process that Brokesh teaches as part of the design class with support from K-State Libraries.

Engineering librarian Alice Trussell visited the classroom to teach students how to conduct a literature review and leverage the Libraries' subscriptions and databases that would fuel their research.

Once Leiszler, Masters and Schmitz had the background knowledge they needed, they created design ideas and tested those concepts to determine feasibility. Finally,



Kirmsey Undergraduate Research Award. They won the group category and received \$3,000.

The entire experience gave the students a better understanding of K-State Libraries' value.

"The Kirmsey Award really shows how our university library supports students," Schmitz said. "Recognizing the research, work and effort put into student projects is crucial. Throughout the application process I gained a deeper appreciation for



"Their device has the potential to help a lot of people," said Gugler. Gugler's farm is located outside Chapman, Kansas.

This group was the second Kirmser-winning team from Brokesh's class; another group took the honor in 2015. Brokesh says his students' accomplishments directly relate to their willingness to engage with a very intense research process.

"The two winning teams consisted of very motivated students

tackling problems that were just outside of their normal areas of knowledge," Brokesh said. "To even have a chance to be successful, they had to do significant amounts of research."

Jason Coleman, head of library user services and chair of the Kirmser Award selection committee, noted the professionalism of this year's group award winners.

made that possible," Coleman said.

Leiszler and Masters graduated in May 2016, while Schmitz stayed to complete a graduate degree. He also continued to fine-tune the implement, and he was able to deliver a prototype to Gugler last fall.

"The average age of a Kansas farmer is near 60 and it continues to rise, so more are facing mobility issues. And frankly, it's a tool that could make life easier for any farmer," said Gugler.

After winning the Kirmser Award, Schmitz represented the team at the AGCO National Student Design Competition finals in Orlando, Florida, in July 2016, where he led them to a third place finish.

He hopes to patent their device and pursue commercial production in the future.

"This group's writing, research and ingenuity deserve recognition beyond the walls of the classroom, and the generosity of the Kirmser family has



From left, Austin Schmitz, Peter Masters and David Leiszler. The three engineering students won the 2016 Kirmser Undergraduate Research Award group category.

www.lib.k-state.edu/kirmser-undergraduate-research-award





 THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

Illuminating History

K-State Libraries' first docent program reaches thousands

BY: TIFFANY RONEY



Docent volunteers are bringing a creative tradition from the middle ages to audiences across Kansas with K-State Libraries' Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible.

Commissioned by Saint John's Abbey and University (SJU) in Minnesota, The Saint John's Bible is the first handwritten, hand-illuminated Bible produced in over 500 years. The monumental project began in 1998 when SJU chose Donald Jackson, official scribe to the Queen of England, to lead an international team of artists and calligraphers in what Smithsonian Magazine called "one of the extraordinary undertakings of our time."

In consultation with SJU's biblical scholars, Jackson's team employed historic calligraphic techniques to create 1,150 pages of handwritten text and 160 illustrations on calfskin vellum. The team completed the work in 2011.

To engage an even broader audience, SJU commissioned a limited-edition, museum quality reproduction of the original vellum pages published as a seven-volume set called the Heritage Edition. In 2012, K-State Libraries received a gift of this edition from K-State alumni Warren and Mary Lynn Staley of Edina, Minnesota.

"The Staleys wanted to see the volumes shared with K-State and beyond," said David Allen, a curator

at K-State Libraries. "With that in mind, we started a docent program."

David Carter, a docent and pollution prevention specialist for K-State Research & Extension, said the program provides value engagement and outreach beyond the university.

"The program is rewarding because it shows people the scale and artistic grandeur of The Saint John's Bible," Carter said. "Presentation attendees are blown away by what they see."

Though its creative tradition is from many centuries ago, The Saint John's Bible imagery frequently draws on modern themes with illustrations of the DNA molecule and the Twin Towers, as well as renderings of satellite photographs, including the first view of earth as seen from space.

"I am grateful to the Staleys for their donation to K-State," Carter said.

"Without their gift and their vision, I might not have even known about The Saint John's Bible."

"THE PROGRAM IS REWARDING BECAUSE IT SHOWS PEOPLE THE SCALE AND ARTISTIC GRANDEUR OF THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE. PRESENTATION ATTENDEES ARE BLOWN AWAY BY WHAT THEY SEE."

— DAVID CARTER, DOCENT, (PICTURED BELOW)



To date nearly 5,000 people have attended docent presentations or viewed Heritage Edition volumes at Hale Library. To see the Bible, visit the Morse Department of Special Collections, open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To schedule a docent presentation in your community, contact David Allen at 785-532-7428.

Left: *Creation*, Donald Jackson with contribution by Chris Tomlin, Copyright 2003, The Saint John's Bible, Order of Saint Benedict, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA. www.saintjohnsbible.org

Places Traveled



A spot well



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY | Libraries

What is the one thing at Kansas State University that all students have in common? Using the K-State Libraries! K-State Libraries began when the property of Bluemont Central College, including a library of 2,700 volumes, became Kansas State Agricultural College in 1863. Today, the collection has grown to more than three million print and digital items.

BY: MARISA LARSON

"I am grateful for the abundant technology and general support they offer," said Katherine Knox, graduate student in accounting. "The library provides students with research tools, technology and technology assistance, and a safe place for studying and collaboration. It really helps us succeed in our education by providing useful tools that impact every single student in one way or another."

K-State Libraries wouldn't be able to help students to the level that it does without philanthropic support. Ninety percent of the Libraries' budget goes to personnel and acquisitions of print and electronic resources. Due to declining state support, the budget is getting squeezed tighter each year. This year the Libraries made the difficult decisions to close earlier at night and to cancel some journal subscriptions to save on costs — decisions that impact students' ability to succeed. But private gifts make the difference in the Libraries' ability to serve students well.

"We've used private dollars to upgrade wireless access, replace 20-year-old computer furniture and purchase collections that are beyond our budgetary resources," said Lori Goetsch, dean of K-State Libraries. "These are all important projects to support student learning and success and meet the teaching and research mission of the university."

The next big project on Goetsch's list is to renovate the first floor of Hale Library to create a state-of-the-art learning environment adjacent to library resources and expertise. The renovation will provide technology-enabled group study and presentation rooms for students and expanded teaching space to accommodate the increasing number of classes that come to the library for instruction

"KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY HAS ALWAYS HELD A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS AND LITERACY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PASSION OF OUR FAMILY. SO WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK PRESENTED ITSELF, HALE LIBRARY SEEMED LIKE AN OBVIOUS CHOICE. WE WANTED OUR GIFT TO ALLOW STUDENTS AND ATHLETES THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER IN A WARM, SAFE AND INVITING SPACE ON CAMPUS."

— KEVIN LOCKETT, K-STATE ALUMNUS, whose gift from his family's Lock-ett Up Foundation helped create classroom space on Hale Library's fourth floor. The room is used by athletes from the Academic Learning Center and for classes taught by K-State Libraries faculty.

on research skills and using library resources. Partner space will give student services such as tutoring, advising and the writing center, a place to meet students where they spend much of their time.

"We provide an essential virtual and physical place for discovery where students can learn, develop critical thinking skills, collaborate together or study in solitude," Goetsch said. "To be a top 50 public research university, we need to be a top 50 library. With your support, we can make that happen."

Ways to Make Your Gift



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www.Found.KSU.edu/Libraries/Give-Online.html



◆ **Contact Nicole Askew,** director of development at 785-532-7530 or nicolea@found.ksu.edu.



EMPOWERMENT Through Activism

Libraries' Morse Scholarship allows student to reach out and encourage Ghanaian women to get involved.

BY: TIFFANY RONEY

Last summer, Madison May, senior in political science and international studies, worked with Ghana's National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) to empower young girls and women of all ages.

May's internship was made possible through the Marjorie J. and Richard L.D. Morse Family and Community Public Policy Scholarship administered by K-State Libraries.

The scholarship was established to honor the Morses, who were educators, activists and devoted supporters of K-State Libraries. Since 2001, \$60,000 has been awarded to 20 students who conducted summer projects focusing on public policy development and community service.

In Ghana, May visited churches, schools and outdoor gatherings to speak about the importance of voting and of avoiding teenage pregnancy; conducted a research project through the Kansas State University honors program; developed curriculum for and assisted at an elementary school; and co-founded the first soccer team for girls in central Ghana.

May's research project examined the connection between religious beliefs and political participation in Ghana, which became a democratic republic in 1960. She interviewed Ghanaians with a wide variety of backgrounds, including Christians, Muslims and followers of indigenous



**MADISON MAY,
SENIOR**

beliefs, to assess connections between religion and democracy.

The country is considered a model for successful and stable democratic transition because some other African countries' shifts to democracy have ended with corrupt elections and violence, according to May.

"If progress can be made toward uncovering the source of Ghana's transitional success, then that knowledge can be applied to other countries," May said. "I hope to continue to build this research project to uncover patterns between civic participation in government, gubernatorial stability and religion."

Outside the classroom, May's goals were to communicate to Ghana's

of women's empowerment through athletics.

"My hope is that this team has empowered the girls to be more confident and continue to strive

Ghana, a nation on the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa, is considered a model for its successful transition to a democratic republic.

The scholarship allowed May to continue on the path of her dreams: to promote women's leadership in politics and government.

"I am grateful to the NCCE for the opportunity to learn about the politics of Ghana, the problems they face and the history of their state,"

May said. "This experience renewed my interest in finding the most sustainable solutions to international issues."



"I HOPE TO CONTINUE TO BUILD THIS RESEARCH PROJECT TO UNCOVER PATTERNS BETWEEN CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, GUBERNATORIAL STABILITY AND RELIGION."

— MADISON MAY

During her time in Ghana, May conducted a research project to assess the connection between religious beliefs and political participation.

citizens, especially women, the value of becoming involved in democracy and running for office.

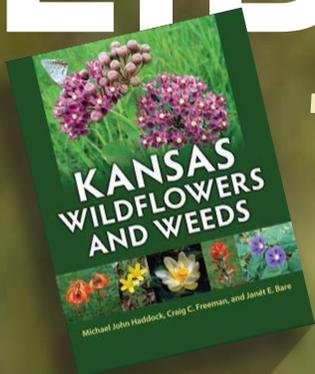
Starting the girls' soccer team was a rewarding experience for May, who hopes her action might ignite a trend

for traditionally male-dominated positions," May said. "I desire to see opportunities for women extend beyond sports and into civic and business leadership."





PRAIRIE LIBRARIAN



'Kansas Wildflowers and Weeds' selected as a 2016 Notable Book

BY: SARAH HOYT

"Kansas Wildflowers and Weeds" includes 1,163 species and 742 color photographs. Haddock was the lead author on the project.

Mike Haddock, associate dean for research, education and engagement for K-State Libraries, has two offices: One is on the fifth floor of Hale Library. The other is on the prairie.

Haddock combs the state to identify and photograph the state’s native wildflowers and grasses.

It started in 1996 when, as the university’s agricultural librarian, Haddock created a website devoted to native plant identification called Kansas Wildflowers and Grasses (www.kswildflower.org).

Twenty years later, The Kansas Center for the Book selected his most recent publication, “Kansas Wildflowers and Weeds,” as a 2016 Kansas Notable Book. It’s one of 15 titles written by Kansans or about Kansas related topics to receive the honor.

Haddock was the lead author on the project, which was published by the University Press of Kansas. His co-authors, Craig C. Freeman and Janét E. Bare, gathered 35 years of new information discovered since the publication of Bare’s 1979 volume, “Wildflowers and Weeds of Kansas.” The expanded work covers 1,163 species and 742 color photographs, most of which were taken by Haddock.

“All of us at K-State Libraries are thrilled that Mike’s book has received such wonderful recognition,” said Dean Lori Goetsch. “Some people might be surprised that a librarian authored an

“MIKE’S WORK EXEMPLIFIES THE VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE LIBRARIANS DRAW ON TO SUPPORT RESEARCHERS IN ALL FIELDS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY.”

— DEAN LORI GOETSCH

award-winning book in botany, but many of our librarians have their own subject expertise. Mike’s work exemplifies the valuable knowledge librarians draw on to support researchers in all fields across the university.”

Haddock’s familiarity with native plants started with his father, who taught him about their uses in Native American culture and medicine.

He pursued a different path at K-State, receiving a degree in German literature in 1977. After

studying in Giessen, Germany, Haddock returned to campus and took a dozen agriculture classes. He worked on the family farm outside of Minneapolis, Kansas, and eventually completed a master’s in library science from Emporia State University in 1988.

Haddock won a Kansas Notable Book Award in 2006 for his first book, “Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas: A Field Guide.” The State Library of Kansas also named it one of the “150 Best Kansas Books” in 2011 as part of the state’s sesquicentennial celebration.

He is co-authoring a third book, “Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines of Kansas,” due out in 2019.

■ A FEW OF MIKE’S FAVORITES



LEAVENWORTH ERYNGO

Though it appears exotic, this wildflower is a member of the parsley family.



SPOTTED TOUCH-ME-NOT

Also called: Jewelweed
When touched, the fruit capsules spring apart and propel the seeds outward. The plant’s juice alleviates the itch of poison ivy.



COMPASS PLANT

The name alludes to the tendency for the leaves at plant’s base to align their edges north and south.



MAY-POP

Also called: Passion-flower
Native Americans cultivated the edible fruits. In the late 1800s, an extract of the plant was used to treat insomnia and epilepsy.



PINCUSHION CACTUS

This cactus can be found in dry, sandy or rocky prairies from Texas to Canada.

A FORGOTTEN WWI CASUALTY

In 2017, communities throughout the United States will commemorate the centennial of U.S. involvement in World War I. At K-State, we have traditionally said that 48 Wildcats died in the Great War. One way they have been remembered is with the “Lest We Forget” memorial that resides in Gen. Richard B. Myers Hall [1. “Lest We Forget”]. However, a handful of individuals were not included in that list. One member of that overlooked group was the first World War I casualty with a connection to K-State: Private Otto Maurer. He was a German

infantryman who died in Belgium in November 1914 [2. German infantry.]



Maurer, a native of southern Germany, arrived in Manhattan in June 1910 as a research assistant in bacteriology

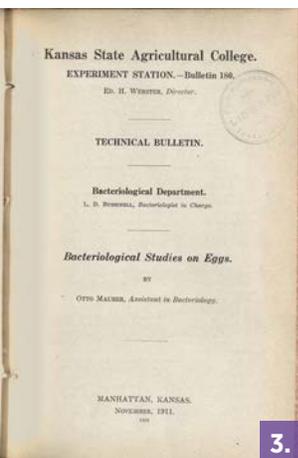
for the Agricultural Experiment Station. He had graduated in 1907 from Königliche Oberrealschule (Royal Secondary School) in Heilbronn before enrolling at the University of Wisconsin for two years. After working as an assistant bacteriologist for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for about a year, he came to K-State and had a campus office in Leasure Hall and resided at 501 Laramie Street.

His research focused on increasing efficiencies in the production and distribution of eggs. He presented some of his studies to the campus Science Club in October



2. German infantry on the battlefield, August 7, 1914. *Underwood & Underwood. (US War Dept.)*

1911, and a portion of his paper was published the following month in an experiment station bulletin titled “Bacteriological Studies on Eggs” [3. Bulletin cover]. His citations included English, French, German, and Italian sources, showing the breadth of his research as well as his language skills.



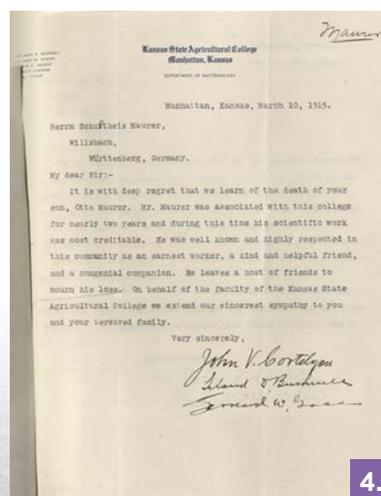
During his time associated with K-State, Maurer was an inaugural member of the Cosmopolitan Club that formed in March 1912.

A campus newspaper, “The Kansas Industrialist,” stated the group’s purpose was to provide “social life for the foreign students, and the eradication of national prejudice.” Twenty students and staff from countries that included China, Germany, Japan, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, Scotland, and Sweden began the group.

Maurer resigned in September 1912 and sometime afterward returned to

Germany for graduate study, which he was pursuing when World War I broke out in Europe in July 1914. He became part of the German army in its campaign to establish the line for the Western Front. The Battle of Messines occurred between British and German forces during the last half of October and early November 1914. In the final days of this battle, Otto Maurer was killed in action.

When word of his death arrived at K-State, it became a discussion topic at the January 1915 faculty meeting. Botany professor Herbert Roberts suggested a letter of condolence should be written to Maurer’s family. The letter writers were German professor John V. Cortelyou, bacteriology professor Leland D. Bushnell, and pathology professor Leonard W. Goss, who wrote the following in English and German to Otto’s father, Schultheiss Maurer: *It is with*

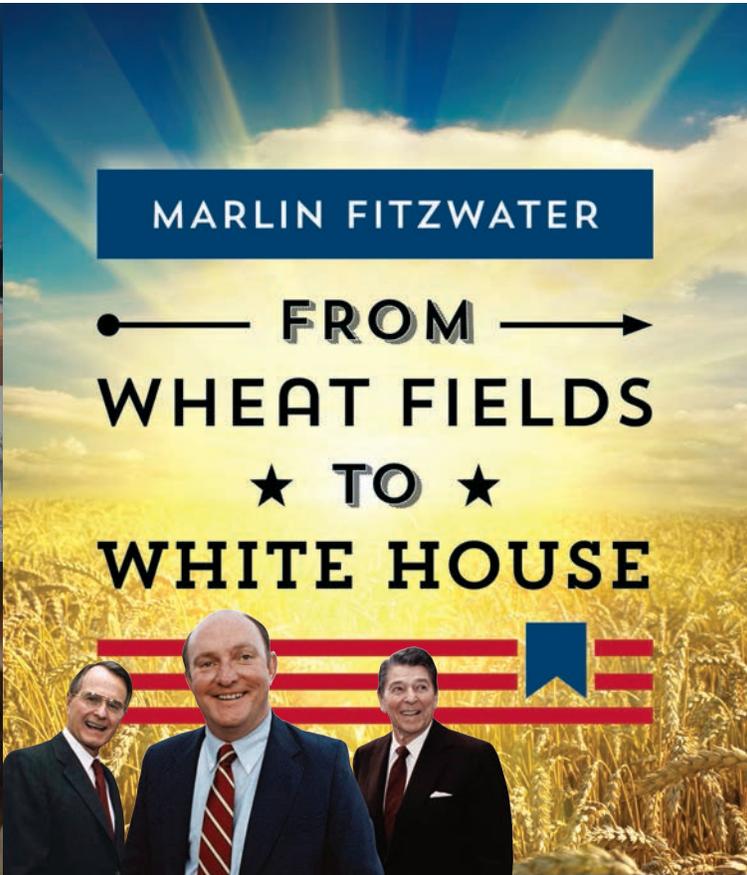


deep regret that we learn of the death of your son, Otto Maurer. Mr. Maurer was associated with this college for nearly two years and during this time his scientific work was most creditable. He was well known and highly respected in this community as an earnest worker, a kind and helpful friend, and a congenial companion. He leaves a host of friends to mourn his loss. On behalf of the faculty of the Kansas State Agricultural College we extend our sincerest sympathy to you and your bereaved family [4. letter].

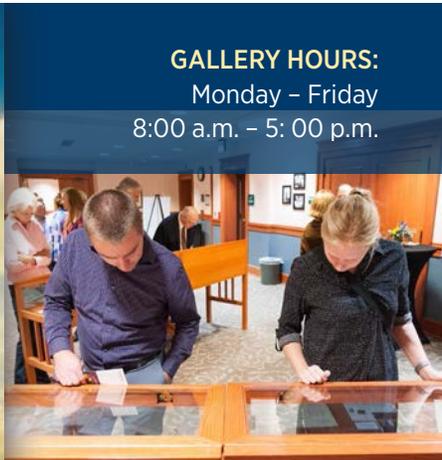
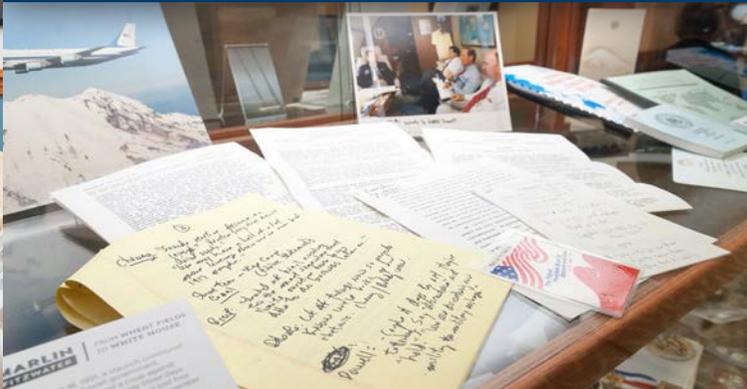
Otto Maurer was one of over 11 million military personnel who died in World War I, each with their own story. Unlike the 48 K-Staters who have been recognized for their sacrifice in the Great War, Maurer’s account had been buried and left untold. Stories like his are waiting to be discovered at the Morse Department of Special Collections.



Anthony R. Crawford, the previous university archivist, created K-State Keepsakes, a series of stories about K-State's history that appeared on K-State Libraries' blog from 2006 to 2013. Now, we continue the tradition in this new format. Most images and information come from collections in the Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections.



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