Kansas Sesquicentennial 2011

Photo source : Wikipedia

HARVEY H. NININGER

Meteoritics

Harvey H. Nininger 1887-1986

- Earned degree in science from McPherson College and taught there.
- In November 1923, he saw a fireball shooting across the sky and wondered if it might be a meteorite. This started his life-long study of them.
- Before him no one was studying meterorites. And scientists thought they were rare. He proved them wrong by finding over 2,000 worldwide over the course of 35 years.
- Known by many as the father of American meteoritics.

EXTRA COOL: Much of his meteorite collection is on display at the Arizona State University Center for Meteorite Studies.

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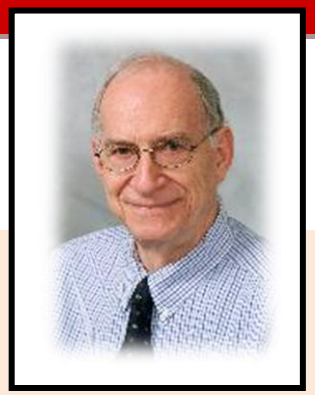
Kansas Sesquicentennial 2011



Courtesy of Kansas State University

PAUL SEIB

GRAIN SCIENCE and INDUSTRY

Kansas State University

Paul Seib current

- Researches carbohydrates, especially starches. A starch is a kind of carbohydrate that the body quickly converts into sugar. Too much sugar is not good for you.
- It is best if starches are slowly digested.
- Seib and other scientists at KSU have found a way to isolate starch from grains and make changes in it. Then they put it back into foods as an ingredient to add dietary fiber.
- Adding this fiber lowers the calories, makes for slower digestion of the food which helps prevents diabetes. It also allows for healthy fermentation of food in the large intestine which may help prevent colon cancer.

EXTRA COOL: Many of the instant breakfast cereals or bars, pasta or breads you eat may have been made healthier through these technologies devised by Seib and other researchers at KSU.

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Credit: Elissa Monroe KU Medical Center

Barbara TIMMERMANN

Medicinal Chemistry
University of Kansas

2011 SCIENCE in KANSAS *150 years and counting*

Barbara TIMMERMANN current

- Is co-director of the KU Native Medicinal Plant Research Program at KU's School of Pharmacy.
- Many of our drugs today (like aspirin) originally came from plants. She studies the use of plants like ginger or turmeric to treat rheumatoid arthritis.
- Heading up a project to find out the medicinal value of more than 150 types of prairie plants.
- Is researching the plants' chemical make-up to find ingredients or compounds that reduce things such as swelling, tenderness, fever or pain; also, to find plants that have antioxidant (cancer preventative) qualities.

EXTRA COOL: The School of Pharmacy has a new medicinal plant garden containing about 70 species of plants. It originally had one in the 1920s.

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Photo courtesy of WSU College of Engineering

Zulma TORO-RAMOS

Engineering
Wichita State University

2011 SCIENCE in KANSAS *150 years and counting*

Zulma TORO-RAMOS current

- Was always good at math and science. Liked to work with her hands and fix things as a child.
- Earned degrees in industrial engineering. She enjoys industrial engineering because it looks explicitly to humans' strengths and weaknesses; and then using science and math principles, develops solutions and technologies which allow the manufacture of a product or make providing a service simple.
- In 2005 she became the first woman, as well as the first Hispanic, to be named dean of the College of Engineering at Wichita State University.

EXTRA COOL: "Engineering is not just for a small, select group of students; it is for all students who believe they can make a difference and are creative and innovative," she says.

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