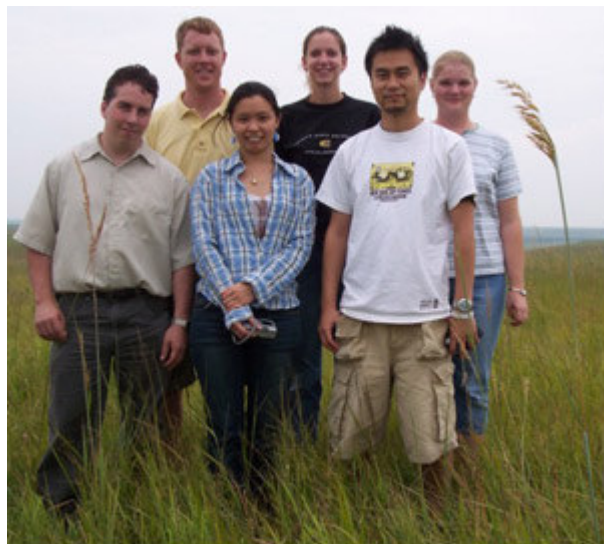




CBED Newsletter, Fall 2005, Vol. 2, No. 2

*Sharing news from the Center for Business and Economic Development (CBED) at the School of Business,
Emporia State University*

MBA students visit Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve



(front row, from left, Allen Walker, Keerana Dulyapraphan, Go Miyazaki;
back row, from left, Jason Tajchman, Jana Clark, Kate Golubski)

On September 7, a group of ESU MBA students enrolled in Dr. Smith's Entrepreneurship through Agritourism (BU 858) class embarked on a trip to the Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve located in Chase County, Kansas. The Preserve is the only entity within the National Park System dedicated to the tallgrass prairie ecosystem. It is also a unique partnership between the private and public sectors. The preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy, "a private nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive," and operated by the National Park System, the only national park owned by a private entity.



In the photo, below, Ranger Peterson is talking with Keerana and Go about some of the unique plant life on the prairie (tour bus in the background):



The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve gives visitors a variety of ways to explore the Preserve while also touring a house built in 1881 of limestone by Stephen F. Jones, an opportunistic cattleman. The students were able to take the combination tour. A two-hour tour guided by a park ranger that included a one-hour tour of the ranch house, barn, and outbuildings, and a one-hour tour into the prairie. The students are working this semester on projects to promote the **FLINT HILLS OF KANSAS** as a tourism destination and to assist local agritourism producers with providing high quality goods and memorable experiences to their guests.

Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship Progress Introduced to Emporia



The Kansas Economic Growth Act of 2004 created the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship (Center) to promote an entrepreneurial culture throughout the state by



connecting entrepreneurs and small businesses to the expertise, education, and economic resources they need when they need them.

On Wednesday, August 31, 2005, Steve Radley, Director of the Center, presented the latest developments for the Center. The heart of the operation is the development of what they are calling NetWork Kansas , a statewide web-based service that will provide:

- A seamless integrated network of small business service providers in Kansas
- Access to the network through one central portal via a call center and website
- Database tools for client tracking and statistical measurement to facilitate evaluation



Erik Pedersen, Manager of NetWork Kansas (above), then discussed the development and progress of the system to date. One of the reasons for this meetings was to start getting local service provider information fed into the system, preparing for a soft launch in late Fall 2005. The ESU Small Business Development Center is the primary local point of contact at this point, and they were the primary sponsor of this Town Hall meeting presentation.



Kent Herrman, Emporia area economic development director (left in the photo above) was among those attending. The gentlemen in the foreground are with Butler Community



EMPORIA STATE
UNIVERSITY



College . Bill Smith, Director of the ESU Center for Business and Economic Development (he took the photos) and ESU President Kay Schallenkamp also attended the meeting.

Community members attend class presentations

Several agri-tourism providers from the community gathered in the Cross Conference Room to see and hear presentations by students in the MBA “Entrepreneurship through Agri-Tourism” class taught by Dr. William Smith.



They were watching presentations by students who had visited their businesses.



Here, students Jana Farwell and Adrienne Collins discuss the vineyard they visited.



Jana Clark and Theresa Frazier, class members, discuss the ranches they visited that include Bed and Breakfast operations, retail stores, horseback rides, etc.