

Source: Deborah Wallis Wurdinger, 202-208-4984, Deborah_Wurdinger@NBC.gov

Wednesday, July 2, 2008

K-STATE'S KONZA PRAIRIE FEATURED IN PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR MUSEUM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

MANHATTAN — Kansas State University's Konza Prairie Biological Station is the subject of an upcoming photography exhibition in Washington, D.C.

"A Sea of Tallgrass: The Konza Prairie" opens July 18 and runs through Sept. 12 at the U.S. Department of Interior Museum, which is in the department's main building in the nation's capitol.

The exhibition explores the Konza through 28 photographs taken by Judd Patterson, who earned a master's in geography from K-State in May. Patterson, a 2001 graduate of Salina Central High School, also earned a bachelor's in natural resources and environmental sciences from K-State in 2005.

The exhibition's curator is Deborah Wallis Wurdinger, who earned a bachelor's in anthropology from K-State in 1993. Wurdinger is a museum technician at the Interior Museum.

K-State's Konza Prairie Biological Station is a native tallgrass prairie preserve that spans about 8,600 acres. It is owned by The Nature Conservancy and K-State, and is operated as a field research station by the K-State Division of Biology. The station is dedicated to a three-fold mission of long-term ecological research, education and prairie conservation. The Konza's virgin ecosystem provides K-State and Department of Interior scientists, as well as other scientists and students from around the world, with opportunities to study how plants, animals, soil, water and climate interact.

The Interior Museum interprets the history of the Department of the Interior and promotes the current work of its bureaus. The museum is on the first floor of the department's main building at 1849 C Street NW between 18th and 19th streets. The museum is open to the public weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 1-4 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month — except on federal holidays. Admission is free but all adults must have photo I.D. to enter the building. More information is available by calling 202-208-4743 or on the Web at: <http://www.doi.gov/interiormuseum>

#