



STERLING COLLEGE welcomes new faculty including Dr. Jack Bolton, Ashley Laudermilk, Tami Schepmann, Jack Shields, Dr. Brett Ehrman, Vianay Ortega. Not pictured: Stephen English and Dr. Sarah Waters.

SC welcomes new faculty for 2025-26

Sterling College welcomed nine new faculty members to campus for the 2025-26 academic year. Classes began on Wednesday, August 20.

“We are excited to welcome this energetic and passionate group of educators to our faculty. We are confident they will have great positive impact on campus and in the community and will share their hearts of service for the Lord,” said Dr. Erin Laudermilk, associate vice president for academic affairs and chief academic officer.

Dr. Jack Bolton joins Sterling College as assistant professor of biology. Bolton began his role in January 2025 after earning both his integrated master’s and Ph.D. in bioscience from Durham University in the United Kingdom. His research focused on pathogenic Gram-negative bacteria and the expression of the N2O reductase enzyme in Neisseria gonorrhoeae, with additional experience in drug development, antibiotic resistance, microscopy methods, and seabird ecology. A native of Bedfordshire, he moved to Kansas with his wife, Jenny, in 2024. He enjoys hiking, collecting invertebrates and board games.

Dr. Brett Ehrman comes to Sterling as assistant professor of mathematics. Ehrman holds a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Kansas and a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the University of Lynchburg. His research centers on the stability of nonlinear waves arising from partial differential equations. With a life-

long passion for both learning and teaching, Ehrman enjoys tennis, video games and spending time with his three nephews and niece.

Stephen English returns to Sterling College as associate professor of theatre and technical director, having previously served in the same role from 2019 to 2023. He holds a bachelor’s degree in religious studies from Prairie College in Ontario and both an M.A. and M.F.A. from the University of Oklahoma. English brings extensive experience in technical theatre and enjoys music, cooking, reading and travel.

Ashley Laudermilk joins the faculty as assistant professor of business. Laudermilk holds a Bachelor of Science in animal sciences and industry from Kansas State University and an M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing from Emporia State University. She is committed to creating a values-based, faith-forward classroom where students connect learning with real-world application. She and her husband, Kevin, live in Sterling with their three children—Liam, Zoe and Wren.

Vianay Ortega joins Sterling College as assistant clinical faculty of athletic training. Ortega grew up on a cattle ranch near Jerome, Idaho, and completed her undergraduate studies at Tabor College, where she also played softball. She recently earned her master’s in athletic training from Sterling College in May 2025. She enjoys paddle boarding, working on the ranch, and

watching baseball and softball games.

Tami Schepmann has been appointed director of teacher education. She brings 20 years of experience in K-12 public education, including classroom teaching, administration, and instructional coaching. Schepmann holds master’s degrees in curriculum and instruction, educational administration and youth development from Emporia State University and Kansas State University. She and her husband, Trent, have two children, Teagan and Tacy. The family enjoys traveling together and exploring God’s creation.

Jack Shields joins the faculty as assistant professor of language and literature. A graduate of the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill., Shields earned an M.F.A. in creative writing from Reinhardt University, where he also served as a graduate assistant basketball coach. He has served as assistant men’s basketball coach at Sterling College for the past three seasons before transitioning to the classroom. Shields enjoys fishing with his dog, Rizzo, and is an avid Chicago Cubs and Bears fan.

Dr. Sarah Waters has joined Sterling College as assistant professor of language and literature and director of the C.S. Lewis Center. Waters previously served as a lecturer in English literature at the University of Buckingham in England. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in English literature from the Uni-

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County board hears update from Public Works

By Manuel Gomez

The Rice County Commissioners Monday met at the County Courthouse for its weekly meeting and heard a quarterly update from Public Works Director Tom Robl.

Robl said the department is currently finished with asphalt patching for the year and is preparing to begin sealing which will be completed by Heft and Sons of Greensburg.

Robl said sand seals will be completed on 4th Road from U.S. 56 to Raymond; Avenue Q from 1st Road to 4th Road; and on Avenue R from Raymond to 8th Road. A chip seal will be done on Avenue T from Alden to K-14. Robl expects the work to be finished in seven to 10 days.

Applications for the cost-share program are due by Sept. 18. Robl said the county has jointly applied with the City of Lyons for the last three rounds which includes approximately two miles of local asphalt work.

He said the hangar project is nearing completion and a meeting has been scheduled to discuss operational procedures of the new hangar.

The fuel system is operating but some work remains due to a lack of funds. Robl said funds are still available

through the grant that will be used to install a cover and a catch basin. Robl said materials to complete the project will probably arrive mid-September.

Robl said the water well and well pit have been extended at the solid waste landfill. He is currently working on engineering proposals for the CD pit that he hopes to have ready for next week’s meeting.

In other business the commissioners:

- Heard a presentation from safety consultant Andy Brooks of Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties on how the county can reduce its worker’s compensation costs. Brooks said insurance costs are based on a tier system and Rice County is on tier four with a score of 52.8, well below tier one where scores are more than 80.

His suggestions for increasing the county score include: improved management and support from the clerks office; adoption of KWORCC recommended policies currently on the KWORC website; rapid premium payment; return of payroll estimates when requested; response to the payroll audit; controlling the number of high risk class codes or volunteers; loss control, reducing safety issues; having county employ-

ees attend KWORCC defensive driving sessions every three years; the creation of a safety committee that meets once a month; documented, monthly self-inspections of a county building; and timely incident investigation and reporting.

Brooks said Rice County currently pays a yearly premium of \$113,000 and advancing up the tier system would save the county approximately \$5,500 per tier. A two-tier improvement could save the county approximately \$11,000;

- Approved an invoice of \$30,728 from Kirkham Michael for engineering services on a replacement of the Cow Creek bridge on Hunter Boulevard with 90 percent reimbursable through the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program;

- Discussed with Rice County Clerk Raechel Manley office procedures and new-employee orientation. Manley said she has sent emails to department heads stating that county unemployment insurance rates will be raised due to the number of claims submitted and lack of county representation at unemployment claim hearings.

She suggested scheduling training sessions for department heads to

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Public Notices

First published in The Sterling Bulletin on the 7th day of August, 2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
RICE COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
STEVEN EUGENE STARR
Deceased.

Case No. RC-2025-PR-000032
NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL
PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed on August 4, 2025, in this court by Sue Ann Starr, an interested party in the Estate of Steven Eugene Starr, deceased praying for the determination of descent in the following described property, to-wit:

27/48 interest in the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Twenty-one (21), Township Twenty-one (21), Range Ten (10), Rice County, Kansas.
West Half of the Northwest Quarter (W1/2NW1/4) of Section Seventeen (17), Township Twenty-one (21) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6th P.M., Rice County, Kansas.
Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section Seventeen (17), Township Twenty-one (21) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6th P.M., Rice County, Kansas.
Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section Eight (8), Township Twenty-two (22) South, Range Ten (10) West of the 6th P.M. Reno County, Kansas, subject to restrictions, easements, and rights-of-way of record.

and all other property in Kansas, real and personal, or interests therein, owned by the decedent at the time of his death. You are hereby required to file your written defenses to such petition on or before the 26th day of August 2025 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on said day, in said court, in the city of Lyons, Rice County, Kansas, at

which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon such petition.

SUE ANN STARR,
Petitioner

RANDALL C. HENRY
Attorney at Law
113 South Broadway
P.O. Box 25
Sterling, KS 67579
(620) 278-2880

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BAUER, PIKE, BAUER, WARY,
CARROLL, & GUNN, LLC
1310 Kansas Ave - PO Box 1349
Great Bend, KS 67530
(620) 7937279
bp@bauerpikelaw.com

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
RICE COUNTY, KANSAS

RJM COMPANY)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
ANDREAS BODET)
Defendants.)

Case No. RC-2025-CV-000029

NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO THE
ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT
AND ALL OTHER PERSONS
WHO ARE OR MAY BE CON-
CERNED:

You are hereby notified that a Petition for Foreclosure of Mechanic’s Lien has been filed in the District Court of Rice County, Kansas, praying for judgment in the amount of \$60.27, for judgment foreclosing its mechanic’s lien (RC-2025-SL-000004), and for sale of the Defendant’s interest in the following described lease at foreclosure in the event that the judgment is not paid off pursuant to statute:

Oil and Gas Lease dated March 27, 2003, from Connie Skiles, a widow, Lessor to Millar B. White, Jr., Lessee, recorded in Book 135, Page 913, Register of Deeds Office, Rice County, Kansas encompassing the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Twenty-eight (28), Township Eighteen (18) South, Rane Nine (9) West, Rice County, Kansas.

and you are hereby required to plead to said Petition on or before the 25th day of September, 2025 in said Court at Lyons, Rice County, Kansas. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

RJM Company
Plaintiff

(Published in the Sterling Kansas Bulletin, Sterling, Rice County, Kansas, on August 14, 2025; August 21, 2025 and August 28, 2025).

First Published in The Bulletin on the 14th day of August 2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
RICE COUNTY, KANSAS

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
ESTATE OF)
BEVERLY K. SLOAN)
Deceased.)

Case No. RC-2025-PR-000033

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that on the 7th day of August 2025, a petition was filed in said court by Leonard Thurman, as an heir of Beverly K. Sloan, deceased, praying for the appointment of Leonard Thurman as Administrator of the estate of Beverly K. Sloan and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 10th day of September, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. of said day,

in said court, in the city of Lyons, Rice County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the said estate within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice as provided by law and if their demands are not thus exhibited they shall be forever barred.

Leonard Thurman
Petitioner

RANDALL C. HENRY
Attorney at Law
113 S. Broadway
P.O. Box 25
Sterling, KS 67579-0025
(620) 278-2880
Attorney for Petitioner

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
RICE COUNTY, KANSAS

**Peoples Bank and Trust
Company,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**Wesley B. Tanksley, Board
of County Commissioners of
Rice County, Kansas,** and the
unknown tenants, heirs, execu-
tors, administrators, devisees,
trustees, creditors, and assigns
of such of the Defendants as may
be deceased, and the unknown
spouses of the Defendants; the
unknown officers, successors,
trustees, creditors, and assigns
of such Defendants as are exist-
ing, dissolved or dormant corpora-
tions; the unknown executors, ad-
ministrators, devisees, trustees,
creditors, successors, and as-
signs of such Defendants as are
or were partners or in partnership;
the unknown guardians, conser-
vators, and trustees of such of the

Defendants as are minors or are
under any legal disability; and the
unknown heirs, executors, admin-
istrators, devisees, trustees, cred-
itors, and assigns of any person
alleged to be deceased.,

Defendants.

Pursuant to K.S.A. Ch. 60
Case No. RC-2025-CV-000032

Notice of Suit (Title to Real Estate Involved)

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in the above-named court, praying for judgment against Defendant Wesley Tanksley for \$41,453.71, plus interest and costs as specified in the petition; that plaintiff’s mortgage be declared a first and prior lien on the following described property:

Lots Four (4) and Five (5) in Block Six (6) Fairview Addition to the City of Bushton, Rice County, Kansas;

that its mortgage be foreclosed; that the Court order and direct the sale of the subject property according to law, subject to a legal redemption period determined by the Court; for the satisfaction of said money judgment, and forever barring the defendants, and each of them, from any lien, claim, interest or title in or to the subject property for its costs herein incurred; and for such other relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

You are required to file with said Court your written answer to the petition or otherwise defend on or before October 3, 2025. The address of said Court is Rice County. If you fail to do so, the petition will be taken as true and judgment rendered accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,
WISE & REBER, L.C.

By: /s/ David N. Harger
David N. Harger #16807
dharger@bwisecounsel.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

(Published in the Sterling Kan-

sas Bulletin, Sterling, Rice County, Kansas, on August 21, 2025; August 28, 2025 and September 4, 2025).

10.75

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
RICE COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
DAVID A. REYNOLDS,
Deceased.

Case No. 24 PR 49

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL
PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed on the 12th day of August, 2025, in this Court by Marilyn Reynolds, administratrix of the estate of David A. Reynolds, deceased, praying for a final settlement of the estate; approval of the acts and proceedings of the administratrix; and allowance for attorney fees and expenses. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 15th day of September, 2025, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., on such day, in such Court, in the City of Lyons, in Rice County, at which time and place such cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Marilyn Reynolds
Petitioner

Bush, Bush & Shanelec
229 South Broadway
P.O. Box 6
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gmb@bbslawyers.net
Attorney for Petitioner

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