

COLLEGE OF  
**ENGINEERING**

SPRING 2014

# IMPACT



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**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

# from the Dean



Often, it seemed to go very quickly... and some days, to be honest, I began to wonder if it would ever end. But perceptions aside, a year has gone by since I stepped into the role of interim dean of the Kansas State University College of Engineering, and it has been one of the most enriching of my entire career.

During this time, as you'll see in these pages of Impact, traditions have continued—Open House, Seaton Society and Alumni Fellow; change still happens—a new dean has been hired and construction on the new addition has begun; and proud accomplishments keep adding up—prestigious awards for our faculty, higher rankings for our programs, and continued generosity from our alumni and friends.

All of which lead me to share a couple

of “parting” thoughts as I prepare to leave this position and return to my role as senior associate dean. The College of Engineering at Kansas State is a unique and remarkable institution—we have wonderful present and former students, dedicated and hard-working faculty, and loyal supporters and friends. I am truly grateful and honored to be a part of this establishment and its successes, challenges and goals.

This leads to point two—a gauntlet of sorts, if you will—please consider contributing to the completion of our dynamic Phase IV expansion.

Gifts of scholarships dollars are always important—vital to our recruitment and retention efforts. And extra monetary support for faculty enables us to keep and reward our top-notch educators. Again, invaluable.

But a sizeable building project, such as the one currently underway, is often a once-in-a-lifetime event for alumni and friends of an institution. And I think that you will be pleased, excited and proud of the end result. I encourage you to give serious thought to your participation.

Certainly not all will give at the level of the Ices and the Levins—some might give more, some less. But among the many who will step forward with gifts of their choosing, remarkably, one result will be the same—all will have played a role in bringing about a campus landmark, which for generations to come, will stand as a symbol of the commitment that alumni and friends of the college have made to engineering education, the future of the profession and Kansas State University. A pretty good investment, is it not?

Gary A. Clark  
Interim Dean of the College of Engineering



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### On the cover

Rendering of part of the College of Engineering Phase IV expansion, the new southwest entrance across from Ahearn Field House.



Above: Construction began in April on the 108,000-square-foot expansion to the engineering complex planned for completion in fall 2015.

### IMPACT

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## Cerner vice president 2014 Alumni Fellow

Mark Schonhoff, CS '88, joined 11 other K-Staters on campus April 16–17 as a part of the honored class of 2014 Alumni Fellows sponsored by the K-State Alumni Association, the president's office and the Deans Council.

"It's truly a great honor to receive this recognition," Schonhoff said. "As my family and friends know, I am purple through and through. A week doesn't go by where I'm not sporting purple. To be honored in this way by the College of Engineering is just incredible."

Fellows are chosen based on their high levels of professional accomplishment and distinguished service in their respective careers. Schonhoff is vice president of revenue cycle intellectual property for Cerner Corporation, responsible for leading the firm's worldwide software development efforts related to revenue cycle solutions.

"When I graduated in 1988, I had opportunities to go to Dallas or Chicago, or the oil companies in Oklahoma, but I wanted to stay in the Midwest," he said, "so I chose Cerner in Kansas City."

He began his career as an application developer and quickly moved into an engineering leadership position as Cerner began offering a patient management solution. He became an engineering director when the company moved into the health information management area and has since worked in a number of engineering executive positions across a variety of Cerner organizations.

"When I started, it was a small company of about 200 associates involved in the health care field," Schonhoff said. "I liked that its core business was developing software versus being in a supporting business line."

"We now have more than 14,000 associates in offices all over the world. But most importantly, we're focused on helping change how health and care are managed. It's a really complex problem that brings new challenges every day. Cerner is a great company and I'm as passionate about it as I am Kansas State."

The 2014 Alumni Fellows addressed students and faculty in both classroom and informal settings to discuss current business and industry trends, and offer career advice.

"Work hard and always look for opportunities to grow personally and professionally is my best advice for today's students," Schonhoff said.

"Kansas State is well known for the caliber of students it graduates and the Midwestern work ethic they bring



**Mark Schonhoff**

with them. Opportunities will come in your career, and even though you might not think it's the right time, don't hesitate to stretch yourself and take on new challenges."

Making the decision to attend K-State came easily to Schonhoff. Growing up in central Kansas, he always knew he was going to be a Wildcat. "I also knew I wanted to pursue a degree in computer science. So things came together pretty naturally for me," he said.

Schonhoff likes to emphasize as well the importance of giving back to the community.

"There are lots of different avenues you can take, but find what works for you and be committed to it," he said. "I've proudly served on the CIS department advisory board for a number of years, and more recently on the Engineering Advisory Council, to help guide and promote the university and College of Engineering in any way I can."

Schonhoff and his wife, Sarah, live in Kansas City, Mo. He has two sons.

***"Work hard and always look for opportunities to grow..."***

## Students tour BNSF and American Airlines operations

An opportunity for personal interaction with engineering leaders, with a first-hand look at businesses from a global perspective, were highlights for engineering student leaders in a one-day trip to Dallas-Ft. Worth last November.

Following a competitive application process, eight students were chosen for a next-generation leadership experience designed to broaden horizons outside the classroom: Joseph Burgett, Cale Armstrong, and Dylan Hunter, CE; MaryLynn Griebel and Ryan Aeschliman, IE; Brendan Bishop and Kris Larson, ME; and Melissa Coats, CMPEN.

Accompanied by College of Engineering Interim Dean Gary Clark and senior director of development for the college, Lori Rogge, the group took an early flight from MHK to Dallas, returning later that evening.

First stop was Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway headquarters where the group toured the facilities, including the North American control center, and learned about BNSF operations from a variety of directors. Lunch in a vintage railway car (top right) with BNSF President and CEO Carl Ice, IE '79, was a highlight of the visit.

Next on the agenda was American Airlines headquarters where manager Gordon Rourk, IE '84, led the group through the inner workings of American Airlines operations. This included on-site experience onboard a Boeing 767 used for training flight attendants (bottom right), and ending the day with dinner in the flight attendant training center.



## Darren Dawson named new dean of the College of Engineering

Following a national search, Kansas State University has selected Darren Dawson, an electrical engineer from Clemson University, as dean of the College of Engineering. He will join the college July 1.



Dawson will bring experience in growing both Ph.D. and undergraduate enrollment—goals that play a part in the K-State 2025 visionary plan

and a statewide engineering initiative.

As chair of Clemson's electrical and computer engineering department, Dawson led Ph.D. enrollment increases from 42 students in 2007 to 100 students in 2013. Under his leadership, electrical and computer engineering undergraduate enrollment grew from 340 to 540 students in six years.

"Dr. Dawson has proven success in areas that will be critical for the College of Engineering as it meets the challenge set by the governor to increase the number of engineers in Kansas and our own goals as we rise to become a Top 50 public research university by 2025," said April Mason, Kansas State

University provost and senior vice president.

As a researcher, Dawson has worked with motion control, motor control, robotics and mechanical system control. As an educator, his interests include changing the traditional classroom experience through technology, such as Web-based teaching tools and smart classroom facilities.

"The momentum at Kansas State University is exciting, and I look forward to leading the College of Engineering in meeting the challenges set at the university and state levels," Dawson said.

## Brennecke and Everitt take center stage

College of Engineering students, faculty, staff and guests were privileged to hear two outstanding speakers for both the National Academy of Engineering Seminar Series and the Eyestone Distinguished Lecture Series.

### National Academy of Engineering Seminar Series



Joan Brennecke

Joan Brennecke, Keating-Crawford professor of chemical engineering at Notre Dame and 2012 National Academy of Engineering inductee, spoke at the College of Engineering National Academy of Engineering Seminar Series Dec. 5 in Fiedler Hall Auditorium.

Brennecke's address, "Using Ionic Liquids for Energy Applications," highlighted her internationally known research in the development of solvents, specifically supercritical fluids and ionic liquids.

The National Academy of Engineering Seminar Series, established in 2013, is sponsored and funded by the K-State College of Engineering Office of Research and Graduate Programs, in an effort to bring academy members to campus to speak, and meet with faculty and students.

To read further about Joan Brennecke and to view the video of her lecture, go to [www.engg.ksu.edu/ergp/lectures/nae/bios/brennecke.html](http://www.engg.ksu.edu/ergp/lectures/nae/bios/brennecke.html)

### Eyestone Distinguished Lecture Series

David C. Everitt, a retired division president at John Deere, presented "Leveraging Business, Technology and Social Support to Feed a Hungry World" March 11 in Fiedler Hall Auditorium as a part of the Eyestone Distinguished Lecture Series.

Everitt addressed a standing-room-only audience concerning the basic causes for a projected 2050 worldwide food shortage, followed by key ways to help mitigate that crisis.

The Eyestone Lecture Series, established in 2000, is funded by an endowment of the late Fred and Mona Eyestone. Fred Eyestone, a 1941 K-State graduate in electrical engineering, was a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council and a Distinguished Service Award recipient.

To read further about David Everitt and to view the video of his lecture, go to [www.engg.ksu.edu/ergp/lectures/eyestone/bios/everitt.html](http://www.engg.ksu.edu/ergp/lectures/eyestone/bios/everitt.html)



David and Ellie Everitt

## Dissanayake commended for Fulbright committee service

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) recently commended Sunanda Dissanayake, associate professor of civil engineering, for her service on the civil engineering peer review committee that completes merit reviews of Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program applicants.

One of three faculty members in the country reviewing civil engineering applications submitted for Fulbright scholar awards, and though specializing in transportation engineering herself, she reviews proposals for all sub-disciplines in civil engineering as well as those related to transportation.

"In this stage, called the discipline peer review," Dissanayake said, "we provide feedback on the technical side of the proposal. We must answer such questions as 'Is it feasible to conduct this research in a foreign country?' and 'What are the intellectual merits of this proposal?'"

The committees of reviewers encompass the diversity of U.S. Fulbright scholars, bringing together vast experi-

ence across a wide range of disciplines, specializations and home U.S. institutions. The group donates significant time to read and evaluate Fulbright applications from fellow academics and professionals.

"Proposals are submitted electronically, and we are given a three-week window to read and respond to each via an online system," Dissanayake said. "This year our time frame will be Aug. 21–Sept. 9. There are normally about 35 proposals per session of an average length of 25 pages."

Now in the third year of her appointment, Dissanayake, while acknowledging that time can become an issue, also admitted she is considering reappointment to a second three-year term, to which she has already been invited.

"It's very exciting to see the creativity of those in this field," she said.

As a Fulbright scholar, Dissanayake spent seven months in Sri Lanka in 2011 teaching and assisting with curriculum enhancement at the University



of Peradeniya. While there she also conducted research on reducing highway fatalities and injuries in Sri Lanka, similar to research she has conducted on U.S. roadways for a number of years.

One year after completing her year abroad, she was invited by the Fulbright Commission to apply to serve on the peer review committee. Upon submitting her curriculum vitae and credentials for review, she was appointed.

"Fulbright is a very prestigious program with excellent benefits and I would encourage more of our faculty in the college to apply," Dissanayake said. "I can't wait to apply again." CIES has now lifted all restrictions on the number of Fulbright awards a faculty member is eligible to receive and has even created "flex awards" for those who cannot be away for an extended period of time.

Dissanayake joined K-State in 2002 and was promoted to associate professor in 2008. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka, a master's from the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand and a doctorate from the University of South Florida. She has been promoted to full professor effective July 2014.

### College of Engineering Fulbright Scholars

BAE	CE	IMSE
Mark Schrock 2006	Mustaque Hossain 2003	Farhad Azadivar 1997
Naiqian Zhang 2010	Sunanda Dissanayake 2011	
Mahbub Alam 2012		

The Fulbright Program, the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The U.S. scholar program sends approximately 800 American scholars and professionals per year to nearly 125 countries, where they lecture and/or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.



# Room to grow

The Phase IV expansion will feature 108,000 gross square feet of state-of-the-art learning space. This innovative learning environment will utilize technology, flexible classrooms, design, and fabrication shared-use laboratories and space that will foster multidisciplinary collaboration among students and researchers in the college's eight departments and among thought leaders across the campus.

The University Engineering Ini-

tiative Act (UEIA), the legislative initiative spearheading the Phase IV expansion, addresses projected state workforce demand for engineers by supporting efforts to increase enrollment and graduates in Kansas' three engineering schools.

The K-State College of Engineering is committed to recruiting the best and brightest students from around the world to learn from highly regarded faculty in state-of-the-art facilities. Designation of a room or space within

Phase IV is an investment in both students and the faculty who instruct our next leaders toward the innovation of meeting the world's demands.

Giving options are available for every level of interest and investment. Please contact the engineering development team and visit the website at [www.engg.ksu.edu/phaseiv/](http://www.engg.ksu.edu/phaseiv/) to learn more about the Phase IV expansion project, see all the naming opportunities and view the live webcam of the construction.

"Carl and Mary Ice, and Alan and Jan Levin are to be commended for their significant and continued support of K-State engineering, and in particular, for providing the first of our major gifts. By taking the lead in this endeavor, they are providing strong encouragement to others to invest in our program."

—Gary Clark, interim dean of the College of Engineering.

Rendering of Alan and Jan Levin Student Design Team Suite



"The College of Engineering gave me a home and a goal in life. It definitely changed my life and made all the difference in the world. There are so many people out there who can succeed if they just have someone to give them a helping hand. And if they succeed, then that's just a benefit to us all."

—Alan Levin, ME '69

Founder, Port of Tucson, LLC; owner, Cushing Business Center, Century Park Research Center, Tucson Frozen Storage, and Levin & Sons Construction Company

Rendering of Carl and Mary Ice Reception Center



"In today's world, it is important to create an atmosphere that fosters and promotes working as a team. K-State engineering has long focused on leadership development and collaboration, and the new building will continue that emphasis for future generations."

—Carl Ice, IE '79

President and chief executive officer, Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Co.

The Ices and Levins are among the first contributors to provide funds to help construct Phase IV of the engineering complex. Their benevolence marks the beginning of multiple gifts to the KSU Foundation that will secure the \$25 million of private funding needed to raise the building.

Carl and Mary Ice will ensure K-State's welcoming atmosphere carries through to one of the newest building projects on campus with their commitment to fund the Carl and Mary Ice Reception Center, left. Located at the front of Rathbone Hall, it will be the first sight greeting visitors to Phase IV of the engineering complex when it opens in fall 2015.

Alan and Jan Levin have made a commitment for the hallmark feature, the Alan and Jan Levin Student Design Team Suite, above. In support of the Phase IV building addition, their gift of designated space for student competition teams will allow students to create engineering designs while developing practical skills in leadership and collaboration.





**Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen, Jr., M.S. IE '89**  
Superintendent, U.S. Military Academy at West Point

View his video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fmpuvnxip0&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fmpuvnxip0&feature=youtu.be)

**Alan Levin, ME '69**

Owner, Cushing Business Center, Century Park Research Center,  
Tucson Frozen Storage, LLC, Levin & Sons Construction Company

Founder, Port of Tucson, LLC

View his video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=u\\_TMAVplpH4&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_TMAVplpH4&feature=youtu.be)

## Hall of Fame

The College of Engineering Hall of Fame inducted two new members on March 29, the highest honor bestowed on its alumni by the college. Honorees were recognized for professional success and accomplishment, involvement with and support of the college, dedication to K-State, and professional and public service.

## Professional Progress Awards

Eleven alumni of the College of Engineering were honored for professional career accomplishment during the first 20 years following their graduation at ceremonies on March 29.

This year's recipients are—

**Chris Champagne, ME '93**  
Operations manager  
P1 Group, Inc.

**Paul Deitering, CE '94**  
Engineering manager  
Bartlett & West

**Nathaniel Fisher, ME '09**  
International Space Station  
control officer  
NASA Johnson Space Center

**Stuart Gillen, EE '97**  
Principal marketing manager  
National Instruments

**Bradley Jeanneret, CNSM '95**  
Vice president  
Pacific district manager  
Hensel Phelps

**Staci Kring, CHE '95**  
Executive vice president  
retail sales  
Schreiber Foods, Inc.



**Shane Lanning, ARE '95**  
President  
Engineering Elements

**Navin Nagiah, EE '95**  
President and CEO  
DNN

**Jeremy Ostrander, BAE '95**  
CEO, director of sales  
AgriVision Group, LLC

**Anita Ranhotra, IMSE '94**  
Product integrity process  
control manager  
Hallmark Cards

**Ryan Ross, CIS '94**  
Manager, application  
development  
Sprint



**BUILD YOUR creativity**

**2014 Engineering Open House**

**B**uild your Creativity—the 2014 theme of Engineering Open House, April 5–6. Friday marked traditional activities of the parade, skits, lighting of the torch, and crowning of St. Pat and St. Patricia. Departmental tours and displays were opened to the public that afternoon, followed by refreshments and games for students, faculty and alumni. Saturday kicked off with the BAE pancake feed, and visitors of all ages enjoyed the showcased exhibits of departments, design teams and student organizations. Several industries hosted booths in the engineering complex atrium.



**St. Pat and St. Patricia**

St. Patricia—Emma Brace, BSE  
St. Pat—Kyle Nuss, ARE

**2014 Open House Awards**

- Yellow Brick . . . . .BAE
- Outstanding department . . . . .BAE
- Technical display . . . . .BAE
- Curriculum display. . . . .BAE
- Limited class display. . . . .ECE
- Freshman/sophomore display . . . . .ECE

**Engineering Banquet Awards**

- David and Virginia Braun Innovation Award  
—Mathew Alford, ARE
- W. Leroy Culbertson/Steel Ring Leadership Scholarship  
—Jared Rogers, ARE
- Clair A. Mauch/Steel Ring Advisor of the Year  
—Mustaque Hossain, CE





## Roberts to retire after 21 years of service

Tom Roberts calls it that “rare opportunity”—to work in the engineering profession for your alma mater.

Earning both a B.S. and M.S. in nuclear engineering from Kansas State University in 1970 and 1972, respectively, Roberts began his career as a project officer in the U.S. Army Chemical Corp, moving on to industry with Black & Veatch Engineers-Architects.

While at Black & Veatch, he began working with former college associate and assistant deans Ken Gowdy and John Dollar on leadership development, scholarship funding and recruiting K-State graduates to work for his employer.

“I testified alongside former dean Don Rathbone about faculty salaries be-

fore the Kansas Legislature, gave leadership and professional development talks for the college, and even manned the Black & Veatch display table at Engineering Open House,” he said.

Roberts came back to K-State in 1993 and will retire July 4, after 21 years of service as assistant dean for recruitment and leadership development. He handles student recruitment, professional development and leadership studies, as well as serving as adviser for Engineering Ambassadors and Steel Ring student organizations.

“It was a natural move to come back and I’ll always be thankful to Don Rathbone, John Dollar and Ken Gowdy for inviting me to join the faculty,” he said. “To be able to work with colleagues to make your college better has been an incredible opportunity.”

Roberts said one of his biggest adjustments in retirement will be “not having the majority of my evenings and weekends planned for me.”

Acknowledging nearly 80% of his duties are planned by others, he said, “We do a lot of responding—supporting 50 to 60 events a year—many of which are after hours or on weekends.”

What will he miss the most? “My staff—Carol Hewitt—my senior administrative assistant, and the student workers have been tremendous, as well as all of our student volunteers,” Roberts said.

“You can’t beat interacting with students on a daily basis and helping develop these young professionals.”

And not surprisingly, those students echo his sentiments.

“Dean Roberts has been an invaluable

resource for Steel Ring, as well as Engineering Ambassadors,” said Emma Brace, BSE senior, Steel Ring president and an ambassador. “He helps students find their voices and realize their potential.”

Brace said the amount of hours Roberts commits to outside of the eight-to-five workday on a weekly basis in meetings with ambassadors and Steel Ring members is “truly incredible.”

“He is always available for questions, whether you catch him in his office at 10:30 in the morning or keep him late after a Steel Ring meeting at 10:30 on a Monday night,” she said. “Students know they can count on him for advice and help.”

Connor Pemble, ME junior, and vice president of Engineering Ambassadors, agreed: “Dean Roberts always has the best career advice. I remember being nervous before my first career fair and after talking with him, left with a high level of confidence. He will be missed and I wish him all the best.”

“Working with Dean Roberts brought out the importance of serving others, irrespective of your position and schedule,” said Kabila Gina, CHE senior, and vice president of Steel Ring. “He made time for each and every one of us and our million questions.”

“He is a good leader, mentor and teacher—one who would not catch the fish for you—but teach you the techniques with which it can be caught. He remains cheerful despite the situation at hand and makes you view situations with a positive outlook.”

In making a retirement “wish list,” first and foremost for Roberts will be spending more time with family. He and his wife,



U.S. News & World Report has recognized Kansas State University as a great place to earn an online graduate degree in engineering, with a current No. 27 ranking in best online graduate engineering programs, up 10 places from No. 37 in the previous survey.

Online engineering master’s degrees, administered through the Kansas State University Global Campus, formerly the Division of Continuing Education, are offered in software engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, chemical engineering, civil engineering, nuclear engineering, engineering management and operations research.

Spring 2014 online engineering graduate enrollment was 222 students enrolled in a total of 570 credit hours, according to Ellen Stauffer, engineering program coordinator, K-State Global Campus.

In 2013, 39 enrollees completed graduate degrees in the following areas: civil engineering, 10; chemical engineering, three; electrical engineering, six; engineering management, eight; operations research, eight; mechanical engineering, two; and software engineering, two.

### Scholarships available

“The College of Engineering has partnered with the K-State Global Campus to offer scholarships specifically for students enrolled in engineering distance degree programs,” Stauffer said. “These will be awarded the first time for the fall 2014 semester in the amount of \$1,000 per recipient.”

Approximately four scholarships will be presented during the fall and spring semesters, and two scholarships for the summer term. While the fall 2014 appli-

cation deadline has passed, information on applying for spring 2015 scholarships is available at [www.global.k-state.edu/students/services/scholarships/](http://www.global.k-state.edu/students/services/scholarships/)

Other scholarships available to engineering distance students include K-State Global Campus Scholarship for Distance Education Students, Maurine Allison O’Bannon Memorial Scholarship, Robert F. Sykes Scholarship and the Allan D. Sicut Scholarship for military-affiliated students, Stauffer said.

### Online MBA for engineers

Kansas State University now offers an MBA online, for working professionals with at least three to five years of experience, that may hold particular interest for engineers. The main difference between the online Professional MBA and MBA on the K-State campus is the ability to do course work at the enrollee’s own pace, as well as the constant integration of examples from one’s own professional experience within the classes.

“Earning an MBA is important for engineers who wish to advance their

careers,” said Suzy Auten, director of the Professional MBA Program, College of Business Administration. “By completing an accredited MBA program, graduates are equipped with essential skills that will enable them to apply financial and accounting knowledge in solving business problems.”

Graduates also gain exposure to a broad range of business concepts related to marketing and management principles. Together, the skills obtained through an MBA prepare engineers to solve business problems encountered in leadership roles in their organizations.

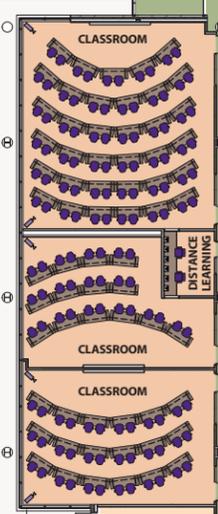
“The advantage of K-State’s Professional MBA program,” Auten said, “is that it allows individuals to continue working while pursuing an advanced degree. The online program is taught by the same faculty teaching in our traditional on-campus MBA program and provides the same level of academic rigor.”

Learn more about the Professional MBA Program at [www.k-state.edu/online/mba](http://www.k-state.edu/online/mba)

## Phase IV expansion plans include online education

“The college’s distance learning capabilities will be enhanced by the addition of three new specialized classrooms as a part of the Phase IV expansion project currently underway,” said David Fritchen, ARE/CNS professor and Phase IV project coordinator for the College of Engineering. “We currently have two classrooms with limited distance learning capabilities, which has created a demand for recording classes that far exceeds the existing capacity.”

The new space will include an adjacent recording studio to record audio and video for classes that can be offered through distance learning technology. The three classrooms will be designed to support functions related to multi-media presentation, in-room lecture recording, web conferencing, audio teleconferencing and video conferencing. Each will accommodate regular engineering classes for 70, 36 or 28 students, in addition to distance learning class offerings.



## Pahwa named Jefferson Science Fellow



**Anil Pahwa**, Logan-Fetterhoof chair professor of electrical and computer engineering, is one of 13 individuals chosen nationwide as a prestigious

Jefferson Science Fellow. He will spend the 2014–2015 school year at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., serving as a scientific adviser and helping with national foreign policy.

Tenured academic scientists and engineers from U.S. higher education institutions are eligible for Jefferson Science Fellowships. The program is admin-

istered by the National Academies and supported through partnerships with the science, technology and engineering academic community; professional scientific societies; the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID.

"I hope to contribute to the national foreign policy related to my expertise in the field of electric power and energy," Pahwa said. "About 20 percent of the world's population doesn't have access to electricity, which includes 70 percent of the population of sub-Saharan Africa. My goal is to advance policies and plans that can reverse this trend and improve lives of people around the world."

Kansas State University Provost April Mason, who nominated Pahwa for the fellowship, said his vast expertise equips

him to contribute to important national policy.

"Anil Pahwa's work improving and advancing electric power availability and systems makes him very deserving of this award," Mason said. "As a Jefferson Fellow, he will be able to make contributions to policy setting in our federal government."

"We are very excited to have Anil Pahwa as a Jefferson Fellow, as his leadership and expertise in electric power as well as technology programs for developing countries will serve our nation and the world well in this program," said Don Gruenbacher, head of the department of electrical and computer engineering.

Read more at [www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/apr14/pahwafellow4914.html](http://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/apr14/pahwafellow4914.html)

## Electrical engineering professor earns NSF CAREER Award

**Behrooz Mirafzal** is leading the charge to improve renewable energy.

An assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, Mirafzal been awarded a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development, or CAREER, Award for his proposal "Toward Grid-Interactive Converters with Diagnostic, Remedial, and Lifetime Prognostic Features for the Next Generation of Power Grids."

He was awarded \$400,000 to continue his research on renovating grid-



interactive DC to AC solid-state converters into smart devices. According to Mirafzal, the short lifespan and maintenance cost of the grid-tied converters is an obstacle to increasing energy production from renewable sources such as wind and solar power.

"If we are going to have more wind and solar power in our energy infrastructure, the number of grid-tied converters will need to increase," Mirafzal said. "The converters have a relatively short lifetime. If you distribute those without thinking of including diagnostic, self-healing and lifetime prognostic features to the existing technology, you are basically distributing components in the system that can negatively impact the reliability and the robustness of the whole system."

Mirafzal is developing the converters to have an early detection or self-healing mechanism, which is a long-term research plan of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

"Right now we have sensors in the converters that detect when something has gone bad, but we want to know before that happens—while it is still working—to give us time to plan for remedial actions," Mirafzal said. "Just like we may not feel like we have high cholesterol, but when the doctor takes the blood test, it can be detected and corrected before something more serious happens."

Read more at [www.engg.ksu.edu/news/ece-career-award.html](http://www.engg.ksu.edu/news/ece-career-award.html)

## Chairs, fund awarded to College of Engineering professors



**Julia Keen**, associate professor of architectural engineering and construction science, has been awarded the Bob and Betty Tointon Engineering Chair whose purpose

is to "retain the highest quality faculty in the College of Engineering at Kansas State University."

Keen's areas of expertise are in mechanical, electrical and plumbing design; high-performance building design and construction; energy codes and engineering education. Her current teaching assignments involve energy codes, mechanical design, integrated building systems and building communication systems. She is also a faculty adviser for student competition teams.

She is a member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers Board of Directors, serving as director-at-large; Phi Alpha Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi.

Keen holds both B.S. and M.S. degrees in architectural engineering from Kansas State University, as well as a Ph.D. in education. She is a certified professional engineer in Kansas.

**Ray Buyle**, assistant professor of architectural engineering and construction science, has been awarded the Tointon Construction Management Chair whose purpose is to "recruit and retain the highest quality faculty in the department of architectural engineering and construction science in the College of Engineering at Kansas State University."



Buyle's areas of expertise are in construction management, design-build project delivery, and scheduling and cost control. His current teaching assignments involve construction operations, construction methods and equipment, budgeting, scheduling, project management, and construction techniques and detailing.

His professional organization memberships include the Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Design Build Institute of America and American Society of Engineering Educators.

Buyle has a B.S. in construction science and management and an M.S. in curriculum and instruction, both from Kansas State University.

**Kimberly Kramer**,

associate professor of architectural engineering and construction science, has been awarded the G.E. Johnson

Construction Science Chair created to "enhance and advance construction education in the College of Engineering at Kansas State University."

Kramer's areas of expertise are slender reinforced concrete wall design and construction, reinforced concrete structural system design and analysis, aesthetics in structural design, history of construction and engineering structural systems. Her current teaching assignments involve advanced topics in structural design: seismic design for steel structures, masonry design, timber design, reinforced concrete design, loads and load paths, integrated-structural and senior project-structural.

She is a member of the American Concrete Institute, Structural En-

gineers Association of Kansas and Missouri, American Society of Civil Engineers and Tilt-Up Concrete Association.

Kramer, P.E. and S.E., holds a B.S. in architectural engineering from Kansas State University and an M.E. in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington. She has been promoted to full professor effective July 2014.

**Tom Logan**, associate professor of architectural engineering and construction science, has been awarded the Hutton Family Distinguished Faculty Fund in Construction Science

created to "provide faculty support in the department of architectural engineering and construction science in the College of Engineering at Kansas State University."

Logan's areas of expertise are specialty contracting, MEP systems installation and commissioning, construction ethics and contingency construction. His current teaching assignments involve advanced plumbing system design and installation, HVAC and plumbing systems installation, building commissioning, construction ethics, scheduling and cost control, building material assemblies and construction technique.

He is a member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers; Building Commissioning Association; Construction Specification Institute; and Associated General Contractors of Kansas.

Logan holds a B.S. in construction science and a B.S. in business administration, both from Kansas State University, as well as an M.S. in construction management from the University of Kansas.



## Dunn moves from interim to head



**William L. Dunn** has been named department head of mechanical and nuclear engineering at Kansas State University. He had been serving as interim head of the department since August 2013.

Dunn joined the College of Engineering faculty in 2002 as an associate professor in mechanical and nuclear engineering, and became director of the radiation measurement applications laboratory in the department in 2003. He has been promoted to full professor, effective June 8, and will serve as the Steven M. and Kay L. Theede Chair in Engineering.

"It is with great pride we welcome Dr. Dunn as the new department head of mechanical and nuclear engineering," said Gary Clark, interim dean of the College of Engineering. "We were aware, of course, of his credentials and experience prior to and during his exemplary service as interim department head, and following a nationwide search and interview process, were extremely pleased to offer him the full-time position."

Read more at [www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/apr14/dunnhead4714.html](http://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/apr14/dunnhead4714.html)

## Roberts retires

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Karen, an assistant professor in family studies and human services, have one son and family in Olathe, and a second son and family in France. "No more 'quick' trips over and back to Europe," he said.

"Karen has been such a great supporter of the college and this job," Roberts said. "She made the carrying case for our portable engineering display, as well as the bags for storing our tablecloths, and always seemed to be on hand to pick up pizza and soft drinks for an event if I was running late."

Two of Roberts' "unaccomplished goals" during his years at K-State were to attend all the Landon Lectures and start a faculty barbershop group.

"I love music," he said. "I'd really like to do something in retirement that involved music."

And there's writing on the horizon. "I've been blessed that my job has been my hobby," he said. "For the past 20-plus years, I've been gathering notes, experiences and stories—I want to write. I've had three book offers for publishing my professional development materials but

have just not had to time to do it."

Roberts believes this is a good time to retire. "Life is a series of S curves—we're at the top of one now and I feel as if I'm leaving with the college in good shape," he said.

"I've enjoyed a strong partnership with students, faculty, staff and alumni, and I could not have done this job without them. These connections are what make K-State special and make engineering a tight family unit with that small community oneness. You don't do this job alone."

## Promotion, new hire for development team

Lori Rogge, senior director of development for the College of Engineering, has announced a promotion as well as a new hire for the development office.

**Brett Larson** has been promoted to director of development for the college. The new role will involve additional leadership duties within the college structure, as well as oversight, expansion and execution of annual fundraising strategies.

"Brett joined our development team in 2012," Rogge said, "and is very passionate about K-State. He has done a phenomenal job providing resources for our faculty, staff and students—truly believing in a donor-centered approach to building relationships with alumni, friends and industry partners."

Larson also works with the department advisory councils to bolster fundraising efforts, as well as student organizations and teams in development strategies for the college.



**Jennie Neville** has been appointed as a development officer for the College of Engineering.

She most recently worked for Rhythm Engineering, a Kansas City-based traffic engineering firm, as the Midwest regional account manager responsible for selling software and hardware solutions to municipalities and government agencies. She has also worked for Industrial Sales, Olathe, in marketing, events planning, sales support and advertising.



Originally from Topeka, Neville graduated from K-State in 2004 with a degree in apparel and textile marketing.

"We are excited to welcome Jennie to the development team," Rogge said. "She brings a background and skill set that will be a valuable asset to our office and the college."

# ALUMNI Profiles

## Recognitions

'54 **Don Kesinger** (BAE), Littleton, Colo., submitted a career update including employment with International Harvester, Hesston Corp., and Gates Rubber Co., before becoming self-employed in 1973. As a machine shop owner specializing in tools for cable installers, he completed his final milling projects in 2005, holding 28 patents and six licensing contracts. He now works three days a week recycling computers for children unable to afford new ones—to date having given away more than 4,000 units.

'79 **Carl Ice** (IE) was named president and chief executive officer of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Co., Ft. Worth, Texas, Jan. 1, 2014.

'94 **LeAnne Napolillo** (CE) has been named associate vice president of the HNTB Corp., Dallas, Texas. In 2012 she received the Award of Honor from the Houston branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

'00 **Emily Dufner** (ARE), lighting designer, has joined the San Francisco, Calif., office of Arup, a multidisciplinary engineering and consulting firm, as an associate. She recently spent 13 years in Europe, transferring from Arup's office in Berlin, Germany, to further develop its lighting practice in the Americas.

## IMPACT

We are interested in following the career paths and accomplishments of our alumni, focusing on promotions, advancements, awards and honors, job changes and of course, retirements, as well as death notices. Please send your information in these categories to—

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College of Engineering  
133 Ward Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

email: [impact@engg.ksu.edu](mailto:impact@engg.ksu.edu)

'02 **Walt Bleser** (CE) has been named a "Rising Star of the Railroad Industry" by Progressive Railroad Magazine. He is a director, railway asset management, with the Georgetown Rail Equipment Co., Denver, Colo. The designation recognizes 20 individuals under 40 who are considered the rail industry's top young talent.

'12 **Kaitlin Page** (ARE), project engineer and lighting designer at BSA LifeStructures, St. Louis, Mo., has been named a "Future Leader" by LD+A magazine, a publication of the Illuminating Engineering Society. Individuals making this list must have five years or fewer in the lighting industry, and be considered on the "cusp of leadership positions."

## Deaths

'47 **Harold L. "Hal" Siegele** (CHE), Houston, Texas, died March 27, 2014. In his lifelong career with Exxon Corp., he served in various administrative and executive positions with Creole Petroleum Corp., Venezuela; as president of Esso Libya; as president of Esso Norway; and as a member of the Board of Directors of Exxon, USA, Houston. Siegele was a member of the K-State College of Engineering Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, Mary, three daughters, one son and eight grandchildren.

## Faculty

**William Johnson**, biological and agricultural professor emeritus, died March 20, 2014, in Manhattan, Kan. He joined BAE in 1970 and was the department head until 1981. From 1981 to his retirement in 1987, he served as director of the Engineering Experiment Station. Known for his research in tillage and harvesting, and for his leadership in agricultural engineering and in the American Society of Agricultural Engineering, Johnson served as ASAE president 1986–87. He also served as president of the Kansas Engineering Society 1985–86 and received that group's Engineer of the Year award. He is survived by his wife, Wy, one son, one daughter, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

## Faculty promotions

The following College of Engineering tenured faculty members have received promotion from associate to full professor for the 2013–2014 school year:

<b>Architectural engineering and construction science</b> . . . . .	Kimberly Kramer
<b>Biological and agricultural engineering</b> . . . . .	Stacy L. Hutchinson
<b>Civil engineering</b> . . . . .	Asad Esmaily
. . . . .	Sunanda Dissanayake
<b>Computing and information sciences</b> . . . . .	Mitchell L. Neilsen
<b>Mechanical and nuclear engineering</b> . . . . .	William L. Dunn

#### Notice of nondiscrimination

Kansas State University is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or other nonmerit reasons, in admissions, educational programs or activities and employment (including employment of disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era), as required by applicable laws and regulations. Responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, has been delegated to Roberta Maldonado-Franzen, Interim Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, 214 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-0124, (Phone) 785-532-6220; (TTY) 785-532-4807. 73766-6/14-25,968

## Job potential abounds at Engineering Career Fair



Engineering students had the opportunity to network with more than 150 employers Feb. 11–12 at the 2014 Engineering Career Fair on the second floor of the K-State Student Union. Companies from the engineering field—including Black & Veatch, BNSF, Burns & McDonnell, Cargill, Cerner, Garmin, Koch Industries, Payless ShoeSource, Perceptive Software, Sega, Union Pacific and Westar Energy—came to campus to recruit students for employment opportunities.

A number of companies also took part in Next Day Interviews on Feb. 12 and 13, allowing students to interview on campus for positions with companies they met at the fair.

The annual event is sponsored by the university's career and employment services, the College of Engineering and the Multicultural Engineering Program.