

# IMPACT

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2015

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



## OPEN HOUSE — A DAY OF DEMONSTRATION AND DISCOVERY

PAGE 20



**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

# FROM THE DEAN

In the last issue of Impact magazine, I was definitely the “new kid on the block” with this column focusing on introducing me, my credentials and my vision for the future.

Now a “seasoned” dean of nearly one year, I think it only fitting we turn the focus back to the college and its activities.

I’ve gone through many “firsts” reflected in these pages — my first Seaton Society with its distinguished class of Hall of Fame and Professional Progress Awardees, my first Open House where students did an outstanding job of showcasing our programs, and my first Eyestone Lecture and Alumni Fellow events. Thank you, Carl Ice, for an informative and inspiring lecture, and thank you, Mitch Snyder, for challenging our students and faculty with your energy and optimism.

Completion of the Phase IV building project is still very much front and center as we watch the space change and come to life daily. And with the excitement of the coming structural changes is also the excitement of the changes we can now implement in our programs and academic endeavors because of this new space.

One of these new undertakings I’m particularly enthused about is the development and launching of our new Academic Success Center. Our vision for this program is very simple — we will give students the mentors, advisers and training needed to light their way for a successful college path and beyond — aid in class preparation, study habits, test preparation skills, personal financial management and career exploration/career coaching.

To facilitate this goal, at the conclusion of the spring semester, Fiedler Library will undergo a remodel, as well as a name change, to enhance these services for our students, complementing existing spaces with new spaces



in Phase IV. The entirety of the student Academic Success Center will include individual and collaborative learning stations, more than 100 PC stations, study rooms, a student conference room and flexible seminar space.

Kansas State University aspires to be a top 50 public research university by 2025. One of the metrics associated with this goal is the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate. In FY2014, this rate for the college was 71%. Our goal is to increase this to 75% — an achievement reached by enhancing our student success programs.

Attracting and retaining students is key — fitted with what they’ll need for success, they will fill the slots in our design teams, and be shining stars of our Open House exhibits and displays. They’ll move on to be the graduates who will go out into the world and one day come back as Professional Progress Awardees, members of the Hall of the Fame, guest lecturers and Alumni Fellow honorees — the academic ‘cycle of life,’ if you will.

And none of this happens without you, our alumni and friends. Your support of our programs, building projects, scholarships, endowed professorships and more keeps us not just building a future for a few years, but for a lifetime.

*Darren Dawson*

— Darren Dawson, dean

# IMPACT

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2015

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



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EXCELLENCE



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## IMPACT

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**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering



# HONEY, LET'S TAKE THE KIDS

By Mary Rankin



We wanted our family to experience living abroad and thought our kids would benefit tremendously from encountering different cultures, seeing historical sights and meeting people with different backgrounds from theirs.

— Keith Hohn

The main purpose of sabbatical leave is to provide faculty members with the opportunity for scholarly and professional enrichment by pursuing advanced study, conducting research and engaging in scholarly and creative activities.

But for Keith Hohn, professor of chemical engineering, his first sabbatical also opened the door for his family to experience life and educational pursuits in a foreign country.

Hohn, his wife, Joanna, and their children Elizabeth, 12 and Ryan, 9, left the U.S. in late December en route to Leuven, Belgium, where Hohn is conducting research with Professor Johan Hofkens at Katholieke Universitat Leuven. Joanna is a part-time instructor in education at K-State, so is taking a semester-long leave from her position as well.

"Joanna and I had been thinking about taking a sabbatical leave to Europe for several years," Hohn said. "We wanted our family to experience living abroad and thought our kids would benefit tremendously from encountering different cultures, seeing historical sights and

meeting people with different backgrounds from theirs."

Hohn's research involves using single-molecule spectroscopy to study heterogeneous catalysts — basically, running catalytic reactions that can be seen with a microscope, allowing him to observe where on a catalyst the reaction occurs.

"I've been interested in this technique for a while," he said, "and have done limited studies with it at K-State in collaboration with Dan Higgins in chemistry. But my host, Johan Hofkens, is one of the world leaders in this technique.





THE HOHN FAMILY ON A VISIT TO ROME, FROM LEFT, KEITH, RYAN, JOANNA, ELIZABETH

"I didn't personally know Johan before my sabbatical, but I had contacted him a year before I planned to take the leave and we corresponded to figure out what I could work on once I got here."

The family is living in Groot Begijnhof, a small village within the city of Leuven, in university housing originally built for an unmarried, semi-religious group of women, the Beguines. Converted to living quarters for graduate students and academic visitors, the structures date back to the 1200s.

"It's quite a unique place to live with cobblestone streets and an old church with bells that play every hour, and it has a canal running through it," Hohn said. "But it's convenient to the city center and campus, which is fortunate since we don't have a car — we ride bikes everywhere."

Hohn describes his sabbatical as "a great experience so far," where he's been learning many things in Hofkens' lab with ample time to think about new ideas for his own research program. The family has been able to travel extensively on weekends, visiting London, Rome, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and Berlin thus far.

"My son attends local school, which is hard for him," Hohn said. "His teacher speaks English, but the other kids don't, and all instruction is in Dutch.

"My daughter is in a special school for newcomers to Belgium where she receives intensive lessons in speaking Dutch. She's in a small class with students from all over the world — Poland, Nepal, Russia, Syria, etc. Many of her peers speak English and she's made some really good friends."

Language hasn't been a barrier for daily life, Hohn said, since most people there speak excellent English. The majority of their adjustments have involved missing some of the "comforts" of home — no washing machine in their apartment, having to carry groceries on their bikes and no yard.

"We'll be returning to Manhattan in early July," he said, "It's hard being so far from family and friends, but hopefully the good outweighs any of the tougher challenges."



The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Engineering Career Fair was held Feb. 10 – 11 in the K-State Student Union Ballroom with more than 166 companies and organizations represented. The event is sponsored by K-State's career and employment services, the College of Engineering and the Multicultural Engineering Program.

On Feb. 9, the evening before the career fair began, the Multicultural Engineering Program hosted a reception in the engineering complex atrium, providing food and entertainment in a social atmosphere where students could meet company representatives.



# ENDOWED GIFT SUPPORTS FACULTY, APPLIED LEARNING FOR STUDENTS

By Hayli Morrison



From Seneca, Kansas, to New Orleans, Louisiana, to Mobile, Alabama, Kansas State University engineering students have worked to restore homes and historic landmarks. Through it all, philanthropic gifts from alumni and friends helped make it possible.

Students have the option to spend spring or winter breaks participating in service-oriented trips led by Ray Buyle, assistant professor of architectural engineering and construction science. Buyle helps support these endeavors with annual funds from his Tointon Construction Management Chair, created through an endowed gift from K-State alumni Bob and Betty Tointon ('55).

With Buyle's guidance, students have developed cost estimates and a list of priorities for an historic museum restoration. They've built homes in communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. By supporting activities like



these, the faculty chair empowers Buyle to expand the learning experience beyond classroom and campus borders.

"Having funds to do these types of activities broadens our horizons, gives students the opportunity to see things they may not have seen before and helps them see how their major applies in the real world," Buyle said, adding his appreciation for the Tointons' generous investment. "I think it motivates other students, too, as they learn that these out-of-classroom experiences are available through our department."

### Make a difference

To learn more about creating an endowed chair or professorship to support faculty, please contact the engineering development office at 785-532-7609 or [daniellec@found.ksu.edu](mailto:daniellec@found.ksu.edu).



Traveling to Mobile helped me see how my major would apply to life after graduation.

— Rebecca Woodard,  
senior, construction science  
and management



# PROGRAM TARGETS GRADUATE STUDENTS

My idea of leadership has been changed. I have tried some [of the instruction] in my day-to-day life ... and I am getting prolific results.

— Chintan A. Raval, electrical and computer engineering teaching assistant and project participant

**W**ith the goal of developing leadership skills in order to make a positive change in their work, studies and student organizations, a group of 11 engineering graduate students took part in the pilot project of the Graduate Engineering Leadership Program during the spring semester of 2015.

In collaboration with the Staley School of Leadership Studies and the Kansas Leadership Center, or KLC, the volunteer participants agreed to work with peers and professional leadership coaches, taking on challenges most important to them and moving beyond technical expertise to solve problems.

“Students learned about adaptive leadership competencies such as diagnosing a situation, managing self, intervening skillfully and how to energize others,” said Lori Kniffin, adviser of academic programs at the Staley School of Leadership Studies at K-State.

Time commitment, following a kick-off session in early February, included one 90-minute cohort meeting in each February, March and April led by leadership studies faculty members; and one 30-minute phone call each of those months with a professional leadership coach.

“The faculty developed ideas around the theory of leadership, recognizing your own leadership challenge and charting progress on that challenge during the semester,” Kniffin said.

The coaching sessions by phone were coordinated through the KLC in Wichita, which partners with colleges and universities in the state to provide leadership training and resources for the next generation of leaders.

“The [phone] coaching sessions have been the biggest benefit so far,” said S M Shafiul Alam, electrical and computer engineering graduate research assistant and project participant. “It has enabled me to develop a strong idea of the cross-disciplinary issues of leadership.”

Tim Steffensmeier, head of the department of communication studies at K-State and an affiliate of the KLC, was instrumental in bringing the leadership center on boards for this inaugural semester of the program.

“The KLC donated the resources for the coaching calls, where affiliates of the center from across the state offered one-on-one consultation with the engineering graduate students. Additionally, a doctoral candidate in nuclear engineering, Michael Reichenberger, was a vital student voice in bringing this program to reality,” Kniffin said.

Taking part in the program was viewed as an extracurricular activity and not a credit course. As a part of the send-off session in late April, participants were awarded a certificate of completion, and encouraged to recognize the progress they’d made and to have a plan to move forward with what they’d learned.

This was a strong start to what I hope will be an important component of the graduate student experience in the College of Engineering. We are excited to be involved in the pilot program and are most appreciative of the donated time and effort from both the leadership studies faculty and the KLC.

— Noel Schulz, associate dean for research and graduate programs in engineering



LEFT TO RIGHT: LORI KNIFFIN, MIKE FINNEGAN, CHINTAN RAVAL, AHMAD SULIMAN, MOHAMMED OBEIDAT, SHAFIUL ALAM, JAN VOSAHLIK, MARY TOLAR, JOHN HERRMAN, IRMA O'DELL, MICHAEL REICHENBERGER



# Building Great Leaders — Lessons from the Rail Industry

## Carl R. Ice

President and Chief Executive Officer, BNSF

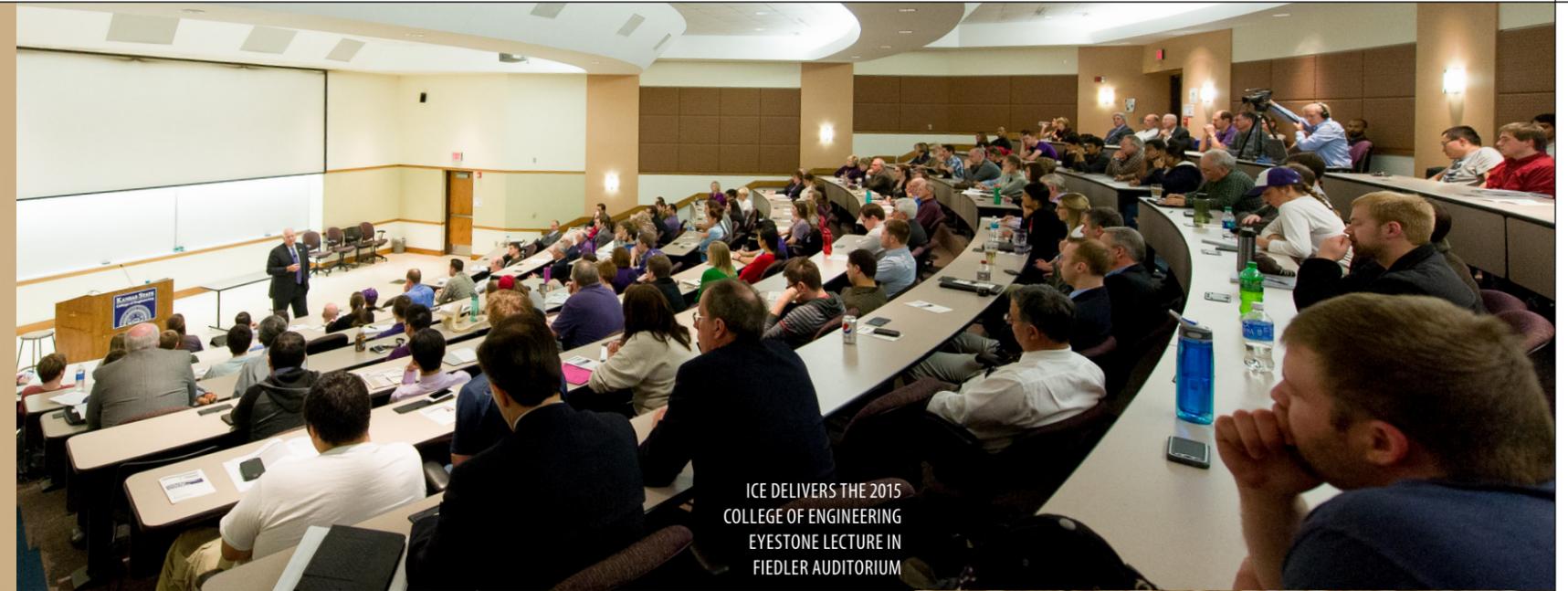
Tuesday • March 10 • 1:30

Fiedler Hall Auditorium



CARL AND MARY ICE

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN RAIL INDUSTRY



ICE DELIVERS THE 2015  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
EYESTONE LECTURE IN  
FIEDLER AUDITORIUM

Carl Ice, president and chief executive officer for BNSF Railway, presented “Building great leaders — lessons from the rail industry: driving a more engaged and productive team through leadership development” March 10 in Fiedler Hall Auditorium as part of the College of Engineering’s Eyestone Lecture Series.

Ice, a 1979 K-State graduate in industrial engineering, was appointed to his current position of president and CEO for BNSF Railway in 2014. Previously, he served as president and chief operating officer since 2010, with responsibility for day-to-day operations of the company, helping to drive BNSF’s strategies for safety, service, growth, efficiency and technology.

“Railroads are one of our nation’s most long-lived industries and considered synonymous with the growth of the U.S. industrial economy,” Ice said. “Today, railroads are more relevant than ever as they move 40 percent of intercity freight volume in the U.S., including playing a vital role in the recent domestic energy renaissance.”

Ice addressed the robust leadership development required as an essential component of building an enterprise that lasts over decades by being able to adapt to the inevitable changes in the economic landscape.

To learn more about the Eyestone Lecture and Carl Ice, visit [kstate.edu/media/newsreleases/feb15/eyestone22415.html](http://kstate.edu/media/newsreleases/feb15/eyestone22415.html)

MARY ICE IN THE  
DRIVER’S SEAT  
OF THE SAE  
FORMULA CAR





# ELEVATING



THE BARTAK FAMILY, FROM LEFT: KIM, PAUL, TERESA AND AMY.

## THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

## Investing in student success is a family affair

By Hayli Morrison

Amy and Kim Bartak vividly remember feeling impressed as new Kansas State University engineering students shortly after the construction of Fiedler Hall in 2000.

"We were able to know what new facilities can do to elevate the organization and make new students feel at home," said Amy Bartak, who earned her computer engineering undergraduate degree in 2005 and electrical engineering master's in 2014.

That's why the sisters and their parents, Paul and Teresa Bartak, decided to support construction of Phase IV, the latest addition to the Durland-Rathbone-Fiedler engineering complex. Set to open this fall, the addition will offer more collaborative learning and work space, improved technology, and interactive teaching and research space.

Paul Bartak was motivated by the University Engineering Initiative Act, a statewide push to graduate more engineers from public universities.

"To meet that kind of demand, we need more classroom space, more laboratory space and more office space," he said.

Through their gift to name the Bartak Family Assistant Dean's Office, the family is showing support for Phase IV and appreciation for Tom Roberts, who recently retired as assistant dean of recruiting and leadership.

Roberts, whom the sisters considered their mentor, fondly recalled years of working with the entire Bartak family to advance K-State and the College of Engineering.

"It's truly been a family affair and it's been extremely positive," he said, adding that Phase IV will elevate the student experience even more. "When you have the opportunity to make a difference for your alma mater, it's very rewarding, and to know you've touched the lives of people is just tremendous."

Philanthropic support for K-State is nothing new for the Bartak family. One of their

most memorable experiences was surprising Paul Bartak for his 60th birthday with the Bartak Family Scholarship to support first-generation college students within K-State engineering.

Paul was overwhelmed at such a thoughtful gift from his daughters, wife, siblings and several Alpha Tau Omega fraternity brothers.

"It was an outstanding gift," he said. "It means a tremendous amount to me. I believe in getting an education, and I also believe that science and technology will keep the United States at the forefront of the world."

### Invest in success

Your investment in the College of Engineering will make a difference for K-State students. To learn more, contact the engineering development office at 785-532-7609 or [daniellec@found.ksu.edu](mailto:daniellec@found.ksu.edu).



# ALUMNI FELLOW 2015 — MITCH SNYDER

By Mary Rankin

# KANSAS STATE College of Engineering



After 21 years of working with fighter aircraft, Snyder decided to learn the rotorcraft business and joined Bell Helicopter where he has led programs, manufacturing operations and now currently leads a business unit.

“However,” he said, “the key credential that enabled it all was my engineering degree from K-State. With this excellent background, I felt well-prepared to enter a competitive market. The technical education allowed me to smoothly transition into my career and be productive from the beginning.”

Having a passion for the career path you choose was another key point Snyder emphasized, stating that truly believing in what you’re doing will produce an enthusiastic investment in achieving the broader goals of an organization.

“If the position you choose ends up being just a job, it will wear you down over time,” he said. “The employment offer I ended up accepting after graduating from K-State happened to be the one with the lowest salary — by far. I was not sure if I’d made the right decision. But I knew it would work out, because I loved being in the aviation industry and supporting our military services.”

And today, 30 years into that career path, Snyder is being honored as an Alumni Fellow by his alma mater — individuals chosen for their high levels of professional accomplishment and distinguished service in their respective careers.

“It really is a privilege to be honored in this way and I want to thank Kansas State University — and specifically, the College of Engineering — for selecting me,” he said. “It is truly a humbling experience.”

It struck me that a significant percentage of our high-level leaders started out as engineers...

— Mitch Snyder

Never underestimate the power of an engineering degree in the workplace.

This is the message 2015 College of Engineering Alumni Fellow Mitch Snyder, EE '83, brought to faculty and students during his campus visit April 15-16.

Snyder, executive vice president for military business at Bell Helicopter, said that in routinely attending high-level meetings, he’s often found the CEO, business unit vice presidents, manufacturing general manager, and many other top vice presidents all have engineering degrees.

“It struck me,” Snyder said, “that a significant percentage of our high-level leaders started out as engineers, and were eventually able to pursue different

paths either due to interest, learning or advancement. And these examples are not limited to Bell. I also meet with senior leaders from other companies, and again, engineers tend to fill those positions.”

Snyder brought the message, too, of career diversification — encouraging students to learn all aspects of a business, to try new experiences and to “stretch” themselves.

“I had been in engineering at Lockheed Martin for 10 years, and then decided to make the first big leap and give business development a shot,” he said. “From there I moved to leading programs, then into aircraft manufacturing and finally flight line operations.”





# A MYRIAD OF WAYS TO INVEST IN A MYRIAD OF INITIATIVES

By Hayli Morrison

“What a lot of good students I had,” said Don Lenhert, reflecting on his career of more than 40 years as an electrical engineering professor at Kansas State University.

That care for students has been evident in many ways throughout Lenhert’s life — in the way he taught, the way he volunteered his time and how he has made the university a priority in his philanthropic plan.

He has supported many university initiatives, including cancer research after the 2006 death of his wife, Anne, who retired from K-State as emeritus professor of organic chemistry. He most recently supported the Hummels Lenhert Innovation Laboratory in Phase IV, the 108,000-square-foot expansion to the Durland-Rathbone-Fiedler engineering complex.

Sue Barsamian, a 1981 K-State electrical and computer engineering graduate, also helped support the Hummels Lenhert Innovation Laboratory out of gratitude for the academic and professional support the two former K-State professors provided.

“Dr. Lenhert was my adviser and Dr. Hummels was one of my professors,” said Barsamian, who now works for Hewlett-Packard as senior vice president and general manager for Enterprise Group Global Sales. “I could not have asked for a better support system during my time at K-State. This gift to Phase IV was a great way to honor K-State and two exemplary educators and individuals.”

Student support has always remained Lenhert’s foremost priority, from his 20 years volunteering alongside student callers in the KSU Foundation’s Telefund to the

scholarships he created in the departments where he and Anne worked.

As the first in his Wichita, Kansas, family to attend college, he can recall a time when he almost left K-State for financial reasons. Merrill Durland and Andrey Potter, then dean and assistant dean of engineering, pointed Lenhert in the direction of scholarships that allowed him to stay. Now, his goal is to lend that same helping hand to others in similar circumstances.

“I want to allow good students to go to college even if they don’t have a family history of going to college,” he said.

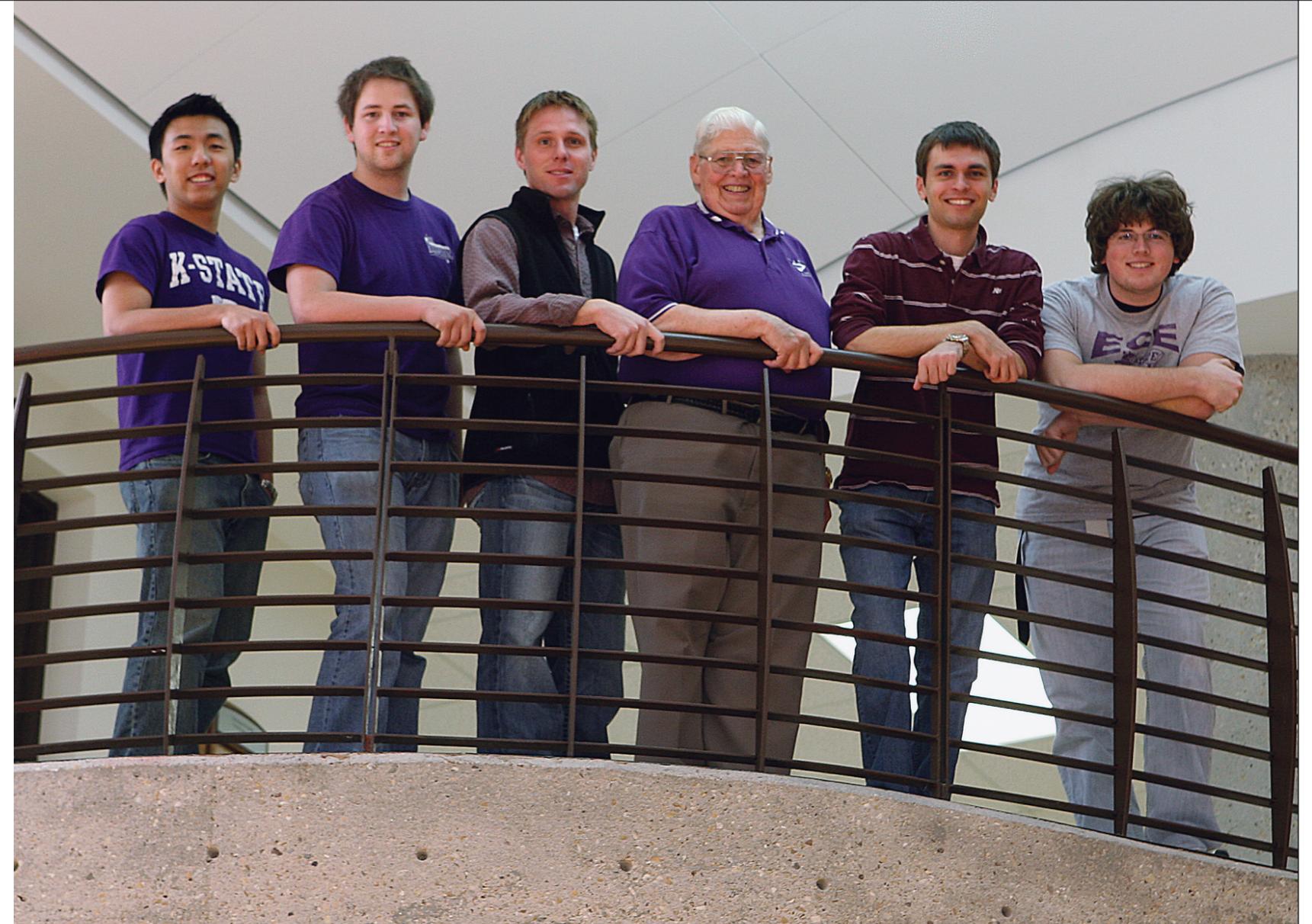
Lenhert has created a strong legacy of investing in the K-State family through multiyear pledges, gifts planned in his will, charitable gift annuities and distributions from his IRA. During summers spent consulting for Motorola, Inc., he even used the Motorola corporate matching benefit to help his gifts go further.

Lenhert is inspired by the K-State family’s investment in him — from faculty who helped him stay in school to former students who helped him forge industry connections throughout his career.

“They went to bat for me,” he said. “That’s part of the reason I want to give back now.”

## Join us

To learn more about advancing the College of Engineering through your philanthropic gifts, please contact the engineering development office at 785-532-7609 or [daniellec@found.ksu.edu](mailto:daniellec@found.ksu.edu).



RETIRED K-STATE PROFESSOR DON LENHERT ('56) FORMED A MULTI-FACETED PHILANTHROPIC PLAN THAT INVESTS IN STUDENT SUCCESS THE WAY HIS PROFESSORS ONCE INVESTED IN HIM.

Our engineering program is successful through the commitment of volunteers, mentors, dedicated faculty and generous alumni. Dr. Don Lenhert exemplifies every aspect of this, and we are so grateful he’s part of the K-State family.

— Darren Dawson, dean and the LeRoy C. and Aileen H. Paslay chair,  
College of Engineering



# Seaton SOCIETY awards and banquet

MARCH 29, 2015



## PROFESSIONAL PROGRESS AWARD

Nominated by their respective department heads and confirmed by the dean, 11 alumni were honored for their professional career accomplishments during the first 20 years following their graduation.

### 2015 Awardees

- Andy Buessing**, CE '77, industrial division manager, Hutton Construction
- Dave Chaffee**, CNSM '96, president, E&K Companies
- Casee Eisele**, BAE '98, project manager, John Deere
- Chris Hansen**, NE '88, leader, global portfolio of energy events and partnerships, IHS
- Gabriel Hernandez**, EE '95, vice president, transmission and distribution group, Burns & McDonnell
- Jonas McBride**, ARE '95, director, central U.S. engineering, Rosendin Electric
- Kent Nettleingham**, CHE '97, general manager, Texon LP
- Brian Rempe**, CIS '03, chief operating officer, CivicPlus
- Justin Salmans**, IE '96, vice president, supply chain management, Textron Aviation
- Mark Swanson**, ME '95, vice president, business development, Burns & McDonnell
- Nick Taluja**, CMPEN '94, vice president of sales, SK Hynix

## HALL OF FAME

Induction to the hall is the highest honor bestowed on its alumni by the college. Honorees are recognized for their professional success and accomplishment, involvement with and support of the College of Engineering, dedication to the university, and professional and public service.

### Class of 2015

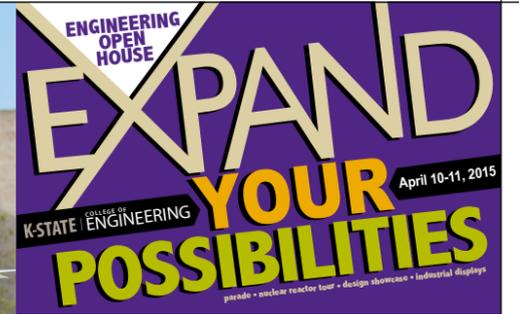
**Jim Schroeder**, EE '63, co-founder, Great Western Manufacturing Company Inc., retired (left)

**Charles "Chuck" Grier**, CNSM '73, president, Utility Contractors Inc.





93<sup>rd</sup> annual College of Engineering  
**Open House**  
April 10 - 11, 2015



**St. Patrick and St. Patricia**  
St. Patrick . . . . . Ryan Whelchel, ARE  
St. Patricia . . . . . Casey Stallbaumer, ARE

**2015 Open House Awards**  
Yellow Brick . . . . . CIS  
Outstanding department . . . . . IMSE  
Technical display. . . . . BAE  
Curriculum display . . . . . CHE  
Limited class display . . . . . BAE  
Freshman/sophomore display . . . . . ECE

**Leadership Banquet Awards**  
David and Virginia Braun Innovation Award  
. . . . . Lindsey Merrill, MNE  
W. Leroy Culbertson/Steel Ring Leadership  
Scholarship. . . . . Ben Williams, CHE  
Clair A. Mauch/Steel Ring Advisor of the Year  
. . . . . Christopher Ahern, ARE/CNS

ST. PATRICK AND  
ST. PATRICIA

# EXPAND YOUR POSSIBILITIES



Coinciding for the first time with Engineering Day, Friday, April 10 of the 2015 College of Engineering Open House was abuzz with activity, allowing area high school sophomores and juniors to be among the first to view this year's departmental displays, team presentations and planned activities.

Another first was holding the event the same day as the College of Engineering Advisory Council's spring meeting and visit to campus. This allowed council members to not only tour departmental displays, but also serve as judges for this year's event. The group had the opportunity to don hard hats as well, and guided by Dave Fritchen, ARE/CNS professor and project coordinator, get "up close and personal" inside the Phase IV building expansion (see photo on back cover).

Opening ceremonies of lighting the torch, parade and skits, and ribbon cutting took place later in the afternoon on Friday outside of the north entrance to Rathbone Hall, followed by food and refreshments.

Saturday events kicked off early with the annual ASABE pancake feed in Seaton Hall, and the warm spring day drew a large crowd of attendees to enjoy industrial and departmental displays, team competition events and other activities coordinated by the Steel Ring Engineering Honor Society.





## UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Douglas McGregor, professor of mechanical and nuclear engineering, has been named one of Kansas State's newest university distinguished professors.

University distinguished professor is a lifetime title and the highest honor the university bestows on its faculty members. They are appointed following a universitywide competition conducted by the provost.

McGregor is recognized internationally for his research in radiation detector design and development. He has served as director of Kansas State University's Semiconductor Materials and Radiological Technologies Laboratory, or SMART Lab, since his arrival at the university in 2002.

His research interests include design, development and deployment of radiation detectors and detection systems; nuclear measurements of various ionizing and non-ionizing radiation; crystal growth; semiconductor device physics; semiconductor device design; and semiconductor device fabrication.

Read more about Douglas McGregor and this award at [k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/apr15/udp41415.html](http://k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/apr15/udp41415.html)

## LEADERSHIP CONTINUITY

Departmental leadership in the college will continue under experienced hands following recent appointment and reappointment activities.

Robert Stokes, professor of civil engineering and director of the University Transportation Center, has been named department head of civil engineering, effective March 1, 2015. He had been serving as interim department head there since February 2013.

Stokes earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Antioch College, master's

degrees in both civil engineering and community and regional planning from Ohio State University, and a doctorate in urban and regional science from Texas A&M University. His research focus includes urban, rural and intercity transportation planning; highway design, planning and operations; traffic engineering; and transit planning, design and operations.

Joe Harner, following a five-year review and recommendation of an advisory committee, has been reappointed as head of the department of biological and agricultural engineering, effective Jan. 15, 2015. He had previously served as interim head for the department from February 2009 until being designated head in July 2010.

Harner came to K-State in 1983 with a 100 percent extension appointment in biological and agricultural engineering, and responsibilities in programming related to grain and livestock systems. He has three degrees from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, including both a bachelor's and a master's in agricultural engineering, and a doctorate in environmental science and engineering.



JOE HARNER, LEFT, AND ROBERT STOKES



## NICHOLS JOINS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Courtney Nichols has been appointed as a development officer for the College of Engineering. She most recently worked for Merrill Lynch in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, where she developed strong relationships with clients and managed the team's daily operations. She also helped develop financial strategies for families, businesses and nonprofit organizations her team worked closely with.

Originally from Massachusetts, Nichols graduated from Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts, with a degree in information design and corporate communication.

"Courtney is a valuable addition to our development team," said Lori Rogge, senior director of development for the College of Engineering. "Her skill set and professional background will enhance the strength of our office and the college."



## NSF CAREER AWARD

A prestigious award will support a Kansas State University engineer's research on nanosheets and will help organize educational activities for high school students and teachers.

Gurpreet Singh, assistant professor of mechanical and nuclear engineering, has received a \$500,000 National Science Foundation CAREER award for his work "Scalable liquid exfoliation processing of ultrathin two-dimensional metal dichalcogenides nanosheets for energy storage devices."

Singh will use the award to develop ultrathin metal sheets that can help produce better rechargeable batteries, supercapacitors and catalysts for photoelectrochemical hydrogen production.

The award will help with more than research — Singh also will organize hands-on educational activities. He is planning

nanotechnology-oriented summer workshops for high school science teachers and female high school students.

"I want to create excitement about the opportunities in nanotechnology and also make others aware of the challenges related to scalable manufacture and high cost that is currently hindering introduction in practical applications," Singh said.

The National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development Program is one of the foundation's most prestigious awards for supporting early career faculty who effectively integrate research and education within the context of their institution's mission.

For further information, visit [k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/jan15/career12715.html](http://k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/jan15/career12715.html)



## RECOGNITIONS

1982

Arnold D. "Archie" Hargis (MET) retired in 2012 from Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation as a senior systems administrator programmer/analyst. Prior to that, he had been employed for 17 years with the state of Kansas in three agencies: Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, and Kansas Department of Transportation.

1994

Brian Herrick (CNSM), Topeka, Kansas, after 28 years of self-employment at G & L Excavating Inc., has accepted a partnership at Carlson Utility, LLC, Topeka, serving clients in the areas of water, storm water and wastewater needs.

1999

Jason McCreary (EE), Madison, Connecticut, department manager in the transmission and distribution engineering group in the New England office of Burns & McDonnell, has been named a winner of the Engineering News Record New York Top 20 Under 40 competition.

## DEATHS

1959

Herbert H. Jabben (EE), Independence, Kansas, died Feb. 27, 2014.

1963

Olin Lee Vanderslice (AGE) died March 25, 2014, in Cameron, Missouri. He worked for International Harvester, Hart-Carter, Farmland Industries and Agway Inc. before retiring in 1991 when he then started a hybrid seed corn brand with his brother. He is survived by his wife, Janice, two sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren.

1979

Ujwal Deshpande (M.S. CHE) died Jan. 2, 2015, following a long and successful career in the semiconductor industry in the San Francisco Bay area. His last position was as a quality engineer with Bloom Energy, a fuel cells manufacturing startup. He won many awards throughout his career, and is survived by his wife, Swati, and two sons.

## Faculty

Stephan Konz died Dec. 2, 2014, in Manhattan, Kansas. He joined the industrial engineering faculty at K-State in 1962 where he taught and conducted research for the next 32 years. He published more than 200 journal articles, authored two text books and was considered an expert in the field of ergonomics, being honored as a Fellow of the Human Factors Society. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, nine children and 16 grandchildren. A memorial has been established at the KSU Foundation for the Stephan Konz Industrial Engineering Scholarship Fund.

## Friends

G. Cleve Humbert died Feb. 18, 2015, in Manhattan, Kansas. He was a 1951 K-State graduate in architecture. He worked for the Martin K Eby Company, Wichita, Kansas, and also Kansas City Public Works, later becoming an independent contractor and consultant in the Kansas City area. He was a founding member of the College of Engineering Seaton Society, and numerous other K-State and Manhattan community foundations, clubs and advisory boards. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sally, the first woman graduate of architectural engineering at K-State, and one son, Erik. Memorial funds are suggested for the KSU Foundation.

## 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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