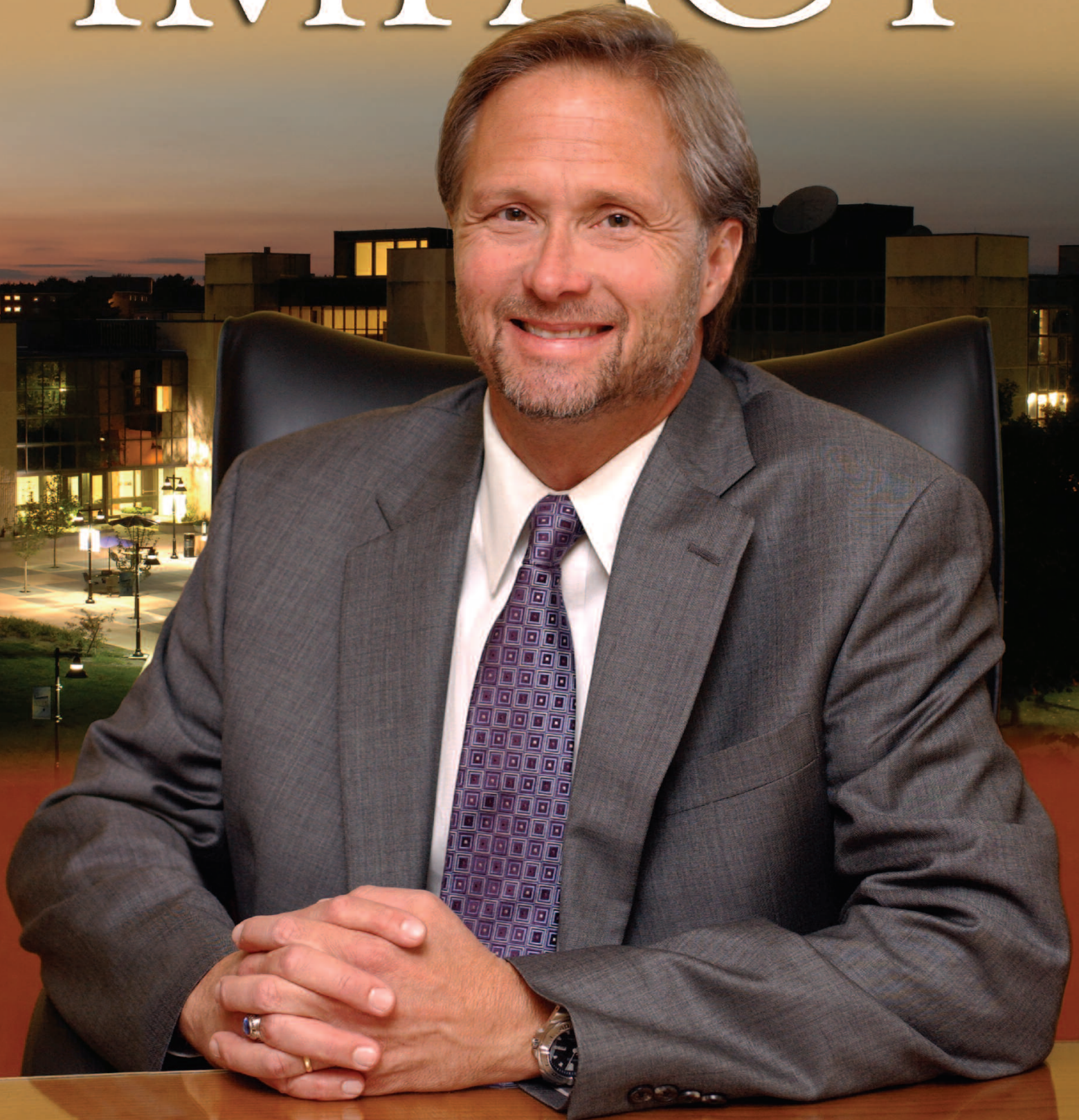


# IMPACT



Dean John R. English

# MEET THE DEAN

John English became the ninth dean of the College of Engineering at Kansas State University in July 2007. His previous position was head of the department of industrial engineering at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where he had been a faculty member since 1991, also serving from 2000 to 2005 as director of the Center for Engineering Logistics and Distribution, a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center with eight partner universities.

Other positions at the University of Arkansas included economic development officer, director of a technology incubator, and full professor. He also taught at Texas A&M and Oklahoma State universities, with industry experience at AT&T Communications. English earned a Ph.D. in industrial engineering and management from Oklahoma State University, and a master's degree in operations research and a bachelor's in electrical engineering, both from the University of Arkansas. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Arkansas.

In a recent question-and-answer session, Dean English offered the following thoughts and comments.

*How would you describe your leadership or administrative style?*

**John English:** Highly participative. While I am someone who strives toward consensus, I realize at some point decision makers must make decisions. I like what President Wefald said in quoting President Richard Nixon, "I refuse to make a decision that somebody else can make." It's my job to empower others to make decisions.

*What do you see as the greatest opportunity for the college at this point?*

**JE:** We need to develop a strategic plan that the entire college buys into—one that clearly supports the university and the

direction that the president and provost are taking us. This plan will be anchored in a vision that is supported by measurable outcomes. "Did we accomplish what we set out to do?" We will be able to answer that question.

*What was it about this position that most attracted you?*

**JE:** Collegiality. When I first interviewed in April, I found a college that was in good shape. It had a good spirit about it—people wanted to go somewhere with this institution. I had looked at a few other positions but had always told my wife, Elizabeth, that she needn't be concerned about us moving. But I told her at the airport in Kansas City, "You might want to start 'worrying' about this one, if they want me." At my second interview, which included an alumni reception, I realized not only was there a good spirit in the college, but that the alumni and other constituents really wanted K-State engineering to become more. They love this place!

*How are you settling in? Any comments about life in Manhattan, Kansas, or at Kansas State University?*

**JE:** Very, very well. The college is exactly as I thought it would be. People have been wonderful about welcoming us and leading us to opportunities. The town of Manhattan has been wonderful. After selling our home in Fayetteville very quickly and moving here, we needed new appliances, which can really be a hassle with installation and all. We were directed to a local appliance store, given a fair price, and then told, "We can deliver and install today." That's service!



Dean John English greets students.

*What do you like to do in your downtime—hobbies, interests, projects you like to pursue?*

**JE:** Let me put this in order of priority—family. They'll be visible in my life. I like to jog. My Alaskan malamute, Maya, and I love the linear trail here. Don't be surprised if you see her around here on the weekend or in the evening. I enjoy sailing and I hope to get back to it eventually. I like to be outside. For the past 20 years I've gone to Anthony, Kan., with my dad to hunt—quail season opens the second Saturday in November and we'll be there this year, too.

*Is there one thought or message of confidence from Dean John English that you'd like to share with Impact readers?*

**JE:** I think my main message of confidence would be this: we are going to think big, get out of the box, and build on our strengths. New priorities are on the horizon—things are emerging from the college that are right in line with this philosophy. This is what I want those associated with the K-State College of Engineering to know.

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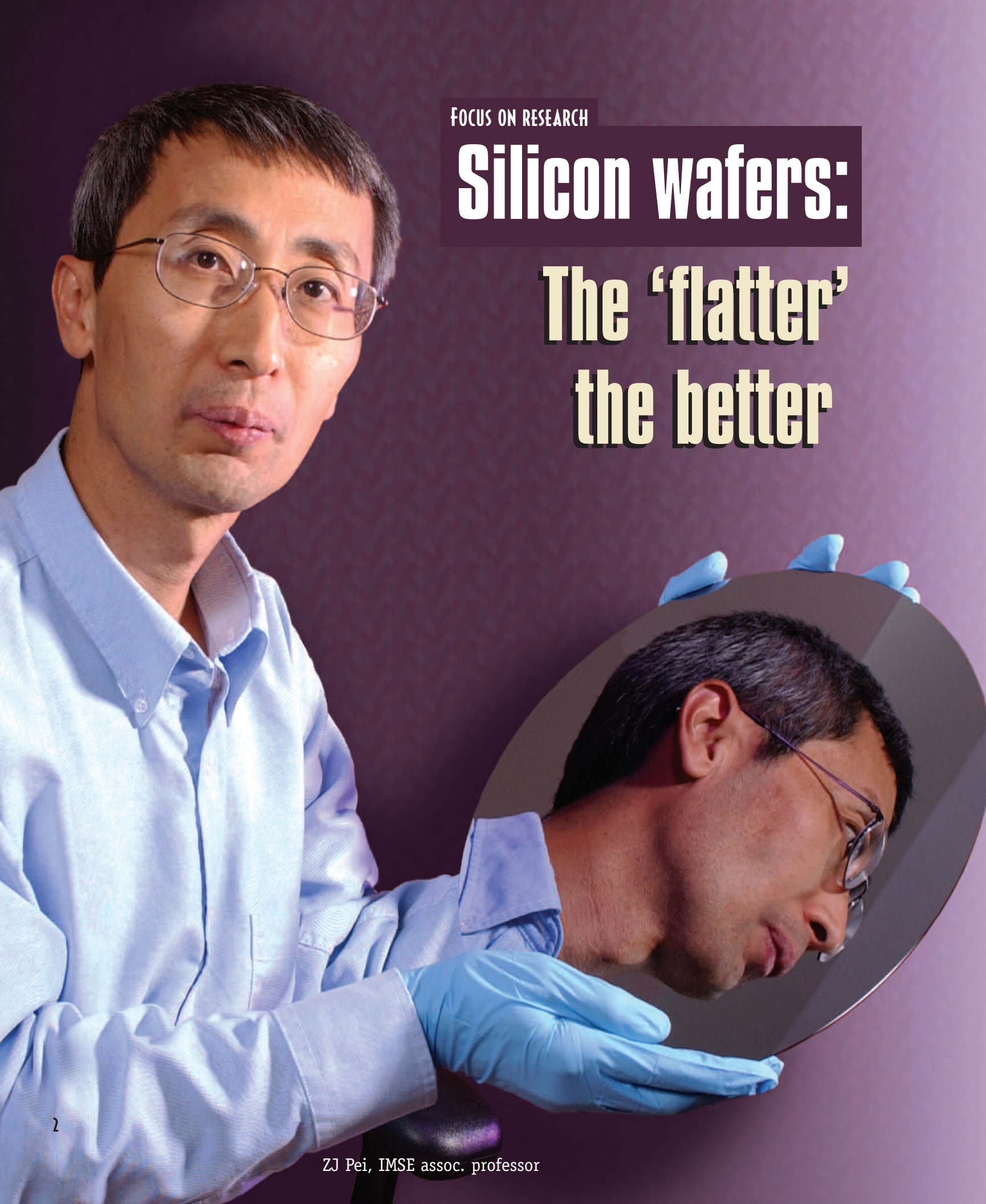


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FOCUS ON RESEARCH

# Silicon wafers: The 'flatter' the better

Christopher Columbus set out to prove that the earth was not flat.

Thomas Friedman wrote a book to convince us that the world is flat.

ZJ Pei says as the silicon wafer gets flatter and flatter, production of semiconductor devices built on the wafers will continue to expand, making modern technology more affordable and more available for all people.

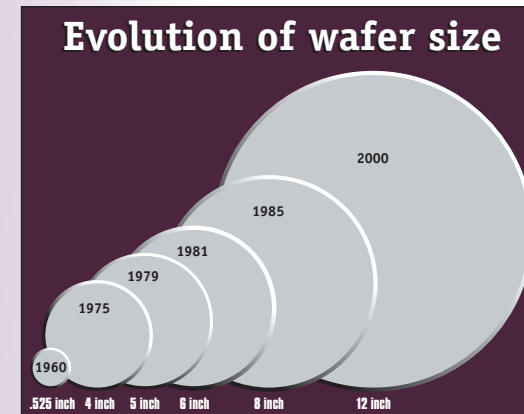
Pei, associate professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering at K-State, and his students are using finite-element analysis and theoretical modeling to develop parameters for the grinding machines used on site at silicon-wafer manufacturing plants.

Funded by nearly \$1 million from the National Science Foundation, as well as private industry support, Pei brings a unique perspective to wafer technology and innovation, having had involvement at all levels of the process.

After completing his bachelor's and master's degree studies in China, Pei earned a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois, Urbana in 1995. He then went to work as a process engineer for MEMC Electronic Materials, Inc., St. Peters, Mo., a leading manufacturer of silicon wafers.

"At MEMC, I was a staff engineer, primarily working on research and development in grinding technology," Pei said.

He next worked for Strasbaugh, Inc., San Luis Obispo, Calif., a company that manufactures the grinding machines used to flatten the wafers. And after that, he was employed by Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Inc., Worcester, Mass., a company that manufactures the grinding wheels used for grinding silicon wafers.



"I was always so busy with the machinery and running tests," Pei said, "that I had no time for fundamental research on the grinding process.

"I came to K-State to do this fundamental research in order to produce flatter wafers. The flatter the wafers can be ground, the smaller the

semiconductor devices that can be built onto the wafers. Sometimes 10, 20, or 30 layers of different materials will be deposited on a wafer. Each layer will be processed by photolithography to print the pattern of a circuit onto it, and then, by chemical or physical etching, to selectively remove material in order to create the circuit."

Today, K-State is the only academic institution in the nation conducting research in this area.

"The equipment and instrumentation for such research is very expensive," Pei said, "so we collaborate with MEMC, Strasbaugh, Saint-Gobain, and Argonne National Laboratories, sending my graduate students involved in this research to conduct on-site experiments to verify our modeling results."

Progress in this research area will mean decreased cost of silicon wafers and semiconductor devices, and in turn, increased availability of technology.

**Today, K-State is the only academic institution in the nation conducting research in this area.**

"Semiconductor devices are found almost everywhere—in computers, cell phones, televisions, automobiles, airplanes—the list goes on and on," Pei said. "And more than 90 percent of the semiconductor devices in use today are built on silicon wafers."

The size of silicon wafers has grown from a little over one-half inch in diameter 50 years ago, to today's 12-inch size. The question then became how to build and operate larger grinding machines that would withstand the high grinding force needed to flatten the larger silicon wafers.

"The increased quality—including flatness—of silicon wafers has contributed to a dramatic decrease in the price of electronic devices," Pei said. "Think about the price of a computer five years ago and what one costs today, and how much more you get now for the same money.

"Better, cheaper, flatter silicon wafers will make it possible to produce better and less-expensive electronic products, directly impacting consumers and the business world."

—by Mary Rankin

## Powercat tractor team takes first place at international competition



Team members, left to right, Monte Rolfs, ATM; Kyle McKinzie, BAE; Matthew Grollmes, BAE; and Jared Selland, BAE.

The Kansas State University Powercat Tractors Design Team finished first in the tenth annual American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition, May 31–June 3 in Peoria, Ill. This is the team's second consecutive year to win the title, and their sixth overall first-place finish in the ten-year history of the competition.

Competing against 28 teams from the U.S. and Canada, the K-State team also received the "Sound Quality Award" for having the quietest tractor and minimizing noise pollution. They earned first-place points for the written design report and took second place in the four pulls of the "tractor pull" portion of the competition.

The Powercat Tractors, made up of undergraduates in biological and agricultural engineering, agricultural technology management, and mechanical and nuclear engineering, is the only team to place in the top three, including six firsts, continuously since 1999. The competition began in 1998.

"This is another outstanding accomplishment," said Gary Clark, head of the department of biological and agricultural engineering at K-State. "I could not be more proud of our talented students and dedicated advisers who worked so hard to win the first-place trophy once again."

All teams were required to use unmodified, 16-horsepower Briggs and Stratton engines and Bridgestone/Firestone tires. The rest of the design was up to each individual team. The K-State tractor incorporated four engines with a four-wheel drive system.

The remainder of the top-five teams behind Kansas State finished in the following order: second place, Purdue University; third, Laval Université; fourth, University of Kentucky; and fifth, University of Illinois.

Team advisers are Mark Schrock and Pat Murphy, professors; Randy Price, assistant professor; and Darrell Oard and Lou Ann Claassen, biological and agricultural engineering staff assistants.

## Aero design team flies to victory in international contest

The Kansas State University Aero Design Team placed first out of 27 teams in the Society of Automotive Engineers Aero Design West competition March 23–25 in Van Nuys, Calif. The competition challenges engineering students to plan, design, fabricate, and test a radio-controlled aircraft that can take off and land while carrying the maximum cargo.

K-State's Aero Design Team, which is organized and led by students, made an 8.5-pound radio-controlled plane, named "The Manhattan Project," that won by carrying its maximum predicted payload weight of 20.73 pounds.

"The team put in a great deal of effort," said Terry Beck, mechanical and nuclear engineering professor and team adviser. "Everything about this project is extracurricular. They work after hours and on weekends. There are also fundraising aspects with this project."

Groups were scored in three areas for the contest: a written design report, oral presentation, and actual flight of the plane. In addition, the K-State team was recognized at the event for submitting the best design report.

"They've made incremental improvements and slowly stepped up the ladder," Beck said. "They've come a long way. I am very proud of these kids and previous team efforts. I knew they had the capability to successfully compete with what are mostly aerospace schools. They also have the support of previous team members. I think that's a real testimony to these kids."

"This is an exceptional showing by our Aero Design Team," said Mo Hosni, head of the department of mechanical and nuclear engineering. "Our students put in many hours, both in building their craft and putting together the design report. We are so proud their efforts were amply rewarded."

The team tries to attend two competitions a year with the goal of placing in the top three teams at each one. The design project uses all aspects of mechanical engineering, including organization, designing, building, and testing.



Team members, left to right, Curtis Spicer, MNE; Brian Anderson, MNE; and John Elson, MNE.

## Garmin Day



Students view a product-laden Garmin Jeep parked on the engineering plaza, Sept. 24 as part of Garmin Day activities. K-State has recently been selected as a member of the Garmin Electrical and Computer Engineering Educational Initiative. Funded by the Kao Family Foundation, the initiative program will provide 16 K-State electrical and computer engineering students with \$6,000 per year in premier scholarships. These students will also be given first consideration for paid internships at Garmin, including housing and health insurance. In total, the package is estimated to be worth up to \$20,000 per year per recipient. Min Kao, president and CEO of Garmin International Inc., Olathe, has made the commitment to establish the program at K-State as part of a \$10 million endowment to support engineering in the region.

## Carter Learning Center



The Carter Learning Center was dedicated Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Founders Luncheon, a part of the festivities of the Seaton Society Celebration weekend. A gift of Wichita native Eugene Carter, the center will provide space for a National Science Foundation program that trains tutors, pays them to attend a specific section of a course, and makes them available as a tutoring resource to anyone taking the course.

A part of the E. Eugene Carter Foundation for Excellence in Women in Engineering Fund for the College of Engineering, the \$1.05 million gift also supports the retention and recruitment of students of Latino or immigrant backgrounds in the K-State Women in Engineering and Science Program. The foundation is committed to repay full Stafford loans of 20 female K-State engineering students upon completion of their degrees.



# SEATON<sup>2007</sup> SOCIETY

*Celebration*



**Right**, College of Engineering Class of 2007 Hall of Fame, distinguished inductees honored for their professional success and accomplishment, active involvement with and support of the College of Engineering, dedication to Kansas State University, and professional and public service, left to right, back row: Robert Iotti, NE '64, president and chief executive officer, CH2M-WG Idaho; Donovan Nickel, EE '78, vice president and general manager, network-attached storage business, Hewlett Packard; and Stephen Berland, CE '72, co-founder, BG Consultants; left to right, front row: Joe Farrar, ME '70, president, Farrar Corporation; and Susan Tholstrup, ChE '81, process improvement manager, Shell Exploration and Production Company. **Center top**, Dean John English, at podium, acknowledges the contributions of Ed and Eunice Wambsganss, left, who recently funded a 25-year scholarship program to be awarded equally between CNS students and students enrolled in the college's other curricula.



HALL OF FAME



PROFESSIONAL PROGRESS AWARD



Dancers of all generations enjoy the musical renditions of Inferno.



**Left**, Eugene Carter, center, cuts the ribbon at the dedication of the Carter Learning Center, location of the Seaton Society Founders Luncheon held earlier in the day on the second floor of the engineering complex. Eugene and his wife, Rita, right, were honored for their gifts funding the learning center as well as exceptional scholarship support.

**Above**, Professional Progress Awardees, recognized for success in the middle years of their professional careers and accomplishments, left to right, standing: Mark Schonhoff, CompSci '88, vice president, Cerner Corporation; Brian Linin, ME '93, chief financial officer, Frontier Ag, Inc.; Troy Kolb, AgE '88, field manager, Capstan Ag Systems, Inc.; David Ott, ChE '88, operations manager, Dow Corning; Thomas Whittaker, CNS '87, senior vice president, general counsel, and assistant secretary, J.E. Dunn Construction Company; Michael Hafling, ARE '77, executive vice president and chief operating officer, CAS Construction; and Craig Mattox, CE '85, partner, Finney and Turnipseed Transportation and Civil Engineering; left to right, seated: Tracy Olivier, EE '89, engineering manager, OEM and fitness products, Garmin International; Jeffery Thetge, EE '88, vice president, international operations for engineering/EPC business, Willbros Butler Engineering; John McIntyre, IE '90, founder and chief executive officer, PixelFish, Inc.; and Sheila Hayter, ME '90, senior engineer, energy management and federal markets group, U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory.



Guests take part in dinner and conversation in the Alumni Center ballroom.

**New leadership for EECE department**

Don Gruenbacher has been named head of the department of electrical and computer engineering at K-State. An associate professor, Gruenbacher joined the College of Engineering faculty in 1997. He was promoted



Don Gruenbacher

to associate professor in 2002, and currently serves as the graduate program coordinator of electrical and computer engineering.

He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1989, a master's degree in 1991, and a doctorate in 1994, all from K-State. Gruenbacher's areas of interest are computer networks, digital design, and wireless communication.

His goals for the electrical and computer engineering department include continuing its strong undergraduate program while enhancing the graduate program with more collaborative research opportunities.

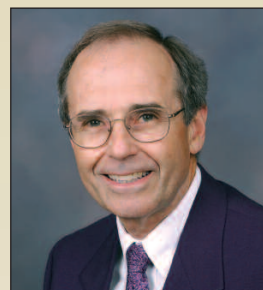
Gruenbacher served three years as senior staff at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Md., before coming to K-State. He also completed engineering internships with both Motorola Inc. and IBM. He received the Eta Kappa Nu Distinguished Faculty

Award of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2003.

"Don Gruenbacher will bring a superb set of abilities to this important leadership position," said John English, dean of the College of Engineering. "We look forward to the continued growth of the department in its three-part mission of education, scholarship, and professional service."

**Koelliker named interim head of CE department**

James Koelliker was named interim head of the department of civil engineering effective June 1. He joined the faculty in the K-State College of Engineering as an assistant professor of agricul-



Jim Koelliker

tural engineering in 1973, became an associate professor of civil engineering in 1978, and a full professor of civil engineering in 1981.

From 1997 to 2005, he was professor and head of biological and agricultural engineering at K-State. He spent one year, 1977, as an associate professor of agricultural engineering at Oregon State University.

Koelliker holds a B.S. in agricultural engineering from K-State, an M.S. in water resources from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. in

agricultural engineering from Iowa State. He is a registered professional engineer, a Fellow in the American Society of Biological and Agricultural Engineers, and a founding member of the faculty committee that established the natural resources and environmental sciences secondary major at K-State.

Koelliker replaces former department head, Lakshmi Reddi, who accepted the Gerry and Ruth Hartman Endowed Professorship and Civil Engineering Department Chair at the University of Central Florida, Orlando.

**Satzler accepts assistant dean position**

Larry Satzler was named assistant dean for student services in the College of Engineering effective Aug. 12. He had previously served 11 years on the faculty of



Larry Satzler

K-State's College of Business Administration. He has a bachelor's and a master's in industrial engineering, both from K-State.

His areas of specialty and interest are quality management in the service sector, adult learning theories, project management, systems engineering applied to public interests and health services, and environmental health and

safety issues and training.

"Larry Satzler brings an outstanding set of credentials in the instructional area and a strong understanding of the academic requirements related to the course of study in the college," said John English, dean of the College of Engineering. "He will be an effective advocate for the success of our students."

Satzler replaces current dean of student services, Ray Hightower, who retires in December.

**Walker joins K-State Foundation staff**

Adam Walker has been appointed as development officer at the Kansas State University Foundation. A 2004 K-State graduate with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology



Adam Walker

and a former varsity track student-athlete, Walker joins the foundation as a development officer for the College of Engineering.

Before joining the foundation staff, he served as a senior admissions representative for K-State where he successfully developed and implemented a student recruitment program for northeast Kansas and Colorado. He is currently pursuing a master's degree at K-State in college student development with an emphasis in athletics.



**2007 FACULTY AWARDS**



**2007 College of Engineering Faculty Awards recipients, left to right:** James DeVault, EECE professor, Myers-Alford Memorial Teaching Award; Julia Keen, ARE/CNS assist. professor, Clair A. Mauch Steel Ring Advisor of the Year; Larry Glasgow, ChE professor, Charles H. Scholer Faculty Award; Richard Hayter, assoc. dean for external affairs, Larry E. and Laurel

Erickson Public Service Award; Naiqian Zhang, BAE professor, Bob and Lila Snell Distinguished Career Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; Bruce Babin, MNE assist. professor, James L. Hollis Memorial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; and Gurdip Singh, CIS professor, Frankenhoff Outstanding Research Award.

**Calendar**

- Fall commencement • Dec. 8, 2007
- Engineering Career Fair • Feb. 12, 2008
- Open House • April 18–19, 2008
- Spring commencement • May 17, 2008

**IMPACT**

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## Activities abound as MEP marks anniversary

# MEP 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A scholarship golf tournament, panel discussion, and a celebration banquet were all highlights of the 30th anniversary celebration of the K-State Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP), Oct. 18–20, 2007. Events were planned around the theme, “K-State engineering leads to unique and wonderful places.”

MEP, established in 1977, is designed to help recruit, retain, educate, and graduate quality multicultural students from the College of Engineering. Through efforts of the program, students are provided with services such as academic advising, scholarships, mentoring, tutoring, professional development, and job-placement assistance.

“The weekend was a great success,” said LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin, MEP director. “Having past directors, alumni, current students, and friends of the program join us to celebrate made every aspect of the event even more meaningful as we looked back at 30 years of accomplishment and advancement.”

Karen Martin, MEP director at K-State from 1993–1996, served as keynote speaker for the celebration banquet on Saturday evening. Martin is currently vice president of student affairs at Grambling State University, Grambling, La. Other past MEP directors in attendance included Karen Hummel and Thirkell Howard.



Left to right, LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin, current MEP director; Karen Martin, Karen Hummel, and Thirkelle Howard, former MEP directors. Past director not pictured, Andrew Cordero.

## Advanced Manufacturing Institute...engineering success

An entrepreneur has an idea for a new innovation but does not know how to get it to the marketplace. A small business wants to improve an existing technology but does not have the time or equipment to develop it. A large company develops a new product but needs testing to verify its capabilities. Each of these needs assistance and additional resources.

The Advanced Manufacturing Institute is that resource.

Part of the College of Engineering, AMI provides business and engineering services to companies, entrepreneurs, and university researchers to help develop products and technologies and launch them into the marketplace. AMI services include business planning and research, product development, manufacturing process development, custom equipment and technology development, and commercialization services.

In the last year, AMI's services have expanded to include more emphasis on bioprocessing and design verification.

AMI's bioprocessing team is comprised of Gina Becker and Sigifredo Castro. Becker has a chemical engineering degree

from the University of Arkansas and a master's degree in English from Kansas State University. She has a background in plastics technologies and more than 15 years industry experience working for companies such as Dow Chemical and Eastman Kodak. Castro is highly knowledgeable in recovering valuable products from waste and has a doctorate degree in chemical engineering from K-State.

Together with interns from the College of Engineering, they assist clients in making products from renewable resources. Services include process development and design, mass-and-energy-balance analysis, bench- and pilot-scale verification, and commercial scale-up.

“The success of our bioprocessing team has far exceeded our expectations, and we are excited about all the opportunities to assist clients in this area,” said Brad Kramer, director of the Advanced Manufacturing Institute and department head of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering.

The design verification team is led by Taylor Jones, chief engineer. Jones has more than 15 years of industry experience

and a mechanical engineering degree from K-State. Other team members include Jeremy Loewen and Jon Thurston, also K-State mechanical engineering graduates, and several student interns.

“The AMI design verification team has proven to be an excellent resource for John Deere with their unique, cost-effective approach for providing product design, analysis, and validation solutions,” said Doug Meyer, director of the John Deere Construction Equipment Engineering, Construction, and Forestry Division. “Our relationship with AMI continues to grow and becomes stronger with each new design verification project.”

Beyond its services, AMI is also known for its intern program that allows undergraduate and graduate students at K-State to gain real work experience. During their internship, students apply what they learn in the classroom to client projects and work with professionals and other interns in their career area.

For more information on AMI, visit their Web site at [www.amisuccess.com](http://www.amisuccess.com).

—By Lea Studer

AMI marketing and communications manager



## CPR training

Faculty and staff of the College of Engineering participated in certification classes for Red Cross First-Aid and CPR training June 4–5. At left, left to right, Donghai Wang, BAE assoc. professor; Byron Jones, assoc. dean for research and graduate programs; Timothy Deines, IMSE instructor; and Jason Selland, MNE research engineer, practice CPR techniques. Lisa Linck, safety coordinator for the College of Engineering, said due to the strong response and the need to get people from all levels involved in safety, the course will be offered again in the coming months.

## Civil engineering centennial celebration

The K-State department of civil engineering will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the department during the 2007–2008 school year. Established by the Kansas Board of Regents in the fall of 1907, the first classes in the curriculum were offered in 1908.

In celebration of the centennial event, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius issued a proclamation of recognition of the milestone this fall. Various activities are planned around the anniversary in 2007 and 2008, including a banquet and alumni gathering during Open House events in April.

The first K-State graduating class from civil engineering—seven men—received their B.S. degrees in 1910. The first master's degree in civil engineering was granted in 1926. The first department head, Lowell E. Conrad, served in that capacity for nearly 40 years, seeing the department through two World Wars and the Depression.

Conrad was followed by Reed F. Morris, 1947–1963, who oversaw construction of the Seaton Hall West Wing addition. Next in leadership was Jack B. Blackburn, 1963–1972, who led civil engineering through the Vietnam War era and worked to develop the department's doctoral program.

Robert R. Snell began his 20 years as department head in 1972 and during his tenure many of the courses offered in the applied mechanics department—and its professors—were absorbed by civil engineering. Stuart Swartz, 1992–1999, focused his attention on distance education, a cooperative master's degree program with KU,

and establishment of the civil engineering advisory council.

Lakshmi N. Reddi became department head in 1999 and during the next eight years worked to develop the geo-environmental certificate program and helped begin the University Transportation Center. Currently James Koelliker is serving as interim department head while a national search is conducted for Reddi's successor.

More information about the Civil Engineering Centennial Celebration is available on the Web at [www.ce.ksu.edu](http://www.ce.ksu.edu).



K-State engineering faculty and students join the governor of Kansas for proclamation signing. Standing from left: Richard Hayter, assoc. dean; Brian Coon, UTC director; Sunanda Dissanayake, asst. professor; Sarah Grotheer, graduate student; Richard McReynolds, KDOT; James Koelliker, interim head; Kathleen Strain, CE senior; Mbaki Onyango, graduate student; and Joshua Lipscomb, CE senior; seated: Governor Kathleen Sebelius.



K-State's entry in the 2007 Solar Decathlon on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

## 2007 Solar Decathlon

K-State was among the 20 universities and colleges competing in the 2007 Solar Decathlon, where student teams designed, built, and operated homes powered entirely by the sun. The competition ran from Oct. 12–20 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The main sponsor was the U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

The K-State team was made up of students from the Colleges of Architecture, Planning and Design, and Engineering. Faculty sponsors included Ruth Miller, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, and R. Todd Gabbard and Larry Bowne, assistant professors of architecture.

Construction of K-State's entry began in the 2006–2007 school year and resulted in an 800-square-foot home with solar panels, structurally insulated panels, skylights, and energy-saving appliances. It was transported in one piece, with only its decking and solar panels needing installation once it reached Washington.

The Solar Decathlon featured 10 contests including architecture; engineering; how comfortable the home is inside, temperature-wise; how attractive and adequate its lighting is; do the appliances work—and work efficiently; can it provide enough hot water for a household; can it power an electric vehicle to meet transportation needs; and would the home be marketable and suitable for everyday living.

## ALUMNI NEWS

1939

**Gerald Boatwright** (ME) reports seeing very little news of his 1939 classmates in *Impact*. Graduating when jobs were scarce, he said he was fortunate to get a job at Phillips Petroleum Co. in Bartlesville, Okla. After 13 months with Phillips, Boatwright was offered and accepted a U.S. Civil Service position with the ship design division of the U.S. Navy in Washington, D.C. There he used his schooling in power plant design for the design of ship propulsion plants for 34 years before retiring and doing consulting for 10 years.

jerrboat@juno.com

1965

**Glen Fountain** (EE, M.S. '76) was awarded the American Institute of Aeronautics von Braun Award for Excellence in Space Program Management for 2007. The award is a national recognition for an individual's outstanding contributions in the management of a significant space or space-related program or project.

Fountain, a 2006 guest Eyestone Lecturer at K-State, is the project manager of NASA's New Horizons mission to Pluto. The mission, launched in January 2006, is expected to reach the distant world of Pluto in summer 2015.

1973

**Al Pace** (ME) is a project director for Marathon Oil Company assigned to the West African country of Equatorial Guinea. His project has just made its first shipment of LNG, which is destined for Louisiana. The grassroots \$1.5 billion project was completed five months ahead of schedule, under budget, and with an excellent safety record.

alpace1@gmail.com

1981

**Jim Brewer** (ChE) has accepted a new position as director of operations at Criteria Labs, Austin, Texas. Criteria Labs is a semiconductor services company serving commercial and military-grade clients

in all facets of semiconductor manufacturing. Brewer credits Kansas State for his ability to apply engineering principles to the daily decisions required in operations. He and his wife of 19 years, Kathrin, have an 11-year-old daughter, Kendall. [jbrewer@criterialabs.com](mailto:jbrewer@criterialabs.com)

1982

**Duane Henderson** (ARE) is president and CEO of Henderson Engineers Inc., Lenexa, Kan. He joined the then three-person company in 1987, becoming president the following year. Twenty years later, the national engineering firm has 400 employees and branch offices in Houston, Bentonville, Phoenix, and Dallas. Henderson and his wife of 22 years, Mary, live in Kansas City.

1988

**Greg Langley** (ME), Westminster, Colo., is CEO of Synchroness, Inc., a product development company involved in helping some of the largest and smallest companies in the U.S. develop products from concept to production in industries such as high-tech research, industrial equipment, consumer products, medical devices, and aerospace instrumentation. [glangley@synchroness.com](mailto:glangley@synchroness.com)

1991

**Lori Vander Linden VanderLeest** (CE) and Rob VanderLeest announce the birth of their son, Tyler Scott, on Jan. 24, 2007. He joins his big sister, Megan. [lorivl@yahoo.com](mailto:lorivl@yahoo.com)

1996

**Cynthia McCann** (CE) received a Special Recognition Award from the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers, given annually to an individual or group who, through their service to KSPE, their profession, and/or the community deserves special recognition for their efforts. McCann also has an M.S. in engineering management from the University of Kansas and is currently serving as project engineer/squad leader with the HNTB Corporation.

1997

**Scott Lindebak** (CE) received the Government Engineer of the Year Award from the Kansas Society of Professional

Engineers. The award is based on membership, education, professional registration, awards and honors, civic and humanitarian activities, continuing education, and engineering achievements. He is currently employed by the city of Wichita, public works, and is a licensed engineer in Kansas and Illinois.

## DEATHS

1952

**Robert Spencer** (IE), Ellisville, Mo., died in February 2007. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, daughter, Deborah, and two grandsons, Ryan and Kyle, who graduated in May 2007 from the K-State Hotel and Restaurant Management School.

1968

**Kevin Robert Cahill** (IE, M.S. '70) lost a 30-year battle with multiple sclerosis on June 22, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Karen, who said, "Kevin did not become famous or do anything that the world thinks is important—the disease took him out of the work force in his late thirties—but he always spoke fondly and happily of his years at Kansas State, truly appreciating the education he received there." He is also survived by a daughter, three stepsons, and 11 grandchildren. Karen also said, "Two people have had their vision restored because he left his eyes."

1972

**Larry J. Engelken** (EE), Morrison, Colo., died in a water-sporting accident July 19, 2007. He worked for two global engineering design firms, including Black & Veatch in Kansas City, and the Convergent Group in Denver, of which he was a founding member. He later became a successful self-employed entrepreneur, developer, and philanthropist. He is survived by his wife, Holly; six children; five grandchildren; his mother; and 11 siblings. Engleken served on the College of Engineering Advisory Council and was a member of the Class of 2006 K-State Engineering Hall of Fame.

1977

**James Robert Meyer**, LTC-Ret. (M.S. CompSci), Radcliff, Ky, died June 1, 2007.

## KEEP CONNECTED

Take a few minutes to send us your job changes, births, deaths, professional or other activities, your retirement, or remembrances you'd like to share. Send your news to *Impact* by mail, e-mail, or fax.

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## Not pictured

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