

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

# IMPACT

SPRING 2007



Lisa Kitten  
ME '06  
Marshall Scholar

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



In the State of the College address last fall, I challenged our faculty and staff with the following: “We are in a year of transition, but not a year of a holding pattern. Working as a coordinated and collective body, we will continue to move forward with previously identified initiatives and consciously develop the framework for new ideas.”

And move forward we have! We’ve added Marshall, Goldwater, and Udall scholars to our already impressive record of producing the best and brightest students. You can read more about the accomplishments of Lisa Kitten, Emily Voigt, and Brad Lutz, respectively, as you continue through this spring issue of *Impact*.

You’ll also note comings and goings—the approaching retirement of long-time assistant dean, Ray Hightower, and the arrival of a director for the newly established University Transportation Center, Brian Coon.

The college has identified four focus areas of research, interdisciplinary in nature, not only crossing multiple departmental boundaries in the college but also positioning our research faculty to be major collaborators with researchers in other disciplines outside the college and with partnerships beyond the university.

One of these areas, water resources, deals with the quality and availability of ground and surface water. The work of civil engineering associate professor David Steward, highlighted in the “Focus on Research” section, definitely exhibits collaborative research with other colleges as we move forward to play a leading role in the sub-areas of surface and ground water quality, water-based economics, groundwa-

ter modeling and measurements, and development of national hydrological and ecological research stations. The GRoWE group has initiated activities utilizing geospatial technology to establish the modeling framework for groundwater flow that may eventually involve all Big 12 institutions.

You’ll notice changes in our development staff. Over the past year, we have assembled an outstanding team that has aggressively sought philanthropic support for the college and our special programs and facilities. The college has met and exceeded its Changing Lives Campaign goal as well as its overall fiscal year 2007 financial goals. Thanks to a great effort by our student volunteers, we even exceeded our Telefund goal. This endeavor, in addition to providing scholarship money, sees 20% of its total dollars go toward support of our student competition teams, which are great ambassadors for our programs and the college.

We’ve been pleased to welcome distinguished alumni back to the college in various capacities this past semester. Greg Tucker, ME ’78, in his role as 2007 Alumni Fellow, inspired students and faculty alike during his time on campus. ExxonMobil, a strong supporter of our engineering programs, was honored as the Tau Beta Pi Company of the Year, along with two of its employees, Wayne Harms, ChE ’76, and Ron Thomas, CE ’81, named as Co-Leaders of the Year.

Rhea, EE ’60, and Pat Serpan were honored guests in February for ribbon-cutting

ceremonies highlighting the dedication of the newly renovated G. Rhea and Pat Serpan Lobby. The Serpans’ generosity in funding this project has added a wonderful “presence” to the east entrance of our engineering complex atrium. It is the first place many of our past, present, and future students will enter and say, “I belong to this, and I’m proud!”

Visitors to our 85th College of Engineering Open House were also greeted by a newly renovated and landscaped front plaza area—a fitting welcome to an annual event where exhibits on display highlight the opportunities our curricula provide for students as they prepare for successful professional careers. K-State engineering students experience an active learning environment that blends essential elements of academics, diversity, leadership, and teamwork.

This year’s Open House theme fittingly describes us—“K-State Engineering: Better, Smarter, Faster, Stronger”—a program definitely not in ‘a holding pattern.’

Richard R. Gallagher, Interim Dean

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*“We are in a year of transition, but not a year of a holding pattern.”*

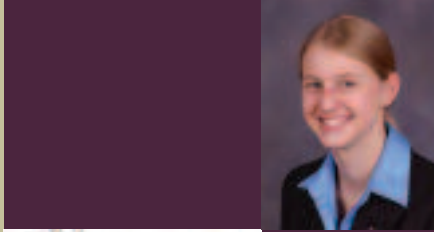
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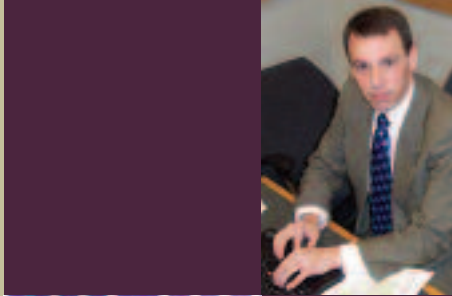
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# Steward of water

**“When the well is dry, we learn the worth of water.”**

— Benjamin Franklin

The Consortium for Global Research on Water-Based Economies—GRoWE—at Kansas State University, understands the worth of water.

Led by facilitator, David Steward, associate professor of civil engineering, this collaborative organization is dedicated to helping people understand and manage the relationships between water resources and human consumption for agricultural production and livelihood.

Steward came to Kansas State in 1998 with a background in mathematical and computer modeling tools to understand groundwater flow and transport, application of geographic information science (GIScience) to water resources, and integrated modeling approaches to understand natural/social systems’ response to human/climate-induced changes in groundwater use and availability.

“The GRoWE group came together in 2001,” Steward said, “when then-department head Stu Swartz gave me the keys to the departmental van and I spent two months driving the state trying to understand what I could do to help in the area of groundwater resources management.”

The common thread in response to his travel-related inquiries was concern over depletion of the High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer region, which led him to recognize the need, as a society, to understand and manage use of water resources.

“I went across campus looking for help to build a ‘K-State community’ to develop the scientific information necessary to support decision making and policy management in the area of water resource systems,” Steward said.

From this process came the executive committee of GRoWE—a group from five different departments in four colleges at K-State that meets weekly and brings together people related to water: Jeff Peterson, agricultural economics; Eric Bernard, landscape architecture; Steve Welch, agronomy; Laszlo Kulcsar, sociology; and Steward.

“This team unites people related to water,” Steward said, “—people who can understand water resources from a new perspective and view it as an ecosystem that is part of the fabric of our world.”

The committee’s early focus was learning to accept the different approaches necessary for developing the research, education, and outreach to support a program on water-based economies.

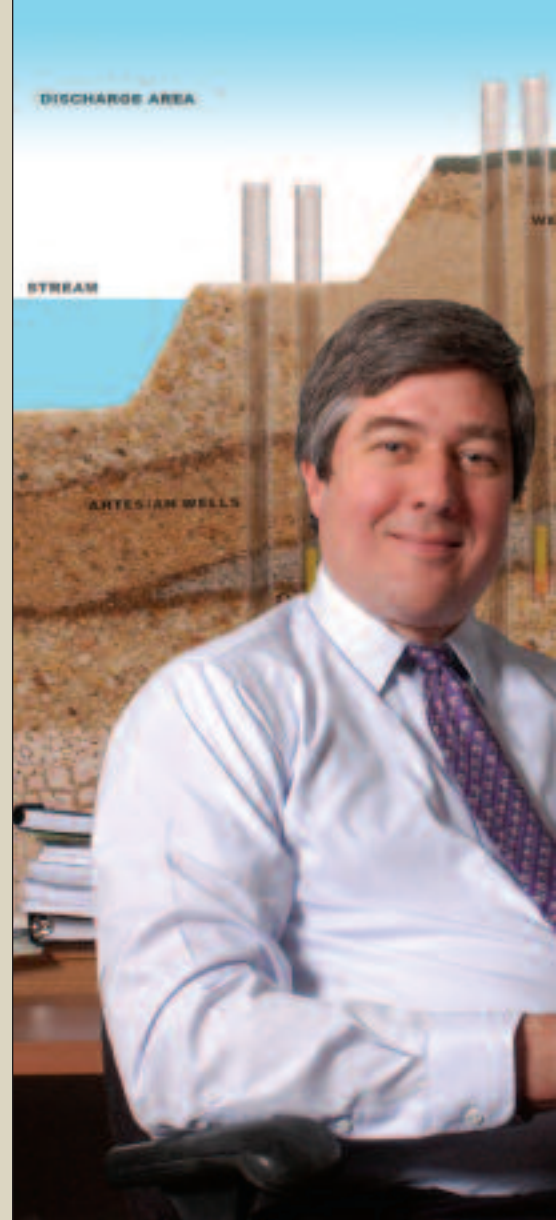
“GRoWE is a three-legged stool of research, education, and community engagement. If you’re weak in one of these areas,” Steward said, “your program will not succeed to its full potential.”

And the GRoWE group realized you can’t plan for future water needs without understanding the entirety of the water resource system.

They began to address some of the following questions:

- Does water availability drive the farm economy, or do national and global markets drive water use on farms?
- How does global climate impact the longevity of the finite aquifer resource?
- How could the farm bill and energy policy improve long-term economic vitality in the High Plains Aquifer region and maintain water security?
- Who is the workforce in a region, and how do they impact community decision making?
- What are the migration patterns and age distribution of a community, and how does that impact policy and decision making?

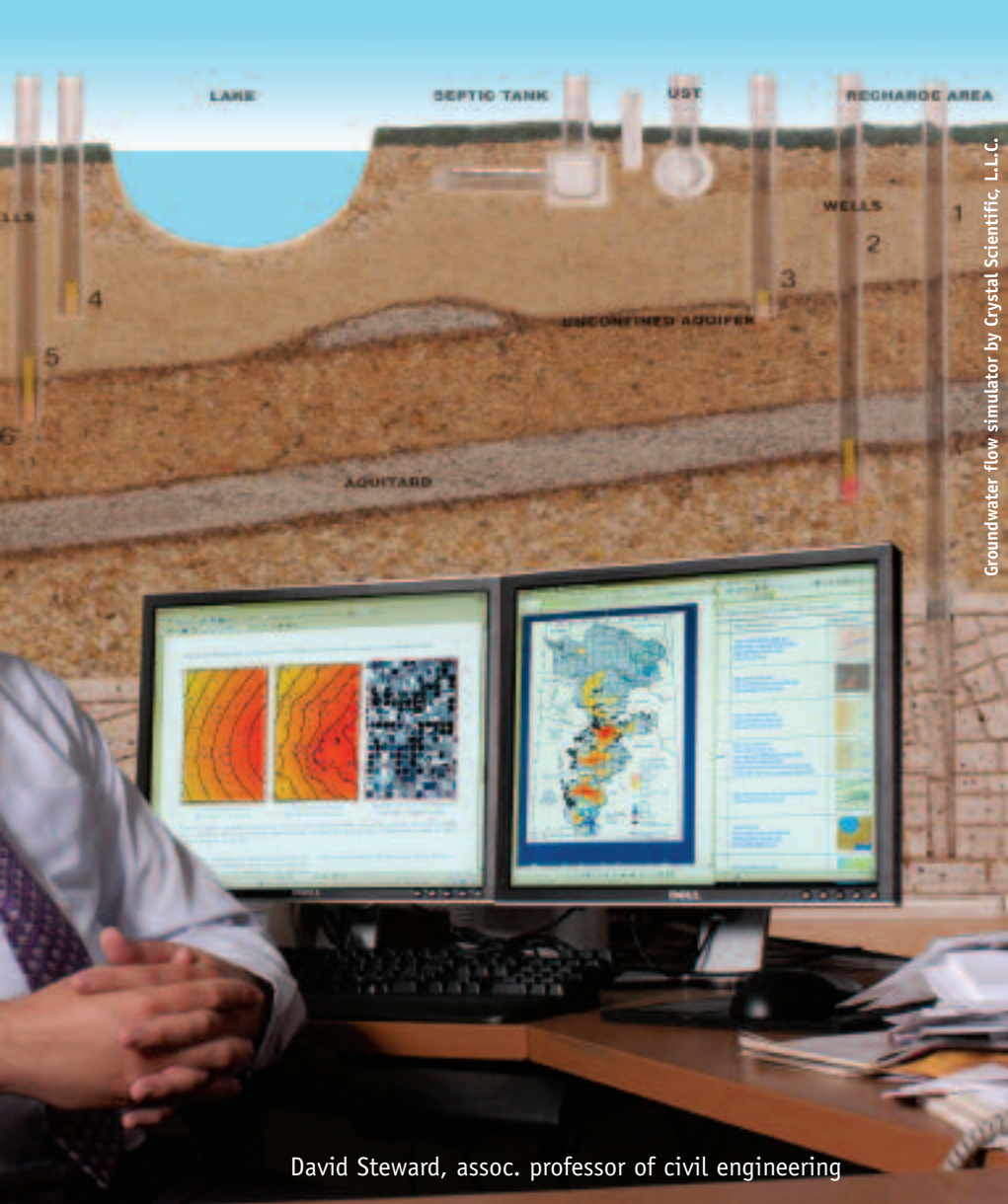
This system-wide approach is also how national funding agencies now address their allocations, Steward said, listing the following investors as financial sources for GRoWE’s collaborative research linking water resources and human systems:



Institute for Inland Water Management and Wastewater Treatment in the Netherlands, National Science Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Geological Survey, Kansas Water Resources Institute, and Kansas State University Provost’s Targeted Excellence Program.

“GIScience is the technological underpinning for the research,” Steward said. “Water resource systems are spatial in nature, which allows storage, analysis, and modeling of the natural and social systems comprising a water resource system in a geographic information system (GIS), as well as thematic mapping, remote sensing, and telemetry data and methods.”

An example of this is the team’s development of a computerized mapping system of all authorized water-use sites in Kansas ([gis.ksu.edu/ogallala](http://gis.ksu.edu/ogallala)). The identified wells are drawing water from either river basins



David Steward, assoc. professor of civil engineering

in eastern Kansas or the Ogallala Aquifer in the west, and the system shows how much water is being pumped from the wells. Other data sources include real-time

**“... groundwater declines threaten both short- and long-term viability of the water resource, the economy, and the regional population . . . .”**

data for stream levels, agricultural data, population data, and ecological regions.

“This data set provides a public record for other groups to use in their decision-making processes—groups like local groundwater management districts and water boards,” Steward said.

“We’ve leveled the playing field. Every Kansan now has access to the same data

that Topeka had before. We’re building the tools necessary for leaving water-use decisions up to people in their local districts.”

The GRoWE team is working with a linked-models approach—models that were previously separated, in order to make predictions.

“We want people to understand how precipitation models affect water table models, and water table models affect plant models, and plant models affect production models, which, in turn, impact economics and people,” Steward said.

“Scarcity of water resources poses risks to the economic, social, and environmental well being of communities, regions, nations, and ultimately the world. In the western Kansas region, the High Plains Aquifer provides the primary source of water for agriculture and municipalities.

“However, groundwater declines threaten both short- and long-term viability of the

water resource, the economy, and the regional population,” he said. “It is of national and international interest to identify and evaluate economically viable, socially acceptable, and environmentally conscious water management strategies to sustain this important region, as well as other world water and agricultural resources.”

GRoWE creates and disseminates knowledge related to the adaptation of limited water resources. Team members are currently collaborating on four interrelated tasks: collaborating with stakeholders and agencies to identify potential water management strategies; developing a common data model that assembles hydrologic, environmental, economic, and socio-demographic data collected at multiple geographic scales; analyzing current and projected trends in groundwater use and possible impacts of different groundwater management strategies on environmental, economic, and social systems; and creating education materials that utilize the newest information technologies.

A “first of its kind” at K-State has come from this program, when in fall 2006 professors from four colleges combined to develop and teach a new course, Water and Society. Students from the Colleges of Engineering, Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, and Architecture—both graduate and undergraduate level—enrolled in the class and were successfully able to achieve interdisciplinary collaboration and understand water resources as a system. The course will be offered again in fall 2007.

A future goal also, Steward said, is to synergistically leverage the combined efforts of nearly 120 faculty members on the K-State campus who are interested in the potential use of ecoforecasting—looking into the effects of climate change on ecology using the models strategy already developed by GRoWE.

In spreading this interdisciplinary approach beyond Kansas and the U.S., Steward plans a sabbatical at Delft Technical University in the Netherlands for the spring 2008 semester where he will participate in cross-research activities with faculty there who are working on similar modeling and water resource management issues for the European Union’s Water Framework Directive.

—by Mary Rankin



## LUTZ WINS UDALL

Brad Lutz, senior in electrical engineering and computer engineering, is among 80 students nationwide to receive the \$5,000 Morris K. Udall Scholarship, a congressional scholarship honoring the former Arizona congressman for his legacy of public service. Lutz was selected from 434 candidates nominated by 221 colleges and universities.

He is vice president and photovoltaic system design lead for Project Solar House, the solar house K-State is entering in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2007 Solar Decathlon in Washington D.C. He is also working on the UFM greenhouse restoration project, designing the photovoltaic system that is to be added.



Brad Lutz

At K-State, Lutz has been a member of Eta Kappa Nu and Students for Environmental Action. He also works as an undergraduate research assistant in the K-State S.M.A.R.T.—Semi-conductor Materials And Radiological Technologies—Lab and as a tutor for the Multicultural Engineering Program. At K-State he has received the John G. Ellis Scholarship and a College of Engineering Scholarship.

K-State is tied for third with Penn State among state universities in Udall Scholarship competition. The Udall Foundation seeks future leaders across a wide spectrum of environmental fields, including policy, engineering, science, education, urban planning and renewal, business, health, justice, and economics.



## CAREER FAIR

With a 20 percent increase in company participation and a 15 percent increase in student involvement over last year, the Engineering Career Fair, Feb. 13 in the engineering complex atrium, was deemed a resounding success by all involved. Despite adverse weather conditions, strong attendance dominated the day-long event allowing engineering and computer and construction science majors to make contact with potential employers from business, industry, and government.



## CAN-STRUCTION

**Below left**, members of the Structural Engineers Association of Kansas and Missouri (SEAKM) stack canned goods as part of a construction model effort representing the Petronos Towers of Malaysia. The completed project, **left**, was on display in the engineering complex atrium in November.

SEAKM members, all ARE/CNS majors, solicited funds from alumni and corporate sponsors, raising \$1200 to purchase the more than 3,100 cans of food needed to construct the towers. Students drew plans for the model on Autocad, selected the cans used by size and color, and practiced building parts of the structure at least three times before the actual 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. public building day in the atrium.

All canned goods used to build the towers were later donated to the Manhattan Bread Basket as part of an annual college-wide food drive sponsored by the engineering honorary, Tau Beta Pi.



# Lisa Kitten—K-State’s 12th Marshall Scholar



Lisa Kitten

**K**-State President Dr. Jon Wefald calls her “a first-team, All-American scholar.”

She says, “I have an insatiable—and sometimes frustrating—drive to do exciting things.”

Combine the two, and you have K-State’s latest Marshall Scholarship recipient, Lisa Kitten, recent graduate in mechanical engineering.

One of about 40 students awarded the prestigious scholarship annually, Kitten is K-State’s 12th Marshall recipient overall, and the 11th since 1986, tying the university for second in the nation producing Marshall Scholars from 1986–2007.

With the approximate \$70,000 value of the Marshall—full funding for two years study at any university in the United Kingdom, Kitten’s scholarship dollars over her academic career have topped \$140,000.

“Those numbers always bring a bit of shock,” Kitten said. “Beyond that, though, I recognize the tremendous generosity of both the people who made them available through their financial contributions and those who helped me win them by serving as references or advisers.”

Kitten attributes her Clare Boothe Luce Scholarship (\$36,000), her largest

undergraduate award, to the efforts of the Women in Engineering and Science Program.

“It was only available for two years at K-State, and I was fortunate to be eligible,” she said. “I add to that the even greater good fortune of having Dr. Richard Gallagher’s encouragement. Had he not pulled me aside at an honor society induction and strongly encouraged me to apply, I wouldn’t have. And had I not won the Luce, I certainly wouldn’t have been as strong a candidate for the Marshall two years later.”

A student’s extracurricular activities often play a key role in scholarship selection, and Kitten has built an impressive resume in that area as well. She currently advises the Freshman Leadership

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**“K-State offers more than a top-notch education at an affordable price . . . . It offers a top-notch education with no qualifiers attached . . . .”**

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Committee of Engineering Student Council and has served as the council’s senior member, president, director of publicity, director of development, and Freshman Leadership Committee president. She has chaired the Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Student Advisory Council, sits on the Coordinating Committee for People with Disabilities, and was a member of the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society. She serves as a mentor for new engineering students, is a member of Women Mentoring Women, and was an Engineering Ambassador. She studied at Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic, in spring 2005.

**continued on page 12**

## GOLDWATER SCHOLAR

Emily Voigt, senior in chemical engineering, is among 317 students nationally to win a 2007 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,110 mathematics, science, and engineering students nominated by the faculties of their colleges and universities, recipients receive up to \$7,500 annually for their final one or two years of undergraduate studies.

Voigt plans to earn a Ph.D. in chemical/biological engineering. Her goal is to work at a university and to conduct research in biofuels and teach. She conducted research at Pennsylvania State University on transgenic protein production in plant cells in summer 2005 and again in 2006 on algae biofuels.

This past semester, she began research in biofuels production under Keith Hohn and John Schlup, K-State chemical engineering



Emily Voigt

professors. Voigt is the editor and cataloguer-elect for Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society, and secretary and public relations coordinator for Mentors for International Experiences. Also pursuing a minor in German, she studied abroad in Giessen, Germany, during summer 2006.

She is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Engineering Ambassadors, Society of Women Engineers, The Navigators, and Women Mentoring Women. Voigt is a recipient of numerous scholarships including being named a Clare Boothe Luce Scholar in 2005 and also a Putnam Scholar. She is a member of Omega Chi Epsilon, Golden Key, and Phi Kappa Phi honors.

K-State students have won 60 Goldwater Scholarships, making K-State first in the nation among state universities. Among all universities, public and private, K-State is tied for third place with Duke.



# ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE '07







Outstanding department . . . . . IMSE  
 Yellow Brick . . . . . IMSE  
 Freshman/sophomore display . . . . . CNSM  
 Curriculum display . . . . . IMSE  
 Limited class display . . . . . IMSE  
 Technical class display . . . . . ChE  
 Open class display . . . . . ARE

**St. Patricia** . . . . . Clare Seip, ARE  
**St. Pat** . . . . . Josh Lipscomb, CE

## ENGINEERING BANQUET AWARDS

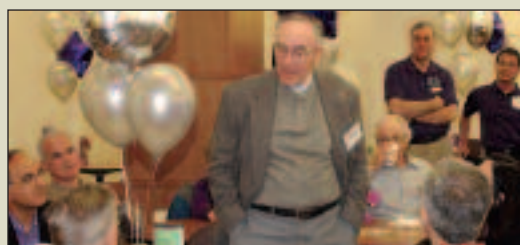
W. Leroy Culbertson/Steel Ring Leadership Scholarship Award . . . . Jennifer Bolton, IE

Clair A. Mauch/Steel Ring Adviser of the Year . . . . Asst. Prof. Julia Keen, ARE/CNS

Honorary Steel Ring Memberships for Meritorious Service to the College of Engineering:\*

- Ray Hightower, Asst. Dean for Student Services, 31 years as adviser to Steel Ring Professional Honor Society
- Prof. James Goddard, ARE/CNS, 30 years as adviser to CNSM Open House Student Committee
- Prof. Walter Walawender, ChE, 14 years as adviser to ChE Open House Student Committee

\*Only 10 honorary members have been inducted into Steel Ring since it was formed in 1929.



**“Engineering: Better, Smarter, Faster, Stronger”**—the theme of the 85th Annual Engineering Open House, featuring all the traditional events of St. Pat and St. Patricia, parade and skits, and department displays, April 13–14—rain or shine, the show must go on!

**Below**, a highlight of the weekend was the 50th anniversary celebration of the nuclear engineering program at K-State. Faculty emeritus and alumni gathered from across the country to commemorate the event. In 1958, the College of Engineering was one of the first institutions in the country to establish a separate department of nuclear engineering. In 1964, K-State’s program became the first in the nation to gain accreditation.

## NUCLEAR ENGINEERING 50TH



**Clockwise from right, above:** Richard Gallagher, interim dean, is joined by Lief Koepsel, left, EE ‘82, back for open house activities and to announce the naming of a scholarship to honor his father, W. W. Koepsel, right, former department head of EE at K-State; John Dollar, former assistant dean, visits with current faculty and alumni guests at a Saturday reception in Fiedler Library; robotics competition is a popular stop for visitors touring the engineering complex atrium; IMSE students perform their award-winning ‘Super Heroes’ skit; members of the steel bridge construction team explain their design to attendees; and another popular skit, MNE’s take-off on NASCAR enthusiasts, amuses the crowd.

**New transportation center director**

Brian Coon has been named director of the University Transportation Center, housed in the department of civil engineering. He will oversee research and outreach efforts in transportation engineering, which will be organized and coordinated through the federally funded center.



Brian Coon

Coon holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering, an M.S. in civil engineering, as well as a Ph.D. in engineering. Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2000, he studied European standards for roadside safety testing at the Swedish Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI) in Linköping, Sweden. He is licensed in both civil and mechanical engineering in Nebraska, and is licensed in Kansas.

He earned a law degree at the University of Nebraska College of Law, where he was on the Nebraska Law Review. A past summer associate at the construction law firm of Woods & Aitkin, he is licensed to practice law in Colorado and Nebraska.

After completing his bachelor's degree at the University of Iowa, Coon was elected as state representative for Iowa House District 89 in 1996. He served one term, which included seats on the Judiciary and Law

Enforcement, Natural Resources, and State Government committees. He also served as vice-chair of the Administration and Regulation Appropriation Committee, before leaving public service to pursue graduate education in engineering.

As a research engineer at the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility, Coon worked on the SAFER barrier used at NASCAR and Indy racetracks throughout the nation. Additionally, he developed accident reconstruction techniques for impacts with longitudinal barriers and guardrail end terminals.

He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and serves on the Mechanical Engineering Exam Committee of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), which writes the national licensing exam for mechanical engineers.

**Tucker named Alumni Fellow**

Greg A. Tucker has been named the 2007 College of Engineering Alumni Fellow in recognition of his distinguished career. Tucker, a 1978 K-State graduate in mechanical engineering, also holds an M.B.A. from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Serving as vice president of business transformation for the California State Automobile Association, Tucker leads major systems and organizational and process-based programs focused on achieving a competitive advantage in the insurance and travel industries. Prior to this position, he had been a management consultant at Mercer Management Consulting, CSC

Index, and Tucker & Co.

“Greg Tucker is an outstanding candidate to honor in this capacity,” said Richard Gallagher, interim dean of the College of Engineering. “His leadership and innovation are an inspiration to our students and faculty, as well as his fellow engineering alumni at K-State.”



Greg Tucker

Tucker is the incoming president for the Kansas-State College of Engineering Advisory Council and is a San Francisco Bay area committee member for the Changing Lives Campaign. He also works with the Stanford University Alumni Association, performing pro bono work for local non-profits in the Bay area.

He and his wife, Sara, who currently serves as U.S. Under Secretary of Education in Washington, D.C., live in San Francisco and St. Helena, Calif.

**ExxonMobil—Company of the Year**

ExxonMobil was named 2007 Company of the Year at the Tau Beta Pi Spring Banquet, April 17. Wayne A. Harms, 1976 K-State graduate in chemical engineering and vice president, Asia Pacific and Power with ExxonMobil Gas & Power Marketing Company, was named co-leader of the year. He shares that title with 1981 K-State civil engineering graduate, Ron Thomas, reser-

voir adviser working with Shell on offshore Joint Venture fields in the central North Sea with primary focus on high-pressure/high-temperature reservoirs.

ExxonMobil is the world's leading publicly traded international petroleum and petrochemical company. Under the names Exxon, Mobil, Esso, and Imperial Oil, the company has operations in nearly 200 countries and territories. At 4.2 million oil-equivalent barrels a day, ExxonMobil is the world's largest non-government producer of oil and natural gas. Its network of reliable and efficient manufacturing plants, transportation systems, and



Wayne Harms

distribution centers provides clean fuels, lubricants, and other high-value products and feedstocks to customers around the world.

Harms joined the Exxon Company, U.S.A. in 1976. After holding a variety of positions in ExxonMobil management, planning, engineering, and technical operations in the United States, in 1997 he became executive director of ExxonMobil Energy Limited, Hong Kong. He also served as director, China Light & Power Co., Ltd. and as director, Castle Peak Power Co., Ltd. He moved to Doha, Qatar, in 2000 to become president and general manager, ExxonMobil Qatar Inc. In August 2006, he



returned to the United States and assumed his current role in Houston, Texas, which focuses on gas pipeline and NGL business in Asia Pacific, the Middle East, and Russia as well as power sales and purchases for all ExxonMobil affiliates.

Harms is a member of the Asia Society-Texas Board and the Society of Petroleum Engineers. He is a registered professional engineer. In addition, he is a member of the Kansas State University



Ron Thomas

Presidents Club and the K-State Engineering Hall of Fame. He is past vice chairman of the Qatar International Chamber of Commerce and a former member of the American School Board of Trustees in Doha, Qatar.

Thomas first began with ExxonMobil as a subsurface engineer in Oklahoma City and then transferred to Houston in 1985 to work as a reservoir engineer. He has also had assignments in the ExxonMobil asset management group, joint interest group, and audit group, all in Houston.

Throughout most of his career, Thomas has been highly involved with recruiting activities at K-State and is an active alumni supporter. An ExxonMobil interviewer for more than 22 years, he was also team captain of K-State's recruiting team for 13 years and participated on the

Multicultural Engineering Program Advisory Council.

Thomas is registered professional engineer and an active member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. While in Houston, he served as chairman on the Spring Texas Special Olympics Board and the Northwoods Presbyterian Children's Ministry Team. A youth sports coach for more than 20 years, he also regularly entertained children at Houston area hospitals as "Roscoe the Clown." Favorite activities are playing the guitar and hiking the Scottish Highlands with his wife and three children.

**Foundation staff appointments**

Kelly Levi Sartorius has been named senior director of development for the College of Engineering and will oversee all development activities. Previously she had been director of development for the college with a combined total of four years service.

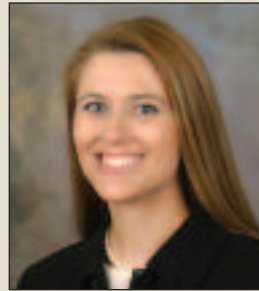


Kelly Levi Sartorius

Prior to joining the foundation, Levi Sartorius worked in the Kansas Statehouse as legislative director for the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Her development experience began at the Kaw Valley Girl Scout Council where she directed public affairs and managed annual giving projects. She was one of 35 persons

selected for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry 2004 Leadership Kansas Class and is a former Republican Precinct Committeewoman.

Levi Sartorius earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Kansas State University in 1993 and a second bachelor's degree in United States history from Wichita State University in 1994. She earned a master's degree in American studies from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1996 and is pursuing a Ph.D. in American history at K-State. She will assume duties previously held by Mitzi Richards, who was named senior director of corporate and foundation relations for the K-State Foundation in September 2006.



Liz Townsend

In another promotion, Liz Townsend has been named development officer for the College of Engineering, previously serving as a development coordinator. Prior to joining the foundation, Townsend was the director of external relations for the College of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Missouri, Columbia. She holds a bachelor's degree in textile and apparel management from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Townsend will travel both Kansas and the nation, meeting with alumni interested in

philanthropic support of the college.

Also joining the College of Engineering development team is Tracy Robinson, newly hired development coordinator. Robinson will be in charge of coordinating alumni events.



Tracy Robinson

She is a 1999 graduate of K-State in hotel and restaurant management and prior to joining the K-State team served as assistant general manager of the Fairfield Inn by Marriott, in Manhattan, Kan. Robinson has also been an instructor in the department of restaurant and hotel management at K-State where she served on the department's curriculum committee. She is active in the Junior League of the Flint Hills and the United Way.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

**SEATON SOCIETY**  
AWARDS CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 3,  
2007



# Seaton

## SOCIETY

Seaton Society members are recognized annually for their gifts of \$500 or more to the College of Engineering. The following contributed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2006:

### Director—\$10,000+

Tom and Marilyn Barrett  
 Dave and Virginia Braun  
 Kevin and Mary Burke  
 Gene Carter and Rita Rodriguez  
 Ron and Phyllis Choate  
 Wright and Jaclyn Cochran  
 Gib and Brenda Compton  
 Randy and Jacquie Coonrod  
 Ruth Coonrod  
 Dick and Mary Elizabeth Corbin  
 Dixon and Carol Doll  
 Joe and Sherry Downey  
 Terrence Dunn  
 Martin and Melodee Eby Jr  
 Gary and Peggy Edwards  
 Larry and Holly Engelken  
 Larry and Laurel Erickson  
 Ike and Letty Evans  
 Gordon and Joyce Goering  
 Jim and Carolyn Grier III  
 Brent and Bonnie Heidebrecht  
 Joe and Pamela Hodges  
 Kevin and Dianne Honomichl  
 Jim and Laura Johnson  
 Bruce and Jeane Johnson  
 Faye Kaul  
 Mary Lee Kind  
 Sam and Mary Knecht Jr  
 Donna Kottwitz and Mark Larson  
 Samuel and Martha Logan  
 Dean and Lavon Morton  
 Laree Mugler  
 Ed and Jeanne Mulcahy Jr  
 Al and Inger Olsen  
 Justus and Alyce O'Reilly  
 Tom and Connie Paulson  
 Perry and Virginia Peine  
 Doug and Becky Reid  
 Bret Rose  
 Robin Sawyer  
 Rhea and Pat Serpan  
 Robert Sextro  
 Hal and Mary Siegele  
 Dean and Sharon Skaer  
 D L and Suzy Smith  
 Doug and Cindy Smith  
 Lloyd and Sarah Smith  
 Robert and Peggy Smith  
 David Smoot  
 Virgil and Jane Snell  
 Louise Stafford  
 Charles and Arlene Steichen  
 Ernest and Susan Straub III  
 Robert and Ann Syler  
 James and Barbara Taylor  
 Tim and Sharon Taylor  
 Steve and Kay Theede  
 Bob and Betty Tointon  
 Edwin and Eunice Wambsgans  
 Vernon and Loma Wegerer  
 Richard Weidler  
 Bradford and Cynthia Wick  
 Wayne Wittenberger

### Executive—\$5,000+

Walt Bellairs  
 Michael and Rhonda Brennan  
 Chuck and Linda Burton  
 Wanda Culbertson  
 Rich and Marilee Donaldson  
 Dave and Tammy Douglass  
 Charles and Jean Eby  
 Judith Fan and Robert Reay  
 L T and Eva Fan  
 Gilbert and Jane Ferguson  
 Rod and Sara Finkle  
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\* = deceased

# Marshall Scholar

continued from page 5

"I've spoken to a lot of high school students about K-State," Kitten said, "and one thing I always tell them is that K-State offers more than a top-notch education at an affordable price, as is so often quoted in promotional materials. It offers a top-notch education with no qualifiers attached, and this applies to my experience in the College of Engineering.

"I gained a solid education in the principles of mechanical engineering, and I've had the opportunity to perform undergraduate research—something that I'm sure will benefit me when I'm conducting my own research at Oxford. Through my extracurricular activities, I've been able to develop leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills that I'll rely on a great deal to succeed both at Oxford and in my career."

Kitten plans to begin attending Oxford University next September, with her work focusing on improvements to prosthetic knees.

"My general plan is to work toward development of prosthetic knees that are more suitable for young and/or active patients," she said. "Knee replacements have come a long way but are still not as good as they could be for anyone who wants to jog, ski, or participate in other strenuous activities."



President Jon Wefald and Lisa Kitten

Post-Oxford, things get a lot more unknown.

"For now," she said, "biomedical engineering is in the spotlight. I'm particularly interested in lower-limb prosthetics, and I could see myself working at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. They do unbelievable things there, and I'd love to be a part of it.

"A professorship is an option at some point, and I've also found myself saying on more than one occasion, 'Whoa! It would be awesome to be Dr. Wefald!' Whatever the future holds, it will be exciting!"

—by Mary Rankin



Ray Hightower

of accomplishments, changes, and memories—this is what Ray Hightower will take with him when his retirement becomes official on Jan. 1, 2008.

What he will leave behind is a K-State record of service that began in the department of nuclear engineering, included a stint in the Engineering Experiment Station, and that since 1976 has been in the Dean of Engineering Office, where he presently serves as Assistant Dean of Student Services.

Hightower's primary responsibilities as assistant dean have been to serve students, faculty, and staff in enhancing their abilities to perform tasks and reach their respective goals, as related to the academic policies and procedures of the college and the university.

"My most satisfying accomplishment," he said, "has been observing students who had been dismissed and later returned to K-State and succeeded in earning their engineering degrees. It's been especially gratifying when these alumni visit and express their appreciation for the guidance I gave them."

The greatest changes Hightower has observed have been in technology.

"In my first nuclear instrumentation classes, I taught theory based on vacuum tube circuits, which I later taught using the theory of transistors, and even later using integrated circuit chip theory," he said. "I have seen faculty go from using hand-cranked calculators and slide rules to huge mainframe computers that were eventually replaced by desktop computers."

While listing his most memorable event as

## A RECORD OF SERVICE

Forty-eight years of continuous employment as a faculty member in the College of Engineering at K-State—48 years

"viewing the cerenkov blue glow in the core of the TRIGA MARK II Nuclear Reactor when its power was first pulsed," Hightower said his most enjoyable events were coaching and playing on the engineering faculty basketball team that was the league champion six years in a row, and playing shortstop on the administrative softball team with K-State President Jon Wefald as pitcher.

"We beat the student leadership team each of the three years they challenged us," he said.

Planning an active retirement that includes completion of four books he is writing on topics ranging from tornadoes to his experiences as a Scoutmaster to his years at K-State, Hightower will miss his work with the college.

"I will miss most working with our



Bob Clack and Ray Hightower

engineering students and visiting with them about all their accomplishments as alumni. I am very proud of them," he said. "They have represented the College of Engineering exceedingly well.

"I will also miss working

with my many valued friends in all position levels, from staff, faculty, deans, vice presidents, vice provosts, provosts, to presidents of the university. I will have worked under three university presidents and eight College of Engineering deans."

College of Engineering faculty and staff have established the Ray and Marlene Hightower Scholarship to honor Hightower's years of service.

"This is my greatest treasure," he said.

"All that I accomplished required a lot of

extra time that would not have

been possible without the patience, love, and understanding of my darling wife, Marlene."

Contributions to the scholarship fund, which will benefit engineering students, can be made through the Kansas State University Foundation.



—by Mary Rankin



# ALUMNI NEWS

## 1950

**Louis “Tex” Raymond** (ME) retired in 1980 after nearly 30 years in drilling and production of petroleum oil. He and his wife, Lois, have four children. The couple now resides in Norman, Okla., where they raise horses and Tex enjoys swimming at the “Y,” volunteer work with developmentally disabled children, and writing books about his life experiences. According to Tex, “I feel like this is a better world with me in it.” DaisyTex4@cs.com

## 1964

**Larry Loomis** (IE) received an MBA in 1971 from Arizona State University. He retired to Manhattan, Kan., in 2003 after working 33 years in banking. loomis@cox.net

## DEATHS



**Hermann J. Donnert**, professor emeritus of nuclear engineering at Kansas State, died Nov. 5, 2006, in Topeka, Kan. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1957

when the U.S. Department of Defense

recruited him from Austria to work on development and testing of nuclear weapons. He joined the College of Engineering in 1961 and for 31 years taught the next generation of nuclear engineers. He was affectionately known as “Mr. Purple Pride,” always wearing purple and supporting Kansas State. Donnert was awarded the honorary Golden Ph.D. in 2001 from his alma mater, the University of Innsbruck, Austria, where he had received a doctorate in mathematics and theoretical physics in 1951 at the age of 22—the youngest recipient in more than 50 years. He was an honorary lifetime member of the American Nuclear Society. Donnert is survived by his wife, Margarete, three sons, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

## 1950

**Forrest A. Slief** (ME) died Oct. 15, 2006, in Pratt, Kan. He served in the U.S. Infantry and Air Force, and was employed in the chemical and pipeline areas of the petroleum industry before joining and later retiring from Boeing in Wichita. He operated a Kiowa County farm throughout his lifetime and is survived by two sons.

## 1961



**Charles R. Bissey** (M.S., ARCH), professor emeritus of architectural engineering and construction science at Kansas State, died Nov. 18, 2006, in

Manhattan, Kan. He had retired in 2002 after 33 years service to the College of Engineering. He received the Hollis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1980 and the University Amoco Foundation Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1982. Bissey was a licensed professional engineer in Kansas and a founding member of the Architectural Engineering Institute. He is survived by his wife Rose, one son, one daughter, and four grandchildren.

## KEEP CONNECTED

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## TELEFUND

Calling between Feb. 4–8, efforts of 232 College of Engineering students for Telefund 2007 generated 2,469 alumni pledges worth \$307,118. In the College of Engineering, Telefund gifts are divided among student scholarships and student projects.

Overall, Telefund 2007 generated 16,289 pledges worth \$1,408,737 for all nine colleges at Kansas State, with 1,535 student volunteers making calls. This year's event featured a “007-License to Call” theme.





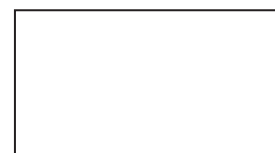
# SERPAN LOBBY DEDICATION

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the G. Rhea and Pat Serpan Lobby took place Feb. 16 at the front entrance of the engineering complex. K-State and College of Engineering administration and faculty, alumni, friends, and students gathered to recognize the generosity of the Serpans, who over the years have provided significant support through scholarships and faculty enhancement funds. Their latest contribution to the college, renovation of the east lobby area of Rathbone Hall, included a refurbishing of floors, walls, and lighting; wireless Internet access; a flat-screen television; and new tables and chairs. Students and visitors are now afforded a quiet place for study or socializing, with an opportunity to enjoy coffee and refreshments from the recently re-opened and adjacent “Café Q” coffee shop.

Rhea, EE '60, and Pat, BioSci '59, are members of the Presidents Club at K-State. Rhea serves on the board of trustees for the K-State Foundation and is chairman of the K-State Alumni Association Board of Directors. With Pat, he co-chairs the west region of the K-State “Changing Lives” fundraising campaign. Rhea is a founding member of the Seaton Society, a member of the College of Engineering Hall of Fame, a former member of the college’s advisory council, and a previous Distinguished Service Award recipient. He retired as president and CEO of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce in 2001 and prior to that had enjoyed a long and distinguished career with AT&T, retiring in 1993 as vice president of international services operations.

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