Kansas State University | Spring 2008 | College of Engineering

IMPACT

Elizabeth Voigt
ME '08

Emily Voigt
CHE '08

Reaching new heights

Fulbright Scholarship

Elizabeth Voigt

Elizabeth "Betsy" Voigt, senior in mechanical engineering, has won a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Germany.

After graduating from K-State in May, Voigt will attend Virginia Tech to work on a master's degree in mechanical engineering. Thanks to a dual degree program between Virginia Tech and the Technical University of Darmstadt in Darmstadt, Germany, she will be able to spend one year at each university and earn a master's degree from both schools. Voigt said she then plans to work toward her doctorate degree at Virginia Tech.

"I am absolutely thrilled that I've been awarded the Fulbright," Voigt said. "The experience fits perfectly with my plans for the future. I hope to be able to work collaboratively with German researchers throughout my career, and this will give me the opportunity to develop contact with scientists working there and to hone my German language skills."

Voigt, who studied abroad in 2007 at Germany's Technical University of Braunschweig, said she thinks study abroad experiences are important for engineering students.

"I believe that it's very important for engineers to learn to work with and in other cultures, especially since our field is becoming more and more globalized," she said. "I am honored that the Fulbright Commission has chosen me as a student ambassador to Germany, and I will do my absolute best to uphold the standards of the Fulbright program."

Voigt has served as president of Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society; vice president of K-State's chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; and secretary of Mentors for International Relations. She also participates in a percussion ensemble and studio and does honors research. Voigt has been a member of the K-State Orchestra, College Bowl competition, and served as a mentor for Mechanical Engineering 101.

She has been a Tau Beta Pi Scholar, Annette Kade Study Abroad Scholar, National Merit Scholar, and a K-State Presidential Scholar, as well as a member of Pi Tau Sigma, a mechanical engineering honor society, and Phi Kappa Phi and

continued on page 12

Message from the Dean

The main focus of this column last fall was about you meeting me—what's the new dean like? What are his goals? What is his vision for the College of Engineering?

Since that time, one of my primary tasks has been getting to know you—the constituents of the College of Engineering—your expectations and the direction you'd like to see the college take.

I set about to look for these answers in a number of ways. There have been open forums with the students. It's been my privilege to visit many locations across the United States to visit with alumni. In February, we hosted three Kansas alumni events where folks could come and meet the dean and vice versa. That same month I travelled to Washington, D.C., for policy discussions with other deans from around the nation, as well as the engineering deans from KU and Wichita State and myself meeting with members of the Kansas congressional delegation.

In accepting the opportunity for three international speaking engagements over the past few months, I've been able to put this expanding knowledge base about our college to good use in taking the story of our success and progress wherever I go—last September to Istanbul, Turkey, when I served as plenary speaker for RFID Eurasia; to Tel Aviv, Israel, in March, where it was my privilege to serve as keynote speaker for the International Conference on Industrial Logistics; and again in May, when I presented a paper to the International Material Handling Research Colloquium in Dortmund, Germany.

Representations of the account I'm giving can be seen in these pages of *Impact*—students' scholarly success at home and abroad; relevant research and dedicated faculty; and exemplary alumni who generously give of their time, talent, and treasure.

Touting our accomplishments and striving together toward the next level of achievement are key components of the K-State College of Engineering—and that's good news worth sharing.

John R. English
Dean of the College of Engineering

On the cover . . .

May 2008 graduates Elizabeth and Emily Voigt, McPherson, daughters of Richard and Mary Voigt, continue with their growing list of academic accolades, each recently securing top awards for graduate study.

K-State Engineering

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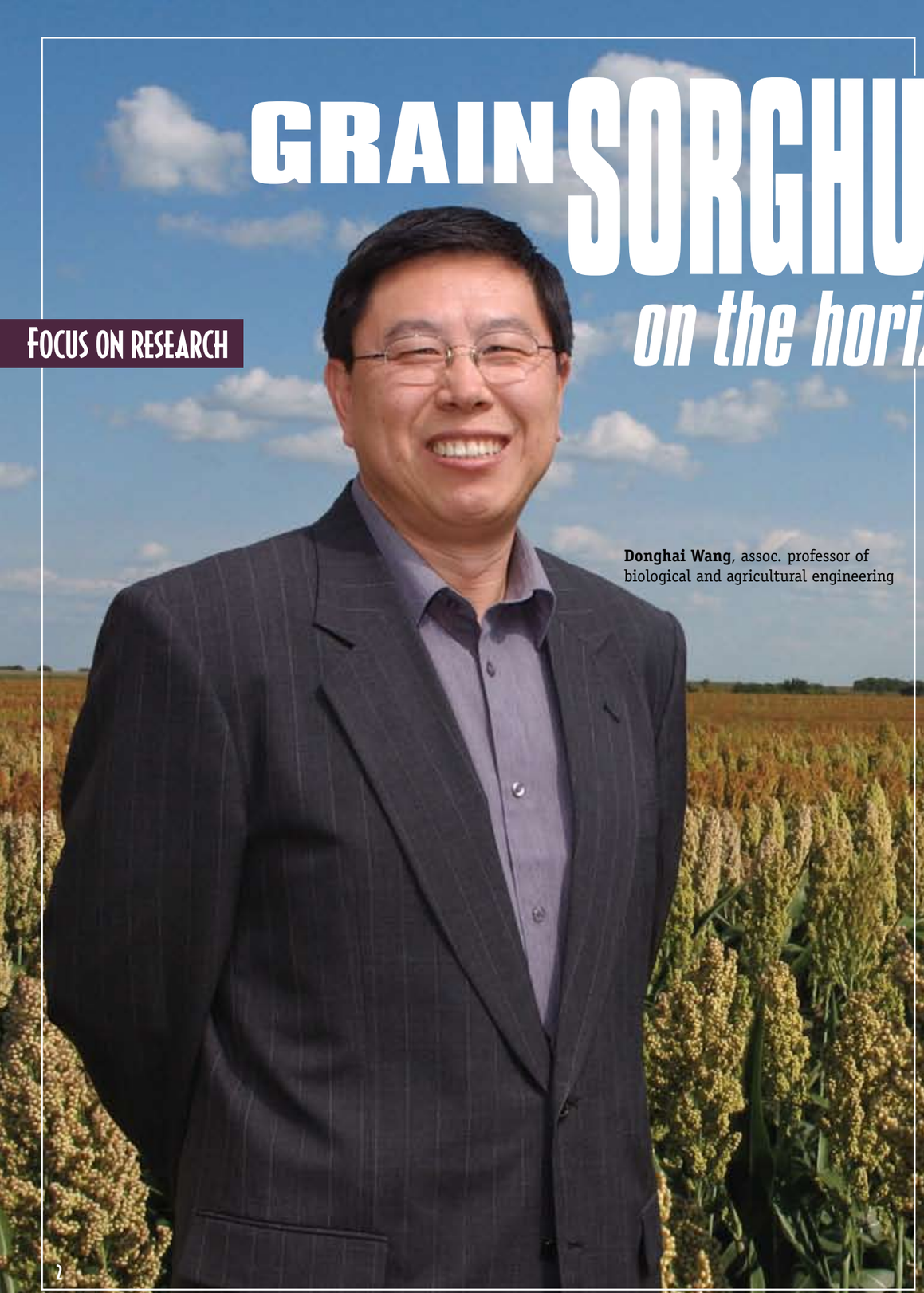
Inside this issue . . . . . .

FOCUS ON RESEARCH

GRAIN SORGHUM *on the horizon*



Donghai Wang, assoc. professor of biological and agricultural engineering

Corn is the key grain crop used in the production of fuel ethanol in the U.S. In recent years, our demand for ethanol has increased sharply. And while there has been a relatively rapid growth in new construction of ethanol facilities to meet this demand, in some areas within the Corn Belt, concentration of these facilities is reaching near saturation relative to the volume of corn grain available.

Statistics also point out that if the entire corn crop in 2007 had gone for ethanol production, it still would have only resulted in 30 billion gallons of fuel, meeting only 14–16% of our energy needs.

Donghai Wang, associate professor of biological and agricultural engineering at K-State, believes that opportunities for continued expansion of ethanol production exist in other agricultural regions as well. One particular area with high potential for increased contribution is the sorghum production region of the Central Plains.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Transportation SunGrant, Kansas Sorghum Commission, and K-State Agricultural Experiment Station, Wang's current research is threefold: 1) investigation of sorghum as a viable renewable resource for biofuels; 2) development of a comprehensive understanding and utilization of sorghum stover and forage sorghum for ethanol production; and 3) utilization of sweet sorghum for ethanol production.

"Currently, feedstock for commercial ethanol production is ~95% from corn grain and ~4% from sorghum grain," Wang said. "Grain sorghum is a reasonable feedstock for ethanol and could make a larger contribution to the nation's fuel ethanol requirements.

"Due to climate variability and continuing decline of water resources, utilization of dry land to grow sorghum and forage sorghum is critically important to insure available energy resources and sustainable economic development. Sorghum requires 40% less water than corn to grow, and can be produced in the semi-arid regions of the nation and the world."

Major sorghum-producing states include Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Sorghum outperforms corn on dry land. However, sorghum has been underused for industrial applications, especially for bioenergy, with little research conducted on performance of grain sorghum for ethanol, especially on sorghum biomass—stalks and leaves—for biofuel production.

In the U.S., sorghum production ranks third among cereal crops after corn and wheat. More than 500 million bushels of grain sorghum were produced in 2007, on 7.7 million acres, and ethanol consumed about 15% of the U.S. sorghum crop last year. In addition, more than six million acres of forage sorghum are planted each year.

"Grain sorghum is a reasonable feedstock for ethanol and could make a larger contribution to the nation's fuel ethanol requirements."

"In general," Wang said, "the major barrier limiting industrial use of sorghum has been its relatively difficult enzymatic degradation in typical dry-grid ethanol production. The factors impacting ethanol yield for sorghum are not well understood compared to corn. Particularly, little information is available on performance of sorghum varieties for ethanol production.

"My research focuses on understanding key factors such as composition, chemical structure, and physical properties, which impact the bioprocessing of sorghum for biofuels. I believe that fully understanding the relationship among 'genetic-structure-function-conversion' may lead to significant breakthroughs for utilization of sorghum via improved bioprocessing."

Grain sorghum, Wang said, has a similar chemical composition to corn, with more than 70% starch content. Currently, the dry-grid ethanol fermentation method converts starch into glucose, then uses yeast to ferment glucose into ethanol. For sweet sorghum, the major chemical compositions are sucrose, fructose, and glucose, which can be directly fermented into ethanol by yeast. But technical challenges of using sweet sorghum for biofuels are its short period of harvesting for highest sugar content, and fast sugar degradation during storage.

For stovers—the stalks and leaves—the major chemical compositions are cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin. Cellulose and hemicellulose can be converted into C6 and C5 sugars, and fermented into ethanol and other chemicals. Conversion of cellulosic biomass, such as sorghum biomass, into biofuels offers major economic, environmental, and strategic benefits. However, production of biofuels from cellulosic biomass faces significant low-conversion technical challenges.

Success will depend largely upon the physical and chemical properties of the sorghum biomass, processing methods, effective enzyme systems or catalysts, efficient fermentation microorganisms, and optimization of the processing conditions.

Wang has been actively conducting this research on the utilization of grain sorghum and sorghum biomass for more efficient production of biofuels as a part of the work being done through the Kansas State University Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE). Established in 2007 with a $750,000 K-State Targeted Excellence grant, CSE spans the work of the colleges of engineering, agriculture, and arts and sciences, with a focus on providing sustainable, renewable energy, while maintaining the environment and providing an adequate food supply.

"Kansas is the leading producer of sorghum with more than 40% annual production of total U.S. sorghum production," Wang said. "Utilization of sorghum for biofuels offers a unique opportunity for Kansas. Research and development of biofuels from sorghum grains and sorghum biomass, as well as improvement of sorghum biomass quality through biotechnology, will continue to be important.

"My basic approach is that biofuels can reduce U.S. dependence on foreign energy supplies, reduce environmental pollution, and support our sustainable economic development. As an engineer at K-State, my goal is to develop enabling technologies for producing affordable biofuels from renewable resources to improve the environment and to sustain energy resources."

–by Mary Rankin

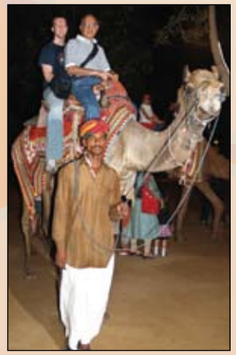
Engineers Without Borders take on project in India

The group: four students and two engineering professors.

The journey: March 12–24 to Ranikhet, India—immersion into the local culture.

The task: return home to develop and design a conveyance system.

The result: changed lives.



Anil Pahwa, EECE prof., and EWB student Mark Hopkins, take a camel ride.

A brief summary of K-State's Engineers Without Borders (EWB) first official group project, true, but certainly not the totality of the experience—not even close, as revealed by the travelers themselves.

"There's no experience that can match up with traveling abroad to a country completely opposite your own, and sacrificing your ambitions and time to the people there," said EWB member Rachel Bain, senior in architectural engineering. "For those who have never experienced feeling like they can't wait to get home and live normally again, only to arrive home and find that they'll never find a comfortable normality until they're back on a plane headed across the globe … I wish that for each and every person."

"I was able to travel halfway around the world and experience a new culture," said Mark Hopkins, graduate student in electrical engineering. "There were things I saw that were amazing, but there were also things I saw that upset me. I think what sunk in the most was seeing firsthand how some people are forced to live. It may sound cliché, but now more then ever, I appreciate the kind of opportunities that are available to me just because of where I was born."

Trisha Culbertson, graduate student in biological and agricultural engineering, has been involved with EWB since the conception of the K-State chapter in 2006.

"I believe this organization reaches out in a meaningful and effective way to improve the quality of life in developing communities," she said. "While the statistics are staggering—1.2 billion people lack access to adequate drinking water and 2.5 billion to proper sanitation—I have confidence that through involvement in EWB, we can develop sustainable solutions to these needs and have a tremendous impact on the lives of our global neighbors."

EWB is a non-profit organization established in 2000 to help developing areas worldwide with their engineering needs, while involving and training a new kind of internationally responsible engineering student. According to information on its Web site at *www.ewb-usa.org/*, undertakings involve design and construction of basic infrastructure projects including, but not limited to water, wastewater, sanitation, energy, and shelter systems. These projects are initiated by and completed with contributions from the host community, with an emphasis placed on education during the projects so that the host community is trained and can operate and maintain the systems without external assistance. In this way, EWB ensures that its projects are appropriate and self-sustaining.

The K-State group partnered with Grassroots India, a non-governmental organization that has been working in the rural areas surrounding the town of

EWB participants measure slope for proposed hillside conveyance system.

Ranikhet in Uttrakhand, a mountain state in northern India. To supplement the scant incomes of families in the villages, Grassroots has initiated small-business enterprises among the women, including the production of jams and jellies from locally grown fruits. The production center

Village women transport cement for making roof tiles during off-season of fruit production.

where the women make the jams lies about 140 vertical feet below the road where the jams must be carried to load onto trucks for delivery to the market.

"Currently," Culbertson said, "the women carry loads of jars, each weighing about 25 kg (50 pounds) on their heads up a steep flight of stairs to the trucks—a very physically demanding and time-consuming process—making up to 30 trips per day during the peak season. Grassroots has asked us to help design a conveyance system to help the women move the jams up to the road. We conducted a site assessment to get measurements of the spans and slopes across which the mechanism will have to carry loads."

But, as fourth-year civil engineering student Paul Bruss explained, the project is actually just beginning.

"This was only the first trip of what should be a really great ongoing relationship," he said. "The primary purpose of this first trip was to acquaint ourselves with the Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation, as well as meet the people of the villages that we are going to work with. We went to first learn about the culture and the people."

"Our next step is to start working on the design of our conveyance system," Culbertson said. "We would love for other engineering students to join us at this stage, and would especially appreciate the help of mechanical engineers!"

Typically, EWB project teams integrate students, faculty, and professional career mentors to ensure sound engineering oversight. Faculty advisors with this group were Alok Bhandari, former K-State civil engineering professor now with Iowa State's agricultural and biosystems engineering program, and Anil Pahwa, current K-State electrical and computer engineering professor. Both are originally from India.

"Although I am from India, I saw and learned many new things on this trip," Pahwa said. "I was amazed watching the women go up and down more than 150 steps with the heavy loads on their heads at an elevation of nearly 6500 feet. I was gasping for breath when I went up the steps without any load.

"These women are very strong and resilient, which allows them to make so many trips in a day. They do this as an economic necessity, but I am sure it has an impact on their bodies. They asked me if we were going to build a conveyance system for them. They further said that such a system would really help them. Since the task is challenging, I couldn't make a promise, but I told them that we will try our best."

Local contacts in India for the group were Anita and Kaylan Paul, founders of Grassroots India.

> **"… the time I spent in India has actually begun to re-shape the direction of my studies."**

"The Pauls have such a heart for the long-term well being of both the people and environment of rural India, and are doing amazing things to improve both," Culbertson said. "I am really excited that our EWB chapter has the opportunity to partner with Grassroots to really make a difference."

"I think my favorite part of the trip was talking to Anita and Kalyan Paul for the first time," Hopkins said. "When we were finally able to connect with them, we got some real work done. But I think most of it was the inspiration I got from them. Here were two people that had devoted their lives to helping the people and the environment in this area.

"What they do is an uphill battle, but they're at it every day and you can see the progress they're making."

K-State EWB students visit the Taj Mahal, left to right: Trisha Culbertson, Rachel Bain, Mark Hopkins, and Paul Bruss.

Photographs by EWB participants

All the students agreed the experience has impacted their future careers.

"Architectural engineering's hot topic right now is green building," Bain said. "LEED accreditation for sustainability of design is a minimum when it comes to designing projects like this for people whose lives would dramatically benefit from saving money, time, and materials.

"I would like to some day end up doing humanitarian construction work for developing areas. EWB gives students a chance to start doing humanitarian and needed work locally and around the world, and I deeply appreciate the opportunity to be active and to truly make a difference while I'm a student."

Hopkins said, "My emphasis as an electrical engineering student as an undergrad was power systems, and I've continued on with that in my master's program. If we use electric motors to power the conveyance system, I'll be able to help incorporate them into the design. Another project we're looking into with Grassroots India is a solar-powered lantern. The majority of that project would be electrical design as well."

Water is a key interest of two of the students. Culbertson said, "While the actual project itself is outside of my major, many of the things that Grassroots India is doing in the region are right up my alley, including basic sanitation and drinking water projects, and sustainable agriculture."

"This project has more focus at this time," Bruss said, "on electrical and mechanical engineering studies, but the time I spent in India has actually begun to re-shape the direction of my studies. I am still deciding what field of civil engineering I want to work in after college. Since the trip, I have become more interested in water treatment as well as other topics in the environmental field of civil engineering."

Tourists for a day—EWB students enjoy elephant ride to the Amber Fort in Jaipur.

And perhaps the most ringing endorsement of all from the EWB team came in their responses to the question, would you go on such a trip again?

Bain: "In a heartbeat."

Hopkins: "I don't know how I would be able to say no."

Culbertson: "YES!!!"

Bruss: "Without a doubt."

–by Mary Rankin

College of Engineering Open House

April 18–19, 2008

Upper right, clockwise: St. Patricia, Kaylee Cocke and St. Pat, Jeremy Dreiling; parade entries, right to left, CE, ARE, and MNE.

2008 Open House Awards

Outstanding department—ARE
Yellow Brick—CHE
Freshman/sophomore display—ARE
Curriculum display—ARE
Limited class display—ARE
Technical class display—CNS
Open class display—ARE

St. Pat—Jeremy Dreiling, ARE
St. Patricia—Kaylee Cocke, CHE

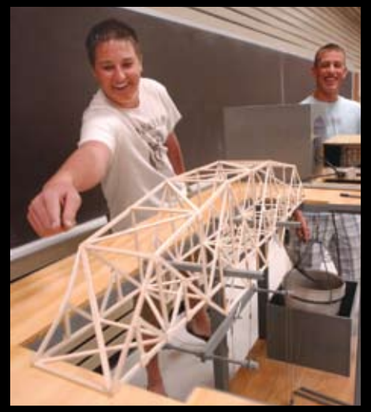
Engineering Banquet Awards

W. Leroy Culbertson/Steel Ring Leadership Scholarship—
Ashley Clark, BAE

Clair A. Mauch/Steel Ring Adviser of the Year—Kimberly Douglas, director, Women in Engineering and Science Program (WESP)

Today's Ideas, Tomorrow's Reality

Clockwise from top left: Natasha Del Rosario, Steel Ring vice president; CHE skit participants win Yellow Brick award; Dean John English cutting the ribbon to kick off Open House; students at IMSE shuffleboard display; WESP and BAE activity table.



Clockwise from below: Retired faculty and guests enjoy reception in Fiedler Library; Mario Brothers' character from EECE skit; visitors sport hard hats from WESP displays; high school students compete in CE's balsa bridge-building event.

Morris named DSA

Stephen R. Morris, president of the Kansas Senate, received the 2008 College of Engineering Distinguished Service Award at graduation ceremonies May 17. He also delivered the commencement address for the class of 2008.

Stephen Morris

First elected from the 39th District in 1992 and now in his fourth four-year term, Morris has served as senate president since 2004.

He serves on the executive committee of The Energy Council—a consortium of energy-producing states and Canadian provinces, and the country of Venezuela. He is also on the executive committee for both the Council of State Governments and Council of State Governments Midwest, and is currently vice chairman of the National Conference of State Legislatures Agriculture, Environment, and Energy Committee.

"It is a distinct honor to have Sen. Morris as our DSA," said John English, dean of the College of Engineering. "His leadership role, not only in the Kansas Senate but in shaping the energy policy and environmental status of the state, is inspiring for our students and faculty."

Morris has served as president of the Kansas State University Alumni Association Board of Directors and as a committee member of the K-State Essential Edge National Steering Committee and National Policy Committee.

He completed a degree in agricultural economics from K-State in 1968. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training and saw active duty as a pilot in Viet Nam, earning U.S. Air Force Air Medals for combat missions flown in 1971 and 1973. An Air Force Reservist, now retired, Morris was also Liaison Officer for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Recently Morris was awarded the 2007 Charles Dick Medal of Merit by the National Guard Association of the United States and the National Guard Association of Kansas Legislative Support Award for 2005– 2006.

He and his wife, Barb, have three daughters and eight grandchildren. They operate a wheat and grain sorghum farm operation at Hugoton.

2008 Alumni Fellow

Doug Sterbenz was named the 2008 College of Engineering Alumni Fellow in recognition of his distinguished career. He is executive vice president and chief operating officer for Westar Energy—the largest electric provider in Kansas.

Sterbenz received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Kansas State in 1985, later completing an M.B.A. from the University of Texas in Tyler.

He began his career as an engineer with the Texas Utilities Co. He moved into supervision and held many leadership positions in various power plants before entering the field of power marketing with Questar Energy Trading. He joined Westar Energy in that capacity before becoming senior vice president, then chief operating officer in 2007.

"It was one of the highlights of the spring semester to have Doug Sterbenz as our guest on campus, meeting with students and faculty," said John English, dean of the College of Engineering. "His career achievements and professional accomplishments make him an outstanding choice for Alumni Fellow."

Sterbenz is a graduate of Leadership Topeka, serves on the board of directors for the Kansas Capital Area American Red Cross, and is an EEI Energy Supply Executive Advisory Board member.

Doug Sterbenz

He and his wife, Connie, have three children and live in Topeka. They all enjoy attending K-State football and basketball games.

Coonrod & Associates–Company of the Year

Coonrod & Associates, Wichita, was named the 2008 Company of the Year at the Tau Beta Pi Spring Banquet, April 24. Randall R. Coonrod, a 1974 K-State graduate in civil engineering, president, project manager/estimator/administrator of Coonrod & Associates Construction Co., Inc., Wichita, was named 2008 Leader of the Year. Coonrod has managed the company, which exceeds $60 million in volume annually, as CEO since 1984.

Randy Coonrod

Coonrod & Associates was founded in 1984 and has earned the reputation as one of the premier construction firms in the Midwest. The company has built in Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma with projects ranging in size from $500,000 to $30,000,000, including office buildings, hospitals, schools, water storage reservoirs, fuel and storage facilities, aircraft hangars, sports complexes, warehouses, correctional institutions, and industrial facilities.

Coonrod began his career in the construction business in 1974, joining Coonrod & Walz Construction Co., Inc. as secretary/treasurer and project manager/estimator, becoming senior vice president in 1980.

Active in civic and professional organizations, he is a member of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, Wichita Crime Commission, Sedgwick County Board of Building Examiners and Appeals, West Branch YMCA Advisory Board of Directors, Board of Directors Kansas Building and Industry Work Comp Fund, Sedgwick County Fire Code Board of Appeals, City of Wichita Board of Code Standards and Appeals, and the Kansas Junior Livestock Association. He is also the principal manager and director of the Coonrod Family Foundation.

In his association with K-State, Coonrod is a member of the Presidents Club, Ahearn Scholarship Club, Athletic Director's Club, the College of Engineering Advisory Council, and the Foundation Board of Trustees. He was inducted into the College of Engineering Hall of Fame in 2002 and the K-State Army ROTC Hall of Fame in 2000.

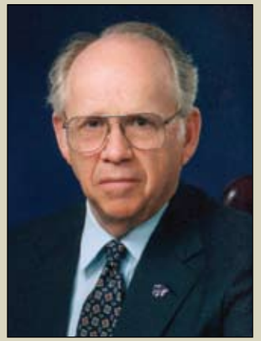
He and his wife, Jacquie, have four children.

Faculty scholarships

Funds have recently been established to honor the service of two College of Engineering faculty members. Contributions can be made to either through the Kansas State University Foundation.

As a part of the Civil Engineering Centennial Banquet, April 18, the Civil Engineering Alumni Professorship Honoring Dr. Robert Snell was officially announced. Snell served as head of the department of civil engineering from 1972–1992. He was named the engineering Professor of the Year in 1986, is an inductee of the K-State College of Engineering Hall of Fame, and a member of the Seaton Society. He retired in May 1999 after more than

NOTEWORTHY



Robert Snell

40 years of service to K-State.

He and his wife, Lila, have established the Robert R. and Lila L. Snell Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award and the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Undergraduate Teaching Award.

This will establish the first professorship solely for civil engineering faculty and will help ensure the future success of the department by supporting deserving faculty members, their research, and their students. Each recipient will represent excellence in education, community service, and philanthropy.

Elizabeth Unger

The Elizabeth A. Unger Women in Computing Science and Engineering Scholarship Fund has been established to pay tribute to Elizabeth Unger's valuable contributions to Kansas State University.

At K-State, Unger served as associate and acting director of the computer center from 1966–1974 and has been a professor of computer science since the department's creation. She was the associate dean of the graduate school from 1990–1994 and had served as vice provost for Academic Services and Technology and dean of Continuing Education since then. She stepped down from those posts June 30, 2007. After a brief sabbatical, Unger will return to campus to research the impact of technology on teaching and learning.

50 years of service

A dinner honoring L. T. Fan, chemical engineering professor, for his 50 years at K-State was held in the Landon Room at the Holiday Inn at the Campus March 30.

Mary Rezac, department head of chemical engineering, presented a gift to Fan and his wife, Eva. K-State Provost Duane Nellis and chemical engineering faculty members Larry Glasgow, Keith Hohn, and Ben Kyle, each made brief remarks. Fan met Eva shortly after arriving at K-State, marrying her at the end of the semester. He has often credited K-State with giving him not only a career but also a wife.

A native of Taiwan, Fan joined the chemical engineering faculty at K-State in 1958 as an instructor. He became a full professor in 1963, served as department head for 30 years beginning in 1968, and was appointed University Distinguished Professor in 1984. He also holds the Mark H. and Margaret H. Hulings Chair in Engineering and continues to be active in both teaching and research.

He was a primary player in launching the Ph.D. program in chemical engineering, playing a key role in establishing the Institute for Systems Design and Optimization, and modernizing the chemical

L. T. Fan

engineering curriculum, all at Kansas State. He has authored or coauthored seven books and several hundred refereed journal articles. Fan is credited with 17 patents and has been honored numerous times with national and international awards.

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, 2007:

Director–$10,000+

Norman and Malinda Anderson
CoNette Archer
John Atherton
Naim and Beverly Azer
Tom and Marilyn Barrett
Nadalie Bosse and Larry Nettles
Dave and Virginia Braun
Marlin Breer and Joan Russell
Kevin and Mary Burke
Gene Carter and Rita Rodriguez
Gib and Brenda Compton
Ruth Coonrod
Randy and Jacquie Coonrod
Carl and Donna 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
Benjamin Emerson
Holly Engelken
Larry and Laurel Erickson
Ike and Letty Evans
Jim and Lisa Garrison
Charlotte Gollobin
Robert and Linda Gottschalk
James and Patricia Guthrie
Duane and Mary Henderson
Susie Hoferer
Virginia Honstead
Cleve Humbert
Mark and Mary Hutton
Carl and Mary Ice
Bill and Wyoma Johnson
Bruce and Jeane Johnson
Jim and Laura Johnson
Min-Hwan and Yu-Fan Kao
Faye Kaul
Mary Lee Kind
Lief and Paula Koepsel
Donna Kottwitz and Mark Larson
Don Lenhert
Ken and Ellen Lewis Sr
Sam and Martha Logan
Scott and Karen Love
Ernest and Jean McLain
Dean and Lavon Morton
Laree Mugler
Nancee Nilsen
Don and Karen Norton
Al and Inger Olsen
Clair Palmer
Tom and Connie Paulson
Perry and Virginia Peine
Gur and Tej Ranhotra
Don and Barbara Riedl
Haven and Barbara Rolander
Warren Rosebraugh
Warren and Teresa Ross
Vicki Scharnhorst
Shirley Schilling
Rhea and Pat Serpan
Hal and Mary Siegele
Dean and Sharon Skaer
Doug and Cindy Smith
Melainie and Jeffrey Smotrilla
Virgil and Jane Snell
Dan Steeples
Alan and Sharon Sylvester
Jim and Marty Tadtman
Tim and Sharon Taylor
Steve and Kay Theede
Bob and Betty Tointon
Ed and Eunice Wambsganss
Richard Weidler
Edward Wiegers
Mike and Mary Wiegers
Kent Wray

Executive–$5,000+

Walt Bellairs
Wanda Culbertson
Rich and Marilee Donaldson
Dave and Tammy Douglass
Judith Fan
L T and Eva Fan
Don Gemaehlich
Gordon and Joyce Goering
Preston and Norma Goodwin
Chuck and Susan Grier
Wayne and Barbara Harms
Lucile Hawks
Brent and Bonnie Heidebrecht
Kevin and Dianne Honomichl
Dean and Nancy Kays
Drake and Eileen Knapp
Aaron and Renee Laird
Mick and Nancy McAuliffe
Ed and Jeanne Mulcahy Jr
Edmond and Janice Murray Jr
Thomas and Patricia Orazem
Cathy and Tom Ritter
Bret Rose
Dan and Marsha Ryser
Jim and Terry Scalora
Allen Smoll
Warren and Mary Lynn Staley
Ernest and Susan Straub III
Spencer and Susan Tholstrup
Vern and Loma Wegerer

Partner–$2,500+

Terrie and Arnold Allemang
Jerry and Barbara Boettcher
Fern Brennan
Bill and Genene Brungardt
Chuck and Linda Burton
Jim and Patty Dancer
Doug and Caryn Firebaugh
Eddie and Carol Fowler
Bill and Tina Goodman
Randy and Deborah Groves
Mike and Karen Hafling
Martha and Jeff Hamilton
Jerry and Rebecca Harkey
Allan and Carolyn Harms
Rex and Becky Hillman
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Every effort has been made to produce a comprehensive listing of donors for the calendar year Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2007. We apologize for any incorrect listings, misspellings, or omissions, and extend our sincere thanks for your support. Questions about the donor list should be directed to Kelly Sartorius, Senior Director of Development, College of Engineering, Kansas State Foundation, 2323 Anderson Ave., Suite 500, Manhattan, KS 66502; 785-532-7500 or 800-432-1578. * = deceased

Long wins Udall

Nicholas Long

Nicholas Long, K-State senior in architectural engineering, is one of 80 students nationwide chosen to receive a $5,000 Morris K. Udall Scholarship. The Udall is a congressional scholarship that honors former Arizona congressman Morris Udall for his legacy of public service.

Long has served as president of the K-State chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers, is an executive officer of the College of Engineering Ambassadors, and has been an Engineering Telefund coach. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi, engineering honorary; Phi Alpha Epsilon, architectural engineering honorary; Chimes, junior leadership and service honorary; Silver Key, sophomore leadership and service honorary; and Quest, freshmen leadership and service honorary.

He has earned a study abroad scholarship from DAAD and a Blue Key scholarship, and was named Tau Beta Pi Underclassman of the Year, 2004–2005.

Engineering Career Fair

More than 120 engineering and computer science companies attended the annual K-State Engineering Career Fair held Feb. 12 in the Rathbone Hall atrium. Employers attending included Black and Veatch, Caterpillar, Cerner, ExxonMobil, Ford Motor Company, Garmin, Halliburton, Koch Industries, Phillips Lighting, Sprint Nextel, and Westar. Government agencies represented included the Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, National Security Agency, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Kansas Department of Transportation. Besides looking for upcoming graduates to fill entry-level, full-time positions, many of the companies also sought to fill summer internships and co-op positions.

Reaching new heights

continued from inside front cover

Golden Key national honoraries.

The Fulbright Scholarship supports an academic year abroad in more than 150 countries. Selection is based on academic or professional record, language preparation, feasibility of proposed study/research/teaching assistantship project, and personal qualifications.

NSF Fellowship

Emily Voigt, senior in chemical engineering, has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

The fellowship awards a $30,000 stipend and a $10,500 cost-of-education allowance per year for three years of education, totaling about $120,000 over three years. NSF Fellows are expected to become knowledge experts who can contribute significantly to research, teaching, and innovations in science and engineering.

Emily Voigt

Voigt plans to enroll in a Ph.D. program in chemical and biological engineering next fall at the University of Wisconsin, using the NSF Fellowship there, as well as two other graduate awards she received in 2008, the Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship and the National Defense Science and Engineering Fellowship.

"It is an honor to be chosen as an NSF Graduate Fellow," Voigt said. "It will give me great flexibility in selecting a research project and advisor of my own choosing, without having to depend on outside research grants for funding. I am very grateful to be offered these advantages."

At K-State, Voigt has done research in biofuels production under Keith Hohn and John Schlup, chemical engineering professors. Last summer, she conducted research at the University of Karlsruhe, Germany on production of recombinant erythopoietin in moss cells. Voigt conducted undergraduate research at Pennsylvania State University on transgenic protein production in plant cells in summer 2005 and in 2006 on algae biofuels. She has been the editor and cataloguer for Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society, and secretary and public relations coordinator for Mentors for International Experiences.

Voigt was a 2007 Goldwater Scholar, a Clare Boothe Luce Scholar in 2005, and has been a Putnam Scholar. She received a McDonald's Restaurant KRE scholarship, the Gordon and Joyce Goering Engineering Scholarship, a K-State Alumni Association license plate scholarship, Phillips Petroleum Company Chemical Engineering Scholarship, and the Steyer Chemical Engineering Scholarship.

She studied abroad in Giessen, Germany, during summer 2006 and is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Engineering Ambassadors, Society of Women Engineers, The Navigators, and Women Mentoring Women.

—K-State Media Relations

Alumni News

1950

Keith Thayer (ME) recently served as a regional judge in the 2008 FIRST Robotics Competition in Kansas City. He retired from CDI Stubbs-Overbeck Engineering in 1996 and now specializes in consulting engineering, mediation, and arbitration. He is a past president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers International and has judged FIRST regional and championship tournaments since 1997.

1961

Leo Waldschmidt (EE) retired as chief project engineer for Vulcan Materials Co., Wichita, in 1999. Prior to his 20 years at Vulcan, he had been employed by K.G.&E., Wichita; Westinghouse Electric, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Peekskill, N.Y.; Martin Marietta, Denver, Colo.; and Western Electric, El Paso, Texas.
lrw1010@cox.net

1978

Way Kuo (IE, M.S., Ph.D. '81) has accepted the position as president of the City University of Hong Kong. He will assume his duties in May, leaving his former position of University Distinguished Professor and Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

1984

Kip Hanzlicek (ARE) recently received the Dallas AIA-2007 Consultant of the Year award. A licensed professional engineer, he completed six years of service on the K-State Architectural Engineering Advisory Council in spring 2008.

1992

John Bish (EE, M.S.) has accepted the position of controls and operations manager for General Electric's gasification business. In this role, he leads a team that develops the control system and operating procedures for GE's new integrated gasification combined-cycle (IGCC) plant. This plant gasifies coal and cleans the syngas, which is used as fuel for combustion turbines to produce electricity with emissions comparable to a natural gas power station. John, his wife, Yvonne, and son, Steven, reside in Houston.
john.bish@ge.com.

1994

Brian Rast (CE), project manager, civil works planning branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City, recently completed prestigious advanced training of the Planning Associates Program through the Institute for Water Resources. Goals of the program are to broaden planners' competencies in solving complex water resources problems and challenges, and to strengthen leadership abilities. A licensed P.E., Rast commented, "I want to credit K-State with the education that got me to this point in my career."
Brian.T.Rast@usace.army.mil

1996

Ramin Cherafat (CNSM), has been named to the Architectural Engineering Construction (AEC) Industry's list of "40 Under 40," which annually recognizes outstanding architects, engineers, contractors, designers, and developers under 40 years of age—"the brightest stars in the AEC universe." He is vice-president of operations and a partner with McCownGordon Construction, Kansas City, Mo.

2004

Jessica Heier (IMSE) has been named one of the New Faces of Engineering 2008 by the National Engineers Week Foundation. Young engineers two to five years out of school are recognized for their interesting and unique work and the resulting impact on society. Nominated by the Institute of Industrial Engineers, she is a doctoral student in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering—Georgia Institute of Technology. Her dissertation examines logistics systems with decentralized decision making, a common characteristic of disasters. This work is supported by an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. In 2007, she collaborated on a project to improve the vaccine supply chain for the Pan American Health Organization as it supports 37 countries in Central and South America.

Deaths

1943

Max F. Oelschlaeger (CE), Denton, Texas, died Jan. 17, 2008. He served in WWII in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, later retiring as a captain. He retired from his professional career at age 70 from LaFarge. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Charlotte; four sons and their wives; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one brother.

1951

Robert M. Kountz (EE, ME '54), Phoenix, Ariz., died March 26, 2008. He was a founding member of the K-State College of Engineering Seaton Society and is survived by his wife, Avis.

1952

Leonard (Len) Gollobin (CHE, M.S.) died Aug. 11, 2007, in McLean, Va. He was a founding member of the K-State College of Engineering Seaton Society.

1958

Gil Selsor (EE), Augusta, Kan., died Jan. 28, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Debbie. He was a founding member of the K-State College of Engineering Seaton Society.

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K-STATE TELEFUND

Setting a record and topping last year's numbers, student callers from the College of Engineering had a highly successful Telefund run in early February. With participation of 232 callers, the group garnered pledges of $284,126, bettering the 2007 mark by more than $20,000. Students volunteers also set a single-session record of $87,361. "I'd like to thank all the faculty and staff who stopped by to support the student callers," said John English, dean of engineering. "Having one of their professors or an administrator stop by goes a long way in thanking the students for their efforts and also highlights the importance of the event."

Changing LIVES
The Campaign for KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
July 2000–Dec. 2007

Exceeding its $75 million goal, the College of Engineering raised $90,002,523.

Summary:

- $3,118,452 for facility enhancements/ additions
- $12,527,179 for faculty enhancements
- $32,532,073 for student success
- $41,175,718 for excellence funds
- $552,021 for program enhancements
- $97,080 yet to be designated
- 1,178 donors made their first gift to K-State and designated it to the College of Engineering
- 143 scholarships established
- 13 Faculty of Distinction funds established
- 2 facility projects completed—Durland/Rathbone Hall renovations

Thank you!

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