

# IMPACT

*THE* **Eyestone**  
DISTINGUISHED  
LECTURE SERIES



**Dixon Doll**  
EE '64



# Message from the DEAN

It was a great day. The night before, the men's basketball team had defeated the then-number-one-ranked Kansas Jayhawks. And there was likely some residual "buzz" from that event.

But as the seats began to fill in Fiedler Auditorium at 8:00 a.m. on Feb. 15, the sense of anticipation in the air was not about knocking off a worthy opponent, but rather welcoming back a distinguished alumnus bearing all the credentials and then some to make hearing what he had to say well worth attendees' time.

And Dixon Doll did not disappoint his Eyestone Lecture audience—faculty, students and staff from engineering and other colleges across campus; fellow alumni like Gen. Richard Myers; people from the Manhattan business community, including the president of the chamber of commerce; as well as representatives from NISTAC, the Kansas Board of Regents and others.

One guest, Dr. Jeffrey Hornsby, director of K-State's Center for Advancement of Entrepreneurship, said: "Dr. Doll emphasized the importance of venture capital in the entrepreneurship process. It is a critical link, especially for high-tech ventures. He also encouraged

students, especially engineering students, to pursue their ideas just the way he had."

Moving from behind the podium to a parlor setting at the front of the stage, in a session facilitated superbly by Provost April Mason, Dr. Doll took questions from the audience, bringing the clear message of the value of the entrepreneurial spirit and the challenges and



Dean English, left, Dixon Doll and Provost Mason

rewards available to those who contribute their capacities and talents toward innovation. It was a great day.

And certainly not the only one the college has experienced of late—you'll see ample evidence of this as you go beyond the cover and feature on Dixon Doll, taking note of our Seaton Society Celebration, Open House 2011, faculty and student accomplishments, and

much more in these pages of *Impact*.

Exciting times now, exciting times ahead. Dr. Doll reminded us in February to "be proud of this fine university." More good advice. Have a great day.

John R. English  
Dean of the College of Engineering

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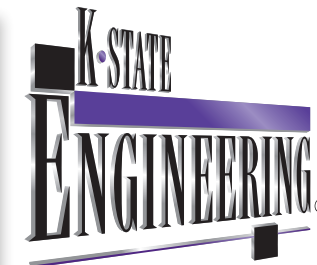
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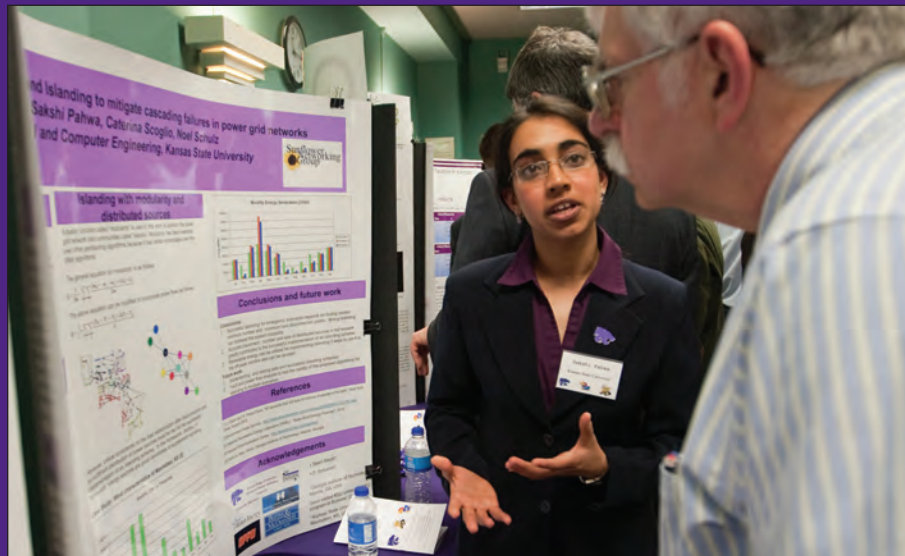
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## Student events

### Capitol Graduate Research Summit



**Top left:** Four engineering graduate students were among the 10 university-wide graduate students selected to share their research findings with legislators, the Board of Regents, industry representatives and the public at the eighth annual Capitol Graduate Research Summit, Feb. 17 at the Docketing State Office Building in Topeka. The research summit features Kansas-related research conducted by graduate students at K-State, the University of Kansas, the University of Kansas Medical Center and Wichita State University. Two students from each university are chosen as KansasBio winners and receive a \$500 scholarship award. Sasha Pahwa, doctoral student in ECE, **left**, one of the K-State winners, discusses her presentation on "Distributed Sources and Islanding to Mitigate Cascading Failures in Power Grid Networks." Co-advisors on her research are Noel Schulz, ECE Paslay professor, and Caterina Scoglio, ECE associate professor. Other engineering students presenting at the summit included Sarah Kubler, ECE master's student; Yi Zhang, CHE doctoral student; and Orlando Gallardo, BAE doctoral student.

### Engineering Career Fair



**Center left:** A representative from the U.S. EPA visits with students at the Engineering Career Fair Feb. 8 in the K-State Student Union. More than 80 companies participated in the event to recruit engineering students for full-time and internship positions. Additional interviews took place the following day. The annual fair, now in its 33rd year, is sponsored by K-State's Career and Employment Services and the College of Engineering.

### Telefund 2011



**Bottom left:** The evenings of Feb. 13 and 15-17 found student volunteers from the College of Engineering busy on the phones taking pledges for Telefund 2011. Callers garnered \$253,011 in commitments for student scholarships and educational benefits. Of the 2,352 pledges received, 96 were first-time participants. University wide, more than \$1 million was raised in this annual effort.

# EYESTONE LECTURE

## Venture capitalist delivers Eyestone Lecture

Dixon Doll, EE '64, noted venture capitalist, who has guided entrepreneurs, investors and executives in the computer and communications industries for more than 35 years, presented "The Critical Role of Venture Capital in Fueling Innovation" as part of the Eyestone Lecture series, Feb. 15, in Fiedler Hall.

Doll told the packed auditorium that venture capitalists go around the world looking for companies and businesses that are "disrupting the world" with innovations like iPad and Smart phones that are "pregnant with opportunity."

"The new leaders of venture capitalism (VC)," Doll said, "are those with rich international experience who can adapt to change. VC is not an easy game and it's no longer only Silicon Valley-based. But be optimistic, because innovation is flourishing in the U.S. and globally."

Co-founder and general partner of the venture capital firm DCM, Doll has been recognized for his accomplishments in venture capital by Forbes Magazine, who named him one of the top 100 venture investors on its Midas List for four years in a row. In April 2005 he was elected to the board of directors of the National Venture Capital Association in Washington, D.C. He also served as the association's chair from 2008 to 2009 and as a member of its executive committee from 2007 to 2009.

Doll has led DCM's investments in About.com, acquired by The New York Times Co.; @Motion, acquired by Openwave; Clearwire; Foundry Networks; Internap; Ipivot, acquired by Intel; and Neutral Tandem, among others.

"VC drives global innovation that matters," Doll said. "One out of three Americans have had their lives bettered by VC-backed life science industries focused on health and well-being, and clean technology, which makes us less dependent on foreign oil."

In the mid-1980s Doll co-founded the venture capital industry's first fund focused exclusively on telecommunications opportunities. Those funds launched such noteworthy companies as Alantec, Bridge Communication, Centillion Networks, Network Equipment Technologies, Optilink, Picturatel, Polycorn and UUNet.

"VC-backed companies create jobs faster, three to one, than any other sector," he said. "Ninety-two percent of companies



Dixon Doll, EE '64, and K-State Provost April Mason field audience questions.

who experience job growth do so after going public."

Following Doll's slide presentation and address, April Mason, K-State provost and senior vice president, facilitated an audience question-and-answer session.

"... be proud of your family and where you came from . . . and be proud of this fine university."

Asked for his "best advice" to students soon heading out onto career paths, Doll said, "I'd urge everyone to be proud of your family and where you came from, be proud of yourself, and be proud of this fine university. And when in doubt, trust your gut."

Prior to becoming a venture capitalist, Doll was founder and CEO of an internationally recognized strategic consulting firm focused on telecommunications and computer networking. From 1972 to 1980, he also served as a faculty member of the IBM Systems Research Institute in

New York City. He authored the seminal text *Data Communications*, published by John Wiley and Sons Inc. in 1978.

"VC is not a numbers game at all," Doll said. "We usually invest in 12 to 15 companies a year, but how do I know what's a good investment? You never know how a project will turn out until years after the initial investment. We have a lot of really smart people working at our firm, DCM. We also use outside consultants—and we look for those disruptive products and services from high-growth-potential companies."

Doll has traveled extensively to six continents to give lectures and conference presentations. Through their family foundation, he and his wife, Carol, give generously to numerous educational

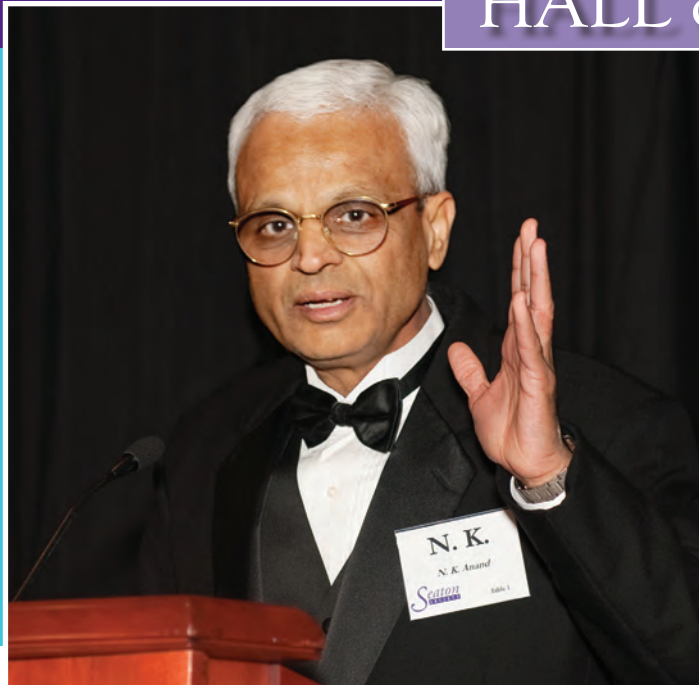
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# SEATON SOCIETY

APRIL 30, 2011

## HALL of FAME



## PROFESSIONAL PROGRESS AWARD



The College of Engineering **Hall of Fame** recognizes honorees for professional success and accomplishment, active involvement with and support of the college, dedication to K-State, and professional and public service. Candidates are nominated by the College of Engineering administration, faculty and alumni, and represent the top one percent of graduates of the college. This highest honor bestowed by the college was awarded to Nagamangala Krishnamurthy "N.K." Anand, **above left**, M.S. MNE '80, executive associate dean of engineering at the Dwight Look College of Engineering, Texas A&M University; and James Johnson, **above right**, CNS '84, president and CEO of GE Johnson Construction Company, Colorado Springs, Colo.



Eleven alumni were honored for success in the middle years of their professional careers and accomplishments. Recipients of the 2011 **Professional Progress Award**, nominated by their respective department heads and confirmed by Dean John English, **above front row (l-r)**: Deborah Crawford, ECE '92, vice president application development and product engineering PAETEC; Beth Ward, IE '93, retail operations vice president Hallmark Cards, Inc.; Katrina Gerber, ARE '92, president BGR Engineers; Kelly Klover, accepting for Richard Klover, awarded posthumously, ME '87, Burns & McDonnell; **back row (l-r)**: Dennis Kerschen, CNS '92, senior vice president The Law Company; David Compton, ECE '90, vice president-engineering Cerner Corporation; Erick McNett, CS '92, Fleishman-Hillard; Jim Schmidt, BAE '98, senior mechanical engineering manager Dell Services Engineering Solutions; Scott Wetzel, CE '93, M.S. '95, vice president and principal H.W. Lochner, Inc.; John Curtis, NE '93, president Curtis Machine Company, Inc.; Paul Fisher, CHE '91, Dow Corning Corporation.



**From far left**, Carl Ice, IE '79, **left**, and K-State President and CHE Professor Kirk Schulz chat during dinner; audience attention in the Alumni Center ballroom turns to the podium for the program; Dean John English pulls double duty as event host and baritone sax player for Thundering Cats Big Band, area musicians providing music for the evening; student Debbie Dolechek, ARE, and alum Carl Nuzman, AGE '53, enjoy a turn on the dance floor.





# Freshman takes on double duty

The story of 6' 9" Alex Potuzak, walk-on freshman to the K-State men's basketball team, is pretty well known to Wildcat hoops' fans—the Kansas farm kid who led his 1-A high school basketball team to a sub-state championship his senior year, setting some school records for blocked shots and field goal percentage along the way, and even managing a gold medal in the 1600-meter run at the Kansas State Track and Field Championships.

But athletics was not the sole focus of the 2010 class valedictorian of Clifton-Clyde High School. Armed with academic scholarships, Potuzak knew college was “really about education,” and despite the possibility that playing community college basketball loomed on the horizon, he opted to enroll in engineering at K-State.

While Potuzak met some academic challenges due to his walk-on role with Coach Martin and the 2010-11 basketball squad, he still managed a 4.0 GPA in civil engineering.

“Overall, time management between basketball and engineering required multiple sacrifices,” Potuzak said, “and a far more pure sense of the word ‘determination’ than I have ever encountered. At times, especially for the Big 12 Tournament and the NCAA Tournament, I would have to plan far ahead with homework and tests alike.

“I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to every away location and be part of every game this year,” he said, “and for rescheduling, I would do what every student has to do: meet with the instructor ahead of time.”

Other things helping maintain his academic success, Potuzak said, were “great friends giving me notes when I was gone, paying attention and studying like crazy.”

Even though his on-the-court experience was limited, Potuzak still became a known entity on campus.

“I commonly do get recognized as a student athlete,” he said, “and most of the time, I truly enjoy the conversations that I have with strangers. It is a great way for me to make friends. The only time it gets a bit annoying is when they focus on a sole feature and obsess about it, like with my height.”

In finishing up his freshman year in the 2011 spring semester, Potuzak made two key decisions.

“I have decided that I am done with basketball,” he said. “It was a personal choice that I had to make after much thought, but I know that resigning from the team is what I want to do.”

But Potuzak has no regrets about his first-year-of-college choices.

“Throughout this year, I have done more than I could have ever imagined. I have acquired brothers for life through basketball, found friends with similar interests in engineering, secured an eternal bond with the coaches and staff, and grown.

“This growing that I refer to,” he said, “pertains to my physicality, my character, my ability to know my limits, my relationships, my knowledge and most importantly my self-confidence. I have had the opportunity to live a dream. For that I am forever thankful.”

And as for engineering, Potuzak also made a change in majors.

“I decided that my interests fit better in the field of mechanical engineering,” he said. “I don't have a great desire to follow this major just for money; I wish to continue with my education to live happily with my choice of career. As they say, ‘If you do what you love, you never work a day in your life.’”

—by Mary Rankin



Alex Potuzak

# ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 15-16, 2011



Above, clockwise: young visitor examines CHE display; Dean John English carries the torch through the rain on the way to kick-off ceremonies; ECE skit participants play to the crowd.



Above, clockwise: St. Patricia, Ashley Dohrmann and St. Pat, Leonel Hernandez; dance number by CNS skit participants; happy faces on CHE Yellow Brick winners



## 2011 Open House Awards

- Yellow Brick . . . . . CHE
- Outstanding department . . . . . CNS
- Freshman/sophomore display . . . . . ARE
- Curriculum display . . . . . BAE
- Limited class display . . . . . IMSE
- Open class display . . . . . IMSE
- St. Patricia, Ashley Dohrmann . . . . . IMSE
- St. Pat, Leonel Hernandez . . . . . CNS

## Engineering Banquet Awards

- W. Leroy Culbertson/Steel Ring Leadership Scholarship, Chris Dolezal . . . . . BAE
- Clair A. Mauch/Steel Ring Adviser of the Year, Ray Buyle . . . . . ARE/CNS



# Three faculty receive NSF CAREER awards



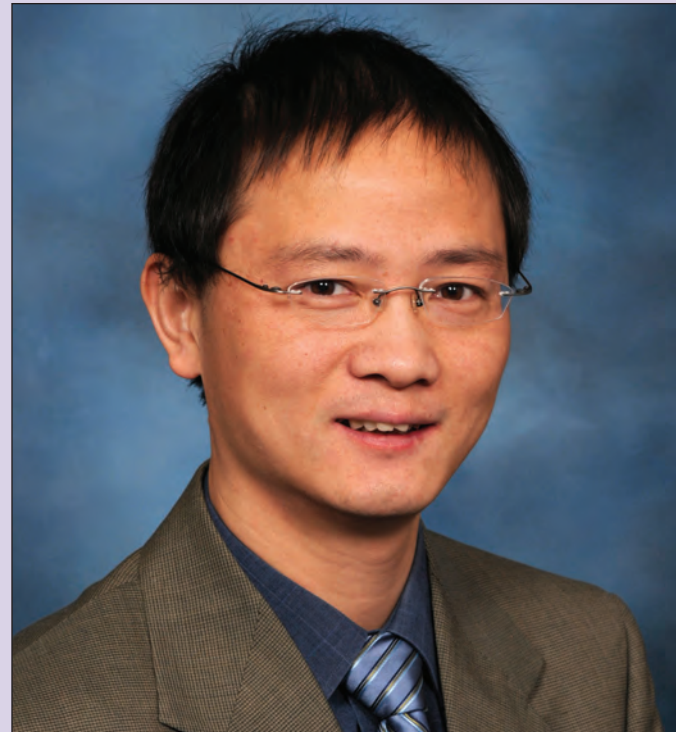
Vikas Berry

Vikas Berry, Kansas State University assistant professor of chemical engineering, has received a National Science Foundation CAREER award for his work involving graphene, which could lead to improved electronics and optoelectronics.

Berry will use the award to study a new process to produce graphene quantum dots, which are ultra-small sheets of carbon atoms. By controlling their size and shape, he and his research team can control a wide range of graphene's properties in order to develop better switches for computers, manipulate graphene devices and engineer novel particulate systems.

Since his arrival at K-State in 2006, Berry has been researching graphene, a recently discovered form of carbon only one-atom thick. Graphene is the strongest known material, has the highest charge carrier mobility and is highly impermeable. While other researchers have been able to make quantum dots, Berry's research team is the first to make quantum dots with a controlled structure in large quantities, which may allow these optically active quantum dots to be used in solar-cell applications.

Berry earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Dehli, India, in 1999. He received his master's degree in chemical and petroleum engineering from the University of Kansas in 2003, followed by his doctorate in chemical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2006.



Weinqiao "Wayne" Yuan

Kansas State University's Weinqiao "Wayne" Yuan, assistant professor of biological and agricultural engineering, has been recognized by the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development Program for his project, "Multi-scale Structured Solid Carriers Enabling Algae Biofuels Manufacturing in the Ocean."

The long-term goal of Yuan's project is to make energy manufacturing from algae economically viable. His vision is to identify the best large solid carriers—thin sheets of metals or polymers—that oil-rich algae can be grown on for biofuels manufacturing in the ocean. The project also includes determining what surface textures—such as smooth or dimpled—are best for algae growth through both experimental and theoretical investigations. Knowledge obtained from this research will foster design and manufacturing of solid carriers—the major equipment proposed for manufacturing algae biofuels in the ocean.

Yuan joined K-State in 2006 and has research interests in biofuels and bioproducts. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from China Agricultural University, and a doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Xinming "Simon" Ou

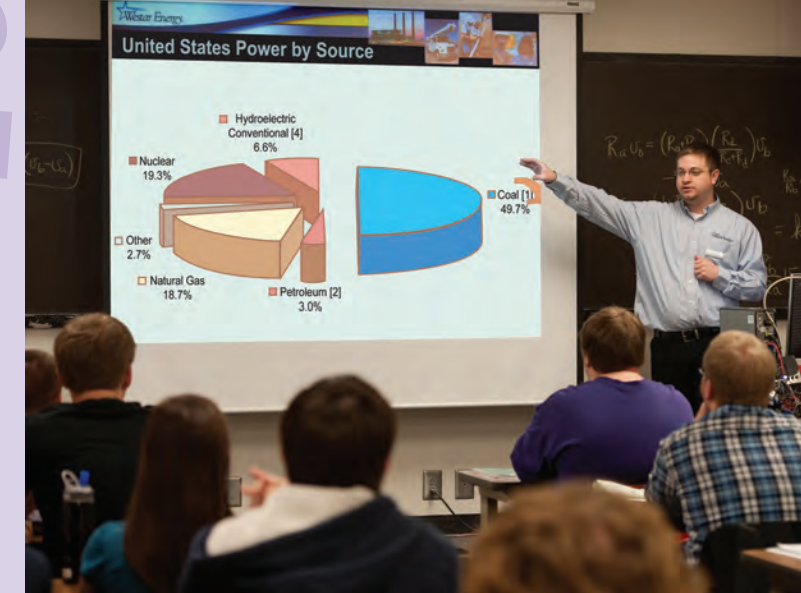
Simon Ou, Kansas State University assistant professor of computing and information sciences, has received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award for his project, "Reasoning under Uncertainty in Cybersecurity."

Ou's project seeks to improve cybersecurity by providing automated reasoning that a network administrator can use to reach a conclusion about what security breaches have happened and how they happened, as well as quantitative metrics to determine how secure a system is.

Ou came to K-State in 2006 and directs research for the cybersecurity research group Argus. He was also instrumental in leading K-State's efforts to apply for their recently named designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and National Security Agency, effective through 2015.

Another recently announced partnership among K-State and the National Technical Systems Inc., CABEM Technologies LLC; Knowledge-Based Economic Development, and the National Institute for Strategic Technology Acquisition and Commercialization, or NISTAC, is benefitting from the expertise of Ou and his colleagues in computing and information sciences. This group will help lead the way in the country's cybersecurity efforts by focusing on four areas: education and training, research, development and technology transfer, and certification and validation.

Ou earned a doctorate in computer science at Princeton University and then served as a post-doctoral research associate at Purdue University's Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security, and also as a research associate at Idaho National Laboratory. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from Tsinghua University in Beijing.



## Electrical Power Affiliates Day

The Electrical Power Affiliates Program (EPAP), under the direction of Noel Schulz, Paslay professor of electrical and computer engineering, and the ECE department teamed up for Electrical Power Affiliates Day March 9 in the engineering complex. EPAP members Westar Energy, Omaha Public Power District, Nebraska Public Power District, and Burns & McDonnell joined ECE faculty and graduate research assistants to host industry displays, mock interviews and a free lunch for engineering students. Jason Humphrey, Westar Energy, **above**, leads a small group session. EPAP connects graduate and undergraduate student research projects directly to the needs of power affiliate members, allowing power companies to closely participate in support of electrical engineering students and their research that is helping to meet the challenges facing the industry today.

## Venture capitalist delivers Eyestone Lecture

continued from page 3

and philanthropic organizations, including the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, where he recently served as chair of the museum's dual governing boards; the San Francisco Symphony; K-State; and Stanford.

In addition to his undergraduate degree from K-State, Doll earned his doctorate and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan, where he was a National Science Foundation Scholar.

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

—by Mary Rankin



## Gieber named Alumni Fellow

Jim Gieber, ME '63, CEO and co-founder of Shrink Packaging Systems (SPS) Corp., has been honored as the 2011 College of Engineering Alumni Fellow. Alumni Fellows are chosen for their high levels of



Jim Gieber

professional accomplishment and distinguished service in their respective careers.

After beginning his career with DuPont, Gieber co-founded SPS in 1970, which led to the development of new technology and growth of the packaging industry. In 1999, SPS was presented with Kraft Foods "Supplier of Excellence" for its work in the aseptic packaging industry. Innovations have included patents on a high-speed straw and security tag applicator and a high-speed side sealer, known as the "green machine." Currently, SPS has four locations and 63 associates, with sales of more than \$33 million.

Gieber is a charter member of the National Independent Packaging Association and Lantech's advisory council. He and SPS were recently honored with the Bemis Clysar Distributor of the Year award at Pack Expo in Chicago.

He and his wife, Nancy, Randolph, N.J., have three children and three grandchildren.

## 2011 Company/Leader of the Year

KHS&S Contractors, Inc. was named 2011 Company of the Year at the Tau Beta Pi Spring Awards Banquet April 21. Mark Keenan, co-founder and chairman of the board of KHS&S Contractors, Inc., was named 2011 Leader of the Year.

Keenan has more than 35 years of experience performing nearly every facet of construction, ranging from field operations supervision to senior executive management. Drawing from this vast experience, as well as from insight gained during numerous entrepreneurial pursuits, Keenan was instru-



Mark Keenan

mental in building the organizational structure that has made KHS&S one of the largest design-assist building companies in the world. He currently is spearheading KHS&S' international expansion, including developing global partnerships with major owners such as Walt Disney Company and Universal Studios.

KHS&S operates in more than 20 cities located throughout North America, Asia and the Middle East. Celebrating more than 25 years in business, KHS&S' 2009 revenue exceeded \$330 million.

Keenan, CNS '74, is a past president of the Florida Walls

and Ceilings Contractors Association, and a member of numerous professional associations. He has served on numerous boards over the years, and is currently serving on a bank board and several company boards, as well as the Catholic charities fund-raising campaign for the Diocese of Orlando.

He and his wife, Cindy, have four children and six grandchildren.

## Grant awarded for lab renovations

A trio of College of Engineering chemical engineering professors has been awarded a grant for renovating research facilities.

Mary Rezac, ConocoPhillips professor of sustainable energy and professor of chemical engineering; James Edgar, department head and professor of chemical engineering; and Peter Pfromm, professor



Mary Rezac

of chemical engineering were awarded the \$1,598,997 grant, funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, from the National Science Foundation.

According to Rezac, radical changes will be made to existing chemical engineering laboratories on the second floor of Durland Hall, which

will involve destroying about half of the laboratories and rebuilding them to current standards.

"They'll be bigger, they'll be safer, they'll be better lit and be better equipped than



James Edgar

what we have right now," she said. "These changes will allow students to work more collaboratively."

Current laboratory space allows for one or two researchers to collaborate on research projects. The department of chemical engineering is conducting an increasing amount of research spanning multiple departments. Such research will be aided by the new laboratory designs, which allow for 10 to 15 researchers to collaborate on projects. The laboratories will conduct alternative energy research, Rezac said.

Edgar said the renovations will provide an excellent showcase for K-State's world-class research.

"This renovation will create a modern, sophisticated and versatile laboratory," he said. "With these changes we will be able to do new energy research more safely than was previously possible."

The work is expected to begin after finals in May 2011 and to be completed by the end of 2011.

# TOP AWARD FOR MEP DIRECTOR



LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin

LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin, director of Kansas State University College of Engineering Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP), has received the 2010 Outstanding Director Award from the National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates Inc. The award recognizes her efforts to increase the program's enrollment 160 percent from 2008 to 2010.

In addition, Bitsie-Baldwin is chair of the association's Region D,

which received the 2010 Outstanding Region Award. The region includes engineering schools in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Dakota and Texas.

Both honors were presented at the association's national conference Feb. 23-25 in San Antonio. The association is a national network of educators and representatives from industry, government and nonprofit organizations who share a common commitment to improve the recruitment and retention of African-Americans, Hispanics and American Indians seeking degrees in engineering.

K-State's MEP has grown from 150 students in fall 2008 to 390 students in fall 2010. This growth includes a 146 percent increase in freshmen who identified themselves as black, Hispanic or Native American. Freshmen in the program represented 14 percent of all engineering students in fall 2010, compared to just 5 percent in fall 2008.

"I've received a lot of support from the College of Engineering, particularly from the dean, John English. It's allowed me to take on more challenges and seek more opportunities for MEP to grow," Bitsie-Baldwin said.

"The accomplishments of our multicultural efforts in the college have been absolutely outstanding under the leadership of LaVerne Bitsie-Baldwin," English said. "She couldn't be more deserving of this award and recognition."

"And of course, this growth in enrollment and retention has certainly benefited as well from the collaborative efforts of Associate Provost Myra Gordon and the tremendous financial support of industry partners Dow, Cargill and ConocoPhillips."

A key factor in the program's success has been collaboration, Bitsie-Baldwin said.

"Our enrollment increase really has been because of a collaboration spearheaded by Dr. Gordon, associate provost for diversity and dual career development," Bitsie-Baldwin said. "She helped build a collaboration with the colleges of engineering, agriculture and business administration that focuses on multicultural student recruitment and retention."

The collaboration includes using the diversity and recruitment programs already in place at K-State and leveraging resources to create additional ways to recruit and retain multicultural students. "We've been able to triple our reach through these collaborations," Bitsie-Baldwin said.

For MEP, this included using retention programs like Scholars Assisting Scholars and Connect; a block grant from the National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates for scholarships; and \$200,000 from the College of Engineering for multicultural engineering student scholars to serve as mentors to incoming multicultural engineering students.

"Support from these three sources over a five-year period has had an impact," Bitsie-Baldwin said.

The collaboration also led to the expansion of MAPS, which stands for Multicultural Academic Program Success. The summer bridge program is for incoming multicultural freshmen in the three colleges. MAPS students can earn five to six credit hours by taking key courses in the six-week program; they get to connect to peers, mentors, faculty, staff and administrators; and they receive personal and professional development opportunities. MAPS was made possible through grants from Dow Chemical, Cargill and ConocoPhillips. Since it was launched in 2007, 86 percent of its engineering student participants have been retained.

"Our next goal is to increase our freshman retention rates, which have averaged between 80 to 85 percent," Bitsie-Baldwin said. "With our increasing enrollment, the challenge has been how to serve more students with the same services. We've had terrific support from our faculty and our student mentors in this regard. We're also always seeking donors to support our retention programming."

Collaboration also played a role in Bitsie-Baldwin helping Region D earn the best region award. The award is presented to the region that has been exemplary in its support of the association's goal of enhancing recruitment, admission, retention and graduation of traditionally underrepresented minority engineering students. Region D was cited for the increased enrollment in K-State's MEP; networking activities to get more corporate members; connecting with the National Center for Women and Information Technology to increase the number of women multicultural faculty members at the region's engineering schools; and promoting research opportunities for undergraduates.

Bitsie-Baldwin joined K-State in August 2004 as interim director of MEP, becoming director in 2005. She has a bachelor's in mathematics from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., and a master's in mathematics from K-State. She has been active in the National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates since 2004, holding a variety of offices.

Multicultural  
Engineering Program



## ALUMNI PROFILES

### RECOGNITIONS

1969

**Jon R. Greiner** (ME), Dunlap, Ill., retired from Caterpillar, Inc. Dec. 1, 2010, after more than 41 years of service. Most recently he had served as information solutions manager in Caterpillar's electronics and systems integration division, where he was responsible for machine health and advanced diagnostics/prognostics systems.

1973

**Lance Schmeidler** (ME), founder, owner and president of OMNI Engineering and Technology, Inc., McLean, Va., has been named an IIE Fellow. OMNI is a premier supplier of industrial and systems engineering services.

1978

**Rex Hillman** (CIS), Bartlesville, Okla., has retired from ConocoPhillips. His wife, Becky, also retired at the same time.

1979

**Carl Ice** (IE), who began his railroad career with the Santa Fe Railroad, has been named to the newly created position of president and chief operating officer of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company. He will be in charge of operations, marketing and technology services.

**Ernie Straub III** (CNS), president of Straub Construction, and **Parker Young**, (CNS '94), executive vice president and COO, Straub Construction, were recently presented a National Excellence in Construction Eagle Award for the historic renovation of Entertainment Properties Trust offices in Kansas City, Mo., in the \$2-\$10 million category of the Associated Builders and Contractors 21st annual Excellence in Construction Awards. The award is the industry's leading competition, developed to honor innovative and high-quality-merit shop construction projects and safety programs. Earlier this year Straub Construction earned the "2010 General Contractor of the Year" award from the local ABC chapter in the greater Kansas City area.

1980

**Joseph Staudinger** (EE), Gilbert, Ariz., has been named an IEEE Fellow in recognition of his contributions to wireless communications systems. He is employed by Motorola, Inc.

1981

**Bill Pepoon** (CNS) has opened a construction scheduling and claims consultancy, Construction Science, LLC, in Northern California. He has been a construction consultant and expert witness for 27 years, and has successfully completed more than 500 consulting assignments during his career. Notable consulting assignments have included the new Hong Kong International Airport and 1 World Trade Center (Freedom Tower). As managing partner, he will have primary responsibility for marketing consulting services to the construction industry.

1986

**Glenn J. Neises** (NE) was recently named director of nuclear with Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City. He had completed a 24-year career at the Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, serving in the positions of manager of system engineering, design engineering and project engineering. He also completed an assignment at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations in Atlanta. Neises is married to Connie (Geist) Neises, B.S., Elem. Ed., 1985.

1988

**Kevin McLain** (CE, M.S. '03) received an M.S. in civil engineering from Iowa State University in December 2010, with emphasis in construction engineering and project management. His previous master's degree from Kansas State was in geotechnical engineering.

1993

**Kevin Ista** (CNS), senior vice president of operations, Walton|CORE, Kansas City, Mo., recently completed the 2010 Leadership Kansas class. The Leadership Kansas program inspires persons to maintain involvement in the social, business and political fabric of Kansas' communities. Members are selected on leadership contributions in their professions and communities.

### DEATHS

1947

**Robert B. Fleske** (ME), Oklahoma City, Okla., died April 12, 2010. He had a 34-year career with Cities Service Gas Co. and travelled the world for 20 years beyond that. Survivors are his wife of 67 years, Mary, a son and two daughters, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

1956

**Leo Waniewski** (CE) died Nov. 6, 2010, in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He spent the majority of his working years as a construction engineer for Texaco, supervising a four-state territory. He retired in 1990. He is survived by four daughters, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

1961

**Ralph "Dan" Johnson** (ME) died Nov. 27, 2010, in Seaford, Del. He had retired in 2000 as a chief project engineer with Perdue Farms, Inc. He is survived by his wife, Kay, and one daughter.

**Alfred R. "Dick" Still** (IE), P.E., died Sept. 8, 2010, in Cary, N.C. Following graduation he worked for General Electric until 1967 when he moved to North Carolina to join IBM in Research Triangle Park where he worked in multiple engineering and management positions at IBM prior to his retirement in 1991. He is survived by his wife, Thelma, two children and five grandchildren.

### WANTED: YOUR UPDATES

We are interested in following the career paths and accomplishments of our alumni, focusing on promotions, advancements, awards and honors, job changes and of course, retirements, as well as death notices.

Please send your information in these categories to—

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## Four awarded NSF Graduate Research Fellowship



Emily Tummons



Andrew Satterlee



Jeffery Hicks



Emily Mangus

Three current engineering students and one recent alumna have received the prestigious 2011 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. The award recognizes outstanding students who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

The College of Engineering fellows are Jeffrey Hicks, MNE doctoral candidate; Emily Tummons, BSE senior; and Andrew Satterlee, CHE senior. Recent K-State alumnae who received the fellowship include 2008 BAE graduate Emily Mangus.

"We're thrilled with the success of our K-State students and alumnae as National Science Foundation Graduate Research fellows," said K-State President Kirk Schulz. "Their hard work and dedication to research shows why they are deserving of this award. As we aim to become a top-50 public research university by 2025, research opportunities for graduate students will grow and our students can continue to earn recognition."

Each National Science Foundation student fellow receives more than \$120,000 given over three years, which includes a yearly \$30,000 stipend and \$10,500 in lieu of tuition and fees.

"Only 2,000 students were chosen to receive graduate research fellowships this year among more than 12,000 students who applied," said K-State Provost and Senior Vice President April Mason. "Having multiple K-State students and alumni among the selected fellows is a wonderful achievement. We are proud of our students and look forward to seeing them succeed in their graduate studies and beyond."

"The NSF Graduate Fellowship seeks to make a major investment in future leaders in the engineering, mathematical and scientific fields, and these K-State students and alumnae are great examples of that future leadership potential," said James Hohenbary, K-State assistant dean for nationally competitive scholarships. "During their time at K-State they have pursued academic excellence, sought out undergraduate research experiences and involved themselves with meaningful campus activities. They set a great example for students thinking about how to get the most out of their time at K-State."

Hicks graduated magna cum laude from K-State in 2010 with bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics and a minor in music. His research in the MNE graduate program focuses on fluid mechanics, with an emphasis on cavitation.

Tummons graduated in May. As an undergraduate in BSE she had been researching the population decline of the Yosemite toad. Tummons received a 2010 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, a national scholarship for students in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering. She is a member of the K-State chapters of Golden Key international honor society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Kappa Phi honor society, Tau Beta Pi national engineering society and Alpha Epsilon honorary society for biological and agricultural engineers. She is also a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority and is the first vice president of the K-State chapter of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. She plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall, where she has received a University Distinguished Fellowship to pursue a doctoral degree in environmental engineering with a focus on membrane separations for water purification.

Satterlee, who also has a secondary major in biological engineering and a minor in biology, graduated in May. As an undergraduate in CHE he researched a new development for boron neutron-capture cancer therapy. Satterlee was named an honorable mention for the 2010 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. He is a member of the K-State Proud advisory board, the K-State Student Alumni Board and Ichthus Campus Ministry. He is also a member of the K-State chapters of Mortar Board national senior honor society and Tau Beta Pi national engineering society. He has received K-State's Foundation and Kassebaum scholarships through the Kansas State University Foundation and a K-State Extraordinary Student Award. He will attend the University of North Carolina to study biomedical engineering.

Mangus is a 2008 K-State summa cum laude graduate. She is studying bioengineering at the University of Kansas. She received an honorable mention for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship last year.



### Notice of nondiscrimination

Kansas State University is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or other nonmerit reasons, in admissions, educational programs or activities and employment (including employment of disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era), as required by applicable laws and regulations. Responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, has been delegated to Clyde Howard, Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, 214 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-0124, (Phone) 785-532-6220; (TTY) 785-532-4807. 59535-6/11-24,787



## *Alternative Spring Break*

Participants in Engineering Alternative Spring Break 2011, **above**, pose at the Harley-Davidson facility, one stop of the four-day event where engineering students learn about potential career options, tour corporate and manufacturing facilities, and network with industry professionals. This year 50 students and sponsors John English, dean of the College of Engineering; Emily Wilcox, Women in Engineering and Science Program; Donald Walls, Multicultural Engineering Program;

and Jacqueline Gatson, Alternative Spring Break coordinator, travelled by bus to 13 locations in the Kansas City area and Topeka, March 20–24. Stops were made at Black & Veatch, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Burns & McDonnell, Cerner, Frito-Lay, Garmin International, Hallmark Cards, Inc., Hallmark Cards, Inc. Production Center–Leavenworth, Harley-Davidson, Missouri Department of Transportation, Turner Construction, Westar Energy and Westar Energy Rolling Meadows Power Plant.