

# IMPACT

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2017

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



## CREATIVE INQUIRY TEAMS BENEFIT FROM DESIGN SUITE ACCESS

PAGE 4



# FROM THE DEAN

**S**ynergy — increased effectiveness that results when two or more groups work together toward a common goal. The weekend of March 31-April 1 was one of synergy for the college and its guests.

Over that two-day period, we hosted the college's 95<sup>th</sup> annual Engineering Open House. Friday, March 31, was also Engineering Day — one of the largest on record with more than 360 high school students, school counselors and parents learning about engineering education at K-State, and staying to tour our open house displays.

Also joining us on Friday were representatives from eight of our 10 current Engineering Leadership and Innovation, or ELI, Program corporate partners. This was our first ever ELI Day. Industry mentors and student mentees took part in a workshop setting featuring presenters from the Staley School of Leadership Studies, and noted leadership expert and speaker, Doug Sterbenz, K-State ME graduate. Joining this group were guests from five "sneak-a-peek" companies, three of which have signed on to be ELI partners next year.

Over lunch, ELI Day participants had the opportunity to interact with additional corporate leaders and other members of the College of Engineering Advisory Council, who themselves had been attending morning sessions for their group's annual spring meeting. Following lunch, ELI students were on hand to give the mentors a guided tour of open house displays.

As part of their afternoon activities, advisory council members served as judges for the open house displays, with many staying to attend the late afternoon opening ceremonies featuring departmental skits and the naming of St. Patrick and St. Patricia.

On Saturday, events continued with day two of our open house activities combined with the All-University Open House. Once again we opened our doors and displays for potential students and their families, the general public and our visiting alumni. Some of our alumni were holdover guests from Friday's activities, and others had come into town a little early before attending that evening's culminating event — the 2017 Seaton Society Banquet honoring our Hall of Fame inductees,



Professional Progress Award winners, and top donors and friends of the college.

And what a night that was! Moving this year's venue to the downtown Wareham Opera House, we were entertained by members of the K-State Marching Band and treated to a vocal performance by the singing group, Cadence.

Thus from these two event-packed days, we created synergy — increased effectiveness when two or more groups meet together for a common goal — this time toward the successful advancement of our College of Engineering.

— Darren Dawson, dean

# IMPACT

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CREATIVE INQUIRY TEAM MEMBERS APPLY THEIR SKILLS IN THE ALAN AND JAN LEVIN STUDENT DESIGN TEAM SUITE.

## LEFT

A HIGH FIVE ON ELI DAY FROM LEADERSHIP TRAINER, MIKE FINNEGAN, TOP RIGHT.

## IMPACT

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# ELI DAY EVENT MARKS PROGRAM'S FIRST YEAR



An audible hum was evident throughout the room as mentors and mentees gathered on March 31 for the college's inaugural Engineering Leadership and Innovation, or ELI, Day.

The ELI Program began in fall 2016 with 21 juniors supported for a two-year undergraduate initiative designed to equip them with business knowledge and team management skills required of tomorrow's industry, government and educational leaders.

This year 10 companies — BHC Rhodes, Black & Veatch, BNSF Railway, Boeing, Chevron Phillips, ExxonMobil, Koch, MMC Corp, Phillips 66 and Textron Aviation — signed on to provide financial support — each student in the program receives a \$3,000 scholarship, as well as corporate partner interactions in areas such as mentoring, on-site facility tours and on-campus corporate events.

Following breakfast, Ronaldo Maghirang, program administrator and associate dean for research and graduate programs, welcomed the group, and introduced K-State Provost April Mason for her prepared remarks. Three workshops completed the morning: Building Strengths-Based Relationships, led by Mike Finnegan, Staley School of Leadership Studies; Coaching with Your Strengths, led by Mary Kay Siefers, also from the Staley School of Leadership Studies; and Leaders Must

Be Present to Win, presented by Doug Sterbenz, K-State graduate in mechanical engineering and nationally known speaker on leadership.

During lunch, networking took place among mentors, scholars and College of Engineering Advisory Council members also on campus for their spring session. To close out the day, industry mentors toured Engineering Open House displays.

In 2017, a second class of 20 juniors will join the 21 seniors in the ELI Program. At least seven more corporate partners are expected next year.

Events for ELI Day were organized by Marcia Hornung, Staley School of Leadership Studies, and Elizabeth Gibisch, director of engineering communications.





# SUITE DESIGNS



The Alan and Jan Levin Student Design Team Suite, located on the ground level of Engineering Hall, offers a designated space for student competition teams to work on engineering designs, while also developing practical skills in leadership and collaboration.

Student leaders from three of the creative inquiry teams now occupying the suites recently commented on the changes and benefits the space has brought to their undergraduate creative inquiry experience.

“The 24/7 availability and accessibility of the design team suite is essential to the outcome of our formula race car. It has allowed our team to efficiently use the space for the current season’s fabrication, as a display of previous years’ cars that can be referenced during design as well as a common meeting area for the team.”

“Having the dedicated design space has allowed our formula team to work more efficiently around our busy school schedules. The location is ideal for being productive in the shop between classes, as well as being able to quickly refer to our designs and models in the computer labs.”

— Patrick Harwell, ME senior, president, Powercat Motorsports

“We have a new clean place to do our electronics and work on the more delicate things planes require — giving us the ability to stretch our creative design process even further.”

“The design suite is open at all hours and outfitted with many tools. We can customize the space much more appropriately for making the planes. Having our own area, and no longer sharing it, really allows us to be more competitive with other design schools that have dedicated aerospace programs.”

— Cameron Rohleder, ME senior, vice president, SAE Aero Team

“We really appreciate having a place to display our canoe, instead of basically just hiding it in a basement. I also appreciate being close to the other design teams so that we can actually see what they are working on as well.”

— Mary Madden, CE senior, captain, Concrete Canoe Team





# PROFESSOR GIVES BACK IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

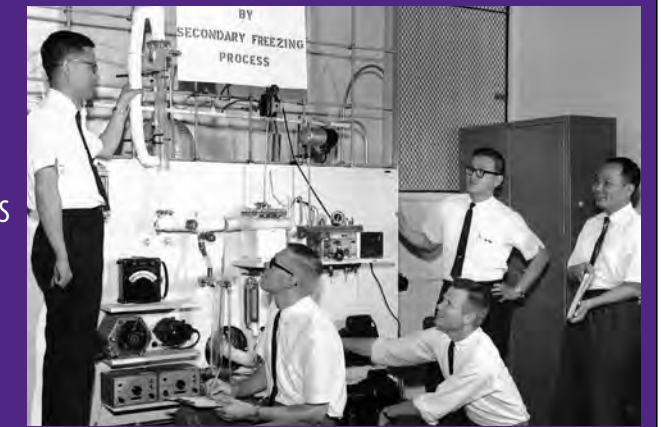
By Mary Rankin



LARRY AND LAUREL ERICKSON



LEFT, LARRY ERICKSON AND L.T. FAN; RIGHT, CHEMICAL ENGINEERS AT WORK IN THE 1960s



For 59 years, Larry Erickson has been a part of Kansas State University.

"I've had many good experiences during that time," said Erickson, emeritus professor of chemical engineering, who came to K-State in 1957 as a sophomore in chemical engineering.

After earning his bachelor's degree in 1960, he was awarded a fellowship for graduate study and completed his formal education with a doctoral degree in 1964. His major professor at that time, the late L.T. Fan, was preparing to go on sabbatical, and Erickson was invited to continue at K-State as a faculty member in chemical engineering.

"I have always appreciated the quality of education and scholarships I received," Erickson said. As a way of showing that appreciation, he and his wife, Laurel, established the Larry E. and Laurel Erickson Chemical Engineering Enrichment Fund in support of departmental professional travel to meetings, conferences and workshops, and seminars and visiting lecturers.

Funding for such activities supports multidisciplinary research efforts, an accomplishment in the hazardous substance arena where Erickson has played a key role. In 1985, K-State received funding for a new research program that would help Kansans with management of hazardous substances. As director of the Center for Hazardous Substance Research, Erickson has provided leadership for this research and outreach program that continues today.

Globally, it has produced a new professional society, as well as a new journal and new international conference. Center personnel work with the EPA in four regions of the U.S., as well as with NATO and faculty in three countries. The multidisciplinary

program combines graduate students, faculty and financial support from several sources.

Another area of the couple's giving has been toward a graduate student fellowship fund established by a donor with Erickson's name attached to it.

"The amount in this endowed fund was small compared to the needs of the department," he said, "but the purpose of the fund is good, and it has grown because of contributions from alumni, my wife Laurel and me, and others.

"When we invest in students, we do not know their future contributions to society. Graduate students at K-State have gone on to become university faculty, as well as leaders in government and industry."

Erickson has also donated his professional time at K-State since taking on emeritus professor status in 2015.

"Financial support for our educational program has been impacted by reductions in state funding. My motivations for continuing to serve without compensation include the opportunity to work with students and to contribute to the challenges society faces," he said, "and I believe this contribution of my time has been as meaningful as our financial gifts."

Generous supporters like the Erickson's help drive momentum for Innovation and Inspiration, the \$1.4 billion campaign to advance the strategic plans for K-State and the College of Engineering. To learn how you can invest in the College of Engineering and the campaign for K-State, please contact the engineering development office at 785-532-7518 or [engineering@found.ksu.edu](mailto:engineering@found.ksu.edu).



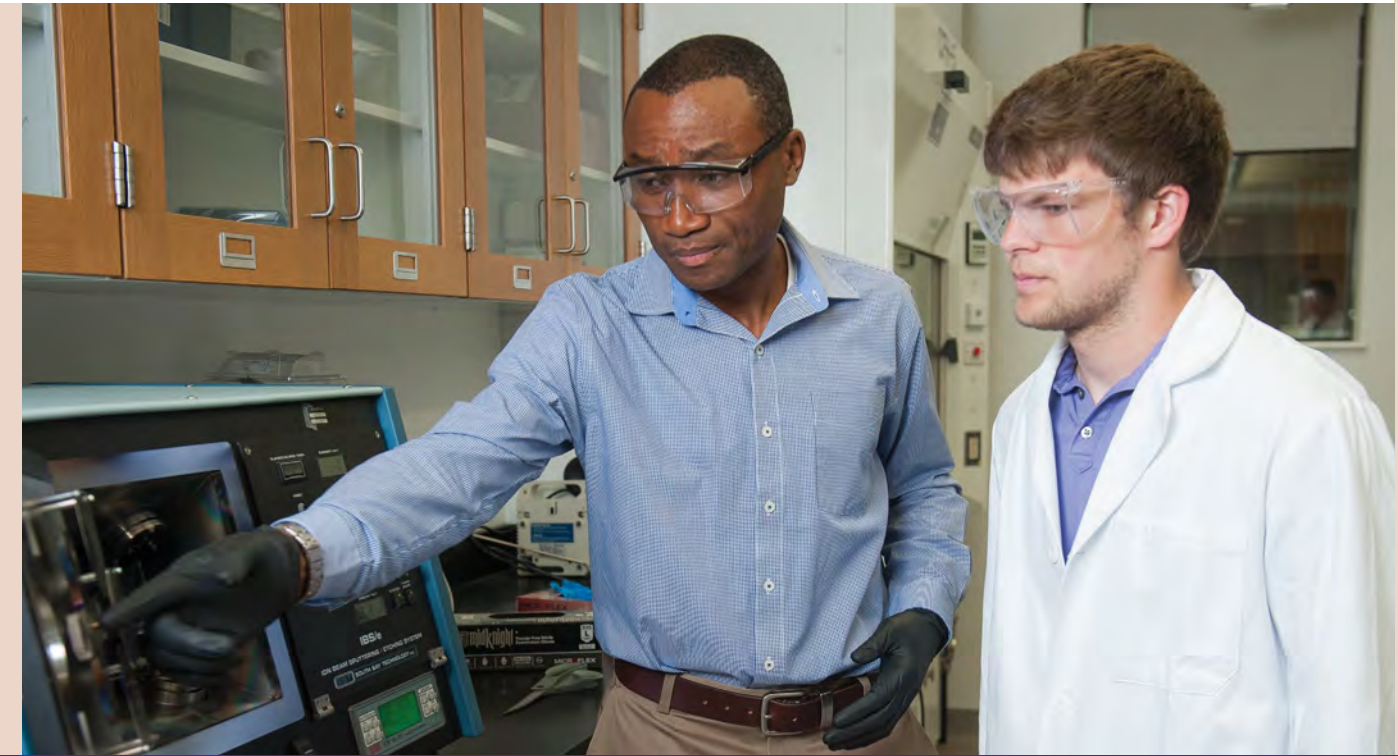
# FACULTY MARK EARLY CAREER SUCCESS

By Mary Rankin

**A** top priority for the College of Engineering is recruiting and retaining the most talented faculty available.

“A great education begins with great educators,” said Darren Dawson, dean of the college, “those inspiring teachers and researchers who want to make a difference not only in their areas of interest and expertise, but also in the lives of the students they mentor and inspire.”

“Strong examples of this are James Chen and Placidus Amama, two of our most recent awardees of prestigious national research grants, both looking to bring the process and promise of these projects into the classroom as well.”



## James Chen

To answer a century-old question in classical physics — is it possible to create a theoretical model that will describe the statistics of a turbulent flow — James Chen, assistant professor in mechanical and nuclear engineering, has been awarded \$360,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research Young Investigator Research Program. His project is titled “A Multiscale Morphing Continuum Analysis on Energy Cascade of Compressible Turbulence.”

The objective of the Air Force’s Young Investigator Research Program is to foster creative basic research in science and engineering, enhance early career development of outstanding young investigators, and increase opportunities for the young investigators to recognize the Air Force mission and related challenges in science and engineering.

“This award allows me to pursue — through high-performance computing — the solution to the most important unsolved problem in classical physics, i.e., turbulence,”

Chen said. “Our research findings will contribute to national missions in high-speed flight for the U.S. Department of Defense, NASA and aerospace industries.

“I will also be able to enrich the college’s mechanical engineering curriculum by bringing the excitement of exploring unsteady aerodynamics for supersonic and hypersonic turbulent flows to our students.”

Read more about Chen and his YIP award at [bit.ly/jameschen2017](http://bit.ly/jameschen2017).

## Placidus Amama

Placidus Amama, assistant professor of chemical engineering, has been awarded \$520,000 from the National Science Foundation’s Faculty Early Career Development, or CAREER, Program for his project, “Rational Design of Efficient Carbon Nanotube-Supported Titanium Dioxide Photocatalysts for Air Purification.” The study focuses on the coupling of carbon nanotubes and titanium dioxide, with the goal of enabling production of low-cost and

large-area coatings of this material for efficient outdoor pollution control.

The CAREER Program is one of the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious awards for supporting early career faculty who effectively integrate research and education within the context of their institution’s mission.

“The CAREER project will simultaneously advance scientific discovery in carbon nanotube-semiconductor composites, and equip

K-State engineering students with the requisite skillsets for innovative and successful careers in nanotechnology,” Amama said.

“Overall, this award will enable me to establish a strong foundation to contribute a lifetime of leadership in integrating research and education in the area of nanotechnology.”

Read more about Amama and his CAREER award at [bit.ly/amama2017](http://bit.ly/amama2017).



# UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING — A ‘CORNERSTONE’ OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION

By Mary Rankin

“I think it is a great practice for individuals to be reflective of their past and the path that helped create their success.”

— Mark Schonhoff

**M**ark Schonhoff has always had a great respect for teachers and educators.

“It takes a special person who is willing to dedicate his or her time, and in many cases an entire career, to be in the teaching profession,” he said.

Establishing the Schonhoff Family Cornerstone Teaching Scholar in Computer Science — to honor he and his wife, Sara Charlson, was his way, he said, “of saying thank you to all of the teachers I’ve had throughout my education.”

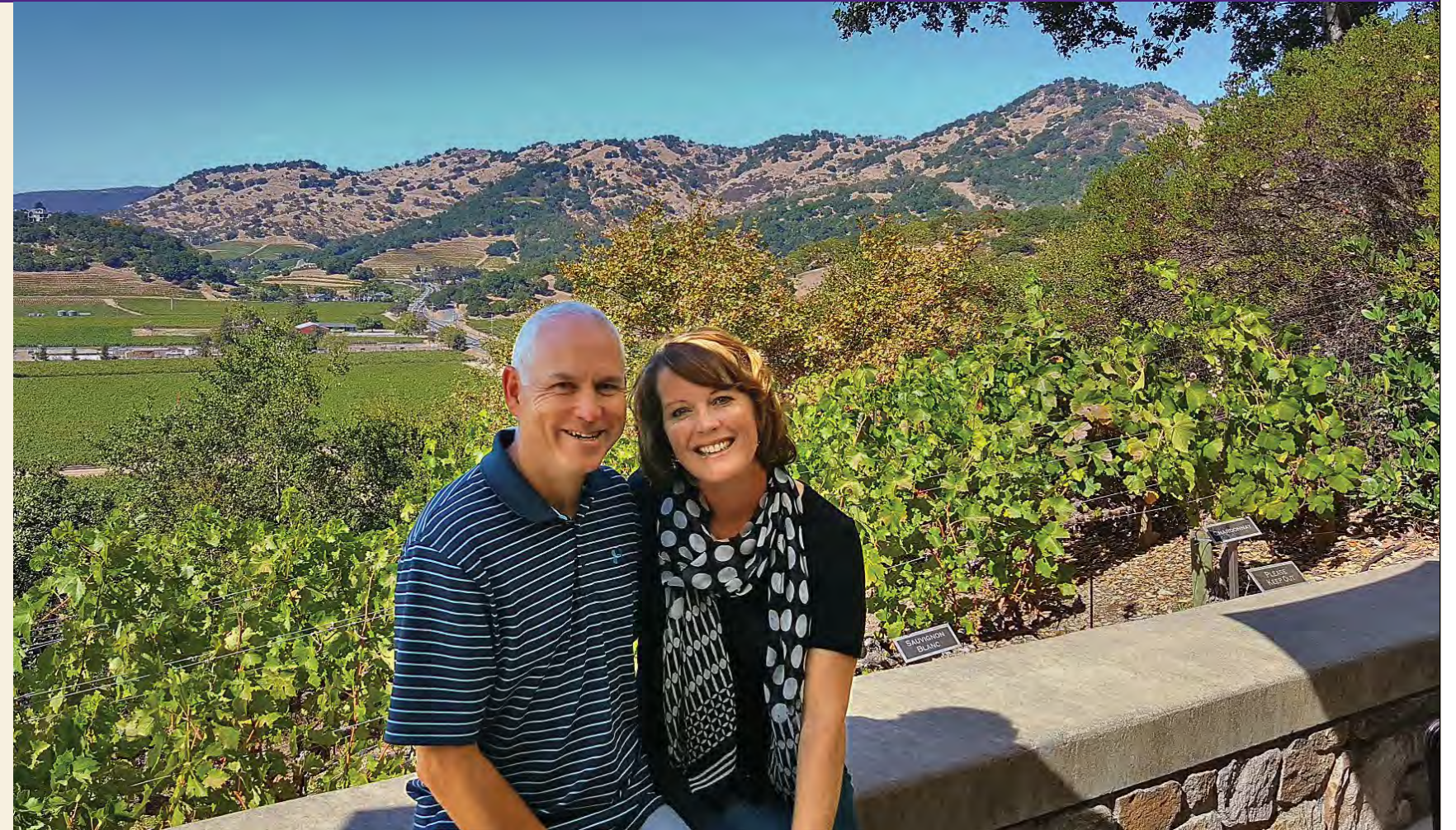
The College of Engineering Cornerstone Teaching Scholars Program encourages the best instructors and professors to teach sophomore- and junior-level courses. By connecting students to top-level faculty early in their education, statistics show retention and graduation rates rise.

Each Cornerstone Teaching Scholar is funded for a three-year appointment that includes a salary increase and discretionary funds to support instruction of at least two fundamental engineering courses each year.

“I think it’s critical the best teachers are engaged in the foundational courses,” Schonhoff said. “It’s those core courses that build the students’ base by which they layer additional knowledge.”

A 1988 computer science graduate and retired vice president for the Cerner Corporation, Schonhoff believes his K-State engineering education prepared him to be a good learner and to apply that skill to what he needed to be successful in his career.

“We have a major shortage of skilled computer scientists in this country,” he said, “and if we don’t encourage



MARK SCHONHOFF AND SARA CHARLSON

and bring along students in the early years, we’re never going to meet that demand. Getting through those early years is just the first hurdle — we need students to continue in the program and graduate in a timely manner.”

A current member of College of Engineering Advisory Council, Schonhoff believes giving back can take many forms.

“I get a lot of satisfaction from donating both my personal time and

energy, as well as financial gifts, to great programs and organizations that have been important to me personally, and that continue to create value for others,” he said.

“I think it is a great practice for individuals to be reflective of their past and the path that helped create their success. I look back at the foundation Kansas State provided me and the journey that helped launch a successful career,

and I’m grateful — grateful for the education and for the support of many faculty members that supported me throughout my college years.”

For more information on how you can invest in the Faculty Development Initiative, contact the engineering development office at 785-532-7518 or [engineering@found.ksu.edu](mailto:engineering@found.ksu.edu).



# CAREER SUCCESS FROM A K-STATE FOUNDATION

By Mary Rankin

Those who know Mike Valentine well know he is very proud of his Kansas State University connection.

His professional success, he said, is a byproduct of being able to do the things he feels passionate about. Recognized as this year's College of Engineering Alumni Fellow, the 1990 industrial engineering graduate said the honor reciprocates his feelings about the university.

"An undergraduate college education serves as the foundation for all of the learning you'll do as you grow in your professional career," Valentine said.

"Looking back, I could not have hoped for a better start than my time at K-State."

In viewing names of past award recipients — individuals chosen for high levels of accomplishment and distinguished service in their respective careers — Valentine said, "I'm humbled and honored to join the list of fellows for the college and university."

As chief executive officer of Netsmart Technologies, a leading provider of clinical solutions for health and human services organizations,

Valentine is responsible for setting Netsmart's vision and strategy, assuring accomplishment of business objectives, securing resources for growth, and working with the executive management team to support the company's mission and vision.

Prior to joining the company in 2011, he had spent more than 10 years at the Cerner Corporation, rising to the posts of executive vice president and chief operating officer. In recognition of his early career advancement, he had been awarded the College of Engineering Professional Progress Award in 2004.

Returning to campus for Alumni Fellow festivities in late April, Valentine had the opportunity to speak with student groups in the College of Engineering.

"My advice to students," he said, "is to focus on building foundational skills, while not getting too hung up on exact skills."

Because an engineering graduate is uniquely positioned to do multiple things in the world of business, Valentine said many companies such as Netsmart will conduct campus interviews with the sole focus of hiring people with strong foundational

skills, and then invest additional resources to train them to be successful in a variety of roles within the company.

A natural struggle engineering students encounter throughout their college experience is determining what they want to do when they graduate.

"The curriculums shine light on aspects of what it's like to be an engineer," Valentine said, "but it's difficult to see the full picture until you are actually in the role."

First and foremost in shaping his career success, Valentine said the College of Engineering taught him how to solve difficult problems.

"Coming from a smaller high school, I had limited exposure to the deeper math and engineering concepts, so for me it was a case of 'sink or swim.' I had to work hard and learn to use all of the resources available to me," he said.

"There were setbacks where I had to basically dust off and get back into it, but the big 'aha' moment was learning that teams are much better at solving problems than individuals. I have taken this same approach to my professional career and

"Looking back, I could not have hoped for a better start than my time at K-State."

— Mike Valentine

firmly believe that by fielding the right team, you can accomplish great things."

Valentine has served on both the college advisory council and his departmental advisory group. Staying connected in this way at K-State over the years has allowed him insight into how the university engages with businesses to further advance and align its curriculum with those groups' needs.

"I fundamentally believe," he said, "in the opportunity Kansas State University has to align strategically with a variety of businesses. This not only creates better experiences for its students, but also creates graduates who are better prepared to hit the ground running."

Another more personal current connection comes via his daughter, Abigail, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering at K-State.

"I am reliving some of my experiences through her," Valentine said, "and it's been an enjoyable stroll down memory lane."



MIKE VALENTINE





# Seaton

SOCIETY

awards and banquet  
Saturday, April 1, 2017



## HALL OF FAME

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

### Class of 2017

**Mitchell Snyder**, EE '83, president and chief executive officer, Bell Helicopter

**M. A. (Meg) Yaege**, ME '79 and '84, president, ConocoPhillips Pipe Line Company, retired



## PROFESSIONAL PROGRESS AWARD

**N**ominated by their respective department heads and confirmed by the dean, 10 alumni were honored for professional career accomplishments during the first 20 years following their graduation.

### 2017 Awardees

**Chris Althoff**, IE '00, senior director, West Monroe Partners

**Deia Bayoumi**, M.S. EE '00, global product management head, ABB

**Nathan Bergman**, CE '98 and '02, senior project manager, Bartlett & West

**Jason Gordon**, CNSM '98, president and chief executive officer, Heartland Acoustics & Interiors

**Zachary Maier**, CMPEN '09, product manager, Google Inc.

**Jeremy Martin**, IS '99, vice president of engineering, FireMon

**Mark Montgomery**, ARE '98, senior vice president, WSP + ccrd

**Robb Raney**, ME '97, project manager, Burns & McDonnell

**Josh Wolters**, BAE '97, co-founder and general manager, SureFire Ag Systems

**Jon Wright**, CHE '99, general manager, Burns & McDonnell



# ENGINEERED TO



95<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE — MARCH 31 - APRIL 1, 2017



## LEADERSHIP BANQUET AWARDS

David and Virginia Braun Innovation Award — Kaley Brungardt, BAE

W. Leroy Culbertson Steel Ring Leadership Scholarship — Jay Disberger, ARE

Tau Beta Pi Underclassman of the Year — Carlos Aguirre, CS

Clair A. Mauch Steel Ring Advisor of the Year — Julie Thornton, CS

## ST. PATRICK AND ST. PATRICIA

St. Patrick — Alonso Talamantes, IMSE

St. Patricia — Gabrielle Lobo, IMSE

## OPEN HOUSE AWARDS

Yellow Brick — IMSE

Outstanding department — IMSE

Technical display — IMSE

Curriculum and career display — IMSE

Graduate display — BAE

Interactive display — IMSE

Children's display — CE





RECOGNITIONS

1991

Abdul Kasim (M.S., CS) is co-founder and CEO of Critical Links, which focuses on education technology with products in more than 50 countries. Since graduation, he has worked in the telecom industry, co-authored a book on the Ethernet and earned a master's degree from MIT.

1995

Amy Martens (IE) has been named the K-State Global Campus Alumni Fellow for 2017.

DEATHS

1950

Walter E. Smith (CHE) died Nov. 2, 2013.

1961

Robert B. Perry (CHE), Independence, Missouri, died Dec. 5, 2016. He retired from a 33-year career with DuPont in 1999 where he had received three patents. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou, six children, 20 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Faculty

Frank Tillman, Lake Ozark, Missouri, died Feb. 26, 2017. He was a former professor, department head and professor emeritus of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering at K-State, and was a member of the College of Engineering Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, three daughters, one son, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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 —

Impact Editor

College of Engineering  
1058 Rathbone Hall  
1701B Platt St.  
Manhattan, KS 66506  
email: [impact@engg.ksu.edu](mailto:impact@engg.ksu.edu)



## MYERS INAUGURATED K-STATE PRESIDENT

Richard B. Myers was formally inaugurated as the 14th president of Kansas State University April 28 in McCain Auditorium.

Retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Myers returned to his home state and alma mater to serve as K-State's interim president in April 2016 and was officially named the university's 14th president in Nov. 2016. He graduated from K-State in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and joined the Air Force through K-State's ROTC program.

The native Kansan from Merriam loyally served his country and retired as a four-star general. From 2001-05, he served as the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and was the principal military adviser to the U.S. president, secretary of defense, and the National Security Council.

## 2017 ENGINEERING CAREER FAIR



Held for the first time in the newly completed Engineering Complex, representatives from more than 100 businesses, agencies and organizations attended the annual Engineering Career Fair Feb. 7-8. The event is co-hosted by the K-State Career Center and the College of Engineering. The college's Multicultural Engineering Program also hosted a reception for employers and students on Monday evening Feb. 6, prior to the event.



## BUYLE NAMED INTERIM HEAD

Ray Buyle, associate professor, has been named interim department head of architectural engineering and construction science. He joined the College of Engineering faculty in 2007 following a 23-year career in the construction industry. He has a bachelor's degree in construction science and a master's degree in curriculum and development, both from K-State, and holds the designation of certified professional through the Design-Build Institute of America.

Through his endowed Tointon Construction Management Chair, Buyle pursues undergraduate student creative inquiry research projects involving service to the community. He has led nine, one-week volunteer service projects involving students working on low-income housing and helping with national disaster relief efforts in locations such as New Orleans, Louisiana, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Joplin, Missouri, after the 2011 tornado.

Buyle coordinates the Associated Schools of Construction Region 4 Design-Build Student Competition, coaches K-State's design-build construction management team and advises the K-State Associated General Contractors Student Chapter. In 2016, he received the AGC of Kansas Fellowship and Associated Schools of Construction Outstanding Educator awards, and was named the 2015 AGC of America National Outstanding Educator of the Year.



## COLLARD NAMED NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOW

Diane Collard, senior in chemical engineering at Kansas State University, has been named a National Science Foundation 2017 Graduate Research Fellow.

The fellowship, which includes a \$34,000 annual stipend and \$12,000 for tuition and fees, supports and recognizes outstanding graduate students conducting science, technology, engineering or mathematics research at accredited U.S. institutions.

Collard has been involved in many undergraduate research projects at K-State, including ways to slow frost on airplane wings and air conditioning units, under guidance from Amy Betz, assistant professor of mechanical and nuclear engineering; and drug delivery methods for brain and skin cancer treatments, under guidance from John Schlup, professor of chemical engineering.

She has been accepted into graduate school at Purdue University, where she will start her research on energetic materials for chemical rockets. She is one of five current K-State students, among 2,000 students nationwide, to receive the prestigious three-year fellowship.

Read more about these awards at [bit.ly/dcollard2017](http://bit.ly/dcollard2017).



## PROMOTIONS, TENURE AND SABBATICALS

Two College of Engineering faculty members have been promoted to full professor:

- William Hsu, computer science
- Steve Warren, electrical and computer engineering

Two College of Engineering faculty members have earned tenure and been promoted to associate professor:

- Pavithra Prabhakar, computer science
- Bill Zhang, architectural engineering and construction science

Two College of Engineering faculty members have been granted sabbatical leave:

- Dunja Peric, civil engineering
- Naiqian Zhang, biological and agricultural engineering

## FACILITIES TOUR HIGHLIGHT: TRANSFORMED SEATON 142



HOSTED BY JOE HARNER, BAE DEPARTMENT HEAD, FAR RIGHT, MEMBERS OF THE ENGINEERING ADVISORY COUNCIL TOUR THE RECENTLY REMODELED ACADEMIC TEACHING, RESEARCH AND OUTREACH CENTER IN SEATON HALL AS PART OF THEIR SPRING MEETING.

With gifts from alumni and friends, the Innovation and Inspiration Campaign is raising \$1.4 billion to advance Kansas State University toward its 2025 goals. Call 785-532-7518 or email [engineering@found.ksu.edu](mailto:engineering@found.ksu.edu) to learn more about how you can make a difference.

**INNOVATION & INSPIRATION**  
THE \$1.4 BILLION CAMPAIGN FOR K-STATE

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MEMBERS OF THE K-STATE MARCHING BAND TAKE TO THE STAGE, BRINGING THE CROWD TO ITS FEET AT THE 2017 SEATON SOCIETY BANQUET AT THE WAREHAM OPERA HOUSE.