The College of Engineering Office of Research and Graduate Programs hosted the third annual spring graduate student graduation reception May 15, 2015, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m., prior to the Graduate School commencement ceremony in Bramlage Coliseum. More than 20 faculty members and 30 graduate students attended the reception, bringing with them close to 60 friends and family. All engineering graduate students who had applied for spring 2015 graduation were invited and able to bring up to five guests plus their advisers.

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Meet our staff

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Did you know?

The Engineering Research and Graduate Programs office teams up with the Global Campus office each year to award two $2,000 travel grants to ENGG faculty. The purpose of these awards is to enhance and improve teaching of online engineering courses by providing the opportunity for learning about state-of-the-art tools, software and techniques, and for experiencing best practice networking.

The 2015 Distance Education Professional Development Travel Awards were given to Esmay Chang and Asad Esmaeily, civil engineering. Both Esmaeily and Chang will attend the annual conference on distance teaching and learning in Madison, Wisconsin in August 2015 with a team from the Global Campus office.

More information on this award program is available on the ERGP website at engg.ksu.edu/engg-dce_travel_award.html.

Correction

In the collaborative research highlight of the May 2015 issue, Caterina Scaglio was referred to as an associate professor in the electrical and computer engineering department. That is incorrect. She is a full professor.

We sincerely apologize for the error and have made sure to update the online version of the May issue.
K-State’s College of Engineering graduate program moves up

According to the newest release of US News & World Report (USNWR) rankings, the College of Engineering’s graduate program at Kansas State University improved its ranking by five spots this year to 94, up from 99 in the 2015 rankings of both public and private institutions with engineering graduate programs. Engineering also moved up in the public engineering graduate program ranking landing at 59th for 2016.

K-State’s College of Engineering has a goal to be a top 50 public engineering graduate program by 2025. This goal will help the university obtain its goal of being recognized as one of the nation’s top 50 public research universities (K-State 2025).

While some of the criteria items within USNWR rankings may be challenging to change directly, two of the areas where we can work to advance our rankings are research expenditures and number of Ph.D. students. The tables here compare our numbers to the K-State’s 2025 peer universities.

What do we need to do to be #50?

So a natural question would be, “What numbers do we need to hit to make it into the top 50 public engineering graduate programs?” Based on this year’s survey, the public schools between #48 and #52 averaged the following metrics:

• Research expenditures per faculty member: $253k
• Number of Ph.D.s granted per year: 58.2
• Number of Ph.D. students per faculty: 3.1

Many universities are working to advance their USNWR rankings so these will be moving numbers, but it gives us a solid target to work towards as a college.

For 2015-2016, the Engineering Office of Research and Graduate Programs will be focusing on increasing our pipeline of Ph.D. applications and students. In mid-June, the ERGP staff will meet with department graduate coordinators to discuss strategies for increasing our Ph.D. applications for the fall 2016 class. More details will follow at the start of fall semester.

If you are interested in being more involved in our Ph.D. recruitment efforts or have other ideas for improving our USNWR rankings, please contact Noel Schulz (noel@ksu.edu).

Spring 2015 poster winners

The first place $300 scholarship was awarded to Eric Kerschen. Kerschen is a senior in mechanical and nuclear engineering with Dr. Gurpreet Singh as his research adviser. Kerschen presented the poster “Natural-Based Systems for Indoor Humidification.”

The second place $200 scholarship was awarded to Allison Sommer. Sommer is a junior in mechanical and nuclear engineering with Dr. Melanie Derby as her research adviser. Sommer presented the poster “Reducing Oxygen from Graphene Oxide by Unconventional Methods.”

The third place $100 scholarship was awarded to Luke Snider. Snider is a senior in biological and agricultural engineering with Dr. Lisa Wilken as his research adviser. Snider presented the poster “Corn Dry Milling and Laboratory-Scale Degerming Optimization.”

Safety highlight

Do you know what you should do if an active shooter entered your building?

The ALICE program was developed by a police officer and his wife, an elementary school principal, following the events at Columbine. The purpose of ALICE training is to prepare individuals to handle the threat of an active shooter. Individuals learn to participate in their own survival while leading others to safety.

To make it easy to remember in a stressful situation, ALICE is broken up into five strategies: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate.

• ALERT is to notify as many people as possible within the danger zone that a potentially life threatening risk exists.
• LOCKDOWN is to secure in place, and prepare to EVACUATE or COUNTER, if needed.
• INFORM is to communicate the intruder’s location in real time.
• COUNTER is to interrupt the intruder and make it difficult or impossible to aim.
• EVACUATE is to remove yourself from the danger zone when it is safe to do so.

ALICE training is offered free of charge through the KSU Police Department. To attend a training session, please contact the ERGP office at 532-5844 or Sgt. Chad Jager with the KSU police at 532-1132.
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### Research Expenditures per Faculty Member (thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Research Expenditures per Faculty Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
<td>$169.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina State University</td>
<td>$146.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma State University</td>
<td>$140.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clemson University</td>
<td>$128.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
<td>$120.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon State University</td>
<td>$114.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn University</td>
<td>$101.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td>$98.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td>$92.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn University</td>
<td>$86.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ph.D. Students per Faculty Member

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina State University</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma State University</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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