National Academy of Engineering Lecture

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Before joining Quanta, Novosel was vice president of ABB Automation Products and president of KEMA Technology and Development U.S. He has led development and implementation of a number of pioneering concepts, methods and products that improved reliability and efficiency of power grids. Elected to the National Academy of Engineers in 2014, he is currently president-elect of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Power and Energy Society. He has served the society as chair of the technical council, president of technology and a member of the governing board.

Novosel visited with many administrative, faculty and student groups during his visit to campus. His lecture “Electrical Grid — Trends and Innovations” was held in Fiedler Auditorium with a reception following. The lecture was live-streamed on the ERGP website and is available for viewing at engg.ksu.edu/ergp/lectures/nae/bios/novosel.html.

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GTA position with an annual stipend of $16,000 or more.

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Graduate research highlight

Through a fund established by Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kan Jung, the College of Engineering is able to recognize an outstanding engineering student or students from the People's Republic of China (PRC) or Republic of China (ROC). This is a supplemental scholarship with an award level of $6,000 per year for Ph.D. students and $3,000 per year for M.S. students. Applicants for this scholarship must be an admitted student within a College of Engineering on-campus graduate program. Master’s degree students must be in the thesis option. The scholarship is for one year and can be renewed once during a degree program. Scholarship recipients must re-apply for the second year of the scholarship. The 2015-2016 winners of the Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kan Jung Graduate Scholarship in Engineering include one student obtaining his M.S. degree and seven students working on their Ph.D. programs.

Safety highlight

International travel opportunities can be both enlightening and fun, especially when conducted in a safe and secure manner. Nothing can sour that opportunity quicker than the unforeseen event that changes those opportunities to disaster. But with planning and preparation, those unforeseen events can be minimized. We need to make sure that safe and secure is always a part of the travel opportunities.

When you have identified international travel, the following tasks are recommended:

- Visit the State Department website for general traveler information plus specific information on your travel destination. Keep in mind stops while in transit.
- Register with the U.S. Embassy in the country you are visiting.
- Consider travel insurance for those unforeseen occurrences.
- Consider travel medical insurance since most U.S. medical insurance is not accepted outside the country.
- Visit Lafene Travel Clinic to review your current immunizations and/or need emergency evacuation.
- Put on your schedule to send an e-mail every 24 hours to family and office to say you are okay.
- Evaluate your need to travel with electronics (computer, tablet, cell phone, thumb drive, etc.). It is highly recommended you take what-only is absolutely necessary for a presentation or conference. As to other data on your devices, limiting it to what you wouldn’t mind sharing with the world should be a best practice. K-State Information Services has loaner laptops that can be configured to the traveler’s needs.
- Determine if an export license will be required and/or whether your research sponsor has safeguarding data requirements that apply.
- Talk to friends and colleagues about their international travel experiences and recommendations to you for preparing for your travel.

K-State Lafene Travel clinic - k-state.edu/lafene/travel.html

These are some of the highlights to consider. The following links can provide much in the way of specifics:

- State Department Travel Website - state.gov/travel/
- K-State Information Services - k-state.edu/its/helpdesk/index.html
- K-State International Programs - k-state.edu/osp/research/health.html
- PCWorld Traveling with Laptop - pcworld.com/article/2062781/keep-your-laptop-safe-and-secure-while-you-travel.html

Research highlight

Edgar invents process for improved semiconductors

James Edgar, CHE professor and department head, has been awarded a patent, “Off-axis silicon carbide substrates,” which is a process for building better semiconductors. The patent describes a method for improving the quality of semiconductors layers by minimizing defects. The discovery was made by Yi Zhang, a 2011 CHE doctoral graduate, who found a boron arsenide layer she had deposited on the substrate sample was very smooth.

“I couldn’t believe it at first. I thought Yi hadn’t deposited any film the surface was so smooth,” Edgar said.

Collaborative research with the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom confirmed the layer’s presence and proved that it had fewer defects than on the standard substrate. The absence of defects is important for using semiconductors in electronic devices, since any defects degrades the efficiency of the device.

Although it was initially demonstrated for a specific material, the process is general. “We’ve shown it works with other materials,” Edgar said. “We have verified that it is not just these specific materials we started with, but that it can be applied to improve the quality of a lot of different materials.”
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For more information on the Robert I-Jen and Sophia Shui-Kan Jung scholarship program, as well as other funding opportunities available from the College of Engineering, please visit the graduate section of the ERGP website at engg.ksu.edu/ergp/grad-program/current/funding.html.

The College of Engineering is grateful to its many donors who provide financial opportunities for our hardworking students. On Oct. 9, 2015, Kansas State University launched the public phase of the Innovation and Inspiration Campaign which will raise $1 billion to fuel progress toward the university’s visionary mission of becoming a top 50 public research university by 2025. For information about how to invest in the College of Engineering, contact the engineering development team at 785-532-7609 or by e-mail at engineering@found.ksu.edu.

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To date, 93 of 263 (36%) College of Engineering employees included in the All-University Campus are just one way K-State faculty and staff have a direct impact on the university’s goal of becoming a top 50 public research university by 2025. When K-State faculty and staff participate in the campaign annually, it sends a positive message of commitment to the alumni, friends and corporate partners who are willing to invest in our university.

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PCWorld Traveling with Laptop - pcworld.com/article/2062781/keep-your-laptop-safe-and-secure-while-you-travel.html

For more information on data security and export control issues, or international travel related to research, please contact Craig Beardsley, facility security officer for Kansas State University, at cabeards@bri.ksu.edu or 785-532-6193.

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Engineering faculty, staff participate in the All-University Campaign

The All-University Campaign for K-State is an internal fundraising effort led by K-State faculty and staff volunteers, specifically focused on participation of all employees including the Manhattan campus, K-State Polytechnic, K-State Olathe, K-State Community College, and K-State Athletics. It is an annual campaign for all members of the campus community to participate in by supporting the areas of the university they care about most.

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K-State hosts International Phytotechnology Conference

Kansas State University hosted the 12th International Phytotechnologies Conference Sept. 27-30 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan, Kansas. This conference provided more than 200 scientists, engineers, consultants, policy regulators and other interested individuals, from more than 25 countries, the opportunity to explore and discuss how recent developments in phytotechnologies address current and emerging environmental challenges, including renewal of urban brownfield sites and other contaminated landscape systems.

Phytotechnologies refer to plant-based technologies to clean water, soil and air, and provide ecosystem services including energy from biomass and storm water management.

Larry Erickson, chemical engineering professor and director of the Center for Hazardous Substance Research in the College of Engineering, has received a Distinguished Service Award from the International Phytotechnologies Society for his efforts in planning and organizing the 12th International Phytotechnologies Conference.

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