As we near the end of the third year of our five-year plan, we now have met or exceeded four more of our metrics.

Named faculty positions: Our five-year goal was to grow this group from 29 to 40. At the end of year three, we have 61 named faculty positions in the College of Engineering.

In this issue of Impact, you’ll read about the latest awardees, as well as some of those making the awards possible — Placidus Amama and the Tim Taylor chair in chemical engineering, and Shuting Lei and the Carl and Mary Ice industrial engineering professorship; and our now 15 total Michelle Munson-Serban Simu, and Steve Hsu Keystone Research Scholars.

Research infrastructure: We started with three, and our goal was to have seven showcase research facilities by year five. All seven are in place: the semiconductor materials and radiological technologies, or SMART, lab; systems automation and robotics, or SARS, lab; Beocat — high-performance computing facility; advanced materials and processes lab; smart grid lab; advanced manufacturing processes labs; and the Jerry and Robin Westhoff concrete-mixing and curing lab, and structures lab.

The following pages are filled with esteemed faculty, many of whom are accomplishing outstanding research in these and our other top-notch facilities. Note the stories on the major elite grants awarded to four more of our young assistant and associate professors, the numerous college and university faculty honorees, and even the launch of a new degree program — biomedical engineering.

Undergraduate research and creative inquiry teams: Our goal was to increase the number of students involved in these endeavors from 250 to 400. At the close of year three, we can boast of 767 participants.

Undergraduate degree target: One of our University Engineering Initiative Act criterion was that by 2021-22, we were to have reached the target of increasing graduates by 164 per year. Last year in 2016-17, we increased our number of graduates by 187. Setting goals, reaching goals, exceeding goals — all accomplishments leading us ever closer to our vision: By 2025, the College of Engineering will be recognized as one of the nation’s Top 50 Public Research Engineering Colleges.
With a strong belief in the importance of faculty research, the College of Engineering has announced the addition of 10 Keystone Research Faculty Scholars.

The award was established to recruit and retain top scholars in the early stages of their careers who are in high demand for faculty positions throughout the U.S.

Having previous records of outstanding research accomplishment, faculty members are nominated by their department head for these positions. Each Keystone Research Faculty Scholar receives a three-year appointment with a salary increase and discretionary funds to support travel, specialized equipment and additional graduate students to join his or her research team.

“The talent level these awards have enabled us to recruit and retain to our faculty roster is truly remarkable,” said Darren Dawson, dean of the College of Engineering. “It is exciting to have donors who share the vision and support this top-level intellectual pursuit at Kansas State University.”

Michelle Munson-Serban Simu Keystone Research Faculty Scholars

Michelle Munson, 1996 K-State graduate in electrical engineering, CEO of Aspera Inc., and co-inventor of Aspera’s FASP, a trademarked transport technology, oversees the company’s direction in collaboration with her husband and co-founder Serban Simu, Berkley, California. They believe the Keystone Research Faculty Scholars program reflects Aspera’s ‘success through difficulties’ and the rigors of academic research.

The following four faculty members have been added to the list of Michelle Munson-Serban Simu Keystone Research Faculty Scholars: George Amariucai, associate professor, and Arslan Munir, assistant professor, both in computer science; and Sungo Kim, associate professor, and Mohammad Shadmand, assistant professor, both in electrical and computer engineering.

The first five recipients of the Munson-Serban Simu award, specified for faculty in the departments of electrical and computer engineering, and computer science, were named in the spring of 2017 and included Eugene Vasserman, associate professor of computer science; and Jungkwun Kim, assistant professor, Behrooz Mirafzal, associate professor, Punit Prakash, assistant professor and Hongyu Wu, assistant professor, all in electrical and computer engineering.

Steve Hsu Keystone Research Faculty Scholars

Steve Hsu, 1959 master’s degree graduate of K-State in mechanical engineering and former chairman of the family shipping company, Oak Maritime Group, Hong Kong, China, wanted to make an impact in an area of the college’s top strategic priority — faculty development. He is pleased to see his gift having an impact on bright young faculty members performing cutting-edge research with teams of student researchers.

The following six individuals have been named Steve Hsu Keystone Research Faculty Scholars: Jessica Heier Stamm and Meng Zhang, both assistant professors of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering; and Hitesh Bindra, James Chen, Melanie Derby and Jeremy Roberts, all assistant professors of mechanical and nuclear engineering.*
Due to substantial increases in college tuition, students today experience major financial challenges compared to previous years. Mark and Brenda Brown wanted to ease some of these trials for students pursuing higher education.

“Financial challenges students face today are far greater than when we attended college in the 1980s,” Mark said. “It would be a terrible loss for students not to have the opportunity to pursue their dreams and utilize their talents.”

Mark graduated from Kansas State University in 1982 with a degree in electrical engineering, while Brenda graduated from University of Missouri – Kansas City in 1988 with a degree in finance. Currently, Mark is a member of K-State’s department of electrical and computer engineering, or ECE, advisory council. Mark said pursuing electrical engineering was one of his best life decisions.

“Earning my electrical engineering degree at an institution with hard-working values common to the Midwest has allowed me to pursue career opportunities I never thought possible,” Mark said. “Through our gift giving, involvement with the ECE advisory council, alumni association and board of trustees, we have met other members of the K-State family and created the greatest of friendships.”

Mark and Brenda established multiple funds supporting students and faculty in the ECE department.

“We wanted to pay back to the institution that afforded us those opportunities and pay forward to others in the Kansas State University family who will follow,” Mark said.

Mark and Brenda were inspired to create a professorship, scholarship and excellence fund after witnessing the impact of the Brown Family Scholarship, which was established in 2012 by Mark and Brenda, and Mark’s brother, Mike, a K-State graduate in chemical engineering, exposed him to the field of engineering. Mark chose his career path after recognizing the close association between computers and electrical engineering, which share similarities with digital design and microprocessors. Mark specialized in the field of embedded computing.

“We hope these scholarships will provide a small relief to those students in pursuit of their own dreams and successes,” Mark said. “The successes we have enjoyed in our lives were made possible through our joint talents, hard work and strong values of growing up in rural Kansas.”

Mark initially wanted to pursue a degree in computer science until his brother, Mike, a K-State graduate in chemical engineering, exposed him to the field of engineering. Mark chose his career path after recognizing the close association between computers and electrical engineering, which share similarities with digital design and microprocessors. Mark specialized in the field of embedded computing.

“We want to pay back to the institution that afforded us those opportunities and pay forward to others in the Kansas State University family who will follow.”

— Mark Brown

Mark and Brenda Brown: CONTRIBUTING TOWARD SUCCESS

By Alexcia Rodriguez

“We wanted to pay back to the institution that afforded us those opportunities and pay forward to others in the Kansas State University family who will follow.” — Mark Brown
The College of Engineering, with recent approval from the Kansas Board of Regents, will add biomedical engineering as its 11th Bachelor of Science degree program.

Offered through the electrical and computer engineering department, the curriculum of 133 credit hours will be officially available in fall 2018.

Biomedical engineering applies engineering principles to design challenges faced by the medical and life science communities. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for biomedical engineers is projected to grow nationally by more than 20 percent from 2014 to 2024, with biomedical companies in the Midwest representing a significant portion of that growth.

“We will initially offer two different areas of emphasis, taking advantage of the strengths of our existing faculty and their research programs,” said Don Gruenbacher, department head of electrical and computer engineering. “These will be biomedical sensors and devices, and biomedical computation.”

“We are pleased and excited to add the biomedical engineering degree to our program offerings,” said Darren Dawson, dean of the College of Engineering. “As the largest engineering program in the state of Kansas, it is our continuous goal to ensure our educational product is relevant and at the forefront of society’s needs.”

The College of Engineering will seek accreditation by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET for the biomedical engineering program after the first graduates of the program have completed their degrees, which is the standard ABET process for accreditation of new programs.
It was Melinda Helwig’s first time on the K-State campus, her husband Carl’s second, though not since a livestock judging contest in 1967. On Sept. 8, they toured and visited the College of Engineering, hosted by their new namesakes — the Helwig Farms Quarter-Scale Tractor Team.

Team members welcomed the couple and proudly displayed the award-winning machines whose development and future success will be profoundly affected by the Helwigs’ generosity and support.

“We have no children,” Melinda said, “but after our visit this morning, I feel like we just adopted the whole tractor team.”

In addition to a new ‘family’, Carl also gained a new title.

“The team members asked Carl if he’d like to be one of their advisors and he said ‘yes’, and we’re going to Peoria next spring when they compete,” Melinda said.

While new to K-State and the enthusiasm of its students, the Helwigs are not new to the world of tractor competitions — the link that brought them to this association.

The couple competed together in tractor-pulling competitions — placing nationally in the early 1980s — while raising wheat, corn, soybeans and grain sorghum on their southeast Kansas farm near Columbus.

Carl built three modified tractors for competitive pulling. Both Helwigs competed, but Melinda was one of the few women drivers in her day, her final outing being the Grand National Pull in 1984 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she placed fourth in a class of 29 tractors.

Their newly sponsored team is a winner as well. This past June in Peoria, Illinois, at the 20th annual American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers’ International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition, the Kansas State University Helwig Farms Quarter-Scale Tractor Team, formerly Powercat Tractors, came home with two top-five finishes.

The A team — juniors and seniors — took fifth place overall, and the X team — freshmen and sophomores — took second overall. This is the 19th time in the last 20 years that one of the K-State teams has won or placed in the top three at the event.

Supervised by the biological and agricultural engineering department, the team faces challenges in competitions not only with their machines’ pulling ability, but in endurance and maneuverability tests, as well as oral and written presentations.
“I realize now,” Carl said, “there’s much more to this competition the students take part in than just pulling weight down a track with a tractor.”

By their act of establishing a charitable remainder trust with the K-State Foundation for the tractor team, the Helwigs are able to extend support in many areas, including equipment and parts for the tractors, testing funds, travel expenses and even scholarships for team members.

“It feels really good to be able to do this and have the team bear our name,” Carl said. “This started out as a pure business deal — a tax break for us now and a trust for the future when we’re gone. But now that we’ve met the students and seen how they could use some extra funding right now, I wanted to do that for them, too.”

So in addition to the trust, Carl and Melinda have also made two cash gifts to the team. “We want them to have something from us to utilize right now,” Melinda said. “We want our gifts to support the education of these students as well as help them win competitions.”

Self-described as ‘pretty simple country folk,’ Carl summed up the couple’s philosophy of giving in this way: “We’ve had a good life where farming has been pretty good to us. We’ve been very fortunate, and now we want to share some of that good fortune so these students will have every opportunity to be on top, too.”

The Kansas State University College of Engineering honored Textron Aviation Inc. as the 2017 Company of the Year. Textron Aviation Inc., based in Wichita, is a leading general aviation authority and home to the Beechcraft, Cessna and Hawker brands, which account for more than half of all general aviation aircraft flying. The company has delivered more than 250,000 aircraft in more than 143 countries. Its products include Citation business jets, King Air and Caravan turboprops, and T-6 military trainer aircraft.

“As Textron Aviation continues to lead the aviation industry with respect to new and innovative product offerings, and the global reach of our customer base, the talent derived from Kansas State University is critical in fueling our continued success,” said Brad Thress, Textron Aviation’s senior vice president of engineering.

“Outside support from alumni and others is vital in helping teams understand the importance of work ethic, creativity and preparation. Positive engagement, such as the Helwigs’, helps shape and mold these young people as they prepare to enter the workforce.”

— Joe Harner
Department head, biological and agricultural engineering

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“The heritage of engineering excellence at Kansas State University’s College of Engineering continues today and is now matched with a strong focus on leadership development and technological innovation, making it one of the country’s top programs,” Thress said.

Last year, the company bestowed its name upon the Textron Aviation Women in Engineering Conference Room, a part of the College of Engineering’s broader Academic Success Center. It is currently in its second year as a corporate partner in the college’s Engineering Leadership and Innovation, or ELI, program, and continues to hire many engineering students for internships and full-time employment. 

By Mary Rankin
ICE PROFESSORSHIP AWARDED TO SHUTING LEI

Shuting Lei, professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering, has been awarded the Carl R. and Mary T. Ice industrial engineering professorship. The five-year renewable appointment was established to honor Carl and Mary Ice on the campus at K-State, as well as to recruit and retain the highest quality faculty in the department of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering.

Native Kansans who currently live in Westlake, Texas, Carl Ice is the president and CEO of BNSF Railway and a 1979 graduate of the College of Engineering in industrial engineering. Mary Ice is a 1980 graduate of the College of Human Ecology and also earned a master’s degree from the College of Education in 1988.

AMAMA RECIPIENT OF TIM TAYLOR CHAIR IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Placidus Amama, assistant professor of chemical engineering, has been named recipient of the Tim Taylor chair in chemical engineering.

The award is created through a gift from Tim and Sharon Taylor, The Woodlands, Texas. Tim Taylor graduated from Kansas State University in 1975 with a degree in chemical engineering and is now president of Phillips 66.

As the Tim Taylor chair in chemical engineering, Amama will receive flexible funding annually to help cover needs such as doctoral student stipends, research equipment and supplies, professional travel or seed funding for new research projects.

ENDOWED POSITIONS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Participants in the Engineering Leadership and Innovation, or ELI, program in the K-State College of Engineering met for kick-off events in Engineering Hall — 21 returning scholars on Aug. 22 and 21 first-year scholars on Aug. 24. Each participant receives a $3,000 scholarship, takes leadership and business courses, learns from an industry mentor, meets with industry leaders and practices hands-on leadership within a creative inquiry team.

The program draws on resources of the Staley School of Leadership Studies program, College of Business Administration, success of student-led College of Engineering creative inquiry teams in national competitions and a strong connection with corporate partners.

Seven new corporate sponsors have joined the program since last year for a total of 17 partners: BHC Rhodes, Black & Veatch, BNSF Railway, Boeing, Chevron Phillips, ConocoPhillips, Dolese, ExxonMobil, Garmin, Hallmark, Koch Industries, MMC Corp, Netsmart, Phillips 66, Spirit Aerosystems, Textron Aviation and Westar Energy.

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ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM EMBARKS ON SECOND YEAR

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Melanie Derby, assistant professor of mechanical engineering and Steve Hsu Keystone Research Faculty Scholar, has been recognized by the National Science Foundation as an up-and-coming researcher for her work with water conservation. Derby is the recipient of a $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development, or CAREER, Program for her project “Altering Transient Soil Evaporation Mechanisms through Hydrophobicity.” Her research will investigate mixing water-repellent particles with soil in order to reduce evaporation rates. Initial experiments will first study evaporation from small soil pores and progressively move to large soil samples in controlled laboratory tests.

“Water is required to meet growing global food and energy demand,” Derby said, “and with decreasing Ogallala Aquifer levels, this is a timely problem relevant to the state of Kansas. “Through the CAREER award, we can make a big impact — both for water conservation at the state and global levels, and through educating top-notch undergraduate and graduate students.”

Read more about Derby and her CAREER award online at bit.ly/derbycareer.

Pavithra Prabhakar, associate professor of computer science and the Peggy and Gary Edwards chair in engineering, has been selected as a Young Investigator Award recipient from the Office of Naval Research’s Science of Autonomy Program.

Self-driving cars and unmanned aerial vehicles exemplify the kind of autonomous systems research that played a role in a K-State faculty member receiving a Young Investigator Award from the Office of Naval Research’s Science of Autonomy Program. The $502,000 award will allow Pavithra Prabhakar, associate professor of computer science and the Peggy and Gary Edwards chair in engineering, to design software for autonomous underwater vehicles with varying levels of autonomy.

"Cornelia Caragea, Melanie Derby, Pavithra Prabhakar and Jessica Heier Stamm — our latest recipients of these top awards — are outstanding examples of the early career success the college is striving for," said Darren Dawson, dean of the College of Engineering.

“Their research expertise not only adds to the body of knowledge in their respective areas of interest, but in turn influences the students they work alongside as they educate the next generation of engineers and computer scientists,” Dawson said.

Continuing in its quest to recruit and retain the highest quality, most talented faculty available, the College of Engineering has added four more National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Program, or CAREER, award recipients, and one additional Young Investigator award recipient from the Office of Naval Research’s Science of Autonomy Program, to its growing list of prestigious early career awardees.
Prabhakar’s project will focus on two challenges: robustness, which is measured by the vehicle’s ability to adjust to changes in the environment, and optimality, measured by the vehicle’s ability to conduct its tasks with limited resources such as little fuel and time.

“The ONR YIP and an earlier NSF CAREER award have been instrumental in advancing my research and teaching agenda in cyber-physical systems and autonomous systems,” Prabhakar said. Read more about Prabhakar and her Young Investigator Award at bit.ly/prabhakarYIP.

JESSICA HEIER STAMM
Having studied humanitarian and public health supply chain systems for much of her career, Jessica Heier Stamm, assistant professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering and Steve Hsu Keystone Research Faculty Scholar, recognizes that it’s going to take multidisciplinary research to solve multi-stakeholder problems.

In a public health emergency, stakeholders and decision-makers from numerous organizations must coordinate their response efforts — a complicated task, even under non-urgent circumstances.

Heier Stamm has been granted a five-year, $500,000 NSF CAREER award to conduct research that will help industrial engineers and public health officials coordinate efforts to improve disaster preparedness and response.

“I became a faculty member because I am passionate both about finding solutions for important problems and about preparing students to do the same,” Heier Stamm said. “Thus, I feel particularly honored to receive an NSF CAREER award, since it recognizes effective integration of research and education.

“In the near term, the funding will enable us to better understand the supply chain systems that support public health emergency preparedness and response. It will also fund opportunities for pre-college, undergraduate and graduate students to learn first-hand about the positive impact that engineers can have on public health.”

Read more about Heier Stamm and her CAREER award at bit.ly/HeierStamm17.

CORNELIA CARAGEA
Cornelia Caragea, associate professor of computer science and the Lloyd T. Smith creativity in engineering chair, received the NSF CAREER award in April 2017 for her work in machine learning, information retrieval and natural language processing, while on the faculty at the University of North Texas in the department of computer science and engineering.

Joining the K-State faculty in the College of Engineering this fall, Caragea will continue her NSF CAREER project in designing approaches that will make information more accessible and comprehensible to scholarly web users, helping them discover knowledge more effectively and efficiently. She plans to develop an integrated framework that focuses on the extraction and use of knowledge graphs in online scholarly environments.

“My goal in this project is to develop an ‘expert on the fly’ that will continuously ‘read’ the scholarly web and discover interesting concepts and their hidden connections,” Caragea said, “as well as will provide users with just the right information.

“Being a recipient of the NSF CAREER award is a huge step forward toward accomplishing my research goal of improving people’s ability to effectively mine and discover knowledge from large amounts of digital data. Educationally, my work in this project will be used as a tool for recruiting and motivating high school and college students to pursue a degree in computer science.”
The Society

In the spirit of the legacy of Roy Andrew Seaton, the longest serving dean in the history of Kansas State University College of Engineering, the Seaton Society was established in 1999 to recognize donors who provide significant annual gifts to support the College of Engineering.

The impact of Seaton Society donors is seen in every aspect of the college as it moves forward in excellence of engineering education. Initiatives supported by these funds include the following:

- discretionary gifts to the dean or department heads
- scholarships to recruit new students, recognize academic excellence and retain those with financial need
- student leadership organizations and activities
- student participation in competitions and leadership opportunities
- special projects and professional development for faculty

Membership Levels and Benefits

Membership in the Seaton Society recognizes all who contributed $1,000 or more between July 1, 2016, and June 30, 2017, to any area within the College of Engineering.

Donors may renew their membership each year by making a gift at one of five levels. The exception is the Founder category.

- Founder (minimum gift = $100,000+)
- Director level ($10,000+)
- Executive level ($5,000 to $9,999.99)
- Partner level ($2,500 to $4,999.99)
- Leadership Council ($1,000 to $2,499.99)

Members are invited to attend the annual Seaton Society Banquet, are listed on the IMPACT website, and are included in periodic area/regional events and campus activities.
EXECUTIVE — $5,000

Chris Althoff and Jamie Yates
Paula and Terrance Barr
Amy and Dan Blakely
Michael and Margaret Brown
Dan and Jed Burk
Judy and Jason Coned
Deaun and Carol Doll
Les Doty
Candy Duncan
Jan Feldhaus
Jane and Gilbert Ferguson
Carl and Terri Hopkins
Thomas and Rebecca Hopkins
Mark and Mary Hutton
Brady and Jeanne Jerman
Walter and Kimberly Kennedy
Rich and Hannah Kirsch
Charles and Linda Kuhn
Mark and Mary Kieper
Matthew and Kevin Kieper
John and Mary Kraft
Meg and Kins Teage

PARTNERS — $2,500

Bryan and Caleb Anderson
Douglas and Teri Anderson
Amy and Tim Arrant
Kim Bartik
John and Deborah Blumsfeld
Steve and Deborah Blume
Nadine Bosse and Larry Nettles
Loyd and Paty Brunham
Dana and Andrew Carter
Mary and Dick Elizabeth Carbin
Matthew and Lynn Daum
John and Sharen Deutch
Ed and Cane Dent
Ron Fowlis
Bill and Dorothy Frank
Michael and Beth Gardner
Jim and Nancy Gerber
Robert and Melanie Green
Jason and Laura Hight
Jan and Dick Hedges
Phil and Jeanne Hollis
Rodney and Kay Hom
Em and Ming Hu
Kay Hummels
Jim and Judy Johnston
Steven and Ann Johnson
William and Rebecca Kennedy
Stevie and Mary Jean Kirkham
Jim and Sandra Lackard
John and Kay McConkey
Bob and Kathy McElyea
Marc and Lynne McLean
Dana and Jody Melton
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Brett Larson, Senior Director of Development, College of University Foundation,
*deceased

LEADERSHIP — $1,000

Every effort has been made to produce a comprehensive listing of donors for the calendar year 2017. We apologize for any omissions, negligence, or oversight and extend our sincere thanks for your support. Questions about the donor list should be directed to Brett Larson, Senior Director of Development, College of University Foundation, Kansas State University Foundation, 7000 Kimball Ave., Bldg. 200, Manhattan, KS 66506, 785-532-7519 or 800-402-1570.
RECOGNITIONS

1952
Ross Roepke (AGE), Tullahoma, Tennessee, reports continuing pride to have graduated from his department 65 years ago, and that he had spent his career as a long-range planner for AEDC, the world’s premier wind tunnel complex in middle Tennessee — an Air Force facility that precisely simulates flight conditions for development testing of aircraft, missiles, rockets and spacecraft.

1977
Vincent Zeller (AGE) celebrated his 40th anniversary with Halliburton in May 2017, where he was recognized for having achieved 29 Halliburton patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in addition to many more international patents. He was also part of a committee that wrote standards for a segment of the industry for the American Petroleum Institute.

1979
Thomas Gates (CE, M.S. ’81), Richland, Washington, has been featured in Marquis Who’s Who, where individuals are selected on the basis of position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility and prominence in a field. He is a civil engineer, researcher, waste management administrator and lawyer, who has also served two terms on the Richland city council as well as being the city’s mayor.

1988
Greg Key (CNSM) has been named president of Lueder Construction Company, Omaha, Nebraska.

1990
Gregory Weisenborn (EE, M.S. ’93) has been elected president of the sustainable development division of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers for 2017-18.

1996
Cannon Clifton (CHE) is co-founder and CEO of Kalypso Wellness Centers, headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. Since graduation, he has worked for Koch Industries where he was selected on the basis of position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility and prominence in a field. He is a chemical engineer, researcher, waste management administrator and lawyer, who has also served two terms on the Richland city council as well as being the city’s mayor.

DEATHS

1951
Bernell Kerbs (ME), Tacoma, Washington, died March 25, 2017. He had a 40-year career with Boeing, working on programs for the 737, 747 and 757. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Diantha, one son, two daughters and two grandchildren.

1979
Charles West (CE), Phoenix, Arizona, died June 30, 2017. He retired in 1986 from the ownership of Bartlett and West Engineers, headquartered in Topeka, Kansas, with 17 branch offices in the upper Midwest states. He held professional engineering licenses in six states. He is survived by his wife, Doris, three daughters and one granddaughter.

1979
LeRoy Gering (ME), Sun City West, Arizona, died recently. He is survived by his wife, Louise.

1988
Robert Morrison (ME), The Woodlands, Texas, died Aug. 9, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Nan.

1990
Bernell Kerbs passed away peacefully in her sleep on April 22, 2017. She was a world-class expert in radar propagation.

Faculty
Isaac Wakabayashi died July 26, 2017, in Manhattan, Kansas. He was retired from Kansas State University where he had been a long-time instructor in the department of electrical engineering and taught lab classes as well.

UNIVERSITY AWARDEES

2017 COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AWARDS

From left: Behrooz Mirafzal, ECE, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Research; Shuting Lei, IMSE, Frankenhoff Outstanding Research Award; Jim Edgar, CHE, Engineering Distinguished Researcher Award; Anil Pahwa, ECE, Robert R. and Lila L. Snell Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award; Mustaque Hossain, CE, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Teaching; Melanie Derby, MNE, Outstanding Assistant Professor; Steve Eckels, MNE, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Research; Julie Thornton, CS, Clair A. Mauch Steel Ring Advisor of the Year Award; Kimberly Kramer, ARE/CNS, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Teaching; Ray Boyle, ARE/CNS, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Service; Lisa Wilken, BAE, James L. Hollis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award; Jonathan Zeller, BAE, College of Engineering Unclassified Staff Award of Excellence; Edwin Brokesh, BAE, Charles H. Scholer Faculty Award; and Punit Prakash, ECE, Outstanding Assistant Professor.

We are interested in following these careers 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 e-mail your information in these categories to impact@engg.ksu.edu or send it to —
1058 Rathbone Hall, 1701B Platt St.
Manhattan, KS 66506

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From left: Behrooz Mirafzal, ECE, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Research; Shuting Lei, IMSE, Frankenhoff Outstanding Research Award; Jim Edgar, CHE, Engineering Distinguished Researcher Award; Anil Pahwa, ECE, Robert R. and Lila L. Snell Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award; Mustaque Hossain, CE, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Teaching; Melanie Derby, MNE, Outstanding Assistant Professor; Steve Eckels, MNE, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Research; Julie Thornton, CS, Clair A. Mauch Steel Ring Advisor of the Year Award; Kimberly Kramer, ARE/CNS, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Teaching; Ray Boyle, ARE/CNS, Dean’s Award of Excellence in Service; Lisa Wilken, BAE, James L. Hollis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award; Jonathan Zeller, BAE, College of Engineering Unclassified Staff Award of Excellence; Edwin Brokesh, BAE, Charles H. Scholer Faculty Award; and Punit Prakash, ECE, Outstanding Assistant Professor.

Four College of Engineering faculty members have been recognized as Kansas State University award recipients, from left: Todd Easton, IMSE, Coffman Chair for University Distinguished Teaching Scholars; John Schlup, CHE, Segebrecht Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award; Anil Pahwa, ECE, University Distinguished Professor; and Ronaldo Maghirang, BAE, Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Service Award; and Jane Cox, ARE/CNS, College of Engineering University Support Staff Employee of the Year.

COLLEGE NEWS
Ray Buyle, associate professor, has been named department head of architectural engineering and construction science. He has been serving the department as interim head since late March 2017.

Buyle joined the College of Engineering faculty in 2007 following a 23-year career in the construction industry 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 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.

Mustaque Hossain, professor of civil engineering, was named interim department head, effective Aug. 13.

He assumed the duties of current civil engineering department head, Robert Stokes, who will be returning to his faculty position in the College of Engineering. Hossain joined the department in 1991. In addition to his teaching and research in the area of highway materials and pavement engineering, he also served as the associate director of the Mid-America Transportation Center from 2006-16. He is the Munger professor in civil engineering.

Bailey Sullivan joined the Academic Success Center in the College of Engineering in late July as a teaching assistant professor.

In charge of the general engineering instructional program, she advises engineering students not yet enrolled in a specific program of study and provides support for other first-year programmatic activities.

Sullivan has a doctorate in biological and agricultural engineering from Texas A&M University, having previously completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in that discipline from K-State.
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Kansas State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, ancestry, disability, genetic information, military status, or veteran status, in the university’s programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations. The person designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning the nondiscrimination policy is the university’s Title IX Coordinator: the Director of the Office of Institutional Equity, equity@k-state.edu, 103 Edwards Hall, 1810 Kerr Drive, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506-4801. Telephone: 785-532-6620 | TTY or TRS: 711. The campus ADA Coordinator is the Director of Employee Relations and Engagement, who may be reached at charlott@k-state.edu or 103 Edwards Hall, 1810 Kerr Drive, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506-4801, 785-532-6277 and TTY or TRS 711. Revised Aug. 29, 2017.