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 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.
Student events

Capitol Graduate Research Summit

Engineering Career Fair

Telefund 2011

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. 15, in Fiedler Hall.

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 and conference presentations. Through their family foundation, the K-State provost and senior vice president, facilitated an audience question-and-answer session.

Telefund 2011

of companies.

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 2009 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 Getty Images; GigaWorks, acquired by Cisco; Freescale Semiconductor; Ignition, 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 Alanticom, a cable communications company; Centillion Networks, Network Equipment Technologies, Optilink, PictuTel, Polytom and UUNet.

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

Dixon Doll, EE ’64, and K-State Provost April Mason field audience questions. Following Doll’s slide presentation and address, April Mason, K-State provost and senior vice president, facilitated an audience question-and-answer session.
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 Michet, CE ’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 I-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 managed 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 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, be part of every game 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.”

“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

Even though his on-the-court experience was limited, Potuzak still became a known entity on campus. “If you do what you love, you never work a day in your life.”

“If you do what you love, you never work a day in your life.”

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.”
Three faculty receive NSF CAREER awards

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 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, Delhi, India, in 1999. He received his master’s and doctoral degrees in chemical and petroleum engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was a National Science Foundation Scholar.

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.

Weinqiao “Wayne” Yuan

Xinning “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.

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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 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 Bensmeyer Distributor of the Year award at Pack Expo in Chicago. He and his wife, Nancy, Randolph, N.J., have three children and three grandchildren.

KHS&S Contractors, Inc.
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 instrumental in building the organizational structure that has made KHS&S one of the largest design-build 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 University of Virginia.

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 Pfonso, professor of chemical engineering were awarded the $5,508,997 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 current standards,” 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.

The collaboration includes using the diversity and recruitment programs already in place in the chemical engineering department 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 $47,000 from the College of Engineering to 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 faculty and our student leaders 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 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.

“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.

“Of course, this growth in enrollment and retention has certainly benefited as well from the collaborative efforts of Associates 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.”

Active Science Foundation.

Collaborative partnerships have included 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.

“We’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.

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Andrew Satterlee
Company. He will be in charge of opera-
 discontinued the 30-year career he had
 been named an IEEE Fellow in recog-
 nization of his contributions to wire-
 less communications systems. He is employed by
 Motorola, Inc.

1973
Lance Schmeidler (ME), founder, owner and president of OMNI Engineer-
 ing and Technology, Inc., McLean, Va.,
 has been named an IEEE 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 Ier (IE), who began his railroad
 career with the Santa Fe Railroad, has
 recently been named to the newly created position
 of director of system engineering and technology, Inc.,
 in Northern California. He has been a
 construction consultant and expert witness
 for 27 years, and has successfully comple-
 red 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 manag-
 ing partner, he will have primary responsi-
 bility for marketing consulting services to the
 construction industry.

1986
Glen N. Neises (IE) was recently
 named director of nuclear with Burns &
 McDonnell, Kansas City. He has com-
 pleted a 24-year career at the Wolf Creek
 Nuclear Operating Corporation, serving in
 the positions of manager of system en-
 gineering, design engineering and project
 engineering. He also completed an assign-
 ment at the Institute of Nuclear Power
 Operations in Atlanta. Neises is married to
 Glenda (Geist) Neises, B.S., Elms. Ed.
 1985.

1989
Kevin McLain (CE, M.S. ’93) 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 geotech-
 nical engineering.

1993
Kevin Intas (CNS), senior vice presi-
 dent of operations, WaltonCORE, Kansas
 City, Mo., recently completed the 2010
 Leadership Kansas class. The Leadership
 Kansas program inspires persons to main-
 tain involvement in the social, business
 and political fabric of the state’s communi-
 ties. Members are selected on leadership
 contributions in their professions and communities.

1994
Robert R. Fleksa (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 include his wife of 67 years,
 Mary, a son and two daughters, seven grand-
 children and seven great-grandchildren.

1996
Leo Wasienski (CE) died Nov. 6,
 2010, in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. He
 spent the majority of his working years as a
 construction engineer for Texcon, super-
 visioning a four-state territory. He retired in
 1990. He is survived by four daughters,
 eight grandchildren and four great-grand-
 children.

1997
Mary Tummons
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 alums 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 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 
 University Distinguished Fellows.”

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
Engineering Communications
Kansas State University
133 Ward Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506
Email: impact@engg.ksu.edu

Wanted: Your Updates
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.