

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

IMSE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



TODD EASTON — OPTIMIZING PROBLEMS FOR THE BEST SOLUTIONS

PAGE 2

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering
Department of Industrial and
Manufacturing Systems Engineering

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

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EDUCATION



COLLABORATION



LEADERSHIP



DISCOVERY

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

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FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Academic year 2014-2015 was another success for the industrial and manufacturing systems engineering (IMSE) department, as proven by the noteworthy accomplishments highlighted in this edition of Alumni Connections. Our students, faculty and alumni continue to bring pride to our department, and we are honored to share their achievements with you.

Last semester we experienced two retirements--Stanley Lee (page 6) and Doris Galvan (page 6), as well as the passing of Steve Konz (page 12). Each impacted hundreds of lives and helped shape the department into the success it is today. These esteemed colleagues and friends will surely be missed.

The end of one chapter brings the start of another. This summer we welcomed Dong Lin (page 7) to the IMSE faculty as an assistant professor. Holding a doctorate from Purdue University, he joins us with extensive experience in advanced manufacturing. His addition to the team offers new beginnings for the IMSE department, with exciting opportunities for research and partnership.

Attracting and retaining top faculty is a highest priority for us in the coming years, especially as the department grows. This year enrollment for undergraduate and graduate programs reached 328 students — a 15 percent increase from last year’s record high. In addition,

we graduated the largest class — 63 students — in the department’s history. This upward trend is expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

As we move forward, we are appreciative of our loyal alumni who continue to engage and help advance our department. This year, in particular, alumni participation was outstanding. Advisory council members worked exceedingly hard to facilitate faculty connections and build collaborative partnerships, while members of the IMSE Academy successfully recruited 36 professional leaders to mentor 39 students. Support from our alumni and friends keeps us moving toward a bright future.

We want to keep you informed of our student, faculty and alumni accomplishments, and will do so through our print publications. New this year, however, we have added a bi-annual electronic newsletter to the mix. If you would like to get these updates, too, email imse@k-state.edu. As always, routine updates will be posted to imse.ksu.edu. So stay tuned. We will be in touch again soon.

Go Wildcats!

Brad Kramer
Professor and Departmental Head
Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering





The Easton Technique



America may have downsized its warfare efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, but military spending remains a trillion dollar industry even amidst national budget deficits. Current fiscal caps require budget planners to make choices with the most optimal solutions in mind. These decisions can range from resource allocations to logistics planning, and routine maintenance to equipment replacement. With this responsibility comes a great deal of uncertainty and risk. The best outcomes, however, can be calculated using operations research (OR) techniques. By applying quantitative methods to complex problems, military and civilian personnel can make more informed plans and recommendations based on the highest level of certainty.

This is the type of scenario Todd Easton, associate professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering (IMSE) at Kansas State University, explores with his OR students. He's been a K-State College of Engineering faculty member since fall 2001. Since then, he has taught hundreds of undergraduates, had oversight on 32 master theses and advised two doctoral dissertations. Easton's research specialty is discrete optimization.

"I teach students how to optimize problems and find the best solutions," Easton said. "There's something really cool about knowing you have the best answer and no one else can do any better."

Easton prides himself on teaching students how to solve real-world problems. He does this through industry collaborations with organizations such as the Fort Leavenworth Army

Training and Doctrine Analysis Center (TRADOC/TRAC).

"The Leavenworth partnership was established in the early 1970s and continues to be mutually beneficial," Easton said. "It's been a fabulous collaboration."

In any given semester, he is the major professor for five to 10 active duty service members enrolled in his Master of Science Operations Research program hosted through K-State Global Campus. Virtually, Easton teaches these Army leaders to use quantitative analysis to support military decision making through use of optimization models and simulation methods. One student used these techniques in his final defense to advise government officials on a billion dollar equipment purchase.

Easton also tries to engage local businesses in student projects. A recent example involved a stone company looking to improve the efficiency of its factory. Using heuristic techniques, a graduate student was assigned to help improve its ordering schedule. Together they collected and analyzed data from past orders and then used strategic calculations to find satisfactory solutions to pre-existing problems.

For five consecutive years, graduating IMSE seniors voted Easton Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher of the Year. In 2014 he received the Commerce Bank Outstanding Teaching Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

His interactive style both challenges and motivates students.

"My favorite IMSE memory was when Easton had me running around the city of Manhattan with a cardboard cutout of a human-sized

male checking to see if local businesses were ergonomically aligned," Storm Jackson said at the department's annual senior breakfast reception.

Hands-on projects and interactive classes is what makes students want more. When asked about his teaching style, Easton explained that he uses a unique approach called tutor-based lecturing.

"I developed this concept when I was a tutor for students at Georgia Institute of Technology," Easton said. "I needed to find a way to help an individual learn while simultaneously teaching six to seven people at once."

Early in his career he adapted this technique into his lectures and has been successfully using it ever since. With a deck of index cards in hand, he selects a student's name and asks him or her to solve a problem. One on one, students work together to find a solution, while their classmates listen to the discussion. He then moves on to a new student who is challenged to solve the next step in the solution or process.

"By the end of class, everyone should have answered at least one question," he said. "In this fashion they have to participate a ton, and because they've commented so much in class, when they don't understand something, they are very willing to ask a question."

He goes on to explain that his ultimate goal is to get students to learn; not for him to teach. This approach has helped hundreds of K-State students confidently transition into industry as engineers helping government and business professionals make better decisions backed by quantitative analysis.



IEs rock, literally!



“We are the soundtrack of everyone’s college experience,” Bryce Garver, senior in the industrial and manufacturing systems engineering (IMSE) department, said when asked about his role in the Kansas State University Marching Band.

Garver joined the band as a freshman and plays the sousaphone (tuba). He is one of 400 band members who dedicates his fall semester to entertaining K-State fans at football games, pep rallies and university events. Average audience size for the band’s performances is 50,000 people.

Early in his college career, Garver learned how to maximize his time to accomplish both his musical and engineering aspirations. This is an impressive feat considering the intensive engineering curriculum. But what’s even more astounding is that Garver is not alone. He is joined by three IMSE classmates juggling the same load: Emmett Hull, trumpet; Zach Kuntz, drumline; and Alonso Talamantes, saxophone.

“Last season, 19.7 percent of the marching band members were engineering students,” Frank Tracz, professor of music and the university’s director of bands, said. “I feel the two disciplines are closely related and complement each other, because the ability to think outside of the box and create a vision for your ideas is crucial in both disciplines.”

Being full-time engineering students and participating in marching band is an accomplishment in and of itself. But Garver, Hull, Kuntz and Talamantes are among a select few who can actually claim being part of the top marching band in the United States. This title was awarded in 2015 when Tracz received the Sudler Trophy, a prestigious honor awarded to the best marching band in the country every two years.

So besides being high achievers, why are so many industrial engineering (IE) students in particular attracted to marching band?

“Imagine 400 students lined up outside a bus passing their instruments to cargo so the equipment can be hauled to the January Bowl Game,”

Talamantes said. “We resemble a manufacturing line with section leaders shouting strategic orders to peers; each person playing an integral role in workflow efficiency.”

Talamantes’ example demonstrates how optimization and efficiency are desirable skills used by both disciplines. Another technique worth noting is leadership. All four students lead their peers in the classroom and on the field. Within the College of Engineering, they are ambassadors, peer mentors and club officers. In the band, Garver assumes the role of section leader, Hull and Talamantes assistant section leaders, and Kuntz manager.

“In each role we get to practice our communication and leadership skills among diverse groups of people,” Talamantes said. “Both are skills we will need as future IEs.”

Music plus engineering is an unusual match. But for Garver, Hull, Kuntz and Talamantes they go hand in hand in preparing them for a bright future as engineers. Until then, keep on rockin’ in the fight for a Wildcat victory. **GO STATE!**

Students partner with Ellsworth, Kansas, to preserve its western heritage

Today a beautiful, historical building sits vacant in the business district of Ellsworth, Kansas. Originally constructed in 1887, it was built to accommodate the economic boom following America’s western expansion. Now the building is one of few remaining landmarks representing the town’s founding era.

Ellsworth, established in 1867, was a railhead and final destination for Texan drovers herding cattle across the Great Plains. Early settlers attracted seedy saloons, wild women and violent duels, earning Ellsworth the nickname “Wickedest Town in the West.”

Since then, people have come and gone in and out of the small Kansas settlement, and over time, the historical buildings have deteriorated or been replaced. Concerned citizens, such as Jim Gray, fear the memories will soon go, too.

Gray and a group of community volunteers are determined not to let Ellsworth’s history fade away. Their audacious goal is to preserve the desolate building and turn it into the National Drovers Hall of Fame Museum, with help from Kansas State University’s industrial and manufacturing systems engineering (IMSE) department.

“I told students this is true American history,” said John Wu, IMSE associate professor. “Projects like this don’t usually come to engineering.”

Wu was contacted by the Ellsworth committee in spring 2015 to help with interior space planning. He directed them to Shuting Lei, IMSE professor and undergraduate instructor for the Industrial

Facility Layout and Design class. Intrigued, Lei decided to turn the project into a class assignment.

“In April, John Wu and I took 18 students to visit the building in Ellsworth,” Lei said. “Right away we could see that this unique collaboration would enable students to apply lessons learned from their IE curriculum.”

Lei split the group into teams of four and over the next two months challenged them to design at least two layouts for the future museum. Traffic flow, office location, storage space, code regulation and handicap accessibility were a few major items needing consideration. Students used computer software to design the space and then applied relationship charts to rank and identify the best option. Their findings were presented to the Ellsworth committee at the end of the semester as their final class project.

“We were overwhelmed by the student’s enthusiasm for the project and thoroughly impressed by their very professional presentations,” Gray said.

Gray and his committee will look over each presentation and select the most optimal option based on practicality and cost. They will use the chosen layout to communicate their vision to potential donors, which is the next step in their goal to revitalize Ellsworth’s western heritage.

“Preserving a historical building is a project that will far exceed our student’s time at K-State,” Lei said. “It was a unique assignment, but one I’m sure they will remember and be proud of.”





Lee retires after 49 years at K-State

In May, Stanley Lee retired after 49 years of professional teaching, research and service at Kansas State University in operations research and applied mathematics.

Lee joined the K-State industrial and manufacturing systems engineering department in 1966. During his tenure, he authored more than 300 refereed papers and eight books. He has and continues to serve in some editorial capacity for 18 academic journals. In addition, he is a founder and leader of the Bellman Continuum, a group of international scholars pioneering dynamic programming research advancements.

Lee developed innovative ways to use operations research to address various engineering and social problems. He was a research pioneer in key operations research developments including dynamic programming, fuzzy set applications and soft computing. For his work, Lee was awarded the Honorary Professor for the Chinese Academy of Science, the most prestigious scholarly achievement awarded by the People's Republic of China.

He is known around the world as a mentor to students, colleagues and researchers. As such, many people benefited from Lee's encouragement and advice while trying to advance their research or career. Now several of them are distinguished leaders in industry, government and universities. Upon hearing of Lee's retirement, multiple people wrote the department to express their sincere gratitude for Lee's invaluable wisdom and guidance. He will forever be remembered as a mentor, leader and true gentleman.

Lee received his B.S. in chemical engineering, 1953, from Chung Cheng Institute of Technology; M.S. in chemical engineering, 1957, from North Carolina State University; and Ph.D. in chemical engineering, 1962, from Princeton University.

He plans to continue supporting the IMSE department as an emeritus faculty member, and has already done so by establishing the Stanley and Yuan Lee Outstanding Graduate Student Award, which will provide financial assistance to IMSE graduate students annually in perpetuity.



Lee and his wife, Yuan, will split their time between Kansas and Florida. Both are looking forward to spending more time with family and friends.

How you can help

To learn more about how you can contribute to the Stanley and Yuan Lee Outstanding Graduate Student Award, contact Danielle Cerbe at engineering@found.ksu.edu or 785-532-7609.

Galvin retires after 25 years at K-State

Doris Galvan, IMSE senior administrative assistant, provided 25 years of service to K-State. She started at the Student Union in customer support, and later accepted an administrative staff position where she specialized in recruitment for both the College of Engineering and the university. In 2006, she joined the IMSE team and immediately earned the nickname "Manhattan Mom" from students who took comfort in her caring nature. During this time she served four years on the Classified Senate Board of Directors.

Galvan cared deeply for the students and people she worked with. She always took great

pride in getting to know everyone by name and assisting where she could. Her efforts did not go unnoticed. In 2007 she was selected for the Making-A-Difference award presented by the Women in Engineering and Science Program, and in 2009 colleagues voted her the K-State Classified Senate Employee of the Year.

On behalf of the IMSE department, we thank her for all that she has done. She will be missed dearly and remembered fondly. Her retirement plans include spending time with family, engaging in home improvement projects, traveling with her husband and volunteering in the community.



NEW VISITING FACULTY

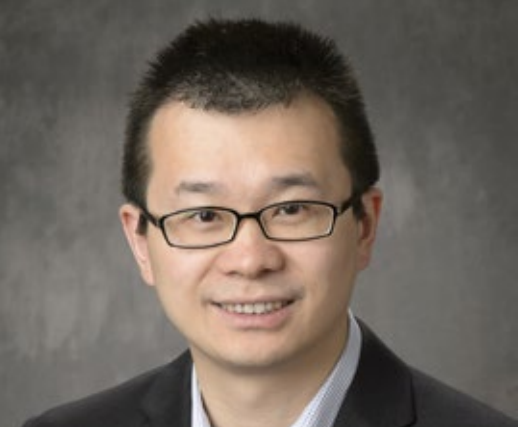


Meng (Peter) Zhang, visiting assistant professor

Meng (Peter) Zhang joined the IMSE faculty as a visiting assistant professor in January. Prior to joining the faculty, Zhang was a postdoctoral researcher under the direction of Z.J. Pei, IMSE professor. His research specialty is cellulosic biofuel manufacturing and additive manufacturing.

Zhang received his B.S. in mechanical engineering, 2009, from Dalian University of Technology; and his PhD in industrial engineering, 2014, from Kansas State University.

NEW FACULTY



Dong Lin, assistant professor

Dong Lin joined the IMSE faculty as an assistant professor in July. Prior to K-State, he was a research associate at Purdue University School of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering. His research specialty is additive manufacturing of multifunctional composites.

Lin received his B.S. in mechanical engineering, 2004, from Harbin Institute of Technology; M.S. in mechanical engineering, 2007, from Huazhong University of Science and Technology and University of Nebraska Lincoln, 2009; and Ph.D. in industrial engineering, 2013, from Purdue University.

NEW STAFF



Myra Peoples, senior administrative assistant

Myra Peoples joined the IMSE staff in May as the senior administrative assistant. She has 15 years experience in administrative support and customer service, and has worked for a variety of government and university agencies. A Junction City native, she and her family recently moved to Manhattan. In her role as senior administrative assistant, she oversees daily operations of the department, and supports faculty and students with programmatic needs.

Alumnus receives professional progress award

Justin Salmans, a '96 BSIE alumnus, was honored with the 2015 Professional Progress Award for the



industrial and manufacturing systems engineering department (IMSE) at Kansas State University. This honor recognizes successful alumni in the midst of their professional careers and accomplishments within the first 20 years after graduation.

Salmans is the vice president of supply chain management for Textron Aviation, headquartered in Wichita, Kansas. He is responsible for all aspects of direct and indirect strategic sourcing totaling \$3 billion for Textron Aviation, Textron Corporate Logistics and Textron Corporate Indirect Center of Excellence.

He started his career at General Electric in the leadership development program. From there he held various positions of increasing responsibility in the aircraft engine overhaul and maintenance business. At the same time he earned an MBA from Baker University and certification in both Six Sigma Black Belt and Lean Manufacturing.

At K-State, Salmans served two terms on the IMSE Advisory Council, including one year as chair. Now he is an active member of the IMSE Professional Academy where he strives to connect and engage alumni.

Salmans resides in Wichita with his wife, Jessica, and their six children.

Well wishes for Lee and Galvan can be sent to IMSE Dept., 2037 Durland Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506 or imse@k-state.edu.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Ava Clark, '16 BSIE, was selected as vice president of Kansas State University's Blue Key, a senior leadership honor society that

recognizes excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. Within this role, Clark will coordinate, oversee and participate in a variety of university and community leadership activities during the 2015-2016 school year.



Brooke Eitzen, MSOR student, was selected as a recipient of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP) Kansas

City – Heartland Roundtable Scholarship. The \$2,000 scholarship is accompanied by a trip in September to the annual CSCMP conference in San Diego, California. This award is given annually in support and development of emerging supply chain management professionals.



Courtney Faucett, '16 BS/MS IE, and Sai Medarametla, '16 MSIE, won Honorable Mention in the international Student Simulation

Contest. Three K-State IMSE teams entered the competition: Faucett and Medarametla

placed in the top nine finalists; other undergraduate students Mohammed Al Johani, Drew Ewing, Weston Grove, Austin Joerger, Rachel Klassen, Michael Mitchell, Alex Nottingham, and Tucker Styrkowicz placed in the top 15 as semi-finalists.

All participants were presented with a real-world transportation logistics problem based on an actual off-shore drilling operation for Shell Oil company near Port Fourchon, Louisiana. Each team was challenged to model the current systems and provide alternative strategies to help resolve the issues.

John Wu, IMSE associate professor, and Songnian Zhao, IMSE Ph.D. candidate, served as project advisers. This was K-State's first year participating in the competition.



Anne Grego Nagel, IMSE Ph.D. candidate, was awarded the Liam Glynn Scholarship by the American Marketing

Association's Services Special Interest Group and Arizona State University's Center for Service Leadership. This award provides emerging service scholars the opportunity to interact with industry leaders at the Frontiers in Service Conference, which was held in San Jose, California, in July. Nagel's research focuses on service systems that integrate technology, big data and human factors.



Michael Mitchell Jr., '15 BSIE, has received two university awards: Employee of the Year for K-State Multi-Cultural Engineering Program and Outstanding Senior for K-State National

Society of Black Engineers. Both were in recognition of his impressive ability to increase student recruitment and engagement within these two programs.



Adam Robl, '15 BS/MS IE, placed second in the technical paper competition of the IIE, or Institute of Industrial Engineering, South Central Regional Conference at the

University of Oklahoma in February. He and 13 other IMSE students attended the event, accompanied by Malgorzata Rys, IMSE assoc. professor.



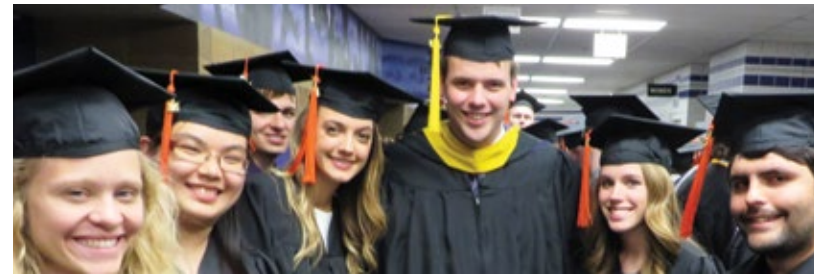
Songnian Zhao, IMSE Ph.D. candidate, was selected to receive the 2015 ISERC, or Industrial and Systems Engineering Research Sessions, Best Paper Award –

Healthcare Modeling Track titled, "Information Dissemination and Human Behaviors in Epidemics." Zhao's co-authors were John Wu, David Ben-Arieh and Yan Kuang. They accepted this award in May at the IIE, or Institute of Industrial Engineering, Annual Conference and Expo 2015 in Nashville, Tennessee.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Academic year 2014-2015



B.S. Industrial Engineering

Kelechi Agbor, Manhattan
Abdulaziz Al Shammari, Kuwait
Jessica Aschenbrenner, Topeka
Moayad Barri, Madirah
Andrew Blattner, Manhattan
Jarrett Brookhouser, Maderia
Louis Burley, Great Bend
Christian Castor, Hutchison
Andrew Collins, Valley Center
Christopher Day, Manhattan
Nathan Fisher, Manhattan
Blake Fulbright, Wichita
Jordan Gutsch, Eudora
Storm Jackson, Pomona
Alexander Johnson, Stillwell
Hanah Klanke, Lees Summit
Rachel Klassen, Halstead
Josh Mais, Leawood
Sam Martin, Hutchison

Sean McKinzie, Lenexa
Meghan McNally, Shawnee
Michael Mitchel, Kansas City, Missouri
Shin Lin Ng, Kuantan, Pahang
Hannah Niederee, Winfield
Thomas Ortiz, Eudora
Sriram Perumal, Manhattan
Daniel Reust, Manhattan
Luke Reynolds, Overland Park
Valerie Rito, Manhattan
Colton Sheffer, Manhattan
Glenn Sipes, Suwanee, Georgia
Kadi Thomsen, Lenexa
Cody Tilson, Leavenworth
Skyler Thompson, Manhattan
Kadi Thomsen, Lenexa
Zachary Turkowski, Topeka
Erin Vetter, Overland Park
Megan Walden, Wichita

Master of Engineering Management

Anthony Bosket, Lusby, Maryland

Michael Gund, Santa Maria, California

Master of Science in Engineering Management

Ryan Aeschliman, Topeka
Hazen Alkotami, Saudi Arabia
Mutaz Altashkandi, Riyadh
Mohammadhossein Amini, Tehran
Thomas Bolton, Overland Park
Spencer Bontrager, Milford
Landon Davis, Lenexa

Dylan Johnson, Manhattan
Krista Kubik, Wichita
Kyle Neely, Lenexa
Adam Robl, Salina
Laura Rogers, Clyde
Donald Sketchley, Hutchison
Jonathan Weiss, Manhattan

Master of Science in Operations Research

LaRue Brown, Mifort, Connecticut
David DiCarlo, Platte City, Missouri

Shirwen Separa, Rockledge, Florida
Fabio Torres Vitor, Brazil

Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering

Timothy Luke Muggy, Manhattan
Mohammed Obeidat, Abu Dhabi
ZhenZhen Shi, China

Xiaoxu Song, China
Xiaoming Yu, China



PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING GROUP FOR IMSE ALUMNI

Meghan McNally, BSIE alumna, graduated in December 2015 and immediately surrounded herself with a network of seasoned professionals eager to help her succeed.

She did this by joining the IMSE Professional Academy – a group of alumni who provide ongoing opportunities to connect with each other and support the IMSE department while having fun.

“Originally, members had to be out of school at least five years before joining the academy,” said Brad Kramer, IMSE professor and department head. “We recently decided to lift this restriction and encourage all alumni to join.”

Hearing this news, Meghan jumped at the chance to get involved. She attended her first meeting in March, where she was able to reconnect with peers and develop new professional contacts.

This group isn’t just about business, though. Lots of fun activities are scheduled too. For example, spring 2015 participants were invited to enjoy a student luncheon hosted for members of the academy’s

Professional Mentor Program, an afternoon at the Fort Riley Simulation Center learning how the Army uses advanced technology to save money and time on mission essential training, a student awards banquet at the Union, and a tailgate party at the K-State spring football game.

“Our executive committee books a lot of activities over two days because we know academy members are busy people,” said Dave Dohrmann, immediate past president and owner of D.A.D. Manufacturing Inc. “Ensuring they have a good time while here is an important part of our mission.”

It only took one meeting to hook Meghan. She was inducted last spring and is now an active member.

Now it’s your turn. The next academy meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2015. You are invited to attend either as a guest or new member. Contact Brad Kramer to learn more. He would be happy to answer your questions by phone (785-532-3722) or email (bradleyk@k-state.edu).

Hope to see you in September.

2014-2015 Professional Academy Officers

Immediate Past President — Dave Dohrmann, D.A.D. Manufacturing Inc.; President — Chris Althoff, Invoyent LLC; Membership Chair — Michelle Schlie, Frito-Lay/Pepsico; Treasurer/Secretary — Jim Lee, Frontier Electronic Systems Inc.; Mentoring Program Chair — Steve Johnson, Tucker Rocky (retired), Susan Van Houten, HD Supply Inc. and Amy Martens, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas; Student Engagement Programs Lead — Jeff Hopkins, Netsmart; Alumni Events Chair — Brian McGuire, JB Hunt Transportation

2014-2015 Professional Academy Members

Sara Coash, Hallmark Cards; Bob Davis, Anheuser Busch Co. Inc. (retired); John English, University of Arkansas; Doug Gish, Deloitte Consulting; Kyle Grabill, Garmin International Inc.; Perry Henry, HENT Inc.; Patrick Hessini, CHS Inc.; Todd Lakin, Accenture; Larry Loomis, Marion National Bank (retired); Brandon Mais, Gap Inc.; Meghan McNally, Deloitte Consulting; Mark Miller, Accenture; Anita Ranhotra, Hallmark Cards; Justin Salmans, Cessna Aircraft; Larry Strecker, Strecker Consulting LLC; Tony Veith, Spirit Aerosystems Inc. (retired); Julie Vick, P&G; Ken Ward, Centres LLC; Brian Zerr, American Express.

2014-2015 IMSE Advisory Council



2014-2015 Advisory Council Officers

Chair — Michelle Schlie, Frito-Lay/Pepsico; Vice-chair — Bryce Hushka, ExxonMobil; Chris Althoff, Invoyent, LLC; Kristine Amy, ExxonMobile Chemical; Catherine E. Boltz, Honeywell; Brian Brooks, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics; Reuben Burch, Fedex; Jay Christensen, JCPenney; Sara Coash, Hallmark Cards; Laura Cranmer, OtterBox; Dave Dohrmann, D.A.D. Manufacturing, Inc.; Kelly Foster, Hormel Foods Corp.; Kyle Grabill, Garmin International; Darren Haverkamp, Hill’s Pet Nutrition/ Colgate-Palmolive; Patrick Hessini, CHS, Inc.; Dan Janatello, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City; Lori Jester, Hospira, Inc.; Kerry Kaiser, J.B. Hunt; Jeff Kerbs, Walmart Stores US; Kenneth Norton, Deloitte Consulting LLP; Justin Salmans, Cessna Aircraft Company; Simeon Terry, Austin Commercial, LP; Anthony J. (Tony) Veith, Spirit AeroSystems, Inc.; Brian Zerr, American Express; Susan Zidek Van Houten, HD Supply, Inc.

2016 IIE South Regional Conference hosted by K-State IMSE

K-State IMSE will host the 2016 IIE, or Institute of Industrial Engineers, South Regional Conference February 26-27, 2016, at the new College of Engineering complex. Typically this conference attracts more than 300 students from regional colleges and universities with industrial engineering programs. The conference will entail networking activities, guest speakers, breakout sessions and facility tours.

IE seniors, Drew Ewing and Hannah Frith, are conference co-chairs. They are seeking donations to help fund this event. Contact Brad Kramer or Margaret Rys to learn how you or your company can get involved: imse@k-state.edu or 785-532-5606.



Anita Ranhotra, '94 BSIE and '01 MEM, was selected to receive the award of 2015 Fellow by the Institute of Industrial Engineers. She was presented her award at the IIE Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 1.

Spotlighting success



Jonathan Weiss, '14 IE BS/MS, presented his graduate project to the IMSE Advisory Council at its annual meeting in October 2014, not realizing he was essentially giving a job interview.

His presentation titled “Nurse Scheduling Optimization at Children’s Mercy Medical” impressed advisory member, Chris Althoff, so much that he offered Weiss a job interview. By January 2015, Althoff had hired Weiss as a healthcare consultant at Invoyent.

“Chris has had me on two projects so far: an appeals optimization project and now a marketing project,” Weiss said. “Both are very exciting.”

Althoff also recruited Weiss to join him at the IMSE Professional Academy meeting in April. He participated as Althoff’s guest and is now considering joining as a member. This would make Weiss one of the youngest graduates ever to serve on an IMSE committee.



Stephan Konz
1933 – 2015

The late Professor Stephan Konz left an indelible legacy at Kansas State University and around the world as his students carried his teachings into their careers.

Many alumni and friends have chosen to honor him through a secure online gift to the Steve Konz Scholarship Fund at www.found.ksu.edu/give/konz.

The following quotes are from stories submitted by colleagues and students of Steve Konz.

REMEMBERING STEPHAN KONZ

Bob Yearout met Konz when he was a department chair at the Fort Leavenworth Command and Staff College. For several years, Konz flew in every Thursday to teach the Masters of Industrial Engineering program.

"Approaching 22 years active service, my wife and I were faced with several options. Take another assignment or retire and seek employment. As I was talking to Steve between classes one day, he said 'Retire and come to Kansas State as my research assistant.' Needless to say it was the best decision of our lives. Steve was an outstanding teacher, mentor and friend."

Jeanne (Purduski) Curcio took undergraduate IE classes from Konz in the early '90s.

"I remember taking his undergraduate ergonomics course as a junior and thinking that it was boring, but I realized later that the structure of the entire class and his method of teaching were from an ergonomic focus. He took photos of each student in the class to help him learn our names, and he covered topics in a way that was organized and easy to learn. He always 'practiced what he preached,' and I recall that the phrase on his license plate was 'WKSMT.' His graduate-level ergonomics course was, ironically, my favorite and inspired me to pursue a career in ergonomics and human factors."

Nathan Granger, '67 M.S. Operations Research. Steve Konz was his major professor for his master's thesis.

"Even as I was frustrated with my progress toward our goals, he remained calm and collected, focused on what we might achieve. He demonstrated character and vision — qualities we needed to be successful in our life's journeys. A first glimpse of a true leader!"

Mr. Konz and Maureen had his IMSE graduate students and spouses over to his home several times for cookouts to build an even stronger rapport; and, I'm sure, he also realized living on a graduate assistant's salary was meager. It surely worked as we loved Maureen and him immeasurably."

Join us!

You can become part of our exciting future. We invite you to contact a member of our development staff today and begin the discussion about how you can make a difference.

For more information, please contact:



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Did you know?

Your employer may offer the opportunity to make an even bigger difference for IMSE students and faculty. Many companies provide employees the benefit of a gift match, sometimes as much as two-to-one. It's easy to make your gift go further at K-State by taking advantage of the matching benefit. Contact your human resources department or visit www.found.ksu.edu/match to learn more.

Spring awards banquet



The department of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering awards recognize superior academic achievement. These accomplishments were celebrated at the spring awards banquet. The following students earned honors:

- Catherine Dunn, Stilwell, Outstanding IMSE Freshman
- David Ewers, Wichita, Outstanding IMSE Sophomore
- Claire Fisher, Kansas City, Missouri, Outstanding IMSE Sophomore
- Andrew Ewing, Spring Hill, Outstanding IMSE Junior
- Bryce Garver, Basehor, Outstanding IMSE Senior
- John Wu, Manhattan, Outstanding IMSE Undergraduate Teacher
- Storm Jackson, Pomona, Jacob Smaltz Valedictorian Award

In addition, the Institute of Industrial Engineers, or IIE, recognized three students for their outstanding involvement and contribution to the IMSE department. These awards were presented by the Kansas City Senior Chapter of IIE:

- Alonso Talamantes, Hutchison, Alpha Hardcharger Award
- Sarah Newell, Stilwell, Beta Hardcharger Award
- Jessica Nicholson, Garden City, Gamma Hardcharger Award

A special thank you to Invoyent, LLC for helping to sponsor this year's IMSE awards banquet.



IMSE Mentor Program



Who can be an IMSE mentor?

K-State IMSE Alumni!

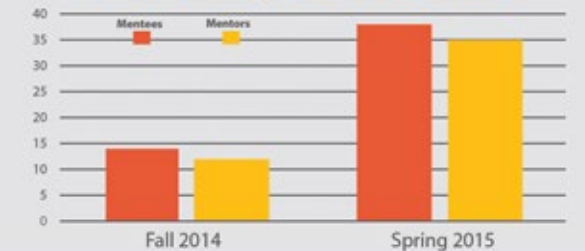
Meet Chris

'00 BSIE, '05 MBA K-State
Entrepreneur/Partner
Invoyent, LLC
Chicago, IL

How do mentors/mentees connect?



How many participants?



What do current mentors say?



"As an alum, I feel more connected to KSU and the IE department."



"It is nice to know that students have what I wish I had when I was in school. We provide an easy and efficient sounding board for many questions that took me time to figure out on my own. Great program!"

imse.ksu.edu/mentor/academy

Upcoming Events

Mon., Aug. 24, Welcome back students

Fri., Sept. 18, IMSE Professional Academy meeting

TBA — IE tailgate

Fri., Oct. 23, IMSE advisory meeting

Fri., Dec. 11, Fall commencement

Sat., April 16, 2016, Engineering Open House



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