Many of you are likely aware that I will be stepping down as dean of the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering to accept the position as the next president of The University of Alabama in Huntsville later this summer.

As with any new venture, I am certainly experiencing mixed emotions. It will not be easy to leave Manhattan, K-State and the College of Engineering. Kim, Jacklyn, David and I have considered this home for the past five years, and this community at all levels has welcomed and treated us — in that most unique K-State way — like family.

During my time here, I have immensely enjoyed the challenge to build, along with each of you, upon the record of success already in place before my arrival, as well as expand into new areas of accomplishment and growth. I would like to list some of these and invite you to share my pride in the following major academic achievements we have obtained:

- Increased the number of refereed publications from 2.06 per tenure-track and/or tenured faculty (TTF) to 4.12 per TTF.
- Increased the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate from 69% to 78%.
- Increased the number of undergraduate degrees granted from 472 to 680.
- Increased Ph.D. student enrollment from 165 to 219.
- Increased the number of undergraduates involved in research and creative inquiry design teams from 250 to 911.
- Developed an Academic Success Center.
- Developed a two-year Engineering Leadership and Innovation Program.

In addition, we have raised more than $150M for the College of Engineering. Highlights include (i) increasing the number of endowed/named faculty positions from 31 to 101, (ii) naming the Academic Success Center, (iii) naming three departments, and (iv) naming the college. Physical changes are evident in substantial upgrades to the atriums, hallways, classrooms, undergraduate laboratories and research laboratories throughout the entire Engineering Complex. Our college- and departmental-level communication strategies have been completely revised including the print magazines, internal e-newsletters, external e-newsletters and web pages.

But more importantly, over the last five years, we have hired 46 high-quality faculty members who, in total, had published 556 journal papers and 823 conference papers before relocating to K-State; moreover, in the current academic year, we are hiring more than 20 faculty members in disciplines spread throughout the college.

The individual who follows me in this position will undoubtedly bring his or her own goals and direction for where this college will head next. With the support of each of you, I am confident even greater attainments of success are ahead. I sincerely thank each of you for the friendship, cooperation and collaborative efforts you have put forth to better this college. It has been my pleasure to serve alongside you.

All my best and go ‘Cats!

Daren Dawson, dean
LeRoy C. and Aileen H. Paslay Chair
ALUMNI SHOW SUPPORT THROUGH NAMINGS

On April 5, 2019, alumni, family and friends of the college gathered to celebrate academic department and center namings that included the Alan Levin Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, the GE Johnson Department of Architectural Engineering and Construction Science, the Ike and Letty Evans Academic Success Center, and the Tim Taylor Department of Chemical Engineering.
Fatal and serious injury vehicle crashes involving police officers are a growing concern for law enforcement agencies and local communities across the United States. Eric Fitzsimmons, Kansas State University assistant professor of civil engineering, has partnered with Grady Carrick, retired chief of the Florida Highway Patrol, to investigate two questions: is technology intervention possible to prevent police officer distracted driving; and what are the most effective existing or proposed policies addressing police officer involvement in crashes following response to a call for service? Their efforts in this endeavor are funded by a two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. Fitzsimmons and Carrick initially met five years ago and both currently serve on the Transportation Research Board Traffic Law Enforcement Committee made up of academics, government officials, retired and current police officers, and chiefs of police. The Transportation Research Board is a division of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine.

“Grady has considerable experience having served as a chief for the Florida Highway Patrol,” Fitzsimmons said. “After retirement, he received his Ph.D. in transportation engineering from the University of Florida so he knows the academic world as well. Having a research partner who understands many police agency policies and key terms, and who can explain policing, has been a great benefit.” The two have created a unique partnership as Fitzsimmons brings to the table an extensive research resume focusing on surface transportation safety and operations in both urban and rural environments, work zone safety, roadway geometric design, railroad engineering and local government transportation outreach activities for the state of Kansas.

For the first question, the team will look at the wide scope of technology available in police officers’ vehicles to make their jobs easier. This includes mobile laptop workstations, sometimes multiple cell phones, license plate detectors, speed-monitoring devices and other equipment relating to their safety. In response to a national trend showing a steady increase in crashes involving police officers, the research project will target the mobile laptop workstation in the vehicle, specifically looking at software that can deactivate certain features when the vehicle is in motion while allowing other features to operate normally. Fitzsimmons and Carrick will evaluate these intervention strategies to determine both their effectiveness and officer acceptance.

“We will look at these commercially available technology interventions over a one-year period,” Fitzsimmons said, “collecting this qualitative data through anonymous officer focus groups.”

The second question will examine situations where police officers are responding to calls for service. Agencies often have a policy that caps the speed officers can drive when responding to calls, and the research will evaluate officer views and the efficacy of those policies in promoting safety.

“We will be looking at,” Fitzsimmons said, “whether or not the officer needed to ‘race’ to the scene, particularly when the situation wasn’t necessarily time-critical.”

According to Fitzsimmons, the Department of Justice and International Association of Chiefs of Police have recognized that officer-distracted driving and excessive vehicle speed both contribute to increasing numbers of police-related crashes, thus raising serious safety concerns for officers in their vehicles. The project will potentially involve several hundred law enforcement personnel across the U.S. Participating agencies include the Florida Highway Patrol, Nassau County Sheriff’s Office, Florida Roanoke County Police Department and Alexandria Police Department, both Virginia; Oro Valley Police Department, Arizona; and Overland Park Police Department, Kansas.

“In addition to being of service to enforcement agencies, the benefits of the research extend to the community as a whole,” Fitzsimmons said. “We will be helping to reduce the number of police-officer-involved crashes, understanding officers’ needs and priorities in regard to technology use in their vehicles, and also making officers more aware of how technology and speed impact operations.”

“Grady and I will be presenting our findings at enforcement and technology conferences in order to get the results out to the police community and hopefully advance safety for everyone involved.”

by Mary Rankin
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

2019 ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE
A CONVERSATION WITH

Carl & Mary

What was the impetus behind the decision to name the College of Engineering at this point in time?

Mary: Last November, at our home in Texas, we met with Greg Willems and John Morris from the Foundation to discuss the different opportunities open for our family to make a legacy gift to the university. They gave us a couple of options but I asked them about naming the College of Engineering — I knew this was something I wanted to be done for Carl.

We've made contributions to other parts of the university. But it truly comes down to the fact that without the education, skills and training Carl received from his engineering education, our family would not have had the life we've enjoyed — the ability to educate our children in good schools, travel opportunities, living in safe and comfortable surroundings and the ability to give back.

Carl never set out to be the president or CEO of a company. For the more than 40 years we have been married, I've watched him get up every day and go to work, always with the goal of seeking the greater good he can do for others.

Carl: It's humbling and we're certainly proud. Any time our name is associated with Kansas State, we feel pride. We're thankful that the university and the college are doing this.

Mary: This is a legacy we never imagined happening. My hope is that when people see the name, they will be curious and will want to know more about Carl. I hope they'll learn about his humble beginnings and how his parents raised their kids with no doubts that all three would go to college.

Carl: Mary and I were the first college graduates in either of our families.

Mary: I know everyone who finishes college won’t reach the same level of success that Carl has, but we want to do what we can to help others have that opportunity.
Some say higher education, in particular as it relates to state government support and funding, is facing an uncertain future. What role do you see for private and corporate contributions in maintaining the quality of higher education? How does this relate to your personal philosophy of philanthropy toward Kansas State University?

Carl: We think it is a responsibility of people who enjoy success to help others. It’s the right thing to do. Regardless of what happens to educational funding going forward, there will always be a role for philanthropy — to expand educational opportunities, and to further the development of young people and help them realize their potential.

Mary: It’s important never to lose sight of the land-grant heritage of this university. We want the College of Engineering to be a place that recognizes others’ need for help and to the extent possible, find positive ways to extend that help.

Carl: Scholarship support has been, and will continue to be, important to us. We both took advantage of scholarship opportunities here as undergraduates, and whatever the status of traditional funding sources, we hope there will always be scholarship help available.

Share with us what you would like to see in the future for the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering. What accomplishments will be the most satisfying for you as its namesake — top-level research, largest and most comprehensive engineering college in the state, continuing pipeline to the workplace of well-educated engineers and computer and construction science majors? Others?

Carl: All of the accomplishments listed are great. The College of Engineering has helped a tremendous number of people to learn, grow, think, solve problems, and then go on into business and industry and help all of society. The college has always adapted, and I believe it will continue to meet changes and remain as vibrant and important an educational institution as ever.

Mary: My hope for the future of the college is that it remains accessible so that students can continue to come here and connect with people who want to help them succeed and meet their goals.

The effect of engineering on our everyday lives is limitless. It simply makes life better for everyone.

Is there anything else you’d like to say or share?

Carl: We are proud to be a part of the K-State family. Kansas State has always been about people and putting students at the forefront. The culture and atmosphere have kept us engaged and wanting to continue with our involvement.

We are honored, thankful and humbled by how people have reacted to this naming.

Mary: Without a doubt.

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By Mary Rankin

ELI DAY 2019

Mentors and mentees gathered on April 5 for the college’s annual Engineering Leadership and Innovation, or ELI, Day. The ELI Program, begun in fall 2016, is designed to equip engineering students with business knowledge and team management skills required of tomorrow’s industry, government and educational leaders.
Kevin Burke offered to today’s students pursuing a degree in engineering — “Do it!”

“A degree in engineering will enable you to develop a range of fundamental skills highly valued by employers in many sectors — skills such as critical thinking, complex problem solving and logical thinking will give you a distinct advantage no matter where your career interests take you,” Burke said.

A 1986 mechanical engineering graduate, Burke began his career with Procter & Gamble as a process engineer in an industrial chemicals business unit, moving from there to an oil and gas business, then onto commercial construction and development. Today he is president and CEO of the Burke Construction Group serving southern Nevada and holding licenses/registrations in 26 states.

“It is that educational foundation and skill set I learned while in engineering school that allowed me to pursue and succeed in such a wide array of industries,” he said.

Recognized in 2016 as one of Engineering News-Record Southwest Top Contractors and by Las Vegas Business Press/VEGASINC as one of the top local commercial general contractors, Burke’s portfolio includes projects completed for iconic brands such as The Howard Hughes Corporation, Walmart, Credit One Bank, SolarCity (Tesla), MGM Resorts, Amazon and Discovery Land Company.

Burke also credits his success to the sacrifices his parents made for him and his siblings.

“My mother and father emigrated from Ireland in 1949, and on a military salary my father was able to put his three kids through K-State,” he said. “Being a part of the ‘greatest generation,’ my parents had been raised to do whatever was best for their children. I can’t believe how much they risked and how hard they worked to give us a life filled with opportunities.”

Burke said the Alumni Fellow honor is especially significant because of his brother, Timothy, CNS ’79 — his best friend, business partner and founder of their company — who died in a tragic cycling accident in 2002.

“I have never met anyone who had as much pride and love for K-State as he did,” he said. “As I look back on all that my parents have done for me, my time with my brother and my love for the Wildcats, it is with great honor and pride I accept this award.”

Many of Burke’s fondest memories at K-State center on his involvement in multiple leadership and service organizations on campus, adding that the friendships he made then remain some of his closest to this day.

Still actively service-minded, he is a board member of the NCA/AGC and a governor-appointed member of the Nevada State Contractors Board. Professional organization memberships include NAOP, Young Presidents Organization and Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance. He is on the board of trustees for the Kansas State University Foundation and serves on the engineering advisory council — the latter which he called “an easy decision.”

“As a private sector business entrepreneur,” Burke said, “I know the symbiotic relationship between academia and industry can only strengthen the college and it is something I am very proud to be a part of. I tend to think of it as a dean having his own board of directors that he can use as a sounding board and, in turn, we can hold him accountable to the strategic initiatives we formulate.”

“Together,” Burke said, “we are passionately aligned to ensure the College of Engineering at Kansas State continues its history of success for the faculty, students, alumni and industry.”

BY MARY RANKIN
Combining their beliefs in promoting K-State, giving back and supporting the value of higher education, Alan, a 1969 graduate in mechanical engineering, and Jan Levin, Tucson, Arizona, have officially named the mechanical and nuclear engineering department in the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering at Kansas State University.

Jan sees the naming as a continuation of their personal K-State "ambassador" roles.

"We have been fortunate to travel all over the world in the past 52 years," she said. "Alan always wears his purple K-State ball cap and loves to get comments from people who have either attended here themselves, or who have friends or family with a K-State connection — and there’s not been a single trip without at least one, and usually many more, such comments."

Alan says it is more of a legacy response to a grandmother who promoted “passing your blessings along.”

“I have been very blessed in my life,” he said, recalling his Grandmother Grauerholz’s advice about passing your blessings on to others, and also the encouragement he received from both his Grandmother Grauerholz and his high school superintendent, J.S. Wagner, “to go to college.”

The chief benefactors of the couple’s gift will be the students, faculty and programs of the newly named Kansas State University Alan Levin Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering — the third named department in the college in recent months.

“We are excited to be a part of this trend,” Alan said. “We believe the naming is another way of providing resources for the needs of students wanting a higher education.”

The Levins own Cushing Business Center, Century Park Research Center, Tucson Frozen Storage and Levin & Sons Construction Co. in Tucson, and in 2001 founded Port of Tucson LLC, an intermodal and logistics center assisting businesses with access to rail and intermodal container transportation options.

In January 2016, their gift of the Alan and Jan Levin Student Design Team Suite in Engineering Hall made available much-needed designated space for creative inquiry teams to work on engineering designs while developing practical skills in leadership and collaboration.

Their most recent investment through the naming will allow the mechanical and nuclear engineering department to recruit and retain top faculty, provide flexible funding for advancing its mission and strategic goals, as well as setting a designated amount annually for student scholarships.

“‘Our hope is that this gift will enable K-State engineering to attract and keep highly qualified professors, meet future goals that have been set and further its reputation in research,’” Alan said.

“The scholarships we can provide for students who have the ability but need resources are very important to us. Many just need the opportunity for a higher education and this is what we are hoping the scholarship portion will offer.”

In looking back at his days as a student in mechanical engineering, Alan said “not in [his] wildest dreams” would he have ever thought of one day having the means to put his name on the mechanical and nuclear engineering department.

“I was focused on my classes, my grades and getting my degree,” he said. “But I’ve always been grateful for the time and interest Dean Durland showed in me. Without that support and understanding during my initial visit to Kansas State, I might never have reached this current level of success.”
HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019

Induction to the hall is the highest honor bestowed on its alumni by the college. Honorees are recognized for their professional success and accomplishment, involvement with and support of the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering, dedication to K-State, and professional and public service.

ROGER FARRELL
CE ‘75, chairman of the board, Intensity Midstream LLC

STEVE G.K. HSU
ME, M.S. ‘59, chairman, Oak Maritime Group and Sincere Navigation Corporation — retired

GB COMPTON
CNS ‘80, managing member, Compton Construction Services LLC

PROFESSIONAL PROGRESS AWARD

Nominated by their respective department heads and confirmed by the dean, 10 alumni were honored for professional career accomplishment during the first 20 years following their graduation.

KYLE A. FRANKLIN
IE ‘00, program director, Lockheed Martin Skunk Works

JOHN GÖOCH
CE ‘98, principal/owner, Aspen Engineering

BEN HUTTON
CNSM ‘03, chairman and CEO, Hutton Construction

KEVIN LEWIS
ME ‘00, senior vice president and director, Henderson Engineers

JESSICA NAVARRO
ARE ‘00, M.S. ‘00, senior vice president, WSP USA

BRIAN NEWCOMER
CHE ‘00, senior manager, HollyFrontier Corporation

JOE QUINT
CMPEN ‘00, emerging platforms executive, Cerner Technology Services

ASH SIEBECKER
CS ‘96, chief technology officer, Ascend Learning

MATT SPEXARTH
EE ‘06, chief product planner, National Instruments

RYKKI TEPE
BAE ‘08, operations engineering manager, XTO Energy
Carl R. Ice College of Engineering

MEMBERSHIP

In recognition of his leadership and service to the engineering industry, Robert Reichenberger, a 1989 electrical engineering graduate, has received honorary membership and induction into the Steel Ring Honor Society of K-State engineering. His name was placed into nomination by Dean Darren Dawson and approved by a vote of the Steel Ring membership.

Reichenberger is president and founder of Solar Prime LLC, a Colorado-based renewable energy development and services company that he started in 2012 and approved by a vote of the Steel Ring membership.

For more information about how your gift can have double the impact, please contact the Kansas State University Foundation.

DEATHS

1949
James M. Francis (AGE) died Nov. 1, 2018, in Humboldt, Tennessee. He was a Purple Heart recipient, serving in the Army during WWII. His entire professional career was spent at International Harvester, from field engineer to chief engineer, in the cotton and hay harvesting division. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Sue Dell Brewer Francis; and is survived by a daughter, Susan, two sons, Paul and David; and three grandchildren.

1950
Robert B. “Bob” Thorn (CE) died March 17, 2019, in Topeka, Kansas. He had a 60-year career with Finney & Turnipseed Consulting Engineers. Active at K-State during his career, he was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award in Engineering, inducted into the College of Engineering Hall of Fame in 1999, and served on the advisory council to the College of Engineering, the advisory council to the Department of Civil engineering and was the contact person to the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers for more than 50 years. The Student Activities Room in Fiedler Hall carries his name as well as the Robert B. Thorn Lecture Series in the Department of Civil Engineering. He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Berrita; and is survived by a son, Richard; daughter, Morgan; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

1954
Stanley J. Clark (AGE; M.S. ’59) died Nov. 19, 2018, in Baldwin, Kansas. Following completion of a doctoral degree in agricultural engineering from Purdue University, he returned to K-State to begin a 30-year career of teaching and research, specializing in machine design, vibration, mechanics of rock and metal cutting, and the performance of oil well diamond drill bits. He is survived by his wife, Diane; three daughters — Marvette, Christie, and Michelle; 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

1969
Balakrishnan Nair (IE, M.S.) died Aug. 16, 2016. He had a distinguished career at Rockwell, Westinghouse Electric Corp, and Curtiss-Wright in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, retiring in 2010 and moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is survived by his wife, India (Physicist, M.S. ’69) and daughters, Nila and Santa.

1988
Warren L. Dougherty (CE/OPEN, EE, EE, M.S. ’91), Omaha, Nebraska, died of cancer Nov. 26, 2018. He received one of the first computer engineering degrees awarded by K-State and worked as a computer programmer for Omaha Steaks, Raytheon and Booz Allen Hamilton. He was awarded a flag, posthumously, by the U.S. military for civilian service to his country. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Cathy Hammer Dougherty (DVM ’93); and three children, Daniel, Mark and Rosalie.

FACULTY

Fredric C. Appl, Manhattan, Kansas, died Nov. 15, 2018. Joining the K-State mechanical engineering faculty in 1960, he enjoyed a long career teaching and research specializing in machine design, vibration, mechanics of rock and metal cutting, and the performance of well diamond drill bits. He is survived by his wife, Natalie; three daughters — Sandra, Charlotte and Cynthia; and six grandchildren.

We are interested in following the career paths and accomplishments of our alumni, focusing on promotions and advancements, awards and honors, job changes and retirements, as well as death notices.

Please email your information in these categories to impact@engg.k-state.edu or send it to — Impact Editor Carl R. Ice College of Engineering 1058 Rathbone Hall, 1701B Platt St. Manhattan, KS 66506

An exceptional education begins with exceptional educators. Many years after graduation, alumni often still remember the professors who enlightened, motivated and mentored them. The Carl R. Ice Faculty Development Initiative Enhances the college’s ability to improve student retention and graduation rates by ensuring students obtain the best possible learning experience. The awards enable the college to recruit and retain the most highly sought after faculty via the Cornerstone Teaching Scholar and Keystone Research Scholar awards. Your investment in the program matched by the generosity of Carl and Mary Ice will create two awards, supporting two outstanding faculty members.

For more information about how your gift can have double the impact, please contact the Kansas State University Foundation.
BETZ NAMED ASSISTANT DEAN FOR RETENTION, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Amy Betz, associate professor in the Alan Levin Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, has been named the new assistant dean for retention, diversity and inclusion in the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering at Kansas State University. She will assume her new duties June 16.

Betz received her bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from The George Washington University and her master’s and doctoral degrees from Columbia University. She joined the faculty in mechanical and nuclear engineering in 2011 where she began developing the multiphase microfluidics laboratory.

She has received funding from NASA, the National Science Foundation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Electrical Power Affiliates Program. In 2012, she received the K-State Mentoring Fellowship and was the 2016 recipient of the KAWS Recognition Award for her efforts to enrich the lives of girls and women in STEM disciplines.

Betz will replace current Assistant Dean Bette Grauer who will retire in 2019 having served 11 years in the position.

NEW DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP

Dana Hunter became senior director of development for the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering in January 2019. She has two degrees from K-State, a B.S. in family studies and human services in 2007 and an M.S. in gerontology in 2009.

Before joining engineering, Hunter led the development team for the College of Human Ecology at K-State. Throughout her five years at the KSU Foundation, she has excelled in fundraising strategies, major gift production and leadership. Hunter is a 2017 and 2018 Reeher Prime Officer Award winner.

Prior to her time at the Foundation, she served as a faculty member teaching gerontology within the College of Human Ecology’s Center on Aging. She also was the program’s undergraduate experience coordinator and was faculty adviser to multiple student groups.

Hunter lives just outside of Manhattan with her husband, Chris, and two children, Aiden, 10, and Delilah, 8.

ECKELS NAMED INTERIM DEPARTMENT HEAD

Steve Eckels, professor and director of the Institute for Environmental Research, has been named interim department head of the Alan Levee Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering effective July 1.

He will replace current head, Bill Dunn, professor and Steven M. and Kay L. Theede chair in engineering, who is stepping down from the position effective June 30.

Eckels joined the faculty in mechanical and nuclear engineering in 1993, becoming director of the Institute for Environmental Research in 2001. His research interests there have been focused on the human interface with the built environment and the systems that make the environment sustainable. A primary interest involves modeling the heat transfer, mass transfer and fluid flow that occurs in and between the human body and the surrounding environment.

Active in the international ASHRAE organization, he was the first recipient of the ASHRAE New Investigator Award and in 2014 received the ASHRAE Distinguished Service Award. In another leadership role, he has served as chair of the graduate committee for mechanical and nuclear engineering since 2007.

Eckels has received the James L. Hollis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Myers-Alford Memorial Teaching Award. He has also received two Faculty Appreciation Day Awards for Outstanding Leadership by a Faculty Member, awarded by the Student Advisory Council for the College of Engineering, as well as being a recipient of the department’s Outstanding Educator Award.

PROMOTIONS, TENURE AND SABBATICALS

The following faculty members have been tenured and promoted to associate professor: Jonathan Aguilar, BAE; Ajay Sharda, BAE; Bin Liu, CHE; Stacey Kulesza, CE; Melanie Derby, MNE; Jeremy Roberts, MNE

Granted sabbatical leave during the 2019-2020 school year — John Hatcliff, CS; Robby, CS

THE IMPACT OF K-STATE ENGINEERING

The history of the college, from 1965 through 2018, is presented through news clips and photos extracted from the archived issues of Impact magazine, the college’s annual publication for alumni, friends and parents of current students. The fall 2018 magazine was the final issue published before the college’s official name change to the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering.

Two additional sections of this volume contain bios and photos of each dean of the college, as well as a photo gallery of all members of the Hall of Fame. View it online at http://bit.ly/EngImpact.
THE K-STATE PEP BAND CLOSES OUT THE SEATON SOCIETY CELEBRATION.