

# ECE Newsletter – Summer 2014

## [Anil Pahwa awarded Jefferson Science Fellowship](#)

Anil Pahwa, Logan-Fetterhoof chair professor of electrical and computer engineering, will spend the 2014-2015 school year at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., As a Jefferson Science Fellow, he will serve as a scientific adviser and help with national foreign policy.



Tenured academic scientists and engineers from U.S. higher education institutions are eligible for Jefferson Science Fellowships. The program is administered by the National Academies and supported through partnerships with the science, technology and engineering academic community; professional scientific societies; the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID. [Continue reading "Anil Pahwa awarded Jefferson Science Fellowship" →](#)

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## [Wind turbine competition offers students chance to compete, network](#)

The competition, in Las Vegas in early May, challenged 10 universities across the country to design and construct a lightweight, transportable wind turbine that can power small electronic devices such as a cellphone, tablet or laptop computer. The university teams were made up of engineering students — mechanical, biological systems and electrical on the Wildcat team — as well as business students to help with the competition's required marketing plan.



"This exciting, educational and challenging experience provided a new interactive way for college students to develop fresh ideas," said Miller, associate professor of electrical engineering and the adviser to the Kansas State University team.

While the university's team didn't win the competition, Miller said the team did stand out with its marketing plan. Each team had to develop an efficient marketing plan to sell to different companies. Kansas State's team decided to focus on power generation during coastal disasters and emergencies, as well as providing lighting on boardwalks and piers without using grid power.

Along with Miller, faculty involved with the team include Greg Spaulding, instructor of mechanical engineering; Youqi Wang, professor of mechanical engineering; and Kim Fowler, doctoral student in electrical engineering who has assisted with the business team. The team also has received some business advice from Jason Schmitt, a Kansas State University alumnus who owns a semiconductor business.

Students on the Kansas State University team include:

Shae Pelkowski, senior in electrical engineering, **Derby**; Armando Marquez, junior in electrical engineering, **Dodge City**; Tanzila Ahmed, senior in electrical engineering, **Garden City**.

From **Manhattan**: Matthew Clark, senior in electrical engineering; Bret Gross, senior in mechanical engineering; Martin Mixon, senior in electrical engineering; Aaron Thomsen, senior in mechanical engineering; and Cody Yost, senior in mechanical engineering.

Lane Yoder, senior in mechanical engineering, **McPherson**; James Remley, senior in electrical engineering, **Miltonvale**; Joseph Kuhn, senior in mechanical engineering, **Olathe**; William Duren, senior in electrical engineering, **Rose Hill**; Jordan Robl, senior in mechanical engineering, **Salina**; Zachary Wassenberg, senior in electrical engineering, **Seneca**; Aaron Akin, sophomore in biological systems engineering, **Shawnee**; and Lawryn Edmonds, freshman in mechanical engineering, **Valley Falls**.

From out of state: Stuart Disberger, senior in mechanical engineering, **Arvada, Colo.**

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### **Alumni Professional Progress Awards**

Navin Nagiah, **San Jose, Calif.**, 1995 graduate of Kansas State University in electrical engineering. He is president and CEO of DNN and has two decades of experience guiding enterprise technology companies to global success. Nagiah has been instrumental in helping DNN acquire more than 2,500 customers who use its software for creating and managing online content, building and nurturing customer communities, and increasing market engagement. Before joining DNN, he served as president and CEO of Cignex, an open-source enterprise content management software company, and was the founder, president and CEO of Xisource, a San Francisco-based enterprise software company. Before Xisource, he was one of the founding employees of Internet Securities Inc., where he set up the company's operations in India, China, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, and was the managing director for Asia at the time of the company's acquisition by Euromoney.



Stuart Gillen, **Austin, Texas**, 1997 graduate of Kansas State University in electrical engineering, who also has a Master of Business Administration from the university and a Vibration Level III Certification from the Vibration Institute of America. For the past 15 years, Gillen has worked for National Instruments in Austin. He is currently the principal marketing manager for the company's condition monitoring platform. His other roles with National Instruments include support, product management and senior group manager of a team responsible for a \$25 million hardware and software product line. Gillen was named lead recruiting sponsor for Kansas State University at National Instruments and has recruited more than 50 full-time and intern employees from the university. He has been a member of the electrical and computer engineering department's advisory council at Kansas State for more than five years.



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## [ECE News and Updates](#)

### **Other Awards & Recognition**

- **Dean's Award of Excellence:** Caterina Scoglio & Bala Natarajan
- **HKN Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award:** Will Hageman
- **Classified Employee of the Year:** Steve Booth
- **NSF CAREER Award:** Behrooz Mirafzal
- **NSF MRI Grant (nearly \$1.3 million):** Punit Prakash, along with professors from Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, and Diagnostic Medicine & Pathobiology
- **IEEE Fellow:** Kim Fowler

### **Save the Date**

- Welcome back picnic for ECE students and faculty, **Tuesday, Sept. 2**
- Second Annual ECE Awards Banquet, **Friday, Sept. 26, 2014**

## [Leave Your Legacy – Creating an Endowed Fund](#)

Endowments leave a permanent mark on Kansas State University and provide greater opportunities for growth for generations to come. They may be established through an outright gift, a pledge, or a bequest or other form of planned gift. [Continue reading](#) "Leave Your Legacy – Creating an Endowed Fund" →



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