Alumni News
Professional Progress Awards

Professional Progress Awards honor career accomplishments during the first 20 years following graduation. ECE is very proud to have two alumni recognized with this honor.

Navin Nagiah, San Jose, California 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.

Kirkwood Scholarship

When Steve Kirkwood was young, he had no idea his father's engineering work would influence the development of color television. In fact, as vice president of the consumer electronics division for RCA, Loren Kirkwood held 36 patents in radio and television.

Loren Kirkwood was a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and served as engineering policy council chairman for the Electronics Industries Association's Consumer Electronics Group. He directed all technical activities for demonstrations and field tests of RCA's new receivers, and was deeply involved in the development of the CTC 100, the first color television, which sold in 1954 for $1,000. He worked for RCA until age 74, a few years before his death in 1987.

“He accomplished quite a bit,” said Steve Kirkwood, who recently established the Loren Kirkwood Memorial Scholarship for electrical engineering students in his father’s honor. “I thought it would be good for the university and the family to recognize him.”

As a 1930 K-State electrical engineering graduate and member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, Loren Kirkwood set an example followed by both his sons – Steve, ’65, and Robert, ’62, both College of Business Administration graduates.

For a more permanent gift to honor his family at K-State, Steve also used a distribution from his IRA account to endow the Stephen, Robert and Loren Kirkwood Memorial Scholarships for engineering and business students.

“We hope to give students some help,” he said. “With the economics of college and how difficult it can be, it doesn’t allow a lot of time for work. We hope the school can identify a worthy student who will do something significant to demonstrate K-State’s expertise.”

Advisory Council

The department places great value in its alumni and other partners from industry and government as it strives to improve the quality of its undergraduate and graduate programs. The ECE Advisory Council provides guidance to the department for both the educational and research aspects.

Department faculty maintain extensive links to alumni and other industry personnel. These contacts keep the program offerings current, providing the best possible match between our graduates and their employers’ needs. A formal Advisory Council meets periodically to guarantee that these goals are met.
Electrical and computer engineering honor society among the best in the nation

— By David L. Saldan

For the fourth year in a row, the Kansas State University electrical and computer engineering honor society is among the nation’s best.

“What makes this chapter so excellent is the outstanding leadership of its officers and the enthusiastic participation of its members,” said David Saldan, professor of electrical and engineering and the chapter’s faculty adviser. “Much of the credit for this honor goes to Sarah Carr, the 2012-2013 president, for writing the report required for the award, as well as officers from previous years who helped raise the level of chapter activities.”

The chapter’s activities include tutoring, developing a curriculum display about the department of electrical and computer engineering, and hosting a private industry mixer. The chapter also worked to make students aware of opportunities to work in industry.

Wind turbine competition offers students chance to compete, network

Electrical and Computer Engineering’s Wildcat Wind team participated in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Collegiate Wind Competition. 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 cell phone, 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 Ruth Douglas 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 it to different companies. Kansas State 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.

Constructing a product that can power electronic devices is a difficult task to accomplish. Miller said the Kansas State University team came up with a vertical axis design.

“Instead of spinning like a fan, it spins like an egg beater. Though this design was not as efficient as the horizontal one, the Sustainable team believed it was better to have an early detection or self-healing mechanism, which is an important feature,” Miller said.

The Sustainable Team participated in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Collegiate Wind 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 cell phone, 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 Ruth Douglas 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 it to different companies. Kansas State 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.

Constructing a product that can power electronic devices is a difficult task to accomplish. Miller said the Kansas State University team came up with a vertical axis design.

“Instead of spinning like a fan, it spins like an egg beater. Though this design was not as efficient as the horizontal one, the Sustainable team believed it was better to have an early detection or self-healing mechanism, which is an important feature,” Miller said.
You are cordially invited to
the ECE Annual Banquet
Friday, September 26
For more details or to RSVP send
e-mail to: rsvp@ece.ksu.edu

Donor List
$50,000 - $99,999
Jim and Twila Blakely
Jesse and Sabra Schriner

$5,000 - $9,999
Don Gemaelhlich
Sam and Martha Logan
George and Maggie Yeh

$1,000 - $4,999
Daniel and Judi Burk
Lionel and Debra D’Luna
Ryan and Carly Dreiling
Jane and Gilbert Ferguson
Kay Humrels
Clay and Lynette Jones
Lief and Paula Koepsel
Don Lenhert
Jane Ley
James and Jean Mosimann
Jeanette Otto
Randy and Nancy Pope
Krishna and Usha Shekar
Jeffery and Cynthia Thetge
Mark and Kimberly Zimmerman
Bob and Pat Zrubek

$500 - $999
Craig Buckley
John and Bonnie Devore
Matthew Easley
Leslie and Justin Gordon
Steve Grogan and Robbi
Hewson Grogan
Steven Hill and Valerie
Finkner-Hill
Scott and Laura Lauridsen
Gerald Miller
Max and Judith Peterson
Roger and Betty Resley
David and Paula Rome
Don and Martha Ross
Brick Verser

$250 - $499
Leland Allen
Brian and Lynette Jennings
John and Jane Ley
Kent and Donna SCarbrough
David and Dorothy Soldan
Rich and Viki Teichgraeben
Terry and Pam Weaver

New Graduates
$0 - $150
Ali Alshogreathi
Richard Bell
Cody Best
Zac Burns
Hal Hockersmith
Kyle and Jennifer Tidball

Companies
($2,500+)
Burns & McDonnell
Cadence Design Systems Inc.
ConocoPhillips
Fishnet Security
Garmin
Kansas City Power & Light
Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc.
Microsoft Corp.
Midwest Energy Inc.
Omaha Public Power District
Phillips 66 Co.
Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories
Sega Inc.
Westar Energy

Staff Update
Steve Booth – received the 2014 College of Engineering Classified Employee of the Year Award for his great service and dedication to the college.

Michelle Keating,
Project Coordinator

Rachel Robillard,
Administrative Specialist

David Thompson,
Assistant Professor

Punit Prakash,
Assistant Professor

To view online newsletters visit ece.k-state.edu