a word from the chair...

A Rock Chalk greeting to you from KU’s Mechanical Engineering! This issue of Vibrations is packed with news about the Department’s students, alumni, faculty and staff. I hope that you find the information contained herein to be a useful update on campus life as well as the lives of KU-ME alumni.

We've some tremendous stories to tell. We also have information on members of the KU-ME family whom we've lost; but even though we've lost them, their examples and legacies live on -- so that knowledge helps to lighten our load of sadness. In particular, you'll read about more awards recognizing our faculty’s dedication to the students and recognizing our students’ accomplishments. Specifically, we are proud to announce that Dr. Paulette Spencer, the first Bioengineering Director for KU and first female Distinguished Professor in Engineering, will join the faculty in the fall of 2007. However, we're deeply saddened to tell you that Professor George Forman left us in 2006, but he also left with us his outstanding record and passion for developing KUME students into the best engineers in the world.

So, there's quite a bit to see in this issue; and I don't want to keep you any longer from reading what's inside. As always, we greatly appreciate your enthusiastic support of KUME and look forward to hearing from you through any form of communication you choose to use and/or to seeing you at alumni receptions/banquets throughout the year. Some of those coming events are: alumni receptions in Palo Alto, CA (Mar. 28-29), Denver, CO (April 5), Kansas City, KS (April 10). Also, there will be a spring banquet on April 27 at Alvamar Country Club in Lawrence, KS. See you there/then!
new additions
a fresh face joining the crew

Dr. Paulette Spencer

Born in Hannibal, MO, I knew from a very young age that I wanted to be a science teacher. I was the type of kid who drove my parents crazy with my never-ending questions and my efforts to determine how things such as bird nests were constructed. When my grandmother told me that I could have a small, abandoned building on her farm as my playhouse, I proceeded to turn the building into my library complete with a reading room.

Today my educational background includes a B.S. in biology and related sciences from the University of Missouri-Columbia, a D.D.S. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Dentistry, M.S. (Pediatric Dentistry) from the University of Minnesota, M.S. (Materials Engineering) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Ph.D. (Oral Biology and Physics) from UMKC.

I began my career as an assistant professor with an active faculty practice devoted to children's dentistry at the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. The teaching, research and service responsibilities of this position offered me many rewarding experiences, but I was frustrated by the limitations of the techniques and materials available to dentistry. My commitment to finding answers to these problems required an understanding and knowledge beyond my professional education. I pursued and was accepted to the graduate program in materials engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

My educational program at RPI was interrupted, two accidents that resulted in numerous surgeries and multiple hospitalizations. In spite of these interruptions, the commitment of my husband and mentors never faltered. The encouragement of these individuals laid the foundation for my career. I continue to show my students that same kind of trust and belief in their capabilities and provide them with opportunities to reach their highest potential.

Because of difficulties associated with injuries from these accidents, I could not continue my education at RPI. Following a review of various academic positions, I accepted the position of assistant professor in the department of pediatric dentistry at the UMKC School of Dentistry.

Within the first six months of my faculty appointment at UMKC School of Dentistry, I submitted a proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue my research and educational activities. This proposal was funded and I quickly found myself building my research background. Although some would describe me as a pioneer, others thought I was crazy, but the challenges were stimulating and rewarding. I advanced through the faculty ranks, and in 2004 I was named a Curators' Professor by the University of Missouri. This is the highest and most prestigious academic rank awarded by the Board of Curators.

In October 2003, the research center that I direct was recognized as an official University Center. This center is known as the UMKC Center for Research on Interfacial Structure & Properties (UMKC-CRISP). The Center brings together scientists, clinicians and engineers from the UMKC Schools of Dentistry, Computing & Engineering, Pharmacy, University of Kansas Schools of Engineering and Pharmacy, University of Kansas Medical Center, and Case Western Reserve University. Efforts are directed toward an increased understanding of the fundamental phenomena controlling biological interactions at interfaces and the creation of new and improved techniques for analyzing solid-liquid interfacial interactions in biological systems. The Center operates on the principle that the fusion of knowledge from traditionally separated disciplines can lead to creative approaches for solving seemingly intractable problems.

This principle will serve as a fundamental building block for the University of Kansas Bioengineering Research Center, for which I will be the founding director. My vision as Director of the Bioengineering Research Center (BERC) at the University of Kansas is that the Center will support a research and teaching environment that serves as a catalyst for interdisciplinary investigations focused in areas such as: 1) the design, synthesis and characterization of novel biomaterials both synthetic and tissue-engineered; 2) development of clinical imaging devices and technologies; 3) biosensor development and application; 4) biomechanics of motion, response of physiologic function, e.g. neuromuscular control; and 5) fundamental multi-scale computational modeling and multi-scale bioimaging with various forms of energy, e.g. light, sound and so forth. BERC will bring together under one umbrella a synergistic team of material-scientists, engineers from the diverse classical disciplines, computer scientists, pharmaceutical, life and physical scientists, clinicians and clinical investigators. The synergistic capabilities and intellectual breadth represented by the partners of the Center will lead to fundamental discoveries and technological developments that reach beyond the capacity of an individual or even a small research laboratory. The synergy arising from the confluence of research in diverse disciplines and the active interaction and participation by our industrial partners will offer us the potential to dramatically advance the translation of discoveries made in the laboratory to real-world applications.

My objective is to work with the administration, faculty and students to develop a research center that is responsive to the vision of the University of Kansas to be a national leader in bioengineering. Working together we will build a Center that is recognized as a leader in bioengineering research both nationally and internationally.

[Note: Dr. Spencer will join the faculty in September of 2007.]
Not long before his death, Professor Forman was recognized as a KU-ME Outstanding Alumnus at the Spring Banquet (April, 2006). Although he was not able to attend the Banquet, he was there in spirit. His family joined us in order to help give everyone an overall picture of his life as a father, husband, grandfather and educator. It was very stirring to hear how Prof. Forman had affected so many lives, including those of his family, KU students and KU faculty in such a positive manner. Though his passing caused overwhelming sadness, there has also been tremendous recognition of him and the mark he left on KU-ME.

A new scholarship fund was established in memory of a long-time member of the engineering faculty. The scholarship will provide support for students in mechanical engineering.

The fund honors George W. Forman, who was on the faculty of the Department of Mechanical Engineering from 1955 through 1985. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1941 with a bachelor's degree and from KU in 1957 with a master's degree, both in mechanical engineering. Prof. Forman taught courses in machine design, strength of materials, thermodynamics and mathematics at KU. He worked for Hamilton Standard under orders from the U.S. Navy during World War II, spending many hours working on B-29 bomber aircraft. His engineering experience included work with United Aircraft Corp., Bendix, Sandia National Labs, in addition to work as a consulting engineer for many corporate, municipal and private clients. KU students remember him for bringing the subject matter to life by using examples from his real-world experiences in the field.

Prof. Forman's wife, Ruth S. Forman, along with son, John S. Forman, and daughter, Jane Forman Cigard, and with many colleagues and friends, provided contributions to create the scholarship fund at KU Endowment.

"We are very grateful to all those who contributed, and I know that my father would be very honored to be remembered in this way," said John Forman, who graduated from KU in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and is a director of Navigant Consulting in Rancho Cordova, Calif. The family invites alumni and friends of KU and the School of Engineering to contribute to the fund.

George Whiteman Forman, 86, died July 19. He taught courses in machine design, strength of materials, mathematics and thermodynamics at KU for 30 years. He was chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering from 1973 to 1979. Survivors include his wife, Ruth; a son; and a daughter. The family suggests memorials to the George W. Forman Mechanical Engineering Scholarship Fund through KU Endowment. Courtesy of the KU Oread.
CTE honors ME

departmental award received

Each year, the Center for Teaching Excellence honors one department for its contributions to KU’s teaching mission. Recipients are identified by CTE’s Advisory Board. The award process gathers examples of innovative, collaborative, and effective departmental initiatives, honors those that are well developed, and shares them with other departments to further their development of teaching programs.

At the 2006 KU summit, the Department of Mechanical Engineering was honored with the CTE Departmental Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

CTE is advised by a board of faculty members (TEAM) and a group of campus-wide departmental liaisons called Ambassadors. Their primary purpose is to build community among faculty members and to help make student learning visible.

CTE advisory board members who chose mechanical engineering noted the exemplary way that the department uses multiple, converging measures of learning. These include a capstone course for seniors, a senior project that is reviewed by faculty members, and connections with the engineering community for feedback on the performance of mechanical engineering graduates in the field. Based on what their measures indicated about strengths and weaknesses in students’ understanding, the department modified courses to improve student performance and demonstrated that improvement. Two other notable activities are its development of writing across the curriculum and economics across the curriculum.

(Text gathered from www.cte.ku.edu)

You are cordially invited to...

The Spring Banquet
April 27, 2007
6:00-8:30 pm

Almavat Country Club, Lawrence, KS

$25 per person/$40 per couple

See you there!

RSVP to Carol Gonce:
785-864-3181
cgonce@ku.edu

The Banquet includes recognition of student, alumni, faculty and staff accomplishments, with special honors for Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Alumni-Harry Gibson for 2006 and Peter Jenkins and Jack Knuth for 2007.
This year, the University of Kansas “Surprise Patrol” bestowed good news and $5,000 checks on 20 professors as part of the 2006 Kemper awards ceremonies to recognize outstanding teachers and advisers at the university.

The recipients of the W.T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence are determined by a seven-member selection committee. Now in their 11th year, the awards are supported by $650,000 in gifts from the William T. Kemper Foundation (Commerce Bank, trustee) and $650,000 in matching funds from KU Endowment.

The William T. Kemper Foundation was established in 1989 after the death of the Kansas City, Mo., banking executive and civic leader. The foundation supports Midwest communities and concentrates on initiatives in education, health and human services, civic improvements and the arts.

Above: Dr. Lisa Friis receives her Kemper award.

Lisa Friis
Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Friis had just begun the first day of her Materials Science class of the semester in the Spahr Engineering Classroom when she was forced to stop. University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway commandeered the packed lecture hall and announced to all the students that Dr. Friis was one of the Kemper Award winners for 2006.

Chancellor Hemenway led a large “Surprise Patrol” contingent of university representatives, media and several of Dr. Friis’ coworkers in congratulating Dr. Friis for her outstanding teaching skills. The patrol also included representatives from Commerce Bank of Lawrence and the KU Endowment Association.

“This is such a surprise,” said Dr. Friis. “Thank you. ... I’m very pleased and honored. Thank you.”

In her five years at KU, Dr. Friis has taught an array of courses and has worked diligently to improve her teaching techniques. She implements fresh approaches to her classes while showing students how to incorporate learned skills in their profession. She cites national teaching conferences as being enlightening and inspiring her to engage students in more active learning activities. As an adviser, Dr. Friis says she enjoys working with the student as a professional and enjoys teaching by example.

Above: Dr. Sara Wilson receives her Kemper award.

Sara Wilson
Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering

The Surprise Patrol made a repeat appearance in the Engineering School the following morning, this time to recognize the teaching talents of Dr. Wilson. KU Provost Richard Lariviére interrupted the Control Systems class to inform students of Dr. Wilson’s latest achievement -- a Kemper Award winner.

Dr. Wilson, who has been at KU for five years, says she understands that each student is unique, and she tries to understand their distinct abilities and hurdles to maximize the learning experience. She also understands that while students may begin their studies in mechanical engineering for one reason, that reason and career goal will evolve over their college careers.

“I make it a point to talk to students about these goals and find ways to encourage them,” she says.

In all 20 KU professors were honored with Kemper Awards during the Fall 2006 semester and $100,000 was distributed during the first few weeks of the semester.

The source of this new story was two articles: one article written by the KU News and one by Jill Hummeld, School of Engineering’s Director of Public Relations.
W. Wayne Lorimer
Class: 1949
I am completely retired. I quit professional work in 1980, and my wife and I did volunteer work at various Christian activities. Some of my volunteer work was done in Kentucky, Guatemala, France, and I also traveled in Europe and Canada. I am now in a retirement facility. My wife died in 1999.

Gerald T. Rosenlund
Class: 1956
After 35 years with Dupont and running three plants in Parkersburg, WV, Fayetteville, NC, and Florence, SC, we retired in 1995 in Florence, SC, and Bethany Beach, MI. We have four children and 11 grandkids. We are enjoying traveling and golfing.

Leo V. Quitberg
Class: 1960
Former plant and design engineer. Retired.

Keith D. Rogers
Class: 2000
Flight Test Engineer

Jeff Mitchell
Class: 1966
Recently retired as VP General Manager for FKI Industries. FKI is headquartered in the U.K. with a number of diecasting and hardware manufacturing plants in the US and worldwide.

Clifford E. Fullman
Class: 1958
Very active in the Masonic organization. Currently serving as Treasurer of Syrian Shrine. Obtained a patent in 2004. Working for the Shrine's benefit of Hospitals for Children. Often use the ME knowledge while serving the Shrine's Hospitals.

Deaths
Professor George W. Forman
1920-2006 See page four
Dr. Lisa Friis

Conferences:
March: Attended the Orthopaedic Research Society annual meeting in Chicago, IL. Group presented three research posters (see titles below). Attended National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance, Portland, OR. Two oral presentations on E'ship TLC and Biomedical Product Development course (see titles below).

April: Attended the Society for Biomaterials annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Gave invited presentation on novel techniques to incorporate entrepreneurship in biomaterials education (see titles below).

June: Attended the ASME Summer Bioengineering meeting in Amelia Island, Florida. Gave invited presentation at industry sponsored spine biomechanics workshop on the mechanical analogue spine model.

Abstracts:


Friis EA, Baxendale JG: The KU E'ship TLC: Supporting Entrepreneurial Thinking in the Classroom and Beyond, Trans National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance, March 23-26, 2006, Portland, OR.

Friis EA, Baxendale JG: A Multidisciplinary Biomedical Product Development Course Incorporating Entrepreneurial Thinking, Trans National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance, March 23-26, 2006, Portland, OR.

Paper:

Dr. Sara Wilson

Dr. Wilson has been busy this year with preparing for her presentations across the nation. She has made two presentations (see below). One of her presentations was over neuromotor habituation as a mechanism for vibration induced lowback pain. The conference where she presented that paper was held in Morgantown, WV. Her next stop was Washington, DC. There she presented another paper on how occupational vibration alters neuromuscular response in the lower back.

Dr. Wilson has not only been busy with her presentations but she has also been busy helping her graduate students prepare for their presentations. Pradeep Abraham presented whole body vibration and neuromuscular response this year in Florida (see below). Two other students presented papers in Blacksburg, VA on vibration and falls. In addition, Dr. Wilson was awarded a 2006 Kemper teaching award. For more information, see page five.

Papers:


In May 2006, the KU Formula SAE team achieved its most successful competition finish to date by earning fourth place out of 140 teams at the international FSAE event in Detroit, MI. The team showed that KU engineering students are among the best in the world.

The 2006 team moved on to compete in the first annual FSAE west competition in CA., in June where they earned fifteenth place overall, with a first place finish in the autocross event.

The 2007 KU FSAE team, bolstered by this trend of increasing success in previous years, is pushing ambitiously for a first place finish in Detroit this May. The team has spent the fall semester designing with more detail than ever before. For the first time, the solid computer model consists of every component on the vehicle including fasteners and even wiring and cooling lines. With this complete model, the team is not only able to catch assembly errors earlier, but they are also expected to predict vehicle weight within one percent of actual weight. The 2007 vehicle is designed to weigh less than 440 pounds, which is more than 45 pounds lighter than the 2006 vehicle.

Several other goals will push the 2007 team to a top finish this year. The team seeks to achieve 1.4 g's in steady-state lateral acceleration, compared to 1.2 g's last year. They also seek a five percent increase in engine output torque across the power band, which will help achieve faster straight-line acceleration.

Another objective, and perhaps the area where most improvement will be found, is concerned with the design presentation. This is one of the critical static events in which the team participates at the competition. The 2007 team seeks to reach Design Finals by presenting a complete detailed drawing package, through test plans and results, and analytically justified design decisions.

The 2007 team, which is one of KU's largest (24 members), is well on its way to the completion of another successful vehicle and is excited to represent the University of Kansas and the Mechanical Engineering Department with a top finish this year.

---

*Left:* Nick Roberts tries out the driver's mockup.

*Below:* Brake system design.

*Above:* The Jayhawk tries out the real machine.

Text and photos submitted by Tanner Rinko, Team Captain
For more information see: www.jayhawkmotorsports.com
a special thank you to...

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Patel, Mittal K.
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Peterson, Philip C.
Ragewski, Justin D.
Rank, David B. & Louise
Rankin, Patricia Higgins & Homer E.
Rapagnani, N. Emeril
Reppond, Jo L.
Rixey, Norton B., Jr.
Roberts, Karin K. & Dr. RN Steven D.
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2006 Spring Banquet

an overview

Thanks to the ME Advisory Board Member Greg Monroe, who did the honor as Master of Ceremonies, guiding us through the April 28, 2006 Awards Banquet.

2006 Graduates

Above: Group photo of the 2006 graduates

Masters 2006
Chadd Clary
Timothy Craig
Ankur Dayal
John Kane
Nathaniel Lenz
Lu Li
Amitkumar Mane
Aaron Robbins
Amarnath Saripalli
Joseph Soltys
Bhaskar Thoomukuntla

Ph.D. 2006
Gregory King

Spring 2006
Eugene Avidano
Patrick Bramlett
Grant Bussard
Randy Clover
Darren Conrad
Donald Fennesy
Michael Haines
David Hickey
Francis Hitchenmann
Cynthia Huff
Logan Johnson
Korey Kruse
Leighton LaPierre
Kyle Martens
Ryan Mills
Mark Pacey
Gina Posladek
Paul Rankin
Robert Rosasco
Matthew Thornton

Fall 2006
Nicholas Casady
Derek Cudney
Adam DeBacker
Gavin Englund
Dimitri Gregory
Eric Hauber
Timothy Isenhagen
Jones Kithuka
Jonathan Novak
Adam Pruett
Lane Riddell
Travis Sipple
Landon Streed
Cara Zimmerman

Brent Uhrig
Seth Weisbrood
Garrett Withar
Emily Yu

Mechanical Engineering Senior Design Teams

Team Renewable Energy for the Environment
Donald Fennesy - Leader
Michael Haines
Gina Posladek
Seth Weisbrood

Hallmark - Fold Plate
Darren Conrad - Leader
Grant Bussard
Francis Hitchenmann

L.O. Luggage
Gavin Englund - Co-leader
Dimitri Gregory - Co-leader

Two Twenty-Eight Technologies
Adam Pruett - Leader
Eric Hauber
Lane Riddell
Landon Streed

Grundfos Orifice Testing Design Group
Timothy Isenhagen - Leader
Travis Sipple
Cara Zimmerman

AccuFlow (Grundfos Pump Testing)
Jonathan Novak - Leader
Nicholas Casady
Jones Kithuka

Sunflower Biotechnology
Eugene Avidano - Leader
Brent Uhrig
Emily Yu

Spinal Fixation Rod Reduction
Cynthia Huff - Leader
Adam DeBacker
Korey Kruse

Ergonomic Flock Oven Cleanout Team - Hallmark Cards

Hanger Orthopedics Energy-Return Hinged Orthotic Ankle Brace
Mark Pacey - Leader
Leighton LaPierre
Robert Rosasco

Formula SAE Teams
Logan Johnson - Captain

Chassis Team
Garrett Withar - Leader
Randy Clover

DriveTrain Team
Patrick Bramlett - Leader

Engine Team
Kyle Martens - Leader

Suspension Team
Ryan Mills - Leader
Derek Cudney
David Hickey
Paul Rankin
Awards and Scholarships

**ΠΣΕ Initiates Fall 2005**
- Grant Bussard
- Alison Erler
- Rebecca Huff
- Timucin Kip
- Mark Komosa
- Damon Mar
- Paul Rankin
- Alexander Raymond
- Lane Riddell
- Daniel Rutherford
- Ryan Sieve
- Travis Sippel
- Landon Streed
- Cara Zimmerman

**Biomechanics Emphasis**
- Cynthia Huff
- Leighton LaPierre
- Mark Pace
- Robert Rosasco
- Brent Uhrig

**Robert M. Carey Scholarship**
- Raghu Channamallu
- Hithendra Nath Reddy Pothu
- Tyler Stone

**Wilbur E. and Mina Wyatt Memorial Scholarship**
- Cory Bryant
- Cory Buckingham
- Kaitlin Carr
- Andrew Cross
- Erin Lewis
- Jerrod Pearce
- Michael Puckett
- Nicholas Tobaben

**Roger T. Blades Scholarship**
- Mark Osmundsen

**Strobel Scholarship**
- Nicolas Jaumard
- Tristan Moody
- Tyler Stone

**Russell L. and James W. Straight Scholarship**
- Logan Johnson

**John Calvin Sells Scholarship**
- Jered Nunn
- Ryan Mills
- Travis Sippel

**ME Scholarship**
- Kristin Danielson
- Mark Darling
- Anthony DeFilippo
- John Domann
- Paul Garcia
- Cynthia Huff
- Rebecca Huff
- Timothy Isenhagen
- Mark Komosa
- Patrick McCormick
- Todd McDonald
- Jonathan Novak
- Mark Pacey
- Paul Rankin
- Alexander Raymond
- Marie Riley
- Tanner Rinke
- Evan Rodgers
- Daniel Rutherford
- William Salt
- Brent Uhrig

**Baer Scholarship**
- Leighton LaPierre

**Self Fellowship**
- Bryce Baker (2002-2006)
- Chadd Clary (2004-2008)
- Molly McVey (2006-2010)

**Zimmermann Graduate Fellowship**
- Michael Knopp
- Tristan Moody
- Tyler Stone

**Lindquist Family Memorial Award**
- Chad Newbill
- Jonathan Novak
- Alexander Raymond
- Brandi Sandel

**Wesley G. Cramer Scholar Award**
- Anthony DeFilippo
- Cynthia Huff
- Leighton LaPierre
- Travis Sippel
- Brent Uhrig

**Wesley G. Cramer Mechanical Engineering Faculty Award**
- Peter TenPas (2006)

**Harold L. Kipp Distinguished Teaching Award**
- Bedru Yimer (2005)
- Sara E. Wilson (2006)

**Outstanding Senior Award**
- Logan Johnson

**Outstanding Leadership Award**
- Phillip Martinez

**Outstanding Service Award**
- Francis Hitsuclmann

**Outstanding Faculty Award**
- Bedru Yimer

**Outstanding Staff Award**
- Carol Goncze

**Outstanding Student Helper Award**
- Shelby Sice

**Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award**
- George Forman (2006)
- Harry Gibson (2006)
alumni updates
tell us how you’re doing...
drop us a note; fill in this form or email us at kume@ku.edu and let us
know what you are doing and inform others in future newsletters

return to:
ME Vibrations Newsletter
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Mechanical Engineering Department
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Lawrence, Kansas 66045

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