

Late Spring 2009



Keeping you CONNECTed to K-State's College of Engineering

Did you know?

- * The average starting salary for Industrial Engineering graduates is \$60,000/year
- * The College of Engineering is the second-largest college at Kansas State
- * KSU's Mechanical Engineering department has a wind tunnel and a nuclear reactor on K-State's campus

Inside this issue:

Transferring credits towards your degree	2
Intersession courses	2
Engineers Without Borders	2
Engineering parent Advice	3
Career and Employment Services	3
Engineering student profiles	4
Fall 2009 football schedule	6

Warning! Another period of transition coming up for your family!



This has undoubtedly been a year of change for your family! As you prepare to welcome your student back home for the summer (or ship them off to summer employment), here are a few things you might notice are a tad different about your student:

•**Self-doubt:** If students have just finished a particularly trying engineering semester, they may be harboring some doubt about their academic abilities and their choice of major (not to mention dreading getting their spring grades). Your support at this time is **critical!** Continue to listen

and suggest ways for them to see engineering in action in your hometown over the summer (shadow for a day at a company, meet with a high school counselor, or take some classes at a community college).

•**Different schedules:** You will notice that your student keeps a slightly different schedule than they did in high school. Specifically, don't be alarmed to discover that they have become nocturnal. Students may have grown accustomed to staying up late and sleeping at odd hours during the day—these habits are typical. It's a good

idea to sit down at the beginning of summer break and reiterate house rules and expectations.

•**Changes within the student:** College is a period of transition for the student; they are free to be whoever or whatever they want when they are at college. Often there is a period of dissonance when they return home and struggle with trying to fit back into their high school life. Friends, relationships, and activities are not the same as they were in high school.

The best thing you can do is to be flexible and enjoy this time with your student—it won't be long before school starts again in the fall!

Don't let your student come home for the summer without a resume!

Make sure your student has a working **resume** before they leave campus for the summer. It doesn't matter if it's a simple, template-based resume or an elaborate, fancy formatted document—it just needs to be done!

It's easy for students to forget departmental activities, honors, and

other resume-enhancing bullet-points over the course of a summer. If students continually update a working copy of their resume, they are much more likely to include all of their activities and have a resume ready for all of those last minute scholarship or internship applications.

Finally, if students take the time, it's easy to see where there might be "holes" in a resume (ie, no clubs, leadership, or work experience). The summer can give students a chance to reflect on what activities or experiences they need to gain to round out their resumes when they return to campus in the fall.



Olga Lease, Director of Academic Counseling and Advising for the College of Engineering



Taking courses elsewhere during break? Know the rules!

Is your student considering taking classes at another university or your local community college during their summer or winter breaks? **Olga Lease, Director of Academic Counseling and Advising for the College of Engineering**, is the go-to person for students with questions about transferring credit (Student Services—1042 Rathbone Hall).

What should students know about transferring in course credit from other colleges or universities?

We advise students to make sure they are familiar with the online course equivalency page (see link at left). This is a helpful tool that tells students exactly where their credits will transfer and what holes they will fill in their degree plans.

Should I retake a class over break?

Students should be careful about retakes. For example, if a student gets a “D” in College Algebra at K-State, the student is advised to retake the course at K-State to take advantage of “replacement retakes”. Retaking a course at K-State will replace the old grade with the new grade when calculating GPA. Retaking the course elsewhere will not bring your GPA up, because the GPA is not transferred, just the course credits.

How does transfer credit get applied to my transcript at K-State?

Make sure you have your transcripts from community colleges or other universities sent to the K-State admissions office!

In your experience, what should students be wary of with taking summer classes?

Make sure you are careful with how you manage your summer. A lot of students want to use their breaks to make money for college expenses...sometimes students don't realize just how much time summer coursework can take up. Try to balance summer class with work! Getting “ahead” with break coursework isn't going to help you if you don't have enough time to devote to the class. For advice on how to balance your non-academic vs. academic time, see the Time Load Chart on page 4 of the Engineering Study Guide: <http://www.engg.k-state.edu/student-services/studyguide.pdf>

K-State Course Equivalency Information:
http://www.k-state.edu/admit/tran_info.html

Campus update:

K-State and the Board of Regents is working to keep tuition manageable for families. To track on-campus budgetary issues, see:

www.ksu.edu/budget



What the heck is an “intersession course?”

Intersession courses are the best kept secret on K-State's academic calendar. K-State's **intersession courses** essentially fill in the gaps in the academic year with highly intense and concentrated courses. Classes usually meet for three or four hours a day, providing

time to focus on a subject in depth. Additionally, some intersession courses are entirely online. Intersession courses are a great opportunity to pick up a credit or three when it is convenient for your student.

This summer's intersession dates are between May 18-June 5, 2009, and between August 3-August 21, 2009. Curious about the options? Take a spin around the website at: www.dce.k-state.edu/courses



Engineering Student Organization Spotlight: ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

What: K-State's chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB)

Who: Open to women and men in any engineering discipline

How: Contact Ashleigh Steckly, president, at ewb@ksu.edu

Why: EWB's mission is using engineering to improve the lives of the less fortunate in a sustainable way. K-State's student chapter has monthly meetings and is currently working on two projects: locally, EWB is helping Manhattan's Sunset Zoo redesign its chimpanzee exhibit; and internationally, EWB is committed to working with the Purkal Youth Development Society (PYDS) in Dehradun, India. Currently, the projects of PYDS include solar street lighting, water harvesting, and fruit dehydration. Members recently traveled to India during spring break to spend 14 days working alongside Dehradun Institute of Technology engineering students and faculty.



Advice from Anita ... An Engineering Mom's Perspective

Sometimes it is very helpful to hear from other parents who have "been there and done that." We went in search of an ACTUAL engineering parent for the final edition of K-State CONNECT. Anita (and her husband Ed) are the parents of three daughters, including Samantha, a junior in Industrial Engineering at K-State. These are Anita's thoughts regarding advice, struggling students, and what it's like to parent an engineering student:

Were you familiar with engineering before your student started at K-State?

I knew what engineering was but I didn't know that there were so many engineering avenues!

Did anything surprise you about parenting an engineering student?

Whether you are parenting an engineering student or an art major the first semester is a "wow" for parents. With both of my daughters I have received that first week of school panic phone call saying I just don't think I can make it, I never

realized that I am really not very smart, etc. So after I let them vent (or have a pity party) then I asked if they wanted to hear my advice.

What have you noticed your student struggling with, and how did you help?

Our engineering daughter had an easy time in high school, straight A's and barely cracked a book, and then came college and engineering classes. These are the brightest minds and nothing comes easy—it takes hard work and discipline! Having to take a class a second time for a passing grade is not the end of the world for us as parents or our students, it actually builds lots of character.

Do you have any advice for other engineering parents or students?

My advice is as follows: Go see your advisor, as with both my girls neither one went right away to see their advisor, it took encouragement. After they each visited their advisors, I visited with their



Samantha and Anita Marin

advisors (the girls didn't know this until later). I found the advisors to be very helpful and gave me some great advice to pass back to my daughters.

Then I encouraged them to sit near the front of every class, and introduce themselves to their professors, making that connection makes them more accountable to attend class. Study groups, study groups, study groups! Join them as they really help when doing projects and studying for tests. There is always the free tutoring provided by the college! Utilize this service. Lastly, I encouraged my girls to be involved in one activity or club that gave them a social life.

MARK YOUR

CALENDARS:

Fall 2009 classes begin on Monday, August 24. Let the countdown begin!

Bookmark this site: Career and Employment Services

Career and Employment Services (CES) is K-State's career advising center whose mission is to serve K-Staters in their pursuit of post-graduation jobs (and give information on part-time on-campus jobs). CES is and will be a tremendous asset to your student throughout their college career. Check out their website (located in the margin on the right), and then bookmark it in your "favorites" file...you will want to keep this website handy!

When your student is looking for jobs or internships, one of their first steps is to create a job search profile (and upload a resume) on the CES website. Potential employers are able to access students' resumes and cover letters.

The CES website has a whole section with information for parents of job seekers. You can learn about the services CES offers to students, as well as how you can help your student make the most of their college years

to end up gainfully employed when this is all over. Especially check out the "roadmap to a job" at <http://www.k-state.edu/ces/parents/documents/roadmap.pdf>. CES is anxious to become a partner with you when your student begins the job search process.

Another neat tool on the CES webpage is the information regarding the occupational outlook for different K-State degrees. Be informed!



K-Staters with an industry representative before the fall career fair

Career and Employment Services:
www.ksu.edu/ces/

➤➤➤ How to succeed in Engineering...

...while *really* trying

Your student is closing in on the end of their first year of college! You (and they) might be wondering what comes next...and rightfully so! Below are profiles of three students at different points in their engineering curricula—see what they've done while at K-State and what they still want to do.



JOSE LEAL, SOPHOMORE: CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Hometown: **Kansas City, Kansas**

On-campus activities: **Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), Multicultural Engineering Program, American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), MAPS Peer Mentor**

What he did last summer: **"I took summer classes at K-State and worked as a peer mentor for an on-campus summer bridge program. I also worked for the Grain Marketing Research and Production Center in Manhattan."**

If you could do your college career over, what would you do differently? **"I would not skip a semester of chemistry...because then I would have been ahead in my curriculum and I wouldn't have to deal with Advance Lab issues all at once"**

What are you proud of: **"I'm proud that I can love and enjoy a more challenging major than what I started college in"**

WESTON ARBOGAST, JUNIOR: ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

Hometown: **Dodge City, Kansas**

On-campus activities: **Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, Club Baseball, Flying Club, Architectural Engineering Institute**

What he did last summer: **"I had an internship with Archer Western Contractors in Phoenix, Arizona"**

If you could do your college career over, what would you do differently? **"Live in the residence hall my freshman year"**

What are you proud of: **"I'm proud of how far I've come in college—at first you just wonder how you're gonna make it. You know about the "freshman 15"? Well, in Engineering it's like a 15,000 foot mountain. Once you get over the hump of the freshman year you just kinda hit cruise and keep going."**



SARAH KUBLER, SENIOR: COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Hometown: **Chanute, Kansas**

On-campus activities: **Eta Kappa Nu (Electrical and Computer Engineering honor society), Golden Key, Tau Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Mentor for Electrical and Computer Engineering freshmen**

What she did last summer: **"I had an internship at Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri"**

If you could do your college career over, what would you do differently? **"I would NOT take 18 hours of classes per semester and I would take 5 years to graduate"**

What are you proud of: **"I'm really proud that I've supported myself through college with scholarships and by working"**

April 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 PALM SUNDAY	6 Chem 210 Exam	7 Math 221 Exam	8 PASSOVER BEGINS	9 Math 150 Exam Phys 113 Exam	10	11
12 EASTER	13 Phys 114 Exam	14	15	16 Math 220 Exam Math 222 Exam	17 K-STATE OPEN HOUSE Phys 214 Exam	18 K-STATE OPEN HOUSE
19	20 Chem 230 Exam	21	22	23	24 Phys 213 Exam	25
26	27 Phys 114 Exam Chem 210 Exam	28 CIS 200 Exam	29	30 Phys 113 Exam		

This calendar contains dates relevant to new K-State engineering students. The courses listed are common courses freshmen may enroll in during their second semester. Free SAS tutoring is also available for all of these course.

IMPORTANT LATE SPRING DATES

- * April 17-18—K-State Open House
- * MAY 4-8—Dead Week
- * MAY 11-15—Finals Week
- * MAY 16—Graduation

Black = K-State/Campus Events

Purple = Course Exams

★ = Important event!

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Phys 214 Exam	2
3	4 DEAD WEEK ★ Chem 230 Lab Exam	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 FINALS WEEK ★ Chem 230 Final Chem 210 Final	12 Phys 114 Final	13 Math 220 Final Math 222 Final	14 Math 221 Final	15 Math 150 Final Phys 213 Final Phys 214 Final	16 Graduation ★
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29	30
31						





Women in Engineering and Science Program
 Kansas State University
 125 Seaton Hall
 Manhattan, KS 66506
 3757

Phone: 785-532-3395
 Fax: 785-532-3349
 E-mail: wesp@ksu.edu

We're on the Web!
www.ksu.edu/wesp/

Top Ten List of Things Your Students are Looking Forward to about Summer Vacation

Compiled by students laitering in our office...

10. Family vacations
9. Summer fun stuff like watersports
8. Having you do their laundry
7. Hanging out with friends
6. Good weather
5. 14 hours a day of sunshine
4. Sleeping in
3. Relaxing
2. No class
1. Making money

Engineering Factoid: Industrial and Manufacturing systems engineers design, analyze, and improve systems of people, equipment, and materials to produce goods and services.



GET YOUR 2009 FOOTBALL TICKETS NOW!

- *May 2 **SPRING GAME @ Home***
- Sep 05 **Massachusetts @ Home**
- Sep 12 Louisiana@ Lafayette, LA
- Sep 19 UCLA@ Los Angeles, CA
- Sep 26 **Tennessee Tech @ Home**
- Oct 03 Iowa State @ Kansas City, MO
- Oct 10 Texas Tech @ Lubbock, TX
- Oct 17 **Texas A&M @ Home**
- Oct 24 **Colorado @ Home**
- Oct 31 Oklahoma @ Norman, OK.
- Nov 07 **Kansas @ Home**
- Nov 14 **Missouri @ Home**
- Nov 21 Nebraska @ Lincoln, NE

