



# Kansas Professional Engineer

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## KDOT Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Kansas Division of Transportation (KDOT) celebrated its 75th anniversary April 1, 2004. This celebration commemorated the April 1, 1929 bill signing by former Governor Clyde Reed giving the highway commission responsibility for the State Highway System and allowing continued federal funding of road

projects. Although this was not the beginning of the agency, it was the "birth" of how the department has functioned for the past 75 years. For the twelve years preceding the signing, the Kansas State Highway Commission (now KDOT) did not have control of the highways in the state.

The signing of this bill was a major milestone and has had significant impact on the department's evolution. The change brought a state-wide planning process for highways, increased funding and increased efficiency for construction and maintenance, to name just a few.

KDOT conducted a ceremony and reception at the Kansas Statehouse attended by Governor Kathleen Sebelius, KDOT Secretary Deb Miller, four past Secretaries of Transportation, numerous KSPE leaders, legislators and other special guests. Sebelius commented, "...on behalf of the people of Kansas, I want to say thank you to the people of KDOT. Thank you for engineering and overseeing the construction of safe roads. Thank you for sometimes risking life and limb to maintain them. And thank you for keeping them free of snow in the winter. KDOT is the agency it is today because of the solid leadership it has had over the decades." During the ceremony, Sebelius



presents former Transportation Secretary John Kemp with a flag flown over the Kansas State Capitol. Past and present Kansas Transportation Secretaries joined KDOT employees as the Governor signed a proclamation recognizing the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of KDOT.

Secretary Miller commented, "It's appropriate that we pause and reflect on how much progress has been made in the last 75 years. KDOT has served Kansans well. Our state is recognized nationally for the overall quality of its road system and the professional way we select projects and manage the massive public works programs the Legislature has entrusted to us....Over the past 75 years, we have evolved from a road-based highway commission into a multi-faceted transportation department with responsibility for aviation, rail, and public transit. We're still keeping an eye on the future of transportation. Whether it's helping drivers get better traffic information faster through Kansas City Scout... or offering detailed road condition and construction detour information on our Kanroad website and through phone-based Kansas 511... to constructing roundabouts, we're committed to developing new and innovative ways to serve Kansans."

For more information about the history of KDOT; full text of all of Sebelius and Miller's comments and more from the ceremony and reception, visit KDOT's webpage at: [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org) and click on the 75th anniversary icon.

## President's Message: What if.....

By: Rick Ensz, P.E.

What would you have if you were able to assemble the following group of leaders:

Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Deb Miller

Westar Energy President and CEO Jim Haines

Terri Helmlinger, PE, NSPE President

Boeing's Director of 7E7 Fuselage Structures Systems Terry Nunemaker

Southwest Power Pool President Nick Brown

Kansas State Representative Kenny Wilk, sponsor of the Kansas Economic Growth Act

KSU Assistant Dean of Engineering Tom Roberts

NSPE General Counsel Arthur Schwartz

Wetzel Engineering President/CEO Kyle Wetzel

Look at that list again. The list includes some of the top leaders in Kansas, Fortune 500 companies, aca-

demia, small business and NSPE! Any guesses? If you said our speakers at the June 9-11, 2004 KSPE Annual Conference you would be correct.

Brian Armstrong and his committee team have designed an engineering marvel. Having been given complete design freedom, the committee brainstormed their thoughts and ideas. After many hours of meetings, numerous cokes, and consultation with outside experts, a plan was envisioned.

The scope of services was written and a budget prepared. Approved by their client, the KSPE Board, the design began. Carefully they laid out the foundation for the conference agenda. Soon the preliminary plans begin to take shape and they even paused to field check their plans.

Making slight adjustments as necessary to ensure a quality product the team began the effort to complete final plans. Now, just 30 days away from the final completion date, their plans are 95 percent complete and

they are on time and within budget. The committee has assured us that the plans will be 100 percent complete by June 9<sup>th</sup>, of high quality and high value.

To Brian and the Annual Conference committee, I commend you for your efforts and hard work.

I invite you to come see for yourself what this team has accomplished. The group of speakers above is outstanding. Make plans now to attend this conference.

See you in Topeka.  
Rick

PS: Special thanks goes to Deb Miller and Warren Sick at KDOT for their willingness to work with our Annual Conference committee to develop a continuing educational program tailored for government employees. KDOT has been an unfailing supporter of KSPE over the years and their assistance and support of this year's conference is appreciated.

## Special Thanks to Life Members Making Contributions

The Life Members listed below have recently made voluntary contributions to KSPE to help cover the cost of providing member programs. Members who achieve Life Members status continue to receive membership benefits without having to pay membership dues. The total Life Member contributions received this Spring have reached \$1200.

"Our Life Members are to be congratulated for their ongoing contributions to our Society," noted KSPE President Rick Ensz. "Each of them has contributed to the Society finan-

cially and with their time for thirty years and more. I welcome their continued participation in the Society and greatly appreciate their support."

Please join Rick Ensz in recognizing the financial contributions of the following Life Members:

Glenn Anschutz, PE - Topeka

George Clark, PE - Topeka

Jack Daily, PE - Eastern

Donald Elliott, PE - Wichita

Wilmer Freund, PE, FNSPE - Wichita

Monroe Funk, PE - Wichita

Melville Gray, PE - Topeka

Clifford Heckathorn, PE - Topeka

Arland Hicks, PE - Topeka

Harry Hunsley, PE - Golden Belt

Stuart Hutchison, PE - Golden Belt

Carl Knop, PE - Wichita

George Larson, PE - Tri Valley

Palmer Mellgren, PE - Tri Valley

John Meyer, PE - Topeka

William Ogan, PE - Topeka

Loyd Peterson - Topeka

Thomas Pickford, PE - Topeka

William Shafer, PE - Eastern

Robert Tindall, Jr, PE - Topeka

Bernard Williams, PE - Hutchinson

Robert Wilson, PE - Eastern

Clifford Woodley, PE - Wichita

## James Pugh Named Teacher of the Year

Wichita West High School teacher James Pugh was surprised to learn that the all school assembly on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> was to recognize him as the KSPE Teacher of the Year. Joining in the surprise were nearly a thousand cheering students, dozens of other faculty members, Pugh's immediate family and several current and past leaders of KSPE.



and has been in charge of the school's Science Olympiad Team. He also help to prepare and sponsor the West High teams that compete at the Pittsburg State University Science Day Competition and the University of Kansas Engineering College design competition. Always looking for new and better ways to introduce his students to mathematics, science and technology, Pugh is currently

Pugh began teaching math classes at Wichita West in 1993 after his graduation from Wichita State University with a B.A. in Education. Additionally, he has taught a manufacturing careers class and an aviation careers class.

This current school year, Pugh helped start the *Project Lead the Way* peer-engineering program at West High. *Project Lead the Way* is designed to prepare high school students for college engineering and engineering technology programs. The curriculum meets rigorous curriculum standards for mathematics, science, and technology education while linking demanding math and science courses with technical applications. This year, Pugh taught the

freshman level class, Principles of Engineering.

Making the decision to teach the PLTW curriculum is not easy. Pugh was required to take a two-week intensive training course in Colorado Springs where he was taught the entire course and completed all of the same projects required of his freshman students. Teaching the second year class in computer aided design will require completing an additional two-week training program this summer.

In addition to his introduction of the *Project Lead the Way* program, Pugh heads up the West High BEST robotics competition conducted each fall,

faculty to discuss creation of a engineering and technology academy in the Wichita School District.

Helping to recognize Pugh at the West High assembly were KSPE President Elect Tim Austin, P.E., Wichita Chapter President Ken Lee, P.E., NSPE Fellow Dick Sherrer, P.E., Kansas State Board of Technical Professions Vice Chair Larry Hole, P.E., Wichita Awards Committee Chair Wilmer Freund, P.E., KSPE Awards Committee Chair Troy Eisenbraun, P.E., former WSU Engineering College Dean Bill Willhelm, PE, KSPE Project Lead the Way Task Force Chair Mike Thompson, P.E. and KSPE Executive Director Ron Gaches.

## Recognition of New Members

Please welcome the following new members who have joined KSPE since January 1, 2004:

Todd J Anderson, PE - Smoky Valley  
 John T Collinson - Tri Valley  
 Deborah P Divine - Smoky Valley  
 Bart Forman - Eastern  
 L Tyler Glissman, PE - Smoky Valley

Kenny Hancock, PE - Smoky Valley  
 J Brian Hash - Eastern  
 Andrew J. Hess, EI/ET - Topeka  
 Nicholas H Jefferson, PE - Smoky Valley  
 Misty Keen - Wichita  
 Dale W Kirmer - Topeka  
 Shawn Klingele, PE - Eastern  
 Jesse D Kuhlen - Eastern

James A. Latimer, PE - Topeka  
 Todd M LaTorella, PE - Eastern  
 Jeff Maki - Wichita  
 James Metzler - Smoky Valley  
 Roger W Nelson, PE - Eastern  
 Bretton C. Overholtzer, PE - Eastern  
 Philip Ptacek, PE - Eastern  
 Clinton Robinson, PE - Eastern  
 Larry Schieferecke - Smoky Valley

## Report of Officer Nominations Committee - VOTE NOW

The Nominations Committee, chaired by current Past President Jay Freund, presented its recommendations to the KSPE Executive Committee on Friday, May 7. The full Board subsequently voted to approve the officer slate and submit the candidates to all KSPE members for election. Joining Freund in serving on the Nominations Committee were Past Presidents John Cillessen, PE, Jim Stoltz, PE, Charles Stryker, PE, and Greg Weatherd, PE.

There is one new member proposed for the Executive Committee: Chris Price (Eastern Chapter) is recommended as the new Secretary. Bios for Tim Austin, who moves from Presi-

dent Elect to President, and for Chris Price were included in the electronic and hardcopy ballots that were distributed to KSPE members earlier this month.

If you have not yet returned your electronic or hard copy ballot supporting or opposing the recommended office slate, please do so today! Your vote is needed to complete the vote process. You can email your support to [kspe@gbbaks.com](mailto:kspe@gbbaks.com)

### 2004-2005 Recommended Officers

Tim Austin (Wichita, PEPP) – moves from President Elect to President

Shawn O'Leary (Smokey Valley, PEG) – moves from Vice President to President Elect

Chris Bohm (Wichita, PEPP) – moves from Secretary to 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Carl Locke (Topeka, PEG) – moves from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Doug Danaher (Smokey Valley, PEPP) – continues as Treasurer

Chris Price (Eastern, PEPP) – joins the Board as Secretary

Rick Ens (Eastern Chapter, PEPP) – moves from President to Past President

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## *The Executive MBA*

- The EMBA program begins this fall with classes meeting every other Friday and Saturday.
- Classes are cohort-based and lockstep in nature.
- Curriculum takes a broad-based, integrative and managerial approach with a global focus.
- The EMBA requires 21 months to complete.
- GMAT is not required.

Applications  
are reviewed  
upon receipt.

Classes start  
July 31, 2004.

*For more information and/or application contact the EMBA Program:*

Voice: (405) 744-1818 • Fax: (405) 744-2071E-mail: [emba@okstate.edu](mailto:emba@okstate.edu) • Web: [cba.okstate.edu/emba](http://cba.okstate.edu/emba)

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