



C&pe NEWS

Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Newsletter

August 25, 2020

SAYING HELLO

NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR

We are pleased to announce that the Department of Chemical & Petroleum has elected Susan M. Stagg-Williams as its new Chair. Dr. Stagg-Williams joined KU as an Assistant Professor in August of 1999. She received her B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan in 1994 and her Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1999. During her career at KU, she has received dozens of awards and recognitions including: KU's Steeples Service to Kansans Award, Metropolitan Energy Center and Kansas City Regional and Central Kansas Clean Cities Coalition's Agent of Change Award, and Mortar Board National Honor Society's Outstanding Educator Award. In addition, she has served as a Faculty Athletics Representative since January 2013. Her research group's primary focus is on the production and characterization of alternative fuels. We are thrilled to have such a dedicated, talented, and respected engineer in this role.



CHAIR'S WELCOME

I am honored to serve as Chair of the C&PE Department at the University of Kansas and feel blessed to have been a faculty member in the department since 1999. Over the last 20 years, the department has experienced significant growth in students, faculty, staff, and facilities. During this time of expansion, we have further strengthened our core values of providing outstanding undergraduate and graduate education and conducting world class research.

The faculty and students at KU have a passion and commitment to excellence and are recognized as leaders in their respective areas. Now, more than ever, this commitment and passion is critical, as the world is facing great challenges. These challenges will likely have impacts for years to come, but they also present opportunities for leadership and innovation.

At KU, we are dedicated to educating the next generation of engineers and scientists who will make discoveries and be leaders in their professions and their communities. I am confident that we will produce Jayhawks who will change the world, and I am excited for the milestones that will be achieved in the coming years.

Rock Chalk!

CHEMICAL & PETROLEUM ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

WELCOME TO KU



Click the image above to view our Fall 2020 Welcome Video with tours of the Engineering complex.

SAYING GOODBYE



Over the summer, our faculty body was reduced by two members, Associate Professor Marylee Southard and Assistant Professor Mei He.

Marylee Southard

Marylee Southard retired over the summer after thirty-five dedicated years to the Chemical and Petroleum Engineering department. She received her M.S. and Ph.D., both in Chemical Engineering, from the University of Kansas. Her research interests were in the design and analysis of chemical transport processes, specifically those in which bioactive agents are released. Dr. Southard's ultimate goal in her work was to enhance understanding of biological processes as related to drug therapies, disease states, and pathological conditions. Later in her career, her focus moved to teach, and she generously served on countless department and university committees. Two years ago, she was instrumental in publishing the newest edition of *Perry's Handbook for Chemical Engineers*. In recognition of her many achievements, this spring Dr. Southard was inducted into the department's Hall of Fame. She will be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues from all corners of the KU campus especially those in her home department. We wish her the best in her retirement and are happy she now has more time to spend with her family.

Mei He

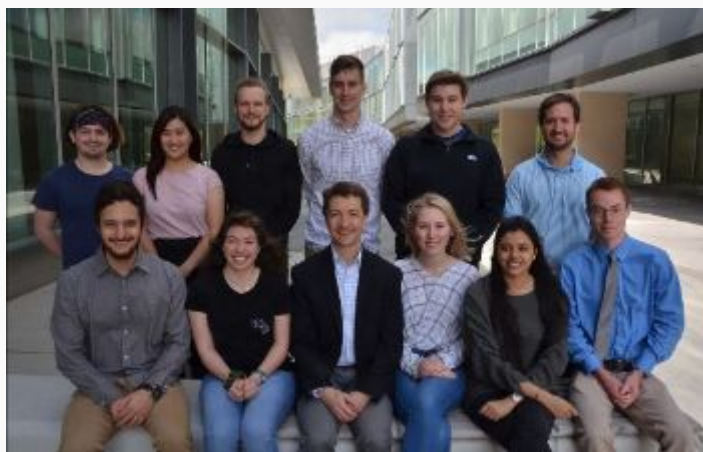
Dr. Mei He joined our department in 2017 as a tenure-track assistant professor after leaving K-State. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Alberta and completed her postdoctoral training at the University of California, Berkeley. She was the Councilor of the American Electrophoresis Society, a founding committee for the MidWest 3D technology society, and the founder of Clara Biotech Inc. Dr. He received NIH Maximizing Investigator's Research Award for Early Stage Investigators in 2019, and her research, "Lab on Chip," earned her Outstanding Reviewer for the year 2018 and Emerging Investigator in 2019. Dr. He will continue her research at the University of Florida and we wish her and her family the best.



STEPPED DOWN AS CHAIR

Dr. Laurence Weatherley served as chairperson of the Chemical and Petroleum Engineering department since 2004, completing three consecutive terms plus an extra year. We thank him for these many years of dedication and service to the department and its constituents. Happily, Dr. Weatherley will continue on in the department in his role as a Distinguished Professor with teaching duties and an active research program. Very recently, he published a new book called *Intensification of Liquid-Liquid Processes* which is now available via the Cambridge University Press. For a link to the publication, [click HERE](#).

IN THE NEWS



Allgeier Research Group Published New Book Chapter and Video

Simon Velasquez Morales, J. David London, and Alan Allgeier from the Allgeier Research Group contributed a new chapter to a larger publication. The chapter title is "Characterization under Practical Conditions: Time-Domain NMR, X-Ray Scattering, and Tomography. Learn more about this project on their website.

[Research Site](#)

ANNOUNCING A TEACHING AWARD

On behalf of the Department of Chemical & Petroleum, we would like to wish Professor David Griffin a hearty congratulation on the Bob and Kathie Taylor Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is newly established and made possible through a generous donation by Bob and Kathie Taylor. The award carries a stipend of \$4,000, less applicable taxes, and is presented annually to a longstanding KU lecturer or other non-tenure-track



faculty or academic staff member whose career exemplifies best the commitment of the university to outstanding teaching and the long-term success of students. The recipient will be announced and honored at the Center for Teaching Excellence Teaching Summit. Nominations are invited from students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the University.

New Safety Seminar

The CPE department will be holding a monthly safety meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9 - 10 AM in the Beren Center in Slawson Hall. The first will be September 16th. The format for each meeting will begin with some introductions and announcements, discussion of a recent safety incident, and a presentation by a speaker, with time at the end to ask questions. Attendance is voluntary, but any students working in a lab are strongly encouraged to attend.

Here's to a great start to the Fall 2020 semester!

Please remember to follow safety guidelines, wear masks in public, and reach out if you need assistance.



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