

NEWSLETTER

prepared by
GTU Students participating in the

International Experience Program (IEP) at Kansas State University

Summer 2015



**IEP
2015**



Gujarat Technical University

Beauty of the City of Manhattan (Little Apple)

Manhattan is known for its lavish green fields, peace and off course the k-state. Nicknamed "The Little Apple" as a play on New York City's "Big Apple", Manhattan is located in northeastern part of the state of Kansas.

The appealing beauty is enough to mesmerize any one who visits the Little Apple. Birds chirping in the early morning, fire flies glittering in lovely evening adds to the scenic beauty of Manhattan. Trailing passes of Konza are really adventurous and travellers witness the gracious view of nature and wildlife.



Tuttle creek lake: a perfect place for summer where people can refresh themselves in the midst of nature enjoying blooming sunset.



K-State University is the heart of the Manhattan. Hale library, an 80 year old architectural odyssey which is among top 50 libraries of USA stands as one the oldest building of K-State. The beautiful Anderson Hall which is the oldest building of the K-State campus constructed in 1879 is a time capsule in itself which projects to be the architectural heritage.



- The fresh air in the mornings motivates us to work for the day ahead. Sun and clouds play hide and seek during the day and a little drizzle in between adds fun to the climate over here. To summarize in brief the climate in Manhattan is quite pleasant to live.
- But the most charming thing about Manhattan are the lovely people over here. The respect they show and their small gestures make us feel even more happy.



FUN.....



FUN IS AN AWESOME FEELING

“Keep your best wishes close to your heart and watch what happens”

The Journey of more than 70 Students Who Are Confident, Excited & Full of Enthusiasm Ready to Explore a whole New Culture and whole New Place. And Developing Oneself To The Finest Level And Eager To Learn Something And To Experiencing a New Thing Under A University with a Great Teaching Staff Ready To Have Experiences Better And Less Bad, Making Friends For Ever & Having Memorable Memories Of Lifetime.

AND THIS IS HOW THE FUN BEGINS FOR *IEP 2015* STUDENTS AT KSU

WHO BECAME FRIENDS, BEST FRIENDS, AND FAMILY IN WHOLE...

THE JOURNEY BEGINS WITH

FUN IS MEETING AND KNOWING PEOPLE.



- The first question in mind is - will we be able to adjust here?
- But as we reached at Moore hall it was a very friendly atmosphere here,
- People are really helping and friendly.

FUN IS PREPARING TOGETHER FOR EXAMS



- Happiness is to know that whenever you are stuck at something, everybody is there to help each other.
- The strength of family seems when they help you to prepare for exams
- All the group study, the MATLAB codes!

FUN IS SHOPPING...!

This is the thing that girls love a lot. As the word SHOPPING goes into their head they go CRAZY ... but it is always fun here seeing branded showrooms, going to a shop just by seeing a board of 70% off, it's fun to find the time for ATA buses of different routes and time to come back so we don't miss the dinner.

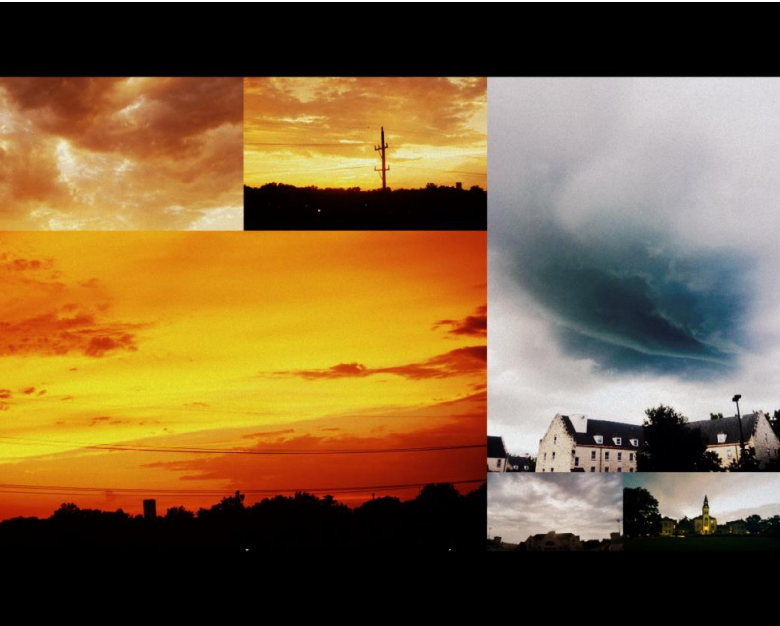


FUN IS WATCHING FIREWORK

- The awesome feeling to see a nonstop firework show at Wamego on 4th of July- the Independence Day. It was a very unimaginable feeling to see it and the best thing is to do it with your friends, the different type of firework to be seen at the night was just awesome. We are thankful to our friends of conversation café to give us a ride to Wamego.



FUN IS EXPERIENCING THE NATURE



- It is such an exciting experience to see the nature and exploring it.
- The trees, the hills, the animals, the insect zoo park and some of the species in discovery center,
- A must watch video on nature at discovery center,
- The sky at the dawn looking like a beautiful painting .
- The sun set at 9:30 as never seen





FUN IS ADVENTURING

- As the word Adventure itself fills us with excitement so does doing it, adventure can start with riding a bike, to know new things, adventure is river rafting with friends, adventure is playing new games, and doing rock climbing ,
- Adventure is seeing new cars and bikes .





FUN IS PLAYING



- Fun is playing your favorite game or trying to learn a new game.
- Playing various games like squash, basketball, play station, badminton, table tennis, lawn tennis and racket ball.
- It is all possible with the sufficient and good equipment's in the recreation center.

FUN IS WATCHING MOVIE



- It is a Great Pleasure to Watch a Bollywood Movie Together With All Friends In the Basement of Moore hall.

Life as an International Student:

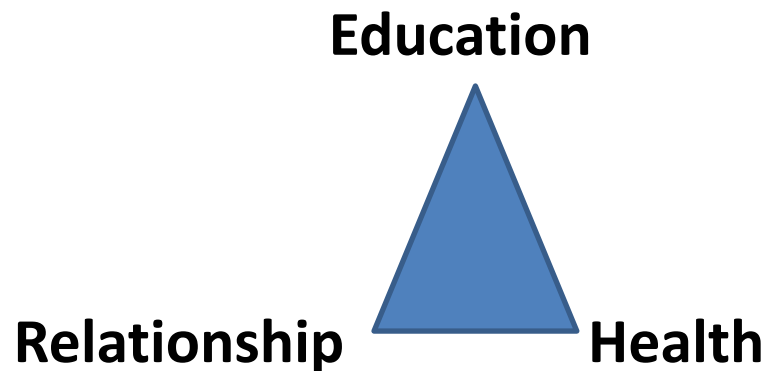
If you are really looking for an international experience, K-state will be the best option for this. We have been here for the first time. The things that we experienced over here are quite good. People over here are really kind and generous. They are ready to help in any case. Plus, they also greet us with smile and that really feels to be respected. These features set the day for us. Rules are followed for safety of all others. Time punctuality which is very important to learn is being followed by us and we are being responsible to be on time in any situation. We have been here for 2 months and are really far away from home like thousands of miles, but we felt K-state as our home which was the best thing. We here enjoyed the varied culture of USA. We also enjoyed the delicious food which we are really going to miss back in INDIA. USA is stated as “melting pot” in which different cultures have their own distinct “flavours” added to American culture. After getting over here, we have realised our responsibilities individually and are really setting our goals to achieve them in future.

In a nutshell, as an international student, it was the best experience we could have gotten here, from which we have learned so many priceless things.



The Balanced Life in USA:

- People maintain everything equally.



The equal triangle describes the balanced life here. As people are very career oriented as well as they maintain social life.

Dorm Life:

- When you are in an entirely new environment, on one hand, there are no more curfews, no constant reminders to do your work, no questions about your routine, on the other hand you know you are responsible for yourself. Dorm life can be exhilarating and it can be exasperating and most of the time, it is somewhere in between. Dorm life is all about being mature and self sufficient.

What we learned from the dorm life:

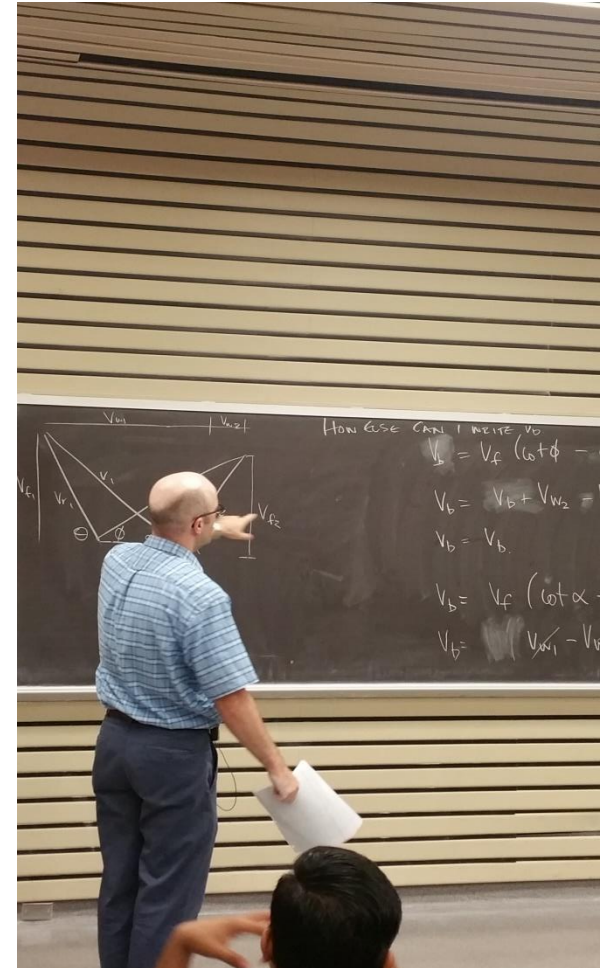
- Communicate and interact with different students.
- Compromise: It is rare that the two of you are going to miraculously have the same living habits and that teaches how to adjust in any situation.
- Learn many things from each other
- Gain new level of independence
- Get emotionally stronger
- Value family more

- Learn to be responsible
- Live life perfectly
- Survival skills
- You will appreciate the little things
- value money by managing expenses
- Go beyond your comfort zone
- Learn a bit of everything
- New levels of confidence
- Grow up

Dorm life is much fun with friends wherein we study, play, and eat together. Moreover, with Koreans, Mexicans, and Brazilian here with us, we get familiar with different cultures and the lifestyle they have. Staying away from family for the first time becomes a challenge which we learn to overcome. In short, KSU dorm life has become a fairy tale.

Teaching in KSU

- Teaching is different in many ways in KSU. Instructors are highly knowledgeable and are very helpful. Their punctuality is really appreciable.
- Practical knowledge is emphasised more than theories, which helps in deeply understanding the concept of particular theory.
- Students have to solve different types of examples rather than only memorising theories.
- Students have to do their homework by themselves to improve knowledge. So honesty is more emphasised. This helps to improve self dependance.



Grading System

- Continuous evaluation helps a student to maintain and increase their study graph.
- The grading system is very transparent and easy to understand.
- Weekly evolution process includes attendance, home work grades, quizzes, computer assignments, and project.
- Exams are quite challenging because it requires self thinking.

Hale Library

- KSU has a huge library with a large number of books in almost each and every field.
- Library has different sections with computers and printers/scanners.
- It also has sections with white board and marker so students can solve problems and study.
- It has 24 X 7 reading facility.
- Students can study in peace and with great comfort. So one should visit and take advantage of Hale library.





DR. BALA NATARAJAN, professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering excels in the field of Wireless Communication, completed his BE from Birla Institute of Tech and Science and further accomplished his PhD from Colorado State University.

Dr. Natarajan who joined KSU in 2002 and is currently the Clair N Palmer and Sara M Palmer Endowed Professor and the Director of the Wireless Communication and Information Processing (WiCom) Research Group. He is also a senior member of IEEE and serves as an editor of multiple journals. His mastery in the domain of Wireless communication is above all. The knowledge he imparts is always accompanied by his teaching methods of understanding the concepts and not cramming. His teaching and evaluating process includes weekly quizzes which are online and purely based on the lectures so one need to pay keen attention to the details mentioned in class . One take home message from Dr. Bala is to be on time and punctual to class , he is a man of his rules so it is ones interest to abide by them.



His current research interests include statistical signal processing, stochastic modeling, and optimization theory as applied to wireless communications, sensor networks, biomedical, and cyber-physical systems. He has published over 150 refereed journal and conference articles along with a book entitled *Multi-Carrier Technologies for Wireless Communications*. He holds a patent on customized spreading sequence design algorithm for CDMA systems. For his diligent efforts in the field of "Multiple Access Code Generation" he was awarded a patent, moreover, he was also recognized with KSU College of Engineering Deans Award for Research Excellence in 2014.



DR. SANJOY DAS, Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, completed his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 1994 and joined KSU in 2001. His area of interest is Swarm Intelligence, Artificial Immune System, Neural Networks, etc. and is currently working on:

Machine Learning:

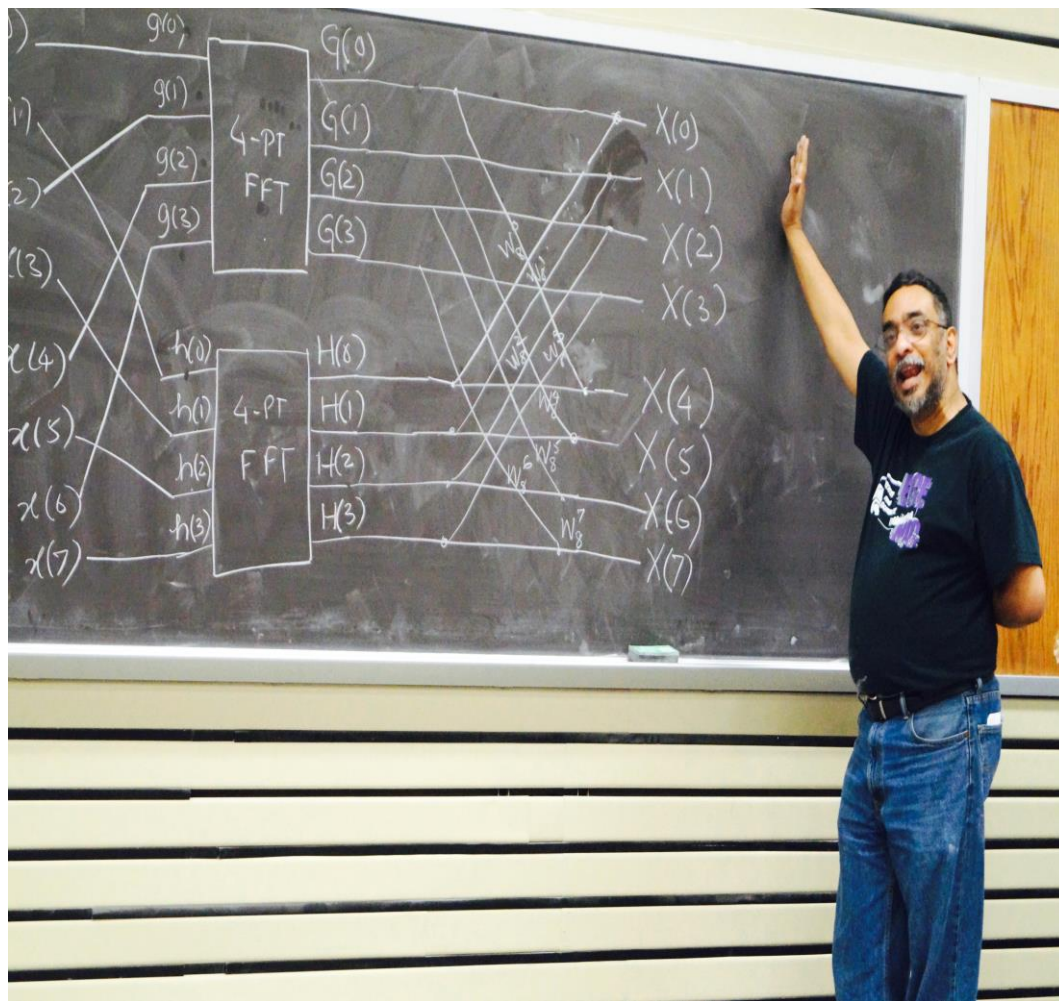
- Algebraic Graph Theory, Manifolds, Kernel Methods, Reinforcement Learning.

Multi-Agent Systems & Game Theory:

- Equilibrium, Adaptive Agents & Learning, Algorithmic Mechanism Design, Cooperative Game Theory.

Quantum Computing:

- $SU(2)$ & $SU(2N)$ Group Theoretic Techniques, Combinatory, Quantum Random Walks.



He teaches various subjects out of which Digital Signal Processing is one. He holds the roots of the subject like none. The way he understands the theories behind the signals and system is beyond par. He solves the queries of each student with utmost dedication which is very helpful for students. The quizzes that he gives every week tests the capability of students and makes him/her more familiar and confident about the subject.

For his hard work and dedication he was awarded with the Faculty award of recognition of outstanding leadership from K-State.

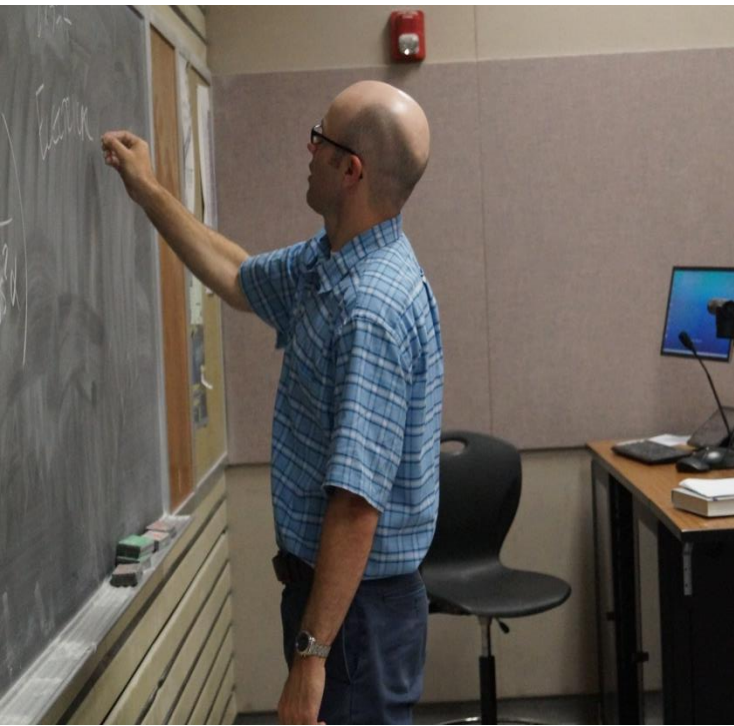
DR. KEVIN WANKLYN



Professor in Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering excels in the field of the thermodynamics.

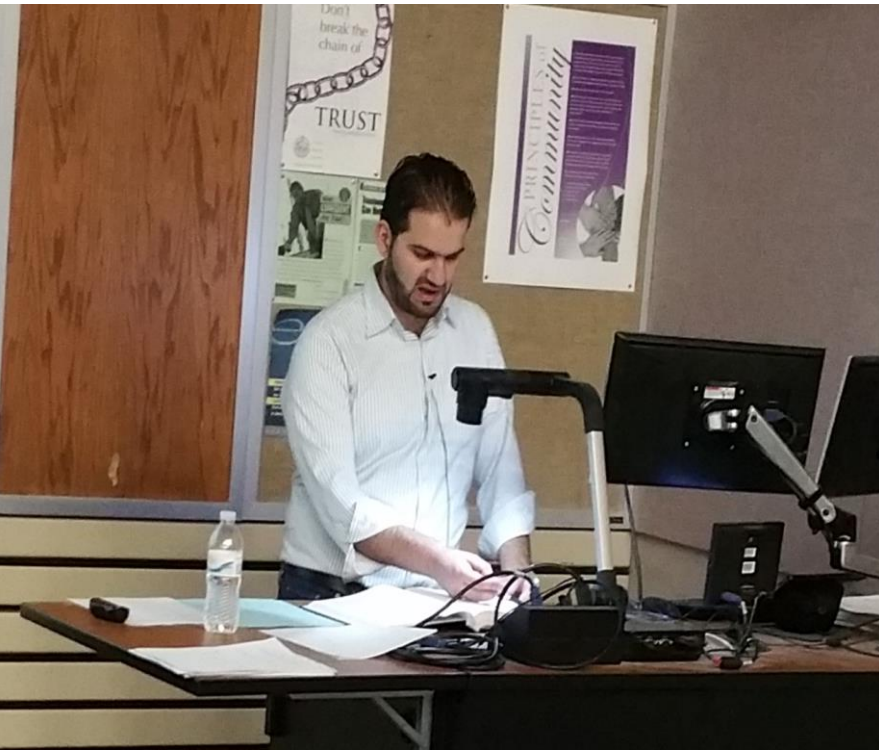
He completed his BA in mechanical engineering from Kansas state university Manhattan, Kansas in 2000. He completed his MA in mechanical engineering from the same collage in 2002.

Dr. Wanklyn received his Ph.D. from Kansas State University in 2008 with the subject of “Experiments involving second order effects in high-intensity, high-frequency acoustic fields”.



Now he is a professor of thermal sciences at KSU. One of the best thing about him is his time punctuality. His teaching techniques and notes are very good for the students. Most helpful thing about his teaching method is regular quizzes in the class. During the entire eight weeks that we spent here, he was available by email for our homework questions at all times, even at late night. He managed to take us all mechanical students for a technical tour to the Jeffery Energy Center to tour a power plant, and KSU Foundation Building where we saw and analysed the Formula 1 race car made by KSU students. He managed to arrange regular help sessions by his Teaching Assistant every day at 3 pm.

DR. MAHER SHEHADI



Dr. Shehadi, Instructor in the Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, excels in the field of Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC). He completed his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at Kansas State University. After that he joined the department as an instructor teaching courses in thermal and fluid area.



Dr. Shehadi used to teach different subjects and HVAC is one of them. He is very time punctual. He understands the students and their problems and is extremely helpful to them. The HVAC project work that he gave us was very useful in gaining practical knowledge and applying HVAC principles. His surprise in-class quizzes and open book exams are both very new concepts for us.

Gratitude to our Vice Chancellor, Dr. Akshai Aggarwal

As a part of the International Experience Program, We are thankful to our honorable Vice Chancellor Dr. Akshai Aggarwal for his enormous effort to make this program successful . The experience we received here in Kansas State University is splendid and extraordinary. It is absolutely inspiring being in this environment, which has developed our personality to a great extent. Here we got chance to enhance our academic as well as extracurricular skills. So we are expressing our gratitude to our VC sir to provide us such an amazing opportunity. Due to our honorable VC sir, we got chance to receive knowledge under the well experienced faculties of Kansas state university. So we are delighted and thankful towards VC sir for this great effort.

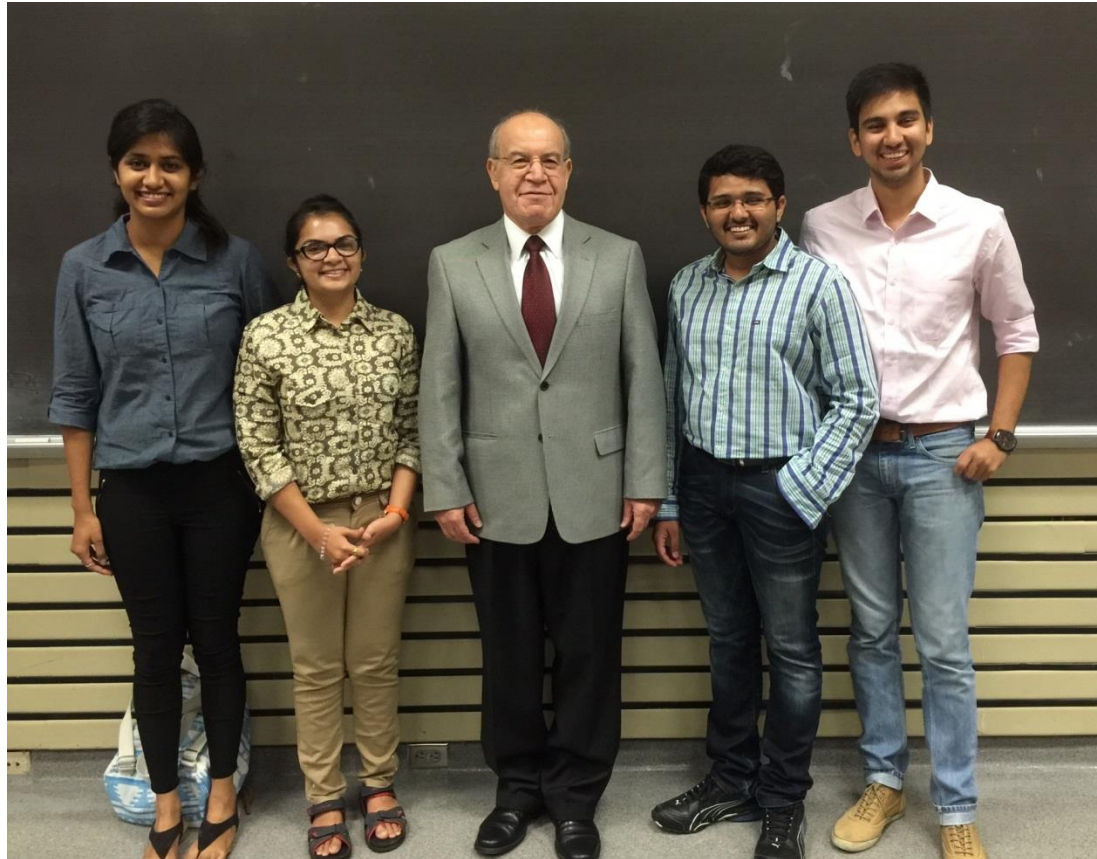


Gratitude to Dr. Mo Hosni

The program would not have been successful without Dr. Hosni's efforts. So a big thank you to him as well. He undertook the task of making sure that each and every student who arrives at KSU is at comfort and maintains good health. The contribution made by him has enhanced the life of every student of IEP. The time he spent reviewing the query or problem is appreciable. The advice he gave is worthy and has given all students a new perspective.



The Honourable GTU Vice Chancellor, Dr. Aggarwal, addressed all students participating in the IEP-2015 via a video conferencing. Four students representing the electrical and mechanical students' groups shared their experiences at KSU with Dr. Aggarwal and expressed their gratitude to him for creating the IEP program. The photo below was taken after the video conference to remember the memorable occasion.



International Experience Program (IEP)

For many students, summer is a time to travel and explore new opportunities. A group of, 76 students, from several colleges across the state of Gujarat India, is doing just that – in the College of Engineering at Kansas State University.

In 2011, the state of Gujarat, India, initiated collaboration with Kansas State University (K-State), signing a memorandum of understanding to launch the International Experience Program (IEP). This program is a wonderful initiative started by Honorable Dr. Akshai Aggarwal, GTU Vice Chancellor, to give students a chance to study abroad and gain not only technical knowledge in advanced engineering courses but also experience different teaching methods used at K-State to be shared at their home colleges. This program is a great venue for cultural exchange as well. Dr. Mo Hosni, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the University Engineering Alliance; and Dr. Sue Maes, Dean of Global Campus are the founding partners of this program at Kansas State University.

Each summer students from Gujarat Technical University (GTU) travel to Kansas State University (K-State) in Manhattan Kansas and complete two eight-week courses in electrical and mechanical engineering disciplines. The courses are taught by K-State faculty members. Furthermore, each summer a professor from GTU may participate in the program and oversees students' progress.

This summer a total of 76 students are participating in the program. There are 24 students taking Wireless and Mobile Communication, and Digital Signal Processing, courses in electrical engineering. In mechanical engineering, 52 students are taking Thermal Engineering, and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning courses. Students will receive credit for these courses as part of their curriculum at GTU. Professor Yash Sharma, from Electrical and Communication Engineering Department at SAL College in Ahmedabad, is visiting K-State and supporting GTU students as their faculty coordinator.

Students document their academic and cultural experiences at K-State and in the United States through a newsletter, part of the IEP curriculum, as presented herein.



Prof. Yash Sharma

IEP2015 CLOSING CEREMONY

The day of convocation finally arrived; and we were eagerly waiting for this occasion! It was a very important day for us because we were receiving certificates. All the people who attended this event were well dressed in formal suits. The convocation day began with speeches and giving thanks to all those people who made IEP a successful program.

The speakers were:

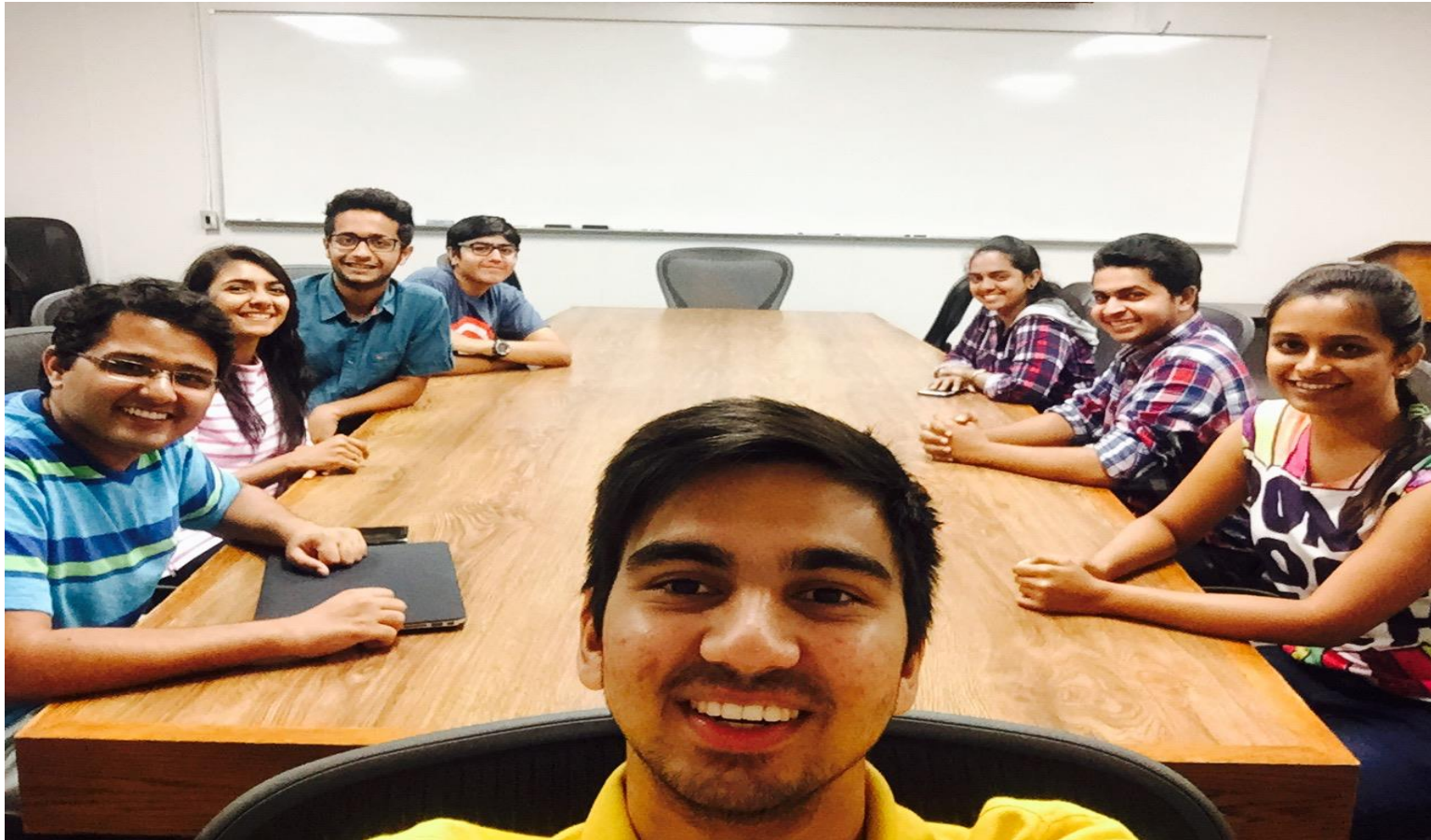
- **Dr. Bill Dunn**, Department Head , Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Department
- **Dr. Don Gruenbacher**, Department Head, Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept.
- **Professor Yash Sharma**, GTU Visiting Professor
- **Dr. Sue Maes**, Dean of K-State Global Campus
- **Dr. Sara Thurston-Gonzalez**, Director, International Student & Scholar Services
- **Dr. Darren Dawson**, Dean, College of Engineering

All speakers gave wonderful speeches and motivated us to come back to KSU for post graduate programs. The top 10 students from both fields (EE & ME) received \$500 USD Engineering Scholarships , in addition to any graduate assistantship they may receive, to pursue their PhD at KSU. Then all students received their certificates of participation. The beautiful moment of that special day was captured as a group photo on next page. This was the last time that we were to meet our instructor and we savored that moment by taking pictures with them. It ended with the ice cream party. It was a really memorable day for each and every one who attended this event.

International Experience Program - Class of 2015



NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE



MEET SANGHVI
ABHISHEK VASHI
NAMRATA GADANI
HASH BODIVALA

MANAN SHUKLA

SMRUTI UPADHYAY
DIVYANG GOSAI
JINAL DESAI