PRESIDENTS’ DAY:
Originally known as “Washington’s Birthday” in honor of George Washington, the first president of the United States, it is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February. As the first federal holiday to honor an American president, the holiday was originally celebrated on Washington’s birthday, February 22. The holiday was implemented in 1879 by an Act of Congress. It is now known as “Presidents’ Day” to remember all the presidents, not just George Washington or Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday is also in February. On January 1, 1971, the federal holiday was moved to the third Monday in February by the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

2015 AETC:
BAE faculty and alumni presented at this year’s Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky, February 9-11; the topic for their presentation was: Unbiased third-party farm machinery testing resumes in North America. Dr. Joe Harner introduced K-State’s STORM 2050 CORE (Center for Off-Road Equipment), stating farm equipment needs third-party verification which is mostly absent in the agriculture industry.

In his presentation, Benefits to Industrial Partners in Collaborating with the KSU STORM 2050 CORE Center, Mr. Ed Brokesh stated, “CORE will give farmers confidence in their investments and will ensure that producers are getting the best technology they can get.” He said manufacturers are currently conducting comparative testing of machinery behind closed doors for their own use. Farmers need similar testing as they evaluate new products and technology. The testing through CORE will have value for machinery manufacturers as it will cause producers to invest with confidence in new products.

Dr. Dan Flippo, in his presentation Potential Educational Models Meshing Academia and Industry through the STORM 2050 CORE Center, said one of the promised benefits to industry are better-trained engineering graduates. Students will have more experience and opportunities when they graduate as they will have more internship opportunities, work opportunities in the test facility, and more interaction with machinery manufacturers during testing. This will benefit manufacturers by helping them identify quality individuals and attract them to their organizations.

Mr. Derek Mullins, vice president of operation for Mechanized Design, LLC, discussed Functional Degradation Comparisons of Market Available Seed Meters via Lab Evaluations. He is working with CORE to establish testing protocols. They have been working on a test stand for seed meters.

Pulse Width Modulation Control System Response and Accuracy during Nozzle On/Off and Its Impact on Agricultural Sprayer Coverage on the Ground was presented by Dr. Ajay Sharda. This presentation was an example of the type of analysis the CORE center could provide and the value provided to producers. Dr. Sharda’s work has demonstrated that spray application with pulse width modulation may not be as even as manufacturers advocate.

Mr. Jim Schmidt, vice president of engineering for Mechanized Design, LLC and BAE alum, directed the open discussion/feedback session.

2015 ENERGY SYMPOSIUM:
K-State’s Center for Sustainable Energy will present the 2015 Energy Symposium, The North American Energy Perspective, on April 8-9, in the Big 12 room at the K-State Student Union. Registration is now open and free for K-State faculty, staff, students and the public.
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:
“We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience.”
--George Washington

LOOKING AHEAD:
February 16 - Last day to drop with 50% refund
February 24 – Last day to drop a course without a W being recorded
March 5 – Engineering Research Faculty Meeting, Interdisciplinary Centers within Engineering 3:30-5:00 pm, Fiedler Auditorium
March 16-20 – Spring Break
March 23 – Enrollment for Summer/Fall 2015 terms begin
March 30 – Last day to drop a course
April 2 – COE Spring Faculty Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Fiedler Auditorium
April 10 – Deadline to sign up for Undergrad Research Poster Forum
April 10 – College of Engineering Open House
April 11 – All-University Open House
April 30 – Engineering Research Faculty Meeting:  *Collaborating Outside Engineering with Animal Health, Bio and Agro-defense and Veterinary Medicine*, 3:30-5:00 pm, Fiedler Auditorium
April 30 – Engineering Undergraduate Research Poster Forum, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Engineering Atrium
May 8 – Spring 2015 semester ends
May 11-15 – Finals week
May 15 – Graduate School Commencement
May 16 – Undergraduate Commencement
May 16 – Residence Halls close
May 18 – Intersession begins
May 19 – Spring 2015 final grades submission deadline:  KSOL 4:00 p.m., iSIS 5:00 p.m.
May 20 – Grades available in iSIS
May 25 – University holiday
May 26 – Summer 2015 term begins

Please submit your news and travel information to Barb Moore bjmoore2@ksu.edu