

Summer On Campus Alumni Newsbrief

Department of Computing and Information Sciences

Kansas State University

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Greetings from Virg:

The Summer On Campus (SOC) program has now operated at KSU for 11 years. We have some history. I am taking this opportunity to assemble some thoughts about the program from faculty, alumni, and current students. The purpose of this "Alumni Newsbrief" (film at 11:00) is to keep open the enjoyable communication lines we established while you were on campus.

From a personal perspective, I have enjoyed being associated with the SOC program since 1982 when, as a new Department Head with only three weeks experience in administration, I attempted to corral the unruly bunch of AT&T computer professionals that arrived from all over the country. Since that time I have learned

a lot from AT&T student-employees. First of all, I now understand that you came out here for a vacation, putting in only 14 hours a day on your studies and taking it easy for 10 hours a day. No grass to cut; no work responsibilities; no bills to pay; no boss to pay homage to. What a life! I also now understand the demeanor of the typical AT&T student-employee - party, party, party. The cultural life here on the plains is unending: trips to Tuttle, Aggieville, the dorm, etc. Wow, if only your friends, bosses, and families knew. Also I am truly impressed with the seriousness of your "romp and happenstance" instead of "pomp and circumstance" at your graduation ceremony. Those were the "good old days".

Seriously, I have never been associated with a program that has been so rewarding to the Department, the Faculty, the University, and the on-campus graduate students. Our goals have been to change your life, to improve your technical skills, and to enable you to enhance the state-of-the-art of computing. In return, you kept us up to date on technical developments in the real world, enhanced the learning process for both KSU faculty and students, and shared parts

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of your lives with us. Furthermore, I understand now the "true" sacrifice you made to attend the KSU SOC program. You were taken away from your family and friends; you fell behind at work; you missed many special family occasions; your chores at home went undone; and you worked very hard to "change modes" from work to school stresses. I am sure that each summer in the program was both hard and rewarding. You made good

friends both at KSU and within AT&T. We like the program; but more importantly, we like the SOC students and alumni. If I can summarize my feelings in one phrase it would be "Thank you for being a Friend".

Virg

P.S. Remember that we have informal class reunions every summer at KSU, and you are welcome anytime.

Summer On Campus in the 80's

By Virg Wallentine

In 1979, Western Electric was looking to improve the computing skills of their communications professionals. Management realized that computing technology would be a foundation on which to build the future of communications technology. Kansas State University responded by offering a Summer On Campus for computing professionals within Western Electric Technologies. We have now been operating for 11 years and I found it interesting to place this in perspective with notable events of the past 11 years on the national and international scene. More detail on such things as number enrolled and number of graduates are presented later; but the perspective I gained by associating newspaper headlines with our activities in the SOC has been rewarding. I offer it for your entertainment and improvement.

In the first year of the program when 30 eager new students ventured forth onto the plains to update their technical skills in computing, President Carter ordered the Grain Embargo on the U.S.S.R. and we boycotted the 1980 Summer Olympics in protest over the invasion of Afghanistan. Just two weeks before SOC was initiated, Mt. St. Helens erupted. In that same year President Reagan was elected and John Lennon was killed. While these events were taking place, the SOC students were learning the meaning of "dorm life" and using "IBM" cards to access

batch software on the mainframe. The faculty got their first taste of "sandwiching" 16 weeks of material into five weeks in the summer. Boy was this a "growth experience". And it was the first time many of the students had ever heard about Private Club Membership as a prerequisite for drinking in a "dry state".

In 1981 it was looking more and more like the SOC program would turn into a continuing program, one which would lead to an M.S. in Computer Science. However, just prior to the start of the program, Western Electric employees were notified that, due to budget cuts, many of them would not return to the SOC for a second year - half of our first year class. Cutting budgets that late in the program was a real experience for faculty, staff, students, and administrators. In that same year, the first Shuttle flight of Columbia occurred; Congress instituted the largest tax cut in history, Reagan fired the air traffic controllers, and Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Supreme Court. And while the Iran hostages came home, half of the 1980 Western Electric students became hostages of a budget cut and were not allowed to return until the next year; most never returned.

The break-up of AT&T in 1982 by Judge Greene (resulting from a 13 year lawsuit) certainly had a dramatic effect on the SOC program. Most of the students stayed with AT&T, but some became associated with Bell

80s (continued)

Communications Research. This was the first year in a sequence of four years where each month a student's address might change, as well as their job and allegiance. It was a year which saw the highest unemployment (10.4%) since 1940 and the defeat of the ERA amendment. But it was also the year of technological advancement, including the implantation of the first permanent artificial heart. Finally, it was the year that we lost our first Summer On Campus student; Gerald Small was killed in an airplane accident. Again, we were able to put the pressure of classes and exams into perspective.

In 1983 education in the U.S. was labeled as "mediocre"; and it was recommended that we should return to the basics such as English, math, social sciences, and computer science. It was the first time I had heard our discipline listed in the same breath as the three R's. So, we continued to do our best to bring new technology to post-graduate students through our AT&T Summer On Campus program; and the students tried their best to bring us up to date on the state of the art in the "real-world". Funky Town was the student song and Aggie Station was the "hang-out". This was the first year we graduated students from the AT&T SOC program. While Sally Ride was our first woman astronaut in space, our first graduates - Debra Herring-Werbelow, Authur (Scott) Meyers, and Rebecca May - were "flying high" as proof that students could actually graduate from the SOC program.

1984 was a classic year for the program. While McCandless and Stewart made the first spacewalk from the Shuttle Challenger and Geraldine Ferraro was nominated for Vice President, we had our own firsts. This year we set the tone of the final banquet as a "roast" for both students and faculty. It was also the year that the "door" from Fairchild 208 was delivered to me at the Union during the banquet. Good-natured pranks have been part of SOC ever since; and it helps us through the rough spots of summer. This was also the year that ushered in the "pomp and circum-

stance" at the banquet when the graduates and several of their non-graduating friends came to the banquet in formal attire - tux, tails, and gowns. Nice touch. SOC has always brought a touch of class to the plains. 1984 was also the year we joined the 80s in computing equipment by putting terminals in the dormitory that accessed substantial interactive computing facilities.

By 1985 we were "old hands" at running the summer program; we survived the "campus storms"; and on-campus graduate students had been integrated into the summer classes. It was also the first year that several New Mexico State University SOC students transferred to KSU. While E.F. Hutton was pleading guilty to "kitting" checks, "Live Aid" attempted to feed the hungry, and Gram-Rudman attempted to balance the budget, the "varmint" were enlivening the dorms. SOC students returned in larger numbers to enhance their professional skills and broaden their horizons. Kansas finally became a "wet" state in 1985 by legalizing "liquor by the drink". No more Private Club Membership cards! This was also the year that truly put the personal commitment of the students in perspective for me. Brad Fout's son was born during his first year in the SOC program. Brad did not get to attend his son's birthday party until his son was celebrating his sixth birthday. Many meaningful personal occasions are missed because students are committed to the program.

One of the most memorable, but agonizing, events in many of our lives was the explosion of the space Shuttle Challenger in 1986. Among other things, this one incident punctuated the dependence of daily life on the fallibility of our technology. While unstated, I think many of us in the computing discipline more clearly understood our responsibility to provide correct systems, even though the disaster was not a computer or programming error. In 1986, 21 students graduated from the SOC program, by far the largest class ever. Many of the SOC hostages of '81 had returned and finally graduated. Other notable national and international events include the designation of Martin Luther

80s (continued)

King Day, the Chernobyl nuclear accident, the Iran-Contra scandal, and the Ivan Boesky guilty plea. This was also the year we moved into Nichols Hall, a high tech discipline in a medieval castle.

In 1987 we saw the first trillion dollar U.S. budget and Gorbachev announced his glasnost (openness) policy. Condom ads showed up in public places; and Dennis Frederick introduced the topic at the banquet (I guess it was our own version of "glasnost"). The "crash" of Wall Street gave us a first-hand insight into what we would have done the morning after the "crash" of 1929; we would have gotten up and gone to work, just like normal. While I am sure that several SOC klutzes (who knows how to spell the plural of klutz) had previously tried juggling, it seemed to me that this year the dexterity of the students reached new highs, using the atrium of Nichols for juggling as a means to reduce stress. This was also the first year that faculty "roasted" their own students. (We finally responded in kind to your good-natured kidding.) The T-shirt for this year had the Kansas motto on it. "Ad Astra Per Aspera", roughly translated from the Latin means "To the Stars Through Difficulties". It does somehow seem to conceptualize the difficulties of compacting an M.S. program into five weeks in the summer over several years.

1988 was another banner year for the program. This was the first year in which students currently enrolled contributed their own funds to insure the future of the program. It was the first time in all my years in academia I was part of such a phenomena. Alumni have always given of their time and funds to their alma mater; but it is rare that students in the program feel a strong enough bond to the department and faculty to give such gifts. While the state funds for graduate education in Kansas seem to be dwindling, we are delighted to be further indebted to our students and alumni for their help. It enabled us to purchase some equipment that is used by both the Summer On Campus students and the

regular on-campus students. While the State of Kansas and much of the Midwest was suffering though a major drought, the students were "taking up the slack" in funding. And while Gorbachev's perestroika was restructuring the Soviet economic system, the SOC students were enabling us to survive in our drought-stricken Kansas economy. As cartoonists' caricatures of newly elected Vice President Quayle gave us comic-relief on the national scene, Dennis Frederick was doing the same for our banquet in his graduation year.

One of the biggest stories of 1989 was the publicity surrounding experiments which involved "cold-fusion" at room temperature. While this has yet to be proven, it heralded a new era in the politics of science. Instead of just publishing research results in journals and conferences and arguing the validity of experiments among us scientists, the general public gained insight into the difficulties and disagreements which are a researcher's standard diet. But 1989 may well go down in history as the Year of Disaster - Hurricane Hugo, the San Francisco Earthquake, the Alaskan oil spill, and the Savings and Loan Scandal. In contrast, the Summer On Campus students made the summer one of our best. Again, they chose to support our program with their own personal funds showing that they care about the future of our discipline. The students also displayed a "kinder and gentler" demeanor toward the faculty at the final banquet. The roasts were almost toasts. Each banquet is a "fun time" for all; and it is clear that the SOC family thrives on congenial inter-personal relationships.

On the international scene, we see the revamping of governments throughout Europe. These are truly historic times and 1990 will be remembered principally for the move toward democracy. January 1990 also saw the biggest communications gap in history. Fully one-half of the long-distance calls on the East Coast were unable to complete because of a glitch in the software of an AT&T switch. It again underscores the importance of our discipline, in general, and software engineering in particular.

80s (continued)

However, we must be clear about one thing. It wasn't software engineering at KSU that is the scapegoat. We do a better job than that. It is also clear that we, as computing professionals, bear a heavy responsibility to protect the quality of life of our entire society by building correct software systems. The SOC program also experienced a few glitches. Cold showers in the dorm, no imbibing in the dorm, difficulties in algorithmic processes, and off-campus classes did not add to a positive ambiance. However, as usual, the SOC students come through with flying colors, making this an overall enjoyable summer for the students, faculty, and staff of CIS at KSU.

The 80s have been referred to as the "me" generation consisting of yuppies. However, none of the negative connotations of these

words apply to the professionals who came to the SOC program. Yes, you were upwardly mobile; yes, you were professionals; and yes, some of you were young. But my perception was of people who cared about their friends and family (including the SOC family), as well as their society and profession.

As you can see, there are substantial holes in this history of the Summer On Campus program. And at my advancing age (I am actually older than some of you), sometimes the years (and decades) just "run-together"; so there may be inaccuracies. Thus, I am asking for your help. Please send me your tidbits of information so that I can update this history and make it more meaningful for all the alumni. Hopefully, it will also make it more fun to read and reflect upon in future years. Thanks in advance.

AT&T Corporate Support

In the past 5 years, AT&T University Equipment Donation Program has been extremely generous in granting KSU more than three million dollars worth of computer hardware and software. Equipment granted includes two 3B15s, 15 3B2s, 60 Unix PCs, 30 63XX PCs, Starlan networking, operating systems, languages, and utilities. It has been extremely beneficial. Many students would have gone through our programs without gaining experience in interactive computing. These grants have made it possible to provide quality education to many currently active computing professionals.

HELP

However, we now need the help of our alumni within AT&T. As you well know, we work in a discipline that is dependent on a rapidly changing technology base; we must keep state-of-the-art equipment and software

in our laboratories. Since the State of Kansas allocates too few dollars for purchase of laboratory facilities, we must depend on the investment of industry in education. In the past two years we have written proposals to AT&T asking for help to update our laboratory computers; we have been turned down both times. I have been informed that our difficulty is that we are in a region whose sales are not high enough. However, our main contribution to AT&T is the high quality graduates from the Summer On Campus program which is a nation-wide concern, not a regional concern. I need your help in identifying the appropriate AT&T organizations through which to pursue university grant programs for both equipment and funds. If you know of a KSU alumni who is in an influential position, I would appreciate that information. I want our AT&T/KSU partnership to continue and improve. Your help in this venture is essential.

Notes and Memories from SOC

We think that the personal networking that takes place is one of the most important benefits of the SOC program. All of you returned home from the annual SOC pilgrimage with new and enhanced friendships. We want to help keep these friendships flourishing. Thus, we have included some notes from alumni which will bring back memories and, hopefully, solidify those cherished friendships into lifelong interconnections.

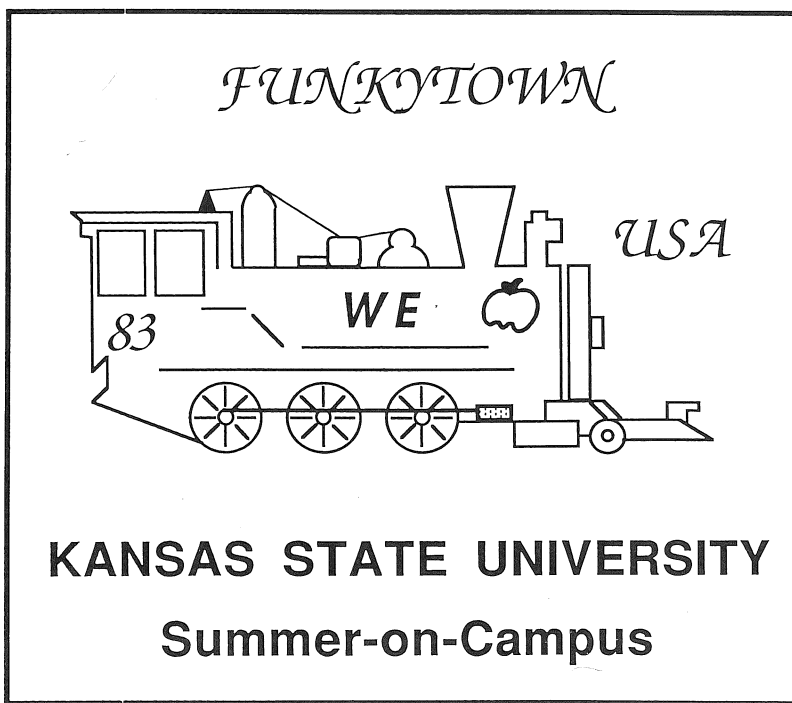
Debra Herring Werbelow - Class of '83

The First Year

I have fond memories of AT&T's Summer On Campus (SOC) program in the Little Apple (Manhattan). Normally a close knit group, the SOC students worked and played hard together. We formalized themes on custom-made T-shirts each summer. I started with the original group in 1980 and graduated with the "Funky Town" group in 1983. We derived affectionate names for most of our instructors. There was always a great picnic and a final fun-loving banquet. I recall the first SOC year when we were guinea pigs. The program wasn't as well organized as it was in later years when Virtual Virg (Virg Wallentine) took over as Computer Science Department Head. He has relaxed over the years, which probably helped me when he later served on the project review committee for my final SOC project. Memories range from laughing at many of Dr. Dave's (Dave Gustafson) jokes in his Software Engineering class my first year to my hectic project and classes my last year. The five weeks of intensive study were a good break from the daily work grind, but at the end of that time, I was ready to return to my normal job!

It doesn't always take an expert system to determine a good match.

The best thing about SOC for me was that I met my husband, Wayne, at KSU through the SOC program. Although we were in Mr. Bill's (Bill Hankley) graphics class together, we got to know each other at good old Aggie Station. We met my third year and were engaged by the next (and my last) year. Needless to say, the last year was an exciting blur. Wayne and I remember Goodnow and Haymaker dorms and the accompanying storms. The 1985 theme, "Good Now, Better Later", applies. We had a great time and learned a lot at SOC, but we are doing even better now with our family of four.



Notes (continued)

1984 - Five Year Program

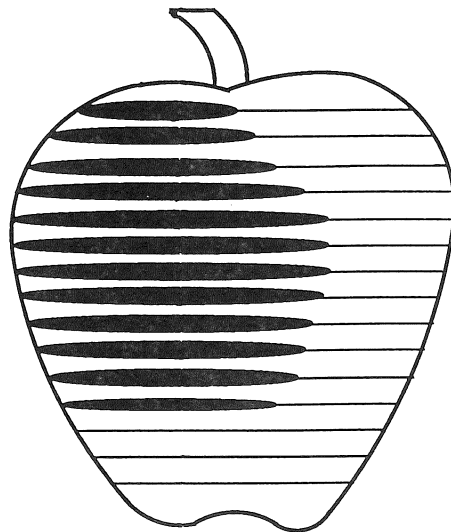
Since the program started in 1980, those students in the first year class that were able to survive the budget cut or 1981, the break-up of AT&T, and the five long summers of heat and storms graduated with a flourish. I think the symbolism on the T-shirt for 1984, though simple, certainly captured an essence of the program that summer. You were in the "little apple" with the shiny part of the apple contributed by the "now AT&T" student-employees. I had a hard time tracking down students from this class (probably because they are all so successful and busy) so I decided to set down a few of my remembrances for the Update so that we could get it to you. I hope the '84 alumni will give me a call and supply some information for the next SOC Alumni Update.

I remember this class - not only for their determination, perseverance and hard work, but for their fun-loving approach to the world. They sure made the summer fun. Specifically, they designated Fairchild 208 as an historical place by placing a bronze plaque on the door; of course they had to "kidnap" it from Fairchild, hide it from the cops, transport it to the Union, and deliver it to the banquet. They did all of this in their tux, tails, and gowns; and

nobody got caught. Boy, did they know how to "keep their hands clean". They were a fun group; but I never understood what "Like A Big Dog" (LABD) meant. Is it clean? Let me know. This was also the first year where the banquet became a good-natured roast. I think it is true that you can only make fun of your really good friends; and this was (and is, if we can get ahold of them) a good bunch of friends.

Virg Wallentine

1984



WE are now ATT

Summer-On-Campus

Kansas State University

Notes (continued)

Sandy Duffy - Class of '85

Times of Great Changes

During my years in the Summer On Campus program, I watched the C.S. Department at K-State expand its facilities tremendously, increase the course offerings and many people, both faculty and students, come and go. My first year at KSU coincided with the start of the program at K-State. We used card readers to run programs, there were two courses offered, and the faculty was surprised by the AT&T students' challenges to the theories presented.

When I graduated from the program six years later (with two years off - one due to the birth of my daughter), there were remote terminals in the dorms, there were well over 60 students with a mixture of AT&T and K-State students, and the faculty and students had grown to a comfortable working relationship involving a healthy exchange of practice versus theory.

I enjoyed my years at K-State tremendously (some consider me a masochist but I LIKED the pace)! I made treasured friendships with people all over AT&T, and now that I've had 5 free summers, I miss having the yearly change of scenery and pace. I know that if I hadn't attended the Summer on Campus program, I probably would not have my Masters Degree. I have a great deal of respect for those who attend school in the evenings after working

all day, but I far prefer having only my studies to occupy my time during the 5 weeks each summer.

I miss Friday keggers, the picnic, the tubes, the Union sticky buns, and Aggie Station (is it still there?)

I don't miss 3.2 beer, the tornadoes, or the dorm food. I would, however, LOVE to hear from any graduates or ex-students from K-State and I wish those still attending good luck and remind them that the five weeks WILL fly by faster than they'll think sometimes!

1985

AT&T

Storms

~~Summer~~

on

Campus

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Notes (continued)

Al Varney - Class of '86

SOC from a Kansan's Point of View

I enrolled in Kansas State University in August 1966 after graduating Jewell Rural High School in a class of 16. Four years of engineering classes (and a few in computer science), resulted in a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. A few weeks after graduation in 1970, I was working at the Western Electric Hawthorne Works in Cicero, IL. Twelve years later, the AT&T Summer On Campus program allowed me the opportunity to "go back home" to KSU and pursue a Master's Degree in Computer Science.

The changes that occurred from 1970 to 1982 at KSU were many:

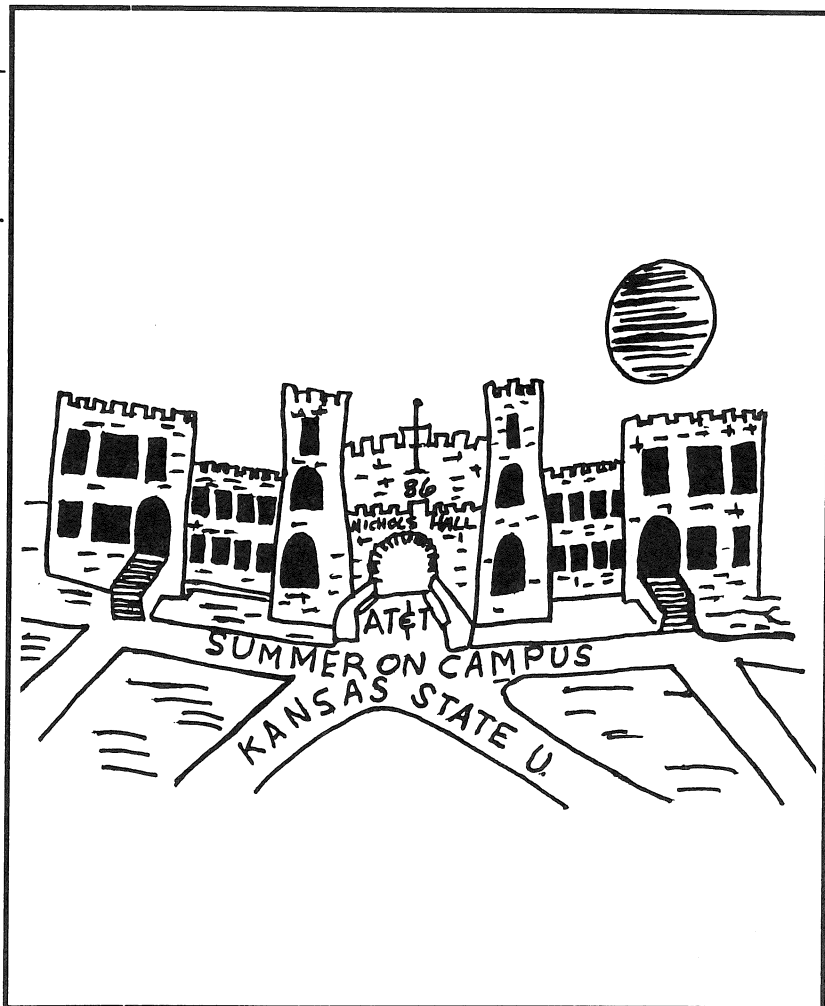
In 1966, Nichols Gymnasium was used for music/speech practice rooms and had the university swimming pool in its basement. In December 1968, Nichols was set ablaze in an atmosphere of campus unrest. Today, Nichols provides a unique setting for a modern Computer Science Department.

In 1966, the Computer Science Department was a branch of the Department of Statistics, and became a separate Department in 1969. Today, the Department offers undergraduate majors in two areas, Masters and Ph.D. degrees.

The Summer On Campus program is one example of the Department's efforts to reach out to non-traditional students and to assure continuing staff involvement in the non-academic world. Those summers are fondly remembered as exciting, intense, and productive periods of classroom and individual interaction. The professors and other staff were always helpful and courteous; always flexible in overcoming

those bureaucratic problems that seem to crop up in everyone's life.

Without a generous Putnam Scholarship in my undergraduate years, I would have had to devote much more time to my part-time work, with a corresponding reduction in study time and class load. Without the generous support of my family and AT&T, I would have never attempted returning to school for post-graduate study. In both cases, financial support made the educational opportunity possible. It seems only right to return some of the gains made possible by this education to the University and the Department, to help others enjoy the process and products of learning.



Notes (continued)

Robert Fish - Class of '87
Storms Over Goodnow

I have many fond memories of my days in the Summer On Campus program at KSU. I could probably fill an entire notebook! I will instead limit myself to the thing that first comes to mind.

I remember one hot Friday evening when we were having a party in the lounge of our floor of the dorm (Goodnow Hall). It had been reasonably sunny and warm that day. All of a sudden a BIG storm blew up, and like idiots we all ran over to the window to watch everything loose blowing by, west-to-east in an entirely horizontal position. It wasn't till 10 seconds later, when the same "everything" was blowing by east-to-west, that we realized that perhaps we should move away from the windows, maybe go to the basement, at the minimum scream our lungs out! No sooner than we made this realization then the sun was back out and it was once again a beautiful Friday evening. Upon going outside the west side of the building had 3 FEET of hail up against it, while on the east side about 100 cars had every window knocked out. It appeared that the storm had lifted some number of tons of loose stone off the Goodnow Hall roof and deposited it in the parking lot (Let me tell you that it was hard to find a west side parking lot vacancy the rest of the summer)! We, of course, assumed that a tornado had gone through, but the local radio channel insisted that *just* a severe thunderstorm

had occurred. Having come from Illinois I always assumed that I had seen violent storms but I will never again doubt the storms in Kansas are the most violent in the world!

