



Photo courtesy of NIAR

Thomas ALDAG

Aerospace Engineering
National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR)
Wichita

Thomas ALDAG current

- Earned aerospace engineering degree at Wichita State University.
- Is an expert on composites. Composites are two or more materials with different strengths combined together to make one material with all those strengths.
- Worked on the Beechcraft Starship aircraft, the first business jet to be built mostly with lightweight composites instead of aluminum.
- Director of Research and Development at WSU's National Institute for Aviation Research.

EXTRA COOL: Currently, he also working with CIBOR, a biomaterials research center, to help identify composites and advanced materials for medical uses like making surgical instruments or implants like artificial hips.

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Photo courtesy of Garmin International, Inc.

Gary BURRELL / Min KAO

Electrical Engineering
Garmin International, Inc., Olathe

Gary BURRELL / Min KAO current

- A native Kansan, Burrell earned one of his electrical engineering degrees from Wichita State University.
- Kao was born in Taiwan. Earned degrees in both Taiwan and the U.S.
- Co-founded Garmin Corporation in 1989 to use GPS (Global Positioning System) technology for practical purposes.
- GPS is a navigational system which locates the latitude and longitude of a receiver on earth by using a computer to calculate the time difference to receive signals from different satellites.
- GPS is used in cell phones, automobiles, boats, airplanes and even in sports.

EXTRA COOL: The word Garmin is a combination of the founders' first names—Gary and Min.

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Photo courtesy of KU Archives

Cora DOWNS

Microbiology
University of Kansas

Cora Downs 1893-1987

- Born in Kansas City, Kansas.
- Became interested in science as a child when her dad, who was a doctor, showed her bacteria in his microscope.
- Gained national fame for her work on tularemia, a bacterial disease known as "rabbit fever." Her work helped explain how infections develop.
- Developed fluorescent dyes used to trace and identify viruses in a living organism and in test tube cultures.
- Did top-secret research for the U.S. Army in World War II.

EXTRA COOL: Was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. degree at KU and taught there for 46 years.

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Photo courtesy of CReSIS

Prasad GOGINENI

Electrical Engineering / Computer Science
University of Kansas

Prasad GOGINENI Current

- Director of CReSIS (Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets) at the University of Kansas. CReSIS is the world's ONLY center dedicated solely to the large scale study of polar ice sheets.
- Developing radar systems, technologies and computer models to measure and map ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland.
- This will be used to understand the effects of climate change. Even one meter of sea level rise from global warming would affect 100 million people worldwide.

EXTRA COOL: Has received awards for exceptional scientific and technical service from the NASA Office of Earth Science.

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