Erasmus Haworth 1855-1932

- At age 11, his family moved to Galena, in Cherokee County. Graduated from the University of Kansas, also taught there.
- Was the first director of the Kansas Geological Survey and was state geologist from 1894 to 1915.
- Credited with helping discover the El Dorado Oil Field, the most productive in Kansas history.
- Instrumental in finding an ample water supply for Wichita and Newton.
- Original fellow and life member of the Geological Society of America, life member of the Kansas Academy of Science.

EXTRA COOL: Haworth Hall on the KU campus is named for him.

Elizabeth McCOLLOUGH current

Textile Science
Kansas State University

- Studies the insulation and protection qualities of fabrics. Has worked on the developing and testing of sleeping bags.
- Has researched personal cooling systems for soldiers to wear under body armor.
- Studies heat stress in sports. Tests how uniforms hold in body heat and how well the fabric holds on to or allows the evaporation of sweat. This affects an athlete’s overheating.
- Her research has set national standards for temperature ratings for cold weather clothing so that all clothing with the same rating provides the same amount of warmth.

EXTRA COOL: The labs are climate controlled and can be set from tropical and steamy to arctic and dry. Researchers use cool measuring devices like walking, sweating manikins.

Ruth Douglas MILLER current

Electrical and Computer Engineering
Kansas State University

- Works at harnessing the power of the wind and sun.
- Studies the best places to locate wind turbines and ways to connect alternative energy like wind energy into the power grid.
- Is director of the Wind Applications Center at K-State which has a test center for wind turbines at Colby Community College.
- Leads the Wind for Schools Program, in which K-12 schools in Kansas receive small wind turbines to educate students on wind energy. Received a U.S. Department of Energy award for work with that program.

EXTRA COOL: Miller advises the K-State solar car racing teams, which design, build and race cars relying solely on the sun’s energy for power.

Bill NARAYAN 1936-2007

Microbiology
University of Kansas Medical Center

- Began his career as a veterinary researcher. Eventually became a pioneer in AIDS research. Came to the KUMC in 1993.
- His field was neurovirology, the study of viruses (like HIV) that occur in the brain cells and of the diseases and mental illnesses caused by them.
- Drew worldwide attention in 1995 when he developed a simulated AIDS virus that was a breakthrough to speed up development and testing of new drugs and vaccines.
- In 2004, developed a vaccine to replace expensive medications in treating HIV. The vaccine takes out the part of the virus that kills the body’s cells, so the virus can’t grow.

EXTRA COOL: Born in Guyana.