

Photo courtesy of KU School of Engineering

Jan ROSKAM

Aerospace Engineering
University of Kansas

Jan ROSKAM current

- Has worked for Aviolynda Aircraft (in his native Netherlands); Cessna, Boeing, Gates Learjet, Piper and Beech in the U.S.; also, Airbus in France and Piaggio in Italy.
- Joined the KU faculty in 1967. Retired in 2003. Began his own firm, DAR Corporation, in 1991.
- Has consulted for NASA, the United States Air Force and DARPA (a Department of Defense agency responsible for new technology for the military) as well as companies worldwide.
- Has written or co-authored aerospace engineering textbooks used by more than 50 universities and aerospace companies around the world.

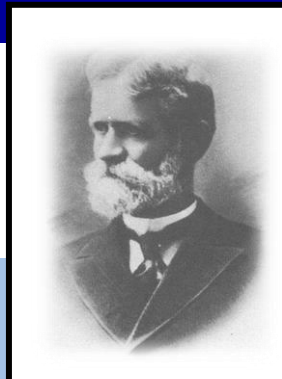
EXTRA COOL: Received a lifetime achievement award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 2007.

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2011 **SCIENCE in KANSAS**
150 years and counting

Kansas Sesquicentennial 2011



Credit: Kansaspedia, Kansas Historical Society

ALMON B. STROWGER

INVENTOR



Almon B. Strowger 1839-1902

- Born in Penfield, New York.
- He fought for the Union in the Civil War. Eventually moved to Kansas.
- A school teacher, he is thought to have taught school in Topeka and/or El Dorado. Eventually, he became an undertaker in Kansas City. Upset because he thought a telephone operator, the wife of a business competitor, misdirected his phone calls, he invented an automatic phone exchange that did not need an operator.
- He invented the first dial phone system in 1888, patented it in 1891.
- This switching system, the Strowger switch, was used in telephones until the 1970s.

EXTRA COOL: In 2006, he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

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Courtesy of Brian Thomas

Brian C. THOMAS

Astrophysics, Earth and Space Science
Washburn University

Brian C. THOMAS current

- Leads the Washburn astrophysics research group which studies the effects of astrophysical sources of radiation on the Earth's atmosphere and biosphere.
- His work is part of a larger project to learn whether a gamma ray burst could have led to one of the largest mass extinctions in Earth's history over 400 million years ago.
- Is the principal investigator on a 3-year, \$500,000 grant studying the potential danger to Earth from an exploding star.

EXTRA COOL: Appeared on the History Channel in an episode of "Mega Disasters" discussing his research group's gamma ray burst mass extinction work.

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Philine WANGEMANN

Anatomy and Physiology
Kansas State University

Philine WANGEMANN current

- Known around the world for her research into hearing disorders.
- About 28 million people in the U.S. are deaf or hard of hearing. Another 2 million have problems with dizziness and balance.
- The inner ear holds the key to balance. In it are 3 small semi-circle tubes filled with liquid and lined with hairlike nerve endings. When you tilt your head, the liquid in those tubes, just like water, levels out. The tiny hairs sense how much the liquid moves and tell your brain. The brain can then figure out how much to adjust to become balanced again.

EXTRA COOL: Is a native of Germany and earned biology and biophysics degrees there. Joined KSU faculty in 1998.



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