

ESSE Electrical and Software Engineering **NEWSLETTER**

Fall 2002

CHAIRS CORNER



Dave Ellestad

Greetings to all of you. I would like to begin with 'a thank you' to those of you who stopped by our office or dropped us a note. We certainly appreciate your visits, calls, and notes.

There are several new developments in the EE department that I wanted to share with you. Professor Ellestad has asked to be relieved of his interim chair duties effective summer 2002. The EE department owes him a debt of gratitude for his leadership during the last two years. His guidance of the department through last ABET accreditation was greatly appreciated. Mr. Ellestad has also informed us of his intentions to retire effective December 2002. We will miss him greatly and always remember his kindness, dedication to his students, and contributions to the department, college and the university. I hope some of you will contact him and wish him well in his retirement years ahead.

Yes, the name of the department is changed back to Electrical Engineering. Effective in the Fall 2002, Software Engineering program joined the Computer Science to form a new

department, Computer Science and Software Engineering. The new department will be housed in the College of EMS.

On the new faculty front, we are happy to have Dr. Gang Feng, a graduate of University of Miami in Florida. Dr. Feng joined our faculty as an assistant professor this fall. His area of interest is high-speed computer networking and quality of service in wireless systems.

I am happy to report to you that we have secured over \$100,000 this year for our laboratories and faculty needs. As most of the money comes from the state, some comes from our partnerships with a number of industries. We certainly appreciate the help that we get from our friends in industry. The objective, as always, is to maintain state-of-the-art laboratories in the department.

Our international exchange program is running in full speed. This semester we have two faculty members from Darmstadt Germany who will spend a few weeks with us. They will be giving special guest lectures to our students and faculty. We also have two students, again from Germany, who will be with us for one full semester. In addition one of our students, Jill Pamperin, went to Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, for the Fall semester. What a wonderful opportunity for our students and faculty!!

Again, thanks for your visits and notes. It is always great to hear from you. I hope to see many of you at the Homecoming in October.

Homecoming 2002

Homecoming will be October 4- 6. The annual fish fry (and chicken) will be Friday 6:00 @ Ullsvik Center, contact Mary Kurth for reservations. Brat Fest at Pioneer Student Center South Patio Saturday, 11:30am. Parade Saturday at 10:00. Women's Soccer vs. UW-Stout Saturday 1:00- Football game Saturday, 2:00 vs. UW-Stout, Lighting of the M 10:00 am.

December Graduates 2002

We have about 15 wonderful seniors that have signed up for graduation in December. They are completing intent to graduate cards and final check for graduation.

IEEE NEWS & Goals – Exec Committee

Darren DeBlack – President Brian Hron – Vice President Miles Hill – Treasurer Betsy Blair – Secretary

IEEE activities are getting off to a great start as the semester begins. New officers are taking their positions on the executive board and preparing for the first meeting of the semester. IEEE is hoping for an active semester of colloquia, fundraising, and student participation.

The executive board is transitioning in two new officers to replace the previous officers who are on co-op for this fall semester. At the beginning of each new semester, two new officers will be elected for year-long terms to allow experienced officers to guide new officers, resulting in smoother transitions.

The first IEEE meeting, coming up on September 18th, will be a business meeting. It will give new students an opportunity to become involved in committees and to see what electrical engineering and IEEE have to offer. The following week, on September 24th, IEEE will participate in the Electrical Engineering department-wide meeting. This meeting is to establish and increase communication between students, student organizations, and faculty members.

We continue to look for speakers for this semester's meetings. We greatly appreciate UW-Platteville alumni who return to share their "real-world" experience with us. This is an excellent opportunity to recruit students for Co-ops and full-time jobs, as well as a little shameless self-promotion.

Alumni will remember the fundraising activities that the new IEEE members are now experiencing: sustaining the oasis of caffeine refreshments found in the Comm lab (Otts 170), encouraging camping out in the labs by providing closet space (a.k.a. lockers), and providing hours of entertainment with breadboards, resistors, and capacitors. Resistor and capacitor kits are selling like hot cakes, while an increase in locker price will allow purchase of additional lockers to keep pace with student demand. A T-shirt design contest is in progress to generate a shirt that we will sell to decrease resistance between electrical engineering students. We are encouraging students and alumni to submit designs with creative, intelligent, and perhaps comical, circuit schematics.

While this semester is only beginning, we are already anticipating the end of the semester, which will bring Senior Send-Off. As always, we look forward to seeing alumni at the banquet. If you are interested in speaking at an IEEE meeting, submitting a T-shirt design, attending Senior Send-Off, or communicating any questions or comments, please email us at ieee@uwplatt.edu.

Eta Kappa Nu News

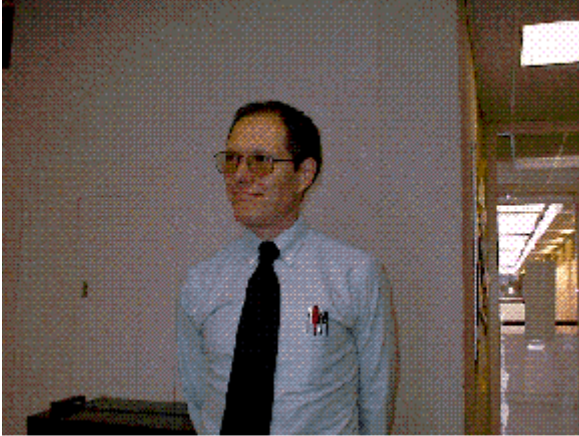
Leonard Socha-President Max Luna-Vice President Matt Laffin-Treasurer Karen Ng & Evan Stanek-Secretary.

HKN is getting rolling once again as the new semester starts up. Labs are already buzzing in the 60 Hertz hum of electrical equipment, and HKN is proud to supply parts and kits for all kinds of projects. This, as well, as selling snacks (and candy bars), serves to provide students with all the necessities for late nights working providing the necessary funds for HKN's operations. The most recent undertaking has now seen completion with purchase of 20 or more "ergonomically correct" chairs, which now reside in three of the UWP's EE labs. The usual programs are still in effect, including the annual highway cleanup and scholarship giveaway. It is a transition time as many "veteran" members

have moved on after graduation and new leaders have stepped into their roles. We wish them the best of luck and hope to uphold the strength and integrity of the organization. Finally, we are hoping to complete application for the "Outstanding Chapter Award". Our initial chances of winning the award are low, but our involvement in improving the quality of the students and department at UWP give the chapter a good chance at receiving the award in the future.

FACULTY NEWS

David Drury



I am teaching EE 2210 (Circuit Modelling II), EE 3610 (Communication Systems), and EE 4010 (UHF Amplifier Design) this fall. The students in EE 3610 will build a delta modulator transmitter and receiver for a laboratory project. A delta modulator doesn't require tuned circuits, so students should find it easier to build than the usual AM receiver.

With the aid of a large loan from my brother, I bought an airplane last May. (I had to: there are no longer planes for rent at the Platteville airport; if I didn't buy my own I wouldn't be flying.) It's a 24-year-old Grumman AA-5B Tiger (low wing, fixed gear, four seats, 180-hp engine, sliding canopy). It will lift two adults and two cats (or small dogs), is faster than a speeding sparrow, and can leap tall buildings in just two or three bounds. I thought I was underpaid before I bought it; now that I'm trying to support an airplane in addition to myself and two cats, I know I'm underpaid.

My science-fiction novel was rejected by a Web-based publisher last May, so I submitted it to another publishing firm this summer. I expect the new firm to reject it before the end of September. I'm trying to get a new literary agent, but agents don't like my novel much better than publishers do.

David Ellestad



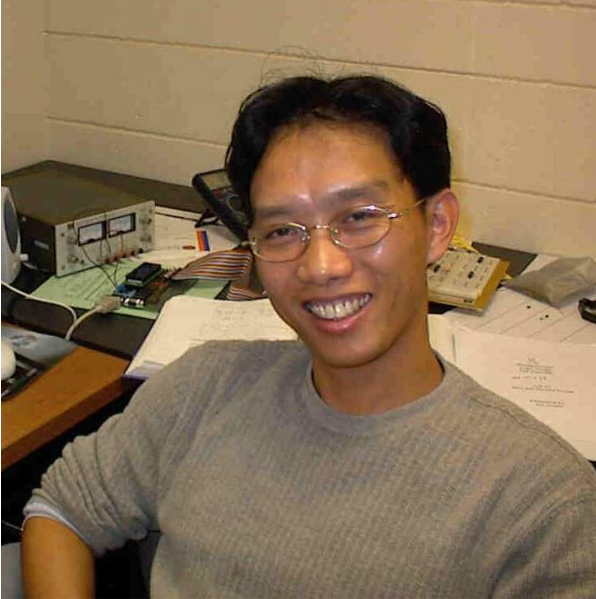
The news at the beginning of this semester is dominated by an almost pathological backward looking hysteria. After all, last year at this time we experienced an event like none other and were told throughout the subsequent year that nothing will ever be the same. A tumbling stock market and war operations abroad seemed to verify the glum prophecy.

But, the return of students to campus has breathed the fresh air of optimism to everyone who meets them in class and sees their energy, their commitment and their enthusiasm. I am fortunate that the expiration of my term of duty as interim department chairman has allowed the resumption of a full teaching schedule. I have a section of Introduction to Engineering (freshmen), a section of Circuit Modeling II (AC Circuit Analysis), and, my stand-by, Electric Power Engineering. We have all said for many years that our college's best asset is our student population. In spite of everything else that has changed, this fact continues, and even expands. This year's crop of students is better prepared and ready to take their places in the long orange and blue line (with apologies to West Point) of educated and productive citizens who will strengthen the backbone and solidify the footing of both the nation's citizenry and its learned professions.

The engineers, especially, will drive the recovery from the post 9/11/01 slump and we will be witnesses to a period in our history when we will, once again, innovate, produce, create and energize our way to a better future. The current crop of undergraduates here certainly appears up to the task and, especially, in the electrical discipline, will doubtless provide the power, communications, control and computing ingenuity* to fuel the future.

* Ingenuity: from engineer; skill, aptness or cleverness in devising, designing or contriving that which is of value or useful.

Gang Feng



As a new face on the campus, I would like to thank all of you who helped me to come here. While many of you can easily remember me due to my unusual first name, I would like to let you know that in Chinese my first name means “strength” and “persistence”. You can further get impressed if I tell you that I am such a big soccer fan. Before coming to Wisconsin, I was living in Miami. While I am missing the sunshine in Florida, I am also expecting my first white Christmas here in Platteville.

This semester I am teaching two courses, “Logic circuit design and assembly language programming” and “Microprocessor System: Interface Design”. While I am enjoying my teaching experience, I also hope you can give me any suggestions and comments.

John Goomey



I spent the summer working at Pro-Active Engineering, a contract design firm in Sun Prairie, WI. The summer was challenging and fun, as I took several designs from concept to manufacture. In addition, there was plenty of time to relax and rejuvenate.

My family and I found many simple adventures to go on, and much of our summer was spent at various state parks. Andrew (8) is starting second grade, and Talitha (almost 1) has discovered the joy of climbing any possible obstacles in her path.

I am looking forward to this semester, and continuing to build relationships with the students. I am teaching Solid State Electronic Device for the first time and am very excited about that. Also, I am handling a section of Intro to Circuits and Intro to Microprocessors.

Yong Li



I have been promoted to a full professor this semester. I would like to thank everyone for the support and help from colleagues and students.

This semester I am teaching two design courses. If anyone has any design projects or ideas related to digital and computer interfacing, please contact me.

Last semester we had 2 judges from industry come in and judge the students final design project demonstrations. This semester it would be nice if we could get an alumnus that could come here for our judge of the design projects. Please contact the department or me if you can help out at all.

This semester Yong is teaching EE475 and EE221B. During this time, we are also going to upgrade our laboratory. Yong would like to hear from you if you have any suggestion and can offer help.

Mesut Muslu



Hello!!! To all of you out there. I hope you are all doing well. Since I just assumed the department chair responsibilities, I am only teaching one course (EE4430: Electrical Machines and Power Electronics) this semester. I have a colleague, Heinz Schmidt-Walter, from Darmstadt Germany, who will be teaching one section of the course with me. He is an expert on Switched power supplies, and will be teaching that part of the course. I am excited about this team-teaching effort. I am sure Dr. Walter=s insights will be very beneficial to the students. As usual, the students in this class will be designing and testing a number of converter systems.

Last summer, we took a 3-week vacation and went to Canada. As you may have guessed, we spent a few days in Niagara Falls. Then we visited Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec City. No, we still do not know French!!!! Other than that, we did a few days of camping around here. Cagla and Kutay enjoyed camping a lot.

I visited a few companies last summer. It was gratifying to see how impressed the companies are with our graduates. Thanks to you all for a job well done. I have also received a few notes and comments from some of you recently about the quality of our program here in Platteville. Some of you have also visited us. I certainly appreciate these visits and cherish your comments. Please stop by whenever you are in Platteville.

Phil Sealy



My wife is working at UW Hospital again and she hates the drive and the working conditions but she loves the challenge.

My oldest daughter is still swimming and she's already lettered. She's keeping up in school and she's been talking about Academic All-American status. We shall see. She's also driving now. She wants to drive our minivan to school. We're teaching her how to drive the (manual transmission, 7 year old) Civic. She is not pleased.

My son is running cross-country this year for the first time. He said he's doing it because then he'll be in shape for the spring swimming season. I think he's doing it because the practices are co-ed.

My youngest daughter is now learning to play cello. She is still single minded. She's trying to figure out how to play bluegrass on a cello.

Work on my banjo is going well but I still haven't finished the roof of the timber-frame shack. My wife thinks these things are related. This semester I have my usual fall line-up. I keep thinking it would be nice to have a lab in E&M, but that costs too much money for now. Dave Drury and I got a \$15,000 grant to buy some microwave equipment. This may be the seeds that grow the lab. Stay tuned.

I'm the chair of the College Expo committee again this year. We are always looking for people to come back and visit for a day and act as judges for the projects. If you're still in the area and are interested drop me an email at sealy@uwplatt.edu. It'd be nice to see some alumni here to represent the industries that hire Platteville EEs.

Nader Safari-Shad



Greetings to all. This past summer was a busy one for my family and me. We had to host couple of visitors from overseas. This made us study and find out about the places we could visit in the tri-state area. Consequently, we took a lot of weekend trips to places in Dubuque, Chicago, Madison, etc. These trips were both fun and educational!

I also spent most of my time continuing my academic research along with working for Alliant Energy. In both areas, I made substantial progress. I co-authored a conference paper on a joint research with researchers from France. I also designed a transmission and distribution protection scheme for two substations in Iowa.

Piyare Sharma



I am teaching EE310 (Analog Control System) and EE 4350 (Digital Control System) this fall. We will start using Rslogix 5000 PLC in the Analog Control Laboratory this semester. I would welcome suggestions from those of you, who are using this system. Your suggestions will enable us to improve PLC laboratory. I am also working in

introducing the TMS320C6X digital signal processor in our DSP and digital analog laboratory.

David Wood



All I can say is summer seems to take forever without the 'Welcome' distractions of the students and faculty. Once again the Equipment has been given a through checkup, some taken out of service, and some replaced. Recently the Department was given a much welcomed donation of test equipment which will be setup in the labs as soon as it has been inventoried and tested.

Carol Ann Kruse & Angelia Drake



Carol Ann Kruse

Well, we are on our way for another semester. It is always good to see some of those familiar faces again and catch up what has happened for the summer. My summer consisted of working 3 days per week, lots of gardening, a 3-½ year old grandson and trying to beat the heat.

We are working on another wedding in the family; otherwise all is normal on the home front (what is normal)?

Angelia Drake

Hello everyone. I am the office assistant here in the EE office. I have been working in the department for 2 years now.

I am a Broadcast Communication major at UWP. I enjoy radio and television activities very much and just got back from a month long adventure in Africa!!