

CHAIRS CORNER

Mesut Muslu

Greetings to all of you. It was great to see many of you at the homecoming this year. We even won the golf tournament (thanks to Jamie Weber, class of 1995) that Tom Nelson from Civil Engineering arranges every year. You may see the cup in the EE office when you stop by.

In the spring newsletter, I mentioned to you about the State's budget problems and its potential impacts on the Department. Unfortunately, it did impact us directly and we lost David Wood's position. Hence he is no longer with us. We are receiving some help from Clyde Holverson, who is one of the technicians in the College, in managing our labs. We are doing everything we can to minimize the impact of this on the quality of education the department provides. We believe that with some creativity and hard work we will succeed.

On the bright side, even at the height of the State's budget problems, we were able to fill David Ellestad's position. We are happy to have Mr. Xiaomin Kou on board from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee as assistant professor. His specialty is power electronics and electric drives.

Dr. Sealy is one of the recipients of this year's Excellence in Teaching Award in the College. I am happy to see that his dedication and hard work in teaching is being recognized. You may want to congratulate him for his accomplishment.

I am happy to report to you that the Department received gifts of more than \$30,000 in the form of equipment from industry last year. In an era of diminishing State resources, the contributions we receive from friends and partners make a critical impact in accomplishing the Department's mission of *provide a quality education with extensive hands-on laboratory experience that will enable our graduates to practice their profession with proficiency and integrity.* Some of you have been instrumental in obtaining industry support, and I wanted to personally thank you for your help and efforts.

Again, thanks for your visits and notes. It is always great to hear from you.

News Items

2003 December Graduates

We have about 12 students that are on their last semester at UW-P. Graduation will be December 13, 2003. The IEEE will again be having their senior send-off. Check the IEEE Web page for more information on the senior send-off. We would love to see you there.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY UPDATE

We were planning on updating our alumni directory this past summer. We included a prepaid postcard for you to complete and return or you could go to the web page at <http://www.uwplatt.edu/ee/alumni.htm> and update any information that you would like to share with other alumni. *The response that we received from this mailing was less than what we expected. We would like to try again. We would greatly appreciate if you could fill out the survey at the departments web sites:* <http://www.uwplatt.edu/ee/alumni/alumnisurvey.htm>

Semester Blues

Our second "Semester Blues" was a big success. There were about 100 students in attendance. They enjoyed pizza (about 20), pop, music (J. Goomey, P. Sealy, and D. Drury), and everyone had a good time. Our scholarship awards were handed out at that time.

IEEE News

The chapter is going strong, with approximately 50 in attendance at the first meeting of the semester and committees have been unusually active this semester. Upcoming speakers include Dr. Safari-Shad and Andy Specht.

This semester IEEE continues to sell breadboards and resistor and capacitor kits out of the cabinet in the Communications Lab, 170 Ottensman Hall. In fact, we are expanding our selection of parts. During the first few weeks of the semester Thanh Nguyen donated a large quantity of parts to the Chapter. John Harenke, Chairperson of the Laboratory

Committee, took an active role in organizing these parts. With the help of his committee members, he also created a new capacitor kit, which is available in 170 Ottensman Hall.

This semester IEEE began a mentoring program. Participating students are assigned to small groups that consist of several older students and a number of younger students. The program is designed to retain young students as well as introduce them to older students who may be able to assist them in the lab or with their homework. Over 20 juniors and seniors volunteered to be mentors, with just under 40 incoming students involved as mentees.

Next semester will be the annual Engineering Expo and a banquet in honor of graduating seniors. IEEE will be offering **cash prizes** for student projects to encourage students to submit their projects for judging at Expo. Alumni are also encouraged to judge projects. Contact Dr. Phil Sealy (sealy@uwplatt.edu) or Kevin Neff (neffk@uwplatt.edu) if you are interested.

The other big event this semester will be a banquet in honor of graduating seniors. The Social Committee, headed up by Jesse Carlton, has decided to hold the banquet at the Windsor. Although the date has not yet been determined, alumni are encouraged to attend. Tickets will be \$10 for national members of IEEE and \$15 for non-members. Tickets will be available 2 weeks in advance at the prices listed above and at the door for \$11 and \$16. Remember to bring your IEEE membership card.

Alumni are encouraged to attend meetings to listen to speakers and partake of pizza and soda. The web site may or may not be up to date. It will occasionally have current meeting times and the corresponding agendas and minutes. On other occasions, it will not. A much better way of finding the time and place for the next meeting is to e-mail Crystal Imhof, the Vice President, who co-ordinates each meeting.

President:

John Steenbergen steenbej@uwplatt.edu

Vice President:

Crystal Imhof imhofc@uwplatt.edu

Secretary:

Kevin Neff neffk@uwplatt.edu

Treasurer:

Dan Olson olsondan@uwplatt.edu

Eta Kappa Nu News

A new semester begins, and HKN has been busy from the start. Aside from providing the usual essentials of life to any electrical engineer (i.e. Little Debbie snacks), HKN has been selling component kits and miscellaneous parts for classes. This semester HKN has been expanding their part supply to adapt to the closing of the electrical shop. In addition, some consideration has been given to buying equipment and/or accessories for the labs, though deliberations are still underway. The faces around HKN have changed quite a bit due to graduations and half the members taking co-ops this semester, but things are still clicking along, with several new initiatives this semester. We have applied for the "Outstanding Chapter Award", and have a good chance at receiving it due to all the donations, involvement, and services the Kappa Theta chapter provides to students, community, and charities. Next week we'll be doing our bi-annual highway cleanup, and soon we hope to have an EE potluck.

John Henkel – President

Jeremy Schaefer – Vice President

Jeff Hochtritt – Treasurer

Melvin Augirre – Secretary

Evan Stanek – Corresponding Secretary

Scholarships

There were 12 scholarships given out to students for the fall semester. The recipient's names are Deborah Cottrill, Lisa M. Dassow, Andrew Owen, Bart A Grinwald, Tomasz Wisniowski, Jay Robert Hohll, John Henkel, Evan Stanek, Anthony K Pieper, Peter Ngan, Justin W Rosin and Kevin Neff.

MASTER OF ENGINEERING PROGRAM

The Master of Engineering Program is now in its third year. We have grown to 92 students and 28 courses. All the courses are 100% on-line and are on a course rotation for fall and spring semester. A few courses are also offered during the summer.

The Master of Engineering Program is a non-thesis degree requiring 30 credits of advanced coursework. The degree is tailored for employees seeking cross-disciplinary terminal degrees. Currently, we have two emphases areas;

Engineering Management and Engineering Design. A third emphasis is under construction in the area of controls.

Please visit the website: <http://www.uwplatt.edu/disted/> or contact the UWP Distance Learning Center at (800) 362-3540 or (608) 342-1468.

Faculty News

David Drury

I am teaching EE 3610 (Communication Systems), but EE 4630 (Advanced Communication Systems) was cancelled due to low enrollment, so Dr. Muslu did me a big favor and got me assigned to teach GE 2220 (Dynamics for people who don't want to know any — CEs and IEs) and GE 2230 (real Dynamics). I have a total of eighty-nine students and spend all my time grading.

My airplane is still intact and functioning properly. Last August, when the temperature was 95° F, I spent two days in an un-air-conditioned hangar in Boscobel, assisting with the annual inspection. I'm getting too old to have that much fun.

Yet another Web-based publisher to which I submitted one of my science-fiction novels has ceased publishing. If word of this leaks out, no publisher will want to look at my work.

Gang Feng

I enjoyed so much in the past summer vacation. In June, my wife and I spent a lot time visiting the state parks in Wisconsin. Devil's Lake becomes our favorite state park, and I wish it were closer to Platteville. We also went to Wisconsin Dells, and I love the "duck" tour very much. I thought it would be interesting to watch the "jumping dog", but it turned out that it is quite easy for a dog to jump over, and I could hardly get surprised.

Summer went fast. It's a pity that I did not get a chance to go fishing even though I had been planning for the whole summer.

Starting from this fall, my wife is going to school at La Crosse, and either she or I have to go back and forth every weekend. It is going to be tough in the winter, but with a new car purchased in the summer, I hope we can overcome every difficulty.

This semester I am teaching "Microprocessor System: Interface Design" (EE3760), and "Advanced Digital Circuit Design" (EE4750). You are welcome to let me know any ideas or problems that may need the knowledge from these areas.

John Goomey

For the first time I can't tell you all what work I did over the summer, since I did none! I took the summer off to spend time with the ever-growing family (infer what you will). Andrew (9) I think particularly appreciated it, since we were able to spend so much time playing baseball, tennis and swimming, not to mention the hikes and such. We took a family trip out east through Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky. Several of the places we went appeared on the news in light of hurricane Isabelle, including the beachfront hotel in Virginia Beach. Being familiar with the area hit by the hurricane really increased my impression of the magnitude of the storm. The rest of the family is doing well. Talitha is now two, but if you ask her, she'll tell you she's older. John (8 months) is a tank of a child, and almost my twin to my baby pictures.

This semester they have entrusted me with some freshman, and I am teaching a couple sections of the newly created GE1000 class. I didn't realize how much students are tamed after that first semester, but looking at the Introduction to Engineering students compared to the Introduction to Circuits sections reveals a lot of growth. As in the past two semesters, I am also teaching Solid State. So far, that is getting more interesting each semester. With a couple semesters under my belt, I am familiar with the points that are difficult for the students, and can modify what is stressed in lecture.

Now that so many of the students I met my first semester here have graduated, a new aspect of the teaching experience has begun...wondering how

you all are doing. I hope things are going well for everyone, God bless. john

Xiaomin Kou

Salute, Everyone!

I welcome myself aboard to the EE faculty team at UWP! I mean all the other faculty members have showed their warm welcome to me so I have to be a little more active to thank them back! Sometimes, I just wish I could always keep myself a fresh faculty member here. That way I could always find excuses for my mistakes and I can always ask for helps if needed! What a pity!

I received my graduate degree from UW-Milwaukee! Power Electronics, Motor Drives, Electrical Machinery and Power Quality are of my interests. I am teaching Circuit Modeling II and Power Electronics in the 2003 Fall semester. Next semester I am going to teach Introduction to Power System and Circuit II. My goodness! Not two new courses again! Oh, well, two new courses might still be OK, if it can help me lose 10 more pounds, which might be the best way to keep myself in shape! I also did some work on the ME side a long time ago, like CAD and 3-dimensional modeling and you tell me what's new now.

I believe in nature and I enjoy watching basketball, football and soccer game. Baseball is not my cup of tea (Perhaps that's because I don't understand the rules). The new NBA season is coming; I still have no cable hooked up yet. Yahoo, I saved some hundred bucks over the past several months. Now I know that the best way to cure ones TV addiction is to find himself a EE faculty job!

Dr. Drury saw me one day working hard during the weekend and questioned me, "Do you think you are still at the graduate school?" I really want to comment on this. It seems that Dr. Drury has been here for more than 15 years but he still works as hard as a graduate student like me, and so do the other EE faculty members! What a group of lucky birds! Actually, I enjoy teaching and I am really impressed by the EE undergraduate program at UWP. It might be the best one in the state of Wisconsin!

By the way, I would like to learn harmonica. Educate me if you are any good at it. I will do a lunch trade with you.

All right, it's been long enough. I hope I could see you next time if they don't kick me out!

Yong Li

Yong Li is teaching EE3750 and EE4720 this semester. The good news is EE Department decided to put more money in the relatively old Computer Engineering lab in this year. With the new equipment in the digital lab, we expected the Digital Lab could serve the students better.

Yong Li is very glad to hear from you. Recently I was informed Travis Young has been accepted to Stanford University MSEE program. Joshua and Stacy Beun had a beautiful baby girl. Jochen went to Spain writing his diploma thesis.... Congratulations to you all.

Mesut Muslu

Hello again. I hope you are all doing well. After teaching two courses last semester, I am teaching only EE3410 this semester. As always, I am enjoying it tremendously. It is always fun to teach why Aunderground cables have more capacitance/mile than overhead lines, @ or how the rotating MMF is generated in three phase AC machines. Don=t you agree? The BIG EAST BLACKOUT of 2003, of course, provides ample opportunity to discuss the importance of transmission system in the 21st century.

Last summer, I visited a few companies in Wisconsin. It is always gratifying to hear their positive comments about our graduates. I also received e-mail notes from some of you. Thank you for your notes and comments. In the latter part of the summer, I joined the rest of the family in Turkey. We spent about four weeks visiting friends and relatives. Kutay and Cagla had the opportunity to practice their Turkish for a while. However, at the end, they made it clear to us that they have missed friends and home in Platteville.

Kutay is in 6th grade now and he no longer want to associate with mom and dad (does it look familiar??). Cagla is in the 4th grade.

Wishing you the best in the months and years ahead.

Phil Sealy

I guess my big news this fall was that my brain freaked out one day in September. I was standing in my office with a student, helping him with his independent study, and all of a sudden everything I was writing on the board didn't make sense. So what's new you ask? No, I mean it didn't make sense to ME. When I reached for the book to help me out a little I realized that I couldn't read the words because my vision was "reverse tunneled". My wife is a nurse so I called her for a consultation. I dialed my phone number and as I was listening to the phone ring I'm thinking to myself "now what is her name again?" I couldn't remember my wife's name. Luckily I did remember it before she picked up the phone. We went to the hospital and they looked me over for a while but about a half an hour after I got there I was fine again. Long story short: CT scan, ECG, MRI and they still haven't figured out what happened. My wife says the real problem is probably the 8 - 10 12- oz caffeinated sodas I drank before 1:00 pm. I'm off the caffeine and the nicotine. I haven't had any problems since then. This week I go in for an EEG and my second neurology consult. CT, ECG, MRI, EEG, I think it's just CYA. If they don't find anything this time I think they're going to cut my head open and dig in.

My wife is overjoyed because we have a new kitchen. I was going to do it all myself but the project seemed to grow every time we talked about it. So instead of having a summer full of remodeling and no fun we hired some guys to do the job. They did a really nice job and all I had to do was refinish the floor and paint and stain. I'm happy, Karen's happy, the contractors are happy, and the bank is delirious with joy.

My oldest daughter has let her stick driving skills fall to the point where she's afraid to drive the Civic. So I'm

sitting here waiting for her to finish swimming practice and pick me up for a ride home. She went to homecoming last weekend. The guy she went with was elected king. They went out on the dance floor during the slow dances and purposely bumped into people. When I was a kid we called it slam dancing and we did it to fast songs. I guess times do change a little.

My son also went to homecoming. He had a cross-country meet in the morning. I gave him \$20 for food and told him I wanted change back. He waited until the concession stand was almost out of Gatorade and then he bought them all and sold them for double the money. He came back and told me about it and I called him a weasel. Some of my students told me I should praise him, give him more money and ask for a cut. Anyway, he used the proceeds to pay for his night out at homecoming.

My youngest daughter did not go to homecoming. She's still too young for dating. She had a bunch of friends over on Saturday night to watch a movie. I told her it was ok to have some friends over as long as they stayed contained in one or two rooms and didn't go running around the house. About twenty minutes into the movie all the guys decided it was boring and they talked the girls into going outside to play yard games (kick the can, hide and seek etc.). It started to rain and they all got wet and muddy and before I knew it they were tracking mud all over the house. I should have locked all the doors when they went outside.

I'm the chair of the College Expo committee again this year. EXPO is March 26th. We are always looking for people to come back and visit for a day and act as judges for the projects. It usually only takes an hour or so to do the judging. If you're still in the area and are interested drop me an e-mail at sealy@uwplatt.edu. It'd be nice to see some alumni here to represent the industries that hire Platteville EEs. Here's the deal: If you were in one of my classes and you come back to judge, I'll buy you a beer at The Perfect Pint on my way home from EXPO.

Nader Safari-Shad

Greetings to all. Summer is already gone and we are into the second week of fall! I don't know about your summer, but my summer was very busy as I was involved in several projects at my summer consulting job for Alliant Energy in Dubuque. This required traveling to several remote substations in Minnesota and Iowa. However, I gained valuable field experience. Also, my family and I began to construct a house in Platteville. This too proved to be a very time consuming project for all of us. Anyone who has gone through it knows what I am talking about! However, the construction is almost over, and God willing we will move in on or before October 15th.

In the summer, I was able to work on my research too. The outcome of my last 3 years of research with a Ph.D. student back in Iran and a colleague in France will be published in the Automatica Journal in February 2004. I will also present a paper in the Conference on Decision and Control (CDC'2003) in December in Hawaii. I am excited about this since both the conference and its place are great!

As for this fall, I am teaching the signals and systems (EE 2220), and the digital control systems (EE 4350). For the time being both courses are fine, but I am sure as the midterms approach, there will be a lot of work that I need to be prepared for. I am also helping the department to develop an online program for a master's degree in EE in the controls area. You should soon find out what happens.

My contact information is listed on our web site, so please feel free to contact me. I will always enjoy hearing from you.

Piyare Sharma

I am teaching EE 2210 (first time) and EE 3310-/ME 4330. I am having lots of fun with the most recent version of PSpice. We are continuously trying to improve our PLC lab with uses logix 5000 controllers. Any suggestions for improvements in this lab would be most welcome.