

EE

Electrical Engineering NEWSLETTER

Spring 2003

CHAIRS CORNER

Mesut Muslu

I would like to begin with wishing all of you a wonderful year. Thank you for your support of our program.

As you may know already, Professor Ellestad retired at the end of Fall 2002 after six years of outstanding service to his students, the department, and the university. As we wish him well in his retirement years, his commitment to education will guide us in the years ahead. We are currently conducting a national search for Mr. Ellestad's position, and plan to fill that position by Fall 2003.

On the international front, as we said farewell to two students from Germany who were with us in the fall, we have a new faculty member, Heinz Schmiedel, from Darmstadt, Germany, who has joined us for Spring semester. Dr. Schmiedel is in communications area of EE. He will be team teaching EE4050: Advanced Analog Electronics Circuits with Dr. Sealy and EE4980: Current Topics in EE with Dr. Drury. He will also be working on joint projects with faculty in communication area. If any of you stop by our office, please visit with Dr. Schmiedel whose office is next to the Department office. The number of countries and universities that have exchange agreements with UWP is growing tremendously. Please visit the web site:<http://www.uwplatt.edu/~ems> to see the current list. We are expecting that our students will take the full advantage of these opportunities before they graduate.

You all heard about the State's budget problems. Like all other state agencies, we are anxiously waiting Governor Doyle's budget and Legislators' actions. It is not possible to anticipate the details of how we may be affected, but it seems certain that there will be some serious cuts from the university budget and there will be some tuition increase to offset the deep cuts. We may know the effects of the budget problems on the EE department in a few months.

It has been awhile since we have updated our alumni directory. We would like to do that soon. Therefore I encourage all of you to provide us updated information about yourselves and good things happening to you. Please read the article about ALUMNI DIRECTORY UPDATE below and send us the information. I want to thank you in advance for participation in this effort.

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

News Items

2002 December Graduates

December graduates are out, some have jobs and a few are still looking. The economy could be better.

2003 May Graduates

We have about 21 students that are on their last semester at UW-P. We have two students that have already accepted jobs. Graduation will be May 10, 2003. The IEEE will again be having their senior send off. Check the IEEE Web page for more information on the senior send-off time and date.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY UPDATE

We will be working at updating our alumni directory this summer. We have included a prepaid postcard for you to complete and return or you can 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. Keeping in touch with old friends is always a fun thing to do.

Speakers wanted

The IEEE is in search of speakers for their meetings on anything pertaining to Electrical Engineering. You can contact an IEEE officer or contact Lisa Dassow dassowl@uwplatt.edu or Rikki Green greenr@uwplatt.edu

IEEE

President: John Steenbergen
Vice President: Brian Hron
Treasurer: Miles Hill
Secretary: Kevin Neff

IEEE has started out the semester with flying colors. This semester we will be taking a trip down to Chicago for National Manufacturing Week on Tuesday, March 4. Due to the number of people who are planning on attending, there will not be a bus this semester. Instead, the students have arranged to car pool down to the Windy City.

So far this semester we have had one meeting. Jill Pamperin and Donesh Gillin spoke about their semesters in Turkey and Japan, respectively. Upcoming speakers include Dr. Gang Feng, a new member of the faculty.

This semester IEEE continues to sell soda, breadboards, resistor and capacitor kits out of the cabinet in the Communications Lab, 170 Ottensman Hall.

IEEE will be collaborating with HKN's tutoring program. One night each week students who have taken EE-121 and EE-221 meet to share pizza and answer circuit analysis questions from students enrolled in these classes.

Another event this semester will be the annual Engineering Expo. IEEE will be offering cash prizes for student projects to encourage students to submit their projects. The other big event this semester will be the End of Semester Banquet. Although the time and place has not yet been determined, alumni are encouraged to attend. Please email ieee@uwplatt.edu if you are interested.

Alumni are encouraged to attend meetings to listen to speakers and partake of pizza and soda. With this in mind, IEEE has updated the web site. It will be kept current with meeting times and the corresponding agendas and minutes for those interested in attending.

Eta Kappa Nu

President: Jeff Hochtritt
Vice-president: Josh Ovsak
Corresponding Sec: Jason Howser
Secretary: Jay Johll
Treasurer: Matt Laffin

HKN is continuing to have another productive semester. This semester we started a tutoring service for 121 & 221 students. Hopefully with the help of HKN upperclassmen the dropout rate from the electrical engineering program will decline.

We also continue to sell parts, parts kits, and of course "Little Debbie" snacks. Other projects for the semester include the biannual highway cleanup and possibly a demonstration at engineering expo.

Be sure to check out our web page at www.uwplatt.edu/~hkn.



Kevin Neff(student), Phil Sealy, John Goomey, David Drury.
This was taken at a welcome for EE students last fall.

Faculty News

David Drury

I am teaching EE 2210 (Circuit Modelling II), EE 3020 (Analog Electronics), and EE 4980



(Microstrip Circuit Design) this fall. The students in EE 2210 think they can pass the course without doing the homework. (They are sophomores; they will learn.) The students in EE 3020 just learned (test average: 10/25) that there is a difference between the open-loop gain of an op amp and the gain of the circuit containing the op amp. Dr. Heinz Schmiedel, a visiting professor from Darmstadt, Germany, is helping me teach EE 4980.

My airplane is working fine and hasn't cost me any large, unforeseen sums of money yet. The hangar it lives in is heated so I can start the engine during the winter without damaging it. Unfortunately, my brother (who loaned me half the money I needed to buy the plane) has been taking flying lessons. When he gets his pilot's license (probably sometime this month) he will demand to have the plane in his possession half the time.

I now have a thick file of rejection letters from literary agents who don't think they can sell my first science-fiction novel. As I write this, I am awaiting the arrival of a rejection letter from another agent. I submitted my second novel to the Web-based publisher *Bookbooters.com* last year. It passed its initial appraisal, but the senior editor who was reviewing it died suddenly. (There is no truth to the malicious rumor that it was my novel that caused the editor to expire.) Due to the editor's death, rejection of the second novel has been delayed indefinitely.

Gang Feng

The past semester gave me lot of refreshing



feeling I never had before. It's the first winter in which I saw so much snow. Fortunately, I survived the challenges from both the cold weather and the first semester of my teaching career.

This semester I am teaching three courses, "Circuit Modeling I" (EE 1210), "Logic Circuit Design and Assembly Language Programming" (EE 3750), and "Microprocessor System: Interface Design" (EE3760). You are welcome to let me know any ideas or problems that may need the knowledge from these areas.

As I feel I may have extra time to do some research this semester, I would like to invite people interested in following areas to collaborate with me: optimization in telecommunication or computer networking (e.g., routing, topology design), evolutionary computing (genetic algorithm, neural network, fuzzy logic) and its application in various areas.

John Goomey

Still holding on... This semester, as I wrap up my third year on staff, I'm really enjoying teaching all classes



that I have taught before (for the first time). This is freeing me up to look into such things as course and lab improvements. Hopefully I'll be able to make some meaningful improvements to the lab environment in the near future.

John Chesed, my third child, was born January 28 to start off the semester. Both Andrew (8) and Talitha (1) are very proud and adoring siblings. It is a huge transition to think of Talitha as a big sister, rather than a baby. Andrew is starting to shape into an engineering type already, having been accelerated a grade in math. Debbie has her hands very full keeping track of the three at home.

This spring I'm teaching Circuits I, Circuits II and Solid State Electronic Devices. The labs should be pretty hectic with over 80 students this semester, but that

should be fun. It's a lot of new people to get acquainted with, but that's what makes being here so worthwhile.

Yong Li

I am teaching two senior design courses again this semester. It is always exciting to see the create activities of our students. I am expecting to hear from your suggestion and welcome you guys come back to school to talk to the design classed.



Starting in Spring 2003, Professor Ellestad retired from our Department. He has done excellent job for us. Best wishes to him. I also like to hear from him. Dave, keep in touch.

Heinz Schmeidel

I would like to say thanks to all colleagues of the department of Electrical Engineering for their welcome and support. Two of my colleagues back in Darmstadt, Wolfgang Koester and Heinz Schmidt-Walter, Germany visited the University of Wisconsin Platteville and had short courses in Electrical Engineering in September last year. They were enthusiastic about their stay here and told me, I would like it here. They were very right, as I love it to be here, with my fiancée Angela.



I will be with the department for the Spring semester 2003. I do team-teaching in "Advanced Analog Electrical Circuits" with Dr. Phil Sealy and "Microstrip Circuit Design" with Dr. Dave Drury. Additionally I will do research in microwave-engineering topics. I am on sabbatical leave from University of Applied Sciences, Fachhochschule Darmstadt, Germany. At UAS Darmstadt I am professor at the

Department of Electrical Engineering/Telecommunications.

It is my understanding that international cooperation gets more and more important in a global market and economy. So international cooperation and international relations should be even more important in education to give the students the opportunity to compete successfully in this market in the future. As for me, I would like to learn more about all these different educational systems, to learn what is working well, and what is not working that well and might be improved. Anyway, it is always a great experience to widen the horizon, hear about new ideas, and meet students and colleagues.

Don't hesitate to stop by at my office, 172 Ottensman Hall, any time

Mesut Muslu

Hello!!! to all of you out there. I hope you are all doing well. I am teaching two courses this semester: EE3410 Intro. To Power System Engineering, and EE4450: Power Systems Analysis and Design. I am really enjoying both of them. It has been over five years since I taught EE3410, but it is great to see how young minds work and eagerness of the students to learn. In EE4450, students will do Load Flow, contingency, and fault analyses on a 30-35 bus power system. This course has always been fun and challenging, and I have no doubt that it will live its reputation this year as well.



On the research side, I have submitted a paper on the topic of economic dispatch with environmental considerations to a journal. I am hoping that it will be accepted for publication. I am also concentrating on establishing a true power electronics laboratory and get rid of those SCR training set ups that do not work well. The plan is to secure some funding from NSF and private companies. Guess what, a

part of my summer plan is to visit some companies and see if they can provide some matching funds for our program.

We are planning to take some part of the next summer and visit our friends and relatives in Turkey. Kutay and Cagla are excited about this already. They are practicing their Turkish more vigorously now. Zehra and I are having a little difficulty seeing that far ahead yet, but I know it will change as we get to April or so.

Wishing you the best in the months and years ahead.

Phil Sealy

Karen's work is still taking her into Madison 3 or 4 days a week. I keep telling her it's good practice for when she goes back to school to get her MSN. She takes the Civic most of the time for gas's sake but when the weather is bad she drives the minivan. The radio in the Civic died and I haven't fixed it yet. She blames my banjo for that.



My oldest daughter can drive the stick now but she has a selective fear of the road. She'll drive to the store for herself or the Movie Gallery to get a movie but she won't shop for me and she's never returned a movie.

My son continues to swim and improves all the time. I wish he would play his fiddle with the same regularity and passion that he swims.

My youngest daughter is becoming more experienced with small caged animals. The dog and cats (6 of them) are not enough for her. When her fish died she got a Fire Bellied Toad and some kind of tree frog. She's always liked those reptiles and amphibians.

This semester I have the pleasure of teaching with a visiting professor from Germany. He is Heinz Schmiedel from our sister program in Darmstadt. He and I are team-teaching Advanced Analog. He came

here with the purpose of learning about our system so I figured the best way would be hands on.

I'm the chair of the College Expo committee again this year. EXPO is March 28th. 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 email 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, Ill buy you a beer at The Perfect Pint on my way home from EXPO.

Nader Safari-Shad

Greetings to all,

I hope that you are all well. This past semester was a rather hectic one for me as I was teaching two new courses: EE 222 Signals and Systems and EE431 Modern Control Systems. In addition, my joint research was making progress and I needed time to work on it. Well, it appears that I survived it all! I hope that you are also facing off your everyday challenges at workplace or wherever you may be.



The department has purchased a new teaching lab bench in the John Deere Lab. The system is an interesting one and is called a magnetic levitation system where you can control the position of an object in the air! I am looking for some spare time to play with it and prepare it for my courses. Hopefully during this semester or the coming summer.

I also spent some of my time continuing my consulting for Alliant Energy Company. This has proven a worthwhile experience for me since I am constantly learning from my colleagues there about the art of power system protection and relaying.

This semester, I am teaching two courses: EE 222 again and EE 435 which is

the Discrete-Time Controls. 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 Automatic Control Systems (EE3310/ME4330) and DSP this spring. We introduced new lab using ControlLogix 5000 controller last fall. The students found this controller very interesting. Your input regarding future expansion of this lab will be very helpful. I am also planning to use Tms320C6000 platform for the DSP lab in the near future. Keep in touch.



David Wood

WOW . Has it been a year already. Finally got the donated equipment fully set up. Now if the NEW stuff would quit breaking. A person would think something new would not break for at least 5 years but then the manufacturers don't think about the abuse equipment gets in an educational environment, Please be gentle with the equipment.

Engineering expo is right around the corner so we need to be thinking about projects so we can make this one even better than last year's! Have a great forever.



Carol Beals

Hi everyone and greetings from the Dean's Office. Yes I'm alive, doing well and still working with Rich Shultz. I hope things are well with each of you also.



The kids are growing up. Jenny is 19 and going to school at Southwest Technical College. She is majoring in Business with a marketing emphasis. Cassie is 17 now and enjoying high school. They are both doing well with their academics and I seem to have more boys at my house than I ever thought possible! Jim is seeing the country with 18 wheels underneath him. Life continues to roll on by. As for me, I'm keeping busy with work, Badger Camp, and the union. It never ends but I guess I like being busy—it keeps me out of trouble.

It's always nice to renew contact with each of you. I appreciate your efforts to look me up when you come to Platteville for a visit. Please continue to stay in touch and feel free to send me a note at beals@uwplatt.edu.

Carol Ann Kruse

Well winter weather has been good and bad. During the month of November I traveled with Lisa Riedle and Cinda Furry to Mexico where we visited a total of 6 colleges for UW-P to promote international exchange with that country. International students traveling to USA or our student traveling to other countries has been very active. We had two German students in the Electrical Department last semester and we have a German professor teaching in our department this semester. We had one student in Turkey last semester from our department.

Like everyone else I am waiting for spring, but the garden makes for a lot of work. Our youngest daughter will be getting married in June so that should keep me busy and broke.

PLEASE FILL OUT THAT ALUMNI REQUEST FORM FOR ME either on line or on the post paid card so that I can work on it this summer. THANKS.

