



## **Update - ABET Visit**

ABET evaluators were on campus during October 15-17 to evaluate the Electrical and Computer Engineering programs. The evaluation process included a self-study report for each program, visiting the facilities, meeting with the faculty, students and other constituents such as our recent graduates and employers. I am pleased to announce that both our programs successfully passed the review process without any deficiencies or weaknesses. The evaluators had high praise for our programs using words such as "outstanding" and "excellent" in several areas.

Your participation in the process by providing feedback was critical in making this team effort a great success. The ECE Department would like to thank you and encourage you to continue your participation by filling out and submitting the surveys that you receive in the future. In fact, one such survey is given below under the Engineering Communication Project section. Your information is analyzed on an annual basis to continually improve our programs.

## **Visiting Committee Meeting October 19-20**

The Visiting Committee's annual meeting was held Thursday, October 19 and Friday, October 20. On Thursday, members of the committee met with Mohamad Musavi, Chair of the Department. They also met with women students, student organizations and graduate students. A dinner followed at the Penobscot Valley Country Club. Friday's meeting included presentations given by Profs. Mauricio da Cunha, Yifeng Zhu, Ali Abedi and Rosemary Smith. Patricia Cummings from the UMaine Development Office also spoke about the gift program.

The Committee congratulated the Chair, Faculty and Staff on achieving ABET accreditation with flying colors. They were pleased to hear that the ABET reviewers had considered the role of the Visiting Committee during its evaluation.

The Committee mentioned student feedback is excellent. Students continue to report good access to professors and quality of instruction. There is a clear sense of community. They heard positive statements from graduate students. There is good interaction between graduates, undergraduates and professors in the labs. There is praise for the quality of laboratories. The committee also provided constructive comments on several issues such as recruiting new students, retention, number of teaching assistants, and faculty teaching positions in the department.

## **Emeritus Professor Honored at Luncheon**



A luncheon honoring [Emeritus Professor Carleton Brown](#) (BS. '49, M.S. '59) was held October 21, 2006 during Homecoming Weekend. A book of reminiscences from Brownie's students, colleagues and friends was compiled by Dana Humphrey, Interim Dean of Engineering and Steve Adam, Engineering Advancement Officer.

At this luncheon, "Brownie" (pictured between Dorothy Turner and Al Whitney) was also inducted into the Francis Crowe Society for his guiding influence that helped inspire students to reach their full potential in life.

## **"Meet the Dean Reception" Held for Interim Dean of Engineering**



A reception was held for Dana Humphrey (far right), the new Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, at the Portland Regency Hotel in Portland, Maine on November 2, 2006. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres were served and Dean Humphrey gave welcoming remarks. Dean Humphrey is the former Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering on the Orono campus.

## Recognition Banquet Held for Distinguished Engineer



Electrical and Computer Engineering alumni, Dev Vrat Gupta, Ph.D. (MSEE '75) was the recipient of the twenty-seventh annual Edward T. Bryand Engineering Award. A banquet was held for Dr. Gupta (pictured here in the center) at the Penobscot Valley Country Club in Orono, Maine on Nov. 3, 2006. More than 100 College of Engineering faculty and alumni attended this ceremony. Dr. Gupta, who was featured in our [June 2006](#) newsletter, is the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Newlans. Newlans is a supplier of components to implement millimeter wave based local area networks and digital television distribution networks in enterprise and residential applications.

## Engineering Job Fair

The annual Engineering Job fair was held on October 19, 2006. Forty-six companies participated in the event that was held at the Maine Center for the Arts. The event was the biggest so far and was received very well by many students, faculty, and visiting recruiters, some of whom were UMaine College of Engineering alumni.





Representatives from National Semiconductor, Fairchild Semiconductor, Analog Devices and Tundra Semiconductor

## ECE 101 Egg Drop Contest

First year engineering students in ECE 101 (Introduction to Electrical and Computer Engineering) recently were assigned to design a vehicle that would transport a large brown egg, dropped from a height of 10 feet, safely to the ground. Students worked in groups of two or three and were allowed to use any method they desired for their vehicle, but the egg had to survive the landing. Students were required to submit a brief report containing the name of their vehicle, a sketch of the vehicle and the theory behind their design. Each team was given a fixed budget and could only use the supplies bought with their budget.



## UMaine Culturefest



participating ECE undergraduate and graduate students from China, India, Iran, US, and Vietnam.

Several ECE faculty and students participated in the University of Maine's Culturefest held, Saturday, Oct. 28 in the Memorial Gym field house. The annual event gives foreign students and faculty the chance to show off their traditional food, dress, and entertainment.

International students and staff from more than 20 countries gathered to share their culture and traditions. Ali Abedi, ECE professor from Iran, participated as chef and cooked five different Persian dishes. Pictured at left with Prof. Abedi (second row, first person on the right) are some of the

On average, about 1,000 people attend the event that includes food from around the world made by students and staff, and a talent and style show. "It's an opportunity to highlight the traditions and cultures of students of other cultures," Karen Boucias, director of UM's Office of International Programs said.

Culturefest is a free event open to the public organized by the UM Office of International Programs and National Student Exchange and the International Student Association. We encourage you to attend next year's event if you are in the area.

## Engineering Communication Project

Starting in the Spring of 2007 a sequence of 3 1-credit hour ECP (Engineering Communication Project) courses will replace the 3-credit hour ENG 317 in the Electrical and Computer Engineering curricula. These three courses are ECP 214, ECP 342, and ECP 401 to be taken concurrently by the students with ECE 214, ECE 342, and ECE 401. The objective is to have an instructor from the English Department participate in the above-mentioned ECE courses and assist the instructor with the technical writing aspects. This will allow students to directly apply their English writing training in preparation of course reports.

As a part of this project, Scott Peterson, Lecturer for the English Department at UMaine, is seeking insights and feedback on the ECE capstone process, paper, and presentation. He will use this information to create four different aids: an advice table, an annotated sample report, an editorial checklist, and a presentation guide, all of which will be posted on an ECP website as a resource for ECE students.

The advice table will offer insights and examples about the content and process of writing a capstone design report. The annotated report will be an example of a complete report, with key elements illustrated and highlighted for the benefit of students. The editorial checklist will be a guide students can use to help them revise and produce their final report. The presentation guide will include guidelines for creating, organizing, and delivering a successful capstone presentation to accompany the final report.

Peterson is hoping to use the insight and experience of ECE faculty, students and alumni to help him create these resources. Please take a few moments and respond to the questionnaire given at: [Engineering Communication Questionnaire](#). Any information that he does use will be confidential, so please be as candid and complete as possible in your answers. He is especially interested in solutions for or ways to avoid common difficulties in all phases of the capstone project process. He is also interested in your thoughts on what makes a strong final design report and presentation. The questionnaire is in a word document format, therefore, you can insert your answers and email it to Mr. Peterson directly at: [Scott.Peterson@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Scott.Peterson@umit.maine.edu) or mail it to him at: Scott Peterson, English Department, 5725 Neville Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469-5725.

Mr. Peterson would also be happy to meet with anyone who would like to discuss the capstone project process in greater detail. His deadline for this project is January 15, 2007, so he would like to hear from you as soon as possible. He thanks you in advance for your time and any assistance you can offer.

## **Grants Received**

Y. Zhu, "Light-weight Asynchronous Parallel I/O Middleware for Scientific Applications", NASA Maine Space Grant Consortium, \$5,750, November 1.

## **Gifts/Donations**

Matthew & Mary Graf, \$1,500 with match from IBM, November 15.

D. Hanselman and B. Littlefield proceeds from KAGI (Mastering Matlab) that was previously applied to the ECE Fund has been redesignated to the Allison Whitney '62 Electrical Engineering Fund, \$8,945.56.

D. Hanselman redesignated funds that were previously applied to the ECE Fund to the Allison Whitney '62 Electrical Engineering Fund, \$3,000.

A. Whitney redesignated funds that were previously applied to the ECE Fund to the Allison Whitney '62 Electrical Engineering Fund, \$3,592.

## **Publications**

### Peer Reviewed Journals

Y. Zhu, H. Jiang, X. Qin, D. Feng and D. Swanson, "Exploiting Redundancy to Boost Performance in a RAID-10-Style Cluster-based File System," Journal of Cluster Computing, Vol. 9, Number 4, pages 433-447, October, 2006.

### **Other**

Since September the faculty have submitted three proposals for a total of about \$1,100,000.

## **ECE Donors**

We extend our appreciation and gratitude to those who have generously supported our department and its students and helped us to maintain its excellence. The list below gives the names of all donors who contributed to the department from July 1, 2005 to November 30, 2006. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please notify us by contacting Janice Gomm at (207) 581-2223 or [Janice@eece.maine.edu](mailto:Janice@eece.maine.edu).

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