

May 2004

The Most Outstanding Electrical Engineer in the Nation



Matthew Rodrigue, the University of Maine Electrical & Computer Engineering student, has been named the 2004 most outstanding electrical engineering student in the nation. Eta Kappa Nu (www.hkn.org), the national electrical engineering honor society, has announced Rodrigue as the winner of the Alton T. Zerby and Carl T. Koerner Outstanding Electrical Engineering Student award. Rodrigue is a Wilton, Maine native who graduated from Mt. Blue High School. He will finish his coursework in August 2004, upon completion of two summer courses. He will graduate with two degrees -- one in electrical engineering and one in computer engineering with minors in mathematics and business all in four years. A Rhodes Scholar finalist, Rodrigue was recently named outstanding graduate in the UMaine College of Engineering. He

also served as president of UMaine Student Government and in October 2002, Governor King appointed him to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System. The president of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity in 2001-2002, he was last year elected to that organization's national board of directors. Rodrigue has been honored as UMaine's Student Leader of the Year and Fraternity Man of the Year. During the fall sports season, he has served as cross-country coach at Orono High School.

Rodrigue has a 3.98 grade point average. He will take some time off after finishing his UMaine coursework, with future plans to attend law school. He is the son of Charlie and Pauline Rodrigue of Wilton. He will receive the award at Eta Kappa Nu's national meeting in Illinois on Oct. 23.

An Outstanding Employee



In May 2004 Janice was selected by the Recognition Committee of the University of Maine Classified Employees Advisory Council to receive an “Outstanding Employee Award for meritorious achievement.”

Janice came to work at the University of Maine in 1972 after her graduation from Old Town high school. She worked in various offices on campus before she came to work in the ECE Department in 1983. She holds the position of Administrative Assistant II. Beyond her departmental duties, Janice is an active member of the University community. She served on the

Executive Committee of the classified employee COLT unit from 1986 to 1989. She served on the Classified Employee Advisory Council (CEAC) from 1998 to 2001. She was the CEAC Secretary from 1999 to 2001, and chaired the Classified Employee Development Day Workshop in March of 2001. Janice has also been an active participant in the University Combined Charitable Appeal. She has been a Combined Charitable Appeal Unit Leader since 1991. She received the “Distinguished Volunteer Service Award” from the United Way of Penobscot Valley in 1992, and an Award of Appreciation “in recognition of outstanding service to the community” from the Combined Charitable Appeal for University of Maine Employees in 1997. Janice received the Leila Lowell College of Engineering Award in 1996 for her dedication and service to the department.

Janice’s unique professionalism, dependability, intuition, positive attitude, dedication to faculty, students and the ECE Department is exceptional. She exhibits a pleasant, friendly personality that is a great asset to the ECE Department, students, faculty and University community.

The ECE Francis Crowe Distinguished Inductee – 2004



Stephen Swan was selected as the Francis Crowe Distinguished Inductee of the ECE Department. The distinguished recipients of [Crowe Society](#) are persons who have distinguished themselves in their field of study. The inductees serve as a role model for the new graduates.

Steve graduated from the University of Maine in 1982 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. After leaving UMaine, Steve worked at Fairchild Semiconductor in South Portland, Maine and Digital Equipment Corporation in Hudson, Massachusetts, holding positions in equipment engineering, process engineering, and process development. He presently works at National Semiconductor in South Portland, Maine where he is a Senior Process Engineering manager. His expertise is in the area of semiconductor device technology, process control, and operations management. Steve is a member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, holds an MBA degree from the University of Phoenix, is an author on two patents, and has published several papers. He presently lives in Windham, Maine with his wife and 2 dogs.

Steve has been a member of the ECE Visiting Committee for the past several years. In addition, he has helped the department in many ways. He has been an avid supporter and advocate of the Microelectronics Consortium and has been providing co-op and full time job opportunities for the ECE students. He has also helped the ECE faculty to identify areas of collaboration and research with National Semiconductor.

IEEE Spring Banquet

The IEEE spring banquet was held on April 25 to celebrate another year in the more-than-100-year history of the ECE department and the graduation of our seniors. It was also an occasion to recognize and award excellence in education and service. Forty undergraduate students received more than \$90,000 in scholarships and awards. With the incoming students added, the total ECE department giving goes far beyond \$100,000. The following companies and named awards that provided the funds were recognized in this event.

Microelectronics Scholarships:

Analog Devices

Fairchild Semiconductor

National Semiconductor

Tundra Semiconductor

Texas Instruments

Named Scholarships:

Edmund M. Sheppard

David Dunlap Holmes

Carleton M. Brown

The Walter W. Turner

The Waldo M. Libby

The Fred H. Irons

Louis Morrison

RCA Harold Beverage

John A. "Gus" O'Brien Scholarship Fund

Carrol R. Lee Scholarship Fund

Harold H. Beverage Award

Robert N. Haskell

Francis J. Hovey Award

The ECE Department is grateful and indebted to the generosity of its alumni and friends for making this possible and providing the gift of education to the students.

Graduating Class 2004



L-R: N. Caler, O. Farid, M. Rodrigue, R. Labbe, T. Beaucage, J. Dawood, M. Chasse, J. Cincotta, A. Fish, D. Gallimore, B. Tompkins, R. Paine, S. Manandhar, A. Taparia, R. Shugayev, W. Pinkham, I. Horn, J. Lamarre, J. Thieme, C. York, F. Jandreau, L. (Ndzana) Hutchins, P. Spinney

Job Opportunity

The University of Maine, Department of Electrical/Computer Engineering (www.eece.maine.edu) is seeking to fill a tenure track faculty position. Strong commitment to undergraduate/graduate teaching with research interests in such areas as cluster supercomputing, cyber security, networking, RF/wireless communications, electronics, or nanotechnology is preferred. Research support includes new 46,000 sq ft facility with clean room, supercomputer, and a communications laboratory. Candidate should have a Doctorate in Electrical or Computer Engineering or related fields. Complete information at: www.umaine.edu/hr/jobs. Submit a resume, the names of at least three references, and a 1-2 page statement of teaching/research to: Faculty Search Committee, 5708 Barrows Hall, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5708. Review of applications begins immediately. UMaine is an EO/AA employer.

Grants Received

- R. Smith, R. Lad, and S. Collins, “Maine Micro-lithography Facility,” Maine Technology Institute, \$647,200, March 8.
- R. Smith, S. Collins, and R. Lad, “Fabrication of Micro-needles Using a Deep Reactive Ion Etcher (DRIE) Tool,” DARPA Subcontract-continuation (contract #N66001-01-C-8001), \$201,867, April 12.
- R. Smith and S. Collins, “Micro-instrument for Nucleic Acid Sequencing Via Nanopores,” (UC Davis Grant #2002-22776), The David and Lucille Packard Foundation, \$899,664, April 12.
- D. Hummels and D. Kotecki, “High-Speed Mixed Signal Research,” BAE Systems, \$30,000, March 16.