# September 1999

## Faculty Evaluations:

 I thought you might like to know how the ECE faculty and the College of Engineering fared with respect to faculty evaluations during the Spring semester of last year. Overall, I'd say the Department and the College are doing pretty well. This is true in spite of the fact we have the most challenging curricula on campus.

### SPRING SEMESTER 1999

| QUESTION | | MED | MEAN | STD DEV |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| How prepared was the instructor for class? (1-Well Prepared; 5-Often Unprepared) | ECE | 1.34 | 1.54 | 0.790 |
| | College | 1.34 | 1.57 | 0.825 |
| How concerned was the instructor for the quality of his or her teaching? (1-Very Concerned; 5-Unconcerned) | ECE | 1.73 | 1.84 | 0.864 |
| | College | 1.79 | 1.95 | 0.991 |
| Did the instructor show respect for the questions and opinions of students? (1-Always; 5-Rarely) | ECE | 1.29 | 1.49 | 0.760 |
| | College | 1.30 | 1.59 | 0.910 |
| What is your overall rating of this course? (1-Excellent; 5-Poor) | ECE | 1.96 | 2.01 | 0.808 |
| | College | 2.09 | 2.20 | 0.970 |
| Overall, how would you rate the instructor? (1-Excellent; 5-Below Average) | ECE | 1.63 | 1.76 | 0.809 |
| | College | 1.75 | 1.94 | 1.013 |

## Quadic announces ECE scholarship!

 Maurice Richard, Vice President,
Quadic Systems Inc. has informed us Quadic intends to support an annual $2000 scholarship for one or two students studying microelectronics. A co-op job is also included. At the same time, Quadic is also going to begin building an endowment that will fund future scholarships and project work in the Department.

## Introducing David Kotecki ...

 David Kotecki joined the Electrical and Computer Engineering faculty in September. His research will focus in the areas of microelectronics, electronic materials, and computational modeling. He plans to teach graduate classes in microelectronics processing, VLSI layout, and modern VLSI devices. He has a Ph.D. in Applied Science from the University of California at Davis and worked as an engineer for the past 11 years at the IBM Microelectronics Division in Hopewell Jct., NY. He has received over 25 patents for inventions related to microelectronic structures, processes, and devices and has authored or co-authored more than 40 publications in these areas.

## Visiting Committee

The Visiting Committee is a group of primarily industrial advisors that has been visiting the Department each September since 1990. They advise on educational needs in industry, the job market, our curriculum, and many other issues of interest. They visited us this month, and their 1999-2000 report is in!

## Publications etc.

Eason, R., "A Concept of Digital Envelope for Internet Communication," Information Modeling and Knowledge Bases, Vol. X, pp. 343-349, editors H. Jaakkola, H. Kangassalo, and E. Kawaguchi, Amsterdam, IOS Press, 1999 (with E. Kawaguchi, K. Nozaki, M. Niimi, and H. Noda).

Don Hummels attended the recent IMEKO-TC4 Symposium on Development in Digital Measuring Instrumentation and the 4th International Workshop on ADC Modeling and Testing (IWAD99), on Sept. 9-10 in Bordeaux, France as an invited plenary speaker for the conference. His paper, presented to kick-off the Friday session, was entitled, "Linearization of ADCs and DACs for all-digital wide-bandwidth receivers".

The paper, "Band separation and the noise power ratio test", presented by Fred Irons at the recent IEE ADDA99 Conference held in Glasgow, Scotland in July, 1999 has been nominated for publication in the Elsevier Science publication series of the Journal of the International Measurement Confederation (IMEKO). The paper was joint authored by Fred Irons and Scott Saucier, from the
University of Maine, and Allan Belcher from Signal Conversion, Ltd. in England., Sept. 7-12.

## [Alliance Chautauqua - Internet2](#)

Jim Patton and Bruce Littlefield attended the Alliance Chautauqua conference in Boston. One of the main purposes of this conference was to showcase the Access Grid being implemented all over the country by schools who have access to the Internet 2. We are considering one of these nodes ourselves. So what is an Access Node? Well, the [web page](#) says, it's a prototype national computational and information infrastructure, that is expected to change the way people work, communicate, and conduct research in the 21st century. An integrated environment that links people, resources, and services over high-speed networks, the Alliance Grid has two components:

- people collaborating over distances in meetings, seminars, and other user-oriented sessions via access points, or nodes, that comprise the Access Grid
- computers, scientific instruments, and other technologies that make up a scientific problem solving environment, called the Computational Grid

The [equipment needed](#) to install an Access Node runs about $50k. Overall, I think the technology needs a few more years. Even over the high speed network, the quality of the audio/video is not what I expected, owing to inherent latencies in packet transmission over the Internet. In addition, the support needed to maintain an Access Node is somewhat greater than I expected. We'll keep a look-out.