Department Receives New NSF Engineering Research Centers

The National Science Foundation recently awarded two new research centers to Colorado State University, both affiliated with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

One research center will address extreme ultraviolet optics, an area that is critical for the production of future generations of computer chips. The second center, an interdisciplinary effort with the Department of Atmospheric Science, will focus on improved methods for detecting and predicting dangerous weather using networks of radars.

“Being awarded a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center is one of the highest honors given to an engineering college,” said Larry Edward Penley, president of Colorado State.

For more information, visit www.engr.colostate.edu.

Tony Maciejewski Named ECE Department Head

The College of Engineering is pleased to announce that Tony Maciejewski assumed leadership of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering on July 1. The former department head, Derek Lile, returned to his teaching and research duties as of the same date.

Maciejewski received his B.S.E.E, M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from Ohio State University. His research and teaching interests are in the areas of robotics and high-performance computing.

“I joined the ECE department here at CSU two years ago because of the world-class research, teaching, and service being performed by its faculty. I am truly honored to be selected to lead this department as it continues its tradition of academic excellence.”

Connecting with alumni and friends of the department is a priority for Dr. Maciejewski.

“Through correspondence, personal visits, and networking events I will seek your input as to how we can best prepare our students for their engineering careers.”

Points of Interest:

• NSF awards two new engineering research centers to CSU
• H.J. Siegel named first ISTeC Director
• College of Engineering 3rd Annual Dinner & Dance scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2004
• ECE undergraduate scholarships now endowed
ECE Faculty Member Named ISTeC Director

Dr. H.J. Siegel has been named the first director of the University’s expanding Information Sciences and Technology Center, or ISTeC.

ISTeC is a University-wide organization focused on increasing the excellence and visibility of information science and technology research, education, and outreach activities at Colorado State. Representatives of all eight academic colleges comprise the leadership of ISTeC. Dr. Siegel believes the growth of ISTeC sends a strong signal that Colorado State recognizes the need for special attention to the rapidly moving information science and technology field and its impact on every academic unit and major in the University.

For more information regarding ISTeC, visit http://istec.colostate.edu.

Class Agents Connect with Former Classmates

The College of Engineering recently implemented a Class Agent program that will help our alumni better connect with each other, the College, and the University.

Class agents work with College of Engineering faculty and staff to increase alumni participation at the College and departmental levels through personal communication with their classmates.

Special thanks to the following ECE alumni who have stepped forward to serve in this capacity:

Rex Sjostrom, ’56; John Riggen, ’60; William Parzybok, Jr., ’66; Bill Cochran, ’69; Steve Malyszko, ’75; Darshan Shah, ’92; and Terry Plymell, ’94.

To learn more about becoming a Class Agent, contact the Development Office at (970) 491-7028 or supportengineering@engr.colostate.edu.

Stay Connected With Monthly E-mail Updates

The College of Engineering has begun sending an electronic newsletter to alumni and friends.

The “e-newsletter” is sent on a monthly basis and includes useful information and updates regarding College and departmental activities, events, and research.

To be included on the distribution list, please send an e-mail to supportengineering@engr.colostate.edu. For more information, call (970) 491-7028.

Join us for Engineering Days!

Colorado State University engineering students invite you to attend the annual Engineering Days celebration on April 16, 2004.

The event will feature more than 90 displays of student work including individual and team projects from electrical and computer, chemical, civil, and mechanical engineering.

Student teams will showcase their award-winning designs of the concrete canoe, human-powered vehicle, walking machine, snowmobile, steel bridge, tractor pull, firefighting robot, and internal camera football. A variety of other student demonstrations will take place during the showcase.

Events are free and open to the public. For more information, call (970) 491-1058.

Alumni Coordinator Bids Farewell

Nancy Farrell began her work with Colorado State University 31 years ago. In 1988, she came to know the ECE department as her home. In July, she retired to try her hand at something new.

During the past 16 years, Farrell came to know many ECE alumni on a personal level and to think of them as a part of her family. She notes, “I had the privilege of watching you learn, grow, mature, and leave for your new lives outside of Colorado State University. Now it’s my turn to leave and start the next part of my life. I am thankful for the opportunity to have known each of you and to be a part of your lives as you have been a large part of mine. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.”

Alumni and friends of the department are welcome to contact Farrell via e-mail at: marnydog@aol.com.

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Events are free and open to the public. For more information, call (970) 491-1058.
Annual Dinner & Dance Set for April 17

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 17, 2004! Beginning at 5:30 p.m., College of Engineering alumni and their guests will join engineering friends, faculty, staff, and students at the Lory Student Center for a relaxed evening of dining, entertainment, and conversation.

The event will provide opportunities to rekindle past relationships and make new friends, all while enjoying music by Kenny Cordova and the Olde Rock Band.

In addition, this year’s event will feature the presentation of an honor award to one alumnus from the College’s five academic departments, as well as to one College-wide recipient.

Plan to attend this exciting event – connect with friends as you stroll down memory lane!

For more information, contact the Engineering Development Office at (970) 491-7028 or supportengineering@engr.colostate.edu.

Carl Wilmsen Retires After 37 Years with Department

Thanks to everyone who joined us on May 2 to celebrate Carl Wilmsen’s contributions to our department and to Colorado State University during the past 37 years.

Wilmsen recently retired to enjoy time with his family and spend time traveling in Europe. During his time at Colorado State, he served as ECE department head as well as chair of the optoelectronics center.

“There couldn’t have been a better life for me than the 37 years as a professor at CSU. While retirement provides a different set of pleasures and challenges, I will always, in spirit, be there in the department.”

Please join us in wishing Dr. Wilmsen the best in his retirement!

New Faculty and Staff Join the ECE Department

Randy Bartels joined our faculty last spring. Bartels earned his Ph.D. in electrical engineering at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 2002. Bartels’ credentials include 17 refereed technical publications. His research focus is on ultra-fast x-ray generation and high-speed lasers.

Laura Christy, a Colorado State 2002 grad with a B.S. in design and merchandising, recently joined our front office staff. Christy brings several years of office experience to this position, including four years working for the Office of Conference Services on campus.

Undergraduate Scholarships Endowed, Awarded

Two new ECE scholarships now are endowed and were awarded for the first time this fall.

The Electrical and Computer Engineering Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship is open to all full-time ECE students and is supported greatly by the ECE Alumni Board.

Dr. Carl Wilmsen

Dr. Randy Bartels

Laura Christy

“Of course, I have a lot of goals and dreams, and I have been working hard to accomplish them. It is really nice to have people who also believe in my future.”

– Marie Hogestad
ECE Student and Scholarship Recipient
Raul Pettai, ’53, retired 11 years ago. He very much enjoyed attending his 50th class reunion on October 3-4. He worked hard to get all four surviving members of the EE class of ’53 to attend – they came from Florida, California, Colorado, and New Jersey! He also attended the College of Engineer-ing’s Homecoming Celebration. Raul has three sons: two EES and one in political science.

Gil Reeser, ’59, retired from Hewlett-Packard in 1997. His last position was general manager of a division located in Scotland. He notes, “Retirement suits me just fine. It seems like I am busier than ever with golf, bridge, travel, grandkids, etc.”

Richard A. Seale, ’64, owns a software company and has been writing software for the insurance industry for 24 years. He and his wife became grandparents for the first time on August 18 and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 6.

James W. Bilbro, ’69, has been elected president of the International Society for Optical Engineering.

Peter Haub, ’70, works for Pacific Engineering Corporation, a division of the Keith Companies, as a senior project engineer, EE. He and his wife, Donna, have three children: Jeremy (and wife Erika), Douglas (and wife Erica), and Sarah. His most recent project was a 15 MGD water pumping plant for the Eugene Water and Electric Board.

Tom Williams, ’71, has been named a Synopsys Fellow. Synopsys Inc. is the world leader in integrated circuit (IC) design software. This award of distinction acknowledges the contributions Williams has brought to Synopsys, the influence he has had on the company’s technical direction, and the role he has played in executing and delivering design for test (DFT) technology innovation to customers. Synopsys Fellows are an elite group that currently consists of seven members.

Michael Roluti, ’73, is director for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Technical Service Center. He leads Reclamation and Interior Department-wide scientific, applied research, and engineering services related to water resources management. He has received the Department of the Interior’s Superior Service and Meritorious Service awards. He resides in Arvada, Colorado, with his wife, Lori, and three children: Amy, Joy, and Mike.

Rod Sato, ’74, has been with Intel for 25 years. He plans to retire in 2005 and then rest and relax! His wife Judi (Hanes) is a ’74 zoology grad and the household manager. They have three children: Jeremy, Eric, and Sye Ok.

Joseph M. Harris II, ’86, is an engineer with Motorola SPS. This sector is splitting off from the parent company soon to become its own independently traded company. He is the IC design manager of the Libraries and Memories SRAM design group. His fiancée’s name is Micki.

Todd Ritterbush, ’91, recently accepted a technical engineering position at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M. The opportunities at Sandia will allow Todd to continue his historical interests in satellite communications, robotic controls, and computer applications engineering.

Elizabeth Callahan Weese, ’93, and her husband, Jeff, just celebrated their 10-year anniversary. They have a 3-year-old daughter, Sarah, and are expecting another baby in January. After falling victim to a plant closure last year, she started her own business doing engineering consulting and is working as much or more than she would like from the home.

Dan Harms, ’94, and his wife, Kim, had a son, Trevor Logan, on February 24. He was 8 pounds and 19.75 inches long!

John Elliot, ’95, is currently director of product management for Openwave Systems, the company that invented WAP (wireless application protocol). He and his wife, Kim, have two girls: Ashlyn was born in June 1996, and Paige was born in September 2002. They recently purchased a home in Santa Barbara, one block from the beach.

Duncan Halstead, ’96, and his wife, Lisa, welcomed a son on April 12.

Umesh Mehta, ’96, does network processor design/ validation in Austin, Texas.

Von-Kyoung Kim, ’97, is a staff engineer at Sun Microsystems in the Processor and Network Products division. He has been working for Sun since he graduated in 1997 and has designed several Ultra-SPARC microprocessors for large computer servers. He has two children: Eunice, who was born in Fort Collins in 1995, and Ryan, who was born in San Jose, California, in 1998.

Evan Ruzanski, ’02, is a Ph.D. student at University of California-Santa Barbara studying electrical engineering, having been awarded a fellowship from UC-MICRO. He is focusing his research on digital speech and audio signal processing.

Mohammed Simsim, ’02, is working on his Ph.D. in telecommunications engineering at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Ben Guerra, ’03, currently is working with satellite ground control and control systems. He’s considering returning for a master’s degree. He notes that it would be quite a balancing act with his second child coming in April.

Please share your news!

Send your career and family updates to supportengineering@ engr.colostate.edu or call (970) 491-7028.

Space permitting, we’ll include your news in an upcoming issue of Current News!

Alumni and Donor Support Makes a Difference

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering uses financial gifts from alumni and friends to help defray the costs of student travel to design competitions such as the walking machine decathlon and the fire fighting robot event.

Private support also is enabling the department to assist students by awarding scholarships to deserving applicants.

Third Annual ECE Alumni Picnic a Success!

Alumni and their families, together with faculty, staff, and friends, gathered in Fort Collins on August 16 for the Third Annual ECE Alumni Picnic. The picnic offered attendees a great opportunity to reminisce with old friends and connect with new ones.

The next alumni picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 14, 2004. For more information, call (970) 491-6600.