MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends of EECS,

Happy New Year! We hope the new year finds you well. The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science is pleased to share news of a number of significant achievements and events during the last few months. Some highlights:

On January 19, Wichita State announced a $2.5 million gift pledged by a company led by one of our current Ph.D. students, Ahmed Aziz, CEO of Cybertron International, Kansas' largest personal computer manufacturer. Cybertron has pledged to provide computers, monitors and five years of desktop support for the new Experiential Engineering Building at Wichita State University. Learn more about this important gift.

In December, we paid tribute to another former student, Abdujaleel "Jaleel" Arlabash, who was killed last May trying to stop a suicide bomber from entering a mosque in Saudi Arabia. An electrical engineering student, Alarbash was awarded a posthumous degree at the winter graduation. The ESSC student lounge in Jabara Hall was also dedicated to him and marked with a
commemorative plaque, shown here. See photos of the dedication and read more.

This past semester was particularly significant for Epsilon Xi Chapter of Eta Kappa Nu, the WSU EECS honor society. In October, they inducted their largest class ever into the honor society. Student members are selected on the basis of scholastic standing, character, and leadership. In November, their nominee and EECS professor Dr. Preethika Kumar received the national 2015 C. Holmes MacDonald Outstanding Teaching Award. At their award ceremony in December, they honored Saeed Alsaleeb (MSEE graduate) with the Outstanding Graduating Graduate Award and Luis Maria Iglesias (BSEE undergraduate) with the Outstanding Graduating Senior Award. Follow Epsilon Xi HKN on social media.

Dr. John Watkins
Chair, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
WSU College of Engineering

Faculty and Research

In December, Dr. Hyuck M. Kwon (PhD, Computer, Information and Control Engineering, The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor) received a new grant from the Air Force Research Laboratory on "Optimum Boundaries of Signal-to-Noise Ratio for Adaptive Code Modulations." Kwon, a professor of electrical engineering, has been at WSU since 1993. The research is supposed to assist the design of commercial satellite communications systems. The abstract can be found here. Kwon has twice previously been a recipient of an U.S. Air Force Summer Faculty Fellowship. In 2015, he spent 10 weeks doing research at Kirkland Air Force Base in New Mexico. His project was "Resilient System Controllers and Terminals for Wideband Global SATCOM." He is also receiving funding from the Air Force for a project on "Metamaterial-enhanced magnetic materials and their applications."
Alumni

Dr. Ravi Pendse, vice president for computing and information services at Brown University, received both his MS ('85) and PhD ('94) in electrical engineering. He specializes in computer networking and information technology as it relates to higher education. Before going to work at Brown in 2013, Pendse was a tenured full professor in Wichita State's EECS Department, where he regularly won awards for teaching excellence. In 2011, he became WSU's vice president for information technology and chief information officer, overseeing WSU's move to become 100 percent wireless in 2007. Read more about him.

Students

Austin Crane, an undergrad in computer science, is one of five students to be named a University Innovation Fellows. Fellows participate in the National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation (Epicenter) program, funded by the National Science Foundation. The program is intended to empower student leaders to increase campus innovation and entrepreneurship. "It taught me to think beyond the programming and more towards the entrepreneurial mindset that an engineer needs to be successful," Crane said. During his freshman year, Crane developed an app to help students track the location of campus shuttle buses. As an Innovation Fellow, he is developing Startup HQ, a low-cost marketplace for startups. Read more.
In November, Spirit AeroSystems joined the Kansas Board of Regents in announcing the creation of the new $576,000 Spirit Scholars Program, which will provide $8,000 annually to cover tuition, fees, books and supplies for 12 students at Wichita State pursuing degrees in engineering and business. Read more.

Dr. Steven Skinner, an EECS professor and associate dean, and Dominic Canare, an MS graduate now pursuing a PhD at WSU in human factors, were both recipients of awards at the Innovation Celebration hosted by WSU Ventures. Skinner received a Catalyst Award for encouraging others to engage in innovation. Canare received a Bright Future Award, given to students who show individual achievement and potential for success. Read more.

Richard St. Aubin, an EECS senior, is working on a project called Deployable Droneswarm that was highlighted by KSN during the October 2015 ground dedication of the Experiential Engineering and "GoCreate" Makerspace Building.

A high performance computing (HPC) laboratory at Wichita State University directed by Dr. Abu Asaduzzaman, assistant professor in computer engineering, has been named a GPU (graphics processing unit) Research Center by NVIDIA, the world leader in visual computing. Read more.

A team of EECS and aerospace engineering students is competing to design a new form of high speed ground transport known as Hyperloop. They were featured in The Sunflower in October. The group's adviser is Dr. James Steck, aerospace engineering professor.

EECS students are working to bring eSports computer gaming competitions to Wichita State. They were featured in The Sunflower in November.
Registration opens March 1 for Engineering Summer Camps 2016. A total of 21 camps will be offered for youth entering 4th through 12th grades in Fall 2016. Several camps feature robotics and computer programming. Learn more.

We appreciate your support of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department. If you wish to express your support with a financial contribution, please know it will benefit current and future students, faculty and staff, and programs that enhance the student experience. All donations are tax deductible.

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