

ECE Newsletter – Fall 2014

Annual Banquet

Our annual banquet was held Saturday, September 26 at the Alumni Center Ballroom.

The Evening Program included:

- Social Hour & Welcome
- Remarks by Gary Clark, Senior Associate Dean
- [Student Organization recognition and awards](#)
- [Scholarship recipients and their scholarship sponsor\(s\)](#)
- [Alumni donor recognition and awards](#)
- [Student recognition and awards](#)
- [Faculty recognitions](#)
- Closing
(*Click on the links for a listing of the awards*)

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Faculty Highlight – Dr. Stephen A. Dyer

Signals, Systems and Music

Stephen and Ruth Dyer returned to K-State in 1983 to be faculty members in what is today its Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Over his career, Steve has held various faculty appointments in physics, mathematics, and electrical and computer engineering. He has taught about 70 different courses, some of them in many significant variations, and some of them for more than ten times. One of his major emphases, no matter which course, is on making connections—relating what we’re trying to learn or do to other knowledge or experience we already have. Another major emphasis is on rediscovering our innate creativity.



Disciplinary boundaries are somewhat artificial, established as a result of organization and out of the convenience of compartmentalization. But creativity has no disciplinary boundaries.

Signals, Systems and Music is an experimental, multi-campus, cross-disciplinary course designed to attract STEM students as well as students of the arts; to expose them to concepts

important to both their own and someone else's discipline of interest; to give them the challenge of working with someone from a different discipline; [Continue reading "Faculty Highlight – Dr. Stephen A. Dyer" →](#)

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ECE News and Updates

ECE Welcomes new staff member Jeni McDonald and new faculty member Timothy Burg:

Jeni is originally from Topeka. Graduated Dec 2014 from KSU with a bachelor's degree in anthropology. She is obtaining her master's in public health with a focus in epidemiology at KSU as well. Hobbies include spending time with family and friends, traveling, trying new recipes and learning new things.

Dr. Tim Burg

Dr. Timothy Burg has extensive experience in industrial applications of robotics and nonlinear control design techniques and the academic investigation of the basis and future directions of these techniques. He moved to Kansas State University in August 2014 from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Clemson University, Clemson, SC where he taught classes and led research on intelligent systems.

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Noteworthy:

Kim Fowler, published his fourth textbook, "Developing and Managing Embedded Systems and Products," through Elsevier Newnes. He also addressed a teleconference audience of the International Islamic University in Islamabad, Pakistan, attended by both students and IEEE chapter members.

Timothy Burg, was an invited speaker at the DARPA/ISAT Computational Tissue Fabrication (COTIF) Workshop 2014 held at the MIT Endicott House near Boston, MA

Dr. Bala Natarajan presented an invited Webinar series on "Markov Chain Monte Carlo methods for Bayesian Data Analysis" for faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, India, Aug – Sep 2014.

Steve Warren, and **Punit Prakash**, organized and co-chaired a special session on Technologies for around-the-clock health assessment of special needs children at the 36th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society in Chicago, IL. They presented an invited paper within this session and are both Associate Editors for the conference proceedings.

Dr. Behrooz Mirafzal serves as a member of the advisory committee of the IEEE International Electric Machines and Drives Conference (IEMDC 2015), May 2015.

Greg Moats won the Halloween costume contest as Nichola Tessela

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Students win national IEEE PES scholarships **By Mary Rankin**

William Duren and Joshua Lloyd, K-State seniors in electrical engineering, have been awarded Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, or IEEE, Power and Energy Society Scholarship Plus Initiative awards for the 2014-15 academic school year. They are two of 184 undergraduate students at 95 universities across the U.S. and Canada to receive the awards.

The institute's society recognizes highly qualified electrical engineering undergraduate students with multiyear scholarships, and assists in connecting them with relevant and meaningful career experiences.

"This is an outstanding honor to have two recipients of this prestigious award from our department," said Don Gruenbacher, professor and head of electrical and computer engineering. "I could not be more pleased that William and Joshua's talents are being recognized in this way."

All scholarship funds are privately raised through the institute's foundation with gifts of cash, endowments and pledges from corporations, individuals and foundations. The institute, the world's largest technical professional association, is dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.

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