HISTORIC ENGINEERING SOUTH IS SLATED TO BE RENOVATED
As we were finalizing the 2018 edition of ECE Networks, we were delighted to be told that the Dean has approved the renovation of ECE spaces in Engineering South (ES). As you know, ES is a building of historical significance that, along with Life Sciences East, is predominately placed on the OSU campus next to Edmond Low Library. This 1937 legacy structure has been the only home to ECE for the past 80 years. We cannot imagine being in any other building. It holds a special place in the minds of our alumni, faculty and friends as they retell their favorite ECE stories and ponder upon countless ES memories.

ES, however, has outlived its expected lifecycle. The HVAC systems struggle to keep the building comfortable and the air quality acceptable; the elevator is under-sized; and possibly most of all, the layout of the interior offices and laboratories make inefficient use of available gross space. Furthermore, ECE has spaces throughout all floors of the building, thus making it difficult to create a sense of community and comradery.

Hence, it is time for ES to be renovated. The exterior façade will remain more or less as-is to preserve its historical legacy and place on the campus. The interior will be gutted and modernized to offer more office space and to provide modern laboratory facilities. ECE will occupy all of the second floor and some spaces in the basement and fourth floor. Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering will occupy the third and fourth floor. (Civil and Environmental Engineering, current occupant with ECE in ES, will have a new renovated home on the second floor of Engineering North. They will occupy that space during the latter part of 2019.)

Much of the basic renovation will be financed by OSU. Upgrades and amenities will be financed by ECE. Our goal is to have spaces that create a broad sense of ECE community, encourage and support our teaching and research mission, brand ECE as a leader in high-tech innovation, and attract the brightest students across the country and globe.

Although we are in the preliminary planning phase, we plan to create a Design Innovation Laboratory for our Capstone design courses, large and small seminar rooms for group meetings and presentations, and a multi-purpose conference and gathering room. To facilitate open, well lighted spaces, ample, full-length glass panels will be used. Communications and branding will be accomplished using strategically located LCD panels.
In addition to the actual renovation, we will need to replace our office furniture, most of which is quite old. We will also be upgrading our computers, lab benches, machine shop, and instruments.

As you might be inferring, the implementation of our plans will require substantial funds provided as gifts from alumni and friends. Our goal is to secure $750,000 for this project. We request your support.

Here are few things to note:

- To kick-off our mini-campaign for the ES renovation, we have already secured $100k towards our $750k goal.
- $250k in earnings from our Foundation endowments that have been retained and reinvested for the past several years will be applied to the campaign.
- That leaves us with $400k to be raised during the next 24 months.

With your gift, there will be opportunity to name a room or space in ES by matching your gift with our $100k seed gift. We plan to have two donor walls—The ECE Maxwellians (for those who contribute $10,000 or more) and the ECE Alumni & Friends (those who contribute $1,000 to $9,999).

Should you feel inspired to partner with us on this important project, please direct your gift to the OSU Foundation ECE Next Generation Fund (26-00980), or https://secure.osugiving.com/give and search 26-00980. The Foundation is also able to receive non-cash items and gifts pledged over a five-year period. Many employers also have a matching program that can be leveraged against your gift to create a bigger impact. Please contact one of the Foundation’s associates to learn more about giving options and plans.

Thank you in advance for your partnership and support of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The future for ECE is very bright and the opportunities for our students are excellent.
We invite you to contact any one of the following OSU Foundation employees for more information:

ECE Next Generation Fund (26-00980),
or https://secure.osugiving.com/give and search 26-00980

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The ECE Head is also available to answer any questions that you might have:

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GO POKES!