Inside this Issue

Feature Article: Aiming for Space

Coming Down the Pipe: Areas of Specialization (AoS)

Focus on Students: Software Wizard

The Next Generation: Eta Kappa Nu & IEEE

On the Frontier: Research & Scholarly Activity

On the Shoulders of Giants: NASA Seeks Stars from OSU

Alumni Briefs: Michael Black, Clavin Vogt, Jack Sellers & Tom Hoke

Notes & Notices: USA TODAY All-American Scholar and December 2002 Graduates

Contact Information
If you have any noteworthy events or would like to see a particular item in the ECEN newsletter, e-mail your suggestions to Karen Arlene Holt at: ecenews@ceat.okstate.edu

Also check out the newsletter on the web site at: ece.okstate.edu

A Lifetime Achievement

Keith A. Teague, Interim Head

The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering continues to be a wonderful place to be—and to be from! The faculty and students continue to excel, and the programs here in Stillwater and at OSU/Tulsa continue to grow.

The success of our program over the years is most clearly demonstrated by the quality of our graduates. In this issue, you will find profiles of seven ECEN alumni who have each had a profound impact on our profession, on our quality of life and on those around them. In “Aiming for Space,” you’ll read about Don Vanlandingham, a 2002 inductee into the CEAT Hall of Fame. Don, recently retired as Chairman of Ball Aerospace, played a key role in the remarkable effort that restored sight to the Hubble telescope a few years ago. Meemong Lee and Richard Weidner continue to develop experiments, algorithms and software that help make space exploration a reality. Their work is described in “On the Shoulders of Giants.”

Four additional distinguished alums are profiled in “Alumni Briefs.” Mike Black has been recognized as a Senior Engineering Fellow at Raytheon (previously Texas Instruments) and has been responsible for recruiting hundreds of OSU graduates. Calvin Vogt is a respected scientist and entrepreneur. After a career at Southwestern Bell, Jack Sellers continues to contribute by promoting aviation education as president of the University Aviation Association. Tom Hoke had a long and distinguished career in power systems at OG&E.

Our students continue to receive national recognition. Two years ago, Scott Wise, profiled in this issue, became the first student in ECEN to receive a Barry Goldwater Scholarship. Last year, Bryan McLaughlin became the second Goldwater winner in so many years. Bryan trumped that achievement this year by winning a Marshall Scholarship that provides full support for graduate study in England. Bryan made it three-in-a-row when USA Today elected him to the All-USA College Academic Team. Although Scott and Bryan’s achievements are visibly the most recent, many ECEN students are honored each year through scholarships, fellowships and other awards.

As always, we appreciate your continued support and participation. Please feel free to contact me directly at teague@okstate.edu or (405) 744-5151.
Aiming for Space

The morning of last October 18th kicked off with just a little more confusion and excitement as the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology (CEAT) prepared for the welcoming of Mr. Don Vanlandingham. Glad to see his return to his educational home, CEAT, along with Electrical Engineering, had a tight schedule prepared that evening for Mr. Vanlandingham. After a day filled with presenting seminars and lectures and shaking hands with many professors, department heads and the Dean, Mr. Vanlandingham officially became the 2002 CEAT Hall of Fame Inductee.

Induction into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor presented by the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology. It recognizes outstanding lifetime achievement in societal and professional life, as well as contributions to the advancement of OSU.

The presentation that evening at the dinner was brilliant, and many proud visitors, including his wife, family and friends, came to show their support and appreciation.

Mr. Vanlandingham was born in Duncan, Oklahoma, February 28, 1940 to strong and loving parents, Marvin and Ella. Marvin “Jerry” Vanlandingham was a long-term employee of 36 years at Halliburton Company in Duncan, OK. He was a self-trained engineer, and his work at Halliburton Services was a direct influence on Mr. Vanlandingham’s interest in engineering. Ella Vanlandingham influenced his career by being his “cheerleader” and giving him confidence and support. “She also, through her love and caring nature, and her Christian influence, taught me the importance of faith, family and balancing my work and family life,” said Mr. Vanlandingham.

After watching his older brother, Robert Vanlandingham, play football on a full scholarship at Oklahoma State University for a few years; Mr. Vanlandingham decided to come to OSU upon graduation from high school in 1958. He completed his Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering in January of 1963 and received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant through the Army ROTC program. He and Mimi, his wife since 1961, entered military life and left the Army in 1965, at which time he received the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service.

Mr. Vanlandingham started work with Bell Telephone Laboratories in Morristown, New Jersey in 1965 immediately after leaving the Army. While working at various Bell Lab facilities in the New Jersey area, he attended graduate school at Columbia University in New York, sponsored by Bell Labs scholarship/work program. In February 1967, he graduated from Columbia University with a Master’s degree in Electrical Engineering.

He then left Bell Labs three months later and started work as a junior electrical engineer with Ball Brothers Research Corporation (now Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.) in July of 1967 in Boulder, Colorado. After completing thirty-five years and five months at Ball, Mr. Vanlandingham retired as Chairman on December 31, 2002.

Mr. Vanlandingham began to develop a natural curiosity in electronics as a small child. He was always interested in how things worked and in creating new things. As a young boy, he loved Tinker Toys, Erector Sets, crystal radios, ham radios and tearing anything apart that he could get his hands on to see what was inside. “So, from early life I was des-
tined to be an engineer. Sputnik opened my eyes to the potential of space and aerospace,” said Mr. Vanlandingham.

Attending OSU for four and a half years benefited him greatly in his personal and career life. However, he studied very hard, because good grades did not come easily to him, but he had an intense desire to do well in college. He graduated with a 3.7 GPA and was on the Dean’s and President’s Honor Roll throughout school. Mr. Vanlandingham also received the honor of being the Outstanding Army ROTC Cadet his senior year. He spent most of his free time driving home on the weekends to see Mimi his freshman year, since she was still in high school in Duncan. After Mimi enrolled at OSU his sophomore year, most of his free time was spent with her. “She was my best friend then, as now,” said Mr. Vanlandingham.

Leaving home and attending OSU helped him realize that whatever he was to become in life was up to him, as well as the way he applied himself to the challenges ahead. After seeing the exciting engineering work that was being done at OSU, he became very motivated to get a good education so he could contribute to similar engineering activities. Mr. Vanlandingham said, “OSU gave me a really good foundation to go ahead and do the things that I eventually did. It prepared me well to go on and get that master’s degree from Columbia University.

I had a very good experience at OSU, and very good professors that taught me well.”

Mr. Vanlandingham’s most satisfying achievement was being part of the team that corrected the vision of the Hubble Space Telescope. His most difficult challenge was accepting the contract to make and launch the hardware to correct the vision of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Working for Ball Aerospace has been a wonderful experience for Mr. Vanlandingham. “It’s not really a production company. We don’t just get big jobs and produce a whole bunch of things; instead, we are always building ‘one-of-a-kind type things’ that constantly keep you challenged, just because you’re doing something new every time you have a project. We do unique things, literally things that have never been done before. You only get one chance,” said Mr. Vanlandingham.

According to Mr. Vanlandingham, “Edmund F. Ball,” founder of Ball Aerospace and past President, CEO and Chairman of Ball Corporation, “is a person who had a great vision about the importance of space to the nation.” Ball felt strongly that Ball Corp. would someday provide the technology needed to explore space. In 1960, Ball gave a speech in which he indicated that he believed that Ball technology would help the United States advance in space, leading eventually to the placing of a man on the moon and the exploration of other planets.

“This prediction has certainly come true. Ball had an enthusiasm for life in all that he did and was an active scuba diver and pilot at age ninety-two. He maintained an intense interest in the space programs at Ball Aerospace and attended many events and launches of hardware built by the company, over the years, until his death,” said Mr. Vanlandingham.

Mr. Vanlandingham has no regrets in his life; he would not change anything if he were given the option. He has held many high-ranking positions and has been involved actively in his community and professional affiliations. He has achieved fulfillment in life by finding the three things that make a person’s life meaningful: someone to love, something to believe in and something to do.

His plans upon retirement will include a lot of time spent with his wife, children and grandchildren. Mr. Vanlandingham and Mimi have recently bought a home in Montana near the Canadian border and will spend a few months a year during the summer months up there on the lake. They plan to have many visits from grandchildren and plan to do lots of traveling.

- by Karen Arlene Holt
Assistant Editor

"OSU gave me a really good foundation to go ahead and do the things that I eventually did."

- D. Vanlandingham
Areas of Specialization

“Hey Bill! What classes are you signing up for this semester?” Susan asked. Bill’s reply was standard, “I dunno…er…how ‘bout you?” So begins the typical student enrollment process for junior and senior semesters in ECEN. Course choices are many and guidance from the university catalog is slim. Electromechanical Genetic Microwaves for Computational VLSI has an interesting name, but Bill doesn’t really understand the description:

*Adaptive scaled computer architectures for high-speed systems. Use of autorouting software for hardware genetic algorithm implementation. Limits of silicon based technologies for next generation parallel scalar processors and theory of vectorial implementation.*

Bill learns that the dark and sartorial Dr. Smythe teaches Electromechanical Genetic Microwaves for Computational VLSI, and the course is in the optimum 10:30 a.m. time slot. Bill doesn’t get along with Dr. Smythe who failed him two semesters ago, but Dr. Smythe has been tenured since "the Depression" and always gets the best time slot. Another choice is the young and energetic (and not quite tenured) Dr. Stanley’s Applied Everything that is Needed for Success in Electro-Anything taught at 6:00 a.m. Dr. Stanley’s tests are notoriously difficult, but he is well liked by the students, and the time…Ugh! Dr. Wilson is teaching Advanced Devices at 10:30 a.m., but that class always fills up in the first 10 minutes of registration.

These are just some of the choices that are faced as registration time approaches; there are other students’ decisions, as well as Bill’s, that will be based on optimizing a complex parameter space. To make this decision, Bill must ask: Who is teaching the class? Are they a hard grader? Is there a lot of work? Is the lecture boring? Can I make the schedule fit my work schedule? Are any of my friends going to be in the class?

Bill’s decision will be based on factors important to him. However, from the point of view of preparing Bill to be the best possible engineer, the most important factors don’t get a lot of consideration: Am I genuinely interested in the material being taught? Can this course help me achieve my career goals? What classes will this course prepare me to take next? Does the style of teaching match with the way I learn best?

Bill’s situation is typical; the path of least resistance is the most common route students take in completing degree requirements. Is this path of least resistance optimal? What benefit is ultimately gained? Perhaps a more pointed question is what is lost? Course decisions based on minimizing effort and maximizing grades, rather than a clear focus on career goals and personal interests is a big loss! A prospective employer who asks, “Why these courses?” or “What were your main interests?” may be quite surprised when a student’s answers convey a lack of planning or foresight into job opportunities. Filling up the requirement sheet is not enough!

The School of ECEN in the course of fulfilling accreditation requirements has begun a new initiative in setting up Areas of Specialization (AoS). Areas of Specialization brings together similar courses and faculty with similar interests in order to create more coherent course offerings. Areas of Specialization will help students achieve a meaningful plan that can be aligned with interests and career directions. Starting this spring, students will be asked to declare a specific AoS in order to aid advising, which will be done at the area level, not at the department level. These areas are 1) Communications, Systems and Controls; 2) Electromagnetics and Photonics; 3) Electronics and Solid State; 4) Computers; 5) Power and Energy; and 6) General Electrical Engineering. Areas of Specialization leave unchanged the requirement for breadth at the junior level; they are intended to provide guidance in selecting junior and senior electives.

- by Dr. Charles Bunting
ECEN Associate Professor
Software Wizard

Scott Wise, to say the least, will be extremely missed when he graduates this May. Entering Oklahoma State University in the fall of 1999, Wise brought with him experience, high academics and a desire to learn. He came in as a Freshman Research Scholar, which gave him the opportunity to study image processing under Dr. Scott Acton. Four years later, he is now ready to say thanks to OSU for educating him and preparing him to continue his career.

Wise attended the Oklahoma School of Science and Math (OSSM) high school. It is a public school that draws students from every county in Oklahoma, and students must apply to get accepted. After going through an interview process, OSSM accepted Wise for his junior and senior years of high school. The school teaches college courses that professors conduct, which credited Wise with thirty-three college hours when he arrived at OSU.

A professor at OSSM, Dr. Toelstra, guided Wise towards electrical engineering. Dr. Scott Acton took him under his wing when Wise arrived at OSU and showed him a lot of research opportunities, which is how Wise received a Wentz Research project.

Before Dr. Acton left OSU, he introduced Wise to David Waites, president of SST Development Group, Inc., who Wise has worked for the past two and a half years. SST Development Group collects agriculture data, and Wise writes Pocket PC software that handles many of their data acquisition.

After Dr. Acton left OSU, Dr. Keith Teague was kind enough to step in as Wise’s adviser. Wise continued his research under Dr. Teague for the Senior II project, doing research for the Department of Defense (DoD).

He, along with his partner, wrote a simulation library tool that allows one to simulate network data transmission.

Wise is grateful to have had such dedicated professors who did not see him as an “undergraduate doing research,” said Wise. This gave Wise a positive impression of OSU and inspired him to continue working hard at taking his academic skills and applying them to solving practical problems.

“…in my mind, software development isn’t a whole bunch of theories, it’s really problem solving.”

- S. Wise

Wise’s main interest consists of problem solving. “I’m not actually going into an electrical engineering profession. I’m more of a software developer, but in my mind, software development isn’t a whole bunch of theories, it’s really problem solving,” said Wise.

In March of 2002, SST Development finally released the software Wise labored over for about a year. Last year it won the top national award in the agricultural industry for software. Wise started the project and did a majority of the design and coding, excluding the database design. “Then I had some good people help test it, and it was just really nice to have all that come together and get released,” said Wise.

Wise has several options to decide on after graduating in May. He might stay in Stillwater or work with Microsoft. As it stands, Wise has an open job offer with Microsoft; however, he told them he would not consider it until his wife, Wilhelmina, who also works for SST Development Group, graduates from OSU next year.

- by Karen Arlene Holt
Assistant Editor
Eta Kappa Nu

Over the past year and a half, the OSU Omega chapter of Eta Kappa Nu has been working hard to reactivate its membership. We strive to support the School of Electrical Engineering by helping students have a better experience in Electrical Engineering. Some of the programs include the creation of a fall pledge banquet to recognize the pledges and introduce them to the faculty. The program also offers tutoring sessions for Circuits, Digital Logic and Methods I, II and III on a weekly basis.

During the banquet the Omega chapter recognizes the Professor of the Year as determined by the membership and its fall Naeter Scholarship winners. The recipient of last semester's Professor of the Year award was Dr. H. Jack Allison, and the Naeter Scholarship winners were Scott F. Wise, Amit Sharma and Jonathon Hildebrand.

The new members of the Omega chapter are: Shuo-Liang Chien, Chin Seong Khor, Mohammad Ashraf, Fahem Shaikh, Randall Burton, Norman Olmstead, Dhaval Pala, Justin Clark, Jonathan Hildebrand, Joshua Miller, Josh Wilczech, Amanda Filbeck, Choon Leng Gan, Josh Porterfield, Nick Seymour, and Ben Lee.

- by Scott Wise
OSU/Eta Kappa Nu Recording Secretary

Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers

The student branch of IEEE participated in OSU High School Scholar’s Day hosted by the High School and College Relations department on September 15, 2002. Scholars enjoyed informational speakers from the Scholar Development department and the Honors College. Afterwards, the high school students visited the colleges they were interested in.

Dr. Charles Bunting spearheaded the fun-filled day for the electrical engineering department with help from the IEEE officers. Following a game show quiz format, the officers were given a variety of questions dealing with overall career choices. Kristen Kish, IEEE secretary, was asked, “Why are you an electrical engineer?” Her answer was, “…electrical engineering is the most versatile profession that can be used in every industry.”

Similarly, Travis Tidwell, IEEE social chair, replied after her, “…it gives a below average student like me just an opportunity to pass!” With all kidding aside, the officers answered questions from high school students interested in electrical engineering.

With opportunities to recruit like this, the ECEN will continue to enjoy excellent students such as these high school scholars. Bryan McLaughlin, E-Kids director, said, “We’re glad to help out in any way with bringing in the best and brightest to OSU and our department.” Overall, forty students enjoyed the day with the EE department. IEEE would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Bunting for this great opportunity!

- by Huy Le
OSU/IEEE President

Look us up on our web site at http://ieee.okstate.edu
Research & Scholarly Activity

Papers Appeared in Print:


Grants/Contracts Awarded:
M.T. Hagan; $5,000 (additional funds), HBD, Inc., “Non-Linear Control with Neural Networks and Fuzzy Logic.”

G. Fan & M. Rao; $49,999, Environmental Institute Water Research Center, “Developing a GIS-Based Tool for Automated Feature Information Retrieval from Multisource Geospatial Data: Applications on CRP Mapping at Texas County, OK.”

C.F. Bunting; $10,000 (additional funds), Old Dominion University Research Foundation, “Field Penetration Studies-Statistics and Bounding.”


C.D. Latino; $40,024, Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, “ABB Inc. Totalflow Intern Program.”

D.R. Grischkowsky; $175,000, National Science Foundation, “Unique Applications of THz Time-Domain Spectroscopy and Waveguide THz-TDS.”


J.M Chung; $100,000 (renewal), Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, “Hybrid Wireless and Wired Networking System.”

R.A. Cheville; $5,000, Oklahoma EPSCoR/Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, “Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU).”

W. Zhang; $17,500, Oklahoma EPSCoR for Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, “Picosecond and Femtosecond Dynamics of Functionally Active Nanoparticles.”

C.G. Hutchens; $184,522 (additional funds), Halliburton Energy Services, “Quartz Resonator Based Pressure Measurement System for Downhole High Temperature Applications.”

G.F. Collington and M.A. Soderstrand; $38,522, Kangwon National University, “American Studies Short Program between Kangwon National University of the Republic of Korea and Oklahoma State University.”

R.K. Yarlagadda and M.A. Soderstrand; $4,200, National Science Foundation, “2002 IEEE International Midwest Symposium on Circuits and Systems Travel Grant; August 4-7, 2002 at Oklahoma State University - Tulsa.”


NASA Seeks Stars from OSU:
Dr. Meemong Lee

In the early years of the 1970s, Dr. Meemong Lee left her home in Seoul, Korea arriving at Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Her parents influenced her decision to study engineering in order to survive a harsh political environment of South Korea. A few years later, Dr. Lee earned her master's degree in Computer Science and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at OSU.

Dr. Lee was very impressed with the professors at OSU for their kindness and dedication. "I don't think I could have completed my PhD degree without Dr. Rao Yarlagadda, who provided me the research scholarship and the thesis topic," said Dr. Lee. "The older I get, the more I appreciate how privileged I was to have had him as my thesis advisor."

Dr. Lee started OSU as a graduate student in Computer Science. The first class she took was Numerical Analysis II taught by Dr. Chandler. However, when she heard him say that a computer does not know how to do fractions very well, she thought she made a big mistake coming all the way to America to learn about this amazing machine that would change the future of the world, which is why Dr. Lee chose Electrical Engineering as her Ph.D. discipline.

After graduating from OSU in 1981, Dr. Lee started work as a senior engineer at Intel Corporation and was responsible for developing a speech recognition system. In ’83, she joined the image analysis systems (IAS) group at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) as a pattern recognition specialist where she worked as a principal investigator on a wide range of image analysis algorithm development tasks.

In ’92, Dr. Lee became the group supervisor of the IAS and engaged the group in various system engineering activities that integrate the processes between instrument design and science data analysis. In ’96, along with Dr. Weidner, she formed a new group, Mission Simulation and Instrument Modeling (MSIM), to address model-based instrument system engineering.

In ’99, Dr. Lee became a section staff leader responsible for "science experiment design" and principal technologist in the "modeling and simulation" area. She also led the Project Engineering Technology program at JPL and participates in the Advanced Engineering Environment program at NASA Headquarters.

Dr. Lee is a Principal Technologist and is currently developing a Model-Based System Engineering Process and Life-Cycle tracking Science-Return Validation System for JPL.

According to Dr. Lee, "The feeling of achievement is very brief. Looking back, all of my achievements seem very insignificant, no matter how important they once were. I find myself always working on the next system with more capabilities. I think it is the most difficult challenge to be better than before on a constantly increasing level. At the same time, I take the fact that I have been continuously improving myself to be the most satisfying achievement."
Michael Black graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1967 with a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering. At the time Black attended middle school, they launched the first Russian Satellite and the United States fell into a crisis: there were not enough people in engineering.

So in eighth grade, a program was developed to accelerate math courses offered to students. Black also enrolled in a technology program created by OSU, where he was able to take electronics and technology while he attended high school.

As a result, he decided upon majoring in electrical engineering, and he began to receive scholarships to schools such as Washington State, Seattle and St. Louis. Black was settled on staying close to home, so he finalized his decision and enrolled at OSU.

When Black graduated OSU he began work for the Texas Instrument (TI) Defense Group. He worked for TI until Raytheon Corporation bought the TI Defense Group and Hughes Defense Electronics in 1997. “I work in the same building now; it’s just a different company,” said Black.

Black is currently a Senior Engineering Fellow at Raytheon, which is a product-development military defense company, which makes items such as military weapon systems, bombs, rockets and infrared materials.

Black is also the OSU campus manager for Raytheon. “I represent Raytheon to OSU, but in turn, I represent OSU to Raytheon,” said Black. “Part of the job is to see if there is some opportunity for both organizations, and I’m always looking to see if there is something at OSU that would be of value to Raytheon that Raytheon would be willing to sponsor, whether it’s research or academic advice.”

Outside of work, Black enjoys making time for his wife, two daughters and three grandchildren. He also coaches soccer and track, and when time allows it, he drives Winston Cup racecars.

His name is on the St. Pat’s Salute plaque located on the first floor in Engineering South. He has accomplished many successes throughout his life, including his five United States patents, thirty published magazine articles and a chapter in a textbook.

Calvin Vogt graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1953. He went to work for Bell Telephone Laboratories doing research, because Dr. Naeter, who was the department head at the time, said, “research is where it’s at.”

So Vogt ventured up north to New York and thought, “great place to work; terrible place to live.” Vogt left there and decided to work for a small electronics company for about thirteen years, and then ended up going into business for himself.

He had several small businesses, but one business that he just recently sold, Southern Specialties, brought him great profit. It was a precision fabricator of mechanical and sheet metal items. “Somebody came up to us with a need, and we developed a parking slot box for accepting payment,” said Vogt. They are located in big cities in off-street parking lots.

He developed this simple concept in 1975, which is still being used today. According to Vogt, “There is nothing high-tech about it, but it keeps people from fishing the money back out from it.”

Vogt has four companies as of now, and three of them are related to the petroleum industry. His offices are located around the world, including London, Singapore and Scotland. He also has a joint venture in China.

Vogt has four sons, two of whom graduated from OSU, and he has two grandsons that are enrolled at OSU currently, both in engineering. Vogt appreciates the education he received from OSU, because he felt they truly cared about him and what he was going to do in life.

In his spare time, Vogt loves to play tennis, he loves gadgets, and everything in his house and lake house is automated. “I can call up over the phone and turn up the air conditioning, or turn the lights up or sprinkle the lawn all over the phone,” said Vogt. “I love gadgets, and I love trying to solve problems.”
**Jack Sellers** graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1955. When he was in junior high school, his father clearly explained to him that eventually everything would be run by electricity. “What I think he was telling me was that a person who was skilled in electrical engineering would have a great future. He was right; therefore I chose it,” said Sellers.

Sellers is a believer that technology increases exponentially every year, and when an individual looks back at history, it is demonstrated. “Although we think that we know everything there is to know about electronics,” according to Sellers, “I really doubt that we do.”

Sellers believes that electrical engineering is just as great today as it ever was and will continue to be so in the future. “It just takes a little creativity, ingenuity and commitment to search and find those opportunities,” said Sellers.

After graduating from OSU, he started as an Electrical Engineer at Southwestern Bell and spent thirty years in the telecommunications business. He then volunteered to take early retirement and found an opportunity to pursue another passion of his, which was education.

Sellers is a pilot and is now on the faculty at Tulsa Community College and the director of the Aviation program. “I am one of the few lucky ones that had the chance to turn a hobby into a second career,” said Sellers.

Since he has been involved in aviation, he has represented Tulsa Community College in the University Aviation Association and has been elected president. This organization is an association of colleges and universities around the country involved in aviation education. “It involves a lot of work, travel and extra commitment, so it is quite an honor for me to have the opportunity to serve the organization in that manner,” said Sellers.

---

**Tom Hoke** graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1949 and was born in Oklahoma City after his grandfather settled a homestead in Oklahoma in 1894.

His father graduated from OSU in Journalism in 1920, and his uncle, Harry Hoke, graduated here in Electrical Engineering in 1907.

At first, Hoke thought he would major in chemistry, but after taking chemistry courses he decided he wanted something different. He then moved on to electrical engineering and got his bachelor’s degree.

During the summers before Hoke graduated, he worked for OG&E. “In fact my father had a business right across the street from OG&E and did business with them,” said Hoke.

He served in World War II after the Germans had been defeated, but just a few weeks before the atomic bomb was dropped. When he returned, he applied for a job and worked for a draftsman for two summers.

Hoke was hired as an engineer in 1949 upon graduation and stayed with OG&E until 1987 as the manager of engineering. His group of engineers was responsible for the design and construction of the three power plants in Muskogee and the Sooner Plant.

When referring to Stillwater, Hoke said, “I can remember coming here to visit my grandparents during the summertime, and it was just a nice little town, and after the war, this place just exploded. This area was covered with what they called a “veteran’s village,” just a bunch of framed barracks buildings that they converted into apartments.”

Hoke has many years of experience behind him that he will always remember. However, the future is still right around the corner for him to explore and learn new things.

- by Karen Arlene Holt
Assistant Editor
USA Today All-American Scholar

Largely in recognition of Bryan McLaughlin’s creation of Engineering Kids (EKIDS), a program in which OSU students visit area fifth-grade classrooms to excite young scholars about math and science, McLaughlin has been named to the All-USA College Academic Team. As one of twenty selections on the First Team of academic All-Americans chosen by USA TODAY, McLaughlin was profiled in the nation’s newspaper on February 13, 2003, and received a $2,500 cash prize. A 2002 Goldwater Scholarship recipient and 2003 Marshall Scholar, McLaughlin is the first OSU student to win the USA TODAY honor.

by Adam Huffer
OSU Communications Specialists

Congratulations to the Graduates of December 2002!

Bachelor's of Science: Mohammad Nadeem Ashraf, Bishara Elie Boujaoude, Jerry Wayne Brewer, Kevin Ray Calvert (COEN), Brent David Chambers, Mark Aaron Chatburn, Neil Grecco Chaves, Cory Candell Claffin, Justin Delaney Clark, Ryan Jon Davis, Tanya Elizabeth Dial (COEN), Sandy Lee Eversole, Tatek Biru Genene, Joseph T. Hahn, Kittiya Judkasikarn, Jeffrey Robert Klein, Heath Aaron Million, Dustin Michael Moore, Ryan Douglas Mounts, Regina Nana Ndayou, Teck Shen Ng (COEN), Matthew Jacob Noftsger (COEN), Vinh Hoang Pham, Amit Moti Sharma


Doctor of Philosophy: Haiming Lu, Roger Lynn Schultz, Zhiqin Zhao

We invite you to share your story with us and are interested to know what you have done after graduating from OSU. We encourage you to send us your information for a possible one-on-one interview for ECEN News (contact information is on the front page).

Oklahoma State University
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
212 Student Union
Stillwater, OK 74078