

A Brief Tribute to John Chiasson



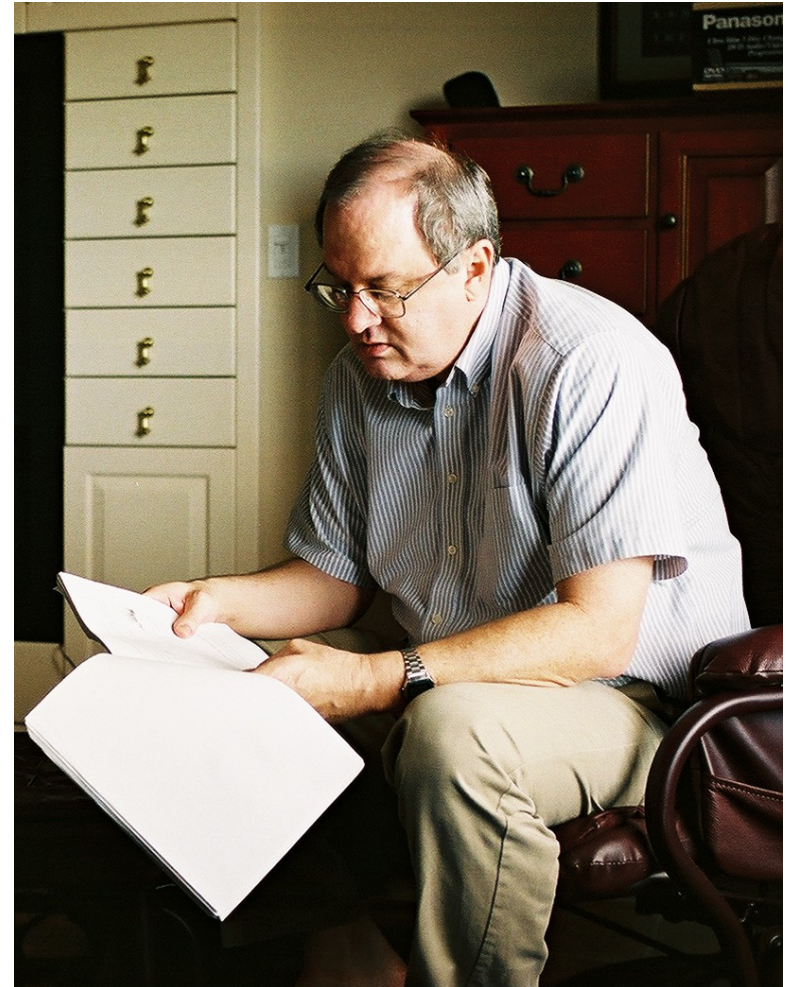
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John was ...



- A superb teacher and mentor to students
- A good friend
- An excellent colleague
- Very sharp and knowledgeable
- Nice – and a purveyor of jokes and puzzles
- A prolific researcher and author
- Gregarious and collaborative
- Precise, rigorous, & detail-oriented



12/2003 in Albuquerque, NM

A Fondness for Jokes & Puzzles



John sent me a video from Istanbul for my 70th birthday and included 2 jokes within 47 seconds. “Don’t worry about turning 70. It will just be an average year. It won’t be as good as last year, But it won’t be as bad as next year.”

The 2nd joke concerned delusions, dementia, a spaceship, and aliens, and can’t be repeated here. But, I could hear people laughing in the background!

He concluded the video saying he would fly away in a couple of weeks but would come back in a couple of years to join me. Let’s keep the faith!

He would often target me with a puzzle, usually mathematical. One that I remember: Cut a sphere that has 3 dots on its surface in half so that one hemisphere has one dot in its surface and the other has none.

The answer (a hint): There are either exactly 3 solutions or none.

Some Coauthors and Collaboration

(that I know about – other than myself)



- L. Tolbert (Univ. TN)
- C. Abdallah (now at Lebanese American Univ.)
- T-W. Wang (Univ. TN / retired)
- I. Arel (now at Morado Ventures)
- M. Hayat (now at Marquette Univ.)
- Sophie Tarbouriech (LAAS-CNRS)
- Isabelle Queinnec (LAAS-CNRS)
- Silviu-Iulian Niculescu (L2S/CNRS)
- Zhong Tang (now at Danaher Corp.)

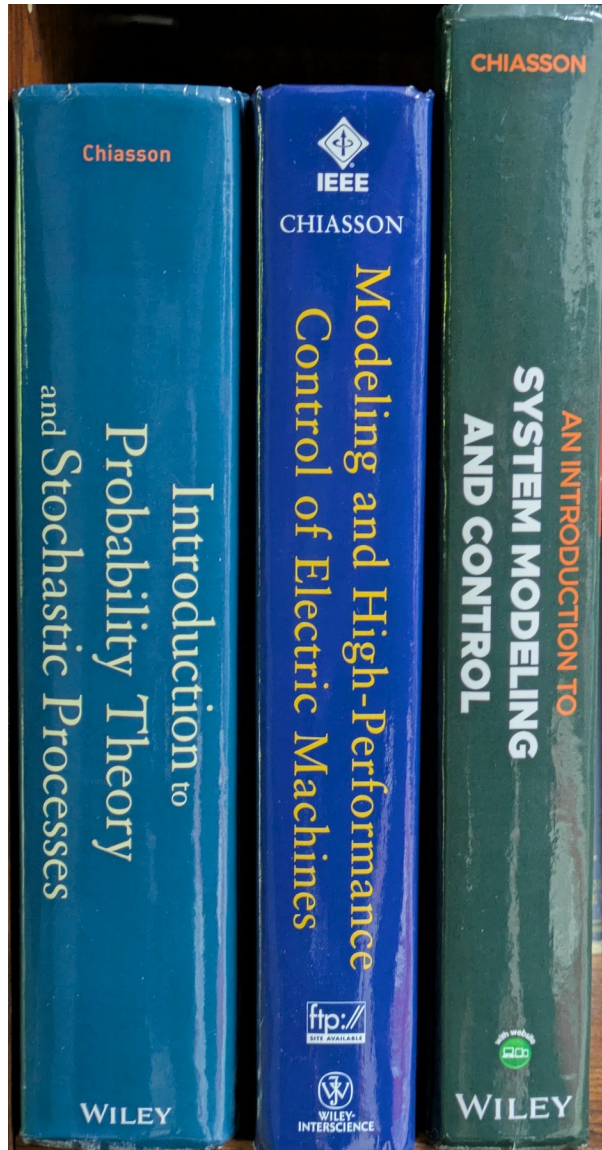


Sophie & Isabelle & John (12/2002)



Silviu & John (6/2005)

Books



My contribution (p. 34 of Electric Machines):



Fields of Study & Application



- Systems & Controls
- Guidance & Navigation
- Electric Machines
- Power Electronics
- Neural Networks
- Parallel & Distributed Databases
- Time Delay Systems
- ...

A Story: Christmas with John



S. Djouadi / D. Birdwell / J. Chiasson @ UTK (4/2005)

The Last Word



(7/2006)

John, thank you for all the memories. You are sorely missed. -Doug