



IEEE Newsletter

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ECE Professor Interview Series: Dr. Chuck Hawkins

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In this final interview of the semester, I interviewed the man who pushed us to found this newsletter and who is also retiring this spring, Dr. Chuck Hawkins. Dr. Hawkins grew up in Miami and first set foot on our campus for the annual high school basketball championship that takes place every march.

Five months later, he entered the freshman class and declared electrical engineering as his major. When Dr. Hawkins went to UF, the entirety of the college of engineering was located in Weil hall and electrical engineers had to take classes such as thermodynamics and statics.

After graduating from UF, Dr. Hawkins spent five years at MITRE Corp. in Kingston, NY, working on radar systems and at IBM in Boston, MA, working on digital circuit design. Feeling froggy he enrolled at Northeastern University and

found his calling.

A lazy professor ordered the students to give all the lectures in solid state and this was when Dr. Hawkins discovered that he loved teaching. He also audited a freshman biology course and added Bioengineering to his future.

Dr. Hawkins next went to the University of Michigan where he was awarded a PhD in Bioengineering. At Michigan, he spent six years in the Physiology Department and welcomed the different perspective. There were few job prospects at Michigan but a fortunate phone call with the University of New Mexico (UNM) led to a position in their ECE department.

The university lacked bioengineering

Mission Statement

This monthly newsletter will inform, entertain, and connect the students of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Florida. This newsletter links students to our university and future workplace by presenting articles on our department, industry, and events hosted by the different campus organizations.

The IEEE Newsletter needs your help in making this a better newsletter. Please email your comments, events, and ideas to ieee.uf.newsletter@gmail.com.

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so Dr. Hawkins founded and directed a degree program for undergraduate Bioengineering that lasted eighteen years. For two of those years, he was Associate Dean of the college of engineering.

Finding trouble securing funding for bioengineering, he began splitting his time between the UNM and the IC group of Sandia National Labs. He spent twenty years working at Sandia on IC testing, reliability, and failure analysis. He focused on exploring in depth the electrical properties of IC defects. This information is very important to IC testing, reliability, and failure analysis engineers. While at Sandia, Dr. Hawkins wrote four books and participated in many conferences including the International Test Conference which he chaired one year.

The work of Dr. Hawkins was widely recognized outside of Sandia and the University of New Mexico. He was invited to teach across the world in Europe, Australia, Mexico, China,

South America, Canada, and of course, the United States.

Dr. Hawkins also had opportunities to perform research at companies such as Intel, AMD, Medtronic, Philips Research Labs, Qualcomm, and Xilinx. He held a summer position with the Technical University of Delft in the Netherlands, and spent seven summers in the Physics department at the Universitat de les Illes Balears in Spain.

After ending his time in New Mexico, Dr. Hawkins moved to the Swamp and joined the adjunct faculty here in the ECE department. He taught EEE4310 (Digital Integrated Circuits), EEL2000 (Intro to ECE), and coordinated the weekly graduate seminar.

What is next for Dr. Hawkins now that he is retiring at the end of this semester? He plans on enjoying his retirement in Tampa, FL with his wife and finishing his latest book. Thank you Dr. Hawkins for inspiring us to found this newsletter.

-Matthew Griessler, EE Junior

First Year of the Newsletter

In the spring semester of 2013, I took the EEL 2000 class with Professor Hawkins. By the end of the semester I walked into the NEB Rotunda, and Professor Hawkins was sitting in one of the tables. I remembered how he once or twice spoke about his experience as editor of a magazine.

I walked towards where Professor Hawkins was sitting and asked him to tell me more about his experience as editor. I told him how much I liked writing. He suggested that maybe I could become the editor of the IEEE Newsletter. However, I did not know that the newsletter did not exist at the time.

Chris Sarli was the president of IEEE back then, and he allowed for the IEEE to start and publish this newsletter. Professor Hawkins started telling me about students in his EEL 2000 class who were exceptional writers. The first writers of the newsletter were Liz, Monique, Matthew, and I. I did not know anything about layout – the art of placing articles into pages in a form that readers recognize as a newsletter, magazine, newspaper, or another form of informational media – hence, the first IEEE Newsletter layout was done in Microsoft Word.

After the first semester, I created a poster looking for writers. Only two students responded to that poster. The first student, Christina, ultimately became part of the newsletter's team. She had experience with layout and has ever since been in charge of the great layout of this newsletter.

Professor Hawkins then mentioned Emily, Elise, and Daniel

as good writers, and they became part of the team.

It is unusual for an engineering student to like writing, nevertheless, we all like something outside of engineering that makes us exceptional engineering students and keeps us from falling into a stereotype. While this newsletter's primary purpose is to inform students about the events in our university and future work industry, it also proves that two passions can become something great.

As a leader, I think that the most important quality of a leader is to know when to give power to someone else. In a year and a half with a lot of time and effort from many people, this newsletter has become a medium to express and communicate ideas from engineering students to engineering students.

However, I want this newsletter to continue in the future and become better, and new, innovating ideas will do that. I am happy for Emily Macon to become the new IEEE Newsletter Editor because I consider her an amazing writer whose vision will drive this newsletter to other horizons and greater success.

Thank you to all of you who read this newsletter. I hope you enjoyed what we have been doing with this newsletter and continue enjoying it.

-Valentina Rendon, CE Junior

ECE Banquet: A Year in Review



Photo courtesy of Sara Schaffer.

ECE Students and faculty having a good time at the annual department banquet. IEEE, HKN, and WECE hosted the event reviewing the past year and giving out awards.

Last month, the students, faculty, and professors of the ECE department dusted off their best suits and dresses to attend to the annual ECE banquet to recap on the previous year, and to celebrate a change of power within its many sponsored organizations.

The banquet was hosted by IEEE, HKN (Eta Kappa Nu), and, for the first time, WECE (Women in Electrical and Computer Engineering), which brought in more ladies to represent and underrepresented population of the engineering department. The event was sponsored by Texas Instruments.

A recap of all of IEEE, HKN, and WECE was first on the agenda for the night. IEEE hosted over 20 info sessions of various companies in the fall semester, one of the highest at the university second only to the UF Career Resource Center.

HKN inducted new members into their

selective honors organization.

WECE expanded their outreach programs and hosted various events at UF and the Cade Museum encouraging young students to explore the engineering discipline.

Dr. John Harris introduced the newest members of the department and gave out the newly introduced ECE department awards. Scott Morrison of Texas Instruments gave a talk and revealed that UF is the number one school outside of Texas that Texas Instruments hires from.

A shift of power was seen at the banquet. Trent Fields hands over the position of president of IEEE to Julio Chavez and Bhoomi Patel gives over her position of president of WECE to Ming Yang.

This banquet was also personal to myself. I attended as the next editor

of the IEEE newsletter in place of the founder of the newsletter itself, Valentina Rendon.

It has been one year since the first edition was published and I am proud to say that the newsletter will continue through to the next university calendar year.

Thank you Valentina for mentoring me through the process of becoming editor, and thank you to all who has written for and who will continue to write for this newsletter.

I hope to continue to expand the newsletter in a positive direction and I will see you all in the fall semester.

-Emily Macon, CE Sophomore