

ASU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences receives \$50 million gift, new school name

The Department of Electrical Engineering is undergoing some major changes lately - including even having a different school name.

Recently, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences became the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering, honoring Fulton, founder and CEO of Fulton Homes, Inc., a premier home construction company based in Tempe, Ariz.



Ira A. Fulton

Fulton and his wife Mary Lou donated \$50

million to the Arizona State University Foundation for the benefit of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

"I have an enduring passion for technology, for education, and for the people of Arizona," Fulton said. "And I strongly believe you can't have a great city without a great school of engineering. I am pleased to make this gift, knowing it will enable ASU to grow into one of the highest ranked, most visible schools of engineering in the world."

Fulton, 71, was born in Tempe and attended ASU on a football scholarship. He then worked for NCR and was named

National Salesman of the Year. He also created his own companies that serviced business computer needs.

Fulton consulted for Eagleson's Big and Tall men's clothing company in 1974, and in two years purchased the company, expanding it from two retail outlets to 33. Millions of dollars in sales provided the funding to establish Fulton Homes, which began with the construction of several homes per year to now 1,500 homes annually.

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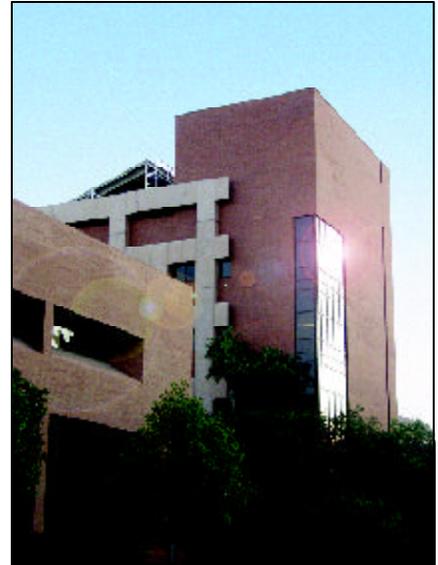
- Ira A. Fulton

Fulton's gift is one of the most generous endowments ASU has received.

"This endowment is one of the largest single gifts to an engineering college ever, and will bring enormous visibility and recognition to the school," said Dr. Stephen Goodnick, electrical engineering department chair.

The gift will provide funding for scholarships, fellowships, research programs, and investments in faculty across all engineering departments, including the Department of Electrical Engineering.

"Specifically, the endowment will provide fellowships to recruit top undergraduate and graduate students to the EE Department, help attract outstanding faculty to the department, and provide for investment in specific



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initiatives to bring the EE Department and the Fulton School among the top tier in the country," Goodnick said.

For more information about the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering, please visit www.fulton.asu.edu.

Letter from the chair: Welcome EE alumni



Welcome to the first publication of EE Connections. The goal of this newsletter is to open communication lines between the Electrical Engineering Department and its alumni.

Although most of the news in this first issue covers campus developments, we plan to include more information about our alumni in later issues. Please help us to keep in touch by e-mailing the information found on the last page or by filling out the online form at the site described on that page.

We are working hard to advance your alma mater. Our hope is to make the department among the strongest in the country. We are proud of the many accomplishments of our graduates and wish to feature them in this publication.

Do you have suggestions for this newsletter? Please let us know by sending suggestions and stories to toeeinfo@asu.edu. Keep in touch with us at our Web site: www.fulton.asu.edu/~eee.

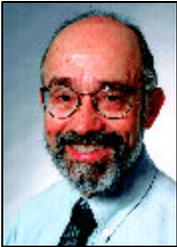
Stephen Goodnick, Chair
Electrical Engineering

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Where are they now? Find out more about EE faculty and classmates

Faculty: Dr. Joseph Palais



Joseph Palais
EE Professor

If you attended ASU between 1964 and the present you may have attended a class instructed by Professor Palais. He has taught courses in electromagnetics, fiber optics and lasers and is still active, serving as the department's director of graduate studies.

He is best known for his textbook, "Fiber Optics Communications," published by Prentice Hall.

Alumni: Dr. Benson Shen

Benson Shen received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from ASU in 1997. Shen leads Lightel Technologies in Seattle, Wash., which he founded to bring advanced passive devices and modules to the optical telecommunications industry.

Upon receipt of its first round of venture capital in 1999, Lightel incorporated and began product development. This followed with revenue shipments in June 2000.

Lightel designs, develops and manufactures fused coupler workstations, a complete line of fused coupler products, a full line of thin film filter micro-optics, long haul, metro and bench top EDFAs, and ultrasonic connector cleaners. For more information about Lightel Technologies, go to www.lighteltech.com.



Benson Shen, founder,
Lightel Technologies

**Find out more about the
Electrical Engineering
Department online.**

Visit www.fulton.asu.edu/~eee

Going the distance: Earning master's degrees online

Whether you live in the heart of New York City or in the frozen Alaskan wilderness, as long as you have a connection to the Internet, you can still get an engineering master's degree at Arizona State University.

The Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering Center for Professional Development (CPD) has created an online

U.S. News & World Report ranked the ASU M.S.E. program as one of the top e-learning graduate programs in the nation.

school of engineering, providing professionals worldwide access to a Master's of Science in Engineering (M.S.E.) program with a variety of concentrations.

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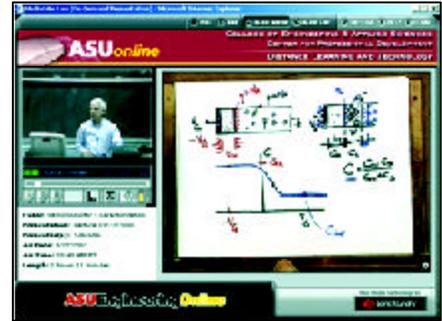
Program concentrations include electrical engineering, industrial engineering, materials science and engineering, modeling and simulation systems, and semiconductor processing and manufacturing.

According to the CPD, the ultimate goal of the organization is to provide working professionals from its corporate partners the ability to acquire current knowledge in engineering at the convenience of their own environment wherever they are in the world.

"We are extremely sensitive about the quality of our programs and services, so we work closely with faculty and students to ensure the quality of our programs," said Albert Filardo of the ASU Professional Education and Business Development.

The engineering online master's degree is not different from a degree earned on campus.

"Our classes are the same as the classes on campus with a few advantages," Filardo said.



Professionals worldwide can earn a M.S.E. in electrical engineering online.

Advantages include access to class sessions at any time and the ability to speed up or slow down the session and manipulate the slides according to an individual's learning needs.

Vivek B. Ajmani, Ph.D., found that the online engineering program at ASU enabled him to pursue his dream of

"The anytime-anywhere format fit perfectly well with my current lifestyle. The lectures and presentations are outstanding ..."

- Vivek B. Ajmani

obtaining an engineering degree while still allowing him to maintain his full-time job as a senior statistician at Intel Corporation.

"The anytime-anywhere format fit perfectly well with my current lifestyle," Ajmani said.

"The lectures and presentations are outstanding with excellent technical

support from the ASU online staff."

The distance learning team consists of experienced academic and corporate personnel from the University of Texas, University of Michigan, ASU and Motorola University, and is led by director Jeff Goss.

The CPD also offers noncredit professional certification and executive programs both online and in a classroom setting, as well as short courses and conferences in the Phoenix area. Corporations can also have programs custom-designed as well.

Registration for spring classes is now open. Find out more about registration and admission procedures at www.asuengineeringonline.com.



Vivek B. Ajmani,
Online engineering
student

Alumni, faculty, students meet again at IEEE event

The past, present and future collided at the Department of Electrical Engineering last month.

More than 150 students from the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering gathered in front of ASU's Old Main building on Oct. 24 to mingle with faculty, industry leaders and alumni at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) biannual Student-Faculty-Industry Mixer.

"We believe that these types of events help students build the networks they will need for their professional lives," said IEEE student chair Rouzbeh Brumand.

Two major companies, Raytheon and Texas Instruments, as well as the U.S. Army, attended the event. Refreshments, food and prizes were offered, including an MP3 player from Texas Instruments, \$25 gift certificates from the U.S. Army and IEEE t-shirts.

The mixer gives students a chance to meet with alumni, faculty and industry leaders in an informal setting.

"We want to provide students an atmosphere to relax and be themselves," Brumand said.

Anouar Zine Filali, a field applications engineer who graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in August 2003, has participated in the mixers as a student coordinator and as an alumnus.

"Now being an ASU alumnus, I [view] the mixer as a great way to keep in touch with former classmates and the school community," Filali said. "I certainly hope that more alumni will participate in future mixers."



Electrical Engineering faculty and staff mix with students and alumni at the biannual IEEE event. The next mixer is scheduled for the first week of March 2004.

Event sponsors include the IEEE wave and Devices Society, IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Society, IEEE Communications and Signal Processing Society, Department of Electrical Engineering and the IEEE Phoenix Section.

The IEEE has more than 380,000 members in 150 countries, according to its Web site, and 1,150 student branches at universities throughout the world.

ASU has the 12th largest chapter in the world with approximately 380 members, Brumand said.

Other ASU IEEE chapter events this year include hands-on industry workshops and final study sessions.

Students, faculty, industry leaders and alumni will have another chance to meet the first week of March 2004 at the next mixer. More details are available online at www.fulton.asu.edu/~ieec.

ABET evaluation of EE undergraduate program

In early November, the electrical engineering undergraduate program was visited by evaluators from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). ABET normally reviews engineering programs about once every six years. This is the first review ASU has undergone according to the new Engineering Criteria (EC) 2000.

Alumni surveys used to measure achievement of program objectives and outcomes played a key role in the EC2000 assessment efforts. The November ABET assessment found no concerns, weaknesses, shortcomings or deficiencies, which means the next general program review should be in 2009.

The final decision awaits the required vote of the ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission in July 2004.

New EE award honors outstanding Ph.D. student

Professor Palais and his wife Sandra endowed the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. The award is presented annually to the best graduating electrical engineering doctoral student.

The award recognizes the accomplishments of an outstanding student with a \$500 award and a commemorative plaque.

The first award was presented to Lucian Shifren at the Spring 2003 graduation ceremonies. Lucian was advised by Professor David Ferry and is employed by Intel as a senior CAD designer working in transport and device modeling.

If you wish to contribute to this award or to other scholarships in the department please contact Cynthia Haas in the Fulton Engineering Development Office at Cynthia.Haas@asu.edu or (480)965-9449.

Electrical Engineering Alumni Newsletter

This publication is written, designed and produced by the Department of Electrical Engineering of the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering for distribution to alumni, industry partners and academic friends worldwide.

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Stay in touch with Electrical Engineering

Congratulations again on the successful completion of your degree! We would like to have you keep in touch and update us as you progress in your career. Please send us the following information for our alumni records:



- Name
- Semester/Year Graduated
- Degree
- Company
- Position Title
- Address/E-mail/Phone

Please e-mail the above information to eeinfo@asu.edu. An alumni contact form is also available on our Web site at www.fulton.asu.edu/~eee/Forms/index.html. We look forward to hearing from you!

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