Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the School of EE&T Alumni Newsletter. 2011 is an important year for the school, marking its 60th anniversary and the launch of the school’s first history book. With the support of the newly founded Alumni Committee, staff and an active student body, 2011 has also seen the birth of some new initiatives which we hope will grow and serve EE&T’s large and illustrious alumni, as well as current and future students. We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and welcome your feedback or your interest in becoming more involved.

Best wishes,
The 2011 EE&T Alumni Committee

Alumni Connect Night

On July 14th 2011, the school hosted its first EE&T Alumni Connect Night – an evening with EE&T alumni from all years comprising drinks and canapés, informal discussion and a Distinguished Guest Lecture entitled ‘Engineering the future: tales from the dark side’, presented by Dr John Kaye, former EE&T Senior Lecturer and elected member of the NSW Parliament since 2007, whose interest and work in renewable energy spans around three decades.

“The important part is the chance for alumni to talk to each other. They rarely have this opportunity after graduation. This event is a fantastic way of getting back in touch with each other, and to know what’s happening with the school,” said Professor Eliathamby Ambikairajah, Head of the School of EE&T.

Dr John Kaye (centre), pictured with Head of School Prof Eliathamby Ambikairajah (left) and Dr Julien Epps (Alumni Committee Chair). Simon Lewis (top – 2010 alumnus) explains what Alumni Reconnect is all about in the Rex Vowels Theatre (formerly EELGI)

John Wulff, who graduated in 1960 and then returned to UNSW to complete a Masters degree in 1974, said, “Well I just thought I might see what’s going on; I’m retired, you know.”

“It’s a good chance to catch up with old friends and have a look at how the school’s doing, and [the distinguished lecture] sounds like an interesting topic for sure,” said Gillian Pak, who graduated in 2008 and works at Cochlear in Sydney.
School of EE&T 60th Anniversary and History Book Launch

John Eisenhuth, Executive General Manager of Distribution Operations and Reliability at Ausgrid and alumnus of 1977 (pictured below) officially launched the History of the School of EE&T, and also the EE&T Student Support Fund for Improved Student Learning. During his presentation, he also generously donated $10,000 on behalf of Ausgrid, to commence the fund, which will be administered by the Alumni Committee.

In true style, the book launch was fully automated, including the elevation, opening and closing of the book on the stage, and a Tesla coil-generated spark show synchronised with dramatic music – watch it at http://tv.unsw.edu.au/video/unsw-eandt-history-book-launch.

School of EE&T History Book

This book charts in detail the school's rich teaching and research growth, from its small beginnings in 1949, when the student numbers were around 15, to its vast development by 2009, in which the School had approximately 1000 students. Along the way, the School has kept up with rapid advancements in technology, but has also played an important role in setting this pace, and the book attempts to reflect this, beautifully illustrated by many historic photographs.
Alumni Reconnect

On Thursday Sept 22nd, the Alumni Committee hosted a panel of EE&T alumni, who answered questions from current students. The discussion was very well received, and followed up in traditional style by an ELSOC barbeque. Special thanks to our panellists John Wulff, Neelan Koovarjee, Bei Na Wei and Scott McArthur-King, whose insights into the world after graduation were very valuable.

If you are interested in sharing your experience as a graduate engineer at the next Alumni Reconnect in 2012, please contact us at alumni@ee.unsw.edu.au.

UNSW Open Day

Every year in early September the school goes on show, and this year we were proud to welcome back six alumni (some pictured on the next page) to help explain to the next generation of EE&T students why they should study electrical engineering and why industry needs electrical engineers.

The book can be purchased online via http://www.eet.unsw.edu.au/HistoryBook. 100% of proceeds will go to the EE&T Student Support Fund for Improved Student Learning.
Meetings are held only 4-5 times per year, in the evening, and are catered. You can register to attend by filling in the registration form or by emailing Ms. Nelly Taubman on nelly.w@unsw.edu.au before November 30th 2011.

School of EE&T News in Brief

In 2011, the discipline of Electrical & Electronic Engineering at UNSW secured an ERA ranking of 5, which is the highest ERA rating available and as per their descriptor, shows “evidence of outstanding performance well above world standard”. The ERA assesses the quality of research across all disciplines in tertiary institutions across the country and specifically identifies excellence and emerging research areas in various disciplines. Two of our staff, Prof Andrew Dzurak and Dr Andrea Morello, have published in the prestigious Nature magazine and recently won the Eureka Prize in Scientific Research for quantum computing breakthroughs.

We launched our new 5 year BE ME in Electrical Engineering with minor program, which will allow our students to pursue a minor in the arts, music, psychology and other disciplines while also receiving an in-depth Masters level qualification. We have also upgraded the lifts (yes, they’re faster than taking the stairs now...). Many of our successful alumni are also profiled and featured along the walls of our stairwell.

Best regards,

Prof Eliathamby Ambikairajah (Head of School)

Stay Connected

Not receiving invitations for alumni events? Be sure to update your details here.

Can’t attend events where you live and work now? Email us and let us know what you’re doing.

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