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Russ College of Engineering & Technology

## Inside IT

The Department of Industrial Technology

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**From the Department Chair:** Greetings to the alumni and friends of the Department of Industrial Technology in this 4th Edition of our newsletter. 2009 has been an event filled year of continuous improvement in the department. I have highlighted many of these events and milestones below. Thank you all for your continued interest and support for your alma mater, Pete Klein, Chair.

**Faculty:** No staffing changes were made during the past year. Dr Pete Klein was promoted to full Professor and Dr. Todd Myers received tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor. He was also named Assistant Department Chair and is Director of Region 3 for Epsilon Pi Tau, the international honors society for professionals in technology. The 2009 White Outstanding Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Zaki Kuruppilil and the White Research Award was presented to Dr. Kevin Berisso.

**Accreditation:** The department was reviewed for re-accreditation by the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE). This organization was formerly known as the National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT) but has changed its name to better reflect its mission. The accreditation decision will occur in November at our national conference but we have complete confidence that we will receive full accreditation. The preparation for the review was a year long process lead by Dr. Myers and Professor Emeriti, Bill Reeves.

**Name Change:** The name change by our accrediting body to the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering has opened the door for our own name change review. This was a major topic at our Industrial Advisory Board last spring. Many ideas were discussed as well as potential roadblocks to the use of particular words. Most likely the word "technology" must remain in the name and "engineering technology" does not really reflect our program. Ideas include "engineering technology and management", "management and applied engineering technology", "engineering technology and operations management", etc. The Advisory Board recommended using the words "engineering", "applied", "operations", and "management" in the name if possible. We would appreciate your thoughts on this topic. Send e-mails to the department address: [industrial.technology@ohio.edu](mailto:industrial.technology@ohio.edu)

**Curriculum:** OU will be changing back to the semester system with a planned cut-over date of fall 2012. The faculty has spent long hours planning our curriculum to meet the requirements of this change while maintaining excellence in our curriculum. Your input and suggestions are welcome.

**Lab Improvements:** Two new pieces of equipment were added to our labs due to the generosity of two organizations. A coordinate measuring machine (CMM) was donated by WISECO Performance Products and a robotic welding station was donated by Thermo Fisher Scientific. Both items are great additions to our lab equipment.

**Enrollment:** Last year saw record numbers for the department with enrollment nearing 200 during spring quarter. More and more freshmen enter the program straight from high school and many others transfer during their first or second quarter. This is a result of increasing visibility of the major

through many activities by the IT faculty and college. In the academic year 2008/2009 we had 40 graduates which was the second highest in the college.

**Research and Scholarly Activity:** Four faculty members are actively involved with funded research projects. Leading this activity is Dr. Berisso's work in the automatic identification and data capture area. Projects have included: 2D Bar Code verification system and robustness monitoring for GS1, Casino loyalty card testing, and the use of RFID in Returnable Transport Items (RTI) for the auto industry. Dr. Klein continues work with Mechanical Engineering in the area of plastics composites. Dr. Klein also published his first book entitled Fundamentals of Plastics Thermoforming. Six faculty members made presentations at national conferences and three had published peer reviewed articles in journals or proceedings.

**The Technical Sales Certificate** continues to gain interest among students and employers. IT students have the opportunity to gain this credential in addition to their business minor. There are about 40 centers in the US that offer Sales Certification programs and OU has the only Technical Sales Certification program. For more details visit the WEB site at [www.thesalescentre.com](http://www.thesalescentre.com).

**IT Homecoming:** As many of you know, we had to cancel the second IT alumni homecoming event due to very low pre-registration. The primary reason given for the low level of interest was the economy. The cost of travel, hotels, etc. has taken their toll on companies as well as each of us as individuals. We will plan another event when the economy turns around. Due to a generous gift from a local company, Diagnostic Hybrids, we were able to have a student appreciation picnic during the planned homecoming time.

**IT History Book:** As announced last year, the IT history book entitled "Building on Success: The History of Industrial Technology at Ohio University" is now in a finished form and is available on the IT WEB site.

**New Building:** If you have been to Athens in the past year you probably noticed a very large new building next to Stocker Center. This is known as the ARC (Academic & Research Center) and is a joint venture with Osteopathic Medicine. All classrooms will be moved to the ARC from Stocker Center which will provide state of the art instructional technology for our students and faculty. The move is planned for winter break, 2009. Please stop by for a tour the next time you are town after the move is complete.

**Support:** Thank you to the many who have contributed back to Ohio University with finances, materials, equipment as well as your valuable time. It is important to note that **only funds designated to IT will come directly to the department**. So, if that is your intention, please indicate this in the memo section of your check or make it very clear to the phone solicitor. These funds are very precious to the department and unless indicated differently by the donor, will be used to benefit students directly. This may include supporting a class trip, general lab equipment, etc.

**Please let us know what you are doing.** Also please send us a current business card for our records. This is an excellent recruiting tool for students and a great discussion document for parents and employers to better understand who we are. We would also like to know when you change jobs, get promoted, married or have children (or grandchildren). Be sure to update your address and e-mail so we can keep in touch.

**Facebook:** IT is now on Facebook. To find us, search Facebook for "Ohio University Industrial Technology". Please add yourself as a "fan". We will add new items and events to this page.

Please check with your OU IT friends to see if they received this letter. If not, we do not have their current information. Ask them to send us an e-mail.

Please visit our WEB site at <http://www.ohio.edu/industrialtech/>

You can also reach the department via e-mail at: [industrial.technology@ohio.edu](mailto:industrial.technology@ohio.edu) or by phone at 740-593-1455

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