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# GE Alumni Update

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University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Department of General Engineering

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## Mentoring Program to Kick Off This Fall

At the suggestion of several members of the class of 1987, a group of GE alums is establishing a mentoring program to bring together the expertise and experience of GE alums with current GE students. The students will be matched with alumni by areas of common interest—either by secondary fields or career goals. The alums can provide students with insight into the day-to-day operation of specific fields, help in choosing courses and tailoring a résumé for a particular type of job, or can serve as a sounding board for career concerns as students approach graduation. The mentoring program is not a job program but will hopefully give students an additional tool to help them as they enter today's competitive marketplace.

We are looking for more alums to participate in this worthwhile program. If you would like to assist a GE student, please contact Fred Jewell, GE '87, at 312-507-5346 for additional information. A small time-commitment will yield great rewards for students and for yourself.

## Calendar of Events

**Welcome to the Club! Happy Hour to welcome new GE Alums to the Alumni Association**—September 6, 1995, 5:00–7:00 p.m., Dick's Last Resort, North Pier, downtown Chicago—see article below

**College of Engineering Tent Party**—September 16, 1995, 9:00–11:00 a.m.—see article below

**Foundation Day**—October 14, 1995

**Homecoming**—October 28, 1995, against Northwestern

**GE Constituent Alumni and Industry Advisory Board Meeting**—December 15, 1995, 1:30 p.m., Illini Union

**GE 242 Final Presentations**—December 15, 1995—call Peggy Hills at 217-244-8835 for additional information

**Winter Graduation**—December 17, 1995

**Engineering Open House**—March 1–2, 1996

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## Welcome to the Club!

### End of summer gathering for all GE members of the Alumni Association

If you are a member of the University of Illinois Alumni Association (or would like to join), mark Wednesday, September 6, 1995, on your calendar. GE alums will be gathering at Dick's Last Resort at 435 East Illinois in the North Pier, downtown Chicago, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. to meet the latest alumni from the Class of 1995. The new alums are given a complimentary first-year membership into the Alumni Association, and what better way to welcome them to the club than during Happy Hour? A cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres will be available, as well as a chance to catch up with former fellow students and professors.

GEs will meet in the "pool room" at Dick's, and it is important for us to have as many people as possible there before 5:30 p.m. to secure the room. Bring your parking ticket to Dick's for a validation sticker for discounted parking from the lots at the northeast or northwest side of Illinois Street and McClurg Court. If you have any questions about the party, please call Maureen Krauss, Coordinator of Alumni Relations and Development, at 217-333-0140. We're looking forward to seeing you on September 6.

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## Come to the Engineering Tent Party

The College of Engineering is sponsoring the 9th Annual Engineering Tent Party on September 16 before the Illinois–Arizona game. The party kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will feature a picnic-style buffet, dessert, beverages, and the opportunity to visit with fellow alumni, faculty, and staff. Last year more than 400 engineering alums attended, although there were only 4 from GE. We'd love to see more of you this year. Tent party tickets are \$15 per person, half price for children under 10. Tickets to the game can also be ordered at \$22 per person. Call Shirley Fisk in the College of Engineering Development Office at 217-244-2364 for additional information or to place your order. Go Illini!

## Welcome to the Newest Member of the General Engineering Faculty

Rayadurgam Srikant comes to the department from AT&T Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, where he has been working since 1991 in the areas of performance analysis of high-speed networks and manufacturing systems, routing algorithms, and network design for integrated voice, data, and video networks. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Srikant will be teaching operations research and doing research in communication networks and manufacturing systems. He has moved to the area with his wife Susan and daughters, Katie, 3, and Jenny, 10 months. Welcome to the Department of General Engineering.

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## Did You Know?

The Department of General Engineering has 2,888 alumni and approximately one third live in the metro Chicago area.

The average 1994 salary of GEs who received a B.S. degree in 1984 was \$63,690, and for all UIUC B.S. engineering graduates, the average salary was \$59,673. From the class of 1989, the average salary for GE B.S. grads was \$55,300, and for all UIUC engineering graduates, the average salary was \$48,059. (Information from the Engineering Placement Office Survey, 1994)

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## GEPS Works for Students and Industry

The General Engineering Placement Service (GEPS) has been successfully providing internship and job opportunities to GE students since 1993. Through our alumni network, employment information is disseminated to students and, on occasion, to alumni.

The GEPS form that is included with this newsletter is the tool we use to keep track of current opportunities for our students. We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes of your time to fill one out and return it to our office via mail, fax, or e-mail. During the school year, students are notified about openings through e-mail. Participating companies have been pleased with the response they have received from our GE students.

In addition to letting students know about employment opportunities, we can also let you know about the diverse background and experiences of our students. GEPS produces a résumé book of our seniors twice a year, and you can get a copy by contacting our office. The GEPS résumé book can give you the edge in getting the right person for your organization.

## GE 242 – Another Successful Semester

Spring semester 1995 brought a near-record 24 GE 242 projects to the Department of General Engineering. Projects included reducing noise for a wet/dry vacuum, cost-effective waste treatment for a metal finishing company, analysis and redesign of bus windows, processing monitoring sensors in a cold heated application, and developing alternate power sources for remote telecommunications facilities. Twenty of the projects have been submitted for the Lincoln Arc Welding Award.

A special thanks goes to GE alums Jerry Hogan '59, MCI Telecommunications, and Ed Wells '86, McDonnell-Douglas Aerospace, for once again providing high-caliber engineering projects from their firms. If you think that your firm might have a 242 project, please call Professor Jim Carnahan at 217-244-8835. The 242 Annual Report, describing all projects from the past year, is hot off the press and available through our office. Find out the latest technology that today's students are bringing to the engineering world.

## GE Constituent Alumni and Industry Advisory Board Report

A new, longer name was one of the many changes made at the May 1995 meeting of the former GE Alumni Board. Changes to the by-laws made by the board will result in a larger, more diverse membership. For the first time, non-alumni industry leaders will be asked to serve and will, we hope, provide insight into the work world for which our graduates need to be prepared. The number of members to serve on the board was raised to no more than 40, with three-year staggered terms.

The board also heard a presentation by Professor Jim Carnahan on the 242 Senior Design program. This followed the 242 final presentations and luncheon, which many members of the board were able to attend.

As mentioned by board president Dick Reynolds in the last newsletter, new members are currently being solicited. If you are interested, please contact Dick through the GE office. The next meeting of the GE Constituent Alumni and Industry Advisory Board will be held on December 15, 1995, at 1:30 p.m. at the Illini Union, immediately following the fall 242 final presentations.

## Help!

GE 242 and the GEPS (General Engineering Placement Service) can use your help. A shared fax machine would improve communications with corporate sponsors and expedite job placement opportunities. If you have a working, used machine or would like to donate a new machine, many students would be extremely grateful. Please call Peggy Hills at 217-244-8835 to work out the details. Thank you for your support.

## Missing Alums

If you know the whereabouts of the following alums, please let us know so we can update our mailing list:

James M. Cox  
David L. Demeny  
Mark E. Dowd

Daniel E. Pedersen  
Karen A. Shineflug

## Do You Like to Talk?

We frequently use alumni to speak to classes and meetings of Gamma Epsilon and ISGE on topics ranging from technical aspects of engineering to how to interview for a job. If you would be interested in sharing some of your expertise with current GE students, please get in touch with our office. We'll have you fill out an area-of-interest form and keep it on file for when we get a request for a speaker. We have compiled a list of alumni who would like to spend some time on campus, and we would love to add your name to it.

## What Do You Think?

We are in the process of redesigning our regular, twice-a-year newsletter and adding a twice-a-year update, all to keep you more in touch with what is happening in the Department of General Engineering and with your fellow alumni. We would like your opinion—what do you like about the old newsletter, and what could be improved or added?

Remember, this is your newsletter, and we want to know how we can better provide news that most interests you. Please take a moment to drop us a line or give us a call—all the ways to reach us are listed at the bottom of the page.

## Here's How to Reach Us

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Alumni Relations and Development  
117 Transportation Building  
104 South Mathews Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-333-2731 (department)  
217-333-0140 (alumni relations)  
217-244-5705 (fax)      m-krauss@uiuc.edu

## Send Us Your News

The deadline for our fall newsletter is rapidly approaching, and we would like to include your news. Please let us know about career changes, marriages, children, awards, or whatever else might be of interest. Updates can be sent to Maureen Krauss, Alumni Coordinator, at the address listed adjacent to this article. We would also like to receive pictures and will publish them as space permits.