



## Elizabethtown College

Hello friends:

Just a note about Homecoming: October 7, 2000.

Yes, we've often missed each other at past Homecomings. You have stopped by the department when faculty members were not there and faculty have been here when you were elsewhere. *So this year, we are picking the convenient hour 1:00 p.m. until about 2 p.m. as the time when you are sure to find faculty and some current students in the department area.* The "official" place for department "reunions" - as announced by the Alumni Office - is elsewhere, but we'll be more at "home" in the warm confines of Esbenshade. (Someone will be posted at the official location to alert those who did not get this note.)

All department rooms will be open: We'll use 166 for our gathering. Our only agenda is a loosely structured opportunity to catch up on each other's activities. **See you in room 166 on Saturday, October 7, at 1:00 p.m..**

Recent department news:

There were eight graduates from August 1999 through August 2000. Seven have jobs in their career areas and one in is graduate school with an attractive stipend.

The official number of declared majors in physics and engineering is 41. Add 30 incoming freshmen and you get an impressive **71**, larger than ever. We remain, however, committed to fostering a feeling of "family" and continuing to develop close faculty/student ties.

In August, we welcomed Assistant Professor of Physics and Engineering **Kurt DeGoede** (dee GOOD). He joins professors **David Ferruzza**, **Tom Salem**, and **Mark Stuckey** as full time department members and part time professors **Nat Hager** (adjunct/ research), **Michael Scanlin** (adjunct/ geology), **Tom Leap** (computer science), **John Ranck** (chemistry), and **Joe Wunderlich** (computer engineering).

"Senior projects in engineering" (a parallel to "physics senior research") are becoming the capstone experience for our 4-year engineering students. Professors Ferruzza, Salem, Hager, and Wunderlich have worked individually with students on such projects. In fact, one of Salem's projects extended into a second semester of independent research.

A relatively new twist in the education of some of our students: *College credit for spring or fall internships.* Students have interned at AMP, PennDOT, ALCOA, and (this semester) M&M Mars.

Mark Stuckey continues to put Elizabethtown College "on the map" and himself in the forefront of the worldwide *general relativity* and *quantum gravity* communities. Most recently (August 2000), he presented a paper – *Pregeometry via Uniform Spaces* - and moderated one of the sessions at a Gravitation and Cosmology conference at U. California/ Berkeley. The paper was co-authored by senior **Wyeth Raws '01** whose summer 2000 research was funded by a grant from AmerGen Energy Company (which now owns TMI).

In August, we received a grant from AMP, Inc. to expand “studio approach” to teaching. Begun in 1999 by Professor Salem, studio approach melds lecture and lab into a continuum. It has been used principally in electrically oriented courses (circuit design, electronics). Studio approach requires identical stations, each with lots of equipment: Consequently, the need to seek grants. (If your company is philanthropically active in support of educational advancement, please contact me.)

*While on the subject of grants, allow me – as an aside – to say a word of sincere thanks to those of you who have contributed to the Department of Physics and Engineering Endowment. So far it’s a modest endowment. Nonetheless, we are able to draw about 5% of its value annually to help upgrade equipment.. Again, thank you!*

Oops – this “short” note has grown – must stop now! See you on October 7, 2000.

In service to our students,

David Ferruzza  
Chair, Physics and Engineering  
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p.s., if you are receiving this note by US mail and have an email address, please let me know. Send message to [ferruzad@etown.edu](mailto:ferruzad@etown.edu)