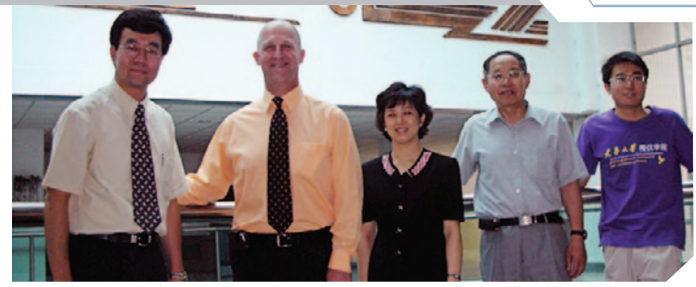


Dr. Keith Teague visited Tianjin University. Dr. Teague (second from left); Dr. Weili Zhang (first from left).

The School of Electrical and Computer Engineering continues to strengthen its program and maintain a strong international connection around the world. ECE is currently collaborating with universities in China, Mexico, India, Iraq and Vietnam, among others.

OSU-Mexico

"I've always thought it's extremely important that every college student should have some international experience," said Dr. Carl Latino, associate professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "It's important to understand other cultures."

Dr. Martin Hagan

Dr. Latino and Dr. Martin Hagan, also a professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, continue to build a strong relationship with two universities in Mexico—National Polytechnic University (IPN) in Mexico City and the Popular Autonomous University of the State of Puebla (UPAEP). The connection with IPN is based on research involving field-programmable gate arrays.

"We've done several senior projects here using the same thing, and they've also done some projects there as well," Hagan said. "The idea is to eventually have some joint proposals."

The collaboration between ECE and Mexico began during 2006, when Hagan met an IPN professor at a conference. Latino became involved with UPAEP after they came to OSU's Mercury Remote Robot competition. Last summer, 60 students and faculty from Puebla came to OSU for a university-led program.

"As a result of them coming this past summer, there are now two students who are studying engineering at OSU," Latino said. "We're expanding our communication with Mexico. Now, we are planning on having the same class in Puebla next summer."

"Puebla is a really nice place, with a lot of old architecture," Hagan said. "It's surprising. With Mexico being so close you would think there would be more connection there. But in fact, it's not true."

Latino said studying in Mexico is more cost-effective than studying in Europe.

"We misjudge how important it is to have an international experience," Latino said. "I think it's important to see the work ethic of the different students."

Next summer, Latino will be one of the English-speaking instructors in Puebla. American students will have the opportunity to learn about the Mexican culture, with cooking and dancing classes.

Dr. Carl Latino

"The intent is to show the students the possibilities of studying in Mexico and build the connection," Latino said. "I was moved by how welcoming they are and I found it a very positive experience. I think our students would enjoy it."

OSU-China

Dr. Weili Zhang, professor of electrical engineering at OSU, is building the connection between ECE and one of the top universities in China—Tianjin University, where he received his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees

"Every year, the Chinese government supports about 5,000 students who study abroad overseas, either as a visiting student or to receive their degree," Zhang said. "My role is to basically set up connections between OSU, electrical engineering and the Tianjin University."

Dr. Weili Zhang

Dr. Zhang said students from China have come to OSU as either visiting students or graduate students. So far, he said most students who have come are working on their Ph.D. Two visiting students stayed at OSU for 24 months to work on their thesis. After making an agreement with the Chinese government, the students must return after they receive their degree or finish their research.

"This will make OSU electrical engineering more recognized because other students recommend us," Zhang said. "They learn about OSU from their teacher overseas, they know OSU's electrical engineering program, probably due to the visits from Dr. Teague, myself and Dr. Grischkowsky."

Zhang said the most important part about the collaboration with China is the students.

"We want to attract excellent students and the top students for our electrical engineering program," Zhang said.

OSU-Iraq

OSU is also one of five American institutions chosen to participate in a partnership with five universities in Iraq. The collaboration will focus on curriculum review, career development, student exchanges and the expansion of online courses.

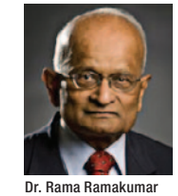
Dr. James Stine

Associate professor Dr. James Stine has been a resource to Dr. Al-Tameemi, the head of the Computer Engineering Department at the University of Basrah in Iraq. Al-Tameemi has visited OSU to learn what qualities universities in the United States have and how he can improve his computer engineering department.

Dr. Stine continues to collaborate and guide Al-Tameemi in developing his department to be independent and functional.

OSU-India

Expanded connections between ECE and India began about five years ago, with the help of Regents professor and PSO/Albrecht Naeter professor, Dr. Rama Ramakumar, who is originally from India.



Dr. Rama Ramakumar

"This has been one of the most active connections," Ramakumar said. "They are realistic; they know we are not MIT or Stanford, but at the same time they know we have a lot to offer. They can expect a lot from us and we are building strong contacts."

The majority of students from India study engineering at OSU, as well as business and computer science. Ramakumar said the connection with India is slowly building up, and there has been a lot of interest shown.

"Most important of all is we are interested and they are interested," Ramakumar said. "They can expect a response from us."

OSU School of Electrical and Computer Engineering has connected with Coimbatore Institute of Technology (CIT) and Vel Tech (VTU) in India. Ramakumar said the collaboration with CIT has resulted in two successful international conferences in Coimbatore, India. The first conference, which was in 2009, was on sensors, security, software and intelligent systems. The second conference was held in 2010 and focused on embedded systems. One more conference will take place in January of 2012 over renewable energy utilization. After collaborating with VTU, there was a conference held last year on smart technologies for materials, communication, control, computing and energy.

"It's like a win, win situation," Ramakumar said. "I feel good going over there and helping them, and they feel good knowing they have someone who is genuinely interested. It's also fun because my family is there."

In addition to the successful conferences, Dr. Kannammal Sampath, associate professor at CIT, spent one month in Stillwater working with Dr. Kak, head of the OSU department of Computer Science, which was sponsored by the government of India.

Ramakumar said efforts are underway to initiate collaborative activities with Bapuji Institute of Engineering and Technology (BIET), Acharya Institute of Technology (AIT) and Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT).

"The administration is really excited about such programs," Ramakumar said. "Even President Hargis is thinking about visiting India in the near future. It is good to have students come here to study, and then go back and tell others about OSU. This is all part of a big movement we have going on."

OSU-Vietnam

PHOTO COURTESY OF LORY FERGUSON

Four TNUT vistors (from left to right): Thanh Cong Do, Thai Trung Mai, Vu Viet Vu, Huy Ngoc Vu

In Southeast Asia, Dr. Keith Teague (ECE Head) has been working with Thai Nguyen University of Technology (TNUT) under a program sponsored by the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training (MOET). This effort, referred to by MOET as the Advanced Program, has as its goal the development of engineering curricula and degree programs, taught in English and patterned after the American educational model, at select Vietnamese universities. ECE is partnering with TNUT in developing an electrical engineering undergraduate degree program based on the curriculum in ECE here at OSU. Four young TNUT faculty members currently visiting and observing in ECE for two months are part of that effort. Dr. Teague has visited TNUT several times helping to establish this program which will lead to additional opportunities for collaboration and exchange of faculty and students between OSU and TNUT.

Kristen McConnaughey

COURTESY PHOTOS