

AROUND CAMPUS *ONLINE*

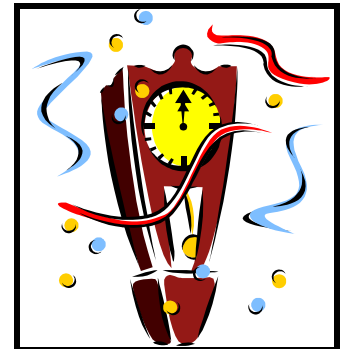
NEWS AT A GLANCE



- The Marietta City Council approved changing the name of the road that accesses campus from Cobb Parkway (41) near Physical Plant. The long-standing "Southern Tech Lane" is now "Polytechnic Lane." (See "Signs of the Times," on page 4)

- Walter Thomas, program head of Apparel and Textile Engineering Technology, was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Engineering Alumni by Georgia Tech's College of Engineering.
- At the annual meeting of The Georgia Engineering Foundation, 11 SPSU students received scholarships. (See story on page 2.)
- SPSU is profiled in an extensive feature in the January issue of *Georgia Trend* magazine.
- The Ministerio de Educacion y Cultura of the Government of Spain has awarded Bernice Nuhfer-Halten (SIS) a scholarship for the 2003 summer faculty development seminar at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. While there, she will study post-Franco Language, Culture, History and Art of Spain.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FACULTY AND STAFF



SPSU to offer engineering master's degree

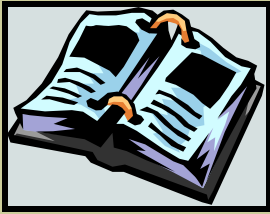
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

In an exciting expansion of the University's educational programs, SPSU has received approval from the Board of Regents to offer a Master of Science in Systems Engineering. According to Dr. William S. Pfeiffer, vice president for Academic Affairs, the new degree strengthens Southern Polytechnic's educational mission in the application of technology and the university's strong base of programs offered for non-traditional students. "We believe a master's level degree in systems engineering is most suitable given the high level of decisions and activities required of professionals in the industry. Our potential base of students will primarily be senior people attending school at night and on weekends to develop systems engineering knowledge and skills," says Pfeiffer.

Systems engineering is described as the application of a systems approach to the design of complex industry and business domains. The systems engineering discipline has expanded beyond its initial home in the communications industry to hardware and software integration, energy, manufacturing, transportation, environmental systems, infrastructure and aerospace. The demand for graduates with systems engineering education is strong. Prime contractors for major projects in federal and state government need trained employees. An updated Department of Defense contract mandate requires "all participants to have employees with a sound systems engineering approach."

Curriculum for the new degree program was developed by Southern Polytechnic in close collaboration with Lockheed Martin, a longtime business partner to SPSU's educational mission and a company with a strong interest in employing our graduates.

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DATES OF INTEREST

January 21: Dr. Rossbacher and several others from campus are attending the Cobb Education Consortium Legislative Luncheon.

January 23-26: SAMSOG Conference takes place in the Student Center Lobby, Theater and Ballroom.

January 27: Cobb County Counselor Association meets on campus.

January 28: Blood Drive begins at 11 a.m. in the Ballroom.

January 30: The Board of Regents Chief Business Officers meet on campus.

February 17: Engineering Week luncheon at SPSU.

February 22: Engineering Week banquet at SciTrek.

February 22: Undergraduate Open House.

MASTERS IN SYSTEMS ENGINEERING, *CONTINUED*

According to Karen Albrecht, engineering site director for Lockheed Martin in Marietta, "We've worked closely with Southern Polytechnic in the development of a program that will graduate employees who can help Lockheed Martin meet our high standards in the design, development, production and support of advanced military aircraft. This program fills a critical need as we move forward to create, test and deliver a quality product." Albrecht adds, "Systems engineering helps us do it right — the first time."

Beyond the master's degree, SPSU will also offer options for individuals seeking specific skill sets rather than a full degree program. The university will offer modular graduate certifi-

cate programs and advanced graduate certificate programs in systems engineering. These courses will be a prerequisite to the Master of Science but will also stand on their own for those seeking a series of advanced skills. The new program is expected to begin on a part-time basis in evening classes early next year.

According to Sandy Pfeiffer, there are a number of people who deserve a great deal of credit in bringing the systems engineering degree to campus. Among them are SPSU's Richard Aynsley, Dave Caudill, Britt Pearce, Bill Barnes, Ron Schroeder and Dawn Ramsey, and consultants Randy Maxwell, John Muchlbauer and Rich Harwell. "We deeply

"Systems Engineering helps us do it right — the first time."

Karen Albrecht

appreciate the support and collaboration of Lockheed Martin, a major contributor to the development of this program and to its approval by the Board of Regents," says Pfeiffer.

GEORGIA ENGINEERING FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

At the annual meeting of the Georgia Engineering Foundation held at Georgia Tech in December, 43 engineering and engineering technology students received a total of \$54,400 in scholarship awards, of which 11 with a total value of \$12,700 were awarded to Southern Polytechnic students. Dean Richard Aynsley presented four of the awards that were funded by SPSU alumni.

SPSU students receiving the scholarships were John Sanders, Sara Atkison, Russel Troesken, Margaret Mbugua, Peter Emmanuel, Brian Maxwell, James Cucksee, Lawrence Csaszar, Jennifer Fleming, John Hagerich and Kevin Maher.

SERVICE AND TEACHING

JOHN SWEIGART: SPSU'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2002

According to MET Associate Professor John Sweigart, one of the biggest problems teachers face is finding the time to do everything. In Sweigart's case, he has obviously been successful in making time to go above and beyond his position's duties. He was named SPSU's 2002 Teacher of the Year in recognition not just of his teaching ability, but especially for his service. Sweigart has contributed countless volunteer hours for the Science Olympiad program and as the faculty advisor for the SPSU Aerial Robotics team.

Sweigart has been with Southern Poly for ten years. He came to the school directly from industry where he had been with Amoco Chemical. After a major layoff at Amoco affected him, Sweigart remembered his enjoyment of teaching while in graduate school. The timing coincided with an opening for a part-time teacher at SPSU in the spring of 1992. Sweigart applied and was hired. When an opening

for a full time tenure position occurred, Sweigart was appointed, beginning his real career in teaching. "I had composites experience at a time when Lockheed Martin was donating composites lab equipment to the school, and SPSU is a school that likes industry experience in its teachers," says Sweigart. "It was a good match."

Lance Crimm, ECET, was Sweigart's primary nominator for the Teacher of the Year honor. Crimm, who is heavily involved in the Science Olympiad on campus, was well aware of the contributions Sweigart made to the program and its young participants.

"Service is something I enjoy," says Sweigart. "All our faculty have different strengths and areas they are comfortable with. Some contribute through scholarship, others really go the extra mile for the students they teach, and some enjoy service. Some activities are just more visible than others."

Sweigart gives as examples from MET the value of both Don Horton's internal contributions to his students and the external efforts of Glenn Allen visiting high schools on behalf of SPSU.

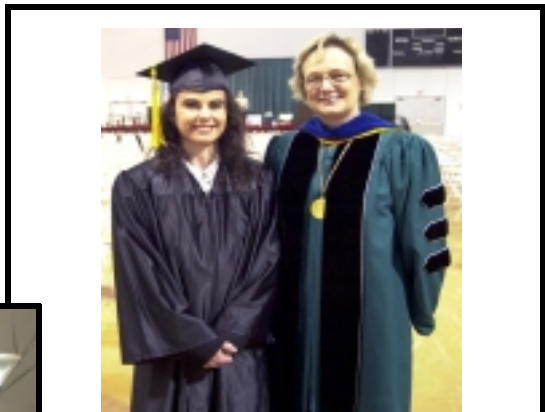
Our Teacher of the Year really enjoys SPSU students. "I'm impressed with the maturity and the work ethic of our students. MET has a demanding curriculum and the juniors and seniors I teach are very hard working." Sweigart laughs, noting that "the students at SPSU seem more mature than I was in college."

Sweigart finds one of the challenges of teaching

is the range of abilities and interests in every class. "We must find a good level so that some are not left in the dust while others are bored. Another challenge is the paperwork. "Lab work is fun. Talking to students in class is fun. Grading is definitely not fun!"

Sweigart says that most teachers knew before entering the field whether they would enjoy teaching or not. "When I was in high school I always enjoyed helping other students. In fact, ironically, my nickname in high school was 'professor'! I guess I was meant to eventually teach."

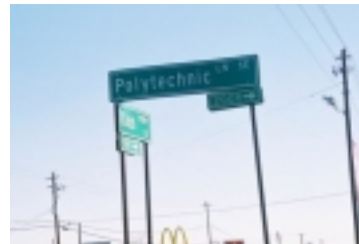
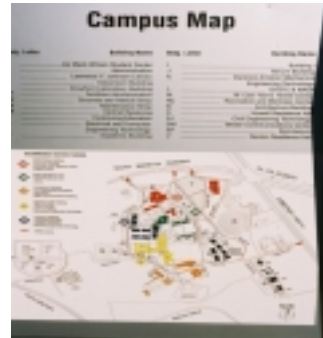
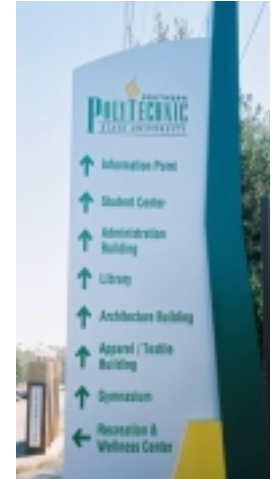
Obviously, the nickname was a self fulfilling prophecy and that is a good thing for SPSU.



Before a packed house at SPSU's December commencement, Chastity Faye Lowery was honored for her outstanding academic record at Southern Polytechnic while achieving a degree in computer science. Shown here with President Rossbacher, Chastity graduated Summa Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.96.

Signs of the Times

They're here — the new signs of the times. Anton Kashiri and Jessica Flores help display the changes. The Southern Tech Lane sign guiding traffic from Cobb Parkway into campus is now Polytechnic Lane. New internal signs guide visitors, students, staff and faculty around the Southern Polytechnic landscape with directional information, and maps identifying buildings by name and by number. A new marquee fronting South Marietta Parkway will jazz up our external messages. Congratulations to everyone in Facilities and those on committees who worked on the new sign project.



SPSU to launch Honors Program with Dr. Reichert

The University is launching a new Honors Program in the fall of 2003 under the direction of Dr. Nancy L. Reichert. The new director is formerly an assistant professor of English in Humanities and Technical Communication. She joined SPSU in 1999 after teaching high school English in Indiana and Florida. She received her bachelor's in English from the University of Dayton, and a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy from Florida State University.

The Honors Program will provide exceptional students with an avenue to accelerate their studies while working with faculty on challenging individual projects. Selection for the program will require a minimum 3.5 GPA and a cumulative SAT score of 1200. The program will start with six course offerings in the fall.

Send information to share, questions you'd like answered in *Around Campus*, or letters to the editor to the Public Relations Department, c/o awatson@spsu.edu. or via campus mail.

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