



## Dr. Gill Richards begins Sabbatical

We just arrived in Paris – I have established myself in a “place” at the French National Library (Bibliothèque Nationale de France). That required a background check. But I can go there to work on things. Interestingly, the French collection of power and energy texts is mostly English language – something a little more extensive than would be found at big university libraries in the States.

Also, the National Library is used as something like a college library by a great many university students here in Paris. I can tell they are students by (among other things) the cell phones. I already got sucked into trying to explain a math problem to an education major.

But I hope to get some work done in the coming weeks. It’s only 100 days to the presidential election here – everyone’s excited by the presidential frontrunners (the pair is referred to as sarko-sego: Nickolas Sarkozy versus Segolene Royal). The election is first past the post, like Louisiana. The students are already getting restless – I just hope they don’t shut the library.

*Dr. Gill Richards was awarded a sabbatical this spring semester to write a new Power Systems book. Mr. Michael Azami will teach ELEG 3153 Electrical Machines and Mrs. Buford will be teaching ELEG 2113 Electric Circuits II, classes traditionally taught by Dr. Richards. Mr. Azami has over 25 years experience in power plants. We welcome Mr. Azami to the department as an adjunct faculty member.*

## Exciting New Project “Launched” for EE Department

How many of you remember the autonomous vehicle helicopter project? About ten years ago Dr. Alan Proffitt and his students purchased a helicopter which was recently found in “crashed” condition. The crashed helicopter was resurrected and students are in the process of retrofitting the design for participation in the “International Aerial Robotics Competition: the Ultimate Collegiate Challenge” this July 23 – 27<sup>th</sup> at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

We will be joining the likes of Purdue, Georgia Institute of Technology, South Dakota School of Mines, Virginia Tech, University of Alabama at Huntsville, Delhi College of Engineering, Georgia Tech, University of Arizona, and the University of Central Florida. Why would we subject ourselves to competing against schools with years of contest history and enormous budgets? The answer is simple, our students do not back down from overwhelming odds and enjoy the element of surprise when they step up to the challenge like they did last year when they won the IEEE Region 5 Robotics competition. We appreciate the support of an ASGC/NASA grant and the EE Dept. to get the multiple-year project underway.

Information about the competition may be found at:  
<http://avdil.qtri.gatech.edu/AUVS/IARCLaunchPoint.html>

## Anthony Tusing – Newest EE Faculty Member



Anthony Tusing

Anthony Tusing is the newly appointed Instructor for the EE Department to fill the position vacated when Mr. Al Hartman retired last year. Mr. Tusing is a recent Tech graduate whose enthusiasm was the driving force behind our electrical engr. department’s renewed interest in robotics.

Mr. Tusing distinguished himself as the project manager for the “Wonderbot” which won the IEEE Region 5 Robotics contest last April.

Mr. Tusing’s new responsibilities include managing our Electrical Engineering Labs as well as support for our department and others on campus. His technical expertise will be invaluable to faculty and students alike. His office is located next to the EE lab in Corley 118-B.

Let us know about you!  
Email us at  
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Project Manager William Mauldin and team member Josh Koenig repair helicopter.

In addition to the EE Department, Dr. David Middleton of Computer Science and Dr. Daniel Bullock of the Physics Department as well as EE and ME students from freshmen to gradates are involved in the project. Many met several times a week during the fall semester to prepare initial designs and order equipment.

## Featured Alumnus

John Sides (1996) is currently employed at TL Services, Inc. in Van Buren, Arkansas. John primarily works in HVAC Controls (automation) but his background is electronic/electric/pneumatic/hydraulic mechanical systems. John recently obtained his Professional Engineering License and is traveling the globe with his job. His work takes him to embassies around the world including Conakry, Guinea; Kabul, Afghanistan; Prague, Czech Republic; Mali, Cameroon and Sierra Leone. During his "spare time" he volunteers with his local high school and their BEST robotics projects.

"The things I'm doing are beyond my hope and dreams. The greatest advice I can offer is to be open to anything that comes along. It may develop into something greater than you can ever imagine. Also, prepare yourself for anything, it may happen. Tell your students to dream big. No they may not ever get there, but you never know what may come along."

If you would like to be featured in this section please send information and pictures to [pbuford@atu.edu](mailto:pbuford@atu.edu)



Above: John Sides enjoying paradise in Mali. Below: Guinea.



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## IEEE Student Chapter

Nathaniel P. Scott, IEEE Student Chapter President

The ATU Student Branch of the IEEE has continued to provide activities and meetings of interest to Tech engineering students. Aided by frequent officer meetings, hard work, and a well-filled bank account (thanks to winning the Region 5 Robotics Competition) the Student Branch has pulled together electrical and mechanical engineering students, freshmen through seniors.

In cooperation with the local ASME Student Chapter, IEEE hosted the annual Internship Review program in early September. Several returning students gave summaries of their summer engineering internships. With employers varying from speaker manufacturers, to power consultants, to aircraft manufacture, there were many excellent ideas for underclassmen who will be looking for internships in the spring.

A highlight of the semester was placing in the Organizational Fall Fest Contest. Each fall, ATU student organizations build games and booths for a campus carnival. Many hours of design, programming and building paid off in a home-made electronic game, and \$\$\$\$\$. Several other events, including cookouts, community service, and a tour of production line of the Con-Agra plant in Russellville, provided opportunities for students to network with each other, faculty, and professionals. The spring semester promises several more activities, including a guest speaker, joint Section meeting, and the Time-Out for Tech recruiting fair. IEEE continues to lead ATU engineering societies in providing excellent educational as well as social activities for members and all engineering students.