

## Congratulations to our May Graduates!

Erin Burket  
Keith Bux  
Stuart Brasher  
Ryan Cobb  
Sara Evans  
Jonathan Fielder  
Majid Ghasemi  
Zach Harris  
Yi-Ting Hsieh  
Jordan Kelleher  
Michael Siebold  
Amber-Rose White



Congratulations to our new graduates! On May 10<sup>th</sup> we celebrated as a dozen seniors accepted their degrees and became our newest alumni.

Most of them have definite plans for careers or graduate programs, and a few are still weighing their options. We are proud of each of them and look forward to sharing in their future successes.

Each semester flies by, but this one was especially busy with students competing in NASA's Great Moonbuggy Race, designing, building and competing in the national Baja Car competition sponsored by the Society for Automotive Engineers, presenting papers at national conferences, hosting outreach events for local students, and keeping up with assignments in the classroom. We continue to attract top students to

our programs and their academic ability, creativity, and dedication are impressive. I hope this brief newsletter will give you a snapshot of all the activity that takes place here during the spring. I also hope it will convey my pride in the many achievements of our students and faculty.

This summer is an especially appropriate time for me to reflect on the many strengths of the department, and to recognize those who make it such a fun place to work. I have now completed 20 years on the MSU faculty, the last 14 years as department chairman. On July 1, I will move next door to begin an appointment as Dean of MSU's College of Science, Engineering, and Technology. While I will miss working with this talented group of faculty and students, I look forward to contributing at a different level. Dr. Ted Thiede will serve as Interim

Chairman next year, and has already assumed many of the responsibilities of his new job. Rhonda Rogers has accepted a promotion to serve as the Dean's secretary, but we will both be accessible to help the department make a smooth transition.

Thank you for the support you've given to me and to the department for these many years. Please continue that support so that our programs will be strengthened by this change in leadership, and that our students will continue to enjoy the academic and professional preparation that is the hallmark of our department. I'll keep in touch, and I want to continue to hear from you in the months ahead.

Best wishes,  
Steve Cobb

## 2008 HONORS DAY

- **2008 Outstanding Seniors in Engineering Physics:** Keith J. Bux, Jonathan C. Fielder
- **2008 Sigma Pi Sigma Outstanding Seniors:** Ryan S. Cobb, Jordan Kelleher, and Michael A. Siebold
- **2008 Outstanding Seniors in Physics or Applied Physics:** Sara E. Evans, Michael M. Snyder
- **2008 Sigma Pi Sigma new members:** Joel D. Cates, Sara E. Evans, James A. Harris, Casey A. Thomas, Christopher J. Woody

Engineering and Physics  
Murray State University  
131 Blackburn Science Bldg.  
Murray, Kentucky 42071

(270) 809-2993  
Toll-Free 1-800-648-1334

[www.murraystate.edu/  
engineering](http://www.murraystate.edu/engineering)

## Department of Engineering and Physics Homecoming Extravaganza!

If you've ever thought about going back for Homecoming, this is the year to do it! Do you remember the homecoming events of the 1980's at Kenlake State Park? We celebrated homecoming, roasted the professors, danced, and partied late into the night. Graduates Karen "Rooney" McLaughlin, Helen McNally, Annette "Skaggs" Nimmo and Susan "Becker" Penfield are organizing a homecoming reunion extravaganza. Former professors including Dr. Etherton, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Beyer, and Dr. Duncan and graduates such as Keith Helms, Jeff Elder, Al Curtis, Darall Harris, Carl Gentry, and Kenny Zabel have confirmed they will attend. The event will be held the evening of October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Kenlake State Park. More details will be forthcoming; however blocks of rooms and cabins have been reserved until July 8, 2008. If you have any questions or plan to attend, please contact Helen at [mcnallyh@purdue.edu](mailto:mcnallyh@purdue.edu). Hope to see you and your families there!

# Points of Pride

The department's Moonbuggy team competed at NASA's Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL, again this year, and brought home honors. Murray State finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation this year, marking their best performance ever.



*Students have designed, built, and raced a Baja car in a national competition sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers. The race was held in Peoria, IL at the Caterpillar, Inc., proving ground. The faculty sponsor is Dr. James Rogers.*

Dr. John Crofton has been selected as an ASEE Faculty Fellow, and will conduct research this summer at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH.

Dr. Hamid Kobraei presented research results at the 2008 March meeting of the American Physical Society.

Dr. James Hereford and senior Michael Siebold co-authored a paper on dispersion techniques for small robots that was presented at a regional conference.



*Our department has a newly chartered chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). This active SWE Chapter was organized by our female students who want to recognize the importance of women in the engineering profession. For the fifth consecutive year, they hosted a "Girls in Engineering" outreach event for 175 middle school girls in our area.*

Dr. James Rogers has received funding from the Department for Hometown Security to assist in the development of detection systems to monitor the structural integrity of bridges and overpasses.

Senior Sara Evans and Dr. Art Pallone have co-authored and submitted a paper for publication. It is titled "Indices for Measurement of Seeing Quality by Low-cost Camcorder Imaging."

Dr. Pallone is also continuing research in the area of ion beam detection, having presented a paper at the spring meeting of the American Physical Society.

New courses developed this year:

EGR 310 – Introduction to Biomedical Engineering – Dr. John Crofton

EGR 425 – Bio-inspired Intelligent Systems – Dr. James Hereford