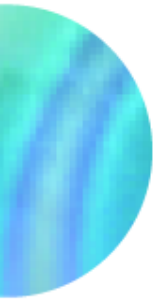


ECE Advisory Board Meeting

Professor Ankur Srivastava
Associate Chair for Graduate Studies and Research





Data Driven Graduate Student Mentorship

- Why address mentorship?
 - There is practically no data about the “research” health of the graduate student body.
 - Very little mentorship beyond that provided by the research advisors.
 - Students without research advisors receive inconsistent advising from the faculty.

Data Driven Graduate Student Mentorship

- How does the lack of mentorship impact the department?
 - Student retention rates
 - First year students struggle to find appropriate research advisors.
 - They fail quals etc., especially domestic students.
 - This impacts degree completion rates and increases time-to-degree.
 - Students who cannot identify a research advisor rely on TAships, thereby straining the system.
 - Students rely exclusively on their faculty advisors for job placement assistance(faculty positions, industry).
 - Missed opportunities for providing customized assistance at the departmental level to some of our star students.
 - TA assignments become problematic since we cannot differentiate between deserving and non-deserving students.

Data Driven Graduate Student Mentorship

- We have started a student data collection drive for first and second year students.
 - Please describe your experience in our graduate program this semester.
 - Please describe your efforts in identifying a research advisor.
 - Which faculty members have you contacted? Please list specific faculty members.
 - If you have identified a research advisor, please state the name of the research advisor and area of research to be pursued.
 - What have you done to prepare for the written qualifying exam? How do you plan to prepare?
- More elaborate data collection followed by implementation of a mentorship program shall follow. At this point the graduate office will reach out to some students who may need assistance.
- Data is for exclusive use of the graduate office and shall not be released to the faculty in raw form.
- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PUBhOvxlockRA_8MNJEBBqCwUvGaNXV-EXsN2n1jVwU/viewform

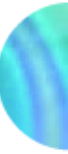
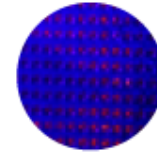


ECE-GSO Blog

How can we promote our graduate program?

- We need to exploit social networks to advertise our excellent graduate program.
- Websites are a great, but they are not interactive and not dynamic.
- We need a forum which the Facebook generation can follow, share and relate to. Blogs serve that purpose.
- Great way to advertise our program beyond borders.

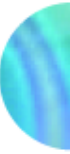
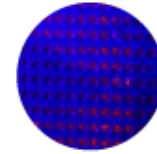
ECE-GSO Blog



How do we celebrate and improve our graduate program?

- We are too achievement centric.
 - Advertise only awards, faculty placement etc. on the website.
- Need a forum to celebrate everyone's efforts. Students regardless of their achievement level do put in their best effort. They should not feel left out.
- The GSO does a lot of activity
 - TA workshops
 - Writing workshops
 - Roundtables
 - Collaborates with graduate student organizations (ECEGSA, WECE)
 - Announcements of fellowship competitions
- Combine all the graduate research related activity into a dynamic fun blog which projects an image of depth and gravity without being too serious or formal.

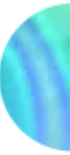
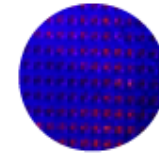
ECE-GSO Blog



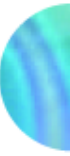
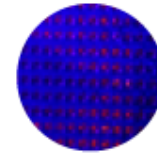
- <http://ecegso.tumblr.com/>
- Events + Pic and Vids
- Salute to the Seniors
- Research highlight of the week
 - Select a student to discuss his/her efforts, challenges and achievements. Give it a funny twist
- Mind block of the month
 - Pick a faculty and write a funny story about his/her research or teaching related experiences that month
- Course Spotlight
- Announcements

- Crazy Idea: Maybe we should have a cartoon series, something inspired from PhD comics but different, maybe more ECE centric.

Other efforts



- Collaborations between GSO and UGO for BS/MS program. The GSO and UGO held two joint information sessions for the BS/MS program this fall semester (over 30 attendees in each). Commitments from the Chair for scholarships. More scholarships with potential industry and individual sponsors.
- Successful industry fellow outcome: great employment for our industry fellows (TI fellows, NG Fellows)
- We are transitioning to a paperless e-file system for our current student records using the VPN and shared drives. We currently have an archaic paper based record handling system.



Thank You