



2005-2006 Mentor Information

Welcome to MSOE and the MSOE Mentor Program. The following information will help you learn more about MSOE's faculty, staff and alumni mentors. We look forward to working with you.



Dr. Gul Afshan

Dr. Afshan is a professor in the Physics and Chemistry Department. A molecular biologist by training, she has a Ph.D. in biochemistry. Prior to coming to MSOE, she worked as a virologist, doing research on the *vaccinia* and HIV viruses. At MSOE, Prof. Afshan teaches general, organic and biochemistry. She enjoys

MSOE's small size, noting, "A smaller class gives you liberty to enjoy teaching and learning in a more relaxed manner." She has a daughter who is a senior in high school. Gul has received many years of training in singing and classical Indian dance. She also enjoys reading and writing short stories and poems. Her advice to new students: "Don't forget to bring your smile!"

Dr. Eric Durant '98

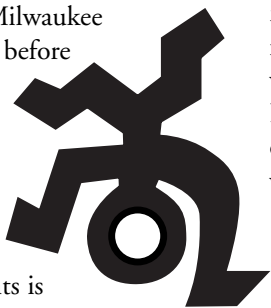
Dr. Durant is a professor in the computer and software engineering programs. He received bachelor's degrees from MSOE in electrical and computer engineering, and master's and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan. He consults regularly with a hearing aid company near Minneapolis, having done his doctoral research in the area of developing prescriptions for hearing aid users. As a professor, he appreciates MSOE's focus on undergraduate teaching as well as its small class sizes. In addition to his teaching, Prof. Durant serves as faculty adviser to the school newspaper, the *Ingenium*. His personal interests include reading, especially authors Stanislaw Lem and John Steinbeck, digital outdoor photography, and "connecting just about any device to the Internet, including a weather station." Additional information is available at his website, <http://people.msOE.edu/~durant>.



William Fadrowski

Bill is the public safety director for MSOE, which means he is responsible for all aspects of security and crime prevention on campus. He has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration and was a Milwaukee Police Department Captain before coming to MSOE. In his

free time he enjoys sports, especially the Packers, time with his family, traveling, and motorcycling. Bill likes the friendliness and dedication of the students at MSOE and is impressed with their strong desire to succeed in school and in life. His advice to new students is "enjoy your time in college. It is a time of learning, maturing, and hopefully a little fun, too!"



John Ficken

John, who is an associate professor in the Mechanical Engineering department, teaches ME and MET courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. He appreciates MSOE students' willingness to learn and the many opportunities MSOE

provides for professional growth. Prof. Ficken likes to be helpful to students. He values his Christian faith and participates in Intersivity Christian Fellowship.



Dana (Daub) Grennier

Dana is the assistant director of admission in the Enrollment Management office. She enjoys mentoring as a way of maintaining contact with some of the students she's already worked with during the admissions process. Dana appreciates the friendliness of MSOE as well as its downtown location. Her personal interests include reading (especially Charles Dickens), volleyball, movies of all kinds, the performing arts and baking cheesecakes. She has two bachelor's degrees, one from UW-Milwaukee in business and marketing and one from Mount Mary College in social work. She will be completing her master's degree in social work at Loyola University in August, 2005. She notes, "I've lived in Milwaukee all my life. If you want to know where something is, I probably know. If I don't, I know someone who does."



Dr. Mark Hornick

Dr. Hornick is a professor in the computer science and software engineering programs. He has a bachelor's degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology and master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to coming to MSOE, Prof. Hornick spent 18 years working in industry as a research and development software engineer and manager. Outside of MSOE, he likes to spend time with his family camping and traveling in the summer and skiing in the winter. He also likes to road cycle and do woodworking. Prof. Hornick wants new students to know that instructors are not only concerned with their class work, but also with how their whole college experience is going for them.



Shajan John '94

Shajan is the director of Professional Education and Research Development at MSOE. This title means that he manages the technology oriented professional educations for practicing engineers in industry and business. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Manipal

Institute of Technology in Manipal, India, and a master's degree in engineering management from MSOE. He also has interests in international business, marketing, new product development, investing, travel and basketball, in addition to enjoying spending time with his family. Shajan wants students to know that MSOE is a friendly environment and that he can be a helpful resource for them. He'll help them learn how to pronounce his name, too!



Dr. Debra Jenks

Dr. Jenks is a professor and serves as the chairperson in the School of Nursing. She received her bachelor's in nursing from Winona State, her master's from Marquette University and Ph.D. from UW-Milwaukee.



As a nurse, she has worked in pediatrics, management and in information systems, as well as in obstetrics and childbirth education. Prof. Jenks appreciates MSOE's small campus, small class sizes and the availability of technology. Her interests include: spending time with her two soccer-crazy children and the husband who coaches them; gardening, reading, sewing, biking and camping.



Gail Klatkiewicz

Gail works in the Registrar's office as assistant registrar. Her experiences include 15+ years in education including roles as assistant director of admission and adjunct instructor. She has earned an associate degree in education, a bachelor degree in business management, and a master's degree in business administration (MBA). She attained these degrees while

raising four children and working full time. Gail is also involved with a number of education-related volunteer programs including the Literary Council, Partners in Reading, and student-related programs like "Reach for the Stars." In her spare time, she enjoys crafts, golf, whitewater rafting, and listening to music of all types. She considers the Mentor Program an enjoyable opportunity to learn from students, while students can benefit from her experiences and background. Gail's advice to students is to "make bold goals for yourself and go for them every day. It is amazing what can be accomplished when you try."



Larry Korta

Larry is professor of Mechanical Engineering, primarily responsible for teaching a variety of Industrial Engineering courses such as Ergonomics, Quality Assurance and Facilities Design. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering as well as a certificate in creative studies, with more than

20 years of industry experience. Prof. Korta appreciates MSOE's small size, its outstanding relationships with business and industry and the fact that its students really care about learning. His personal interests include being a Packer fan (he was present at the Ice Bowl!); photography and traveling with his wife, especially to visit their six children and thirteen grandchildren scattered from Atlanta, Georgia, to Galena, Alaska. Prof. Korta's advice to students: "The MSOE faculty and staff succeed through your success. Together we can accomplish great things."



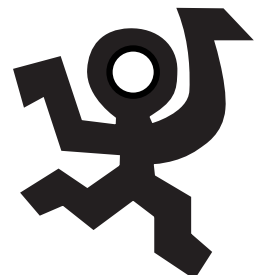
Cindy Kotlarek

Cindy is the assistant director and composition and study skills specialist in MSOE's Learning Resource Center. She provides assistance to students in the areas of writing, time-management and other study skills, as well as helping to train the LRC tutors and overseeing the LRC's Interactive Study Sessions. Cindy appreciates the number of opportunities MSOE offers to its students. She finds MSOE students hard-working and dedicated and she is impressed that they get involved in so many activities. "They're also a fun-loving group," Cindy adds. She enjoys reading, walking, working out at Bally's, music, singing and dancing. She especially values opportunities to support the academic aspirations of women students.



Dr. Subha Kumpaty

Dr. Kumpaty is an associate professor in MSOE's Mechanical Engineering department, where he teaches energy-related courses and helps students do projects that assist people with physical disabilities. Prof. Kumpaty appreciates his supportive faculty and staff colleagues and finds MSOE's students "good, willing and hard-working." He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Mississippi and also holds a D.Min in Biblical Counseling from the Tyndale Theological Seminary. His personal interests include the English game of Cricket, cooking Indian food, supporting the activities of MSOE's Intersvarsity Christian Fellowship organization and serving in his church.





Carol Mannino

Carol is an associate professor in MSOE's Rader School of Business, specializing in the areas of accounting, finance and strategic management. She appreciates the size of MSOE because it enables faculty members to get to know their students well. Her personal interests include sports, especially tennis and

golf, and spending time with her family. Carol and her husband, MSOE Prof. Ken Mannino, have two teenage children.

Shirley Metcalf

Shirley has worked in the Treasurer's office for the last eight years as an accounting clerk, administrative assistant, and currently as the accounts payable coordinator, which involves working closely with staff, faculty and management. She has earned an associate's degree in accounting, a bachelor's degree in adult education, and a master's degree in cultural foundations of education. She and her husband James Elder (a manager at Quad Graphics) have lived in Milwaukee for the last 11 years. They have one daughter and two grandsons. In her spare time, Shirley loves to read historical novels and she enjoys bowling, traveling and learning about and experiencing different cultures. Since she has nineteen nieces and nephews in all age groups and grandchildren in school, but is also a student herself, she feels that she has dual perspectives on higher education that can be of value to new students at MSOE. She is currently tutoring several adults to prepare for their general education requirement (GED) exam.



Vic Meyer

Vic works in the Electrical Engineering Technical Support Center, assisting students with equipment and advice about labs in Electrical, Computer and Software engineering programs. He earned both an associate degree in computer engineering technology and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology

from MSOE. After spending six years in the military and over 21 years at Johnson Controls, Vic has spent the last five years at MSOE. In his spare time, he coaches junior bowling, has been an assistant scoutmaster for a scout troop and also assists in advising the Straight and Gay Alliance group (S.A.G.A.) on campus. He is married and has three children, the oldest of whom is seeking a master's degree in Geo-physics.



Gina Moran

Gina teaches special calculus classes and works as a math/physics specialist in the Learning Resource Center. She has a bachelor's degree in math and a master's degree in adult and math education. Gina especially likes the small school atmosphere and dedicated students at

MSOE. She wants the students to have opportunities to talk to faculty and staff about their concerns. Outside of school, Gina enjoys spending time with her young daughter in activities such as swimming, walking along the beach and trails and biking.



Dr. Anne-Marie Nickel

Dr. Nickel teaches chemistry courses in the Physics and Chemistry Department. She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Lawrence University and a Ph.D. at UW – Madison, where her research area was semiconductor chemical sensors. "I really enjoy working with students here at MSOE," she says. "I have found them to be hard-working, focused, driven and considerate. They are a great group of students." She also enjoys spending time with her husband and new baby boy, Richie. Her interests include cooking, swimming, canoeing, travel and playing cards and board games.



Dr. Vipin Paliwal

Dr. Paliwal teaches courses in introductory chemistry, organic chemistry and, starting this fall, biochemistry in the Physics and Chemistry Department. He received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in India. He also did post-doctoral research at Yale University and has taught at the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

Prof. Paliwal enjoys outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, biking and playing tennis. He likes the smaller classroom sizes at MSOE that make it easier to connect with students and he is impressed with MSOE students' desire to learn.

Rebecca Ploeckelman

Becky is the assistant director of Human Resources, dealing primarily with employee benefits, but is also involved in faculty/staff recruiting and payroll. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, especially her husband and 2-year-old son. In some of her spare time, Becky enjoys scrap booking and traveling. She wants students to know that they are embarking on a great journey – a journey to enjoy! She's hopeful that she can use her experiences both in and out of college to help new students adjust to college life.





Dr. Samantha Richerson '00

Dr. Richerson is a professor in the biomedical engineering program, teaching classes that include digital signal processing, biology and physiology. She graduated from MSOE in 2000 and earned her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University. Before returning to

MSOE to teach, she taught for two years at Bucknell University. She loves to spend time playing with her dog, Homer. Her other interests include cooking and reading, as well as biking and camping. Prof. Richerson recognizes that female engineering students have interesting challenges from being a minority among engineering students and feels that the Mentor Program can help students handle those challenges.



Dr. Sam Scheibler

Dr. Scheibler is a professor in the General Studies Department teaching cultural studies, organizational psychology and communication. He also serves as the chair in Servant Leadership – the campus program that helps to connect learning and leadership with the university's overall health and wellness philosophy. Prof. Scheibler has earned degrees in cultural anthropology, theology, intercultural communication and church history. He has been teaching at various universities for the past 28 years. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, gardening, traveling and writing. In fact, he currently has two stage plays in production! Prof. Scheibler believes that freshmen need to be academically, socially, spiritually and personally engaged in university life if they are going to succeed and he views the Mentor Program as one of the key ways to accomplish this engagement and ultimate success.



Nick Seidler

Nick is assistant director of Student Activities and adviser to both MSOE's Greek Council and the Student Union Board. Nick enjoys the people at MSOE and considers MSOE students "well above average." According to Nick, "when you attend college you should open your mind to new developmental experiences and learn about life." He is a fan of

science-fiction and role-playing games and advises MSOE's gaming organization (Mage.) He also loves sports and entertainment and thinks even ballet is cool. Prior to coming to MSOE, Nick served in the U.S. Army and earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in history at UW-Milwaukee.

Dr. Chris Taylor

Dr. Taylor is a professor in the Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Department who teaches computer and software engineering courses. He has a bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering. He appreciates MSOE's small classes, lab emphasis and motivated students. Prof. Taylor's personal interests include parenthood, photography and church. Further information is available on his website, <http://chris.t-a-y-l-o-r.com/>



Sharyn Warren

Sharyn is the assistant director for User Services in MSOE's Computer and Communication Services Department, where she supervises the help desk and administers the Technology (laptop) Program. She has a professional background in human resources management and has earned a B.A. in Business

management/communications and an M.S. in management – interdisciplinary studies. She appreciates MSOE's "intimate but challenging" learning environment and enjoys helping students adjust to college life while still having fun. Sharyn has a young daughter, and enjoys cooking, traveling, doing aerobics and being involved in her church as well as spending time with family and friends.



Stephanie Whitmore

Stephanie is the administrative assistant in the Computer and Communication Services Department (CCSD). She assists with the overall management of the MSOE Technology Program (this includes the laptop program). Stephanie earned a bachelor's degree from Mount Mary College. She began her career at MSOE in the Enrollment Management Department six years ago. She also held similar positions at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and MBTI. Her interests outside of work include sewing, making crafts, cooking, and fishing. Stephanie enjoys working at MSOE because the campus community is small and personable. She enjoys working with young people and believes she can learn from them as much as they learn from her.



Dr. Yvonne Yaz

Dr. Yaz is an associate professor in the Mathematics Department. She earned bachelor's degrees in both electrical engineering and mathematics and a master's degree in mathematics, all from Bosphorus University in Istanbul, Turkey. She also earned a Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Prior to

joining the Mathematics department at MSOE, Prof. Yaz taught at a number of other colleges, including Carthage, Centenary and Northwest Arkansas Community College. Her interests include running, swimming, reading fiction, watching movies, opera and ballet and traveling. She is an enthusiastic and patient teacher; she loves interacting with and leading college students.

