



2006-2007 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.

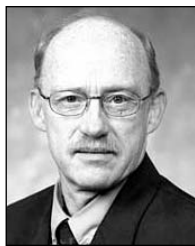


Dr. Cynthia Barnicki

Dr. Barnicki is a professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department with a primary focus on materials classes. She received her bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering from The Ohio State University. She has also worked as a quality engineer with Martin Marietta Energy Systems and as a senior engineer for GE Superabrasives before coming to MSOE. In her spare time, Barnicki enjoys reading, walking, traveling, yoga, home renovations and playing with her dog. She likes that the primary focus at MSOE is on undergraduate education and that most faculty and staff are excited about what they do. She feels that MSOE students are bright, creative, hard working and fun to be around.

Marvin Bollman

Professor Bollman, a member of the General Studies Department, has taught engineering graphics, computer graphics, geometric dimensioning and tolerancing, educational methods and creative thinking. He is presently assistant director for the Project Lead the Way Summer Training Institute at MSOE. Bollman has degrees in architectural drafting and design, industrial arts education, and curriculum and instruction. He previously taught high school industrial arts, was an estimator and sales representative for a commercial interiors company and was a consultant to an interior design and drapery firm. His outside interests include architectural design, woodworking and turning and gardening. He has been a mentor in the past and found it to be a satisfying way to connect with students. He especially likes the fact that students here have a direction, purpose and a strong desire to succeed.



Dr. Jon Borowicz

Dr. Borowicz is a professor in the General Studies Department, specializing in courses in philosophy and ethics. He wants students to think of the General Studies Department as a place to talk about and pursue interests that aren't confined to their technical discipline. Borowicz earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and both his master's degree and Ph.D. in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University. His interests include playing the trombone, brass chamber music and fencing, an interest he shares with his son. He would like students to know that while MSOE can at times be pretty intense, many people here care about you and are willing to help. Though self-described as reserved and quiet, he is very approachable and has a strong interest in students' lives and their welfare.



Amy Chisnell

Amy is the coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities in Student Support Services. She assists students with disabilities in securing accommodations, as well as providing the necessary academic support. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from St. Norbert College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Exceptional Education from UW-Milwaukee. Some of her interests include reading, cooking, gardening, hanging out with friends and family, traveling and listening to Irish music. Amy likes the fact that students here have pride in their academics and enjoy a challenge, not just looking for the easiest classes or professors. She feels that students have a wonderful and unique sense of humor, but feels that freshmen need to learn better how to relate to others and find other students who have similar interests, something that can happen through the Mentor Program.

Dr. Shannon Colton

Dr. Colton is the program director for the Center for Bimolecular Modeling (CBM), which focuses on Science Education Outreach programs. Dr. Colton designs physical, 3D models of biomolecules that are used as teaching tools in biology classes in high school and colleges. She also directs several other programs for students and teachers. Dr. Colton earned two degrees from Marquette University, a B.S. in biology and a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology. In addition to her position at MSOE, she is an adjunct professor at Marquette. Some of her other interests are reading, swimming, yoga, traveling and photography. She is married with a 3-year-old son, who keeps her very busy. Dr. Colton appreciates that MSOE is a small school with a focus on its students. She likes the personal attention that students receive so that they can learn about the inner workings of the business world, as well as their academics. As a mentor she hopes to get to know students better and help freshmen with their academic and social concerns.



Stacey Drifka

Stacey is the Human Resources assistant at MSOE. She assists with the orientation of new faculty/staff, administers benefits, coordinates student employment and has other duties in that capacity. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and professional certification in human resources. Stacey's interests include golfing, gardening and spending time with her family and friends. She also stays very busy with her baby girl, Emily. Stacey likes the fact that MSOE is a small community where students have many opportunities to get to know faculty and staff on a one-on-one basis. She feels that MSOE students are bright and are truly here to learn. She hopes to help freshmen adjust to being away from home and to be a resource to them as a Mentor.



Dr. Eric Durant '98

Dr. Durant is the program director of Computer Engineering. He received bachelor's degrees from MSOE in electrical and computer engineering, and his master's and Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan. He consults regularly with Starkey Laboratories, a hearing aid company with

locations in Minneapolis and San Francisco, having done his doctoral research in the area of automatically optimizing prescriptions for hearing aid users. As a professor, he appreciates MSOE's focus on undergraduate teaching as well as its small class sizes. His personal interests include reading, especially authors Stanislaw Lem and John Steinbeck, and digital sports and outdoor photography. Additional information is available at his Web site, <http://people.msoe.edu/~durant>.

John Ficken

Professor Ficken, who is an associate professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department, teaches Mechanical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering Technology courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. He appreciates MSOE students' willingness to learn and the many opportunities MSOE provides for professional growth. Ficken enjoys the opportunity to be helpful and supportive to his students. He values his Christian faith and participates in the Intersarsity Christian Fellowship student organization.



Rich Gagliano

Rick is the director of Student Activities, which is a part of the university's Student Life Division. As a member of the Student Activities staff, he plans a variety of annual campus events including Welcome Week, Homecoming, Parents Weekend and Spring Fling as well as traditional, ongoing programs like music and

other forms of entertainment. In addition, Rick provides ongoing support and advice for the over 70 student organizations on campus. Rick earned his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has completed master's coursework in college student personnel and education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He has worked in higher education for over 20 years, serving on residence life staffs at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Rick finds MSOE students to be motivated and caring individuals. He believes that the most important thing for freshmen is to make connections with others on campus, including faculty and staff, but more importantly, with other students. These are relationships that can develop into life-long friendships. He sees the Mentor Program as a great tool to begin to develop these relationships.

Paula Harrold

Paula is the administrative assistant in the School of Nursing, assisting the Department Chair, Nursing faculty and students. As the "front person" for the department, she feels it's important to project a positive outlook and to display an eagerness to help. Paula earned an associate degree in information processing from



the Milwaukee Area Technical College and a bachelor's degree in management from Cardinal Stritch University. Her interests include reading, quilting and gardening. As a proud Irishman, she is a coordinator for the annual Sunday mass at Milwaukee's Irish Fest and she'll soon be taking a pilgrimage to Ireland with Milwaukee's Catholic Archbishop. Paula believes that it's important for students to network. The more people you know the more opportunities you'll have to develop strong friendships. The Mentor Program is a great way to begin that networking!



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, 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 enjoys woodworking. Hornick wants new students to know that instructors are not just concerned with their class work, but also with their entire college experience.

Shajan John '94

Shajan is the director of Professional Education and Research Development in MSOE's Applied Technology Center and a 1994 MSOE graduate. He manages the technology-oriented professional education for practicing engineers in industry and works with them to identify ways to interact with MSOE to solve problems through applied research. Shajan 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!



Larry Korta

Professor Korta is primarily responsible for teaching a variety of industrial engineering courses such as ergonomics and quality assurance in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He also occasionally teaches selected general studies courses. With bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering as well as a certificate in creative studies, Korta came to MSOE with more than 20 years of industry experience. He values MSOE's interactive classes, its close relationships with business and industry and the fact that its students really care about learning. His personal interests include being a Packer fan (frostbitten at the Ice Bowl), photography and traveling with his wife, especially to visit their six children and fourteen grandchildren scattered from Atlanta, Ga., to Galena, Alaska. In 2007, he and his wife will watch their oldest son and his team compete in the 1,000 mile Iditarod dog sled race. Korta's advice to students: "Let's work together. 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 (LRC). 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. Kumpaty enjoys leading National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored on-campus summer research experiences for undergraduates. He finds MSOE's students to be 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 Intersarsity Christian Fellowship student organization and serving in his church.



Vic Meyer

Vic has spent the last six years at MSOE where he 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. Vic previously served six years in the military and worked for over 21 years at Johnson Controls before coming to MSOE. In his spare time, he is a junior bowling coach, 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. His daughter, the youngest of the three, aspires to be an anime artist.

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 mathematics and a master's degree in adult and mathematics education. Gina especially likes the small school atmosphere and dedicated students at MSOE. She wants 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.



Jane Nichols

Jane teaches a variety of mathematics classes, including college algebra, trigonometry, and calculus as a professor in the Mathematics Department. Because she teaches a large number of freshmen, she joined the Mentor Program to get to know students on a different level and to help them make the adjustment to

college. She wants them to feel comfortable approaching her to talk about not only their academic concerns but also other issues relating to their college experience. Jane earned bachelor's degrees in both mathematics and finance from St. Mary's College and a master's degree from Marquette University. Her interests include spending time with her family, reading, exercising and playing tennis.

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 the University of Wisconsin-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 son. Her interests include cooking, swimming, canoeing, traveling and playing cards and board games.



Dr. Vipin Paliwal

Dr. Paliwal teaches courses in introductory chemistry, organic chemistry and 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.

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.

Kathy Piaskoski

Kathy plays important roles in the Learning Resource Center (LRC) as both tutor coordinator and office manager. When a student stops in the LRC seeking help with course material, she makes the arrangements for that student to meet with a Peer Tutor. She also assists new Architectural Engineering and Construction Management students who are admitted to MSOE as a part of the New Student Probation Program. Kathy attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, worked for the Shorewood School District as a volunteer program coordinator, was a state licensed aide in the district's Special Education Program and tutored in the high school's writing center. Her interests include hiking, aerobic exercising, traveling, gardening and reading. She would also like new students to know that she is a strong student advocate; she is interested in helping students attain their goals at MSOE.





Dr. Samantha Richerson

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. 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.

Maureen Rochester

Maureen is the administrative assistant in the Architectural Engineering Department, providing support to the department chairperson, faculty and students. Maureen was previously the office manager for a family-owned business; she later worked in both the training department and the marketing department of a large financial services company. She then decided it was time to go back to school to earn her college degree. In 2003, Maureen earned an associate degree in business and is continuing her education at MSOE toward a bachelor's degree, also in business. She is empathetic about the struggles students can experience in college and hopes to be a source of advice for the members of her mentor group. Maureen's interests include bicycling, gardening, traveling, reading and attending concerts.



Jennifer Talley-Rogers

Jennifer works in the Learning Resource Center, serving as the university's English as a second language coordinator. In addition to working on an individual basis with MSOE's international students, she also teaches an English language course each quarter for those international students who enroll at MSOE with less than average English speaking and/or writing skills. Jennifer earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree in teaching of English as a second or other language (TESOL) from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her interests include traveling, writing and enjoying ethnic restaurants and the summer patio season in Milwaukee. Jennifer understands that freshmen can feel a little lost and out of place in a new environment like college, so she wants students to know that her door is always open; she's always willing to help.

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. 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. 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 advisor 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 bachelor's and master's degrees in history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Dr. Chris Taylor

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



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, 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.

