



2009-2010 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. Bass Abushakra

Dr. Abushakra is a professor in the Architectural Engineering and Building Construction Department and is the technical specialty head of building environmental systems in the department. He primarily teaches sophomore and junior-level courses as well as graduate-level courses in thermo fluids and building energy systems. He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the American

University of Beirut, a master's in building engineering from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University. He has also done post-doctoral studies at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and worked for a few years as a consultant engineer. His personal interests include travel, architecture, cars, biking and cinema. He also enjoys playing soccer. Dr. Abushakra likes the small environment of MSOE, which makes it easier for students and professors to connect. He also admires how disciplined the majority of students are. He looks forward to his mentor group getting to know what an approachable, down-to-earth person he is.



Betty Albrecht

Betty is the coordinator/counselor for MSOE Student Support Services TRIO program. In that capacity she works with students who the U.S. Department of Education sees as high-risk college students. She also serves as an advisor for the National Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers. Betty acts as a student advocate on a number of committees. She has a master's degree in guidance and counseling with an emphasis in higher education. Her interests and hobbies include tennis, bowling, gardening and riding her Harley-Davidson motorcycle. She really believes in the mission of MSOE – to provide an interactive educational climate for students to become well-rounded, technically experienced graduates and highly productive professionals and leaders. She enjoys the focus that students bring to the campus. She has been doing unofficial mentoring for years and is looking forward to being in the official program in order to interact in a different way with students.



Dr. Steven Barnicki

Dr. Barnicki is a professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department teaching mainly computer engineering and electrical engineering courses. Previously he has been a Computer Engineering program director. He calls himself a certified geek/nerd (can't spell geek without EE) in the networking/computer/embedded systems area. His bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees are from the

Ohio State University. Some of his interests and hobbies are computers, networks, videos, audio, and bad sci-fi movies (aka "The Deadly Mantis," "The Killer Shrews," etc.). Dr. Barnicki has been a mentor in the past; since he will be teaching a number of freshman courses this fall he decided to get involved again in the Mentor program. He also wants his mentees to know that he has a beard!



Dr. Ann Batiza

Dr. Batiza is a program director for the Center for BioMolecular Modeling (CBM), which develops innovative materials and science outreach programs. She is also the author of a textbook for young adults called *Bioinformatics, Genomics and Proteomics: Getting the Big Picture*. At the CBM, she recently wrote a grant (which was funded) to develop material and a

workshop to teach high school biology teachers about energy transfer. Dr. Batiza has a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology from UW-Madison. She has also taught, done post-doctoral work on ion channels, and developed the Discovery Room for children at the St. Louis Science Center. Her personal interests include reading, playing tennis and getting together with her family. She is impressed with the students at MSOE, especially with their ability to work hard on their studies while maintaining work-study jobs. She looks forward to helping new students navigate the demands placed upon them in college.



Caleb Black

Caleb is the international student admission counselor in the Enrollment Management Department. He not only recruits students from around the world, he is a source of assistance and support for these students when they begin their studies at MSOE. Caleb earned bachelor's degrees in international business and in Spanish, both from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. His interests include soccer, fishing,

rollerblading, traveling and sampling a variety of new foods. He's also a dog lover! Caleb recently celebrated his one-year anniversary with his wife Emily. He is a current graduate student at MSOE in the Marketing and Export Management program. He's looking forward to the opportunity to interact with and to learn more about the members of his mentor group.



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 earned two bachelor's degrees, one in education from St. Norbert College and one in exceptional education from UW-Milwaukee. Some of her interests include reading, cooking (if you're lucky you'll get to

sample her cookies!), traveling, and anything Irish. Amy finds MSOE students unique in their determination, drive, and love of learning, and looks forward to getting to know her mentees through the mentor group!



Dr. Elizabeth Clark

Dr. Clark teaches various courses for the General Studies Department, mainly composition, speech, contemporary issues and literature electives. Prior to teaching at MSOE, she taught at the University of Iowa in the non-fiction writing program. Her Ph.D. is also from the University of Iowa. While studying and teaching in Iowa, Dr. Clark worked at American College Testing (ACT) and at another educational

agency as a writer, editor and scorer of many national standardized writing assessments. During her final summer in Iowa City, she trained many high school teachers to score the first administration of the SAT Writing Assessment. Dr. Clark enjoys sports, movies, writing and ethnic festivals. She feels that MSOE promotes a strong sense of community and that the students are hard working and respectful. She enjoys them immensely in the classroom and is looking forward to assisting them outside of the classroom as they adjust to college life. She wants freshmen to know that everyone at MSOE is committed to making their first year successful and enjoyable.

**Danny Cochran**

Danny is a senior admission counselor in the Enrollment Management Department. He helps guide students through the college admission process. He coordinates many on-campus events, such as Open Houses, Parent Shadow Days and Raider Days. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Northern Iowa. His hobbies include watching and playing in any sporting event,

particularly baseball, golf, football and weight training. He also enjoys reading non-fiction books, hunting and fishing. Also, his new hobby is learning how to play the acoustic guitar. As a fairly recent college grad, he can relate well to new students and the challenges they face.

**Dr. Mitchell Colton**

Dr. Colton is an adjunct professor in the Physics and Chemistry Department, mainly teaching freshmen and sophomores. He has a master's degree and Ph.D. in chemistry from Northwestern University. He has industry experience working for Exxon Production Research Co. as a research chemist in Houston, Texas and at Cerac Inc., in Milwaukee primarily in technical sales and product development. In addition to his

teaching, he works for MCC Research Enterprises LLC, a private research and consulting firm in Milwaukee. His hobbies and interests include racquetball, magic (like sleight of hand, not the trading card game), science fiction and technology in general. He has two sons in college. Dr. Colton feels that the students at MSOE work hard and have a strong desire to learn. He sees that they are motivated, or even inspired, by aspects of their chosen paths. He believes mentoring will help him be a better teacher as well as help new students to have a more successful college experience.

**Dr. Christopher Damm**

Dr. Damm has been a professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department since the fall of 2004. He teaches junior and senior-level courses in thermodynamics, heat transfer, fluid mechanics, engineering design and advanced energy technologies. Dr. Damm's research and consulting focus on emerging energy technologies, particularly solar and biofuels. He also does consulting in the area of

accident reconstruction engineering, which is basically trying to figure out what happened when something goes wrong. He received undergraduate and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in physics from Brown University and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. His main interest is spending time with his wife, two young daughters and brand new baby boy. However, he is also a big fisherman—mostly stream and river fishing for trout and salmon, but also bass fishing. He and his wife are outdoor enthusiasts and travel as often as possible—enjoying downhill skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, camping, hiking and canoeing. They also enjoy live music. He came to MSOE because he thinks that the small class size education model is very important. He feels that close contact between faculty and students allows for more rewarding learning experiences for both students and faculty. He also says that MSOE students are, in general, very motivated, diligent workers. They work hard and rarely complain. He thinks mentoring will be a very rewarding experience.

**Melinda Davies**

Mindy is a part-time instructor in the Rader School of Business. She teaches project management, supervision, organizational behavior and leading project teams. She is also an adjunct professor at Cardinal Stritch University. She has a bachelor's degree from the UW-Madison and a master's degree in management from Cardinal Stritch University. Her background includes 30 years of experience in human

resources, working for such companies as St. Anthony Hospital and Johnson Controls. She also has worked as a consultant at other companies in the Milwaukee area. In her free time she enjoys playing golf. She likes the small classes and the opportunity to connect with students on a one-on-one basis at MSOE. She appreciates the chance to welcome students to the MSOE community and encourage them to make the very most of their experience through the Mentor program. She also views college from several perspectives that she can share with students: as an admissions counselor in the past, as an instructor now and as a parent with children experiencing college life.

**Rose Didier**

Rose is the administrative assistant for the General Studies Department, assisting faculty members with course material preparation and numerous other tasks that keep the department and office running smoothly. She is also the event coordinator for the Grohmann Museum. Rose has a bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from the UW-Whitewater. She has also worked for UW-Milwaukee's

School of Nursing and Graduate School, and as an office manager for a small public relations/fundraising firm. Rose enjoys reading fiction, traveling, attending sporting events and attending Milwaukee's many festivals. She has found that MSOE's faculty and staff are genuinely kind, helpful and supportive. She admires the students' career aspirations, saying they deserve the best education we can provide. As a mentor, she feels she will be a good listener. Rose is easy to talk to and she loves to laugh!

**Dr. Eric Durant '98**

Dr. Durant is the director of the Computer Engineering program and teaches a variety of classes including freshman digital logic. During the summers he works as a DSP research engineer in Berkeley, Calif. for Starkey, a large hearing aid company. His interests include trivia, playing tennis at the Kern Center, sports and theater photography (you'll see him at many MSOE events), and reading, currently

focusing on fiction from 1920 to 1970. He has 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 is currently enrolled in the Executive MBA program at UW-Milwaukee. Dr. Durant maintains numerous virtual presences that generally get along with each other - <http://myweb.msOE.edu/durant/>.

**Dr. Michael Emmer**

Dr. Emmer is a professor in the Architectural Engineering and Building Construction Department, previously serving as program director of the Construction Management program. He also serves as faculty advisor for the AIC/AGS professional organization student chapter and the Sigma Lambda Chi honor society. He earned his Ph.D. in design, construction and planning from the University of

Florida; he also has more than 25 years of industry experience. He enjoys golf, camping, travel, hiking and more golf! Dr. Emmer thinks that the students at MSOE are respectful, dedicated hard workers and wants them to have other opportunities to work with faculty outside of their individual classes. He wants his students to know that he loves the construction management profession and golf!



Dr. Jennifer Farrell

Dr. Farrell is a professor in the General Studies Department, teaching various communication and humanities courses. She has degrees from the University of Montana and Montana State University with a Ph.D. in English literature from Louisiana State University. Her area of specialty is science fiction. She worked in the College of Engineering at LSU as a technical communication instructor. Her main tasks

were assisting in the building of digital portfolios using Dreamweaver, working with students on technical writing, leading workshops on designing scientific posters, public speaking, PowerPoint and Dreamweaver. Her interests and hobbies include science fiction, reading, outdoor activities, some gaming, all things popular culture and sports. She says that the students here are amazing in terms of not only academic achievement, but also in the ability to accept responsibility for their grades and their performance. As a mentor, she hopes to get to know the students better in an environment outside of the classroom.



John Ficken

John, 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. Prof. Ficken enjoys the opportunity to be helpful and supportive to his

students. He values his Christian faith and participates in the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship student organization.



Dr. Kseniya Fuhrman

Dr. Fuhrman is a professor in the Mathematics Department. She received bachelor's degrees from UW-Whitewater in both management computer systems and mathematics, and master's and Ph.D. degrees in mathematics from the UW-Milwaukee. She has worked in the past at GE Medical Systems in Waukesha, Wis. and at SVA Consulting Inc. in Madison, Wis. She enjoys traveling, spending time

outdoors, working out and spending time with her husband and young daughter. She is also involved in programs in Milwaukee that serve international families. She especially likes the family atmosphere at MSOE and thinks highly of the programs in place to help students succeed in their college career. As a mentor she wants to help new students in their adjustment to MSOE and is sure that this experience will be rewarding for all. She says, "I love the motivation and enthusiasm of MSOE students."



Rich Gagliano

Rich 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, Rich provides ongoing support and advice for the more

than 70 student organizations on campus. Rich earned his bachelor's degree in education from UW-Milwaukee and has completed master's coursework in college student personnel and education from UW-Milwaukee and UW-La Crosse. He has worked in higher education for more than 25 years, serving on residence life staffs at UW-Eau Claire, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and UW-Milwaukee. Rich finds MSOE students to be motivated and caring individuals. He believes that the most important thing freshmen need 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 and strongly encourages all students to connect to the 3,300 MSOE alumni currently on www.linkedin.com



Elizabeth Gridley

Elizabeth is both the University Disability Services coordinator and the Women's Connections coordinator on campus. She assists students with disabilities get the academic accommodations they need, and also plans for women's issues and activities during the school year. She earned a bachelor's degree in special education and vocational rehabilitation, and a master's degree in educational leadership and

administration. Elizabeth has worked in all levels of the K12 schools as a teacher and administrator. Her interests and hobbies include running, bike riding, reading and participating in musical theater. She wants to be a mentor because she thinks it will be a great way to welcome students onto campus and make them feel that they have a support network they can rely on. She also wants students to know that she loves to laugh and have a good time; it makes life much easier, and eases stress.



Dr. Agnieszka M. Janiak

Dr. Janiak is a professor in the Physics and Chemistry Department teaching general chemistry courses. She is a chemical engineer and biotechnologist with a Ph.D. in chemistry. She is also involved in the development of the BioMolecular Engineering program at MSOE. Her interests and hobbies include outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, biking, skiing and working in her garden. She also likes to read and travel and

speaks Polish and some Russian. Dr. Janiak hopes that she can share her past experiences in order to pay back what she has learned from her own mentors. She believes that MSOE students are very focused and determined about their career path. She would like to share with students the idea that people from different backgrounds and with different experiences can learn a lot from each other since experiencing different cultures is mind-broadening and teaches tolerance.



Jeffrey Korn

Prof. Korn teaches in the Physics and Chemistry Department and designs experiments and equipment to perform experiments. He has his degrees from UW-Milwaukee. Before coming to MSOE he worked as a high school teacher, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer and nuclear engineer. He is also a certificated laser safety officer and a certified radiation safety officer. His interests and hobbies include cars,

motorcycles, travel, pets and family. He feels that MSOE students are polite, ambitious and typically try to do the best job they can. As a mentor he is hoping to do whatever he can to ease the transition to college since he has seen firsthand through his own daughter how hard that can be. He is looking forward to getting to know his mentees and helping them with any problems they may have.

**Larry Korta**

Larry is Professor Emeritus of mechanical engineering, where, for more than 20 years, he taught a variety of industrial engineering courses such as project management, ergonomics and quality assurance and served as Industrial Engineering program director. He also occasionally teaches selected general studies courses such as creative thinking and human factors. With bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering

as well as a certificate in creative studies, Prof. Korta came to MSOE with more than 20 years of industry experience. He values MSOE's highly interactive learning environment, its close relationships with business and industry that provides unique project learning opportunities, and the fact that our students are highly motivated and really care about learning.

His personal interests include being a Packer fan (frostbitten at the Ice Bowl many years ago), photography and traveling with his wife, especially to visit their six children and fourteen grandchildren scattered from Atlanta, Ga. to Galena, Alaska. In both 2007 and 2008, he and his wife visited Alaska where their oldest son and his team competed in – and completed! - the 1,000 mile Iditarod dog sled race. Currently, most of Prof. Korta's time is devoted to serving as chair of the student retention committee, which focuses its efforts on continuous improvement of the learning and living environment of Milwaukee School of Engineering. Professor Korta's advice to students: "Together, we can accomplish great things!"

**Dr. Subha Kumpaty, P.E.**

Dr. Kumpaty is a professor in MSOE's Mechanical Engineering Department, where he teaches energy-related courses and guides students in projects that assist people with physical disabilities. He is also the program director of the Master of Science in Engineering. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Mississippi and also holds a D.Min in biblical counseling from the Tyndale Theological Seminary.

He is a Professional Engineer registered in the state of Wisconsin. Dr. Kumpaty enjoys leading National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored on-campus summer research experiences for undergraduates. He finds MSOE's students to be motivated and hard-working. His personal interests include the English game of Cricket, cooking Indian food, supporting the activities of MSOE's Intersarsity Christian Fellowship student organization, writing a monthly newsletter titled *Glitches and Grace* and serving in his church.

**Dr. Jeffrey LaMack '97**

Dr. LaMack is an assistant professor of biomedical engineering in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department. He received his bachelor's degree from MSOE, his master's degree from the Ohio State University and his Ph.D. from Duke University, all in biomedical engineering. He conducts research part-time, investigating the fluid mechanics of blood flow and how this contributes to

arterial diseases. His interests include golf, tennis, traveling and playing Rock Band. He is also a lifelong Milwaukee Brewers fan. Dr. LaMack enjoys his roles in the mentor program and as an academic advisor, because he thinks these programs are very helpful for students adjusting to college. He finds that being a graduate of MSOE helps him relate to students, and he thinks that one of the best things about MSOE is the camaraderie that students develop because of the small class and program sizes. He hopes that his mentor group this year provides a casual setting for discussing issues, meeting new friends and having fun.

**Carol Mannino**

Carol has been an associate professor in MSOE's Rader School of Business for the past 22 years, specializing in the areas of accounting, finance and strategic management. She earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University and a master's degree in accountancy from the University of Texas.

Prior to teaching at MSOE, Carol spent eight years as a Certified Public Accountant with Arthur Andersen. She appreciates the size of MSOE because it enables faculty members to get to know their students. Away from MSOE, Carol is a golf fanatic and also enjoys watching sports. As a mentor for many years, she appreciates the positive impact a mentor can have. She wants the new students in her mentor group to know that she is available at whatever level they would like from advisor to friend to a person available to answer questions.

**Dr. Anne-Marie Nickel**

Dr. Nickel teaches chemistry courses and some electives in the Physics and Chemistry Department. She earned a 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 spends most of her free time playing with her two sons. She also enjoys reading, walking, cooking and swimming. Her family takes opportunities to travel whenever possible and particularly enjoys going to the beach and trying new foods. She is looking forward to helping new students with the transition to college, finding a supportive community at MSOE and learning how to succeed.

**Mary Jo Noble**

Mary Jo is an assistant professor faculty-member in the School of Nursing and teaches across the curriculum including medical terminology, perioperative, community nursing as well as nursing leadership and nursing synthesis in the senior years. She earned a diploma in nursing from the Milwaukee County School of Nursing (the current MSOE School of Nursing), and a bachelor's degree in nursing from

Carroll College. She also earned a master's degree in nursing education from the University of Phoenix and she's currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership. She is a certified operating room nurse and she has previously worked in nursing areas such as neonatal ICU, pediatrics, and home care. In her spare time, Mary Jo loves to garden and "pamper" her creative side of the mind! She wants students to know that she is approachable on any issue. If she can't answer your question, she'll help you find a person with the answer. She also says she loves teaching and she enjoys the growth that students experience in college. She is committed to the college and the nursing program.

**Dr. Bruce O'Neill**

Dr. O'Neill is a professor in the Mathematics Department, teaching approximately 15 different courses from pre-calculus through upper-level electives. He has advanced degrees from UW-Milwaukee. He has taught in New York, New Jersey, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Kuala Lumpur and Cairo. His interests and hobbies include appearing in films as an extra and performing at Irishfest, Festa Italiana,

numerous venues in Wisconsin and on Wisconsin Public Radio and National Public Radio (A Prairie Home Companion). He especially likes that the students at MSOE are here because they want to be, rather than just ending up here. He wants students to know that their professors will be very demanding, but are not out to get them.

**Erik Oswald**

Erik is the career placement associate in the MSOE Career Placement Office. In this role, he assists students with developing their job search strategies and provides resources for job searches. He reviews resumes, performs practice interviews and schedules on-campus interviews. He is also a liaison with employers to provide them with resources to fill open positions. Erik earned a bachelor's degree in

environmental science and anthropology from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in college student affairs leadership from Grand Valley State University. While at Grand Valley, he worked as a graduate assistant in the Counseling and Career Development Center. He is an avid reader and he also enjoys collecting "Simpsons"- related items like DVD's, games, and calendars. Erik is looking forward to meeting and working with the new students in his mentor group.

**Dr. Vipin Paliwal**

Dr. Paliwal teaches courses in general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology and biochemistry in the Physics and Chemistry Department. In summer he advises undergraduate research students in the REU program. Dr. Paliwal received his doctorate degree in biochemistry from the Post Graduate Medical Research Institute in Chandigarh, India. Prior coming to MSOE, he was a biomedical scientist at Yale

University in New Haven, Conn. and taught graduate courses at the University of New Haven. Dr. Paliwal enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, biking, canoeing and playing tennis with his son. He is also involved in rock climbing with the Chicago mountaineering club. He also enjoys traveling. He likes the small classroom sizes at MSOE that make it easier to connect with students and he is impressed with MSOE students' desire to learn.

**Maureen Rochester**

Maureen is the administrative assistant in the Architectural Engineering and Building Construction Department (AE&BC), providing support to the department chair, the faculty and architectural engineering and construction management students. In 2003, Maureen earned an associate degree in business and is currently a junior in the business program at MSOE. She is empathetic about the

struggles students can experience in college and hopes to be a source of information and advice for the members of her mentor group. She enjoys seeing the students grow both personally and professionally during their time at MSOE, and you'll always find her at Spring Commencement wishing her "kids" continued success as they enter the work world. Maureen's interests include bicycling, gardening, travel, reading and attending concerts.

**Dr. Darrin Rothe '92**

Dr. Rothe is a professor in the Computer Engineering and Software Engineering programs. He earned his bachelor's degree from MSOE in electrical engineering; he also earned a master's degree in electrical engineering from Marquette University and a Ph.D. in bioengineering from Arizona State University. Prior to coming to MSOE, he worked at Rockwell Automation and Marquette Medical Systems, now known as GE

Healthcare. In his free time, Dr. Rothe enjoys computers, electronics, woodworking and spending time with his family. As a mentor, he hopes to help freshmen get connected to MSOE. He feels that the potential is there for students and faculty to have close working relationships and wants to help break down any barriers between them.

**Dr. Walter Schilling**

Dr. Schilling is an assistant professor in the Software Engineering program. He teaches a variety of software and computer engineering courses. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in computer science from Ohio Northern University, a master's degree in engineering science with a computer systems design focus from the University of Toledo, and a Ph.D. in electrical

engineering focusing on software reliability, also from the University of Toledo. As a part of his Ph.D. work, he spent time at the NASA Glenn Research Center working on a reliability analysis for space station software. He has also worked in the automotive industry developing multimedia systems. His interests include playing the tuba, model railroading and photography.

**Laura Schumacher**

Laura is an admission counselor in the Enrollment Management Department. She visits high schools to meet with prospective students, meets with families when they visit the campus, and helps coordinate and facilitate campus events for prospective students. Laura earned a bachelor's degree in sociology with minors in counseling psychology, communication and marketing from Ball State University. Prior to

coming to MSOE, she spent time in Australia coordinating a study abroad program, followed by a position in sales. In addition to her love of travel, Laura likes to ski, hike and bike. She also likes to volunteer and she enjoys reading, cooking and baking.

**Nick Seidler**

Nick is assistant director of student activities and adviser to both MSOE's Greek Council and the Student Union Board. He is also MSOE's international student advisor. 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 films, 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 UW-Milwaukee.

**Dr. Nadya Shalamova**

Dr. Shalamova is a professor in the General Studies Department, teaching communications courses. She has a Ph.D. in rhetoric and professional communication from New Mexico State University (NMSU). At NMSU, she was heavily involved in the Freshman Engineering Integrated Learning Community project organized by the New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation. She also has

more than five years of teaching experience in English as a Second/Foreign Language at both undergraduate and graduate levels at a large engineering school in Russia. Her main interests are her family, reading, traveling and the outdoors. She admires many MSOE students for their hard work, motivation, determination, strong spirit, and ability to balance work and personal life. As a mentor, she would like to help students recognize their own potential and provide guidance toward their growth and achievement.

**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 Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering. He appreciates MSOE's small classes, lab emphasis and motivated students. Dr. 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/>

**Sharyn Warren**

Sharyn is the assistant director for user services in MSOE's Computer and Communication Services Department, where she supervises the Helpdesk and administers the Technology (laptop) program. She's also an instructor for the orientation course in the Architectural Engineering Department and the course coordinator for OR-100, the general freshman orientation course. Sharyn earned a bachelor's degree

in management and communication from Concordia University, a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies – management from the University of Maryland – University College, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in educational technology from Walden University. She also has a professional background in human resources management. Sharyn enjoys traveling, martial arts, dining, reading novels and hosting parties and social events. She is the parent of a very active fourth grader and is active in her church in her roles as a member of the church choir and also the choir chaplain.

**Elizabeth Waterfall**

Elizabeth is the administrative coordinator for TRIO Student Support Services and Upward Bound. She provides academic advising to high school and college students, develops innovative supplemental education programming to address the needs of at-risk populations and writes federal grant applications. Liz is an advisor for MSOE's student chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.

She also teaches freshmen orientation classes (AE-100 and OR-100). She holds degrees in public administration and human services. She enjoys live theatre and concerts, swimming, canoeing, listening to NPR and foreign films. She also is an avid gardener and flower enthusiast. She feels that the students who are attracted to MSOE appear to be in many ways more serious and responsible than their counterparts. However, they also appear to be more introverted and may need a little more social interaction to become fully confident, independent adults. She feels that a personal connection as a mentor with incoming students would be a rewarding experience as well as facilitate the holistic development of the students.

**Dr. Jay Wierer**

Dr. Wierer is an assistant professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department teaching in the Electrical Engineering program. He teaches courses such as communication systems, electric and electronic circuits, digital logic circuits, controls, digital signal processing and signals and systems. Dr. Wierer earned his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from

UW–Madison. Dr. Wierer is an avid musician – he enjoys playing the piano, the saxophone and singing in his church choir. He also enjoys watching Wisconsin's sports teams including the Packers, Brewers, and Badgers

**Dr. Yvonne Yaz**

Dr. Yaz is a 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, Dr. 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 mentoring college students.

**Mark Zimmermann**

Mark has been an instructor in the General Studies Department since 2004, teaching communication and humanities courses. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from UW-Milwaukee and studied for a year at the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. He also spent a number of years teaching in Japan. Mark enjoys literature, film, music and sports. He is looking forward to helping students

become more acclimated to college and finding out more directly what their concerns are. He finds MSOE students to be very academically oriented and motivated to learn. He is hoping to share his international experiences with students.