



Meet the Mentors!

Welcome to MSOE and the MSOE Mentor Program. The following information will help you learn more about MSOE's 2011-2012 faculty, staff and alumni mentors. We look forward to working with you.



Dr. Bass Abushakra

Dr. Abushakra is a professor in the Civil and Architectural Engineering & Construction Management Department and is the technical head of the building mechanical systems specialty in the department. He primarily teaches sophomore- and junior-level courses as well as graduate-level courses in thermo-fluids and building energy systems and simulation. He earned 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 also has 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, cinema and 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 meeting his mentor group and spending a pleasant and successful year together.



Betty Albrecht

Betty is the coordinator/counselor for the 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 is on a number of committees acting as a student advocate. 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 community leaders. She enjoys the energy that students bring to campus. She has been unofficially mentoring students for years and enjoys being in the official program in order to interact in a different way with students. Welcome to MSOE!



Dr. Aaron Armstrong

Dr. Armstrong is an assistant professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department's industrial engineering program and teaches courses in simulation, optimization, statistics and engineering economics. He is from Baraboo, Wis., and has an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering, master's degrees in business and manufacturing systems engineering, and a doctorate in industrial engineering. He spent 10 years working for

John Deere as an engineer, supervisor and manager. In his free time, Dr. Armstrong enjoys hunting, bicycling and gold prospecting as well as working in volunteer prison ministry and various civic activities. His first interaction with MSOE was as an engineering manager directing MSOE graduates, who he found to be especially bright, hard working and respectful. He was not an honor student in high school and is particularly understanding of students who have difficulty in college.



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 awarded a grant 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 '11

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 third anniversary with his wife Emily. He just graduated in May with a master's in marketing and export management from MSOE. He's looking forward to the opportunity to interact with, and to learn more about, his mentor group.



Jacob Bolda '11

Jacob is an alumnus of MSOE, working at Reserve Advisors Inc. doing in-depth evaluations of a property's physical components and an analysis of its reserve funds. He was in the mentor program throughout his years at MSOE, first as a mentee and then a peer mentor. He graduated in 2011 with both a bachelor's in architectural engineering and a master's in structural engineering. His interests include traveling, different

types of music, movies, computers, finances, reading and outdoor activities. In addition, he participates in Engineers Without Borders and Rotaract. Jacob enjoys helping out new students and talking casually with them about most subjects.

**Dr. Michael Carriere**

Dr. Carriere is an assistant professor in the General Studies Department, teaching courses such as Current Affairs, American Government, International Relations, Contemporary European Society and Government, Contemporary Issues and Composition. He earned a Ph.D. in American history from the University of Chicago. Outside of MSOE he enjoys music (writing about indie rock and punk rock for the *Shepherd*

Express, The Onion, and other publications), loves basketball, architecture and traveling. He feels that students at MSOE are curious, respond to new material well, and are willing to move out of their comfort zones. He's looking forward to serving as a mentor in order to help students better understand life at MSOE. He wants his mentees to know that he is relatively young and pretty laid back!

**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 likes getting to know MSOE students on a different level through the mentoring program. She finds MSOE students unique in their determination, drive, and love of learning, and looks forward to getting to know her mentees!

**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 students to know that everyone at MSOE is committed to making their first year successful and enjoyable.

**Kacey Cribari**

Kacey is an admission counselor in the Enrollment Management Department. He recruits and advises high school juniors and seniors interested in attending MSOE. He earned a bachelor's degree in interpersonal communication from Wisconsin Lutheran College. Before coming to MSOE, Kacey worked in California at Apple. Describing himself as a nerd, Kacey's interests include reading, photography, distance running, Wii curling and anything related to Star Trek.

**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. Rose has a bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from 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 and 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 Digital Logic, Computer Architecture and Information Security. During the summers he works as a DSP research engineer in Eden Prairie, Minn., 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. He has bachelor's degrees from MSOE in electrical and computer engineering, master's and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan, and an Executive MBA from UW-Milwaukee. Dr. Durant maintains numerous virtual presences that generally get along with each other - <http://myweb.msoe.edu/durant/>.

**Hanieh Fashandi**

Hanieh is the instructional coordinator for the Upward Bound Program through TRIO at MSOE. She helps manage and coordinate the academic aspects of the program, helps improve academic achievement, and much more. She has a bachelor's degree in consumer science with an emphasis in business and a master's degree from DePaul University in education. She taught in the Chicago Public School district for a few years and

in Las Vegas schools for a few years as well. In her free time, Hanieh enjoys playing golf, reading and traveling. She also loves meeting new people and learning about different cultures. Hanieh likes that MSOE is small enough to get to know a lot of students, but large enough to feel that they are part of a community. She is looking forward to helping students put things into perspective and giving them guidance when needed.

**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. Professor Ficken enjoys the opportunity to be helpful and supportive to

his students. He values his Christian faith and participates in Christian fellowship organizations.



Richard Gagliano

Rich is the director of student activities, which is a part of the university's Student Life Department. As a member of the student activities staff, he plans a variety of annual campus events including Welcome Week, Parents/Family Weekend, and St. Patrick's Week 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 60

student organizations on campus. Rich earned his bachelor's degree in education from UW-Milwaukee and has completed master's course work in college student personnel and education from the UW-Milwaukee and UW-La Crosse. He has worked in higher education for more than 28 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 9,000 MSOE alumni currently on www.linkedin.com



Dr. John Gassert

Dr. Gassert is a faculty member in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department and is a professor in the biomedical engineering program. He is also an adjunct faculty member in biophysics at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Gassert has degrees in electrical engineering and biomedical engineering and is a registered professional engineer in the state of Wisconsin. He has also worked in the field at St. Luke's

Hospital, Marquette Electronics Inc. and as the owner of Milwaukee Micro Inc. In his free time he enjoys hiking, biking, bird watching, gardening and learning about art. Dr. Gassert has been a mentor many times in the past—he was nominated for the Outstanding Mentor award in 2008 and previously received that award in 2000. He is looking forward to working with new students again. He believes that MSOE students are bright, articulate, dedicated and willing to learn. He expects them to be successful in their pursuit of an MSOE education.



Abigail Goelzer

Abby is the English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) coordinator in the Learning Resource Center (LRC). She works mainly with international students on a one-on-one basis helping them with composition and reading comprehension. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in foreign language and literature. Before working at MSOE, Abby taught ESL at UW-Milwaukee and composition at Milwaukee

Institute of Art and Design. She also taught ESL in India for six months. Some of Abby's interests are reading, gardening, walking her dogs and traveling. She especially likes the fact that community service work is important to many MSOE students and faculty. She also feels that students here are very dedicated and focused. She is looking forward to getting to know her mentees and helping them navigate the college environment.



Dr. Agnieszka M. Janiak

Dr. Janiak teaches in the Physics and Chemistry Department and is a part of the biomolecular engineering program. She is a chemical engineer and biotechnologist with a Ph.D. in chemistry. Her interests and hobbies include outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, skiing and working in her garden. She also likes to travel, listen to Sting, read whodunits and bake. Dr. Janiak hopes that she can share her experiences

and support students in their challenging transition to college. She believes that MSOE students are very focused and determined about their career path, which greatly helps them succeed. She would like to share with students the idea that people from different backgrounds can learn a lot from each other, and that experiencing different cultures is mind-broadening and teaches tolerance.



Becky Jeffers

Becky is the counseling coordinator for the Upward Bound Program through TRIO at MSOE. She helps high school students in the program by offering academic and personal support so that they succeed in their secondary and postsecondary education. She has a bachelor's degree from Wisconsin Lutheran College and a master's from the UW-Milwaukee in educational psychology with an emphasis in school counseling.

Becky enjoys sports a great deal and was a college athlete. She continues to play volleyball. She also loves to read and take walks with her dogs. She is interested in being more involved with current students and the campus as a whole since she mainly works with high school students. She likes the way that MSOE does a great job of ensuring students get the best education and hopes to help with their success.



Jeffrey Korn

Professor Korn teaches in the Physics and Chemistry Department and designs experiments and equipment to perform the experiments. He has his degrees from UW-Milwaukee. Before coming to MSOE, he had 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.

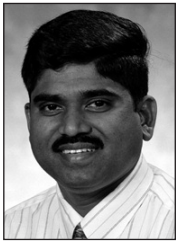


Larry Korta

Larry is a 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. With bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering, as well as a certificate in creative studies, Professor 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 Packers fan (frostbitten at the Ice Bowl many years ago), photography, and traveling with his wife, especially to visit their six children and 14 grandchildren scattered from Atlanta to Galena, Ala. 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 his 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 MSOE. Professor Korta's advice to students: "Together, we can accomplish great things!"



Dr. Subha Kumpaty

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 M.S. in engineering program. 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.



Kip Kussman

Kip is an admission counselor in the Enrollment Management Department. He works closely with prospective students and their families and helps organize many of the events for prospective students. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from Marquette University. His master's is in clinical counseling and he is currently working on his LPC license. Kip has many interests including reading, writing, running,

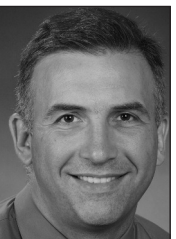
technology, music and volunteering. He feels that MSOE students are hard working and respectful, who view working and hard work as paramount. He loves the environment that MSOE fosters, which is one of community and loyalty. He is looking forward to helping college students develop and mature as well as being a resource to them.



Kayla Madaus '10

Kayla is the Women's Connections coordinator for MSOE. Through this position she puts together programs and events for women that focus on social, academic and professional growth. She also acts as an advocate for women's issues on campus. Kayla is a graduate of MSOE with a bachelor's degree in business management. She is currently working on a master's degree in student personnel administration. In her free

time she enjoys music, socializing with friends and family, getting to know Milwaukee, and volunteering at the Humane Society. As an alumna she is well aware of how smart MSOE students are and their fantastic senses of humor. She loves how motivated and driven they are, but at the same time humble and modest about their accomplishments. As a mentor, Kayla hopes to help her mentees as much as they help her. She wants them to know that she holds random trivia contests at her weekly mentor gatherings and encourages fun outings to Milwaukee landmarks.



Dr. Dragomir Marinkovich

Dr. Marinkovich is an assistant professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department, and director of the mechanical engineering technology program. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois, Champaign and University of Illinois, Chicago, respectively, and has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Marquette University. He has nearly 20 years of industry experience

designing new products in the medical, power tool, commercial lighting and other fields. He is also a veteran of the U.S Army, serving more than 20 years in the reserves, and deploying for one tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His interests and hobbies include playing basketball (he played at Illinois), golfing, saltwater fish, photography, technological gadgets, and spending time with his wife, three children and two dogs. Dr. Marinkovich is looking forward to serving as a mentor and relating his life experiences to help students transition to college life.



Dr. Nazieh Masoud

Dr. Masoud is an assistant professor of physics in the Physics and Chemistry Department. He has degrees from the University of Jordan and a Ph.D. from Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey. He is also the author of many journal publications and has three patent applications in the field of plasma discharge physics. Most of his free time is spent with his family, which includes three daughters. Dr. Masoud also enjoys

traveling and visiting interesting sites. He has found that MSOE students are responsible, serious about their studies, and that they get things done. He has a goal as a mentor of helping ease the transition of new students to the new academic and cultural life of MSOE. Another interesting point about Dr. Masoud is that he speaks Arabic fluently and is familiar with Arabic culture.



Rachael McFarlane

Rachael is a senior admission counselor in the Enrollment Management Department. She works primarily with traditional students who are looking into college for the first time. Rachael gives campus tours, evaluates applications, helps students with scholarship questions, and assists with the many events and activities involved in enrolling students at MSOE.

Rachael earned her bachelor's degree from Carroll University in 2006 and previously worked as a recruiter at Remedy Staffing in Waukesha, Wis. Currently she is considering a graduate program in school counseling. Rachael's interests include traveling (she LOVES to travel), working on home projects and spending time with her family and friends. Rachael recently celebrated her two-year wedding anniversary with her husband Keith, and the two of them stay very busy with their new dog Junior. She also enjoys time up north and out on the lake. Rachael feels that MSOE students are not only incredibly bright and motivated individuals, but she loves to see the excitement they have for their university. She is really looking forward to participating in the mentor program this year and is excited to meet the students in her group.



Paul Michael

Paul is a research chemist studying energy efficient lubricants and machinery lubrication in the Fluid Power Institute™. He has a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's in business. He worked in industry for 28 years before joining MSOE. He is the 2011 Karl O. Werwath Engineering Research Award recipients. Some of his interests and hobbies include spending time with his two sons enjoying football, baseball and camping. He has

found MSOE students to have a lot of interesting insights and is looking forward to his role as a mentor since he likes to help out when he can. Besides, he has heard from other mentors how much fun the program is!



Gina Moran

Gina teaches for the Mathematics Department and also works as a mathematics/physics specialist in the Learning Resource Center. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in adult education with an emphasis in mathematics. Gina especially likes the small-school atmosphere and the 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.



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 '83

Professor Noble is an assistant professor the School of Nursing and teaches across the curriculum including medical terminology, perioperative and community nursing, among other. 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

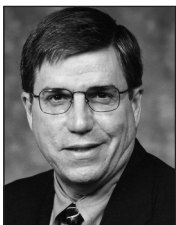
University of Phoenix and she's in the process of performing her research for her dissertation to earn a doctorate of education in educational leadership. She is a certified operating room nurse and she has previously worked in nursing areas such as cardiac surgery, neonatal ICU, pediatrics, and home care. In her spare time, Mary Jo loves to garden and "pamper" the creative side of her 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 a member of the alumni board and is committed to the university and the nursing program.



Erik Oswald

Erik is the career services associate in the MSOE Career Services Office. In this role, he assists students with developing their job search strategies and provides resources for job and internship searches. He reviews resumes, performs practice interviews, and schedules on-campus interviews. Erik earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science and anthropology from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in

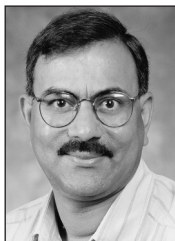
college student affairs leadership from Grand Valley State University. While at Grand Valley, he worked as a graduate assistant in the counseling and career development center. He is an avid reader, enjoys collecting The Simpsons-related items like DVDs and games, and plays in sports leagues throughout the year (basketball, softball, kickball and Ultimate Frisbee). Erik is looking forward to meeting and working with the new students in his mentor group.



Dr. Dudley Outcalt

Dr. Outcalt is a faculty member in the Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management Department and teaches courses in the building electrical specialty. Dr. Outcalt has degrees in physics, electrical engineering and an MBA in finance and economics. He is a registered professional engineer in the states of Wisconsin, Illinois and Hawaii. He is the

president of Midwest Power Consultants Inc. and he actively consults with Midwestern international airports and local area hospitals. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, experienced in nuclear submarines and a retired Captain from the U.S. Navy. In his spare time he reads and operates radio-controlled airplanes and helicopters. He has been a faculty representative for student NASA rocket competition, and student national competitions in building electrical efficiency. He believes that MSOE students have a special competitive advantage that leads them to championships in these competitions.



Dr. Vipin Paliwal

Dr. Paliwal teaches courses in General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Biology and Biochemistry in the Physics and Chemistry Department. In the 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 smaller classroom sizes at MSOE that make it easier to connect with students and he is impressed with MSOE students' desire to learn.



Dr. Cory Prust '01

Dr. Prust is an assistant professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department and teaches courses in the areas of signal processing and embedded systems. He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from MSOE in 2001 and his Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from Purdue University in 2006. Prior to joining MSOE, he was a technical staff member at Massachusetts Institute

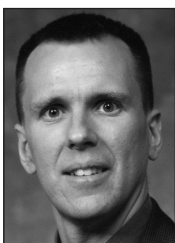
of Technology Lincoln Laboratory where he conducted research in the area of phased-array radar. He continues to pursue research in array signal processing as well as computational structural biology. His personal interests include backpacking, fishing, playing guitar, and audio recording and production. Dr. Prust sees the mentor program as an integral part of establishing and maintaining a healthy and vibrant campus community. He takes great pride in getting to know his students and becoming invested in their success.



Dr. Robert Rizza

Dr. Rizza is an associate professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He teaches mechanics and design courses and works with undergraduate students on research and design projects. He is very active in mechanics and numerical methods course development. He routinely represents MSOE at national conferences and symposia. He has industrial experience in various industries and is currently very active in medical device

design and development. He is the recipient of the 2010 Karl O. Werwath Engineering Research Award and the 2008 Falk Engineering Educator Award. His hobbies include reading and watching Sci-Fi movies. In addition, he is a woodworker and has constructed many wood projects including bedroom furniture and kitchen cabinets. One of the things he would like his mentees to know about him is that while he may not be a fan of the students' favorite baseball and football teams, he really enjoys talking about these sports!



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 time spent 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. Prior to coming to MSOE, he worked for Ford Motor Co. and Visteon Systems developing embedded systems software. 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. His interests include playing the tuba with various musical organizations, model railroading and photography. He serves as advisor to the MSOE Symphony Orchestra student organization.



Laura Schumacher

Laura works in the Enrollment Management Department. She assists prospective students in the college admission process. Laura will often visit high schools to promote MSOE, meet with families when they visit the campus, and help coordinate and facilitate campus events for future students. Laura earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Ball State University and is currently working on her master's degree. Prior to

coming to MSOE, she spent time in Australia coordinating a study-abroad program. In addition to her love of travel, Laura likes to ski, hike, bike and spend time outside. She also likes to volunteer, cook and bake.



Nick Seidler

Nick is assistant director of Student Activities and adviser to both MSOE's Greek Council and the Student Union Board. He also is 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. Faisal Shaikh

Dr. Shaikh is an assistant professor in the Physics and Chemistry Department, helping to develop the new biomolecular engineering program and teaching chemistry at the freshman/sophomore levels. He earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in chemical engineering. He also spent a couple of years teaching at Qatar University before coming to MSOE. His interests include outdoor sports, cooking, baking, surfing the

Internet and watching movies. Dr. Shaikh is looking forward to serving as a mentor and would like to contribute to the student's experience at MSOE. He would like his mentees to know that he is fairly young and very approachable. His advice to his mentees is "Carpe Diem"!



Dr. Chris Taylor

Dr. Taylor is a professor in the Electrical Engineering and 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 website,

<http://chris.t-a-y-l-o-r.com/>



Davinci Wallace

Davinci is an admission counselor in the Enrollment Management Department. He also is an assistant men's basketball coach at MSOE. He has a bachelor's degree from UW-Milwaukee and was a teacher for a few years. Outside of MSOE, Davinci likes to spend his time with his daughter and wife as well as watch sports and read. His hope as a mentor is to help students make a smooth transition from high school to college, since he

recognizes that it can be overwhelming. He admires the dedication, work ethic and excitement of life that MSOE and its students have. He feels that by providing a support system for students, he can help them in their transition.



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. She also teaches freshman 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. 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 educational

institutions, including Carthage, Centenary and Northwest Arkansas Community College. Her interests include running, swimming, reading fiction, watching movies, opera, ballet and traveling. She is an enthusiastic and patient teacher; she loves interacting with and mentoring college students.