

# COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY/STAFF E-NEWSLETTER



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
College of Engineering

APRIL 2009

## In The Spotlight

- The Spring 2009 Faculty business Meeting will be held on 4/24 at 2:00 p.m. in room E423B
- Anyone interested in forming an SDSU Engineering team for the Camp Pendleton Mud Run please contact Corinne at 4-6071. The Run will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2009, but Final team sign-up is **May 1<sup>st</sup>** due to a limited number of entries. Join up for a fun & challenging adventure!

## Mike Niggli to be Honored at 2009 Monty's



Michael R. Niggli will be recognized as the College of Engineering's Outstanding Alumnus at this year's 37th Annual Monty Awards Gala. The Awards will be held on Saturday, April 11th at the San Diego Hilton Bayfront.

The Monty is a symbol of achievement and success presented to distinguished alumni from each of the seven SDSU academic colleges, as well as the university's Imperial Valley campus and library and information access division. Distinguished service awards are also presented to an exceptional alumni volunteer and an outstanding university employee.

Mr. Niggli is a 1974 graduate of the College of Engineering with an MS in Electrical Engineering. He is currently the COO of San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas), Sempra Energy's California regulated utilities.

Mr. Niggli was named COO in 2006. Previously, from 2000 to 2006, he was president of Sempra Generation where he was responsible for the operation and maintenance of merchant power plants and energy infrastructure throughout North America.

Prior to joining Sempra Energy in 2000, Mr. Niggli was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Resources. He contributed to a successful merger of the two companies that doubled their size and strength.

From 1988 to 1996 Mr. Niggli served as a senior executive with Entergy Corporation, where he had significant corporate responsibilities for strategic planning, customer service, fuels acquisition, marketing and sales.

Mr. Niggli holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from California State University, Long Beach. In addition to his Master's from SDSU and he taught in the graduate program in power engineering at San Diego State University for five years. He has also participated in the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

Mr. Niggli recently served on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Electric Power Supply Association, a national trade association representing competitive power suppliers. He is currently on the board of the Great Basin National Park Foundation, and has previously served on the boards of the United Way of Southern Nevada, University of Nevada at Las Vegas Foundation, Electric Power Research Institute, Edison Electric Institute and the Nevada Development Authority. He has also been closely involved in business and education partnerships in San Diego, New Orleans and Las Vegas.

## Tracking the Dean

4/7	Dean Hayhurst will host the Spring Engineering Dean's Advisory Board meeting at the Mezzanine suite in Cox Arena
4/7	Dean Hayhurst will have lunch with Capt. Kohlheim, Commanding Officer of SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific, along with President Weber, Dean Maloy, and Tom Scott, V. P. for Research Dean of Graduate Division at the Presidents Office
4/8	Dean Hayhurst will attend the Advancing America's National Security: CONNECT Frontier's in Science & Technology event and presentation by Dr. Frank E. Gordon, Head of Research and Applied Science at SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific
4/9	Dean Hayhurst will attend the Caesar Chavez Luncheon with MEP Director Theresa Garcia
4/11	Dean Hayhurst will host Mike Niggli, Engineering Outstanding Alumni Award Winner at the 2009 Monty Awards Banquet held at the San Diego Hilton Bay Front

## Alumni Event Scheduled

The Spring 2009 College of Engineering Alumni Mixer has been set for Thursday, April 23rd at Trophy's Restaurant in La Jolla. E-Mail invites were sent out last month to over 6,000 alumni who had e-mail addresses on file with the university. This event is a great opportunity for our Alumni to reconnect with their classmates, network and get back in touch with the College of Engineering with the hope that this relationship will translate into support of the college and its programs.

All faculty are encouraged to attend this event. Students at the Fall 2008 Mixer were delighted to see the

	Alumni Award winner at the 2009 Monty Awards Banquet held at the San Diego Hilton Bay Front
4/13	Dean Hayhurst will meet with Dr. Howard Evan, National University Dean of Engineering & Technology
4/21	Dean Hayhurst will attend the NSF/STEP Internal Advisory Committee meeting
4/22	Dean Hayhurst will participate in the SDSU Campaign Leadership Retreat
4/23	Dean Hayhurst will host the Spring Engineering Alumni Mixer at Trophy's in La Jolla
4/24	Dean Hayhurst will conduct the Spring Faculty Business Meeting at 2:00 pm in room E423B
4/27	Dean Hayhurst will attend the CSU Engineering Dean's Meeting in Long Beach
4/29	Dean Hayhurst will meet with Frank Flores, Engineering Dean's Advisory Board Member and Sector Vice President of Engineering at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems

mates, network and get back in touch with the College of Engineering with the hope that this relationship will translate into support of the college and its programs.

All faculty are encouraged to attend this event. Students at the Fall 2008 Mixer were delighted to see the department chairs and a few other familiar faces, and many students were on the lookout for their favorite professors from their time spent at SDSU. Please put this event on your calendar and RSVP to Carly House at 4-0605 or by e-mail at [chouse@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:chouse@mail.sdsu.edu).

Look forward to seeing you there!

### Commencement Information

The 2009 College of Engineering Commencement will take place on Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>. The main ceremony, together with the College of Sciences, will begin at 1:00pm at Cox Arena and will include speeches by President Weber, Deans Hayhurst and Maloy, and the "turning of the tassel" by the valedictorians of both colleges. Faculty in full regalia are highly encouraged to join graduates on the floor of the arena by lining up in L Lot next to Cox Arena no later than 12:30pm (Red ID required for access). Alternatively, faculty may sit in the stands, however must contact Donovan Geiger for tickets on a first come first serve basis prior to the event.

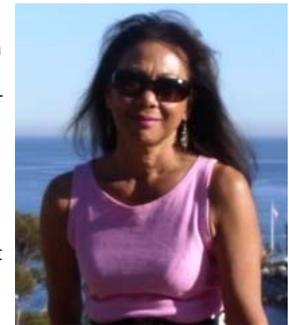
At approximately 2:00pm, the College of Engineering will depart Cox Arena and head to Peterson Gym. The second ceremony, which will begin at 2:30pm, will include recognition of outstanding graduates and culminate with a name-reading ceremony as each graduate walks across the stage to receive their diploma. Tickets are not required and all faculty in full regalia may sit on-stage for this ceremony.

If you have any questions about commencement, please contact Donovan Geiger at 4-6079.

### Meet the College's Newest Staff

Corinne Ventar-Phillips is the Administrative Support Assistant II for the Department of Civil, Construction, & Environmental Engineering working alongside Sandy Maxwell.

Hired one year ago, Corinne brings many years of experience to the College, having worked previously in the Savings & Loan Industry for 19 years in the Administrative Operations field, working her way up the ladder to Branch Manager prior to moving to an Environmental Engineering Firm (Bechtel) where she worked as their Administrative Assistant in the Contracts Department and Records Management.



Corinne enjoys working at SDSU and being a part of an organization that provides a good foundation for students. She also enjoys working with her fellow faculty and staff members.

Her interests outside of work include running, hiking, performing music/arts, dancing, reading, traveling, all outdoor activities and culinary arts. If you have not met Corinne, stop by the CCEE offices and say hello!

### Research Corner—Projects Submitted & Awards Granted in March

Name	Dept	Title of Project	FA	Status
Dr. Asfaw Beyene. Co-pis Dr. Samuel Kassegne, Dr. Luciano Demasi, Dr. Khaled Morsi	ME/ AE/EM	A Flexible, Full-scale, Morphing Turbine Blade for Wind Energy Application: Modeling, Design, and Testing	US DOE	Submitted
Dr. Asfaw Beyene. Co-pi Dr. Kee Moon	ME	Ultra-low Grade Heat Driven CHP Systems Using Ozone-neutral Refrigerant	CEC	Submitted
Dr. Subrata Bhattacharjee. Co-pi(s) Dr. David Pullman, Dr. Fletcher Miller, Dr. Christopher Paolini	ME	Chemical Equilibrium and Kinetic Services and a General Purpose Gas Turbine Combustion Simulation Tool with Applications to Accurate Nox Modeling in Alternative Fuel Combustion	NSF	Submitted
Dr. Samuel Kassegne	ME	High Efficiency Stretchable Photovoltaics Based on 3D Carbon Electrodes Patterned on Flexible Substrate	ATI	Submitted
Dr. Sunil Kumar	ECE	Design of Intelligent H.264 Video Packetization for Airborne Wireless Networks	DOD	Submitted
Dr. Yusuf Ozturk	ECE	Mobile Developer Days San Diego Workshop	Nokia	Awarded
Dr. Sridhar Seshagiri. Co-pi Dr. Asfaw Beyene	ECE/ ME	Nonlinear Control and Real-time Optimization of Variable-speed WECS	NSF	Submitted
Dr. Satish Sharma	ECE	Electromagnetic Metamaterial Films	NGA	Submitted
Dr. Kenneth Walsh. Co-pi Dr. Julio Valdes	CCEE	PIRE: Partnership for Advancement of Mechanics of Unsaturated Soils	ASU	Submitted
Dr. Kenneth Walsh	CCEF	NFFSR-CR: Full-scale Structural and Nonstructural Building Systems Performance During Earth-	UCSD	Submitted

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Dr. Kenneth Walsh	CCEE	NEESR-CR: Full-scale Structural and Nonstructural Building Systems Performance During Earth- quakes	UCSD	Submitted

CEC = California Energy Commission  
 ATI = Advanced Technology Inc.  
 NGA = NextGen Aeronautics  
 ASU = Arizona State University

Story ideas, award notifications, suggestions and comments can be sent to Carly House at [chouse@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:chouse@mail.sdsu.edu)