

Message from the Chair

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The previous two EDGD chairs, Dennis Lieu and Kevin Devine, along with the Director of Membership, Diarmaid Lane, have emphasized the importance of attracting new members to EDGD. In addition to scholarships and reduced Midyear registration fees for first-time attendees, a YouTube video, "*Why you should join the Engineering Design Graphics Division!*", was created and a link posted on the EDGD homepage. An attractive informational flyer was distributed at the ASEE Summer Conference informational session, and a coffee/donut session was held in Indianapolis and a cookies/soft drinks session was held in Seattle. In an effort to encourage anyone who might be reading this message to consider getting involved with EDGD, I would like to describe the tremendous influence and impact my EDGD colleagues have made on my students and College, and on me personally.

In my first engineering job I worked in the HVAC group of a consulting company that was designing Hyatt Regencies and Holiday Inns for Kuwait. There were no CAD systems at that time. I like to tell my students that I spent 38 percent of my time drawing lines, and 31 percent of my time erasing lines! Later, in 1986, while I was teaching in a two-year engineering transfer program at Daniel Webster College (DWC), the adjunct instructor who was teaching the engineering graphics course decided to retire. I wasn't able to find a replacement instructor in time, and so decided to teach the course myself. We obtained AutoCAD R2.1 and installed it on Rainbows with 256 K of RAM (wow!) At that time AutoCAD required inserting 5.25" floppies for certain commands! It was awkward, but a huge step forward from drawing on the board. Layers were wonderful as was perfect lettering every time.

I had recently joined ASEE, and since I was now teaching engineering graphics, I listed EDGD as one of my divisions and started receiving and reading the EDG Journal. In August 1996 I attended a NSF Concurrent Engineering Design Workshop at the University of Texas at Austin led by Ronald Barr and Davor Juricic. This workshop demonstrated the power and potential of the concurrent engineering paradigm. As a result of this workshop, in 1998 a three-semester engineering design sequence was introduced in DWC's two-year engineering program.

The sequence was well received by the DWC engineering students, and in 2005 the College introduced BS degrees in both aeronautical and mechanical engineering. These programs both contain a five-semester design sequence. Engineering graphics and concurrent engineering are developed and exercised through-out the curriculum.

My first EDGD midyear meeting was in 2002 at Berkeley. By attending the presentations and through conversations with the participants, I was able to gain insight

on how to improve the engineering program at DWC. I was amazed at the friendliness and openness of the EDGD members, as well as the humor of the site chair, Dennis Lieu.

The first midyear in which my students presented was in 2004 at Williamsburg. When we first arrived and walked through the door, Pat Connolly immediately engaged my very nervous students to welcome and encourage them. Many others did the same throughout the conference including Larry Goss. My first time presenting a paper at an ASEE summer conference was in 2005 at Portland, Oregon. Kathy Holliday-Darr and Judy Birchman were extremely welcoming, helpful, and encouraging.

At the midyear in 2007 at San Diego, Frank Croft and Ron Paré encouraged me to be the EDGD program chair for the 2008 summer conference in Pittsburgh. I never would have thought to try to do something like this had it not been for the supportive culture that permeates the EDGD. There are too many EDGD members to mention all those who have encouraged my students (La Verne Abe Harris, Ted Branoff, Marie Planchard, Nancy Study, Norma Veurink, Tim Sexton, Dennis Lieu, and Jon Duff are just a few). At the midyear meeting in 2009 at Berkeley, Holly Ault encouraged Jen (McDonald) McInnis to visit WPI. Jen then worked as a TA for David Planchard while attending graduate school at WPI, is now back as a professor at DWC, and will be site co-chair for the 71st midyear at DWC in October 2016.

Robert Chin provided great advice and support during my six years as director of communications, and without the encouragement and mentorship of Kevin Devine, I never would have considered serving on the EDGD executive committee.

I hope these comments convey the great blessing that EDGD has been to the DWC students and programs, and to me personally. For anyone who is looking to plug into an ASEE division, I wholeheartedly recommend membership and participation in EDGD.

In closing, I would like to convey congratulations to those who received EDGD awards at the 2015 summer conference in Seattle:

- The Chairs Award – Holly K. Ault, Linjun Bu, and Kejiang Liu
- The Editor's Award – Petros J. Katsioloudis and Vukica Jovanovic
- The Distinguished Service Award – Dennis K. Lieu

Also, congratulations to Mike Stewart who is retiring after 44 years of teaching!

Site chairs Heidi Steinhauer and Lulu Sun, and program chair Diarmaid Lane have done an outstanding job organizing the 70th midyear conference which will take place January 24-26, 2016, in Daytona Beach. (<http://commons.erau.edu/asee-edgd/conference70/>)

I look forward to seeing you there!

Nick Bertozzi