

THE

# Epsilon Xi

At Wichita State University

## About Us!

Eta Kappa Nu is the National honor society for electrical and computer engineers. The Epsilon Xi chapter of Eta Kappa Nu was established on May 22, 1966 at Wichita State University.

Outstanding students in electrical engineering and computer engineering are elected to Eta Kappa Nu membership, primarily from the junior and senior classes. Graduate students and distinguished professional engineers are also eligible.



## Annual Report 2014/2015

The Epsilon Xi chapter of Eta Kappa Nu was founded at Wichita State University in 1966 and was active for many years. After the retirement of the faculty advisor in 2012, the chapter became inactive. That is, until this past year, 2014, a few dedicated students under the guidance of our new faculty advisor Dr. Aravinthan, revived the chapter. It required hard work and collaboration from many; but we are extremely proud of how far the chapter has come and how much we have learned along the way.

### Important Dates

**Information Day**  
Fall 2015-Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>

Information Day is to the prospective members that are eligible to join

**Nikola Award**  
Every Spring Semester

All EECS students are eligible to vote for their most influential faculty member

**Student Awards**  
Every Semester

Eligible EECS students' (undergraduates & graduates) are welcome to self-nominate to these awards.

## Message from our EECS Department Chair



The 2014-2015 academic year in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department (EECS) at Wichita State University (WSU) has been very exciting. In the fall, the department experienced a record enrollment with over 1100 students. During this academic year, we have seen the Innovation campus start to take shape and the plans for the Experiential Engineering and Maker Space Building finalized. As part of the Innovation campus, we already have students working on campus in partnership with industry as part of the Applied Technology Institute and Ennovar. In November, we dedicated the Westar Energy Power Systems Laboratory. Four of the first ten students selected for the prestigious Koch Honors Scholar's program were EECS students. Three additional EECS students were selected for the Wallace Scholar's program. Dr. Animesh Chakravarthy, who was awarded a National Science Foundation Career award, received both WSU's Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Research awards. Dr. Namboodiri was selected for WSU's Advancement in Teaching Award.

Despite all these successes, nothing gives me more pleasure than the progress that the Epsilon Xi chapter of IEEE-HKN has made this year. A chapter that was inactive at the beginning of the academic year initiated 10 new members, including their faculty adviser (Dr. Visvakumar Aravinthan) and all their officers, on Founders Day in October. They have not looked back since. In the spring, they went from initiating members to establishing a tutoring program that was desperately needed by the department. I am probably most excited about their inaugural IEEE-HKN Awards ceremony that was held after the spring commencement ceremony. They used this ceremony not only to recognize the outstanding achievements of students and faculty, but also to recognize the many years of service of a retiring staff member, Ms. Judie Dansby. The Nikola Tesla Award Winner, Dr. Preethika Kumar, was nominated for and won the national 2015 IEEE-HKN C. Holmes McDonald Outstanding Teaching award.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Epsilon Xi chapter of IEEE-HKN on an outstanding job. I look forward to working with them, as they set their sights even higher for 2015-2016.

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## Message from Chapter President

It is absolutely a great honor to be associated with IEEE-HKN and serves as the president for Epsilon Xi Chapter at Wichita State University. It is the only EECS Honor; student chapter dedicated to encouraging and recognizing excellence in IEEE designated fields of interest. I have been fortunate to be blessed with an excellent committee in which everyone is dedicated and committed towards their responsibilities. Epsilon Xi chapter has showed an enormous potential and pursuit for excellence right from the beginning when we revived the chapter from its dormancy, last year. To showcase all those achievements and information we decided to publish our first IEEE-HKN Chapter Newsletter to you. I believe every HKN member in the chapter is very commendable and that is one of the many reasons for its success. Also it is my great pleasure to let you know that this is the first time we have won the 2015 IEEE-HKN C. Holmes MacDonald Outstanding Teaching Award by one of our EECS Department faculty, Dr. Preethika Kumar, since it was started in 1972. The Epsilon Xi Chapter continues to grow by introducing variety of activities and events that involves almost all the academic as well as social aspects of a student's life. Our chapter will continue to strive for the success in all the three pillars, which are EXCELLENCE, CHARACTER, and ATTITUDE.

Nipuna Gomes  
President,  
IEEE-HKN, Epsilon Xi  
Wichita State University  
2014/15

## Where it all began

The process began with a trip to the Beta Kappa chapter of Eta Kappa Nu at Kansas State University on 17th October 2014

### Visit to K- State

Since all the members are new, the need of visiting a neighboring chapter to gain better understanding about operations was brought up and the executive committee unanimously agreed to visit the K-state HKN, Beta Kappa Chapter, which was fondly, welcomed us. We were toured around the campus with an informative guidance of their HKN faculty advisor, Mr. David Soldan.

### Initiation Day – Fall 2014

On October 28th, 2014 (Founder's Day) all of our officers and the people who worked diligently to restore the chapter were initiated along with one new leadership position that was created to focus on recruitment of new members. The day was a success as ten (10) new members were initiated.

### Founders Day- October 28<sup>th</sup>

We started ourselves on the Founder's Day Oct 28th, reaching out to the other potential students and faculty by celebrating the day with a poster-board, letting them know who we are and what we are about and answering their questions about the organization. HKN tattoos, pens and pins were distributed in this event.

### Annual Get-together – Dec. 2014

In an effort to bring the chapter even closer together we organized a year-end gathering to celebrate the graduation of two of our members, Curtis Weis and Daniel Gilchrist. The night was a success as we enjoyed good food and celebrated both of the graduate's achievements with their friends and family.





## Spring 2015, more Events and a Semester to Celebrate!!

IEEE-HKN Tutoring is one of major sessions we anticipated to initiate on beginning of Spring 2015 semester. We started our tutoring session with the help of our chapter vice president, Mr. Saeed Alsaleb, tutoring coordinator, to began our weekly tutoring session with EE 488, Electric Machinery and Transformers on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015. Thereafter we expand our tutoring sessions to few other courses with the help of our other members. We held our tutoring sessions every Tuesday from 7:15pm to 8:30pm at a reserved classroom during the semester.

As the spring semester of 2015 came, officers

began to meet weekly to plan the ambitious semester ahead. One of the first things we wanted to do was hold an information session by our Director of Recruitment, Mr. Cooper Colglazier to let prospective students know about IEEE - HKN and about our chapter. We invited qualified students and we had a great turnout. The officers and current members answered questions, and informed the students about the mission of our chapter and of IEEE - HKN. Later we enjoyed ice cream and a painting activity where everyone attempted to paint the HKN logo on a wooden board.



## Initiation – Spring 2015

After our information session, many students were interested in joining. A few weeks of planning later, we held our initiation for the spring semester of 2015. With our department chair and family members of the new members present, we initiated 15 new members to our chapter.



## IEEE-HKN Awards Ceremony

To top off our first true semester as an active chapter, we wanted to celebrate the EECS department at Wichita State and also the top students in the department. We devised a plan to give awards to Outstanding Graduating Seniors, Outstanding Graduating Graduate students, and also to the Most Influential Faculty member. The student awards were self-nominated and the awards were given based on a points system we created.



An optional online poll was given to the students in the EECS department. Students were asked to pick their most influential faculty member and leave a comment about experiences with that faculty member. Plaques were made for all awards along with books filled with student comments for the top three influential faculty members.

The first ever...

The first ever HKN - Epsilon Xi Award Ceremony was held on May 16th 2015. The ceremony was more successful than we could have imagined. We held the Ceremony directly after the graduation commencement, only to add to the celebration of the day. HKN members, many of the EECS faculty and staff, students up for awards, friends and family, Dean of the College of Engineering and the 2015 commencement speaker were all in attendance to name a few.



All of the feedback from the event was positive and members of the faculty expressed how nice it was to see all of the student's comments.

Recipient of The Students Choice of Faculty of the Year Award was later nominated to C. Holmes MacDonald Outstanding Teaching Award & the recipient of The Outstanding Senior Award was later nominated to Alton B. Zerby and Carl T. Koerner Outstanding Student Award at the IEEE-HKN Headquarters.

All past event images can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/HKN.EpsilonXi>

## Final thoughts...

Over the past year our chapter has succeeded in our goal of spreading many of the principles of IEEE - HKN including acknowledging achievements. Especially with our final event of the semester, we have cemented our place at Wichita State and we will continue to work to ensure that the Epsilon Xi chapter thrives.

Our congratulation to Dr. Preethika Kumar for winning this year the "2015 IEEE-HKN C. Holmes MacDonald Outstanding Teaching Award". She was nominated to this national award by our chapter, as she was the recipient of the Student Choice of Faculty of the Year award awarded by the Epsilon Xi Chapter.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

#### **Fall 2015: Information Day**

Place: **265 LUCAS ROOM**  
Date & Time: October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4pm to 7pm

#### **Fall 2015: Initiation Day**

Date & Time: October 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 1pm  
Place: **266 PIKE RM**

#### **Fall 2015: Tutoring Program**

Date & Time: Every Thursday from 6 PM onwards  
Place: **JB260** – Reserved until end of the semester  
Jerry : Circuits I,II, Electronic circuits I, C++ programming  
Alex : Cicuits I,II, Signals and systems  
& More courses at your demand.

#### **Fall 2015: IEEE-HKN Awards**

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – Sunday  
For more information & Apply at [www.wichita.edu/hkn](http://www.wichita.edu/hkn)

#### **Student Membership Fee:**

There is a onetime fee of \$70 that will cover a lifetime membership with Eta Kappa Nu, and you will receive a one- year student membership with IEEE.

#### **Faculty Membership Fee:**

There is a onetime fee of \$100 that will cover a lifetime membership with Eta Kappa Nu.

# Special Thanks to

Our chapter advisor, for giving the ideas, support and guidance through-out the year.

Our EECS department chair, Dr. John Watkins for financially supporting us to conduct our first IEEE-HKN Awards Ceremony and for participating in most all the events conducted and supporting us.

## Thank you



### Nipuna Gomes

President  
IEEE-HKN  
Epsilon Xi Chapter  
Wichita State University

### Cooper Colglazier

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