

Happenings

Ali Ahmadi, MS '83, will finish his doctoral program this May in computer science. He has moved to Seattle and started to work for Microsoft in the Office team.

Saad AlAjlan, MS (electrical engineering) '08, joined Ericsson AB, Saudi Arabia branch, after graduating. He now works as a solution manager for radio access network. He credits his GW education with giving him the edge over his competitors in winning his position and he thanks the GW family for all the support and help that he received here.

Ibrahim Al-soqabi, BS (civil engineering) '75, and his wife were blessed earlier this year with a baby boy named Abdulrahman.

Vittal Anantatmula, D.Sc. (engineering management) '95, is an associate professor in the College of Business at Western Carolina University.
<http://paws.wcu.edu/vittal>

Walid Choueiri, MS (civil engineering) '05, works at SK&A Structural Engineers in Rockville, MD, where he has been since finishing his bachelor's degree. He was recently promoted to associate at the firm and will be getting married on August 8, 2009.

Osama Mohamed El-Ghandour, D.Sc. (electrical engineering) '90, is a professor teaching at Helwan University in Cairo, Egypt. His work is in the field of mobile communications.

David Fiala, MS (mechanical engineering) '03, welcomed the birth of his son Jack and was promoted to a management position as a marine engineer. He works for the Overseas Shipholding Group as a first assistant engineer on the tanker Overseas Houston. Jack joins his siblings, Morgan (3 yrs) and Emma (1 1/2 yrs), who are looked after by David's won-

derful wife Aimee while David is at sea.

Ankur Gupta, MS (computer science) '07, really enjoyed his experience at GW. He has recently been promoted to senior business analyst at TMI Solutions and is working in the IT strategic planning consulting practice.

Somak Halder, MS (computer engineering) '03, works as a senior data analyst at Capital One Financial in Richmond, VA.



Aaron Hall, MEM '99, has been named vice president of program management at K12 Inc., a technology-based curriculum and instructional tools development organization. Aaron was also recently selected to command the U.S. Army Reserve Element that supports the Defense Information Systems Agency.

Lilly Hardin, MS (systems engineering) '88, has a rewarding career with the National Park Service, "the best idea America ever had," she says. She currently works on transportation planning projects along the Mississippi River and the C&O Canal. She has recently participated in the upgrade of the security system and roadways around the Lincoln Memorial and was the project manager for the new Georgetown Waterfront Park along the Potomac River between Key Bridge and Wisconsin Avenue.

Sherman (Xiaoxue) He, MS '05, works for Capital One Financial as a senior business analyst. He enrolled in the MBA program at NYU Stern in Spring

2008 and expects to graduate in December 2010.



Martin Kamara, MS (mechanical engineering) '96, is a chief warrant officer in the Active Component of the United States Army Reserve. He serves with the United States Army 345th Combat Support Hospital at Al Asad Airbase, Iraq, and expected to be home from Iraq in April 2009.

Mai Kanaan, MS (computer science) '06, works as an instructor at An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine.

Clif Kranish, MS (computer science) '82, is a director of product management at Information Builders.

Tiffani (Warren) Langdon, BS (electrical engineering) '95, works at Pepco in Washington, D.C., as a lead engineer. Tiffani and her husband Marlon and their son Marcel welcomed Mason into the world on September 11, 2008. Tiffani also has accepted a new position to be the Pepco engineering liaison to Prince George's County for system and highway projects.

William Lohnes, MEA '69, has joined the Board of PrismTech Solutions Americas as an outside director.

Lyle Long, D.Sc. (aerospace engineering) '83, is a distinguished professor of

aerospace engineering at Pennsylvania State University. He has also been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society and Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. In 2007-2008 he was a Moore Distinguished Scholar at Caltech. <http://www.personal.psu.edu/lnl>



Sandy Joel Marenberg, BS (civil engineering) '69, is the president of Marenberg Enterprises and received the 2008 Developer of the Year award from the Homebuilders Association of Maryland.



Homayoun "Al" Mirfakhrai, BS (civil engineering) '80 and MEM '96, has worked for the past twenty years for NASA as a project manager/COTR, managing various engineering and construction projects. He writes, "I was the chairman of a public relations committee and Congressional Liaison, and I played a key role in passing a civil rights bill by advancing it in the U.S. Senate in 1999."

Uchchash "Steve" Mukherjee, MEM '79, works for the U.S. firm AECOM and has been assigned as a program cost manager to a multi-billion-dollar project for the Housing Infrastructure Board of Libya.

Nghi Thanh Nguyen, D.Sc. (civil engineering) '06, works as vice-rector of Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture in Vietnam.



Hua Ni's, D.Sc. (operations research) '04, third daughter, Hanna L. Ni, was born on February 21, 2009. She weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz. and was 18 3/4 inches long at birth.



Kristy McDonnell Ortiz, BS (civil engineering) '99, MEM '01, and her husband, Daniel Ortiz (Law '02), are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Adam Owen Ortiz. He was born on August 25, 2008, and weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz. "Adam has been a wonderful addition to our family and we couldn't be happier," says Ortiz.

Jesus Rohena, MS (civil engineering) '95, has been promoted to senior tunnel engineer at the Federal Highway Administration. He is leading the effort to establish a new program for the inspection of highway tunnels in the U.S.



Ron Sasiela (pictured right), MEM '00, and Irving Blickstein, MEM '75, represented SEAS on a recent GW Alumni Association trip to Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia. The trip included land excursions to ancient sites along with tours of many coastal historical and cultural temples. The program used an 85-cabin sailing vessel as its home base as it moved down the Malay peninsula.

Jon A. Schmidt, BS '92, MS '94 (civil engineering), is an associate structural engineer and the director of antiterrorism services at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City, MO. Schmidt received the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the National Council of Structural Engineers Association (NCSEA), is an active member of two NCSEA committees, and chairs the editorial board for the organization's magazine, STRUCTURE. Schmidt was also named in the January 2009 issue of *Building Design+Construction* as one of the top young professionals in the industry as part of that publication's annual "40 Under 40" recognition program.

Ben Schupak, MS (computer science) '03, works for Ernst & Young in New York City. He builds web sites and databases that support back-office operations involving the 140,000 employees. He is in the second semester of the part-time MBA program at Rutgers University Business School.



Jae Shin, MS (electrical engineering) '08, works for the Federal Aviation Administration as an electronics engineer in the spectrum engineering office. He was recently promoted and is involved in many exciting spectrum issues.



Lt. Comdr. Dan Somma, MEM '08, was selected to serve on the Department of Homeland Security Integrated Process Team for cargo security. The group's work was recently featured on the show "High Tech War on Terror" on the National Geographic Channel. Dan is currently stationed at Coast Guard Headquarters in the Office of Ports and Facilities Activities. He works to align maritime cargo security initiatives between the Coast Guard and other federal agencies.



Murray Stein, BS (electrical engineering) '49, writes, "While I had a distinguished career in engineering, culminating with teaching for 26 years in GW's Continuing Engineering Education Program, I have developed a new career in sculpture. In 1999 the Path of Achievement Award designated me a "Living Treasure" in Maryland, followed by two lectures at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery, several museum exhibits, and numerous top prizes in competition, including First Place in the 2008 Texas Sculpture Association Show. My 1000s of hours of community volunteerism at senior centers and teaching art to disadvantaged elementary school children won me the 2006 National Distinguished Senior Award on Capitol Hill by NCPSSM, plus a Public Service Award by the D.A.R. in Texas."

Oldemar Tello, BS (electrical engineering) '84, is currently employed as a certified technical quality manager at SAP Government Support and Services.

Weldon Vlasak, D.Sc. (electrical engineering) '70, has primarily spent his time keeping up his three web sites: www.science-site.net, www.sword-play.net, and www.adaptiveenterprises.com. Do drop in and visit.

Yakov Vorobyev, BA (computer science) '05, is president of Mixed In Key, a software company that develops software for musicians and DJs. Mixed In Key has been nominated for the "Best New Product of the Year" by

the International Dance Music Awards in Miami, and was chosen as Microsoft's "Most promising start-up of the week." It also won the "Best DJ Tool" award from *DJ Magazine* in 2008, and was nominated for its "Most Innovative Product" award in 2007.
<http://www.MixedInKey.com>

Sean Walsh, BS (mechanical engineering) '76, writes, "After a career as a Navy engineering duty officer, I have been working in private industry for several years and am currently employed by Alion Science and Technology in the JJMA Maritime & Industrial Engineering Group. Recently I have been assigned as the deputy program manager for the NAVSEA 05 Ship Design Services contract. I've also been active as an alumnus, serving as a science fair judge for the GW Engineer Alumni Association, hosting a dinner with alumni for SEAS students, speaking to the student chapter of ASME at SEAS, and arranging for a SEAS professor to speak at a local section dinner of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers."