

May 5, 2008

[The following letter was sent to all admitted students with an Undecided Engineering major.]

Congratulations on your admission to Illinois Institute of Technology! As Department Chair and Professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department (ECE), I am excited to learn that you are interested in studying engineering. I would like to introduce you to the field of electrical and computer engineering and tell you a little bit more about what sets ECE apart.

As a father of a high school senior, I understand that this is a very important—and possibly intimidating—part of your academic career. One of the biggest decisions you will make is choosing the area of engineering you will pursue through defining your academic interests. The best way to start is by learning about the different academic departments. I am sending you this copy of *ece@iit* magazine to help you get to know the faculty, students and distinguished alumni from the ECE Department at IIT. The magazine highlights some of the activities and research opportunities available to undergraduates, as well as information on new courses and teaching laboratories developed specifically for undergrads. As you will read, we are very progressive in creating courses that reflect the newest technology in the profession, and we take great pride in teaching beyond the traditional curriculum.

Undergraduate Research—By enrolling in our program, you will have the opportunity to become an outstanding engineer through working with industry professionals and internationally known faculty members. We encourage our students to apply their knowledge to undergraduate research projects, from building a hybrid racecar to developing language learning tools for PDAs and cell phones. While at IIT, we want you to think, work and be creative; when you graduate, you will have an excellent education because of it.

Study Abroad—In addition to research and strong curriculum, we hope you will take advantage of our semester abroad and internship opportunities. This year, we have three ECE students who are spending a semester in France at one of the country's top engineering universities. They are learning about French culture and business while taking four core engineering courses taught in English. This is the first year our department has offered ECE-specific study abroad and we hope to develop more opportunities as this program grows.

Internships and Placement—Internships at the undergraduate level are common for ECE majors. We have several students who work for local companies such as ComEd, Exelon, and Motorola during the summer before their senior year. For example, Alfredo Garcia is an ECE junior who was offered a fully-paid internship at Exelon this summer. He will work for two months at the company and learn about electrical engineering and Chicago power markets, while experiencing an engineering work environment. He hopes to receive one or more job offers upon completion of his internship, before he graduates. Students like Alfredo benefit from IIT's 92% placement rate after college and typically have employment or graduate school prospects before graduation.

Information and Visits—We have several sources of information to help you learn about our program offerings, faculty, research opportunities, and employment after graduation. In addition to reading *ece@iit*, I encourage you to visit our website at ece.iit.edu. We also offer lab tours and department information sessions where you can meet faculty members, talk about majors and programs, and ask any pertinent questions. Please set up a campus visit, if you have not already.

If you have questions about the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, please call our Director of Communications Amy Henson at 312.567.5720. She'll be happy to help you obtain the answers you need. You may also email her at henson@iit.edu.

Again, congratulations. My colleagues and I look forward to helping you become a highly desired IIT graduate.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Shahidehpour
Bodine Professor and Chair
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering