

## EE Student's 'Practical Guide' Seminar Series

# "Perspective on Screening, Quals, Defense"

Friday, April 3, 2009

**\*NEW LOCATION\***

11:30am - 1:00pm

EEB 248

All EE students welcomed!

**\*Pizza will be provided by the EE Department.\***

**Abstract:** This seminar is to present the policies of Ph.D. screening process, qualifying exam and thesis defense in USC's Ming Hsieh EE Department. While the qualifying exam and thesis defense are conducted according to the rules set by the graduate division, the screening process is different for EE-Systems and EE-Electrophysics. That difference as well as how a Ph.D. student can successfully complete the three major steps will be discussed.

## SPEAKERS



Eun Sok Kim received the B.S. (high honors), M.S., and Ph.D. degrees, all in electrical engineering, from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1982, 1987, and 1990, respectively. His doctoral dissertation was on the integrated microphone with LSI CMOS on a single chip. In Fall 1999, he joined the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, and is currently a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering. His research interests include microelectromechanical systems (MEMS), acoustic and piezoelectric transducers, microfluidic systems, microfabrication processing technology, and materials

study. From Spring 1991 to Fall 1999, he worked at the Department of Electrical Engineering in the University of Hawaii at Manoa as a faculty member. Previously, he worked at IBM Research Laboratory, San Jose, CA, NCR Corp., San Diego, CA, and Xicor Inc., Milpitas, CA as a co-op student, design engineer, and summer-student engineer, respectively. Dr. Kim serves on the editorial board for Journal of Micromechanics and Microengineering and as an associate editor for the IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering. He has been awarded a Research Initiation Award (FY 91-93) and a Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award (FY 95-99) by National Science Foundation. He received Outstanding EE Faculty of the Year Award (voted by UH IEEE student chapter) in May 1996 and the IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering 2006 Best New Application Paper Award.

Michael G. Safonov received the B.S., M.S., Engineer, and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA in 1971, 1971, 1976 and 1977, respectively. From 1972 to 1975 he served with the U.S. Navy as Electronics Division Officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVA-42). Since 1977 he has been with the University of Southern California where he is presently a Professor of Electrical Engineering. He has been a consultant to The Analytic Sciences Corp., Honeywell Systems and Research Center, Systems Control, Systems Control Technology, Scientific Systems, United Technologies, TRW, Northrop Aircraft, Hughes Aircraft and others. His consulting and university research activities have involved him flight control system design studies in which modern robust multivariable control techniques were applied to a variety of aircraft including the CH-47 Chinook helicopter (Analytic Sciences Corp., 1976), the NASA HiMAT aircraft (Honeywell/USC, 1980) and the F/A-18 Hornet (Northrop, 1987-1991). During the academic year 1983-1984 he was a Senior Visiting Fellow with the Department of Engineering, Cambridge University, England, and in summer 1987 he held a similar appointment at Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, England. In 1990-1991 he was a visiting faculty member at Caltech, Pasadena, CA. He has authored or co-authored more than two hundred journal and conference papers and the book *Stability and Robustness of Multivariable Feedback Systems* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1980). Additionally, he is co-author of the *Robust Control Toolbox* (Natick, MA: MathWorks), a software package for use with MATLAB. His research interests include robust control, infinity-norm optimal control theory and nonlinear system theory with applications to aerospace control design problems. He served as an Associate Editor of the IEEE Trans. on Automatic Control from 1985- 1987 and is presently an editor of International Journal of Robust and Nonlinear Control and Systems and Control Letters. From 1993 to 1995, he was Chair of the AACC Awards Committee of the American Automatic Control Council. Dr. Safonov is a Fellow of the IEEE and a Fellow of IFAC.

