Steve E. Watkins is Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Associate Chair of Electrical Engineering Undergraduate Studies at Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly University of Missouri-Rolla or UMR) where he directs the Applied Optics Laboratory. His is active in IEEE (senior member), American Society for Engineering Education, and SPIE (senior member). He was inducted into Eta Kappa Nu in 1981. He is a faculty advisor for the Gamma Theta HKN Chapter (1992-Present), is Editor-in-Chief for HKN’s THE BRIDGE magazine (2013-Present), served on the HKN Board of Governors (2004-2007), has attended many HKN Student Leadership Conferences (2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2013, 2014, and 2015), and was the host advisor for the 2007 HKN Student Leadership Conference at UMR. He received IEEE Region 5 Awards for Outstanding Member (2005) and Outstanding Educator (1999), received an IEEE Regional Activities Board Achievement Award for work on the IEEE Student Ethics Competition, and was selected as a finalist in the 1993 HKN Outstanding Young Electrical Engineer Award Program. As a student, he was a NSF Graduate Fellow and the 1983 recipient of the HKN Alton B. Zerby Award. He received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas at Austin and M.S. and B.S. degrees from UMR. He was a 2004 IEEE-USA Congressional Fellow, the Faculty-Member-in-Residence for the 2005 Washington Internships for Students of Engineering (WISE) Program, a visiting physicist for the U.S.A.F. Phillips Laboratory at the Kirtland Air Force Base, and a visiting scholar for Nippon Telegraph and Telephone in Japan. He has served as a journal guest editor for two special issues related to pre-college education. He has been a co-coordinator of the Missouri S&T middle-school summer camps in robotics for eight years and has served the community on the local school board between 2001 and 2012 (Board President for 2008-2012). He has 1 patent, 3 book chapters, 48 archival papers, and 81 other works. He is author of “IEEE-HKN, the Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society” which appeared in IEEE Potentials (July/August 2012).

Other information can be found at http://www.LinkedIn.com/in/WatkinsSteveE.

DISCLAIMER “The opinions expressed are the opinions of the author and not necessarily the opinions of the IEEE.”
STEVE E. WATKINS
POSITION STATEMENT

Eta Kappa Nu has a long and distinguished history as an independent organization and now as a part of IEEE. It has done much to promote the electrical and computer engineering profession, to recognize excellence within the profession, and to foster high ideals among its members. I have been pleased to be involved as a student, as a faculty advisor, as a board member, and as THE BRIDGE Editor-in-Chief. The statement from the induction ritual that “HKN expects nothing of you that you cannot in honor give it” has always resonated with me. Our ideals of a “balanced life” as represented by the Wheatstone bridge are an eloquent expression of appropriate professional standards.

The core work of HKN is done in the chapters. Through recognition, faculty-student interaction, industry partnerships, and service activities, chapters develop leadership and communication skills among the student members as well as an awareness of professional and career issues. Consequently, the traditional and appropriate focus of the organization has been on development activities for chapters and members. My goals in this position would be

- To ensure that the headquarters support for chapters and members and that the resources available through IEEE meet organizational, professional, and career needs;
- To continue development of our signature programs such as the Student Leadership Conferences, THE BRIDGE magazine, recognition awards, and the Virtual Campus as benefits to chapters, members, alumni, and the profession; and
- To encourage the involvement of industry, alumni, and professional partners in HKN activities at both the chapter and above-the-chapter levels.

I hope to have this opportunity to contribute to the HKN community and to be your spokesman. Open communication among chapters, student members, alumni, and the board are necessary for the health of HKN. I welcome your communication.
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IEEE and IEEE-HKN Accomplishments and Services

• I have served as Faculty Advisor to the Gamma Theta HKN Chapter for 23 years. During that time the chapter has been recognized in the Outstanding Chapter Activities program 15 times. I serve as Editor-in-Chief for THE BRIDGE magazine of IEEE-HKN. During this tenure, the magazine has received two APEX awards of excellence. I have served on the HKN Board of Governors, have served on various HKN committees, and have participated in seven HKN Student Leadership Conferences.

• I supported the 2007 HKN Student Leadership Conference as host advisor and served on IEEE conference committees for the Intelligent Transportation Systems Society and the Communications Society (as well as ASEE Midwest Section Conferences).

• I served on the committee to develop the IEEE Student Ethics Competition program and I have promoted the program in Region 5 as the Student Ethics Competition Chair for 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007.

• I have promoted engineering student development at the region, section, and local levels. In addition to service as Region Student Activities Coordinator, I helped create the Blackbox Contest in the St. Louis Section and mentored students in IEEE, IEEE-HKN, and in IEEE-related activities.

• I served as an IEEE-USA Congressional Fellow filling a technical staff role for U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher. Using this experience, I presented a public policy program at an IEEE-USA Meeting and in numerous other venues and I was Faculty-Member-in-Residence for the 2005 Washington Internships for Students of Engineering (WISE) Program.
MEMBERSHIP: - Elected to Eta Kappa Nu 1981 (Gamma Theta Chapter)

Thirty-Five Years of IEEE Membership (S'80-M'90-SM'98)


SECTIONS/CHAPTERS: St. Louis Section: Chair, 2003; Vice-Chair, 2002; Secretary, 2001; & Treasurer, 2000.

STUDENT UNITS: Missouri S&T: IEEE-HKN Chapter, Advisor 1992-Present; HKN Chapter, Student Officer, 1982-83; IEEE Student Branch, President, 1982-83 & Vice President 1981-82.


Steve E. Watkins  
IEEE-HKN President-Elect Candidate

CONFERENCES: IEEE Sections Congress: Invited Speaker, 2008 & 2005; Host Faculty Advisor, 2007 Eta Kappa Nu (HKN) Student Leadership Conference; IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference (ITSS): General Chair, 2009; Special Sessions Chair, 2007; Publicity Co-Chair, 2005; Exhibits Chair, 2004; GLOBECOM Conference (Communication Society): Technical Program Chair, 2005.
