

PENNSTATE



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Professor W. Kenneth Jenkins
Professor and Head of Electrical Engineering
129 EE East
University Park, PA 16802

Dear Professor Jenkins

My name is Devin Ott; I am a senior in electrical engineering, an officer in the PSU Audio Engineering Society (AES), and the project manager of the PSU AES Amplifier Design Project. I was thrilled to learn of Professor Wharton's nomination for this prestigious award, and it is truly my esteemed honor to be given this opportunity to express my support for an instructor who has had such a positive impact on my undergraduate development as an engineer.

I first met Professor Wharton as a junior in his EE 310 class during the Fall 2007 semester. He was clearly an excellent instructor whose lectures provided students with a clear presentation of the course material, while reinforcing it with numerous exercise problems that often linked the material to its application in real-world design scenarios. I found his lectures to be especially engaging because he would regularly draw on his decades of experience to offer unique insights relating the topic at hand to its uses in industry, like for example, how engineers have exploited certain properties of a circuit to achieve a desired result; or how the inherent disadvantages of one circuit was overcome by replacing it with another circuit, which improved a given industrial process. Professor Wharton's frequent in-class references to the practical applications of circuits, and their corresponding impacts on various industries, was for me a refreshing change from the usual classroom experience that appropriately emphasizes theory, but fails to connect it to its practical implementation.

While completing Professor Wharton's EE 310 course, I along with three of his EE 311 students, excited about what we were learning in his courses, decided to launch a bold four-semester engineering project to design and construct a high-performance audio power amplifier for the PSU Audio Engineering Society. As we embarked on this endeavor in the months that followed, we solicited Professor Wharton's expertise on numerous occasions and concerning a wide range of highly-specialized, application-specific circuit design issues. He was extraordinarily receptive. We first met with him as a group in January '08, and he expressed great interest in our project and wanted to help in any way that he could.

Throughout 2008, our consultations with Professor Wharton were invaluable to the tremendous success of our project. He has made himself very accessible to us; willing to meet with us even on some occasions with only very short notice, and he will often entertain our questioning for a considerable length of time. I remember one meeting during the summer when I humbly requested a mere 15-20 minutes with him, and we ended up discussing the project for most of the morning. During our consultations, Professor Wharton's expert advice would often challenge us to think *outside the box*, and when discussing our specific design solutions, he would often pull out a large binder full of schematics and explain to us how his R&D team at VertexRSI approached a similar design issue.

I have worked with Professor Wharton now for over 14 months and have come to greatly value and appreciate his contribution to my development as an engineer, and to that of my peers. I find him to be one of the most accessible instructors I have ever worked with, not only to myself and my design team, but to all of his students. He always seems eager to help students get the most out of their engineering experiences. Professor Wharton's accessibility, combined with his more than three decades of industrial experience, and his enthusiasm for student involvement in courses and course-related projects, make him a valuable resource for all students, and I am truly honored to recognize him for his contributions as an instructor and mentor.

Sincerely Yours,



Devin R. Ott