

Faculty Profile of the Week

Professor says hobby is teaching

by Jen Colvin
Collegian Staff

According to Dr. Faisal Fadul, teaching is his hobby and he has "always wanted to be a professor."

Fadul enjoys being a professor and said that teachers should spend time with their students.

"I tell them (my students) to call me, even at home. As long as they call before 10 o'clock, it is fine. I will never turn anyone down. Don't feel bad coming to me, you're doing me a favor," he said.

Students do Fadul a favor because by going to him for help he is able to teach them. Fadul claimed he enjoys teaching very much and feels he is very good at it.

"If you enjoy something, you tend to do good at it," Fadul said.

An assistant professor of electrical engineering, Fadul came from the Middle East to the United States in 1981. At the time, Fadul knew no English and attended George Washington University for a several semesters to learn the language.

Fadul also commends the fact that graduates of the electrical engineering program don't work in Erie.

"The graduates don't work in Erie, they work nationwide. From Maine to Florida to California, (Behrend) graduates are working everywhere," he said.

A recent graduate now works for Motorola Inc. and came back to Behrend for a visit. Not only did Motorola commend that the graduate was going back to his alma mater, but the company paid all of his expenses to talk to future graduates.

Fadul said he sees this as a positive sign.

Fadul also mentioned some of the work the students did while still at Behrend. This includes that fact that one in four graduates at Behrend has his/her work published before graduating.

Not only is Fadul proud of his graduates, but he said it is very important to stay in touch with them.

"I try to stay in touch with all of the graduates. I even try to invite every one of them to my house at sometime," he said.

When "selling" Behrend to prospective students, Fadul said it is important to go thoroughly through the process they would

experience at Behrend.

"(We) tell them what we do here from the time they get here until they graduate," he said.



Roxanne Scott/Collegian Photographer

DEVOTED TEACHER: Willing to spend time with any student, Dr. Faisal Fadul spends a few moments with his computer.

After the new student arrives, Fadul stresses that they will always have someone to consult for help.

"They (students) can always seek help," he said.

He said he left the Middle East because he had always wanted to be a professor, but to continue in the electrical engineering field he either had to go to England or the U.S.

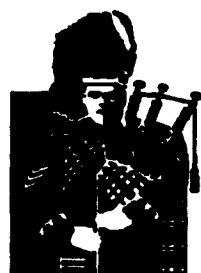
Fadul decided to move to the U.S. for personal reasons.

"I came here because my brother came here a few years before," he said.

After receiving his Ph.D. from Wyoming University, Fadul came to Behrend to teach. He said he is very proud of the electrical engineering program.

"I'm proud of the graduates. They compete with graduates of University Park for jobs and they tend to get jobs before the University Park graduates," he said.

Fadul said that the time and training the students obtain here at Behrend is a main factor in their chances of securing a job.



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New engineering majors to be offered at Behrend

by Hal D. Coffey
News Editor

make it easier to recruit students."

The Penn State Board of Trustees has approved two new undergraduate engineering majors at Behrend.

The decision splits the bachelor of science degree program in engineering into separate four year programs in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering.

Previously, Behrend students could earn a bachelor's degree in engineering with an option or emphasis in either electrical or mechanical engineering.

"The B.S.E.E. and B.S.M.E. degrees are more conventional, and most familiar to industry," Dr. Richard Progelhof, head of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, said of the new degree programs.

"Because we'll eliminate many of the common courses taken for the general engineering degree, students will have the opportunity to study their specialty in greater depth."

Dr. William Lasher, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, and Dr. Faisal Fadul, assistant professor of electrical engineering, were instrumental in obtaining the approval of their prospective programs Progelhof said.

"The new b.s. degrees are more traditional degree programs," Lasher said. "They're more marketable to employers and

The engineering department had three goals, two of which have been achieved, Lasher said.

"We wanted to split the engineering major and get the new building. Now all we have to do is get accreditation through ABET for the fall of 1995," Lasher said.

"Our program is even more unique with the four year degree program," Fadul said.

Over the last three years, one in four EE majors received journal or conference publication prior to graduation, Fadul said.

Other statistics that supported the program's argument were the 90% employment rate of graduates and the maintenance and technical help contact with graduates, Fadul said.

The new electrical engineering major teaches students to analyze and design electrical systems. Mechanical engineering prepares students to design mechanical and thermal systems. Both majors provide a solid foundation for graduate study, Progelhof said.

Behrend's engineering and engineering technology programs will be relocated to a \$6 million, 50,000 square-foot complex of laboratories this spring. Once housed in the new building, the College will seek accreditation for the new engineering programs from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).