Welcome from the ECE Chair and ECE Graduate Office

Deepa Kundur
Professor & Chair
• Professor Deepa Kundur

• ECE Chair
  – Faculty member who manages the Department and reports to the Dean

• Triple Alumna
  – B.A.Sc., 9T3 (EE)
  – M.A.Sc., 9T5 (ECE)
  – Ph.D., 9T9 (ECE)

• Prior role
  – Chair of Engineering Science
The Strength of ECE is in Our People

• Professor Sean Hum
  Associate Chair, Graduate Studies

• Ms. Darlene Gorzo
  Graduate Studies Administrator

• Ms. Janine Harper
  Graduate Programs Assistant

• Ms. Carli Chan
  Graduate Office Assistant
The Strength of ECE is in Our People
What is **Special** about **ECE at U of T**?

- Excellence
- Innovation
- Diversity
- Scale
What is **Special** about ECE at U of T?

- Considered the best economy for young people
- 3rd largest design industry in North America
- 3rd largest ICT cluster in North America
- 3rd in the world "to live and work in tech"
- 2nd largest financial services hub in North America
Prof. Deepa’s DOs and DON’Ts
DOs
**DOs**

**Treat people with respect**

- Be polite to staff members, faculty and peers
- Respect people’s time, space and values
- Respect *yourself*
Focus on Competence NOT Confidence

- Competence can protect you from getting voted off the island, but confidence will not.
DOs

Value Your Mistakes

One of the best things ever said:

“Good judgement comes from experience and experience comes from bad judgement.”

- Learning happens through failure
- Overcoming obstacles leads to resilience
- Take risks
DOs

Strive for Interdependence

- **Dependence**: being guided by others
- **Independence**: free from control or authority
- **Interdependence**: opportunities for
  - Being proactive
  - Thinking win/win
  - Improved communication (listen first, then speak)
  - Synergizing and having integrity
DOs

Be Honest and Show Integrity

• Keep your word – be careful what you promise
• Do your best (even when no one is watching)
• Give back however you can; you will reap the rewards in the long run
DOs

Manage Your Time

Procrastination → Wasted Time → Stress
DOs

Prepare and Work Hard

- Focus on the **fundamentals** and work hard!
- Make use of available opportunities.
  - Opportunities in academia often stem from **volunteering**
- Take responsibility for doing well.

“Opportunity is missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”
-- Thomas Edison
**DOs**

**Manage Your Attitude and Emotions**

- Sleep on things before you respond
- Be assertive, but not bullying
- Ask for support
- Look for creative ways to address challenges
- **Exercise**
DON'Ts
DON’Ts

Don’t Take Things Personally

• What happens academically or professionally is often not personal

• Taking this personally leads to “drama” and stress

• Understand that what someone does is because of them, not you
DON’Ts

Don’t Give Up

• Don’t give up on yourself; if you give up, you will surely fail!

• Pick yourself up and try to see things differently

• Quick starts vs. Late bloomers – both good

“It ain’t over till it’s over.”

-- Yogi Berra
DON’Ts

Don’t Worry about Conflict

• Conflict is natural; conflict is healthy

• Avoid dysfunctional conflict/situations/people

• Choose your battles

• “politics”/”backstabbing” occurs when at least one party is fearful
DON’Ts

Don’t be Fearful

• 6 cancers (by Stephen R. Covey):
  – Cynicism
  – Criticism
  – Comparing
  – Competing
  – Complaining
  – Contending

• How do I overcome fear? COMMUNITY

“Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering.”

-- Yoda, Star Wars
Mental Health and Sexual Harassment Resources

- Health and Wellness ([https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc](https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc)): here on campus, either in person or by phone.


- University Crisis Workers: available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone (416-929-5200) through the Gerstein Centre.

- Outside of U of T community: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health is just down the street from many of our Engineering buildings at 250 College Street and is available 24/7.

- Distress Centre: 416-408-HELP (4357).

- **U of T Campus Police**
  - 24/7 Emergency: 416-978-2222
  - 24/7 Non-emergency: 416-978-2323
Mental Health

- Everyone has challenges with mental health
- There are different degrees of health

“There is no health without mental health.”

-- World Health Organization
Mental Health vs. Mental Illness

**Mental Health**
- Mental well-being
- Emotions, thoughts and feelings
- Ability to solve problems, overcome difficulties and be resilient
- Social connections
- Understanding of world around us

**Mental Illness**
- Illness that affects the way people think, feel, behave or interact with others
- There are different mental illness and they have different symptoms and impacts on people’s lives in different ways
Calls for Consultation

- Occurring in-person and online
  - Presidential and Provostial Task Force on Mental Health
  - Review of the Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
Presidential and Provostial Task Force on Mental Health

- In-person consultations for the Presidential and Provostial Task Force on Mental Health are happening this month on each campus.

- All of the information can be found online as well as in the following Facebook link:
  - St.George: https://www.facebook.com/events/2072890516351159/

- **University of Toronto St. George (UTSG) – Sept. 24**
  - Location: UTSG Michael Charles Chamber, Galbraith Building, 35 St. George Street, Room GB202
    - Students: 12:00pm – 1:30pm
    - Staff: 2:00pm – 3:15pm
    - Faculty: 3:30pm – 4:45pm

- Please note that the online consultation form will remain open until October 15, 2019.
Review of the Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

- Open in-person consultations are happening this month on each campus for the Review of the Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment. All of the information can be found [online](https://www.facebook.com/events/1373858039492125/) as well as in the following Facebook link:
  - St. George: [https://www.facebook.com/events/1373858039492125/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1373858039492125/)

- **St. George**
  - September 25, 2019 on the St. George Campus in the Governing Council Chamber (Simcoe Hall, room 214)
    - Session for faculty: 10:00 am – 11:00 am
    - Session for staff: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
    - Session for students: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

- Please note that the [online consultation form](https://www.facebook.com/events/1373858039492125/) will remain open until September 30th, 2019.
Answers to Burning Questions
How Does the Base Funding Model Work?

• Simple method
• University stipulates a dollar amount ($17,500) that students must receive after tuition and fees (let’s call it X); X is different for domestic and international students

Base Funding = $17,500 + X
Was the Base Funding Cut this Year?

• No

Base Funding = $17,500 + X

• The Ford Government cut X by 10%.
• After-tuition amount for students is the same.
Summer Courses

• There are competing objectives and practical constraints to watch out for.
• Most feasible would potentially be offering M.Eng. Courses over the summer with stipend instructors, but it requires in-depth assessment and may or may not be possible.
• We will do our best to see how things can be made more flexible.
Vice Dean Graduate Studies: New Initiatives

- Recommendations for graduate students from the Joint Task Force on Academic Advising and Mental Health (submitted to Dean Sept 2019).
  - Over the summer, reviewing grad unit PhD, MASc and MEng policies with a wellness perspective, improve grad studies website, improve mental health awareness in grad administrators.
  - Creation and distribution of Instructors’ resource document (including wellness and mental health)

- Improved training and support for first-time TAs (Fall 2019)
  - First time TA training offered in two parts and includes now Identify, Assist, Refer and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
  - Working group for new TA training was formed and feedback used to continue improvement
  - Hiring Head TAs from each graduate unit for mentoring or guide new TAs and organize events to promote a sense of community among TAs.
Vice Dean Graduate Studies: New Initiatives

- MEng Internship pilot with Engineering Career Center – launched Sept 2019 for 1st placements in Summer 2020

- Alumni Relations consulting to create mentorship umbrella that is easy for students to navigate (particular attention to MEng)

- OPTIONS working group developing MEng graduate professional development program (OPTIONS for MEng) based on the results of a recent surveys – Supports exploration of diverse career options – Launched Winter 2020
Vice Dean Graduate Studies: Further Initiatives

- Creation of APS2000 Summer Engineering Practicum
- Graduate Engineering Networking Series with GECoS (grad student association) and our Alumni Relations Office (3 events Analytics, Advanced Manufacturing, Sustainability)
Central Repository for **Faculty Positions**

- Engineering-Related Faculty Positions Available Around the World:
  - should visible from this link for anyone with a UTORid.
- [https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/89656](https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/89656)
THANK YOU

Share your Experiences
Questions?