

School of Engineering

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY

News - October 2001

BR. PHILIP MORGAN'S RESPONSE GIVEN AT THE OCTOBER 4th DINNER



Br. Philip Morgan

Br. Philip Morgan's response (read by Br. Robert Werle):

Thank you so much for the great honor you pay me this evening by your presence here. Your presence here tells me that you not only appreciate what I have tried to accomplish as a teacher over my forty-five years at Christian Brothers University, but that you also appreciate and honor the young men and women we teach and what we hope to accomplish by furnishing them the most modern labs possible.

Some of you may know that I never intended to become an engineer. As a young Brother I was teaching in Chicago, my hometown, when Brother Lambert Thomas, then President of Christian Brothers College, came to me shortly after I had registered at the Illinois Institute of Technology to begin studying physics, and asked me to come to Memphis and to teach Engineering. It was a decision that changed the course of my life. Those early days were challenging times, building a department, one piece of army surplus equipment at a time. Many of you may remember that we had to repair most of the equipment before we could use it for your experiments. I would not trade those times, those colleagues and those students for anything, they were great times and I was lucky to live in them and become a small part of the reopening of the Engineering Department.

Tonight you honor me by your kind words and memories, but in a real sense tonight's event honors you who were our students, our colleagues and our friends. YOU were the ones who gained the knowledge to earn difficult degrees and spent many long hours accomplishing that goal. When YOU received an Engineering Degree from Christian Brothers, everyone knew you got it the old fashioned way, "you EARNED it." YOU were the ones who wrote award winning contest papers year after year and developed ideas that even astonished us, your teachers. YOU have taken your education and made yourselves into important contributing members of your community. You generously give back to us, your alma mater, and you give back to the community in which you live, and in doing that our goal as De La Salle Christian Brothers educators, has been accomplished in YOU and your daily lives.

Many of you have taken the time to email or write notes to me in the last few weeks. I cannot tell you how uplifting and affirming they have been. In them many of you recall stories or incidents that happened while I was teaching you, or was Dean of the dormitory, fortunately they are all positive ones. One, in particular, that was sent to me, I would like to share with you. Steve Vinoski of

the class of '85 wrote me to day "I don't know if he'll (Br. Phil) remember me, but he might if you remind him that he once threatened to dismantel my stereo amplified for consistently blasting my music so loudly out of Rozier dorm which points toward the Brothers' residence. I replied, "But Brother Phil! I'm an EE student, so I would just have to put it back together!" He looked at me, somewhat bemused, and replied, "If I get into that amplifier, you will NEVER figure out how to put it back together!" But then, that was always my goal, to teach students that whenever you did something, do it right the first time and then you will not have to do it over. I don't suspect that Steve Vinoski appreciated that education method at the time I was threatening to disassemble his stereo, but I would suspect from his email that he does today.

Over the years I have had many honors bestowed on me, even the title of the "Father of the School of Engineering," but the honor you pay me tonight is surely the greatest of these. Your presence here honors me, but it also honors an educational institution that I love and honor. Thank you for the great gift you have given to Christian Brothers University tonight in my name, and the great gift of your friendship you give to me. Both of them are gifts that will last a lifetime, both yours and mine.

Thank you, I am deeply grateful.



Br. Robert Werle

[[Oct 4th Dinner Pictures](#)]

STUDENT NEWS



The American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter at Christian Brothers University is postponing the annual CBU ASCE 5K race to Saturday, March 2, 2002. The race will begin at approximately 9:30 a.m. The Buzz (94.1) is still scheduled to attend the race. More details will follow in the coming months. For additional information on sponsorship, please email Juanita Ford at juford@cbu.edu or call at 781-4228.

ALUMNI NEWS

Darren Greenburg (CE'91) accepted a project managers position with Buchart-Horn, Inc., in Memphis, TN, last August. His projects include roadway design and telecommunications systems. Darren was Engineering Manager at Apex Environmental before joining Buchart-Horn. He is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, and Georgia.

Congratulations to **Jessica Luttrell Watts** (CE'96) and **Alex Watts** (EE'94) on the birth of their first child, Gabriel Benjamin Watts. Gabriel was born on June 22, 2001, (7 lbs. 11 oz & 20.75 in.). Jessica plans to return to work with an engineering firm soon. Alex is currently taking a break from engineering and working for North Carolina Outward Bound as a whitewater canoe instructor.

Also, congratulations to **Joe Pascente** (EE'62) on the birth of his fourth grandchild, Andrew Joji Pascente. Andrew was born on September 22, 2001, in Osaka, Japan. He was 6 lbs. 12 ozs. and 19.3 in. at birth.

Luis Tercero (ChE'00) is currently enrolled in the PhD program at the University of Wisconsin. He is working on a virus detection project using liquid crystals and nanostructured surfaces. He is also a part of the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center for Nanostructured Materials and Interfaces. In his spare time, Luis sails his boat on Lake Mendota. He is also a member of the Hoofers Sailing Club.

Ebony McCray (ChE'98) is a technology engineer at Energizer in Westlake, Ohio. She works as a cell designer on AAA batteries and Energizer's newest product, the Energizer e² titanium battery. After graduation from CBU, she earned an M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, where she had a GEM fellowship sponsored by chemical company Rohm & Hass in Spring House, PA. She will be featured in a "People Profile" article to be published in the Winter/Spring Minority College Issue of the Diversity Careers Magazine. In an interview with the magazine, Ebony said, *"I don't know if it looks good that I've done all these different things or if it makes me*



look like I'm indecisive. But when I think it over, I know it's a good thing. It's made me a well-rounded engineer, and I can take my experience and apply it to whatever I'm working on."

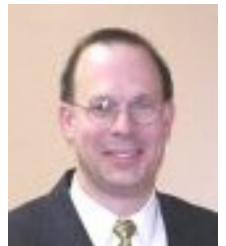
Edward Lim (CE'99) worked for Visa International in Singapore as a Helpdesk/Network support engineer after his graduation from CBU. Later he was enlisted into the Singapore Army. His primary job for the Army is setting up communications. He plans to attend a graduate school after he finishes his required time with the Army. In a recent email, he said, "*Thank you and the rest of the CE Department for the wonderful education I have received. It has meant a lot to me in my life.*"

On August 4th, **Jennifer Mendler** (ChE'00) married Kirk Austin. Congratulations! Jennifer is Feed Prep Production Engineer for Phillips Petroleum Company at the Sweeny, TX, Refinery. Her husband is also an engineer with Phillips. They went to Banff, Canada, for their honeymoon. Jennifer was transferred to her new position recently. Two days after she started the new position, her unit was shutdown for a huge maintenance for three weeks, which turned out to be a great learning experience for her. She said with excitement, "*I have climbed distillation columns and seen them from the inside out. It's pretty cool. As of right now, I am on a 12 hr. night shift, which, come to think of it, really isn't much different from the hours of a college student!*"

Bonita Sammarco (CE'81) was presented the Br. Lawrence Egbert Distinguished Service Award at the Awards Dinner during the Alumni Reunion Weekend on Saturday, October 6, 2001. Bonita served on the Advisory Board for the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering for many years.

Two alumni were congratulated at the October 4th Dinner:

- **Paul Wisnewski** is an MEM graduate, Class of '97. Paul is director of Product Development for Medtronic Sofamor Danek. He is a member of the School of Engineering Advisory Board and has helped/promoted the Engineering Management Graduate Program over the years. He is the recipient of the 2001 R. Craig Blackman Outstanding Graduate Engineering Alumni Award for his academic excellence, professional success, community service, and overall support of our school.



- **Lecia Martin** is a mechanical engineering graduate, Class of 1995. She is a registered professional engineer in TN and the owner of Dunning-Martin Engineering in Memphis. Last spring, congressman Harold Ford, Jr., issued a Proclamation citing her as the first and only African-American woman to become a consultant mechanical engineer in the city of Memphis and possibly for the state of Tennessee.



FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

Dr. Mark Driver (ME Department Chair) appeared on the Mike Fleming's radio show on October 5, 2001, and later appeared on the Impact television show on ABC Channel 24 and on UPN Channel 30 on the following Saturday and Sunday, respectively. The topic was whether or not the military should be used to respond to the terrorist attacks on September 11. Dr. Driver is an honorably discharged veteran. He worked for the U.S. Air Force at Norton AFB in California from 1984-1987 and at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio from 1987-1992.

Dr. Neal Jackson (MEM Director) attended the American Society for Engineering Management National Conference in Huntsville, Alabama, October 11 - 13, 2001. He presented a paper, "Using a Neural Network to Assess a Master of Engineering Management Program" that was co-authored with Dr. Susan Magun-Jackson of the University of Memphis. Acknowledged in the paper are ECE students, **Akhil Rodriguez** and **David Schaeffgen** who developed and tested the neural network model presented.

Several engineering faculty members were congratulated at the October 4th fundraising Dinner:

- **Reginald Rodriguez** was a member of the CBU Engineering faculty from 1967 until his retirement in December 2000. His relationship with students in the classroom, his office, and the lab as teacher, advisor, and mentor clearly demonstrated the characteristics of a Lasallian Educator to faculty, staff, and students. He was recognized as the 2000 Distinguished Lasallian Educator and attained the status of Professor Emeritus. Even though he retired from CBU, Reg is still contributing to the engineering profession by working full-time with the Bodine Company.
- **John Ventura** (ECE) is an EE alumnus, Class of 1965. He was on the faculty from 1967-1972 and 1999-present. He is



a registered professional engineer in TN and MS. Each year the School of Engineering recognizes an engineering faculty member as part of the National Engineers Week Celebration. John's contributions to the School of Engineering, especially his excellent work with students, earned him the 2001 Featured Engineer.

- **Dr. L. Yu Lin** (CEE) joined the Civil & Environmental Engineering Department in 1990. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Florida. He has published his work in several technical journals, including the Journal of Environmental Science and Health and the Journal of Solid Waste Technology and Management. He currently serves as a member of the International Advisory Board for the International Solid Waste Association's 2002 World Congress. Last spring he was promoted from the rank of Associate Professor to the rank of Professor.
- **Dr. Bernard Beard** (ME) was a visiting assistant professor during the 1991-1992 academic year and later joined our Mechanical Engineering Department full-time in 1996. Dr. Beard is one of the world's experts in cluster algorithms, which are sophisticated techniques for calculating path integrals for quantum field theories. Last summer, he was invited to give a series of lectures at a university in Italy on the subject. Dr. Beard was promoted from the rank of Assistant Professor to the rank of Associate Professor.

