



ESD on Campus Program

ESD R&D Goes Beyond Lightning in Florida

University of Central Florida (UCF a.k.a. Under Construction Forever)

*by Steven H. Voldman, IBM Micorelectronics
Threshold, September/August 2007*

Yes, ESD engineers know that Florida is famous for ESD lightning research – but did we know that ESD semiconductor research is a field of interest in Orlando? In the Spring of 2007, the University of Central Florida (UCF) served as a host for the ESD on Campus talk. Professor J.J. Liou of UCF, who is also affiliated with Zhejiang University, served as the host faculty member.

Today, University of Central Florida is one of the fastest growing campuses in the United States. Fueled by the growth in the Florida tourist industry and local Floridians, engineering and research buildings are opening today with new offices, labs and courtyards. With the boulevards, and palm trees visibly being added to the campus plan, the UCF students nicknamed the university “UCF a.k.a. Under Construction Forever.”

University of Central Florida, which is situated in Orlando, Florida, is a participant of ESD research and consulting for semiconductor design and ESD testing for corporations - corporations such as Intersil, Harris, and other aerospace industry (e.g. NASA), which are very interested in electrostatic discharge (ESD) phenomena.

An ESD lecture was provided on campus. Graduate student ESD researcher Slavica Malobabic, a student of Professor J.J. Liou, organized and coordinated the tour and lecture, which was attended by over 100 graduate students and professors – this was one of the highest attended ESD lectures on a university campus in the U.S. This was organized by the IEEE Electron Device/CPMT Chapter and the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at University of Central Florida in Orlando, with help from the IEEE UCF Student chapter.

Students from all over the world were in attendance due to the diverse populations of graduate students at UCF, with a mix of Floridians, Armenians, Serbians, Egyptians, Chinese, Lebanese, to Jordanians. The ESD research group was a blend of students working on ESD software, power devices, analog applications, and ESD testing. Collaboration continues with ESD research with Intersil, Harris, and Analog Devices. Additionally, there is university-to-university collaboration. Students from Hangzhou, China (at the campus the ESD on Campus lecture visited in the Fall of 2006) were also going back-and-forth due to the collaboration between Zhejiang University (a.k.a. “Zhi Da”) and UCF.

Is it a big surprise to see ESD R&D bordering Disneyworld®? For those who worked in this ESD field, there should be no surprise! ▲