

Retirement Reception Notes (icj, Friday 12/07/2018)

1. I would like to first extend my appreciation to **Darin**, our *DH*, & **Melynda**, our kind and able *operations manager*, as well as other **office staff** for planning and hosting a retirement reception party for me. Further, I was very touched and proud by the surprise attendance at the party by **Alan Mantooth**, a very outstanding and distinguished former student of mine. He is a Distinguished Professor of ELEG and holds the Twenty-First Century Research Leadership Chair in Engineering at UA. Alan generously remarked about my teaching and his learning experience in my classes. He presented me gifts of an *APPLE* and an elegant *FOUNTAIN PEN* (Waterman, Paris). I am indeed honored by the presence of each one at this party.
2. I am glad to have my family with me today. They are my wife **Louisa**, my son **David** with his friend *Amy*, and my daughter **Vida**.
3. I thank **John**, the *Dean* and a friend, & **Darin**, the *DH* and a friend, for their generous remarks about me. Deep down in me, I am grateful for the opportunity to work & contribute professionally in engineering education at the University of Arkansas in the past 53.5 years.
4. For a little history, I recall that the CoE had **Saturday classes** half a century ago. No **startup funds** for new Assistant Professors were provided, and they were expected to teach 4 sections of classes a week. In recent years, things are different. Adopting new strategies, the CoE has morphed into national eminence in *research & scholarly work*. It is a great job done by the high caliber faculty and the diligent administrative leaders.
5. I would like to tell a quick story about one of my top Statics students this fall, **Katherine Pettus**, whose last name caught my curiosity. Upon brief inquiry, I learned that **Lamar Pettus** is her grandfather. Wow! I remember well that **Lamar** was a former student I taught more than **five decades** ago in the old engineering building. Forthwith, it dawned on me that pretty soon a *grandfather* and his *granddaughter* would have gone through the sophomore/junior level mechanics classes, which I have taught numerous times at Arkansas!
6. I feel that I have worked here long enough. I will start my retirement soon after the **end of this fall semester**. If I may, I wish to share with you the following thoughts:
 - a. Strive for excellence in all good things.
 - b. Good health is our most valuable asset.
 - c. Believe in God and love our neighbors.
 - d. There is a time to seek work; there is also a time to retire.

My Colleagues and Friends, May God Bless. So Long!

(Many thanks to the office staffs for demonstrating a lesson of “CP Design” of Cakes.)

