ECE Alumni spotlight...

Retired ECE alumnus Gene Sapp served at the department from 1958-1999. He also won the department’s annual H.C. Ko Meritorius Service Award in 2009. After seeing the article in last week’s ECE Weekly about ECE alumnus George Baughman being quoted in an article about autonomous trains, Sapp sent a nice note about his memories of Baughman...

“I was a staff member in the dept. from 1958-1999. Among other administrative duties, I was involved in nominating alumni and faculty members for recognition for OSU- and other types of recognition. I was a little surprised (and pleased) to see the name of George Baughman in your recent email. Some years back, probably in the 1980s, we successfully nominated him for an honorary doctorate from OSU. I was responsible for gathering information (re. his accomplishments) and writing the nomination. If anyone is interested, there should be a copy of the nomination in the chairman's files. Mr. Baughman had a remarkable career. During WWII, the railroads were responsible for the movement of armed forces personnel, weapons, materials for production of weapons, etc. in very large quantities. Mr. Baughman was widely recognized for his work to make railroad signaling and switching more efficient. This work earned him a personal citation from President Truman. During this process, he visited the campus at least twice. Prof. Ko and I liked him very much. My memory is not as good as it once was, but I am pretty sure (Baughman) grew up on a farm near Findlay. One thing I do remember clearly is his telling us that he has always been grateful to OSU for taking a raw farm boy and making him an engineer.

- Gene Sapp (sapp.1@osu.edu)