

Steve E. Watkins

Steve E. Watkins is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR). His research interests include interdisciplinary applications of smart structures, sensing systems, and engineering education. In addition to laboratory experimentation with fiber-optic-based strain sensing systems and neural networks, he is involved in field monitoring applications for several working bridges across Missouri and he led the Smart Composite Bridge project resulting in the first all-composite highway bridge in Missouri. He is an IEEE-USA 2004 Congressional Fellow in California Congressman Dana Rohrabacher's Washington office, has been a visiting physicist for the U.S.A.F. Phillips Laboratory at the Kirtland Air Force Base, and has been a visiting scholar for Nippon Telegraph and Telephone in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Watkins is a member of IEEE (senior member), ASEE, SPIE, OSA, and AAAS and he is on the Eta Kappa Nu National Board of Governors. His awards include Outstanding Educator from Region 5 IEEE (2000), MSM-UMR Alumni Outstanding Advising Award (1999), MSM-UMR Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award (1995), and National Eta Kappa Nu Outstanding Young Electrical Engineer finalist (1993). He received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

ITC Interest and Activity:

Steve E. Watkins has research and teaching interests involving the instrumentation and monitoring of infrastructure. Topics include optical fiber sensors, neural networks, vision systems, and composite materials. He has participated in several interdisciplinary projects related to instrumented bridges and is an active member of the Center for Infrastructure Engineering Studies at the University of Missouri-Rolla. Dr. Watkins has been involved in the following ITS Council and IEEE activities:

- Exhibits Chair, Session Moderator, and Paper Author, 2004 International IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference, Washington, DC
- Publicity Co-chair, 2005 International IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference, Vienna, Austria
- Technical Program Chair, 2005 IEEE Globecom Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, IEEE Communications Society
- Committee on Transportation and Aerospace Technology Policy, IEEE-USA (2003-Present)
- Officer, St. Louis Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Chair (2003), Vice-Chair (2002), Secretary (2001) and Treasurer (2000).