**Ideas for MIT *EECS Connections* Article**

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| Patricia Sampson  |

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Dear Lynn,

We have not forgotten your gracious acceptance to work on a VLSI story for the 2014 EECS Connector (to come out in early April)!  As we agreed, it would be great to have a solid draft before 2014 -- before the December holidays if possible.

The writer who will work with you is Lauren Clark, who just recently did a wonderful story for us that is now up on the [MIT News](http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2013/finding-rising-stars-in-eecs.html) and the [EECS homepage](http://www.eecs.mit.edu/) spotlight. In addition, Prof. Paul Penfield has agreed to help out with this project.

We are looking forward to working with you. Let us know how you would like to proceed and thanks very much in advance.

Patsy Sampson

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Date: 11/21/13

From: Lynn Conway

To: Patricia, Anantha, Lauren, Paul

Dear Patsy,

I'm really looking forward to sharing my reflections on MIT's role in launching the field of VLSI design. I'll begin framing the story in early December.

I'm thinking of starting from the vantage of a sentimental visit I made to MIT in the fall of 2008, exactly 30 years after introducing my course there.

The lead photo in my memoir in the IEEE *Solid State Circuits Magazine* was taken that day - and it might be a really nice one to lead into *EECS Connector* story too (see top photo at this link):
<http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/Memoirs/VLSI/Lynn_Conway_VLSI_Reminiscences.pdf>

I'll begin the story by (i) reflecting on the events leading up to the course, (ii) then sketch the drama of running the course, and then (iii) sketch the impact of the MIT students' accomplishments - i.e., how their successes triggered the worldwide spread of such VLSI design courses.

I'll draw on several past publications for raw materials, including the *SSCM* memoir and my early report on the MIT '78 course.

It would be great if Lauren and Paul could browse those articles online, as background for providing guidance on the *Connector* article.
<http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/Memoirs/VLSI/Lynn_Conway_VLSI_Reminiscences.pdf>
<http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/VLSI/MIT78/MIT78.html>

I'd also appreciate it if you could give me a word-count to shoot for, and also some idea of how many images might be included. I took a number of Polaroid photos during the MIT course (some are seen in the MIT '78 report). Might be nice to include some of those, as they are quite historic (maybe a number could be included as thumbnails with embedded links to higher-res versions?).

It will be fun to work with Lauren and Paul to pull this article together!

All the best,

Lynn

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| Patricia Sampson  |

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Dear Lynn,

Both Paul and Lauren are very excited to work with you on this piece -- as we all are in making it possible.  What an honor!

Your recollections stirred by your 2008 visit to MIT seems a very fitting start.  Although the newsletter is a medium that is sometimes noted for its (large) size, our best guide is to provide great reading.  As long as the piece is broken up by section - and photos, we could probably run with 2400+ words.  Lauren's recent work on a book and Paul's work on the 100th anniversary book for EECS (The Electron and the Bit) all bode very well for the quality of this piece.

Please also let us know, based on your experience, what length you think would be best as well.   As for photos, again, let's allow for as many as possible (10?) -- and cross that bridge as we go.

Best regards,

Patsy

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