

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF EVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES AT THE ANNUAL FRONTIERS OF POWER CONFERENCE.

The 50th Annual Frontiers of Power Conference, scheduled Oct. 30-31 and presented by the Engineering Energy Laboratory and School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is an educational event aimed at professionals such as engineers, engineering managers, planners and economists in the electric power industry. Students, faculty and researchers in the field are strongly encouraged to participate at the Conoco/Phillips OSU Alumni Center, and the public is welcome. Registration is necessary, and OSU students can also register for free. To register, email nancy.crenshaw@okstate.edu or call 405-744-9912 weekday afternoons. Registration forms and information may also be found at <https://osu-eel.okstate.edu/>. Registrations should be received by noon on Friday, Oct. 20 in order to be guaranteed conference meals.

Five highly regarded engineers will deliver keynote presentations over the conference's two-day period. They are from academia and industry and will address relevant topics of interest, as well as present cutting-edge research in the field of electric power and energy.

Dr. R. Ramakumar, Regents Professor, PSO/Naeter Professor and Director of the Engineering Energy Laboratory, has organized and directed the Frontiers of Power Conference for the last 30 years and said it provides students with a great opportunity to connect with practicing engineers.

"Students rarely get to go to big conferences," Ramakumar said. "Here, they can talk to well-known keynote speakers and authors at one of the longest running conferences in this area."

Ramakumar also just celebrated 50 years as a faculty member at OSU. He was honored as a Regents Professor, which is the most prestigious position an OSU faculty member can receive, in 2008. He personally recruited each keynote speaker and said he is most excited about seeing presentations that discuss where electrical engineering is heading and how industry professionals should prepare for the future.

“Things are changing rapidly in the energy-power industry,” Ramakumar said, “The topics dealt with at the Frontiers of Power Conference have changed over the years to reflect new technologies, such as the entry of variable (renewable) generation, the need for very high reliability, and smart grid concepts, to name just a few.”

Ramakumar wants people to realize the status of the energy-power industry through this conference, and he said this is a great opportunity for OSU.

“Many companies don’t want to spend a lot of money sending their employees to big conferences in other areas of the country,” Ramakumar said. “This is a great chance for them to visit OSU and get a feel for what is going on.”

Professionals from large power companies such as Oklahoma Gas & Electric, Public Service Company of Oklahoma and American Electric Power are expected to participate in the conference, along with students and faculty from neighboring universities and other organizations in the industry. OSU President Burns Hargis is scheduled to welcome Conference participants on the morning of Monday, Oct. 30th.