Samuel C. Sachs Professorship in Electrical Engineering

Samuel C. Sachs, an alumnus of Washington University and founder of Sachs Electric Company, now consistently ranked among the largest electrical contractors in the United States, established the Sachs Professorship in Electrical Engineering in 1972.

Born in Lithuania in 1902, Mr. Sachs entered the United States with his parents in 1905. He was raised in Desloge, Missouri, where, as a teenager, he helped introduce electricity to the town, wiring houses and stores and replacing the school's light fixtures. With the money he earned, he put himself through Washington University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1924.

In 1925 he founded Sachs Electric to provide "the very best electrical construction service, efficiently and economically." Even through the Depression, Sachs Electric never had a losing year, although Mr. Sachs once said "we broke even" in 1934. His company was the electrical contractor for the Gateway Arch, the first Busch Stadium, Jewish Hospital of St. Louis, St. Louis Children's Hospital, and major buildings at the Barnes Hospital complex. In addition, his company provided electrical contracting locally for the General Motors and Chrysler plants, the Union Station redevelopment, and numerous power plants. The company also had projects as far away as Pago Pago and American Samoa.

A member of the University Board of Trustees, recipient of the Engineers Alumni Award in 1960, and the William Greenleaf Eliot Society "Search" Award in 1980, Mr. Sachs was an active, lifelong member of the Washington University community. He died in 1980.

Samuel C. Sachs

Joseph A. O'Sullivan, director of the Electronic Systems and Signals Research Laboratory and associate director of the new Center for Security Technologies at Washington University, was named the Sachs Professor of Electrical Engineering in 2004.

Joseph A. O'Sullivan

A native of St. Louis, Professor O'Sullivan earned B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering at the University of Notre Dame before joining the faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering (now part of the Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering) in 1986. He holds joint appointments in the Department of Radiology and the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Professor O'Sullivan and his research team are developing an information-theoretic foundation for the design and analysis of imaging systems—research that forms the basis for his efforts in automatic target recognition, medical imaging in the presence of known objects, radar systems, and image processing. In medical imaging, he and his team are developing image reconstruction algorithms and a software testbed for spiral CT imaging systems. In magnetics, he is assisting in the development of advanced signal processing techniques for increasing the capacity of magnetic recording systems.

A fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), he is the recipient of an IEEE Third Millennium Medal. He has served as associate editor and publications editor for *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*. A past chair of the Faculty Senate, Professor O'Sullivan has also served as faculty representative to the University's Board of Trustees.