Like many good stories, this one begins with a rivalry, a boast, and a challenge. Boris Murmann and Un-Ku Moon are top-notch professors at top-notch schools, running leading labs researching similar material, and IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society (SSCS) Administrative Committee (AdCom) colleagues. It should really be no surprise that the two of them are friends.

No one remembers exactly when, the details are lost to time, but probably in a discussion about soccer over beers and Tonkatsu at VLSI 2011 in Kyoto, one of them threw down the gauntlet, claiming that his research group was better at both circuits and soccer.

Unfortunately, Stanford and Oregon State University (OSU) are separated by over 600 mi and quite a few mountains, so it appeared to be a toothless test.

But within a week, Boris offhandedly mentioned the challenge to myself and another of my lab mates (Jonathon Spaulding), at which point Jon and I set about convincing Boris that a field trip to settle the challenge between Stanford and OSU was not only feasible but a fantastic idea.

Our enthusiasm was infectious, and before I knew it I had a contact at OSU and the Stanford–Oregon Constructive Collaboration and Education Retreat (SOCCER) was a burgeoning reality.

We decided that the two groups would meet on neutral ground, exactly half way between Stanford and OSU, at the base of Mt. Shasta, where we rented hotel rooms and reserved the use of a park. There were nine students from OSU and 12 students, three visiting scholars, and one post-doc from Stanford.

We all drove in late on Friday, 17 May, and had an informal meet and greet before the main event on Saturday.

In the morning, our respective groups met in the conference room.

**OSU Posters**
- “Power Efficient Analog-to-Digital Converters Using Both Voltage and Time Domain Information,” by Taehwan Oh
- “Techniques for Synthesizable ADC Design,” by Allen Waters and Brandilyn Coker
- “Ring Amplification” by Farshad Farahbakhshian and Spencer Leuenberger
- “Time-Assisted Two-Step SAR ADC,” by Jason Muhlestein
- “Noise-Coupled Architecture,” by Hamidreza Maghami
- “Power-Efficient ADC Using Time Information,” by Yue (Simon) Hu

**Stanford Posters**
- “Digitally Assisted Data Converters for Medical Imaging,” by Man-Chia Chen
- “Wide-Band Continuous-Time Low-Pass Filter with Linearity Feedback Correction for OFDM Systems,” by Ryan Boesh
- “Digital Predistortion of PA Based on Low-Rate Sampling,” by Nikolaus Hammler
- “Implementing a Compressed Sampling Transceiver for Sub-Nyquist Communications,” by Douglas Adams
- “A High Resolution SAR ADC Using a Source Follower Input Buffer,” by Martin Kramer
at the hotel and presented posters explaining our research and fielded questions from the opposition.

After many very pointed questions, lots of good insight, and a very thorough sharing of ideas, we migrated to the soccer field where we had a rather epic match. Both sides were so driven that not even a sudden rain shower could dampen our enthusiasm. At the end of the day there can be only one winner, however, and I am very pleased to report that Stanford defeated OSU by a final score of 4–2.

After the match, the sun came back out, and we had an exceedingly pleasant barbecue that culminated in an impromptu volleyball game wherein OSU was able to regain its honor, winning two games of three. Prof. Moon said, “About halfway through the second half of the game, there was an ‘official holler’ (from me) that ‘whoever scores the last goal wins!’ and Oregon State did!”

The next day, as a wrap-up, we took a short 6-mi hike in the mountains across the valley from Shasta.

The beautifully varied terrain led up to some truly spectacular views of both Mt. Shasta and Castle Crags State Park.

It was a fantastic weekend, after which both groups resolved to make this an annual event. Hopefully Stanford will be able to retain its soccer title for many years to come!

—Doug Adams
Stanford University

SIXTEEN SOCIETY MEMBERS ELEVATED TO SENIOR GRADE IN JULY AND SEPTEMBER

Mohammad Bukhari Washington Section
Robert Gateru Kenya Section
Xueyang Geng Phoenix Section
Andreas Kaiser France Section
Keith Maile Twin Cities Section
Rakesh Malik Delhi Section
Andrea Mazzanti Italy Section
David Pehlke Buenaventura Section
Mohan Rajagopal Bangalore Section
Sourja Ray Santa Clara Valley Section
Bin Shao Shanghai Section
Devanshu Shrivastava Bangalore Section
Jae-Yoon Sim Taegu Section
Thomas Ussmueller Singapore Section
Hao Yu Germany Section
Li-Rong Zheng Sweden Section

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