

## Historical Perspective of Gear and Power Transmission Research at The Ohio State University



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**Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering**  
**Founder, Gear Dynamics and Gear Noise Research Laboratory**

Dr. Donald R. Houser received his degrees from the University of Wisconsin, where his PhD was on the topic of gear dynamics. He joined the Ohio State faculty in 1968 and became a Professor Emeritus in 2003. During that time, he taught courses in measurements, system dynamics, noise and vibrations. Trying to dispel the rumor that “singing gears are happy gears,” he, along with a friend from the University of Cambridge, started the Gear Noise Short Course in 1979.

The course that is now taught by Dr. Houser as well as colleagues Dr. Raj Singh, Dr. Ahmet Kahraman, and Dr. David Talbot has been offered over 45 times and has provided over 2000 engineers with the knowledge necessary to design and manufacture quiet gear trains.

### Abstract

Starting with Stillman Robinson, Ohio State’s first mechanical engineering faculty member and Department Chair, Ohio State has over the years had significant activities in power transmission research. This includes not only gearing research but also work in all types of belt transmissions and CVTs. This talk will present this history, along with a description of the establishment and historical development of the Gear Dynamics and Gear Noise Research Laboratory, an industrial consortium that has been renamed the Gear and Power Transmission Research Laboratory, which currently has over 80 research sponsors. Interspersed into the presentation will be some anecdotes on the word “gear” as well as some examples of gears as depicted in the press.

*Hosted by Professor Marcelo Dapino*

**Thursday, March 28**

11:45am – 1:00pm

Lunch Presentation

E100 Scott Laboratory

