

**University of Bridgeport**

**School of Engineering**

**Recent Events  
and  
News**

**March 2006**

**This newsletter may be viewed from our website:  
[www.bridgeport.edu/sed/news/main.htm](http://www.bridgeport.edu/sed/news/main.htm)**

**Graduates from the School of Engineering are encouraged to  
contact us – Let us know where you are, what you are doing, etc.  
Please contact Susan Kristie [kristie@bridgeport.edu](mailto:kristie@bridgeport.edu)  
We couldn't do this newsletter without you!**

March 2006

Great News! The University of Bridgeport School of Engineering continues to be the largest Engineering graduate program in Connecticut – UB has the highest number of Graduate Engineering degree recipients in CT for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, according to “Engineering and Technology Degrees 2005”, published by the Engineering Work Force Commission of the American Association of Engineering Societies, Inc. In the listing of all Engineering Schools with graduate programs in Connecticut, we ranked first in production of Graduate Engineering degrees.

<b>University of Bridgeport</b>	<b>140</b>
University of Connecticut	98
University of New Haven	78
RPI at Hartford	54
Yale University	36
University of Hartford	26

In the listing of all Engineering Schools with graduate programs in New England, we awarded 140 Graduate Engineering degrees. We ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 22 Engineering Graduate Programs.

MIT (MA)	1081
Northeastern (MA)	246
WPI (MA)	199
Boston University (MA)	174
UMass/Lowell(MA)	159
Tufts University (MA)	155
<b>University of Bridgeport (CT)</b>	<b>140</b>
UMass/Amherst (MA)	118
University of Connecticut (CT)	98
Harvard (MA)	86
University of New Haven (CT)	78
Dartmouth College (NH)	74
University of New Hampshire (NH)	55
University of Vermont (VT)	55
RPI at Hartford (CT)	54
UMass/Dartmouth (MA)	49
University of Rhode Island (RI)	45
Yale University (CT)	36
Brown University (RI)	35
University of Maine (ME)	33
University of Hartford (CT)	26
Western New England College (MA)	22

Dr. Lawrence Hmurcik, Chair, E.E., recently reviewed the manuscript "Capacitance of spherical dielectric layers" for the Journal of Applied Physics.

Professor Hmurcik is the principle investigator in a luxury bus fire case. He was hired by the bus company to analyze the cause of the fire, which occurred while transporting passengers to a casino. The case is set to go to court.

Yolanda Moses, Olusina Awodele, Candice Bolden-Miller, Craig Fitzpatrick, Subrina Thompson and Frederick Tyson have been named NACME scholars for this year. Since 1974, NACME (the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering) has provided leadership and support for the national effort to increase the representation of successful African American, American Indian and Latino women and men in engineering and technology, math- and science-based careers. NACME is a leader, but works closely with many other organizations to achieve their aim. For more information on NACME, access their website: [www.nacme.org](http://www.nacme.org)

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) New England Section Conference was held March 17 at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The University of Bridgeport had a very strong showing. Sarosh Patel presented the paper: "Online Automation and Control: An Experiment in Distance Engineering Education", and Catalin Roman presented the paper: "Computer-Aided Archive System for People with Impairments", Sarosh's paper was voted "Best Paper in Session".

In the Student Projects Poster Competition, three student poster projects were also presented. Sarosh Patel's poster was entitled: "RISCBOT: An Autonomous Telerobotic System", his advisor was Dr. Tarek Sobh. Vaibhar Bhatnagar's poster was entitled: "Using Affordable Computers to Improve Communication and Agriculture in India", his advisor was Dr. Navarun Gupta, and Catalin Roman's poster was entitled: "Robot-Probe for Space Research –MARSBOT", his advisor was Dr. Tarek Sobh.

Sarosh Patel's poster "RISCBOT: An Autonomous Telerobotic System", based on average judges scoring, ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of 34 student posters presented in the Northeast region. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked graduate poster.

Dr. Gupta and Dr. Sobh served as judges for the student poster presentations and Dr. Sobh chaired the track on Automation in the conference.

Tarek Sobh, Rajeev Sanyal and Sarosh Patel have published a paper "RISCBOT: A WWW Enabled Mobile Surveillance and Identification Robot", which appeared in the book *New Developments in Robotics Research*, Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

Tarek Sobh, Abhilasha Tibrewal and T. Chen's article entitled: "A Tool for Data Structure Visualization and User-defined Algorithm Animation", published in *The Journal of STEM Education, Innovations and Research*, has been noted as the top article since 2001, having received more than 2219 hits on the website.

Professors Julius Dichter and Abhilasha Tibrewal have recently applied for a grant from Hewlett Packard – HP Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative 2006.

Dr. Sobh and Raul Mihali recently had a paper published in the Journal of STEM Education, Innovation and Research. The article is entitled “Effective Simulation and Control Approaches for Alleviating the Access to High-Cost Manipulators”, and was published in Volume 6, issues 3 and 4.

Dr. Joyce Hu, Professor in Mechanical Engineering, was a judge for the annual Olin-Yale-Bayer New Haven Public School Science Fair which was hosted by Yale University on March 13 and 15. She judged grades 7-8 physics teams, and was impressed by the many brilliant students and their creative projects, impressive displays and excellent presentations. It was a good chance to meet many professors, science teachers and scientists in the community.

The committee chair and the organizing committee of the "3rd International Symposium on Remote Engineering and Virtual Instrumentation", have asked Dr. Tarek Sobh to be their keynote speaker in Maribor, Slovenia. The symposium will take place from June 29 to 30, 2006 at the University of Maribor.

Abhilasha Tibrewal, Computer Science and Engineering lecturer, has applied for a CHEA Award. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation will review applications for the 2006 Award for Institutional Progress in Student Learning Outcomes. This award acknowledges outstanding institutional progress in developing and applying evidence of student learning outcomes as part of the ongoing evaluation and improvement of college and university programs of study. Up to four awards will be given.

Dr. Tarek Sobh, Sarosh Patel and Rajeev Sanyal had a paper, entitled “RISCBOT”, published in the March 2006 issue of SERVO magazine, the nation’s leading magazine for Robotics enthusiasts.

Congratulations to Dr. Gohnsin Lui and his bride, Amy, who were married in November 2005!

Dr. Tarek Sobh has been recently appointed as Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research. Professor Sobh will continue to serve as Dean of the School of Engineering concurrent with the Vice Provost position.

### **Graduate News**

Tadami Yoshida, M.S., TCMG 2005, is currently working in Japan for ARRK Corporation; manufacturing mainly prototypes of industrial products. It has offices in many countries in the world including the U.S. He works as a project coordinator; providing technical information about industrial product as well as managing projects.

Yue Fang, M.S., E.E. 2003, is working for General Photonics, Chino, CA as a Sales Engineer and is working on fiber optical products such as instruments, modules and components.

Venkata Kutada (M.S., E.E. 2003) is in his second year of employment as a Software Engineer for Liberty Mutual, New Hampshire.

Pava Sheth (M.S., C.S. 2001) is currently living in Bensalem near Philadelphia, PA, and working for the New Jersey Department of Transportation as a Senior Traffic Engineer.