Professor Chen Promoted.

Prof. Julie Chen has moved into the university administration as Vice-Provost for Research. While she remains part of the ME department she will not be teaching. She will continue to supervise graduate students doing research in the Composites Laboratory. We wish her well with her new duties.

Robotics Minor

A new Interdisciplinary minor in Robotics is being offered for the first time this semester. It is possible for ME students to satisfy the minor with just 3 additional courses. The requirements for the minor are as follows:

- 16.216 Application Programming or 91.101 Computing I (Extra course)
- 16.265 Logic Design (Extra course)
- 16.317 Microprocessors Systems Design I (Extra course)
- 22.211 Statics (Required for ME major)
- 22.213 Dynamics (Required for ME major)
- 22.579 Dynamics of Robots (double counts as ME technical elective)
- 91.450 Mobile Robots I (double counts as ME technical elective)
- Robotics Elective (could double count as ME technical elective)

To sign up for a minor you need to submit a Declaration of Major form.

UMASS Lowell Competes in 2010 Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition.

An interdisciplinary team of Computer Scientists, Electrical Engineers, and Mechanical Engineers recently competed in the Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition held at Oakland University, MI.

Prof. Willis supervised ME students Chad Sweeney, Greg Merlino, and Andrew Sutton who designed (Solidworks) and built (CNC milling machine) the chassis and drive train of one of the UML robots.

26th Village Empowerment Project PeruTrip

24 UML faculty and students recently participated in the 26th trip to Peru as part of the Village Empowerment Project. The goals were to serve the indigenous people in remote villages in the Peruvian
Andees and, in the process, to learn and to develop professionally and personally.

One project focused on designing and installing photovoltaic systems on remote schools that otherwise had no electricity so that the schools would qualify for laptops for the children under a “one laptop per child” program of the Peruvian government.

Prof. John Duffy, in collaboration with other faculty, will offer an interdisciplinary general education course (yes it does count for ME majors) in the Spring called 59.356 Village Empowerment: Overcoming Global Poverty.

Professor Shina Goes Green

Professor Shina is practicing what he preaches. After penning a book on Green Design in 2008, he decided to commute to work by bicycle whenever possible, given the weather and afternoon/night classes. Since starting last year he progressively increased the commuting distance until he is commuting 60 miles round trip from his house in Framingham, using Route 27 and the new 7 mile Bruce Freeman Bike trail from Westford to Lowell, at least one time per week. That is 5 hours commuting time/day instead of the 1 ½ hours by car and a lot less carbon footprint, with no parking hassles.

New grants:

C. Niezrecki, (PI), J. Sherwood, P. Avitabile, D. Willis, and David Turcotte, Wind and Clean Energy Initiative to Build Collaboration and Cluster Competitiveness, UMass President’s Office: Science and Technology Initiatives Fund, 7/1/10-6/30/11 $110,000

P. Avitabile (PI) and C. Niezrecki, Development of Dynamic Response Modeling Techniques For Linear Components, Air Force Research Laboratory, 7/1/10-12/31/10 $50,000


P. Avitabile (PI) and C. Niezrecki,"Structural Dynamic Testing of Typical Automotive Component Parts, Robert Bosch, LLC, 6/1/09-12/31/09 $24,251

John Duffy, NSF $275,000 Learning through Service (part of five university collaboration, $1,200,000 total, Tufts, Colorado, Western Michigan, James Madison)

John Duffy, USDA $60,000 through Tohono O'odham tribal college, solar drip irrigation and renewable energy education ($200,000 total).

Recent Faculty Publications


