



Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Research Review attracts local industries

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Faculty in Oakland University's **School of Engineering and Computer Science** (SECS) are quickly becoming known for their collaborative relationships with businesses and industries in southeast Michigan. The school has a strong element of applied research interests emphasizing product design, development and manufacturing for large and small companies. To further these relationships and engender new ones, SECS faculty invited local industries, governments and other organizations to attend its second annual Research Review Oct. 10 in the Oakland Center.

The event was divided into two sessions divided by various topics, such as network and software engineering, and communications/smart vehicles/robotics. In the session on biotech/controls/manufacturing, Associate Professor of Engineering Hoda Abdel-Aty-Zohdy presented her research on embedded bio-inspired systems that could make cognitive decisions. One potential application of her research is an "electronic nose" capable of real-time detection of biological agents. Professor of Engineering Robert Loh presented his research on robotics and automation. Applications of Loh's work in intelligent systems include improving the accuracy of gun turrets in tanks and helicopters, and helping control engine idle speed in automobiles.

Charles DeVries, assistant director of program development for **Automation Alley**, a technology accelerator in southeast Michigan, attended the sessions and was impressed by the research and its potential uses.

"One of Automation Alley's goals is to link researchers at local universities to various industries," DeVries said. "We're identifying researchers who have technologies ready to be developed with private companies and eventually taken to the marketplace. We're excited about the things OU faculty are accomplishing. Their research won't end up in a filing cabinet."

SECS Dean Pieter Frick expects the sessions will strengthen existing partnerships and lead to future collaborations with industries.

"The sessions were particularly valuable in exposing our young faculty to industry," Frick said. "The event is also beneficial because a significant portion of our research funds come from industry. Another benefit is being able to share our research interests internally, since the opportunity is not always present for our faculty to experience various research interests across departments. We have extraordinarily strong faculty members for a young institution, and their research is remarkable."

For more information on SECS faculty and their research interests, departments, centers and laboratories, news and events, visit the **School of Engineering and Computer Science** Web site.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, October 15, 2003
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, October 15, 2003
Article Start Date: Monday, January 12, 2004