

UConn Delegation Inaugurates New Degree Program with Egypt

University of Connecticut Provost Dr. Peter Nicholls, along with a delegation of university officials, traveled to Cairo in November to formally inaugurate a partnership initiative between UConn and Ain Shams University. The visit included meetings with various Egyptian colleagues and local UConn graduates that kicked off establishment of a diploma of science in Information Technology and Entrepreneurship (DITE). The DITE degree program will be taught at Ain Shams University in collaboration with the University of Connecticut. The DITE partnership is one component of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) launched by the U.S. Department of State and funded by USAID.

Accompanying Dr. Nicholls on the visit were Vice Provost for Multi-cultural and International Affairs Dr. Ronald Taylor,

Dean of Business Dr. Curt Hunter, head of Computer Science & Engineering Dr. Reda Ammar, Office of International Affairs Executive Director Dr. Boris Bravo-Ureta, and head of the Department of Accounting Dr. Mohamed Hussein. Drs. Ammar and Bravo-Ureta are co-directors of the UConn-Ain Shams University partnership. The ceremony was attended by many Egyptian officials and reported in various media outlets.

The cross-disciplinary two-year DITE program will target computer science and engineering graduates and business graduates. It is expected to produce skilled employees for Egypt's emerging information technology industry while strengthening links between academia and the business community.

The School of Engineering has a long history of collaboration with Ain Shams, Cairo and other Egyptian universities to advance educational exchange programs, especially at the graduate level, and foster better research relationships. An estimated 50 Egyptian scholars have either earned their doctoral degrees from, or served in post-doctoral posts within, the School of Engineering at UConn. The DITE program is expected to augment the University's international outreach.



Professor Pattipati Establishes Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Krishna Pattipati, professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering, presented the School of Engineering with a \$25,000 donation to establish an undergraduate scholarship in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering. The new scholarship will be known as the Krishna Pattipati Engineering Scholarship, and it will target exceptional students who have a demonstrated financial need.

Dr. Pattipati is a University of Connecticut engineering alumnus who earned his Ph.D.

and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering in 1980 and 1977, respectively. After earning his doctoral degree, he worked as a senior engineer and senior scientist at ALPHATECH, Inc. of Burlington, MA from 1980-86; he returned to UConn as a faculty member in 1986. Dr. Pattipati is also the founder of Qualtech, a diagnostic software company employing 20 individuals and serving companies such as Sikorsky and Pratt & Whitney.

“Meet & Greet” Receptions Bring Alumni, School Together

Active involvement by our alumni is critical to the success and growth of the School of Engineering, so we are constantly looking for ways to engage alumni in our activities. During the latter half of 2005, Dean of Engineering Amir Faghri hosted a number of alumni receptions intended to foster dialogue and networking between engineering faculty and administrators and alumni.

Our generous alumni provide vital endowments to sustain our merit scholarships for deserving undergraduate students; are a bridge to industry that fuels our senior design projects; and encourage university-industry collaboration. During the alumni receptions, Dean Faghri presented his vision for the future of the School, met with alumni and discussed ways in which they can become more closely involved in School of Engineering activities. Below is a brief summary of the alumni receptions that took place since our last issue of *Frontiers*.

- July 20, 2005 – Crowne Plaza Cabana, Palo Alto, CA (co-sponsored with the School of Business) – attended by 30 alumni
- September 28, 2005 – Hamilton Sundstrand, Raycroft Walsh Park, Windsor Locks – attended by nearly 30 alumni
- October 4, 2005 – Beverly Hills Hotel (co-sponsored with the School of Business) – attended by nearly 25 alumni
- October 25, 2005 – New Haven Lawn Club – attended by 21 alumni
- November 15, 2005 – Reception at Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford – attended by 30 alumni
- December 13, 2005 – The Bushnell, Hartford – attended by 100 alumni
- December 14, 2005 – Sheraton Premier at Tyson's Corner, Washington, DC (co-sponsored with the School of Business) – attended by 40 alumni

If you are interested in helping to host an alumni reception in your area, please contact Bill Kissick, Engineering Director of Development, at (860) 486-4997.