UConn meeting looks at homeland security

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When Dean of Engineering Amir Faghri, Associate Dean of Engineering Ian Greenshields and University of Connecticut President Philip Austin welcome visitors Thursday morning, they will open a two-day conference focusing on Homeland Security.

Organized and hosted by UConn’s School of Engineering, speakers at the International Conference on Advanced Technologies for Homeland Security include Gov. John G. Rowland, NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and Congressman Rob Simmons, R-2nd District.

Speakers at the varied sessions and panel discussions have been drawn from the government sector, private industry, academia and federal laboratories.

Despite the rather technical titles of several sessions, the conference topics are aimed at a broad audience. Technology innovations relating to homeland security, policy, emergency response and implementation will be discussed.

The five major topic areas are recognition and identification, biological and chemical threat detection, secure information systems, secure infrastructure and the politics of homeland security policies.

School of Engineering staff writer Nan Cooper said that to date 400 people have registered for the event. Panel discussions will take place in one of two auditoriums on campus — either at the Konover Auditorium at the Dodd Center or the auditorium at the ITE building.

However, one special panel discussion — Politics and Policy of Homeland Security — will take place Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the Rome Ballroom on South Campus.


“We hope to have something for everyone,” Cooper said.

“First responders and personnel from various fire departments, paramedics and even people from the Department of Transportation are coming,” Cooper said.

She added that since 9/11 and the formation of the Department of Homeland Security many people are concerned over the lack of privacy and civil rights.

The conference has been designed to appeal to everyone interested in the technical challenges involved in homeland security, how these challenges are being addressed and how technology and policy come together. In addition to lectures and panel discussions, exhibits and posters will be displayed in the ITE building.