

## **Sensors Research Graduate Scholarship Award, sponsored by General Electric and the IEEE Sensors Council**

The Sensors Research Graduate Scholarship awards are provided to MS and PhD level students who are enrolled full-time in a scientific field (engineering, physics, chemistry, etc.) and who are IEEE student members. The award includes a \$1,000 stipend and support for travel to the sensors conference. More importantly, however, the award signifies excellence in research and the ability to clearly communicate the significance of the work they are doing.

This year there were 115 applicants – a substantial increase over the 13 applications received only one year ago and perhaps indicative of the expanding influence of the Sensors Council. Because of the high number of applications, General Electric decided to support a second scholarship, and the Sensors Council initiated the Sensors Council President's Award. This year's winners are:

**Maximillian Perez**, UC Irvine – GE award: Mr. Perez is a doctoral student at the University of California at Irvine in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. His current research in UCI's MicroSystems Laboratory focuses on novel methods in optical inertial sensors. Mr. Perez received his bachelors of science in Mechanical Engineering and in Material Science and Engineering from the UC Berkeley in 2002 and his masters of science in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from the UC Irvine in 2004. His past work included studies of fatigue in small-scale devices at the Lawrence Berkeley Labs, development of mechatronic systems at the Berkeley Human Robotics Laboratory, and development of ultra-low temperature sensors at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Mr. Perez's awards include the Henry Samueli School of Engineering Annual Research Review (2003), the NSF Fellowship Honorable Mention (2002), the Elaine C. Shen Memorial Prize in Material Science and Engineering (2001) and was a National Merit Scholarship Commended Student (1997)

**Saunvit Pandya**, U. Illinois – GE award: Saunvit Pandya received his B.S. degree with Highest Honors in Computer Engineering from the ECE Department at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he also was a recipient of the President's Undergraduate Research Scholarship sponsored by Lockheed Martin. He is currently a MS/Ph. D candidate in the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His interests are in algorithms, ASIC design for DSP and biomimetic MEMS sensors, wireless sensing, sensing and computing architecture, and substrate-to-system integration

**Suresh Donthu**, Northwestern University – President's Award: Suresh Donthu obtained his bachelors degree from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and Masters from Singapore MIT Alliance Program, both in Materials Science and Engineering. He is currently a fourth year Ph.D Student in Materials Science and Engineering department at Northwestern University. His current work involves developing novel ceramic nanopatterning techniques to study the dimensional and structural effect on performance of ceramic nanostructures for sensor applications.

He is a recipient of numerous awards including Singapore Airlines Scholarship for undergraduate studies, Lee Kuan Yew Gold medal, Institute of Engineers Singapore Gold medal and more recently Richter fellowship from Northwestern University and Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center Outstanding Research Award. He has eight publications in international peer reviewed journals. He likes playing racquet ball, badminton and currently reading books on his new found interest: investment management.

I would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time to serve as judges for the application review process:

Mr. David Fries, University of South Florida, USA

Professor Michael Shur, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA

Professor Michel Maharbiz, University of Michigan, USA

Professor Chester Wilson, Louisiana Technological University, USA

Professor Joe Cho, University of Central Florida, USA

Professor Dieter Kohl, University of Giessen, Germany

Professor Ville Kaajakari, Louisiana Technological University, USA