
Editorial

It is my pleasant duty and privilege to write this editorial to this first issue of the *Global Journal of Engineering Education* (GJEE), published in the ninth volume of this Journal.

This issue consists mostly of the UICEE Best Paper Awards presented at the two successful recent conferences on engineering education, namely: the 8th *Baltic Region Seminar on Engineering Education*, held at the Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania, between 2 and 4 September 2004, and the 8th *UICEE Annual Conference on Engineering Education*, held at the University of Technology Jamaica (UTech), Kingston, Jamaica, a Partner institution of the UICEE, as well as the principal co-sponsor and co-organiser, between 7 and 11 February 2005. In addition, a revised and expanded version of the opening address by the University President, Prof. Rae Davis and Dr Gossett Oliver, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing at the UTech, precedes the UICEE Award articles. The article titled: *A case for the legitimisation of various levels of engineering competences under the Professional Engineering Registration Board (PERB) Act, Jamaica 1981*, was delivered during the so-called *Jamaican Session*, the objective of which was to set the stage for a special session under the specific title: *Research and development activities in engineering education in Jamaica*.

Two equal Diamond (First Place) awards were presented at the Seminar in Kaunas for the papers titled: *Engineering communication* by J. Dulevičius & L. Naginevičienė, both of Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania, and *Challenges in computer mathematics in engineering education* by D. Schott of Hochschule Wismar - University of Technology, Business and Design, Wismar, Germany. As there were two Diamond awards, no Platinum (Second Place) was accorded. Three equal Gold (Third Place) awards were presented for the papers entitled: *PhysBeans: a toolkit to simplify the construction of applets for physics simulation* by P. Junglas of the Private Fachhochschule für Wirtschaft und Technik Vechta/Diepholz - Private University of Applied Sciences, Vechta/Diepholz, Germany; *Active learning at Kaunas University of Technology* by R.V. Krivickas of Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania; and *Issues in the accreditation and quality assurance of engineering courses in the Asia-Pacific Region* by A.S. Patil and Z.J. Pudlowski of the UICEE at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. The Silver (Fourth Place) award went to D.Q. Nguyen and Z.J. Pudlowski of the UICEE at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, for their paper called: *Globalising environmental engineering education*. Finally, the Bronze (Fifth Place) award was presented for the collaborative paper titled: *Academic practice abroad: a case study of Hochschule Wismar and the HEPS Tarnów*, co-authored by A. Lisowska-Lis and E. Wojciechowska of the Higher Education Professional School, Tarnów, Poland, S.A. Mitkowski of the University of Mining & Metallurgy, Kraków, Poland, Z.J. Pudlowski of the UICEE at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, and N. Grünwald of Hochschule Wismar - University of Technology, Business and Design, Wismar, Germany.

At the UICEE Annual Conference in Kingston, the UICEE Diamond (First Place) Award was presented to N.D. Okamoto, J. Rhee and N.J. Mourtos, all of San José State University, San José, USA, for their paper entitled: *Educating students to understand the impact of engineering solutions in a global/societal context*. Two equal 2005 UICEE Platinum (Second Place) Awards were presented on this occasion. The first Platinum award paper, called: *Broadening the horizons of students: an elective seminar course on ethics and the philosophy of appropriate technology*, was awarded to J. Tharakan, M. Castro, J. Trimble, D. Schwartzman, B. Stephenson, T. Broome and C. Verharen, all of Howard University, Washington, DC, USA. The second Platinum Award was bestowed upon R. Cwilewicz and L. Tomczak, both of Gdynia Maritime University, Gdynia, Poland, for their paper called: *The latest developments in the application of 3-D graphical presentations in Computer-Based Training: interactive programs for maritime mechanical engineering students*.

The Award Committee also decided to present two equal UICEE Bronze (Fifth Place) Awards to G.R. Burns of the University of Glasgow and C.U. Chisholm of Glasgow Caledonian University, both institutions based in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, for their paper entitled: *Graduate to professional engineer in a knowledge organisation: does the undergraduate curriculum provide the basic skills?* The second Bronze Award went

to E. Moesby of Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark, for his paper contribution called: *Personal skills and abilities in curriculum development planning for Project Oriented and Problem-Based Learning (POPBL)*.

It should be emphasised that the two events provided the opportunity to address and deliberate contemporary issues relevant to the recent international advancements in engineering and technology education, in order to lead this important field of academic endeavour into the 21st Century. It is believed that this important objective has been grossly achieved.

I am really and truly hopeful that this excellent issue of the GJEE will attract considerable interest and will evoke significant discussions on these issues at forthcoming international conferences and meetings dealing with engineering and technology education.

On behalf of the UICEE members, staff, students and associates, and indeed myself, I wish to congratulate the awardees for their noteworthy efforts and look forward to their continuous collaboration with the UICEE.

Zenon J. Pudlowski