

## UMass engineering professor writes high school textbook

Dr. Paul Fortier, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, is the author and editor of "Introduction to Networks & Networking," a textbook for high school students.

Although this is Dr. Fortier's 14<sup>th</sup> published book, its audience presented a special challenge for him. "I'm used to a high end audience. It is difficult to write for novices. I had to approach the entire project differently and make the book visually stimulating using online short videos and animated simulations to capture the students' interest," he said.

Glencoe, a leading educational publisher of customized packages of print and multimedia resources, approached Dr. Fortier about putting together a textbook series. The offer came about through Dr. Fortier's involvement on the Microsoft National Faculty Advisory Board.

Much of the instruction is based on real business cases that use the networking power of Microsoft Office XP, NT or 2000, Word, Access, Excel or Powerpoint.

"The goal is to get kids in high schools or trade schools interested in technical fields," he explained. "These textbooks are not typical. They feature many hands on activities using Microsoft products."

Dr. Fortier collaborated with Hector Caban from a high school in Florida where the book was field-tested. He also worked with a host of other individuals including Dr. Hong Liu from UMass Dartmouth's electrical & computer engineering department. Dr. Liu assisted with the writing of the companion workbook.

Over the next several years, he expects to publish titles about operating systems, database systems and computer architecture. It took approximately 18 months for Dr. Fortier to complete "Introduction to Networks & Networking." He worked on the project between teaching courses at UMass Dartmouth and his other professional activities.



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