UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering Appoints Director for Research

Dr. Howard E. Michel, assistant professor of electrical/computer engineering at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, was appointed associate director for research at the University’s Center for Rehabilitation Engineering.

“I’m delighted that Howard has agreed to take on this important leadership role,” says Center director Lester W. Cory. “With his help, the Center’s potential for growth and sustainability is outstanding.”

Michel has been teaching at UMass Dartmouth since 1999. He previously served as a full-time visiting lecturer at the University of Dayton and retired from the United States Air Force in 1994. His military career as a research, design and test engineer and engineering manager principally involved computer and space technology. Michel was also a jet aircraft pilot, flying the B-52 among other planes.

“I’m excited about joining the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering and the opportunity to work with Professor Les Cory. Under Les’s direction, the Center has been doing wonderful work for more than 20 years, providing innovative solutions to assist people with disabilities,” Michel said.

Michel added that because existing technology has not yet been able to help everyone who needs it, the Center must take the next step forward and become a national center of excellence in research in

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FY 2004: A Banner Year for Client Services

The continued generosity of our steadfast supporters has helped the UMass Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering mark another bright year of achievement and growth in client services.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the Center served 277 children and adults, including 134 new clients. Our team of staff and volunteers provided 116 systems to clients and conducted 70 evaluations, completing a total of 722 service transactions for the year.

Cerebral palsy, ALS, multiple sclerosis and blindness are the

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The SHARE Foundation recently was awarded a $10,000 Polaroid Fund grant from the Boston Foundation. SHARE, the fundraising arm of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Center for Rehabilitation Engineering, will use the grant to support the Center’s off-site assessment and training program for clients who need adaptive computer equipment.

Through the program, a trainer makes site visits to new and current SHARE clients in their homes, hospital rooms and nursing care facilities. The trainer assesses clients’ needs, instructs them in the use of computer systems and related equipment, and evaluates the quality of clients’ existing systems, updating equipment as needed. The Center program provides vital outreach services to individuals who have no means of transportation to the University or who live in nursing homes or other assisted living facilities.

“We are very pleased that this grant will allow a skilled computer technologist to work with our clients to ensure that they have the appropriate equipment and training that best meets the needs of their changing physical conditions,” says Professor Les Cory, SHARE Foundation president.

SHARE Receives Technology Equipment Grant from the Beaumont Foundation

Through the Beaumont Foundation of America, the SHARE Foundation has received a grant award of technology equipment valued at approximately $28,000.

Under the grant, 15 laptop packages were provided to SHARE in February. Each includes a laptop with MS Office, a three-year extended warranty, a mouse, theft-deterrent software, and a backpack.

The laptops have been used to expand the demo area at the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering and also are being distributed to clients whose needs are best suited to this type of technology.

FY 2004: A Banner Year for Client Services

leading conditions for which the Center has provided adaptive technologies to clients. In all, individuals with 47 different disabilities have received equipment and related services through the Center.

Since its inception, more than 2,300 clients have enjoyed more productive, independent lives through the ingenuity of rehabilitation engineering—and the concern and generosity of SHARE’s community of friends and supporters.

On behalf of the many children and adults whose lives have been enriched by your kindness, we extend our warmest thanks and deepest appreciation. This vitally important work would not be possible without you. Thank you for ensuring that quiet miracles happen every day.

Computers Needed

SHARE welcomes donations of modern computer equipment—computers that run at 500 mhz or faster and monitors with 15-inch or larger screens. If your company has surplus equipment, please contact SHARE at 508-999-8482.
Computer Technologists Join Center for Rehabilitation Engineering Staff

The UMD Center for Rehabilitation Engineering recently welcomed Ed Newcomer and Deborah Beaton to its staff as computer technologists. Ed’s duties include delivering and setting up computer equipment in clients’ homes. He also is responsible for training clients in Internet use and office software and for developing training plans to enhance clients’ computer skills. Deborah will provide training in the use of computer systems to Center clients living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She also will visit area schools to provide similar computer training to children served by the Center.

Ed received a bachelor of science degree summa cum laude in computer information management technology from Central New England College of Technology in Worcester. He has worked as a technical support specialist at Bridgewater State College, a help desk coordinator/PC support specialist at Harvard Medical School, a software support engineer at Stream International Inc., and a software instructor/education systems administrator at Kinyon Campbell Business School.

Deborah holds a bachelor of science degree from Bridgewater State College. She has experience as an independent software contractor for the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association and has instructed schoolchildren in the use of computer equipment.

SHARE Welcomes New Members to its Board of Directors

At its annual meeting in December, the SHARE Foundation welcomed two new members to its Board of Directors. Newly elected members Sid Martin and Kenneth Rodney Rezendes each will serve a three-year term on the board.

Long-time board member Nick Iannuzzi has been named director emeritus. James D’Agostino has been elected chairperson of the board, filling the vacancy left by outgoing chairperson Gerald Gaboriau, who recently moved out of state.

We wish to express our thanks and a fond farewell to both Gerry and fellow board member Betty Chang, who recently moved to Hawaii. Their wisdom and leadership will be missed by us all.
WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

We extend our gratitude to the many supporters who have donated to SHARE over the past few months. Your generous gifts are making it possible for us to provide the opportunity for independent communication to more children and adults with disabilities.

The following donations were received from September 16, 2004 through March 30, 2005.

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