

Best Student Paper Award



Award Description

The Best Student Paper Award for a peer-reviewed conference or journal paper is awarded annually to a graduate student in the School of Systems and Enterprises who has distinguished themselves in the conduct of scholarly literature. This award is chosen by the faculty of the School of Systems and Enterprises (SSE) and consists of a cash award and a plaque. A master plaque will be displayed in the SSE display case with past and current winners.

For the paper to be considered:

- a) the lead author of the paper must be a graduate student within SSE;
- b) the paper must have been published at a peer-reviewed conference or in a peer-reviewed journal within the previous academic year of the award (Sept. to Aug.);

The award is administered by a Committee consisting of four tenured and/or tenure-track faculty members in the SSE. The Chairperson of the Committee is expected to organize the evaluation process to ensure that Committee members do not directly evaluate entries in which they have served as a major advisor or are a co-author on the paper. All candidates should be nominated by their faculty advisor by submitting the paper to the Chairperson before the last day of September following each academic year (Sept. to Aug.). All papers will be evaluated by the committee based upon:

- a) **Originality.** The value of a paper is a function of the degree to which it presents new or novel technical material. Does the paper present results previously unknown? Does it expand the frontiers of knowledge of the discipline? Does it present new methods for solving old problems or new viewpoints on old problems?
- b) **Quality.** The value of a paper is a function of the innate character or degree of excellence of the work described. Was the work performed, or the study made with a high degree of thoroughness? Was high engineering skill demonstrated? Is an experiment described which has a high degree of elegance?
- c) **Contribution.** The value of a paper is a function of the degree to which it represents an overall contribution to the advancement of the art. This is different from originality. A paper may be highly original, but may be concerned with a very minor, or even insignificant, matter or problem. On the other hand, a paper may make a great contribution by collecting and analyzing known data and facts and pointing out their significance. Or, a fine exposition of a known, but obscure or complex, phenomenon or theory or system or operating technique may be a very real contribution to the art. Obviously, a paper may well score highly on both originality and contribution. Perhaps a significant question is, will the engineer who reads the paper be able to practice his profession more effectively because of having read it?
- d) **Presentation.** The value of the paper is a function of the ease with which the reader can determine what the author is trying to present. Regardless of the other criteria, a paper is not good unless the material is presented clearly and effectively. Is the paper well written? Is the meaning of the author clear? Are the tables, charts and figures clear? Is their meaning readily apparent? Is the information presented in the paper complete? At the same time, is the paper concise?

2008 Chairperson of the Committee: Dr. Brian Sauser, Assistant Professor, bsauser@stevens.edu.