NPS Selects OR Professor for Lifetime Membership

Brown, a professor with a 35-year career in the OR Department, was elected for his contributions to large-scale optimization theory and its military and industrial applications. His developments in basic optimization theory and algorithms have been widely used in both military and engineering strategies.

"I was not expecting it and it was very surprising," Brown said of his new NAE membership. "It’s a real honor."

Brown’s election to the academy makes him the only faculty member at NPS with a NAE membership.

Prof. James Eagle, Chairman of the OR Department, called Brown "the nation’s leading developer of optimization-based decision support systems for military planning and operations."

Brown participated in a recent bioterrorism study with the NAS and has received numerous awards for his work, which include a Kuczma Award for best publications in optimization in military operations research, a Navy Superior Civilian Service Award for projects involved with Operation Iraq Freedom and the NPS Schellfiffin Award for Excellence in Teaching.

He is a fellow of The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) and his optimization research is used by many Fortune 200 companies.

Brown called his NAE membership a testament to the quality of education and research at NPS. "People involved in the NAE which include a mix of industry types, academics and major universities, have finally started recognizing NPS," he said.

Eagle also shared the same thoughts about Brown’s NAE membership and its impact on the school. “It’s huge. It recognizes the national-level contributions NPS makes in science and engineering,” he said.

Brown hopes the national recognition creates a precedence, which will bring attention to other faculty members and their research.

"There are many very well-qualified candidates on this campus and I hope that this distinction will have motivated some of these people honored in that way," he explained.

Despite his numerous awards and newly appointed NAE membership, Brown most enthusiastically about his students, who are a driving force behind his passion for teaching.

He described many of his students as "unstoppable" officers who arrive at NPS with a burning passion to study and apply their knowledge to the work they conduct in the field and their communities.

"The energy, inventiveness and ingenuity of these people is unbelievable … they make me want to do even more for optimization," Brown said.

Brown frequently advises his younger colleagues to provide as much support as possible to the students, because they may one day be the leaders of the most powerful leaders in the country.

His former students include a thesis student who later became the Secretary of the Army and Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who graduated with a master’s degree from the Operations Research Department in 1985.

Although he has been encouraged to go on sabbatical, Brown said his high regard for the OR faculty and students makes him reluctant to take significant leave from the department. "I work at the best place on the planet," he said.

"This is the best group of people in OR and optimization, and I’m delighted."
Message From Dean of Graduate School of Operational and Information Sciences

Recent events have provided GSOIS and NPS with moments of great sadness and great joy. The death of Distinguished Prof. Rick Rosenthal left a huge hole, not only in the Operations Research department, but in NPS as a whole and indeed in the entire DOD analysis community. The election of Distinguished Prof. Jerry Brown of the Operations Research department to membership in the National Academy of Engineering is a true landmark in the evolution of NPS as a major research university.

GSOIS supports a range of programs across a wide swath of operational and information science and technology areas.

Here are just a few examples. We are a major contributor in NPS’ support to the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO). This is a cross-campus, multidisciplinary effort, under the direction of Col. Andy Hernandez, Associate Dean of GSOIS, involving each of NPS research institutes and graduate schools.

Prof. Kyle Lin (OR) has partnered with Prof. Yu-Chu Shen (GSBPP) to develop a methodology to shape a jamming policy for handheld local network that supports tactical operations. Simson Garfinkel is developing advanced tools for retrieving data from discarded cell phones, transforming them into a handheld network that supports tactical operations.

Within the Computer Science department, Prof. Cynthia Irvine is designing trusted servers that can be embedded into the Internet to provide multilevel secure systems. Prof. Craig Martell is applying natural language processing to chat sessions to discover gender and backgrounds of speakers. Prof. Guruminder Singh has developed protocols for sharing information among cell phones, transforming them into a mobile ad hoc network.

This is simply a snap-shot of some of the highly innovative and critically important work that is underway in GSOIS. Thanks for allowing me to share this with you!

Faculty Notes

Just published by a Graduate School of Business and Public Policy faculty member is the book Budgeting, Financial Management, and Acquisition Reform in the United States Department of Defense, by Lawrence R. Jones and Jerry L. McCaffrey. (Charlotte, NC: IAP 2008).

Prof. David Henderson of the GSBPP gave a speech to the Monterey Rotary Club titled, “Do We Need to Go to War for Oil?” The meeting was attended by 80 people, and a lively discussion ensued about the topic and on the economy in general. Henderson gave another speech at the World Affairs Council in San Francisco on Feb. 5, titled, “Iraq End Game” which was attended by 60 people.


On Jan. 31, 2008, Ben Maire and Nancy Roberts also briefed SOCOM on the DA CORE Lab (Common Operational Research Environment) and The Insurgency in Sudan Project.

Representatives from Palantist, a Silicon Valley based company whose software CORE is fielding, joined them in the brief to demonstrate its temporal, geographical and relational visualization capabilities.

New Hires:

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<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Maria Morales</th>
<th>International Activities Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tiffany Montague</td>
<td>Administrative Support Assistant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Carmel Legacy</td>
<td>Library Technician</td>
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March 5 - Seminar: Integrated Technology for C4ISR and Large Military Systems
Paul Sheehan - NPS Institute
Glasgow East 117 1 - 4 p.m.
POC Luqi Luqi Ext. 2735

March 11 - Mt. Mario Mancuso, Under Secretary for Commerce Industry and Security Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture
POC Protocol Ext. 2466

March 12 - Seminar: Experiences in Getting a Doctorate of Philosophy, Ph.D. students
Glasgow East 117 1 - 4 p.m.
POC Luqi Luqi Ext. 2735

March 13 - Survey Results
Staff Development Advisory Committee
ME Auditorium 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
POC Mike DiFrancesco Ext. 7849

March 18 - Winter Quarter Awards Ceremony
King Hall 3:00 p.m.
POC Protocol Ext. 2466

March 18 - The Honorable Gordon England
Deputy Secretary of Defense, NPS visit
POC Protocol Ext. 2466

March 18 - Brig. Gen. Bruce Carlson
Commander, Air Force Material Command
Secretary of the Navy Guest Lecture
POC Protocol Ext. 2466

March 19 - Seminar: Electrical Engineering Research, Glasgow East 117 1 - 4 p.m.
POC Luqi Luqi Ext. 2735

March 20 - NPS Foundation President’s Circle Event, Phoenix, AZ
POC Katie Van Dolah Ext. 7781

March 25 - New Student Orientation and Information Fair 8:00 a.m.
POC Protocol Ext. 2466

Glasgow East 117 1 - 4 p.m.
POC Luqi Luqi Ext. 2735

March 27 - New Alumni Reception
NPS: Trident Room 2:30 p.m.
POC Katie Van Dolah Ext. 7781

March 28 - Graduation Ceremony and Reception
Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO
Guest Speaker 10:00 a.m.
POC Protocol Ext. 2466

Historical Highlights

On March 20, 1944 – more than 13 months before victory in Europe and 17 months before victory in Japan – Vice Admiral William P. Coffman, president of the Naval War College, convened a Navy Department board to plan for post-war growth of the Naval Postgraduate School. There were six voting members on the board – four admirals, one Marine Corps general and the president of Northwestern University. The board’s recommendations led to the subsequent purchase of the Hotel Del Monterey, and the post-war move of NPS from Annapolis.