

# Watson Review

A newsletter from the THOMAS J. WATSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

## New Watson dean focuses on excellence

**S**eshu Desu, a former distinguished professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, has been appointed dean of the Watson School.

Desu assumed his new responsibilities last summer, filling the position vacated by Charles R. Westgate, who retired after six years as dean.

Desu holds a BS in mathematics, physics and chemistry, and an MS in inorganic chemistry from Andhra University in Waltair, India;

an M Tech in materials science from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India; and a PhD in materials science and engineering, with a minor in electrical engineering, from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

He headed his department at the University of Massachusetts from January 1999 to August 2006. Under his leadership, the department incorporated several educational innovations, increased its research expenditures from \$3.5 million to

\$8.5 million, won a coveted National Science Foundation-funded Engineering Research Center (ERC) and secured two endowed professorships.

He has served as a professor, jointly appointed to the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and the

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, at Virginia Tech, where he also directed the Center for Advanced Ceramic Materials. He also brings seven years of industrial experience as a group leader at GE and a member of the technical staff at Bell Laboratories.

"I'm pleased that the Watson School will continue to grow and prosper under the leadership of someone with Dr. Desu's experience," said President Lois B.

DeFleur. "His energy and enthusiasm, coupled with his desire to excel, will serve us well."

Provost Mary Ann Swain added, "Dr. Desu brings a distinguished record of research and numerous accomplishments as an administrator to this deanship. His vision for the Watson School fully complements the University's strategic initiative to expand research and grow graduate education, while sustaining excellence at the undergraduate level. I look forward to working with him."

Desu said he was attracted to

*continued on page 2*



The Watson School's new dean, Seshu Desu (left), speaks with the outgoing dean, Charles R. Westgate, at the Innovative Technologies Complex last June.

## Westgate reflects on six-year tenure as Watson School dean

**C**harles R. Westgate, who served as dean of the Watson School for six years, said he has been gratified to see the school grow in terms of faculty, enrollment, facilities and stature.

"I've enjoyed working with the faculty, staff and students and genuinely enjoyed my teaching,"

Westgate said. "It's been a pleasure to see the school improve so quickly."

Watson, the fastest-growing engineering school in the Northeast, has seen a 65 percent increase in faculty and a doubling in research awards during Westgate's tenure. Enrollment

has surpassed 2,000 across the undergraduate and graduate levels.

William Berical, vice president of engineering at BAE Systems Platform Solutions in Johnson City, recalls interviewing Westgate (who prefers to be called Roger) when he was a candidate for the job.

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# Charting a journey to innovation and growth



Seshu Desu

**T**he morning I sat down to write my first Dean's viewpoint, I was interviewed by B-Connected, the University's online alumni newsletter. I was asked why I had moved from UMass Amherst to the Watson School. Without hesitation I answered: "the challenge and the opportunity to make an impact."

I am coming to Watson at a time when it is going through an extraordinary period of growth due to the many excellent contributions of both the former dean, Roger Westgate, and the founding dean, Lyle Feisel. They have built the Watson School into a great institution by prudently channeling the expertise of the faculty and staff, and securing the sustained strong support of President DeFleur, Provost Swain, committed alumni and business partners. The school is recognized for its success in nurturing talent into well-rounded excellence, its record of discovery and its commitment to harnessing innovation. Of

course, I was attracted by Watson's reputation of affordable excellence and economic relevance that occur against a backdrop of societal advancement. Faculty in the Watson School are always asking "where can we go next?" That destination is innovation and impact.

Since the frontiers of excellence, like those of knowledge, are always in motion, we are carefully and strategically charting a path for Watson's journey to the next mountaintop. In its fundamental commitment to learner-centeredness and fervent pursuit of academic excellence, Watson already recognizes that its mission is not just transmitting knowledge to students, but igniting a flame of passion for lifelong learning and a genuine commitment to social change and development. We are dedicated to ensuring that as our students become proficient, their experience is unprecedented and that when they leave us they are prepared to make an impact, an impression and an imprint on a world that is continually shaped by the forces of technology and economic globalization.

Last year, Watson graduates started five new companies in upstate New York. Starting a company — or a journey — will not guarantee success, but failing to start

is a certain predictor of failure. Although our goals and destinations are different, I do find some similarities in my journey as a dean to the path followed by these students. Each of us is prepared for varied career paths with an entrepreneurial passion. Our challenge is to set our sights on the next mountaintop and muster our resources to reach it successfully.

We will take this journey together and with concern for our fellow man. We are committed to sustaining an environment that encourages us to take intellectual risks, engage in the kinds of creative work and research that yield monumental breakthroughs, work on huge unsolved problems with ingenuity, intellectual honesty, freedom from ideological bias and introduce innovative concepts. Recognizing that the ultimate goal of our work is to benefit society, we are devoted to transforming our innovations into policies and products so that the economic well-being and quality of life of our citizenry is improved.

I look forward to working with our friends and alumni during this great journey as we reach that next mountaintop successfully. Together, we will make an impact.

*Seshu Desu, Dean*

## Watson Review

THOMAS J. WATSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

Seshu Desu, Dean

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Photos by Jonathan Cohen

## New Watson dean appointed *continued from page 1*

the Watson School because of the school's impact outside the University and its standard of excellence.

"The Watson School, from the beginning, has thought about the opportunity to make an impact on society and it has a very good track record," Desu said. "I like the culture of excellence I find here. It resonates with me. I believe in a value system that always enhances the well-being of others and the planet."

Desu said he hopes to make the

Watson School into a magnet for meritorious students. "Attracting and retaining a large number of the highest-quality faculty and creating an environment that would unleash their potential is the key," he said.

Describing himself as "a big idea person," Desu also knows the value of minding the details. "If you do small things well, or best, over time they will add up and become the big things," he said. "I believe that the secret to success is to do common things uncommonly well."

## Chiu shares his computer expertise to help scientific research

Every year since 2004, Kenneth Chiu, an assistant professor of computer science at the Watson School, has traveled to Trout Lake in upper Wisconsin to collaborate on a project using software he helped design to monitor the lake's circulation, metabolism and water quality.

The project, funded by a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation, is developing a distributed sensor system that Chiu, along with scientists affiliated with a nonprofit lake association, has since applied to monitor the water quality of Lake Sunapee in New Hampshire.

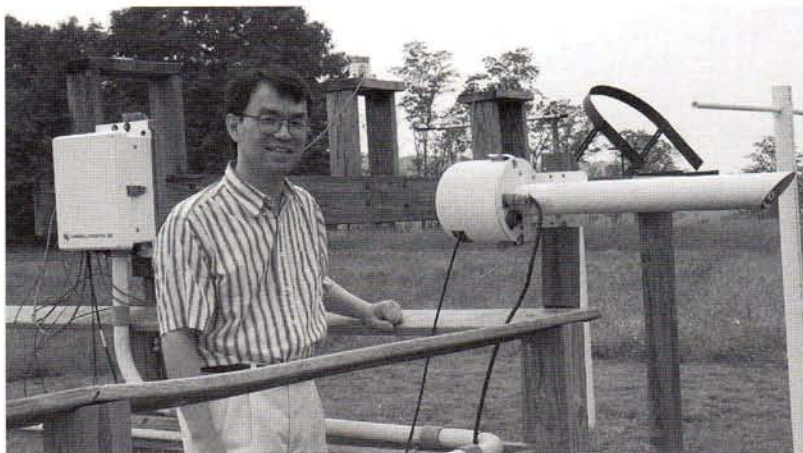
The lake-monitoring projects are just two examples of Chiu's work in bringing the computer revolution to basic scientific research in fields ranging from ecology to bioengineering.

"In the last 20 or 30 years, there have been a lot of hardware advances with the Web and Internet," Chiu said. "The hardware advances have allowed more scientific data to be collected. But the computer science research to allow scientists to take full advantage of these advances has been lacking."

It was at Indiana University, where Chiu worked as a research scientist, that he first became involved in three NSF multi-institution grants, totaling more than \$2 million, which apply computer research to various scientific fields. Besides the NSF projects, he is working on two other projects funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Binghamton University Research Foundation.

"He is very innovative," said Kanad Ghose, chair of the Watson School's Computer Science Department. "He can apply this work to a lot of disciplines — life sciences, chemistry and big supercomputing."

Chiu is conducting the research at Trout Lake with scientists at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, the University of California at San Diego, the Institute of Ecosystem Studies and Indiana University.



*Kenneth Chiu adjusts a coupling on a temperature and humidity sensor that is used on the research project at Lake Sunapee in New Hampshire.*

Chiu said the goal of the project is to improve the sensor networks used at ecological sites, allowing them to scale and reconfigure themselves more easily.

Working with a hydrologist from the University of Wisconsin, Chiu has also created a system that can compute the lake's circulation in real-time, using computational fluid dynamics. The two scientists and their graduate students have used solar panels, wind sensors and acoustic Doppler current profilers to measure the water along a single column.

The other two NSF grants Chiu received with scientists at Indiana University involve developing systems to improve the management of scientific data produced when using X-ray crystallography to determine the molecular structure of a compound or substance. Both projects have received \$2.2 million.

"One of the more important purposes of crystallography is for biomedical applications," Chiu said. "Scientists may try to create a specific molecule because they think that particular shape has biological significance. Crystallography can tell them the structure of what they've created."

Besides the three NSF grants, Chiu is also working on a multi-institutional project funded by the

Department of Energy to modularize software for scientific applications, such as combustion, groundwater and fusion modeling. The five-year project began last year with a \$463,000 DOE grant.

Last summer, Chiu also began collaborating with two Binghamton colleagues — Michael Lewis, an associate professor of computer science, and Jacques Beaumont, an associate professor of bioengineering — to develop a model for cardiac arrhythmia.

"If you can understand that, you may be able to know what causes a person's arrhythmia and you may be able to cure it," he said.

With his hand in five projects as well as teaching in the Computer Science Department, Chiu has kept up a frenetic pace as a faculty member. This year, he is the program co-chair of the Third Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Conference on E-Science and Grid Computing, scheduled for December 10 in Bangalore, India.

"Binghamton is growing and expanding," said Chiu, who joined the faculty in 2004. "Bioengineering is new, the Computer Science Department is hiring new faculty, and there's going to be a new engineering building. There are a lot of opportunities here."

## School adds 515 alumni

The Watson School conferred 293 baccalaureate degrees and 222 graduate degrees at Binghamton University's 57th Commencement ceremonies last May.

The school also recognized 23 leading undergraduate and graduate students from the Class of 2007 with awards. The students honored and their awards are listed below:

### BINGHAMTON FOUNDATION AND SCHOOL AWARDS

- The Foundation Award for Academic Excellence:  
Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering  
and Applied Science *Saugata Ghose*
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
Student Section Award *Wai Chak J. Luk*
- Katie C. Root Award for Graduate Students  
*Maria J. Schneider*
- Floyd H. Lawson Senior Prize *Joshua E. Goldman,  
William Treichler*

### DEPARTMENT AWARDS

#### BIOENGINEERING

- Outstanding Academic Achievement in  
Baccalaureate Studies *Hu Huang*
- Service to the Department *Alda Mizaku*

#### COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Outstanding Academic Achievement  
in Baccalaureate Studies *Matthew H. Manela*
- Outstanding Academic Achievement in  
Baccalaureate Studies, Information Systems-Dual  
Diploma Program *Gurkan Satar*
- Outstanding Academic Achievement  
in Graduate Studies *Ameya R. Agnihotri  
Peter J. Meyer*
- Service to the Department



Binghamton University graduates receive their bachelor's degrees during the professional schools' commencement last May.

#### ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

- Outstanding Academic Achievement in Baccalaureate  
Studies, Electrical Engineering *William Treichler*
- Outstanding Academic Achievement in  
Baccalaureate Studies, Computer Engineering *Saugata Ghose*
- Outstanding Academic Achievement  
in Graduate Studies *Alexander Volynkin*
- Service to the Department *Saugata Ghose*

#### MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

- Outstanding Academic Achievement  
in Baccalaureate Studies *Joshua E. Goldman*
- Outstanding Academic Achievement  
in Graduate Studies *Mihir Shetye*
- Service to the Department *Erin M. Kayko,  
Nathan R. Medrek*

#### SYSTEMS SCIENCE AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

- Outstanding Academic Achievement  
in Baccalaureate Studies *Hanh Q. Nguyen*
- Outstanding Academic Achievement in  
Graduate Studies, Systems Science *Justin J. Sturek*
- Outstanding Academic Achievement in Graduate Studies,  
Industrial and Systems Engineering *Michael A. Cornell*
- Service to the Department *Satish Thiruvengadachari*

## Bloomberg sponsors computer science competitions

Then the Watson School's computer science programming team drills for its national competition this year, team members may receive a free iPod or a gift certificate to a Binghamton computer store, courtesy of Bloomberg L.P.

The New York-based information services, news and media company began funding Binghamton's programming team after James Wahlin '97, an alumnus who works at Bloomberg, heard that the group didn't have funds

to travel to the world championship of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the professional organization for computer science, in 2006.

As it turned out, the expenses for the team to travel to the world finals in Austin, Texas, were funded by Google that year, but Bloomberg followed through by offering to sponsor the team in 2007.

So starting last fall, Bloomberg began sponsoring the six compe-

titions that the programming team holds each year to train students for the national finals. The company has paid for cash prizes, travel expenses and registration fees.

"From a practical manner, our ties really relate to the fact that we have a lot of success hiring from Binghamton," Wahlin said. "Binghamton produces good students and has good programs. While that continues, we would like to continue this relationship."

## Engineering building adds classrooms and labs in \$3.1 million project

**A** \$3.1 million renovation of the Watson School's Engineering Building, which added 18,774 square feet of new space, was completed in August.

The project involved remodeling existing space and adding new instructional and research labs, conference rooms and teaching assistant offices. Critical maintenance of the building, including removal of asbestos and renovation of the telecommunications systems, was also completed.

Besides the work in the Engineering Building, the new space included a computer server room to house research equipment in

the Computer Center's ground floor and instructional labs on the library's ground floor.

With the completion of the project, the Watson School now occupies 98,800 square feet on campus, said Michelle Ponczek, director of space planning for the Academic Affairs and Research divisions. In 1997, the Watson School had 51,800 square feet of space.

"Since 1997, a 90 percent increase in active assignable space has taken place," said John Fillo, associate dean for research and external affairs at the Watson School.

The seven-month project included restoration of areas the



Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering departments occupied this fall. New space for the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department was also added.

Another phase of the project is scheduled to begin next summer.

*Construction at the Engineering Building continued throughout the summer and was completed in August.*

## Watson student develops website for meal delivery service

**S**tudents at Binghamton University can now order dinner online from at least 32 restaurants and have it delivered minutes later, thanks to the computer skills of Dmitry Traytel '07.

Last fall, Traytel and six other Binghamton students launched a business called bingmenus.com to provide a quick way to deliver meals to the campus community. The service has been so successful it has since expanded to Buffalo and will reach other college towns in New York state next year.

"If students are sitting at their computers wondering what they

want to eat, they can log on and we have the menus," said Traytel, 21, now a software engineer associate at Lockheed Martin Systems Integration in Owego. "It's just a convenience rather than something that's really unique."

While Traytel was not one of the bingmenu.com's major partners, he was the driving force in designing its website.

"He has an incredible talent for being able to take the technical side and the creative side and execute an idea," said Ian Bel '06, MBA '07, one of the company's owners.

Those same qualities made

Traytel, who is from Staten Island, stand out as a computer science major during his four years at Binghamton, said William L. Ziegler, an associate professor of computer science and faculty master at Newing College.

"He has not only the technical ability but the business and artistic abilities that go with that to make products work for the general public," Ziegler said.

Traytel credits his work with bingmenus.com as the reason he was hired at Lockheed Martin, where he is working on the Presidential Helicopter Program.



*Dmitry Traytel '07*

## Westgate reflects on six-year tenure *continued from page 1*

"He impressed us then and he has impressed us even more after six years," said Berical, chairman of the Watson School's Advisory Committee. "The new dean was expected to take the school to the next level. Roger truly has done that."

Westgate, Watson's second dean, credits the school's faculty and students with its success. "The faculty have done a great job and Binghamton's well-deserved reputation for excellent students is another

important factor," he said.

The school has also strengthened its ties to industry, both in Greater Binghamton and beyond, in part through new initiatives such as the Center of Excellence in Small Scale Systems Integration and Packaging.

"He deserves tremendous credit for his perseverance in getting that plan to fruition," Berical said. "He's done an outstanding job from industry's perspective."

Westgate, a Broome County na-

tive, has a bachelor's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from Princeton University. Before coming to Binghamton, he was a professor and administrator at Johns Hopkins University for 35 years.

Westgate has returned to Johns Hopkins to teach electromagnetics and to conduct research. He will continue to teach at Binghamton, and divide his time between the Southern Tier and Baltimore.

## Two area firms establish scholarships for Watson students

**T**wo area companies have created scholarships that will award \$1,000 annually to qualified Watson School students over the next five years.

Lockheed Martin Systems Integration in Owego will award 15 scholarships each year to outstanding juniors studying electrical engineering, computer engineering or computer science in the Watson School. The firm's total commitment will be \$75,000.

McFarland-Johnson, Inc., a consulting firm in Binghamton, will provide two \$1,000 scholarships each year to seniors majoring in mechanical engineering, bringing the firm's commitment to \$10,000.

"Scholarship support helps us recruit and retain the highest-quality students while exposing them to potential employers in our community," said Watson School Dean Seshu Desu. "We are made stronger by our partnership with Lockheed Martin and McFarland-Johnson."

The Lockheed Martin scholarships will be based on academic merit, with preference given to stu-

dents participating in the Watson School Honors Program.

"We are committed to being a good neighbor," said Todd Martin, community relations representative with Lockheed Martin. "The best way forward is when we all give something back to the community. It is not an exaggeration to say great competition exists for talent. Our university-related initiatives ensure that we have a strong pipeline of people ready to help us innovate, not just invent."

Employing more than 4,000 people, Lockheed Martin's Owego facility is a world leader in development and production of maritime helicopter systems, one of the largest suppliers of postal automation systems to the U.S. Postal Service and a primary supplier of information technology solutions in the federal market. Over the past three years, the Owego site has recruited more graduates from Binghamton University than from any other campus.

McFarland-Johnson, Inc. is an employee-owned, multidisciplined

consulting firm, providing innovative and economical solutions to engineering, planning and environmental service needs since 1946. The company plans and designs major transportation and facilities projects, ranging from renovating manufacturing plants to expanding state highways.

President and CEO Thomas S. Coughlin, a member of the Watson School Advisory Committee for more than a decade, said the scholarships will provide valuable support to students while exposing them to another area of engineering.

"We want students to get a sense of perspective of the variety of opportunities available to an engineer," Coughlin said. "Engineering plays a significant role in society, affecting every human being in terms of safe buildings and roads, clean water, manufacturing, communication and medicine. We hope that this scholarship will encourage students to consider this valuable focus as a career path."

## Students organize bioengineering fair

**W**hen Binghamton University students hosted their first bioengineering fair for children from area

schools, they did not expect to turn away kids at the door.

But that is what happened after nearly 70 elementary and middle school children from Endwell to Ithaca converged at the "I'm a Complex Kid" program held at the Innovative Technologies Complex last February.

Designed to teach children about bioengineering, the one-day event could accommodate only 50 participants, leaving some children unable to register. As a result, the Binghamton Bioengineers, a student group that ran the program, will hold the event again this year in a larger facility with more activities planned.

"We just wanted to outreach to a younger generation of kids in order

to spark an interest in bioengineering," said Ashley McBride '07, who is now a graduate student in bioengineering.

A dozen students from Binghamton Bioengineers organized the event, which included activities such as DNA extractions, robot displays, heart-rate measurements and hand-held computer games.

Ken McLeod, chair of the Bioengineering Department, said the event was driven by the students, with little input from the faculty. "I was very impressed by the organization and the demonstrations they put together," he said. "It was largely student run and very popular."

This year's event will be held next spring.



*Alda Mizaku '07 (right), a graduate student in biomedical engineering, performs an experiment on DNA using onions and liquid soap at the "I'm a Complex Kid" program held at the Innovative Technologies Complex.*

## Dinner Honors Four Watson Founders

In his last address at the annual Founders Dinner, Charles R. Westgate, the Watson School's outgoing dean, charted the school's growth over the past six years.

Since 2001, Westgate said, the school has nearly doubled the size of its PhD program; it awarded 24 doctoral degrees last May. The school now enrolls more than 2,000 students, including 428 master's and 194 doctoral students.

"This is particularly important because the strength of an engineering school is measured through its research programs, and PhD-level students are key to our research efforts," Westgate said at the event held last May in the Anderson Center.

At the dinner, Westgate presented the Founders Award to four new members of the Watson School's Hall of Fame:

Jonathan K. Beschloss, a flight surgeon with the U.S. Marine Corps in North Carolina, graduated from the Watson School in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. While at Binghamton, he worked with Doug Green, former associate dean, to bring Tau Beta Pi, the only honor society representing the entire engineering profession, to campus by launching a lengthy petition process for a student chapter.

After graduation, Beschloss joined the military and served as a naval aviator. He was the Aircraft Commander of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four in Italy and served as Detachment Officer in Charge in Italy, Greece and Egypt. He participated in operations in Somalia, Albania, the former Yugoslavia and the Persian Gulf and was also an Air Operations Officer in Bahrain.

In 2001, Beschloss returned to school and received his doctor of medicine degree from Cornell University four years later.

Richard S. Culver joined the Watson School in 1984 as one of

the first professors in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He was also appointed the first associate dean for academic affairs and helped the school develop academic programs, hire faculty and equip laboratories.

During the past 23 years, he has focused on engineering pedagogy with a special interest in student development and curriculum design. The author of more than 30 papers in this field, Culver also developed the Watson School's nationally known lower-division program, which he led from 1994 to 2000.

Culver, who has a PhD from Cambridge University, has served as director of the Beta Coalition, an NSF-sponsored regional coalition of small engineering programs in central New York state and Pennsylvania. He has been an active member of the American Society of Engineering Education and was recognized as a fellow of the society. He has also been recognized with a State University of New York Chancellor's Award and a University Award for Excellence in Teaching.

David A. Goldman formed Soft Sight, Inc. in Vestal after he graduated from Binghamton with a master's and a doctoral degree in computer science. His company used the software he created, called IntelliStitch, to automate the design creation process for the data that is fed into large commercial embroidery equipment.

While a student at Binghamton, Goldman worked with the Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence (SPIR), which serves small and mid-sized companies in New York state. After graduating, he realized that if he established his company within the Southern Tier, he could take advantage of the same SPIR resources to keep his business strong and growing.

As a result of the partnership with the Watson School, Soft



*Shown are honorees (from left): Jonathan Beschloss; Dorothy Weir, with husband Bob; and Richard Culver, with wife Margaret.*

Sight, Inc. has been able to secure three National Science Foundation grants totaling more than \$700,000 for intelligent computerized embroidery design automation. Goldman has been a regular participant in the University's Advocacy Day, working to ensure that members of state government know how vital the Watson School is to the future of small business. He also helped the school launch National Engineers Week last February with an alumni panel that focused on careers in computer science.

Dorothy "Dottie" Weir served as the secretary for the Watson School's Office of Student Services for 11 years and helped shape the experiences of hundreds of undergraduates. She played a key role in creating the Peer Advisor Program in the Watson School, in which a group of engineering students serve as advisors for applicants, students and parents.

After graduating from Broome Community College with an associate's degree in engineering secretarial studies, Weir worked at IBM's Glendale facility in the Printer Development Group. She spent 20 years at Binghamton University. After retiring in 2002, she and her husband established the Robert and Dorothy Weir Award, an endowment to be funded by their estates. She is now working with the Watson Dean's Office on a peer advisor reunion for this fall's alumni Homecoming.

## School adds seven new professors

**S**even new faculty have joined the Watson School since January 2007.

### ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING:

Christopher Twigg, assistant professor. After receiving his PhD in electrical and computer engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2006, Twigg did post-doctoral work there. He specializes in mixed signal reconfigurable and programmable embedded systems.

Yu Chen, assistant professor. Chen worked as a graduate research assistant at the University of Southern California after receiving his PhD in electrical engineering from USC in 2006. His current research lies in network security, distributed and grid computing.

Kurt D. Rogers, lecturer. A hardware engineer in DSP Technology Development at Lockheed Martin in Owego, Rogers received his master's degree in electrical engineering from Binghamton University in 2004.

### SYSTEMS SCIENCE AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING:

Radim Belohlavek, professor. Belohlavek was previously chair of the Computer Science Department at Palacky University in the Czech Republic 2001-07. He received a PhD in computer science from the Technical University of Ostrava in the Czech Republic in 1998 and a PhD in mathematics from Palacky

University in 2001. His research focuses on uncertainty theories, data analysis, and data and knowledge engineering.

Vilem Vychodil, assistant professor. After receiving a PhD from Palacky University in the Czech Republic in 2004, Vychodil was an associate professor at Palacky University. His research interests are fuzzy logic, relational data analysis, uncertainty in data, mathematical logic and logical foundations of knowledge engineering.

### MECHANICAL ENGINEERING:

Guangwen Zhou, assistant professor. Zhou worked as a research assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Pittsburgh, where he received his PhD in materials science and engineering in 2003. His research interests include the application of transmission electron microscopy and other techniques for the study of advanced materials and processes.

Changhong Ke, assistant professor. After receiving his PhD in mechanical engineering from Northwestern University, Ke worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Duke University. His research interests are nano electromechanical systems, micro electromechanical systems and DNA mechanics.

## Biomedical research conference held

The Second Annual Binghamton Biomedical Research Conference held last May attracted so many researchers from the Southern Tier that organizers plan to expand the event into a full-day conference next year.

Nearly 150 scientists, clinicians, faculty and graduate students presented a total of 103 papers on clinical work, animal studies, cell biology and medical treatment. The event was held at the Innovative Technologies Complex.

"We were approaching it as a small conference and we were trying to do it in half a day but that clearly didn't give people enough time to network so next year we're going to open it up to a full day," said Kenneth McLeod, chair of the Bioengineering Department at the Watson School.

## Graduate student receives honor

Guruprasad Madhavan, a PhD candidate in the Department of Bioengineering, received the Young Technologist of the Year Award from the Technology Alliance of Central New York last May in Syracuse. Madhavan is a graduate research assistant in the Clinical Science and Engineering Research Center.

## Student wins Tau Beta Scholarship

Anthony M. Olenik, a senior mechanical engineering major at the Watson School, has won a \$2,000 scholarship from Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society.

Olenik, who is from Millwood, N.Y., was one of 135 students selected as Tau Beta Pi Scholars from 293 applicants studying engineering across the country. Awarded for the senior year of engineering study, the scholarships are based on outstanding academic achievement, campus leadership and service, and promise of future contributions to the engineering profession. Scholars must also be members of Tau Beta Pi.

# Watson Review

THOMAS J. WATSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

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