

# ADULT Education & Enrichment GUIDE

WINTER 2007

CONNECTICUT POST  
Sunday, January 7, 2007

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## 4 students blazing trails in inaugural class of UB's unique Engineering Ph.D. program

The University of Bridgeport's unique Ph.D. program in Computer Science and Engineering is attracting worldwide interest as after being launched in the fall with four pioneering students. They are from academic fields, some with teaching experience. All have their master's in engineering, and some have taught courses at colleges. Two are attending full time, the other two, part time.

For next spring's semester, there is the possibility that the first year class will more than double. Three of the spring's applicants have been admitted. They, plus two students who were admitted to the fall class but deferred their enrollment, would more than double the number of students in the first year class.

Applications for the fall 2007 semester class are now being accepted. The closing deadline on those is April 1, 2007. For more information on that, contact Steven Boyd, graduate admissions director, at [sboyd@bridgeport.edu](mailto:sboyd@bridgeport.edu); School of Engineering Dean Tarek Sobh at [sobh@bridgeport.edu](mailto:sobh@bridgeport.edu) or Dr. Khaled Elleithy, associate dean for graduate programs at the School of Engineering, at [Elleithy@bridgeport.edu](mailto:Elleithy@bridgeport.edu).

### The Ph.D. program

The much anticipated opening of the doctoral program ushers in a new era at the University of Bridgeport - and for engineering and computing professionals throughout the region. The program accepted applications for its inaugural class of Fall 2006, and is accepting applications for future semesters.

Nine years in the planning, it was licensed by the Board of Governors of Connecticut's Department of Education in June 2005. "Ours is the first Engineering Ph.D. program in Fairfield County, and the only one in Connecticut, that will accommodate the scheduling needs of part-time students by making all coursework available in the evening," Dean Sobh said.

This flexibility is expected to be especially appealing to engineers and computing professionals working in corporations and industry in Fairfield and Westchester counties.

### Depth and Breadth

As Dr. Sobh notes, a Ph.D. program that combines computer science and computer engineering is unusual. "Our program offers depth and breadth in both disciplines," he says. Other unique characteristics include the program's teaching and publishing requirements.

Recognizing that many of its graduates will pursue academic careers, the program requires all students to teach two courses. "The teaching practicum is an important component," Dr. Sobh says. "Most Ph.D.s in this field are not prepared

to teach, and this experience will give our students an edge as they compete for faculty positions." Similarly, the requirement that all students have research articles accepted for publication prior to graduation will demonstrate to prospective employers that they know how to write for scholarly publications, Dr. Sobh says. The requirement is for two articles in high-level refereed journals or one journal and two conference articles.

Another highly relevant requirement for all Ph.D. students calls for two courses in global technology management.

### University milestones

The University of Bridgeport has the largest graduate engineering program in Connecticut. Across all disciplines, the University of Bridgeport has amassed a long and distinguished history in computer science and engineering since it began offering master's degrees in 1970.

Among other distinctions, two years ago, the university was ranked second in the nation in the production of M.S. degrees in computer science for women and fourth for men and women combined. Both student and faculty research papers have won prestigious awards at professional engineering conferences throughout the years. Strong affiliations with many area companies have led to varied internship and co-op opportunities. Graduates have gone on to research and development careers at many of the most distinguished companies locally and nationally. The new Ph.D. program will build on this tradition of excellence.

### Research Areas Available for Ph.D. Students

- Computer architecture, VLSI and FPGA
- Design, modeling and simulation of embedded and integrated systems
- Electromechanical systems prototyping and optimization
- Robotics, automation, machine perception and sensing
- Software engineering, Web development and computational sciences
- Systems and computer security and biometrics
- Wireless and mobile computing and networking