

COSE students stand out

DISTINGUISHED THESIS AWARD

Chosen annually by a university committee of graduate faculty from among the theses submitted by each college as their best, St. Cloud State University's most distinguished thesis is entered into the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards. These awards recognize and reward distinguished scholarship and research at the master's level.

For the first time in its 10-year history, the award was won by a student of the College of Science and Engineering.



Laxmi Subedi, who received her Master's of Engineering Management in spring 2006, wrote "Ductile Iron Shrinkage Analysis Using ATAS Parameters," which focused on improving the quality of castings at Grede Foundries in St. Cloud.

The thesis was nominated for the award by Bantwal (Ben) Baliga, professor in the department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and graduate director of the Master's of Engineering Management.

"Shrinkage is one of the most troubling of all foundry problems, as it causes direct deterioration in the quality of casting, loss of production and unpleasant surprises for the customers," Baliga wrote in his letter of nomination. He added that Subedi's study revealed the factors that affect shrinkage so that the foundry can adjust its processes to minimize the problem.

Although offered a position with Grede Foundries, Subedi returned to her home in Nepal following graduation. Nevertheless, her thesis is St. Cloud State University's entry into the 2007 MAGS competition.

The university has had one MAGS winner: Sarah Bersie from the Department of Communication Disorders in 2000.

EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

Administered by the Center for Student Organizations and Leadership Development (CSOLD), the University Award for Excellence in Leadership identifies and honors students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership while at St. Cloud State University and have made significant contributions to the university and their communities.



2005

Grant Fitzer – Aviation major
Chairperson for Aero Club and Alpha Eta Rho's co-ed aviation fraternity; competitor in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association (Flight Team); designated note taker for Student Disability Services; fundraiser for the annual Relay for Life; donor to Memorial Blood Center.

Blood Center.

2006

Amanda Meemken – Electrical engineering major
Vice-president and president for campus chapter of Society of Women Engineers; secretary of campus chapter of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, which also named her their 2004 Outstanding Student of the Year; coordinator of Horizons, an engineering career conference for girls; volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, missioner for two Collegiate Challenge trips, member of St. Cloud Retreat teams; 2004 participant in the Research Experience for Undergraduates, sponsored by National Science Foundation; 2005 intern at IBM and coauthor of an IBM patent.



Paul Joe Melsness – Aviation major

Community Council member in WW Holes Hall; resident advisor; volunteer teaching assistant; treasurer for Alpha Eta Rho; member of Aero Club; 2005 Eagle Award winner;



coordinator of National Intercollegiate Flying Association Safe Conference for SCSU flight team and the Annual Hagar Dance at St Cloud Regional Airport; presented at 2005 Student Research Colloquium; volunteered two summers helping families in need with carpentry work and volunteered for another project with AmeriCorps. This is his third Excellence in Leadership Award.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

CSOLD also awards the outstanding contributions student organizations and their advisors have made to the community. Student Organization of the Year is presented to the recognized student organization that has shown outstanding commitment to the organization's goals, has made an impact in the campus community, and has excelled in program planning, financial management and membership leadership development.



2006

Medical Professions Association

Members are students interested in health care, pre-professional health care or biological health fields who want to provide information and experiences that stimulate interest and promote knowledge about various medical fields. The association has 10 committees and numerous volunteer opportunities. Host of the campus's annual American Cancer Society College Relay for Life, it has raised more than \$25,000 each of the last three years. Members can volunteer for a medical mission each year. For several years, they have traveled to Honduras with medical professionals through the International Health Service and plan to go again in May 2007.

For more information regarding the University Award for Excellence in Leadership, check out the Web site: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/csold/studentorganizations/scholarships.asp>