

School of Engineering

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY

News - June 2001

ENGINEERING ADVISORY BOARD

During the last two years, we established departmental advisory boards and a special advisory group for packaging engineering. Recently, we have formed an advisory board for the School of Engineering. The 2001-2002 Engineering Advisory Board members are:

- **Paul Babin**, Program Manager, Mueller Industries
- **David C. Dando**, President, MCDR
- **Bobby Fisher**, President, Fisher & Arnold, Inc.
- **Walter R. Fisher**, Chief Mechanical Engineer, Williams Refining and Marketing, LLC.
- **Dick Gadomski**, Founder, Lurgi PSI, Inc.
- **D. John Jackson**, Manager, Global Trade Services Engineering, Federal Express Corporation
- **Robin Turner**, Manager, Packaging Development, Medtronic Sofamor Danek
- **Michael J. Watermeier**, Construction Consultant
- **Paul Wisnewski**, Director, Product Development, Medtronic Sofamor Danek

The board met for the first time on June 15. Several CBU representatives were at the meeting: **Br. Louis Althaus** (Academic Vice President), **Siripong Malasri** (Dean of Engineering), **Neal Jackson** (Director, Engineering Management Graduate Program), **Gene McGinnis** (Chair, Civil & Environmental Engineering Department), and **Eric Welch** (Chair, Electrical & Computer Engineering Department).

STUDENT NEWS

Bill Mason, Oliver Lam, David Wheat, and Steven Kolodziej of the Mechanical Engineering Department were on the 2001 Moonbuggy team. They entered NASA's Annual Great Moonbuggy Race last April at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The CBU team placed eighth in a field of 30 teams. Faculty advisors were **Dr. Bernard Beard** and **Dr. Paul Shiue**. **Roland Raffanti**, CBU development shop manager, provided construction assistance and fellow ME students **Marco Capote** and **Paul Leister** provided welding assistance. The team's sponsors included the Alpha Corporation, AOC Resins, Gil Technologies, Peddler Bikes, the Memphis Group, Kele and Associates, EMJ, Southern Fabricators, Brother International, and Turner Dairies.



CBU 2001 Moonbuggy

MATH MINOR

Are you aware that it does not take a lot of time for engineering majors to get a minor in Math at CBU? A minor in Mathematics consists of 21 hours including MATH 131, 132, 231, 232, and three courses numbered 301 and above. At least 6 of the hours above the 300 level must be taken at CBU. Our engineering programs require MATH 131, 132, 231, 232, and two additional upper level Math courses. One additional upper Math course could be counted as a Program Option course. If you are interested in having a Math minor, please see your faculty advisor.

ALUMNI NEWS

Richard Palumbo (CEE'01) has joined Transystems in Jacksonville, FL. He is doing bridge design exclusively.

Tony Blatnik (MEM '99) at Buckeye Technologies was recently married. He has been very active with community service activities. This year he did a program at the Children's Museum, spoke at a Chemical Engineers' Society lunch meeting at CBU, and did programs at St. Benedict School in Cordova and at Paragould Junior High School in Paragould, Arkansas.

Matthew Locke (CEE'95) recently received an MBA from Texas Christian University. Congratulations!

Mike Haskins (ChE'94) and **Chris Whitley** (ChE'95) recently presented a check from Osmose Wood Preserving, Inc., to the Chemical & Biochemical Engineering Department. Thanks!



Mike Haskins, Chris Whitley, Ali Pourhashemi, Asit Ray, and Siripong Malasri

**FACULTY/STAFF
NEWS**



Br. Louis Althaus

Br. Louis Althaus, ECE Professor, was appointed Interim Academic Vice President at CBU starting on June 1, 2001. Br. Louis earned his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 1969. He obtained the rank of Professor at CBU in 1977. He has served on many administrative positions at CBU, including Head of the Electrical Engineering Department, Chairman of Engineering, Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Academic Dean, and Assistant to the President.

Dr. Robert F. Blanks (ChE) has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to use for scholarships for qualified students in Computer Science, Mathematics, and Engineering. The amount of the award is \$68,750. Last year Dr. Blanks was awarded \$55,000 by NSF for this same purpose. Under the new grant CBU will begin issuing scholarships in fall 2002, after the money in the current grant is used up. Thanks very much to **Jack Hargett**, who was a significant contributor to the write-up and submission of the application for this award. **Dr. Paul Shiue** will administer these awards since Dr. Blanks left CBU last May for New York.

Dr. Eric Welch and **Dr. Ali Pourhashemi** have been appointed Chairs of the Electrical & Computer Engineering Department and the Chemical & Biochemical Engineering Department, respectively. During the 2000-2001 academic year, Dr. Welch served as Interim Chair for the ECE Department and Dr. Pourhashemi served as Visiting Assistant Professor for the ChE Department. Congratulations!

Mr. John Ventura (ECE) and **Dr. Siripong Malasri** (Dean) were installed last May as Treasurer and Chapter Director, respectively, for the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers. Both are professional engineers registered in the State of Tennessee.



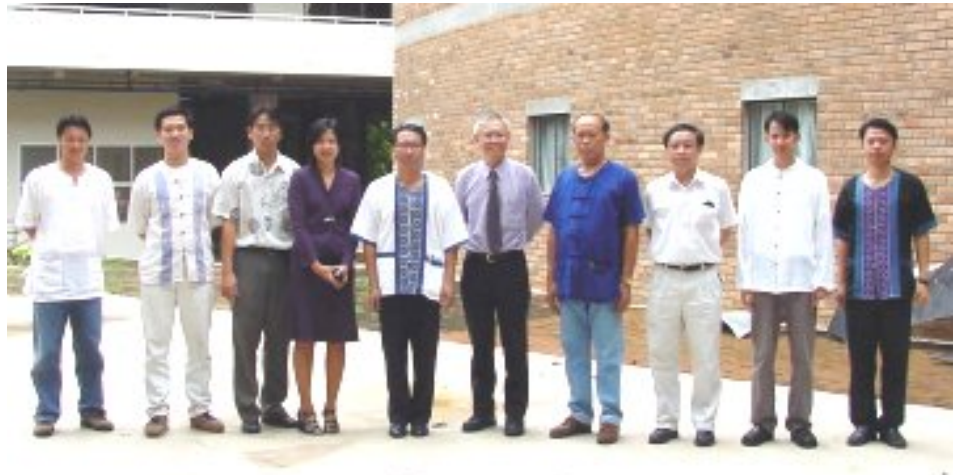
Henry Rhodes

Mr. Henry Rhodes was recognized recently by the Memphis Urban Systemic Initiative at their "Salute to Outstanding Teachers and Counselors" award dinner. The organization, known locally as Equity 2000 is a self-sufficient group within the Memphis City Schools. Its goal is to teach and reinforce high-level math and science among middle school students, grades 7 through 9, in Greater Memphis and Shelby County schools. The National Society of Black Engineers and CBU Engineering originally sponsored it. Now in its seventh year, it was recently re-funded for a second time by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education. This was due to the major contributions of Mr. Rhodes and **Br. Joel Baumeyer**, who have been with this

program since its inception. The program is one of five models being explored to modernize urban education in the U.S.

Mary Theresa Winkler McGinnis, mother of Gene McGinnis (CEE Chair), passed away on May 17. Condolences can be sent to the McGinnis family at 5650 Clarke Cove, Memphis, TN 38115.

Dr. Siripong Malasri (Dean) was at the School of Architecture, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, from May 28 to June 1. He helped them with strategic planning for new Master's degree programs. The Thai Ministry of University Affairs funded the trip under the Thai government's Reverse Brain Drain Project.



Dr. Malasri (the sixth from left) with faculty members at Chiang Mai University