

Tony Paine Appointed to President of Kepware Technologies



Kepware Technologies, the leader in Communications for Automation has announced the promotion of Tony Paine, former Executive VP/CTO of the company, to the position of President. Tony joined Kepware in 1996 and throughout his career there, Tony has been pivotal in the architectural development of all Kepware products. His attention to detail and the engineering process has been key to delivering technology that functions broadly across the marketplace while also meeting the needs of each and every Kepware OEM.

Tony has represented Kepware in various open standards committees and is currently a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the OPC Foundation, where he helps to drive the technical direction of our industry. In addition, Tony has been actively involved with the University of Maine System to educate the next

generation of automation engineers.

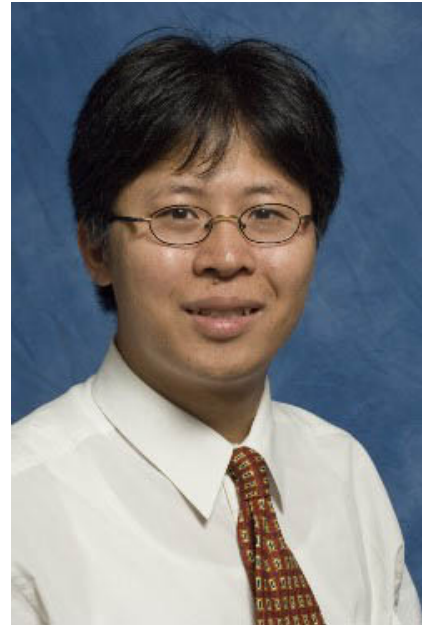
Corson Ellis, former President and now Chairman, said, “Kepware is growing fast, and becoming the leading supplier of communications software to large companies, both software suppliers and large end users. Our customers and partners will need more products and support from us in the years ahead. Tony is the right person for the job. He is deeply knowledgeable about the industry standards from a technical and market perspective, he is a great manager of people, and a strong strategic thinker.”

Tony received his B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from UMaine in 1996.

ECE Professor Promoted to Associate Professor

Yifeng Zhu has been promoted to the position of Associate Professor with tenure in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

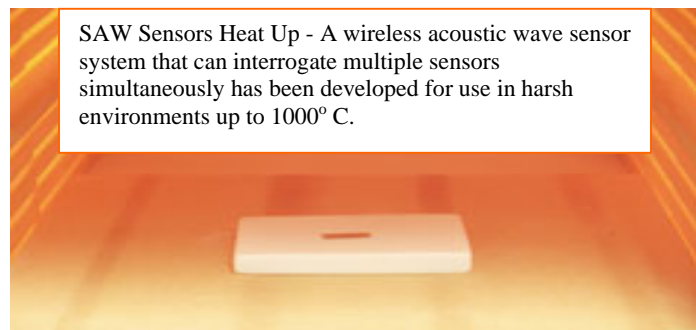
Dr. Zhu came to the University of Maine at the Assistant Professor level in September 2005 after obtaining his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since coming to the University he has taught three undergraduate and four graduate courses. Three of these courses were either developed or modified by him. Since 2005, Yifeng has published 14 peer reviewed journal articles, 2 peer reviewed book chapters, 17 peer-reviewed conference/workshop publications, and 11 peer reviewed workshop publications with extended abstract submission. He received Best Paper Award from IEEE Cluster 2007. He has been awarded 15 projects with a total funding of about \$29.7 million with his responsibilities totaling \$2.32 million. He has given 20 professional presentations, was Vice Chair of IEEE Communications/Computer Societies and is a member of the IEEE Computer Society and ACM Society.



In 2007, Yifeng received the College of Engineering Award for Outstanding Research by Young Faculty. He is Chair of the Computer Engineering Curriculum Committee. He participates in recruiting and retention efforts and gives presentation and departmental tours to visiting K-12 students and helps with the organization of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) annual conference, which brings several hundred students to the University of Maine campus.

Publication Selected As Feature Article

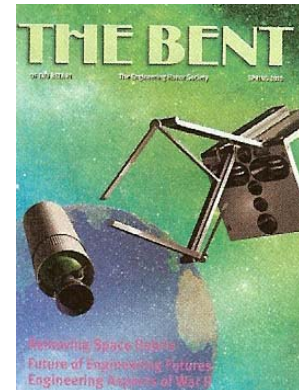
Dr. Mauricio Pereira da Cunha's technical article, "High-Temperature Battery-Free Wireless Microwave Acoustic Resonator Sensor System Temperature", has been selected as the feature article in the April 2010, Vol. 46, No. 7 edition of Electronics Letters (pp. 471-472).



The article (<http://kn.theiet.org/magazine/eletters/4607/saw-sensors.cfm>) relates to one of three recently submitted University of Maine provisional patents and is related to a Federal DoD AFRL grant. The article was co-authored by post-doctoral student, Alberto Canabal, and graduate students, Peter Davulis and George Harris.

Multi-Generation Tau Beta Pi family listed in The Bent

Rick Eason, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, (TN '78), his dad H. Odell, Jr. (TN '51), and son, R. Parker (ME '08) were recently added to the list of multi-generation Tau Beta Pi families listed in the Spring 2010 issue of The Bent. Ninety-one families with at least three generations of members have appeared in The Bent.



Middle School Teachers Graduate from IDEAS Program



On March 27, 19 middle school teachers successfully graduated from the Inquiry-based Dynamic Earth Applications of Supercomputing (IDEAS) Program. Seeing the big picture with information technology, IDEAS, is a three-year project funded by the NSF ITEST Program that aims to bring exciting experiences of supercomputing and scientific data visualization to middle school teachers. All teachers have successfully completed a series of workshops at the University of Maine on topics associated with inquiry-based activities related to supercomputer models, climate, and visualization. The program was led by Prof. Bruce Segee and Prof. Yifeng Zhu from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and Prof. Peter Koons from the Earth Sciences Department.

Awards and Recognition

Graduate Student Abolfazl Razi has received the International Graduate Student Tuition Scholarship for the academic year 2010-11. Abolfazl is pursuing a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is working with Prof. Ali Abedi on distributed coding for wireless sensor networks.

Undergraduate student Breanna Stanaway has received the 2010-11 Rajendra and Neera Singh Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000. Breanna is a first year student majoring in Electrical Engineering.

University of Maine Re-organization Plan

As you might have heard or read in the news, UMaine is going through a re-organization due to the current budget issues. Although the State support will be staying flat in the future, the increase in other costs will be taking a huge and painful drop in the UMaine operation over the next four years. Cuts for the next fiscal year (2011) have already been put in place and an additional \$25.2 million must be cut over the three fiscal years 2012–2014.

The UMaine is in the midst of determining where the \$25.2M in cuts will come from. The College of Engineering, as well as other university colleges, has been asked to provide a 20% cumulative drop in funding by 2014. If this plan were to be implemented, our Electrical and Computer Engineering Department would lose two programs, the BS and MS in Computer Engineering, and two faculty positions (from 12 down to 10). You heard it right—the Computer Engineering program would cease to exist.

There is a great deal of detailed information that you can read about this budget cutting process. The Academic Program Prioritization Working Group (APPWG) that has been charged with giving UMaine President Robert Kennedy recommendations for making the cuts has issued a campus-wide interim report that can be found at <http://www.umaine.edu/achievingustainability/preliminary-report>. The March 25, 2010 Maine Campus newspaper has an extensive story on the proposed cuts that can be downloaded from (<http://files.maine-campus.com/PDF/2010-03-25.pdf>).

There are plenty of questions that can be asked, and many of them have been. What is needed now more than anything is your input and support. The ECE Department is preparing a document to show the impact of its graduates to the economy of Maine and the nation, as well as their service to the government and non-government organizations. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate our computer engineering or double-major electrical & computer engineering graduates send us a short email (susan@eece.maine.edu) and tell us where they work and what their positions are. This is extremely important and we appreciate your response by this Friday, April 9.

Also, you can write about the value of your UMaine Computer Engineering education to the APPWG committee at: achieving.sustainability@umit.maine.edu.

Gifts/Donations

We sincerely appreciate the support of our alumni and corporate supporters. During this challenging economic time, your support of our scholarship programs means a lot to our young and hardworking students.

Fairchild Semiconductor \$11,250 in scholarships, Feb. 22.
National Semiconductor \$18,000 for scholarships and \$5,000 Microdesign Fund, Mar. 15.
Maine Community Foundation for Robert N. Haskell and Gladys M. Stetson Fund, \$8,000 for Bangor Hydro Summer Co-op, Feb 15.
Kepware \$5,500, Mar. 7.

Grants Received

Since February 2010, the ECE faculty has received \$30,338 in grants.

Other

Since February 2010, the ECE faculty has submitted one proposal for a total of \$1,300,000.