

Negandhi, Deepak

Pitz, Bob

Rao, K. R.

Rencis, Joseph

Sriram, D.

Tao, Yong X.

Taylor, Robert

Todd, Beth

Tosunoglu, Sabri

Ying, Shuh Jing (Ben)

Negandhi, Dipak J. P.E., CFSP Level I

Mr. Dipak Negandhi is a Senior Engineer, Unified Brands / Groen / Randell / Avtec. Dipak has been with Unified Brands / Groen for eleven (11) years and has been responsible for engineering product design and development projects. Prior to Groen, Dipak led engineering product development teams at Roper Corporation (A wholly owned subsidiary of GE Appliances) and Taylor Company.

Mr. Dipak Negandhi is a Professional Engineer (Mechanical) with extensive experience in the food service equipment design and innovation. He holds five U.S. patents related to commercial products and was awarded the 1998 "Inventor of the Year" Award by the Chattanooga Engineering Society, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Mr. Negandhi has M.S. (Mechanical Engineering), Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. He also has M.B.A. from Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana and earned B.S. (Mechanical Engineering) and M.S. from University of Baroda, India.

Mr. Negandhi's Technical Affiliations include Chairman, American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) F26 Committee on Food Service Equipment; Member, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME); Chairman of Mississippi Section 2005-2007, Vice Chair since 2008. He is a Member, NAFEM Technical Liaison Committee (TLC) and NAFEM Life Cycle Cost Steering Committee. He is also a Member, National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Joint Committee on Food Equipment and a Member, American Society of Gas Engineers (ASGE).

Robert W. Pitz Ph. D., P.E

Dr. Robert W. Pitz is currently Chair of Mechanical Engineering, Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tennessee. Robert W. Pitz received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University in 1973. He received his MS and PhD degrees in Mechanical Engineering from University of California Berkeley in 1976 and 1981. He spent 5 years as a research engineer at the General Electric Research & Development Center in Schenectady, New York and came to Vanderbilt University in 1986 where he is currently Professor and Chair of Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Robert Pitz has published over 150 articles in laser diagnostics, laminar and turbulent combustion, turbulence-chemistry interactions, oxygen-enriched combustion, Raman scattering, laser-induced fluorescence, and molecular-tagging velocimetry. In 1987, he received the National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award for his research. He was awarded the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Best Paper Award in Propellants & Combustion in 1996.

Dr. Robert Pitz is a Fellow of ASME, an Associate Fellow of AIAA, and a registered professional engineer, in the state of Tennessee.

Rao, K. R., Ph.D., P.E.

KR Rao retired as a Senior Staff Engineer with Entergy Operations Inc. and was previously with Westinghouse Electric Corporation at Pittsburgh, PA and Pullman Swindell Inc., Pittsburgh, PA. KR got his Bachelors in Engineering from Banaras University, India with a Masters Diploma in Planning from School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi, India. He completed Post Graduate Engineering courses in Seismic Engineering, Finite Element and Stress Analysis, and other engineering subjects at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA..

Dr. KR Rao earned his Ph.D., from University of Pittsburgh, PA. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and Texas.

KR was Vice President, Southeastern Region, ASME International. He is a Fellow of ASME, active in National, Regional, Section and Technical Divisions of ASME. He has been the Chair, Director and Founder of ASME EXPO(s) at Mississippi Section. He was a member of General Awards Committee of ASME International. He was Chair of Codes & Standards Technical Committee, ASME Pressure Vessel & Piping Division (PV&PD). He developed an ASME Tutorial for PVP Division covering select aspects of ASME Code.

Dr. K. R. Rao has several publications and Conference Presentations with Operations Society of America (ORSA) and several other National and International Conferences.

KR Rao is the Editor of the 'Companion Guide to the ASME Pressure Vessel & Piping Codes and Standards' that has just published its 3rd Edition by ASME Press.

Dr. Rao is a recipient of several Cash, Recognition and Service Awards from Entergy Operations, Inc., and Westinghouse Electric Corporation. He is also the recipient of several awards, Certificates and Plaques from ASME PV&P Division including Outstanding Service Award (2001) and Certificate for "Vision and Leadership" in Mississippi and Dick Duncan Award, Southeastern Region, ASME. Dr. Rao is the recipient of the ASME Society Level "Dedicated Service Award".

Dr. KR Rao initiated nine years back, The Early Career Technical Conferences and is since then to now Chair, ECTC Committee.

Rencis, Joseph Ph. D., P.E.

Dr. Joseph J. Rencis received a B.S. degree from Milwaukee School of Engineering in 1980, M.S. from Northwestern University in 1982, and Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University in 1985. From 1985 to 2004 he was an Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and from 1995 to 2004 the Director of Engineering Mechanics. Dr. Rencis has been a registered professional engineer in Massachusetts since 1988. Since 2004 he has been a tenured Professor and Department Head of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Rencis has been the inaugural holder of the Twenty-first Century Leadership Chair in Mechanical Engineering (\$1.5M endowment) since 2007. Dr. Joseph J. Rencis' primary research areas include boundary elements, finite elements, atomistic modeling, and engineering education. His research is supported by National Science Foundation and industry. Dr. Rencis has published over thirty journal articles and over ninety conference publications. He is an associate editor of the International Series on Advances in Boundary Elements. Dr. Rencis also serves on the editorial board of Engineering Analysis with Boundary Elements and The Open Mechanics Journal. He is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) since 2001, American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) since 2009, and Wessex Institute of Great Britain since 2000. Dr. Rencis was recognized as the 2007-08 Cambridge Professional of the Year in Mechanical Engineering. He is completing an innovative introductory mechanics of materials textbook as the co-author. Dr. Rencis received the 2002 ASEE New England Section Outstanding Teaching Award.

Dr. Rencis is currently Chair of the ASME Mechanical Engineering Department Heads Committee and was Vice Chair from 2006-08. In ASME he also serves on the Center for Education Board of Directors (2006-10) and Society Nominating Committee (2009-12). He is currently Program Chair of the ASEE Mechanical Engineering Division and past Chair of the ASEE Mechanics Division in 1999-2000. Since 2002, he has been a U.S. and international program evaluator for ABET and since 2006 a member of the National Collaborative for Engineering Graduate Education Reform. Dr. Rencis recently conducted reviews of new M.S. and Ph.D. engineering programs. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the College of Engineering at United Arab Emirates University, John Brown University, and the Springdale High School Engineering/Architecture Academy.

Dr. Rencis has received the 2004 ASEE New England Section Outstanding Leader Award, 2006 ASEE Mechanics Division James L. Meriam Service Award, and 2006 ASEE Midwest Section Outstanding Service in Program Sponsorship. He is an inaugural fellow of the 2008-09 Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium (SEAC) Leadership Development Program. Rencis is listed in several Who's Who Publications.

Sriram, D. Ph. D.

Dr. Ram D. Sriram is currently leading the Design and Process group in the Manufacturing Systems Integration Division at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where he conducts research on standards for interoperability of computer-aided design systems. He also holds a part time appointment in the Information Technology Laboratory, where he conducts research on biomaging and healthcare informatics. Prior to that he was on the engineering faculty (1986-1994) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and was instrumental in setting up the Intelligent Engineering Systems Laboratory.

At MIT, Dr. Sriram initiated the MIT-DICE project, which was one of the pioneering projects in collaborative engineering. Dr. Sriram has co-authored or authored more than 200 publications in computer-aided engineering and health care informatics, including several books. Dr. Sriram was a founding co-editor of the International Journal for AI in Engineering. In 1989, he was awarded a Presidential Young Investigators Award from the National Science Foundation, U.S.A. Dr. Sriram has a B.S. from IIT, Madras, India, and an M.S. and a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA.

Sriram is a Fellow of ASME, a Senior Member of IEEE, a Member (life) of ACM, a member of ASCE, and a member of AAAS.

Tao, Yong X. Ph. D.

Dr. Yong Xin Tao, has more than 19 years of research and academic experience. An internationally known researcher in fundamentals of building mechanical system performance, he is also an Associate Dean of College of Engineering and Computing, Director of the Building Energy, Environment, and Conservation Systems Lab (BEECS), and Multi-Phase Thermal Engineering Labs (MPTE) at FIU. He has a total of 129 refereed journal, edited journals/proceedings, peer-reviewed technical conference papers. He holds two patents (one is pending).

He received more than 3.4 millions dollars of research funding as a PI, and additional 8.1 million dollars as a Co-PI in multidisciplinary teamwork projects from NSF, NASA, Air Force, DSL, DOE, and ASHRAE. Recent research interests include transport phenomena in multiphase media, constructal microchannel heat exchangers, NPCM enhanced heat transfer, low temperature heat transfer, alternative energy, engineering education, and entrepreneurship.

He served as the chair or members of various university, college and departmental committees, Graduate Program Director, Undergraduate Program Director, College Faculty Council member, HVAC Certificate Program Coordinator, and faculty advisor for student organizations. He initiated, as the Project Director, the Future House USA project and led a consortium of academic, builder and lobbyist to represent the US in a ten-country, international demonstration project for sustainable, eco-friendly buildings in the 2008 Beijing Olympic business circle. There have been about 13 newspaper reports, five television appearances, one radio station interview featuring the Future House USA project and Dr. Tao. He was also the faculty leader of award-winning FIU 2005 Solar Decathlon project.

Dr. Tao is a Fellow of ASME, a member of ASHRAE, AIAA and ASEE, web editor of Heat Transfer Division of ASME, and Editor of ASME Early-Career Technical Journal, and served in many technical committees of ASME, ASHRAE and AIAA. He is also the Program Chair for 2009 Summer Heat Transfer Conference of ASME, and Co-Chair of 2009 US-EU-China Thermophysics Conference –Renewable Energy. Before joining FIU in 2000, Dr. Tao was Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Tennessee State University. He also taught at Vanderbilt University and University of Saskatchewan. He has a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan, a B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Tongji University in Shanghai, China.

Dr. Tao has been associated with ECTC for the past nine years, in various capacities including Chair, Technical Committee.

Taylor, Robert Ph. D.

Dr. Bob Taylor is a professor and head of mechanical engineering at The University of Alabama and associate director of the Alabama Industrial Assessment Center. Before joining the UA faculty in 2004, he served for 25 years at Mississippi State University as an ME professor, associate dean of engineering, and interim dean of engineering. Bob has a BS and PhD from MSU and a master's degree from Purdue University. Dr. Taylor also worked as an engineer for Texaco, Inc., early in his career. Bob teaches courses in heat transfer, energy systems design, and gas dynamics.

Dr. Bob Taylor's research interests are in the areas of heat transfer and fluid mechanics and engineering experimentation and uncertainty analysis. He is the coauthor of the textbook "Analysis and Design of Energy Systems" and the author and coauthor of approximately 150 Journal articles and published technical papers. He is a Fellow of ASME and associated for past 20 years with ASME MS Section in various capacities and most recently with ASME ECTC. Currently he is the Chair, Technical Committee ECTC 2009 to be held at UA, Tuscaloosa.

Beth A. Todd, Ph. D

Beth A. Todd is an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alabama. She obtained her B.S. in Engineering Science from Penn State University in 1981. She received her Ph.D. degree in 1992 in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and M.S. degree in 1986 in Applied Mechanics, both from the University of Virginia. She joined the faculty of the University of Alabama in 1992.

Dr. Todd worked in industry at the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory of Westinghouse Corporation as an Associate Engineer (1981-83). She was an Instructor in Mechanical Engineering at Kettering University (formerly GMI Engineering & Management Institute) in Flint, Michigan from 1990-92. She has served as a Summer Faculty Fellow at NASA/Johnson Space Center in the 1990's.

Dr. Todd's main scholarly interests are in engineering education research, orthopedic biomechanics, rehabilitation engineering, and finite element analysis. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the Department of Transportation.

She is a Fellow of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). She is the ASME Student Section Advisor at the University of Alabama. She is also advisor for the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Baja Team. She is a member of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and a past Chair of the Southeast Section. She is also a founding member of the Engineering Teaching Academy at the University of Alabama. She has 69 refereed publications, 50 with one or more student co-authors.

Dr. Todd is the recipient of faculty advisor awards from both SWE (2008) and ASME (2004), as well as the John L. Blackburn Award for outstanding advisor of a student organization at the University of Alabama. She is a Centennial Fellow of Engineering Science and Mechanics at Penn State University. She has received the ASME Dedicated Service Award and the T. Morris Hackney Endowed Faculty Leadership Award from the College of Engineering at the University of Alabama. She has also received the Tau Beta Pi, AL., Outstanding Faculty Award, twice. Dr. Todd is a member of the ECTC 2009 Editorial Board

Tosunoglu, Sabri Ph. D.

Ying, Shuh Jing Benjamin PE, Ph.D.



Dr. Ying received his B.S. degree from Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, China, M.S. from Brown University and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He has been teaching since graduation from Harvard. While he was teaching at University of South Florida he was also doing some consulting work at Honeywell, Clearwater FL.

Dr. Shuh Jing Benjamin Ying published many technical papers in thermodynamic, fluid dynamic, vibration, electro-mechanical design and published a text book called “Advanced Dynamics” for graduate study. He is member of many different technical societies, and he is a Fellow of ASME. He received many honors in his career but retired in year of 2000. At his retirement he received the title of Emeritus Professor. After the retirement he is still working on part time, his current field is in the mechanical and electronics design.