

CSME Student Affairs News

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Mechanical Engineering Student Today; President of the CSME Tomorrow

To those of us who have heard the refrain “*our students are our future*” often enough to make cynicism seem a viable option, given that no one ever seems to take sustainable proactive steps to bring, and keep, Canadian mechanical engineering students as members of the CSME: don’t be a cynic! Professor Marius Paraschivoiu, from Concordia University in Montréal, has proven to be a valuable leader in that regard. He is the inertial force behind the Student Paper Competition. It was first incorporated into the CSME Forum two years ago at Queen’s University.

The philosophy is simple, but incredibly effective: put the student papers in with regular papers in the various symposia. Rather than having a *special* exclusive student paper symposium that, realistically, only participating students and adjudicators would attend, the adjudicators cycle through the regular symposia. This accomplishes two things in addition to meeting the obvious goals of the competition: it ensures a reasonably diverse audience for the students; and it sends a message to the students, our potential future members, that the CSME involves more than just *talking heads*. The second edition of the CSME Student Paper Competition will be a part of this year’s Forum at the University of Western Ontario. For this iteration Dr. Paraschivoiu has made CSME student membership a requirement for entering a paper in the competition. This exposes our future CSME leaders to some very positive, though not necessarily tangible, benefits to membership in the CSME.

A tangible benefit, as 26 mechanical engineering departments in Canadian universities who are Sustaining Members of the CSME will attest, is the CSME Student Gold Medal. The medals are presented to students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in Mechanical Engineering. The individual universities conferring the awards determine criteria and selection procedures. This year’s winners include John Paul Urbanski, from the University of Waterloo, and Jean-François Hamel from Université de Sherbrooke.

At the CSME our students are our indeed our future! Dr. Paraschivoiu has certainly helped to lay the foundations with the CSME Student Paper Competition to ensure there will be a next generation for us. Keeping our organization viable requires enabling our students to contribute to the CSME. The rest of us have to find ways to enable today’s students to be successful engineers, and to convince them that maintaining an active role in the CSME will enhance their success and lead them into the positions we now occupy.



Professor Milan Brézina and Université
de Sherbrooke CSME Gold Medal recipient Jean-François Hamel.