



- Home
- Welcome
- Academics
- Prospective Students
- Current Students
- Services & Programs
- Research
- Community Outreach
- Alumni & Friends

- Annual Report
- Points of Pride
- PoP: October 2009
- PoP: August 2009
- PoP: Summer 2009
- Points of Pride Summer 2009: A Message from the Dean
- Roberto and Colleen Padovani Spearhead \$100,000 Gift for New M5 Facility
- Pinto Takes Over as Brack Post-doctoral Fellow
- Schmidt Wins Teetor Educational Award
- Researchers Develop New Way to Clean up Perchlorate
- Pishro-Nik and Polizzi Receive College's 22nd and 23rd CAREER Awards
- Honoring Our 21st Century Leaders
- Su Wins Goldwater Scholarship
- QD Tech Nabs \$35,000 Grand Prize
- Diversity Has Its Own Rewards
- Doctoral Student Wins Prestigious DoD Fellowship
- Alumni Honors
- Advisory Board
- Stay Connected
- Invest in Engineering
- Giving Opportunities
- News
- UMass Amherst Innovation Challenge

[Home](#) > [Alumni & Friends](#) > [Points of Pride](#) > [PoP: Summer 2009](#) > Honoring Our 21st...

Honoring Our 21st Century Leaders

Three College of Engineering students are among the 13 seniors who were presented with 21st Century Leaders awards during the 139th Commencement on Saturday, May 23, in McGuirk Alumni Stadium. The three, all from Massachusetts, are: Laurene Dykiel, a chemical engineering major from Acton; Robert House, a civil engineering major from Northborough; and Ivan A. Bercovich, an electrical engineering and mathematics major from Jamaica Plain. The awards recognize students who are academically accomplished and who have contributed to the university through exceptional achievement or have enhanced the reputation of the campus.



The recipients are nominated by faculty for strong leadership qualities, noteworthy original research, community service, overcoming extraordinary personal circumstances, or public presentation through art, performance, or athletic ability.

Dykiel currently has a near-perfect 3.982 GPA. She has distinguished herself through fundamental research and practical application in chemical engineering. She performed research on the use of nanoparticles for cancer treatment during a Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the University of Puerto Rico in the summer of 2007. She did a Commonwealth Honors College thesis with COE Dean Mike Malone on the modeling of reactive separation processes for the chemical industry. She also worked for Exxon-Mobil during a summer internship in 2008. Finally, as an Engineering Career Center Student Advisor, she has helped students across the college to prepare for professional opportunities.



House was chosen as the student speaker for the College of Engineering commencement ceremonies on May 21. He organized this year's American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) New England Regional Concrete Canoe Competition, featuring over 150 students from 10 universities. He is the past president and publicity officer for the UMass Amherst ASCE Chapter. He is also an active member of the Alumni Association's Senior Campaign Committee and volunteers as a tour guide and student representative for the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. For the summers of 2006 and 2007, he was an intern at Thompson-Liston Associates of Boylston, Mass, and recently interned in the Geotechnical Group of GZA GeoEnvironmental in Norwood, Mass.

Among many other activities, Bercovich is the leader of a team of students that designed and built a "Personal Head-Up Display," or HUD, that effectively works as an OnStar navigation system for pedestrians. Bercovich and the HUD were featured in the *Boston Globe*. The HUD won first place in the Senior Design Competition run by the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and second place in the regional Senior Design Competition staged by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He has also done research on a system to beat the stock market by using the electrical engineering principles of "signal processing" as a guide.

This is the seventh year the awards have been given. The awards are sponsored by the Chancellor's Office and the Alumni Association. "The presentation of these awards during the undergraduate Commencement helps focus the ceremony on the accomplishments of students," noted Chancellor Robert C. Holub. "The awards also bring deserved recognition to the families who have supported this group of excellent students." The recipients were each given a plaque and a monetary award from the Alumni Association.



© 2008 University of Massachusetts Amherst. Site Policies. This site is maintained by the College of Engineering. Email

[login](#) | [my website](#) | [my page](#)

Webmaster

- Commencement
- Open House
- Contact Us
- Make a gift online
- Support Our Students
- ECS Portal
- UMail
- SPIRE
- SPARK