

For Immediate Release

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Parker Hannifin gives \$100K for YSU hydraulics research

Parker Hannifin Corp. has awarded a \$100,000 research grant to YSU's Hydraulic Research and Education Center for the development of an intelligent hydraulic system.

Shawn Kim, Ganesh Kudav, Hazel Pierson and Daniel Suchora, faculty members in the mechanical engineering program in the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology, will use the funds to conduct research on flow analysis and virtual prototyping of a piston pump and hydraulic system now under development by Parker.

Two graduate assistants – Burke Davis and Greg Mazurek – are currently working on the project. Two undergraduate students – Becky Grove and Adam Brink – also have been hired to assist the faculty members. More graduate and undergraduate student assistants will join the team in the near future, said Kim, chair of mechanical engineering, who serves as the director of the center.

Parker, the world's leading diversified manufacturer of motion and control technologies and systems, has been supporting the development of the Hydraulics Research and Education Center in Moser Hall at YSU for more than two years.

The company, whose Youngstown operations used to be part of Commercial Intertech Corp., which merged with Cleveland-based Parker Hannifin in 2000, has donated more than \$100,000 in equipment, including hydraulic and pneumatic trainers and an industrial-size hydraulic test stand. Last year, the company provided a separate \$62,000 research grant.

“The collaboration effort is a fine example of a unique and successful partnership between academia and industry,” Kim said.

(more)

He said Parker's Lewis Kasper, business unit manager, and Howard Zhang, research specialist, have been leading the YSU-Parker partnership.

"What's really great about this project is that what I'm doing here is going to be used to help Parker make some really important decisions in terms of product development," said Grove, one of the undergraduate assistants. "It's a practical application of what I'm learning in the classroom."

Kim said the research project will run through Sept, 16, 2005. Depending on the outcome of the project, the research could be extended, he said.

Cynthia Hirtzel, dean of the YSU Rayen College of Engineering and Technology, said faculty, staff, and students in the college are particularly proud of this initiative because it provides research opportunities and collaborations that benefit the community, industry, faculty and students.

"Initiatives of this type are increasing in the college and represent just one aspect of the outstanding programs and people we have here," she said.