IUPUI Engineering Professor Teaches in China on New Agreement

In May, Russell Eberhart, acting chair of the electrical and computer engineering department at IUPUI, taught a week-long course on evolutionary computation to Chinese students on his eighth visit to China. His course attracted approximately 75 graduate students and several faculty members. While most of the students were from Hohai University in Nanjing, some also came from Nanjing University and Southeast University.

The major areas covered in his course were genetic algorithms, evolutionary programming, evolution strategies, genetic programming, and particle swarm optimization. He also discussed applications of these methodologies. While there, he autographed a copy of a new book he recently co-authored (with James Kennedy and Yuhui Shi) titled Swarm Intelligence (Morgan Kaufmann Pub., 2001) for Hohai University's library.

During his visit, Eberhart also worked on some of the details related to the implementation of a recent agreement between Hohai University and IUPUI that was signed in November 2000. The two universities have agreed to exchange descriptions of curricula, academic standards, and evaluation techniques with the purpose of establishing equivalencies between credits earned at Hohai and credits earned at IUPUI. The ultimate goal is to enable Hohai students to complete two years of credit at their university, then transfer to IUPUI for an additional two years to earn their bachelor's degrees. Eberhart also toured laboratories, visited with faculty and students, and met with a number of administrators and staff.

After a tour of Nanjing, which included a visit to the Imperial Palace of the Peaceful Heavenly Kingdom and the tomb of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Eberhart went on to Seoul, Korea, where he delivered papers and chaired sessions at the Congress on Evolutionary Computation. His trip was supported by the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology and IUPUI's Office of International Affairs.

At a welcome dinner given in his honor, Russell Eberhart is hosted by Hohai University's Vice President Ping Ju (second from left) and staff members of the university's International Office.