



UTSI students, Nadim Zgheib, left, and Michel Akiki, right, placed second and third respectively at the 2010 Southeastern Regional Student Conference of AIAA. The students' studies were supervised by UTSI professor Dr. Joseph Majdalani, middle. (Photo provided)

UTSI students win at AIAA conference

Two students from the UTSI attending the 2010 Southeastern Regional Student Conference of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) were awarded second and third place in the Masters Division.

Nadim Zgheib won second place with his paper titled "Asymptotic Solutions for Longitudinal Waves in Solid Rocket Motors" and Michel Akiki won third place with his paper titled "Compressible Integral Formulation of the Two-Dimensional Porous Channel Flow."

The studies focused on the analytical and numerical modeling of either wave propagation or compressible mean flow description in simulated solid rocket motors. The two studies were carried out under the supervision of UTSI professor Dr. Joseph Majdalani who appears as second author on both papers.

The awards were presented to the students by Col. Keith J. Kosan, Commander, 46th Operations Group,

Eglin AFB, Fla.

The conference, held in Destin, Fla., included more than 300 delegates from 14 universities from the southeastern region. The student branches from Auburn and Tuskegee universities co-hosted the event.

UTSI Executive Director Dr. Robert "Buddy" Moore said, "We are very proud of Nadim and Michel, and their successes further confirm the quality of our graduate students, faculty and programs at UTSI."

Zgheib and Akiki are both from Kesrouan, Lebanon, and both graduated from Notre Dame University in 2007 shortly before joining UTSI.

In 2009, they received master's degrees in aerospace engineering. Akiki is working toward his doctorate degree in mechanical engineering at UTSI. Zgheib has received a graduate school fellowship to pursue his doctorate in mechanical engineering at the University of Florida in Gainesville.