

UTSI team wins AIAA's best paper awards

Graduate students of Professor Joseph Majdalani at the University of Tennessee Space Institute have won "Best Paper" awards for the third consecutive year at the annual AIAA conferences.

Dr. Majdalani joined UTSI in 2003 as the Jack D. Whitfield Professor of High Speed Flows. In 2007, he was named to the H.H. Arnold Chair of Excellence.

Timothy A. Barber of Nashville and Charles T. Haddad of Beirut, Lebanon, who competed this year, won both first and second-place awards in the Masters Division of the 63rd AIAA Southeastern Regional Student Conference.

Their papers, co-authored by their professor, were entitled, first, "Bidirectional Helical Motion in Tapered Rocket Engines," and, second, "On the Sidewall Boundary Layer of Transverse

Waves in Simulated Liquid Rocket Engines."

"This successful outcome marks a three-year winning streak of five best paper awards," Majdalani said.

So far, his teams have competed with five papers in the Masters Division and returned with either first (2011 and 2012); second (2010 and 2012), or third (2010) place awards.

"The 5-for-5 award capture is undoubtedly a true reflection of the outstanding performance of these individuals and the scholarly significance of their research projects," Majdalani said.

Comments made by the 4-5 AIAA judges echoed similar sentiments regarding the originality and scholarly contributions of the papers reviewed, he said.

In relation to the Barber-Majdalani work, they noted in part that "solutions such as yours offer a deeper level of physical

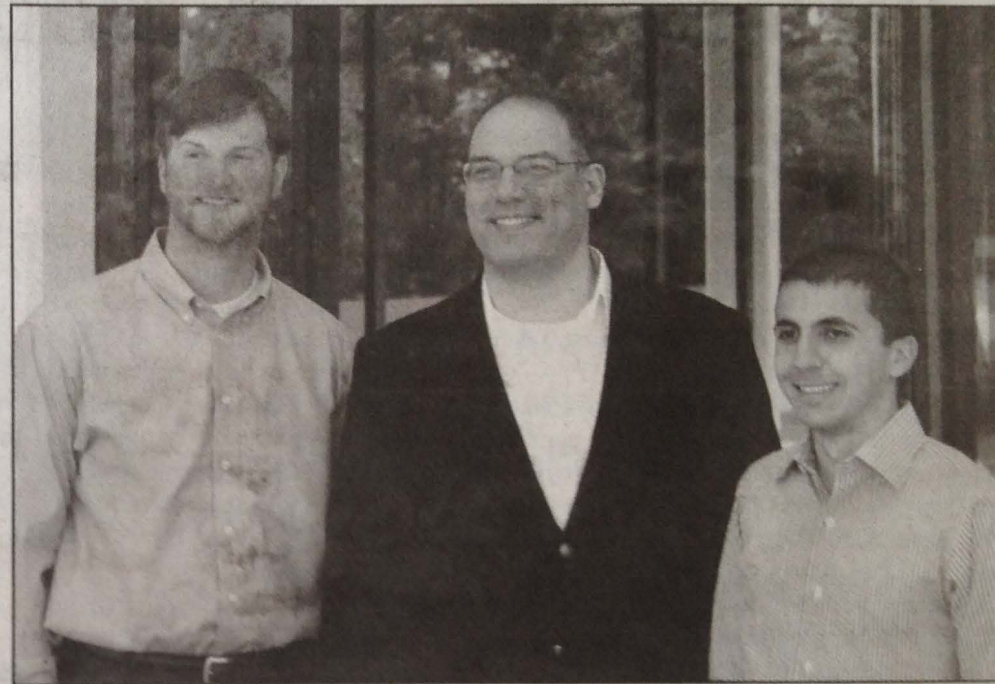
understanding than a numerical solution ... I think this is an excellent piece of work and worthy of a journal article."

On the Haddad-Majdalani paper, the judges termed the work "outstanding" and "rigorous physical analyses and mathematical derivations. Impeccable references ... should easily fit within an AIAA journal article ..."

Dr. Majdalani personally congratulated Barber and Haddad.

Barber received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Tennessee Technological University. Haddad is from Beirut, Lebanon, and a graduate of Notre Dame University, Louaize.

"This team reminds me of the Chicago Bulls," he said. "Our students are to be commended for their tremendous effort and dedication to their research projects, and I personally feel honored to have worked with such



A three-year winning streak with five "best paper" awards has been achieved by Dr. Joseph Majdalani's graduate students at the University of Tennessee Space Institute in competition at the 63rd AIAA Southeastern Regional Student Conference. From left are Timothy Barber, first-place paper; Dr. Majdalani, their professor who co-authored the work, and Charles Haddad, second-place paper.

— Photo Provided

high-caliber students. I wish them the very best in their future pursuits."

The student confer-

ence was hosted jointly by ERAU (Daytona) and the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). Over

200 undergraduate and graduate students attended from universities across the Southeast.