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Student Spotlight

Jason Hanley is a senior undergraduate student in the Department of Computer Engineering and Science at the University at Buffalo. He is currently involved in an MCEER project entitled “Networking of

Experimental and Computational Facilities.” His advisor, Professor Andrei Reinhorn, hired Jason to help develop web portals for networking, including streamed video, real time computations and fully interactive features for network users.

Jason’s research contributes to MCEER’s global research mission and objectives by using advanced and emerging technologies to enable researchers to communicate across geographically distant locations. The use of network based video conferencing, the web, and other Internet technologies, allows MCEER researchers and other users to share facilities, resources, and ideas. So far, Jason has been able to adapt a video system to full tele-operation of computers and of lab equipment. According to Professor Reinhorn, he “provides a dimension of knowledge of information technologies not available from traditional engineering or civil engineering students.”

Jason believes his research is important because it “connects people who would otherwise not be able to interact and it contributes to MCEER’s overall goal of reducing earthquake losses. He added that “it’s very interesting to be working in a field that allows me to use my knowledge in computers/electronics and apply it to something I know very little about, earthquake engineering. But I’m learning everyday!”

Due to graduate in the Spring of 2001, Jason’s future is open to possibilities, including graduate school. Regardless of what the future holds, he is sure that whatever he ends up doing will be “something that is very interesting and stimulating” to him.

Jason also participated in the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program sponsored by MCEER/NSF, where he was able to interact with others from all three national centers for earthquake engineering research ([see page 9](#)). ❖



■ Jason was among the students who attended this year’s annual investigators meeting. Shown from left are Dyah Kusumastuti, Jason, Mettupalayam Sivaselvan, Diego Lopez-Garcia, and Natali Sigaher, UB; and Ali Rejaie, USC.