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'The inspirational value of the space program is probably of far greater importance to education than any input of dollars. A whole generation is growing up which has been attracted to hard disciplines of science and engineering by the romance of space.'

~ Arthur C. Clarke

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**Professor Fahad Saeed** of the Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering departments, has been allocated time (and space) to work on the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE) supercomputing infrastructure. The XSEDE is the most powerful and robust collection of integrated digital resources and supercomputing services in the world. Computing times on these machines are acquired via peer-review of the proposed projects and are highly competitive. Dr. Saeed and his PhD student **Sandino Perez** recently co-authored a paper "parallel algorithm for compression of next generation genome sequencing data" that was accepted in IEEE International Symposium on Parallel and Distributed Processing with Applications (IEEE ISPA-15), Finland. They will further their research by conducting scalability studies for petascale genomics data using XSEDE computing machines.

~Fahad Saeed, contributor

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**Ajay Gupta Elected as Vice-Chair of IEEE Computer Society Technical Activities Committee**

**Dr. Ajay Gupta**, a Professor of Computer Science at Western Michigan University, has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the prestigious IEEE Computer Society (IEEE-CS) Technical Activities Committee. Besides playing a key role in shaping technical activities of IEEE-CS, Dr. Gupta will be responsible for bringing together internationally renowned researchers at workshops, conferences, and other initiatives in order to foster innovation and collaboration for the benefit of computing technologies worldwide. IEEE, with over 400,000 members, is the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation.

Dr. Gupta, a senior member of IEEE, is a world renowned specialist in parallel, distributed and high-performance computing and directs the Wireless Sensor Networks Laboratory of Western Michigan University. For the past four years, he has been Chair of IEEE-CS Technical Committee on Parallel Processing. In his work for the Committee, he has led initiatives in promoting parallel processing research and education to various constituents worldwide, including the development of computer science undergraduate curricula integrating parallel and high-performance computing topics in undergraduate courses. In the past Dr. Gupta has helped organize various ACM and IEEE conferences, including the International IEEE Conference on High Performance Computing for the past 20 years. He is also a member of Technical Meeting Request Committee at IEEE-CS and Member-At-Large of Technical and Conferences Activities Board (T&C) Executive Committee at IEEE-CS.

~Dr. Steve Carr, contributor

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Check out: [Trustees vote to name WMU engineering facility for Elson S. Floyd](#)

Read more: [I-Corps program teaches WMU students to pursue ideas that sell](#)
DENSO North American Foundation Awards WMU Solar and SAE Teams $50,000

Western Michigan University has been awarded $50,000 to fund Solar and SAE Vehicle Teams. As one of the world’s largest automotive suppliers with operations in 32 countries and regions, DENSO provides capabilities in research and design, development, manufacturing and delivery of advanced automotive technology, systems and components to the automotive industry. The **DENSO North America Foundation** was pleased to support the efforts to build a skilled, knowledgeable and well-trained workforce to serve the industry and the work and commitment to education and to the standards of excellence held by Western Michigan University.

The team of professors working with students on important automotive projects include Drs. **Brad Bazuin** (Sunseeker), **Andy Kline** (Baja SAE), and **Jennifer Hudson** and **Claudia Fajardo-Hansford** (Formula SAE).