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Nomination Form

Boeing Engineering Student

2009 Winners

Aviator of the year

Innovator of the year

Leader of the year

Boeing Engineering Student



Michael Grant, joint winner, 2009 Boeing Engineering Student of the Year

Joint winner: Michael Grant, Georgia Institute of Technology

After graduating first in his class with a degree in aero engineering at Purdue University, Indiana in 2005, Grant moved to Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, where for his Masters research, he developed a new methodology for robotic exploration of Mars using pinpoint landing technology. "This new entry, descent and landing architecture, called Smart Divert, challenges the paradigm of Mars robotic exploration," says his tutor in his entry for the award.

In 2007, while working on his masters, Grant participated in NASA's High Mass Martian Landing design competition, winning first place with his team for their design, Heavy MEDL.

In his entry for the 2009 Boeing Engineering Student of the Year award — which was judged by a panel of former senior Boeing engineers — Michael's supervisor, Dr Robert Braun, professor of space technology and director of the Space Systems Design Laboratory, describes Grant as an extremely intelligent and enterprising young man with tremendous potential.



Can Bayram, joint winner, 2009 Boeing Engineering Student of the Year

Joint winner: Can Bayram, Northwestern University

Originally from Turkey, Bayram opted to come to Northwestern after graduating with a BSc in electrical engineering from Bilkent University in Ankara, because of the reputation of the Centre for Quantum Devices and its director, Manijeh Razeghi, "a world-leading authority" in her field, according to Bayram. "It was a great thing, a big opportunity to get this offer," he says. "But we are expected to work hard. It is very demanding. But the best bit is that from basic science we create an end product that we can show people."

Bayram — who hopes to graduate with his doctorate in 2011 — specialises in the development of high-performance nitride optoelectric devices. His research "continues to make many significant contributions to space technology and innovation", according to Razeghi, who is Walter P Murphy professor at the Center for Quantum Devices.



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