## Young engineer gets UB honor as Distinguished Professor of Year

Published on Thursday, September 18, 2008

Professor Abhilasha Tibrewal is a trailblazer. At 35, she is an accomplished and enthusiastic teacher and a researcher of note. She has a string of publications and conference presentations that would make many academics envious. But she's not one to rest on her achievements. And that commitment during her six years of teaching in the university's School of Engineering has paid off with her selection by UB administrators, faculty and students as the university's Distinguished Professor of the Year.

Provost and Academic Vice President Laurence Conner, in making the award, wrote of Tibrewal: "In your service to the University of Bridgeport and the School of Engineering, you are recognized as a responsible and enthusiastic teacher, who is detail-oriented in all your work. Engineering Dean Tarek Sobh related that you possess a natural talent as a teacher and lecturer. Keeping current in your field of computer science, you continued to be involved in a number of research projects that have resulted in significant journal and conference publications and presentations...

Conner noted that "As one of four women faculty members in the School of Engineering..., you are an exceptional role model for young women scientists and engineers in Connecticut."

Tibrewal has been that and more, particularly this year when her involvements compounded with the addition of a baby daughter, Maansi. Tibrewal and her husband, Sandeep, who came to UB two years before she did, share the parenting duties. He has his Master's in education and works as head of Related Education (math, science and art) at Bullard Havens, the regional vocational-technical school in Bridgeport.

Tibrewal has her Master of Science degrees in computer science and in education. She has another Master's in home science (textiles and clothing) and her Bachelor's in the same field from Lady Irwin College at Delhi University in India.

In the classroom and labs, Tibrewal specializes in programming, engineering education and algorithms, and she's done basic research in those areas. She has interests in Web-based assessment systems, and operating systems design, and has published seven papers in journals or conference proceedings.

What's ahead? Tibrewal plans to pursue studies for a doctorate in computer science.

She sees a bright future for engineering, despite the outsourcing that's occurring today. "In the increasingly seamless world, international experience and a varied skill set are commanding more attention," she said.

That shouldn't deter American students, she said. "Like any creative field, engineering sees no bounds whether it is today or tomorrow. If we look at the world as a global village it is today, there will be no dearth of successful engineers — the question is, which part of the globe they come from.

"The resources and support of engineering in this country are exemplary. The very fact that the best of resources are so readily available here should be inspiration enough for American students, men and women alike, to enter the profession," she said.