

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laurentian University awards its first Engineering doctorate degree

José Saavedra-Rosas successfully defends his doctoral thesis in Natural Resources Engineering

Sudbury, ON, April 20, 2009—Laurentian University's School of Engineering graduated its first PhD student Wednesday, April 15. José Saavedra-Rosas defended his thesis before a public audience and his thesis committee. Saavedra-Rosas presented a computational method for dealing with uncertainty in mining operations.

"I've developed a new framework whereby mining engineers can make use of a genetic algorithm to better cope with unforeseen factors in the mining process," said Saavedra-Rosas. "In mining there is always a level of uncertainty and things do not always go as planned. This algorithm has the potential to decrease risk and improve an operation's profitability."

Saavedra-Rosas has been working toward his PhD with MIRARCO over the past 2 years amongst research teams who are also applying the genetic algorithm (artificial intelligence) to mining activities. MIRARCO employs many such students working toward post-graduate degrees.

"Working with MIRARCO was a great benefit for me, like being part of a big family," said Saavedra-Rosas. "My colleagues were excellent and the work environment encouraged creativity in my research."

Saavedra-Rosas is now a full time employee at Curtin University and a Junior Lecturer with the Western Australia School of Mines in Perth, Australia.

MIRARCO— Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation, founded in 1998, is a not-for-profit applied research and technical service company formed through collaboration between Laurentian University and the private and public sectors. MIRARCO is located in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, and serves as an innovation bridge between researchers and industry. Visit www.mirarco.org for more information.

—30—

Contact:

José Saavedra-Rosas, Ph.D.

Email: j.saavedra@curtin.edu.au

Andrew Dasys

Vice President,

Director, Enhanced Visualization and Optimization (EVO)

MIRARCO—Mining Innovation

adasys@mirarco.org

1-705-671-6613