IN PROFILE
Scholarship Winners

One is pursuing his master’s in clinical engineering; the other is a mother of four returning to college to study biomedical equipment technology and medical imaging technology. The two winners of the AAMI Foundation’s Michael J. Miller Scholarship Program, Ed Ryan and Leslie Carroll, are highly motivated students. Their academic excellence and commitment to the profession has earned them $2,500 to help in their pursuits.

Ed Ryan
Ed Ryan is working toward his master’s, focusing on clinical engineering, through the University of Connecticut’s Biomedical Engineering program. He currently is interning at the Hartford Hospital’s Biomedical Engineering Department.

How did you first become interested in clinical engineering?
I found out about clinical engineering largely by accident. It started with an e-mail late in my senior year from a professor I had been doing research for, mentioning that there was an opening in the University of Connecticut’s Clinical Engineering Program. I applied and got the position I have at Hartford Hospital. To be honest, I wasn’t entirely sure how I felt about clinical engineering at that point. However, over the short time I have been an intern, the profession has really grown on me. It allows me to apply my biomedical engineering background in a way that I can see how it has an impact on the care we provide at the hospital.

As an intern, what experiences have stood out the most for you?
The most memorable experiences I’ve had are the two operating room cases I have observed: a transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) and a prostatectomy. The TAVR case was the most impressive, with such a large volume of clinicians and technology working to replace the patient’s faulty valve. The procedure was approved by the FDA in November 2011; therefore, it was an opportunity that I would have not gotten to see if not for this program.

The robot-assisted prostatectomy showed me another approach to surgery. I previously had seen images of “open” surgeries and had a general idea how much less-invasive the robot-assisted procedures were, but actually getting to see it, how the extra degrees of freedom helped the case to be completed. Overall, it was just a very exciting thing to watch.

Leslie Carroll
Leslie Carroll is a returning college student with a passion for customer service. Because she also likes working with her hands, becoming a healthcare technology management professional seemed like a natural choice. She currently is enrolled at the Texas State Technical College (TSTC), dual majoring in biomedical equipment technology and medical imaging technology.

What prompted you to major in biomedical equipment technology/medical imaging technology?
I am not sure that I chose the biomedical equipment technology/medical imaging technology field; I think that it really chose me. I came to TSTC with my cousin. She had thought it would be a better idea to attend a technical school and learn a trade rather than go to a two- or four-year college and get another degree that just gave us a piece of paper with our names on it. I agreed.

At the time, I had absolutely no idea what my major would be. I was handed a list of the programs, and I had it narrowed down to two that I thought seemed interesting—biomedical equipment technology and nanotechnology. I asked the adviser what in the world biomedical was, and when she told me, I knew that I had found my calling. I had a premature baby girl in...
November 2008. Remembering all of the machines that were attached to that tiny baby is what really prompted me to go into this field.

I see you held customer service jobs previously. What did you enjoy about that line of work? I am a very outgoing person. I love being around people, and I have never met a stranger. I thank my father for that fact. I love to help people and always want everyone to be happy. If they are not happy, I want to do whatever is necessary to lighten their mood. That is what I enjoy the most about customer service.

What have been some of your favorite courses? Some of my favorite courses at TSTC have been my electrical classes. When I started this program, I had no idea that I would be good at working with electrical circuits. I really excelled in my AC/DC class, and I absolutely loved it. I also really enjoyed the soldering class—being able to build the circuits and actually see the components working together was amazing.

NEW MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
For a complete list of new members, see www.aami.org/publications/AAMINews/members.html.

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Singapore 529757
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RFE Building, 4th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2C4 Canada
humanfactors.ca

INDIAN PATH MEDICAL CENTER
2000 Brookside Drive
Kingsport, TN 37660-4627
www.msha.com

RECON DYNAMICS
3740 Carillon Point
Kirkland, WA 98033
www.recondynamics.com

STERILITY ASSURANCE LLC
13215 46th Avenue N.
Plymouth, MN 55442

SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER
747 Broadway
Seattle, WA 98122
www.swedish.org

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE
• **Mike Ahmadi** has been named global director of business development and medical domain security expert for Codenomicon, a company focused on detecting security vulnerabilities. Ahmadi joins Codenomicon from Wurldtech Security Technology, where he served as director of business development.

• **Chuck Schwandt** has joined Dallas, TX-based Rosellini Scientific, which invests in research and development, as vice president of business development. Schwandt was formerly regional service account manager at GE Healthcare, U.S. & Canada service.

• **Hector Gonzalez** has joined the Baylor Medical Center McKinney Biomedical Technology Services team. He will be responsible for the repair and maintenance of equipment, instruments, systems, and related technologies. Gonzalez was in the Army and Army Reserve for eight years and has 10 years of biomedical engineering experience. He comes to Baylor from CREST Services, where he was a senior biomedical technician.