



Editorial

## The Melosh Competition

The Robert J. Melosh Medal Competition for the Best Student Paper on Finite Element Analysis was inaugurated by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Duke University in 1989, to honor Professor Melosh for his pioneering work on the finite element method and for his dedication to research, teaching, and service during his tenure at Duke University.

Papers are invited in all areas of finite element analysis. Six finalists are selected annually by a panel of judges, and these papers are presented orally at a symposium in early spring. The papers in this volume were presented at the 17th Annual Competition, held at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, on April 29, 2005. Professors Mark Shephard and Ken Jansen, of the Scientific Computation Research Center, hosted the symposium. Elsevier and the National Science Foundation provided additional support for the Competition.

Participants in the symposium were:

Judges:

Professor Jacob Fish, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Dr. Arne Gullerud, Sandia National Laboratories  
Professor Peter Wriggers, Universität Hannover

Student finalists:

Mahmoud Hussein, University of Michigan  
Xiaohu Liu, University of California, Berkeley  
Yongnuan Liu, University of Calgary  
Dan Simkins, University of California, Berkeley  
X. Frank Xu, Johns Hopkins University  
Cynthia Xue, University of Texas, Austin

The student winner of the 17th Robert J. Melosh Medal was Dr. Mahmoud Hussein of the University of Michigan.

John Dolbow

*Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Duke University Durham, NC 27708-0287, USA  
E-mail address: [john.dolbow@duke.edu](mailto:john.dolbow@duke.edu)*