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UTSA ROBOTICS EXPERT LEADS STUDENT ENGINEERING CONFERENCE OCT. 20
Inaugural conference features welcome from NASA Mars Rover Engineer

(Oct. 2, 2006)—When internationally recognized robotic expert Mo Jamshidi decided to leave the University of New Mexico and join the UTSA College of Engineering, it sent a statement to the world that UTSA was committed in its quest to become a premier research university and recruit top-notch faculty to the San Antonio area. Jamshidi, fresh off presentations in Germany, Hawaii and Taiwan this semester, is now preparing to host the first ever Engineering, Science and Biotechnology, Student Conference in the 1604 Campus BSE Building on Friday, Oct. 20.

Jamshidi has invited Dr. Edward Tunstell, a Nasa engineer on the Mars Rover project to provide the welcoming address. Tunstell is one of 105 masters and doctoral students educated under Jamshidi when he led UNM's Autonomous Control Center (ACE) program, a center specifically designed to come up with answers to solve NASA's problems.

Included among the 40 student presentations is an exhibit featuring the rover robotic swarms that Jamshidi's undergraduate and graduate students have been working on since his arrival in January. The students are working on the projects in hopes of assisting the military in the war on terror. The rovers, equipped with biosensors could go into dangerous areas and detect improvised explosive

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devices (IED's), biological or chemical weapons. To test the effectiveness of the rovers, the students are using a rough terrain environment at the Southwest Research Institute, also one of the co-sponsors of the conference. Dr. Walter Downing, Senior Executive Vice-President at SwRI, will provide the keynote address.

Once the student conference is complete, Jamshidi plans to turn his attentions to showcasing the students top papers at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers International Conference on System of Systems Engineering that he will be hosting in San Antonio in April 2007.

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The University of Texas at San Antonio is one of the premier institutions of higher education in South Texas and one of the fastest growing universities in the state. One of nine academic universities and six health institutions that comprise the UT System, UTSA is the second largest institution in the system. Celebrating its 37th anniversary, UTSA serves more than 28,500 students enrolled in 62 bachelor's, 43 master's and 19 doctoral degree programs.

Programs are offered through the colleges of Architecture, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Honors, Liberal and Fine Arts, Public Policy, and Sciences, and the Graduate School. A Top 100 Hispanic-serving institution, UTSA is ranked among the top 10. A university of access and excellence, UTSA is committed to research and discovery, teaching and learning, and public service.