

ALMA Education Committee Report – Winter 2002

The Education Committee reported that the University of Hartford in West Hartford, CT is the first school to offer the ALMA-recognized Transducer Engineering Certificate as part of its Acoustics & Music Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree and its Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in acoustics (<http://uhavax.hartford.edu/acoustics/>). In addition, their Mechanical Engineering Department, which offers a program in Manufacturing Engineering (<http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/engineer/scmemo.html>), has expressed an interest in working closely with the Acoustics Department regarding loudspeaker manufacturing. The University is willing to set aside an area in one of their labs to study manufacturing methodologies and find ways to improve production techniques especially through the use of mechatronics.

Another university that has expressed an interest in working more closely with ALMA is Salford University in the UK (<http://www.aee.salford.ac.uk>).

There is significant interest in having ALMA offer one or more courses in conjunction with the Winter and Summer Symposia. The table below shows the results from attendee feedback forms of previous Symposia to the question:

“If ALMA offered a training session the day before the Symposium, would you or representatives from your company attend?”

	Jan-01	Jul-01	Jan-02	Total
YES	33	21	23	77
NO	10	6	10	26
No	10	11	21	42

Response

Based on the number of people who did respond, 75% said that they would attend a one-day training session. Because of this, the Education Committee is planning to offer at least one course to be held the day before the Winter 2003 Symposium. Topics that were suggested include audio test and measurement, acoustic fundamentals, design of experiments, materials and adhesives, patent applications, statistical process control, and lean manufacturing among others.

Since all of these topics are relevant to ALMA’s membership, a membership survey will be taken to see which topic(s) have the greatest interest. Depending on interest level, ALMA may offer more than one course.

The Education Committee needs volunteers to help carry out this survey, find potential instructors, and determine how ALMA-sponsored courses are eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEU’s). Please contact Dan Foley, Education Committee Chairman by email at dfoley@listeninc.com or call (617) 556-4104 if you would like to assist in these and other Education Committee activities.