

## From Classroom to Manufacturing Floor

**Shelton, CT (5/14/2007) -**

The UConn Student Entrepreneurial Organization (SEO) recently visited the headquarters of Shelton-based OEM Controls, Inc., an entrepreneurial firm owned by UConn alum **Brian Simons**.

After attending the prestigious 2006 Connecticut Family Business of the Year Awards Celebration, in which OEM Controls was named 1st Runner Up in the Large Business category, members of the SEO became interested in touring the company's facilities.



[OEM Controls](#) has been a leader in the development of controllers for more than 40 years, and has integrated products into enterprise-wide systems since 1990. OEM Controls is an upbeat, high-energy company that offers challenging work, with a talented team of professionals, and the opportunity to learn and grow. Their commitment to good ethics reflects their values, and ensures that employees, representatives, contractors, and suppliers comply with a high standard of conduct and always work in the best interests of their customers.

Students were invited to spend a day touring the company's manufacturing and production center, as well as the opportunity to sit down with CEO Brian Simons, and his son, also a UConn alum, **Samuel Simons**, Director of Operations. The students were treated to a fun, educational experience and were provided with an insider's view of the daily operations of a successful entrepreneurial firm.

"The trip to OEM Controls was a great opportunity to see the 'behind-the-scenes' of a manufacturing plant," said Kristina Gavigan, an 8th semester English and Management Major, "In a question and answer session with the CEO, we discussed the issues involved with running a family business. The best part was the advice given to us individually, concerning starting our own careers in entrepreneurship."

"We are excited that these UConn students have taken initiative to form the Student Entrepreneurial Organization. We were honored to have the group visit and allow us to share our views and experiences," says Sam Simons, Director of Operations, "UConn provided us many great experiences and memories, so we are ecstatic to be able to give back something to its students."

As a newly developed organization on campus, the SEO has experienced a successful first year. Through providing events and activities, such as interactive tours, the SEO has connected UConn students with commendable business owners eager to relate their personal tales of triumphs and hardships to future entrepreneurs. The OEM tour

was popular among members, as it was an excellent avenue through which students were able to enhance their education outside the traditional classroom setting.

*PHOTO: (From L to R) Samuel Simons '95 MBA, Director of Operations, OEM Controls; Eric Caron, SEO Member; Brittany Horton, President, SEO; Jacqueline Guzman, VP of Administration, SEO; Brian Simons '60, CEO, OEM Controls; Kristina Gavigan, VP of Marketing, SEO.*