

Kai-Zhong Gao Young Engineer of the Year



Dr. Kai-Zhong Gao, a CMRR graduate, was recently named the 2009 Minnesota Young Engineer of the Year by the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science and Technology Societies.

Kai-Zhong is currently a Senior Engineer Manager at the Seagate R&D facility in Bloomington, Minnesota, where he and his group explore advanced magnetic recording technologies.

Kai-Zhong came to CMRR in 1997 as a member of Professor Neal Bertram's Magnetic Recording Physics and

Micromagnetics Group. He received his Ph.D. in November 2002. His thesis, "Optimization of Write Heads and Media for Ultra High Density and Data Rate Magnetic Recording," focused on perpendicular recording systems.

This is not the first prestigious honor that Kai-Zhong has received. In 2003, he was awarded the **CMRR Sheldon Schultz Prize for Excellence** in Graduate Student Research for distinguishing himself through the creativity of his research and the impact of his publications. He was also co-recipient with Prof. Bertram of the 2004 Information Storage Industry Consortium (INSIC) Technical Achievement Award.

All of Kai-Zhong's colleagues at CMRR are proud of his accomplishments. He is an excellent example of the caliber of students who graduate from CMRR each year.

Please join me in congratulating Kai-Zhong.

Best regards,

Paul Siegel