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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: **Fred Sitter, Marketing Communications Director**

University Students Boost Bottom Line for Duro-Last Roofing

Saginaw, Michigan – August 18, 2009 – Duro-Last® Roofing, Inc., the world’s largest manufacturer of prefabricated roofing systems, is raising its profit potential thanks to a project by three Saginaw (Michigan) Valley State University mechanical engineering students. Mike Garske of Au Gres, Michigan, Nick Makl of Saginaw, Michigan, and Andre Zahrebelny of Windsor, Ontario, designed and produced a vinyl marking system (VMS) for the Saginaw company with “outstanding” results.

“The design has met all of the measurable objectives,” said Mitch Gilbert, Machine Build Manager for Duro-last. “It has been a complete success and everyone here is very pleased with the amount of time and money it will save Duro-Last during our custom pre-fabrication process.”

The system uses a wheel and a self-inking stamp to mark the vinyl roofing membrane every six inches to assist roofing contractors during the installation process. The Duro-Last roofing system is unique in that contractors are provided with pre-fabricated deck sheets up to 2,500 square feet in size, with marks indicating where they should located fasteners for mechanical attachment to the roof deck.

The new VMS makes a more consistent and visible mark on the roofing membrane. It can be exposed to the air for months before drying out. The current system has been used for at least 20 years and relies upon traditional markers that need to be replaced after a few days.

“There is no waste with this system, and we made it so that it will last”, Zahrebelny said.

Garske added, "We solved a real-life problem, not a fictional problem out of a textbook."

The VMS has been in use at Duro-Last's Saginaw facility for about a month, and will be implemented at all production facilities.

This new piece is estimated to eliminate \$27,000 per year in markers and the labor required to change them as well as the labor periodically needed to mark the membrane by hand due to current system limitations.

In order to complete SVSU's mechanical engineering program, students are required to design and build a prototype for an outside client over the course of two semesters.

An aspiring inventor, Zahrebelny described the educational process as "the best engineering test" he could imagine.

About Saginaw Valley State University

Saginaw Valley State University is a baccalaureate and master's level university offering more than 70 undergraduate programs of study and seven master's degree programs. One of the fastest-growing universities in Michigan, SVSU has a current enrollment of over 9,800 students and has doubled the size of its physical facility over the past ten years to keep up with student growth. Since 1998, the residential student population has nearly quadrupled, and more than 70 percent of freshmen live in student housing. Situated on a spacious 756-acre campus, SVSU is conveniently located in the heart of the Great Lakes Bay Region of Saginaw, Bay City, and Midland.

About Duro-Last Roofing, Inc.

With corporate headquarters and a manufacturing facility in Saginaw, Michigan as well as other locations in Grants Pass, Oregon; Jackson, Mississippi; and Sigourney, Iowa, Duro-Last® Roofing, Inc. is the manufacturer of the "World's Best Roof"®. Since 1978, Duro-Last has produced a custom-fabricated, thermoplastic single-ply roofing system that is ideal for any flat or low-sloped commercial or industrial building. Energy-efficient and extremely durable, the Duro-

Last roofing system is also leak-proof, virtually maintenance-free and resistant to chemicals, fire, punctures, and high winds. In addition to the Duro-Last roofing system, the company's brands include the Duro-Last Cool Zone[®], the Duro-Shield metal retrofit, and the Duro-Last Designer Series roofing systems. For more information, contact **Fred Sitter at 800-248-0280** or visit www.duro-last.com.



Pictured from left to right are SVSU mechanical Engineering students Nick Makl, Mike Garske, and Andre Zahrebelny.



The VMS wheel on a hot air welder marking the Duro-Last deck sheets.

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