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Western Michigan University

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Engagement ~ Leadership ~ Globalization ~ Innovation

WMU Engineers
Help Shape
the
Future

February 13, 2015

Anita Ludwig, editor
anita.ludwig@wmich.edu

www.wmich.edu/engineer

"If a major project is truly innovative, you cannot possibly know its exact cost and its exact schedule at the beginning. And if in fact you do know the exact cost and the exact schedule, chances are that the technology is obsolete."

~ Joseph G. Gavin

CEAS News

18th TAPPI Student Summit in Savannah, Georgia

Twenty-eight Western Michigan University Students attended the 18th TAPPI Student Summit in Savannah, Georgia thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Paper Technology Foundation and the Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering. The Summit provides direct access to employers, high-level industry executives, tours, and relevant workshops for students interested in working in the Forest Products Industry. Topics that were presented included: Nanotechnology, How to work with Vendors, Fast Track to CEO, Generational Differences, Packaging Sustainability, Interviewing Best Practices, Women in Engineering, Negotiating Job Offers, and many more. Our students interviewed with the following companies for both internships and permanent placement with positive results: BASF, BTG, Domtar, First Quality, Georgia Pacific, International Paper, MeadWestvaco, Neenah Paper, and Solenis.

After WMU dominated the engineering competition last year, teams were not allowed to have more than 3 participants from each school. Students were challenged to create an engine to accurately launch a defined object using very limited materials. They received substantial awards for their ability to work as a team and produce the top three products. Other fun activities included a scavenger hunt, a networking reception, and an interactive panel of young professionals.

With 100% job placement, starting salaries over \$70,000, and the greenest manufacturing segment in the US, WMU Paper Engineering Students have a lot more to look forward to!

~Kate Miller, contributor



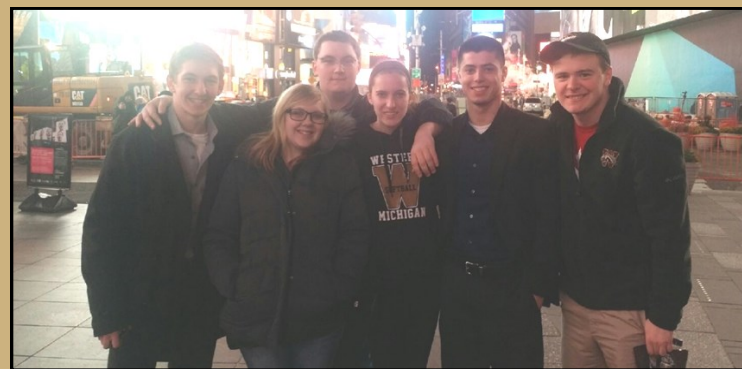
WMU Students Lance McCauley, Richie Waite, and Clifford Ross were among the winners of the 2015 Engineering Competition!



WMU Paper and Chemical Engineering Students after the Solenis Tour.



WMU Alumni John Vanderkolk and WMU Students Tyler Rheinhardt, David Thoms, Lance McCauley, Kendra Fein, and Christine Dowdy after a successful scavenger hunt.



Students making the most of the unplanned stay over in NYC (Collin Conrad, Erick Daschner, Amanda Abshire, Geordin Craun, Richie Waite, and Tommy Anderson).

CCE Student Receives Sharon D. Banks Award

The Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) selected **Brenda Hodgell** as the recipient of the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship. The scholarship award is \$2,000. As the Michigan Chapter winner, Brenda's application was also submitted to be reviewed for the International WTS Foundation Scholarships. Brenda is graduate student and is majoring in Civil Engineering. When asked what this award meant to her, Brenda stated that, "Receiving this award is a great honor. I am proud to be recognized by such a prestigious organization. It not only reflects my own academic achievements but also the level of education I have received through the college of engineering at WMU."

WTS fosters the development of women in the transportation field by encouraging bright new professionals to undertake careers in the area of transportation. One way it does this is by awarding the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship to women pursuing studies in transportation or a related field.. The Michigan Chapter will be hosting an Awards Banquet in March and the event will be held at Waldenwoods Banquet center in Hartland, MI. Brenda was one of four Michigan students that received a \$3,000 scholarship from the Michigan Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) meeting last December as well..



Brenda Hodgell

Research Initiation Initiative Grant to Fund Big Data Research



Dr. Fahad Saeed

Dr. Fahad Saeed, assistant professor of computer science and electrical & computer engineering, was recently awarded a Research Initiation Initiative (CRII) research grant of US \$171,341 from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The grant will support his research on high performance algorithms and architectures for Big Data. The research proposal entitled "HPC Solutions to Big NGS Data Compression", proposes to design and implement novel data-aware solutions for compression of large genomic data sets using high performance architectures and algorithms. Successful completion of this research will have significant impact on clinical as well as system biology labs and will move us one step closer to personal genomics era. This two-year pre-career award was competitively awarded through NSF's merit-review process and is supported by the NSF CCF Core program. Dr. Saeed is the sole PI on this grant.

~Dr. Steven Carr, contributor

Upcoming Events

[Engineers Week - Feb. 22-28](#)

[Custer Lecture Series, Carl D. Roberts Feb.25, 2015](#)

[Science Olympiad - Saturday March 28th, 2015](#)

[Senior Engineering Design conference - April 21, 2015](#)

Quick Links

[Dr. Houssam Toutanji named new CEAS dean.](#)

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