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Western Michigan University

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Engagement ~ Leadership ~ Globalization ~ Innovation

WMU Engineers
Help Shape
the
Future

April 17, 2015

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www.wmich.edu/engineer

"Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works."
~ Steve Jobs

CEAS News

Western Sustainers Student Team Wins Wege First Place Sustainability Prize



From L-R: **Front row:** Elijah Lowry, Max Hornick, Kelsey Pitschel, Carlos Daniels. **Back row:** Kyle Simpson, Ramon Roberts-Perazza, Josh Shultz

Kelsey Pitschel a mechanical engineering major and **Ramon Roberts-Perazza** a civil engineering major, are part of the student team who competed and won first place and a \$15,000 award at the [WEGE Prize](#) competition in Grand Rapids. When asked while being busy with school, work, and life in general, how Kelsey and Ramon found time to devote to the team? Kelsey shared that, "We devote time into this project because we see a need and a livable future for it. We plan to advance the [The Local Loop Farm](#) by working closely with the community to fundraise and build support, and by further developing design documents."

According to Kelsey, the entire team works at the [Office for Sustainability](#) where they have been able to develop a strong culture of sustain-

ability in their everyday lives. She explained how the team values making deliberate decisions and working toward something that they believe will benefit the entire community. The team has devoted every Sunday afternoon for the past three months to sit down together to work on the system. Kelsey reported that three of the team members have been researching [aquaponics](#) since 2012, and two of the members are currently designing and constructing a compost heat recovery system. Their experience and interest in both of these projects have allowed them to create the Local Loop Farm. Other WMU team members include Elijah Lowry, Cara Givens and Max Hornick. Project advisors are Kyle Simpson, Carlos Daniels and Josh Schultz.

Clausing Industrial has 62 Years of Support for Longest Running WMU Four-Year Scholarship

The Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering department held its annual student scholarship awards and student recognition luncheon, sponsored by [Clausing Industrial](#). Scholarships awarded also included the Herbert Ellinger, Leo S. Rayl, Kenneth W. Knight, Foundry Educational Foundation, American Foundry Society, SME Roscoe Douglas, Kalamazoo Antique Auto Restoration Club (KAARC) and IME Undergraduate scholarships. There were outstanding student, service, and TA awards given as well.

Right L-R: Arafat Bin Mahabub, Ryan Walsh, Milton Rene Soto Ferrari, Brian St. John, Andrew Horner, Mohammadreza Khoshgoftar, Scott Billings, Karl Riggs, Michael Konkel.



Simon Matar Named Presidential Scholar in Civil and Construction Engineering



L-R: Dr. Upul Attanayake and Simon Matar

The Presidential Scholar designation is the highest academic honor that WMU can bestow on its undergraduates. Recipient **Simon Matar**, is majoring in [civil engineering](#) and expects to graduate in May 2015. Following graduation, Simon plans to pursue a master's degree in structural engineering at WMU. His research is focused on advanced numerical finite element analysis. One of his goals is to publish a paper titled "State-of-the-Art Hot Spot Stress Modeling and Analysis".

He has been doing research work with **Dr. Upul Attanayake** who is an associate professor of civil and construction engineering. This work involves such areas as box beam bridges, fatigue life of steel bridges and waste powder paint in concrete.

Simon has regularly appeared on the dean's list and has received numerous honors, including the Civil and Construction Excellence Scholarship, Undergraduate Research Excellence Award, Arthur Hupp Endowed Memorial Scholarship, Paul and Mary Jackson Achievement Award, southwest Michigan chapter award from the Construction Financial Management Association, and Gary Sisters Foundation Award. His extracurricular activities include participating in the steel bridge and concrete canoe team of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineering, with both teams competing annually at the society's regional conference. Simon also is a member of American Society of Civil Engineer, Tau Beta Pi for Engineering Honor Society, and Phi Theta Kappa for the International Honor Society.

~ Dr. Upul Attanayake, contributor

WMU Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge Teams Compete at ASCE North Central Conference



The [WMU Concrete Canoe](#) team brought home the third place overall trophy from the ASCE regional conference recently. There were 9 teams competing in 4 categories. Categories listed with the WMU team's placing: Display-2nd, Paper-3rd, Presentations-3rd, and Races-5th. The team was just one point away from the 2nd place overall trophy.



The [WMU Steel Bridge](#) team earned a fifth place finish as well. There were also 9 teams competing in 3 categories. Categories listed with the WMU team's placing: Display-3rd, Lightness-3rd, and Stiffness-2nd. The [regional conference](#) was held at the University of Toledo in Ohio. Both teams are affiliated with the American Society of Civil Engineers WMU Student Chapter.

Upcoming Events

[Senior Engineering Design Conference - April 21, 2015](#)
[More events and news](#)



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