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9-2017

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College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

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### WMU ScholarWorks Citation

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, "Inspire e-News 9 2017" (2017). *College of Engineering and Applied Sciences News*. 159.

[https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/engineer\\_news/159](https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/engineer_news/159)

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### ***Win Tickets to WMU's Homecoming Game!***

WMU's Homecoming game is Oct. 14 against Akron— and one lucky member from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences alumni network will be treated to a special gift package that includes **4 tickets to the game, 4 tickets to the Homecoming tailgate festivities beforehand, and a WMU stadium blanket.** Kick-off is 3:30 p.m.

[More Details](#)



### ***College hosts paper coatings course for industry professionals***

More than 40 people attended the 2017 Paper and Paperboard Coating Course hosted by WMU Paper Pilot Plants at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences this summer.

[Read Full Story](#)



### ***Scholarship winner seeks adventure abroad***

Industrial and entrepreneurial engineering student, Dennis Schneider, can add to his list of adventures after receiving the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, which is taking him to study abroad in the Netherlands this semester.

[Read Full Story](#)



Students introduced to the college at annual Passport Day

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Be inspired through our Custer talks



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**College of Engineering and Applied Sciences**

College Snapshot: Facilities and Student Organizations

## **Upcoming Events**

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## College hosts paper coatings course for industry professionals



### 2017 Paper and Paperboard Coating Course

More than 40 people attended the 2017 Paper and Paperboard Coating Course hosted by WMU Paper Pilot Plants at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences this summer. Attendees from across the country – newcomers and experienced professionals alike – broadened and updated their knowledge of coating materials, processes and equipment; as well as coating and coated substrate formulation and design. Instructors included WMU faculty and industry experts.

“This course is always extremely well attended,” said Lon Pschigoda, general manager of WMU Pilot Plants. “We are able to provide a unique experience to participants by not only sharing expertise in the classroom, but giving them the chance to see our five pilot plants and the capabilities we have in research and development in the paper industry.”

Nearly as valuable as the course material were the networking opportunities. More than 15 guest speakers were on hand to share their industry experience and pass on the wealth of knowledge accumulated during their impressive careers. The week started with a dinner and tour at a local Kalamazoo brewery and ended with an energetic roundtable discussion where industry experts answered questions and participants discussed the future of the industry.

A follow-up survey showed the course was well received and indicated participants appreciated the “many examples of real-life applications. “I expected to learn, but I took away even more than I expected,” said one respondent. “A great overall course that will power our business opportunities in the coated paper market,” said another.

Hundreds of papermakers and suppliers have taken WMU’s coating course since its inception. The course features three days of classroom instruction, tours of WMU’s pilot facilities and networking opportunities.

WMU is a leader in the field of paper coating research and applications. It is the only place in the world where five pilot plants are available for research and development in pulping, recycling, papermaking, coating and printing. The plants conduct proprietary industry research and provide invaluable experience to student employees.

Sign up for news updates or follow WMU Pilot Plants on LinkedIn to get updates on upcoming Paper Coating and Recycling courses.

<https://pages.exacttarget.com/pilot-plants-news-updates/>

## Scholarship winner seeks adventure abroad



*Dennis during his trip to Cuba*

Dennis Schneider has packed a lot into his 21 years. A 5-day backpacking trip in Cuba. A study abroad experience in China. Co-op opportunities at American Axle. Running a painting company during the summer. Running a half marathon and completing a triathlon. Founding a college council of the Knights of Columbus at WMU. And now the adventurous industrial and entrepreneurial engineering student can add to the list receiving the U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, which is taking him to study abroad in the Netherlands this semester.

The highly competitive Gilman scholarship is part of a larger U.S. government effort to expand the number of

Americans studying and interning abroad, helping them gain skills critical to national security and prosperity.

Schneider, a Seita Scholar and 5<sup>th</sup>-year-senior, will be studying at HU University of Applied Sciences in Utrecht, right outside Amsterdam. He’ll be pursuing a minor in international business, which he wants to pair with his engineering degree and ultimately work on an international level.

“I really want to become genuinely comfortable living abroad,” Schneider said. “I want to make the Netherlands home for the next six months, and travel to other countries and experience multiple cultures while I’m there.” He has his sights set on visiting Spain, Eastern Europe, and possibly Russia.

Schneider credits the Seita Scholars program at Western with providing the support and resources to making him confident and successful. In fact, he said it’s why he selected WMU in the first place. The Seita Scholars program supports WMU students who have been in foster care, providing resources, mentors and coaching. “The program empowers individuals like me to continue their education and thrive,” he said. “I don’t know if I would be where I am without it -- or even on my way to study in Europe now.”

He also pointed to supportive, caring faculty who are helping him succeed. “Dr. Steven Butt has been there for me since day one, and Dr. Bob White has been incredible – very challenging in class – and inspired me to get an international education,” Schneider said.

His advice for incoming freshman? “Allow yourself to be humbled, right from the start. Even though it may be hard, don’t take advice from other 18-year-olds without getting a second opinion. Take advice from your professors who are going to motivate you to do your best in their classes. Try to stay level headed. Be active. And bike the Kal-Haven Trail to South Haven at least once.”



## Students introduced to the college at annual Passport Day

The Army's ROTC display was a hit

Classes at Western Michigan University started Tuesday, Sept. 5, but new students had a chance to get to know the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences the week before at the annual “Passport Day.” Some 400 incoming students participated in a variety of activities to introduce them to the college.

Part of Fall Welcome activities, and hosted by STEP (STEM Talent Expansion Program), Passport Day was started in 2011 as a way to acclimate incoming students to the college. Students visit a variety of labs with hands-on activities, learn about opportunities in the college, and meet new classmates, faculty and staff. Everyone is issued a “passport,” and receives a stamp for each activity they attend as a way to earn them prizes.

“We always look forward to welcoming our new students at the college and helping them familiarize themselves with the building, meeting our faculty and staff, and visiting labs,” said Anetra Grice, STEP program manager and organizer of Passport Day. “It’s also a way for them to learn about our 30 registered student organizations they

may be interested in joining.”

According to data from previous Passport Day participants, students who attend the event have a statistically higher GPA than students who choose not to attend.

## Be inspired through our Custer talks

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences will host a Custer Talk on Thursday, Sept. 7 featuring Bryan Mohney, senior staff software engineer at Stryker. Mohney’s talk is titled, “Embedded Most Relevant,” and is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. and 1-2:15 p.m. in Room D-210 in Floyd Hall.

Mohney is an experienced software developer with a passion for technology and software. His diverse professional background ranges from enterprise software to embedded systems. He currently is the software engineering lead for the medium and large bone cutting portfolio within the Stryker Surgical business unit.

## College Snapshot: Facilities and Student Organizations

