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## WMU wins second overall in ASCE event

WMU won second place last month at the 2010 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) North Central Regional Conference (NCRC). WMU hosted the event, which included the concrete canoe and steel-bridge competitions and other “fun” contests. Nine schools from Michigan and Ohio participated. **Kim Warners**, a civil engineering senior, chaired the 2010 NCRC event.



WMU concrete canoe team with **SHERIFF** at Ramona Lake, in Portage.

WMU's 27-member canoe team won several awards for **SHERIFF**, its entry in the contest's four parts: formal presentation, technical paper, product display, and canoe races. WMU students **Paul Pagano**, **Britney Richmond**, **Andy Peruski**, and **Alex Frazier** won first place for the formal presentation. WMU's fourth-place technical paper was prepared by **Mike Romkema**, **Warners**, **Richmond**, **Peruski**, and **Pagano**. Canoe paddlers were **Pagano**, **Peruski**, **Richmond**, **Jason McCubbin**, **Dan Gusestella**, **Lindsay Mukens**, **Allison Doty**, **Allison Porrett**, and **Nicole Clement**.



**Paul Pagano**, (left photo) with table top display, and a few canoe team members pose with the wagon (right photo) formed part of the WMU canoe display, which won 3rd place in the product-display component. The “Western” theme was designed and constructed by several students. Display coordinators included **John Hannich**, for the canoe stand and display; **Lindsay Mukans** for the poster and table-top display; and **Mike Wesolski** for the canoe painting.

According to Pagano, WMU's canoe project leader, **SHERIFF** weighed 260 pounds, was 20 feet long, and held up to 4 paddlers during the five races, which included two- and four-person endurance and sprint events. He was pleased with WMU's performance. “None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication by everyone on our team,” he said.



WMU's four-person co-ed team showcases **SHERIFF**

Pagano said the canoe had a space-frame structural rib design that Romkema devised and “green” sustainable concrete mix design. “The space-frame is similar to the old birch bark and animal skin canoe,” he said. “The ribs carry the load of the canoe and a lightweight skin keeps the water out.” The concrete used recycled glass and crumb rubber (from shredded tires) as aggregates in place of virgin natural materials.



WMU's steel-bridge team at work

**David Schmidt** headed up WMU's nine-member steel-bridge team that designed a 20-foot-long steel bridge that could hold 2,500 pounds and be assembled quickly from pieces no longer than three feet by six inches.

The faculty advisor for WMU's teams is **Dr. Osama Abudayyeh**, associate dean for the CEAS.

Send your thoughts or suggestions for future topics to the editor at [jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu](mailto:jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu)  
Thank you.