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## CEAS e-news 11.09.2012

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

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November 9, 2012

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[www.wmich.edu/engineer/](http://www.wmich.edu/engineer/)

“Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication”  
~Leonardo da Vinci



## CEAS News

### Civil & Construction Engineering Students Take on a Service Learning Project



WMU First year students at Woodward Elementary for Safe Routes to School project.

First-year students in Civil and Construction Engineering, enrolled in Engineering 1001, are working on a service-learning project called Safe Routes to School (SRTS). SRTS is a federal program intended to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle or walk to school, and to get the regular physical activity children need for good health. This initiative also helps ease traffic jams and air pollution, unites neighborhoods, and contributes to student readiness to learn in school. SRTS is one of our model service-learning projects at WMU.

The project is a combined effort of WMU’s College of Engineering & Applied Sciences, Office of Service-Learning, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and local public schools. Each fall a partner school is identified, and WMU students learn and apply transportation engineering principles as they identify barriers to safe travel. The students complete a walking tour of the surrounding neighborhood and interview children and their families, as well as school teachers and administrators.

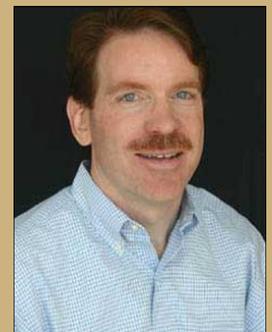
This year, the classes have partnered with Parkwood Upjohn Elementary School and Woodward Elementary School for Technology and Research. On December 4 and 5, the students will present their assessment and remediation plan to city engineers and other city and county officials, as well as school administrators, members of the school board, and the general public.

(Erika David, Coordinator of Service-Learning, contributor)

### Dr. Larry Mallak Presents at the Technology, Entertainment & Design Conference, TEDx

As founding principal of Western Michigan University’s Engineering Management Research Lab Dr. Larry Mallak a Professor of Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering at WMU, works with organizations to manage, culture, develop innovative leadership, and practice empathic design. He has worked with various healthcare systems, Fortune 500 firms, the U.S. Department of Energy, Westinghouse and the U.S. Army on culture, leadership, and design initiatives.

The title of his presentation is, “Feed Me Green Corn”. TEDx Muskegon is the official conference site for the third coast city of Muskegon, Michigan. At this event the city’s preeminent thought leaders, innovators, change makers, and attendees from all walks of life and perspectives get together to share and celebrate the best, the brightest, and most promising ideas worth sharing. TEDx Muskegon explored how energy flows through our world from the smallest sub-particle to the largest bodies in our universe.



Dr. Larry Mallak



The sessions were described as being like a look in the mirror, into the microscope, through the telescope, and out the window at how our world is intertwined and how we interact with each other and the forces of mind, body, spirit, and nature. To view the presentation visit [Feed Me Green Corn](#). For more information on Engineering Healthy Organizations visit [Healthcare Systems Solution](#). You can also follow Dr. Mallak on Twitter @LarryMallak..

## WMU Places Second In the Stryker Engineering Challenge

A team of WMU undergraduate engineering students placed second in the Third Stryker Engineering Challenge held September 27-28, 2012, defeating teams from the University of Illinois, Notre Dame, the University of Michigan, and Michigan State. Purdue won the most recent competition after different WMU teams had won the first two Challenges. The WMU team was comprised of James Lind (aeronautical engineering), Oscar Munoz (mechanical engineering), Michael Sharp (computer engineering), and Luke Sorrelle (electrical engineering).

Team coordinators Dr. Damon Miller and Professor Fred Sitkins were not allowed to assist the students. The engineering design competition rated student teams on their ability to build a device that could complete several tasks, including navigating an inclined plane, decoding an optically encoded audio signal, and autonomously locating and lifting a weight. After a Thursday evening kickoff meeting, student teams worked through the night to construct their devices for the Friday afternoon competition. Teams were able to view the course but were not allowed practice runs, adding to the degree of difficulty. Stryker uses the Engineering Challenge to showcase opportunities for students and to recruit engineering talent.



WMU group L-R: Stryker mentors Brett Merkel and Cami Parrish, Professor Sitkins, team members Michael Sharp, James Lind, Oscar Munoz, and Luke Sorrelle, and Dr. Miller . (Photograph courtesy of Hillary Davis, Stryker.)

(D. Miller and F. Sitkins, contributors)

## Michigan Industry Road Trip is Back 2013 Spring Break



Career and Student Employment Services at WMU is proud to present the 2nd annual Michigan Industry Road Trip for Spring Break 2013. This program is designed for students studying engineering and/or applied sciences who are interested in networking with employers, exploring various professions, learning more about corporate culture, and discovering all of the incredible opportunities within the state of Michigan. This year's trip will be taking participants to dynamic cities and companies throughout the state, giving students an exclusive chance to network with senior leadership and WMU alumni at prestigious companies.

Student participants will tour facilities of global industry leaders, interact with the leadership positions throughout Michigan, and learn about career pathways and opportunities in engineering and applied sciences.

Student application packets are available at the WMU Parkview Advising Suite (E-102) and at Career and Student Employment Services, 1401 Ellsworth Hall.

Applications are due by Friday, February 1st, 2013. Information and application packets can also be found online at: [CEAS Events](#). You can also view last year's student participants testimonials at: [WMU Career YouTube](#) about their 2012 Michigan Industry Road Trip experiences. Advance your career by taking part in the 2nd annual state-wide trip.

## Senior Design Project Conference Coming up December 4th 2012

The conference is free and open to the public. You are welcome to attend all or part of the day's events. Reservations are not necessary. High school and community college educators are encouraged to bring students to the conference. Buses can drop off passengers in the College Circle in front of the building and then park in lot P-2. For more information contact Tamara Bergman at (269)276-3248.

Tuesday Dec. 4, 8:30-4pm Parkview Campus. For more information visit:

[Senior Engineering Design Conference](#)

