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To everyone who "GAVE A SLICE"

Thank you!

Thanks for the support!

We are so grateful to everyone who donated to our Pi Day "Give A Slice" campaign.

[More Details](#)



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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**College of Engineering
and Applied Sciences**

Top seniors honored as 2018 Presidential Scholars

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Entrepreneurs head to pitch competition with Speed E-Box

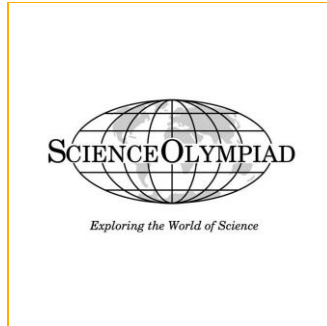
Mechanical engineering students Chris Messecar and Blake Agy will be pitching their product and vying for awards in the Schulze Entrepreneurship Challenge at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis

April 12-15.

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Engineering student
inspires 300 young
innovators



Area students compete
in Science Olympiad
tournament at WMU



College
Snapshot:
Floyd Hall

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Thanks for the support!



We are so grateful to everyone who donated to our Pi Day “Give A Slice” campaign. We received donations to our college, our departments and to our registered student organizations. Your gifts really make a difference in the lives of our students. Thank you!



The Sunseeker Team received the most in donations and was able to pie the dean in the face as a reward for its efforts.



WMU's Society of Women Engineers had the most donors and received a \$500 check from the dean.

We are hosting and you're invited!

Please join Western Michigan University's (WMU) College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and our steel bridge and concrete canoe teams this weekend as the college hosts the regional competition for the American Society of Civil Engineers April 6-8. Ten universities from Michigan and Ohio will be there to build steel bridges that can support 2,500 pounds and demonstrate their canoes are seaworthy as they paddle in a variety of races at Ramona Park in Portage on Sunday.

The schools are vying for a spot in the national finals. Our chance to host comes only once every decade and the event is free and open to the public.



The competition kicks off Saturday, April 7 at 9 a.m. at Floyd Hall at the Parkview campus. Concrete canoe races will be held at [Portage's Ramona Park](#) on Sunday, April 8, beginning at 9 a.m.



Top seniors honored as 2018 Presidential Scholars

Among the 50 students recognized as Western Michigan University's top seniors for 2018 were seven students from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The students were honored during the 38th annual Presidential Scholars Convocation on Tuesday, March 27, on campus in the Bernhard Center.

Each year, faculty members from across the University select the most outstanding senior in their various academic schools, departments and programs to represent their units as a WMU Presidential Scholar. This year, 50 scholars were chosen from a senior class of 5,437 students.

The Presidential Scholar designation is the highest academic honor that WMU can bestow on its undergraduates. Selection is based on the students' general academic excellence, academic and artistic excellence relative to their majors, and intellectual and artistic promise.

The 2018 Presidential Scholars Convocation, which was by invitation only, included a program featuring a keynote address by Dr. Edward Montgomery, president of WMU. Also making remarks were Dr. Suzan F. Ayers, president of the WMU Faculty Senate, and Chianté Lymon, president of the Western Student Association. After each of this year's scholars were recognized and awarded certificates, a dessert reception was held while the scholars had their pictures taken with Montgomery and Ayers.

Especially noteworthy among the college's scholars is Joshua White, who was named the Presidential Scholar in electrical and computer engineering as well as in world languages and literatures, also is an applied mathematics major, and is in an accelerated program through which he will earn a master's degree in computer engineering in 2019.

Congratulations to all the Presidential Scholars for 2018. Following is a list of scholars from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences:

Chemical and Paper Engineering—**Andrew D. Kathan** of Carmel, Indiana

Civil and Construction Engineering—**Anthony G. Conigliaro** of Sterling Heights

Computer Science—**James J. Ward** of Buchanan

Electrical and Computer Engineering—**Joshua J. White** of Paw Paw (double scholar)

Engineering Design, Manufacturing and Management Systems—**Cameron S. Tschupp** of Galien

Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management—**Lukas P. Swoboda** of Kalamazoo

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering—**Conner P. Knepley** of Stockbridge

Congratulations to the college's 2 new University Innovation Fellows

Two students from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences were among the 258 students from 64 higher education institutions in nine countries who recently were named University Innovation Fellows. Daniel Mozel, a student in engineering design technology, and Saleh Mohamed, a student in mechanical engineering, are part of the incoming group of the University Innovation Fellows program, which empowers students to become agents of change at their schools. Two other Western students also were named Fellows this year: Megan Miller, a marketing major, and Andy Hobelsberger, a physics major.

The program is run by Stanford University's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design. With the addition of this year's new Fellows, the program has trained more than 1,500 students since its creation. Fellows work to ensure that their peers gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to compete in the economy of the future and make a positive impact on the world. To accomplish this, these students advocate for lasting institutional change and create opportunities for other students to engage with innovation, entrepreneurship, design thinking and creativity at their schools. They design innovation spaces, start entrepreneurship organizations, host experiential learning events, and work with faculty to develop new courses.

"WMU and our college have had a number of students admitted into the University Innovation Fellows program in recent years," said Dr. Steve Butt, professor and department chair of Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management and also department chair for Engineering Design, Manufacturing and Management Systems. Butt is an ongoing supporter of the University Innovation Fellows program and obtained the funding for the college's students to attend. Sponsored by faculty and administrators as individuals or teams of students, Fellows are selected through an application process each year. After acceptance into the program, schools fund the students to go through six weeks of online training and travel to the University Innovation Fellows Silicon Valley Meetup. Throughout the year, Fellows take part in events and conferences and have opportunities to learn from one another, Stanford mentors, and leaders in academia and industry.

"These students are creative and resourceful, and are making an impact and positive change here at Western," he said. He noted, for example, that through the efforts of previous Fellows, an Innovation Club was started on campus and a student-run makerspace was created, providing a place for students to design, build and be creative. "Our participants in the University Innovation Fellows program really build resources that will last beyond their time at Western. They truly are agents of change."



Daniel Mozel



Saleh Mohamed

Entrepreneurs head to pitch competition with Speed E-Box



Mechanical engineering students Chris Messecar and Blake Agy will be pitching their product and vying for awards in the Schulze Entrepreneurship Challenge at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis April 12-15. Teams from 90 universities around the country applied, and WMU's team was one of just 25 finalists. Messecar and another teammate, Jonathan Penrod, are the developers of a device called Speed E-Box, which reduces the time to install an electrical junction box by eliminating the need to pre-cut drywall. They placed 4th at the Accelerate Michigan Competition in November.

The entrepreneurship challenge is part of "e-Fest," an event where the student teams will participate in a pitch competition, development workshops, an Innovation Challenge, and the featured event – the 25 finalist teams competing for awards and cash prizes totaling \$250,000, with a 1st place prize of \$75,000.

"We are so pleased to see Chris and Blake invited to this event," said Lara Hobson, operations director of WMU's Starting Gate business accelerator. "They were selected as one of the best business pitches in a rigorous online competition by a panel of 40 judges. There were very competitive teams from many outstanding universities. It will be exciting to see them competing with the best of the best."

The Schulze Entrepreneurship Challenge is made possible thanks in part to Richard Schulze, founder of Best Buy. Travel expenses and accommodations are provided for the finalists and advisors as well.

Engineering student inspires 300 young innovators at global Silicon Valley event

Western Michigan University students Nathan LaWarre and Jill Puckett were chosen by the University Innovation Fellows program as two of 24 student event leaders for the program's Silicon Valley Meetup, which took place March 15-19, 2018. LaWarre is a junior majoring in computer engineering and Puckett is a business student.



The 24 Fellows were hand-selected from an international community of 1,500 Fellows for the impact they have had at their schools and for their contributions to the movement. At the event, they represented their schools in front of 300 student and faculty attendees from 70 higher education institutions around the world. They gave presentations on their work as University Innovation Fellows, modeling for the new Fellows the kind of impact they can have at their own schools. Additionally, their demonstrated organization and leadership skills were put to work as they led and mentored teams of Fellows from different areas of the world.

"I was very excited and honored to be going back as a student leader for the Silicon Valley meet up," LaWarre said. "I was proud to be able to represent WMU among my peers." He and Puckett presented about the power and importance of good team chemistry and teamwork. "I also presented on my own about how to pass the torch of projects through generations of students," he said.

"Nathan has accomplished a great deal as one of our University Innovation Fellows," said Dr. Steve Butt, professor and chair of WMU's Department of Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering and Engineering Management. Butt has supported the University Innovation Fellows program and obtained the funding for LaWarre and others to participate in the program. "Nathan is a great ambassador for Western and always does an exemplary job representing our college."

The University Innovation Fellows program is a global program run by Stanford University's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design, which empowers student leaders to increase campus engagement with innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and design thinking.

Area students compete in Science Olympiad tournament at WMU

Western Michigan University hosted more than 400 middle school and high school students on Saturday, March 24 for a regional Science Olympiad tournament. Recognized as one of the nation's most prestigious science, technology, engineering and math competitions, Science Olympiad involves more than 7,000 teams in all 50 states. WMU, host to the Region 10 competition, included students from Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties.

Teams competed in events and challenges such as Mousetrap Vehicle, which involves designing, building and testing a vehicle that uses one or two single-spring mousetraps as their sole source of energy for propulsion; Hovercraft, which involves building an air-levitated vehicle that traverses a track; and Mission Possible, in which participants develop a Rube Goldberg device and energy transfers to complete a task.

"Science Olympiad is a program that showcases innovation in STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math," said Scot Conant, of WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and regional tournament director. "Students have opportunities for teamwork, problem solving and collaboration through fun, challenging hands-on events. For many, it's a memorable experience that lasts a lifetime."

WMU facilities were home to a full day of spectator events. About 150 WMU students, faculty and staff volunteers helped with the event.



College Snapshot: Floyd Hall

Floyd Hall

Home of WMU's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

343,000 square-foot facility on a 265-acre campus featuring

- 2 600-foot long wings • 75 research and teaching labs • 9 computer labs
- located in a Business Technology Park home to 44 companies in life sciences, information technology and advanced engineering

