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The Academic Committee of the Construction Industry Institute (CII), awarded WMU’s Civil and Construction Engineering assistant professor, Dr. Pingbo Tang with the Best Poster Award on July 27th at the annual CII conference. The posters submitted for the display had to introduce new construction industry research activities. Posters had to be beyond the idea or proposal stage and needed to present research objectives, methodology, and results. The poster was co-authored with Burcu Akinci of Carnegie Mellon University and was selected by a panel of academic and industry representatives.

Right: The poster, "Formalization and Characterization of Workflows for Extracting Bridge Surveying Goals from Laser-Scanned Data" creatively displays the objectives, the methodology and the outcomes. Congratulations to both authors.

On August 6th the Sunseeker crew attended the Red Barn Spectacular event held at the Gilmore Car Museum. The Sunseeker won an appreciation award for their effort. This event is considered one the biggest featuring antique, classic and special interest cars, with a swap meet and a car corral. Hundreds of cars were displayed and it was a great showing for the Sunseeker.

While on tour at the American Foundry Society (AFS) Dr. Sam Ramrattan and graduate students AJ Oman and Sean Derrick, were shown an extremely difficult cast piece. This particular casting has represented the gold standard for green sand castings for the past 30 years. Lenard Ivey, a master foundryman created it to add a twist to the standard test given to apprentices. It was featured in Modern Casting Magazine back in April of 1979. The original test included only the saucer, cup, and spoon. Ivey added the marble which debuted an additional degree of difficulty. Sean and AJ decided to tackle the challenge by going one step further in their effort by improving on the cast. They modified the original design by using a more complex curved cup, a WMU embossed saucer, and a thinner spoon with a rose patterned handle. The result is an impressive display of their level of competency. The piece was finished by fellow grad student Jason Klein. Below side by side: Left is their original model design setting and right, their casted piece. This illustrates the success of the team’s challenge.

On August 14th SAE hosted the first annual "Alumni Drive" on east campus behind the Health and Human Services. For a donation, alumni were given the opportunity to drive the formula car on a mapped track. The driver who had the best time was awarded a plaque. Ed Zagley ME 07’, was the winner with the best time of 21.47 seconds. Even with a little rain the event was very successful. After the driving competition the group enjoyed a cookout at the Parkview campus followed by a presentation of the car’s design. Thanks to the alumni, faculty, and Dean Vizzini for attending the event, SAE is looking forward to seeing you next year at the 2nd annual Alumni Drive.

Sunseeker Team Receives Special Appreciation Award at Gilmore Museum’s Red Barn Spectacular Event

First Annual SAE Alumni Drive

One Saucer, One Cup, One Spoon, & One Marble Makes for One Difficult Challenge

Construction Industry Institute Awards
Dr. Pingbo Tang with the Best Poster Award

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The Sunseeker team after receiving their award.

AJ Oman and Sean Derrick with cast piece.

Handmade cast using green sand without cores.