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Mechanical and Aeronautical Merit Awards

Congratulations goes to this year’s Mechanical and Aeronautical Merit scholarship recipients. The objectives of MAE Merit Scholarships are to attract meritorious students into Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering undergraduate programs. The award also seeks to retain and encourage the students with excellent academic performance in these programs.

Engineers Week Scholarship Recipients Named

Congratulations to Benjamin Ochoa and Lexi Pierce, 2013 Eweek scholarship winners. Ben shared that he is thankful to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and especially to the Southwest and WMU chapters. He stated that the scholarship meant a lot to him and that it was nice to be recognized for his academic and extracurricular work and that the scholarship will definitely help financially to continue his education. Lexi shared that it meant a lot to her to have been given this award and that she is thankful for all of the opportunities that the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) has provided her. Lexi is a sophomore who is studying Pre-Engineering and is expected to graduate in June 2016. Ben is a senior who is studying Civil Engineering and is expected to graduate in June 2014.

Dr. Said Abubakr Named American Institute of Chemical Engineers Fellow

Congratulations to Dr. Said Abubakr on becoming an American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Fellow. Dr. Abubakr is the chair of the WMU Chemical and Paper Engineering Department. AIChE is the world’s leading organization for chemical engineering professionals, with over 40,000 members from over 90 countries.

National Science Foundation Fellowships Awarded to Current & Former Civil Engineering Students Chelsea Griffith & Adam Mueller

Chelsea Griffith who graduated in December, described how participating in the 2012 Summer Institute in Taiwan (SIT) program was an excellent opportunity to see how research was conducted at a state-of-the-art facility under highly respected host researchers. Professor Keh-Chyuan Tsai and Dr. Kung-Juin Wang were very welcoming and helpful in finding a place in the lab where my research interests were best matched. The opportunity to share her own research and previous laboratory experiences helped her feel she was contributing as well as learning from the National Center for Research on Earthquake Engineering (NCREE). Chelsea described the work ethic and enthusiasm of students and staff at the NCREE and National Taiwan University was not only impressive, but also an inspiration to take back to her own laboratory. She is sincerely grateful to Professor Tsai for the opportunity to conduct research and learn from everyone at NCREE. She said, “Taiwan is a truly amazing country, and I would like to thank the SIT staff for the dedication it took to make our visit what it was.”

Adam Mueller is a graduate student and said that his plans for the summer included traveling to Harbin, China to perform research under Dr. Bin Wu of the Harbin In-
Plainwell 5th Grade Visions students visited the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences recently and took part in some fun and challenging activities. Below right, an egg catch activity where the students are provided with limited items to build a platform to protect a falling egg. Below left, students were challenged to create a CAD project in one of the computer labs. The Visions program provides gifted and talented students with challenging classes and events.

Cold Weather Didn’t Stop a Great Turn Out for the Region 10 Science Olympiad

There were over 400 middle and high school students from Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, and Kalamazoo counties that gathered for the Region 10 Science Olympiad competition Saturday, March 16th. The competition ran from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Wood Hall, Rood Hall, Chemistry Building, Dalton Center, Bernhard Center, and the Student Recreation Center. Approximately 150 WMU students, faculty and staff volunteers were involved in some aspect of the Olympiad. There were 45 different events in the competition designed to test competitor’s knowledge of physical, applied, and health science areas. Individuals and teams competed in events such as: flight; tower building for efficiency; classical biology, physics and chemistry; technical writing; remote sensing and others. The Science Olympiad is a national, nonprofit organization designed to promote scientific literacy among all students, a goal shared by education, business, industry and government. The Region 10 tournament directors are Marty Buehler of Hastings Area Schools and Scot Conant of WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. To learn more about Science Olympiad in Michigan, go to [Michigan Science Olympiad](https://www.michiganolympiad.org).

Plainwell 5th Grade Visions Students Take On Creative Challenges

Plainwell 5th Grade Visions students visited the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences recently and took part in some fun and challenging activities. Below right, an egg catch activity where the students are provided with limited items to build a platform to protect a falling egg. Below left, students were challenged to create a CAD project in one of the computer labs. The Visions program provides gifted and talented students with challenging classes and events.

52nd Senior Design Project Conference Coming up April 16th, 2013

The next Senior Engineering Design Conference is planned for **Tuesday, April 16, 2013** from 8:00am to 4:00pm at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences on the Parkview Campus of Western Michigan University. The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences sponsors the conference to showcase the work of its graduating seniors, who are required to complete a capstone project that puts into practice what they have learned. Many of the projects are sponsored by business and industry. 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. For more information contact Tamara Bergman at (269) 276-3248. Or visit [Senior Engineering Design Conference](https://www.wmich.edu/engineer).

Upcoming Events

- [Custer Workplace Lecture Series, April 2nd](#)
- [Custer Workplace Lecture Series, April 16th](#)