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Western Michigan University
College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Engagement = Leadership = Globalization = Innovation

December 20, 2013
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"We are continually faced by great opportunities brilliantly disguised as unsolvable problems."
~ Lee Iacocca

CEAS News

Foundry Educational Foundation’s College in Industry Conference Scholarships

Western Michigan University is one of only 19 universities in the world to be certified with the Foundry Educational Foundation. Pictured left are the Western Michigan University delegates and Dr. Sam Ramrattan, who attended the College in Industry conference. Students Joseph Gray, Larry Glosch, II and Jonathan Giove received scholarships at the event. Over 300 industry executives, student delegates, key professors and university administrators were in attendance at this year’s FEF College Industry Conference, held recently in Chicago. Companies at the conference have a unique opportunity to meet the top engineering students in the country. There is a Career Information Session that allows a company to interview or to acquaint future industry leaders with their products and services. Over $30,000 in special scholarships and grants are available to undergraduate and graduate students.

CCE Researchers to Evaluate Michigan’s Engineering Improvements for Older Drivers

Michigan crash data shows that over the past decade (2002-2011), while overall fatal crashes decreased by more than 30 percent for all drivers, they only decreased by 7.8 percent for elderly drivers. Over the past several years, The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in coordination with the Governors Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) has implemented several engineering countermeasures and programs aimed at addressing the needs of older drivers. Many of these improvements and programs have the additional benefit of helping the general driving population too. MDOT has awarded a two-year $295,582 research contract to WMU transportation researchers to evaluate the effectiveness of five engineering improvements: Clearview Font on Guide Signs (freeway and non-freeway); Box Span Signal Installation; Pedestrian Countdown Signal Installation; Fluorescent Yellow Sheeting; and Lane Use Arrows on Diagrammatic Signing. The research will develop Crash Modification Factors (CMF) and Safety Performance Functions (SPF) for older drivers as they relate to these improvements. The results are expected to have a direct impact on the level of funding and what infrastructure improvements should be continued and/or initiated. Dr. Valerian Kwigizile leads the research as the Principal Investigator (PI) and Dr. Jun-Seok Oh is the Co-PI. The research team also includes Dr. Ron Van Houten (Psychology) and Dr. Diana Prieto (IME). ~ Valerian Kwigizile, contributor.

Institute of Transportation Engineers Awards

Congratulations to Bryce Wegner and Matt Clark, both were chosen as recipients of ITE Michigan scholarship. Each student received a scholarship of $2,000. ITE Michigan provides student assistance for university students at Michigan State University, Wayne State University, Michigan Technological University and Western Michigan University and has been ongoing since 1989.

L-R: Bryce Wegner and Matt Clark

L-R: Jonathan Giove, Sam Ramrattan, Chantalle Morency and Isaac Williams; Back left to right: Joseph Gray and Larry Glosch, II
Scenes From the 53rd Senior Engineering Design Conference

WMU Flying Disc Mold by: Dennis Williams, Chelsea Briggs, Eddy Cox and Chantalle Morency.

Dual-Purpose Desktop Machine by: Kenneth Klingler, Austin Grieve, and Miguel Acuña.

Design for Manufacture and Assembly Analysis of a Cooling Tunnel Structure by: Allison Buchholz, James Peters, Matthew Schultz and Charles Washburn

The conference was well attended by many students, family members, faculty and sponsors.

To view the brochure on the 53rd Senior Engineering Design conference and more visit our SEDP webpage.

New Student Chapter Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

If you are a Western Michigan University student interested in engineering, science, and Hispanic culture, you should check out WMU’s new organization: Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Student Chapter. The society’s main objectives are to promote the advancement of Hispanic engineers and scientists in employment and education and to develop and participate in programs that promote the understanding of Hispanic culture. An introductory meeting took place this past October at the college of engineering with about 30 attendees, including students and supporting faculty. The executive board is includes 4 engineering students: Marylin Glass (president), Lorena Pena (vice-president), Milton Soto (treasurer) and Nathan Ortiz (secretary); and 3 faculty members: Dr. Laila Cure, Dr. Diana Prieto and Dr. Jorge Rodriguez. Interested students are encouraged to register with the National SHPE Chapter. Registration with the National Chapter is required to be a member of the organization at WMU. The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences has agreed to cover 50% of the registration fee for the first 30 students who register. After reaching a minimum of 10 registered students, the society will apply for national recognition. We’re hoping to become an official SHPE student chapter by Spring 2014.

~ Marylin Glass-Hedges, contributor

Congratulations!

L-R: Parvis & Steve Crocker, a teammate. Recently Dr. Parvis Merati chair of the MAE department, won the Racquetball's Division A league at the Bronson Athletic Club competition for Fall 2013. He shared this accomplishment in an effort to help promote healthy lifestyles. Well done!