10-17-2014

CEAS e-news 10.17.2014

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I think of it as a good opportunity to let, in particular, school kids know that this job and other interesting jobs in science and engineering are open to anyone who works hard in school and gets a good education and studies math and science. And that it’s not just for a select group of people.

~ Ellen Ochoa

2014 Engineering Expo Crowd the Largest to Date

There were nearly 1000 students that took advantage of the opportunity to meet with recruiters representing 121 companies at the Engineering Expo. Lynn-Kelly Albertson Executive Director Career and Student Employment Services, reported that there were 312 students who received next-day interviews and that the group from Chrysler were very impressed with out students and she personally heard them saying, “That student blew me away.”, more than once during the interviews conducted at Ellsworth Hall. Volunteers from the entire Academic Advising office, the entire staff of Career and Student Employment Services, and many CEAS RSO students made this event the best one yet. WMU partners that participated in the event included Alumni and Development, Study Abroad, The Graduate College, Immigration Services, ROTC, and the Green Manufacturing Initiative Consortium. Dr. Paul Engelmann assistant dean, discovered that many of the 1st year CEAS students that attended were surprised that employers had offered them interviews for summer internships, he thought that was not bad for being at WMU for one short month. He also had conversations with several company representatives, and found that many were WMU alumni who had returned to recruit our current students. The halls at CEAS were full of enthusiastic interaction, impressive company exhibits, and motivated and inspired students.
University Innovation Fellows

The National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation has announced that two of our students Zachary Crawford and Persefoni Lauhon, have just completed training to join their University Innovation Fellows, a national program that empowers student leaders to increase campus engagement with entrepreneurship, innovation, creativity, design thinking and venture creation. Fifty-eight new Fellows joined the current network, with a total number of 168 Fellows from 85 schools. The program is run by Epicenter, which is funded by the National Science Foundation and directed by Stanford University and VentureWell. Zachary and Persefoni are supported by WMU faculty sponsor Steven Butt, to create new experiences for students at WMU. For more information on the strategic priorities that our Fellows have planned visit: Western Michigan University Student Priorities.

~Laurie Moore - Epicenter, contributor

Gagie School Students Get Hands-On Experience

Throughout the month of September, 1st through 8th grade students from The Gagie School in Kalamazoo visited CEAS to learn about the different types of engineering disciplines and participate in hands-on activities. The activities included drawing with AutoCAD, building a structure with limited materials in a design challenge, testing the structure using the shaker table, competing in a paper airplane contest, making license plates, experiencing an ergonomics demonstration, and learning about the Sunseeker solar car. There were many that contributed their time and effort to make the activities fun. The students had a blast!

~ Persefoni Lauhon, contributor
2014 Armstrong International Scholarship Recipients

The Armstrong International scholarships are awarded to students who are pursuing the Energy Management option within the Chemical Engineering program here at CEAS. The awards are typically given to juniors and seniors on an annual basis. Armstrong International is a multi-national and family-owned company that develops intelligent system solutions for steam, air, and hot water. Congratulations to Gabriel Cole, Alec Anderson, Trevor Dalton, Aric Beikmann, Seth Vincent, Jeffrey Timmer, Jin Yu Woo, and Shaun Shields the 2014 scholarship recipients. Patrick Armstrong is the President and CEO of Armstrong International and is also a WMU alumnus. Tom Henry, Tom Hiatt, and Rex Scare from Armstrong International attended and presented the awards to the students.

WMU Chapter of Tau Beta Pi Earns Service Award Scholarship

WMU Chapter President Spencer Watza is shown right receiving a 2013-2014 Chapter Project Award on behalf of the Michigan Kappa Chapter from TBP President Larry Simonson at its national convention. Tau Beta Pi is a national engineering honor society that recognizes students that have demonstrated “distinguished scholarship and exemplary character” [tbp.org]. The chapter earned a TBP Chapter Project Award Scholarship based on receiving a chapter project award three years in a row. The WMU chapter is one of only 15 across the country to earn this scholarship. The award is for one year and is a mark of dedication of the chapter members and advisors to the principles of Tau Beta Pi.

Photo courtesy Ray Thompson at the Tau Beta Pi National Office
Dr. Ala Al-Fuqaha Awarded $900,000 Qatar Foundation Grant

Drs. Ala Al-Fuqaha (WMU, PI), Iyes Ben Hamida (QMIC, Lead-PI) and Bharat Bhargava (Purdue University, PI) have been awarded a $900,000 Qatar Foundation grant to study intelligent transport systems (ITS). Through the use of wireless technologies, ITS systems will enable vehicles to autonomously communicate with other nearby vehicles or road infrastructures and therefore, will have the potential to accelerate the deployment of a wide range of road safety and driver assistive applications. This innovative project aims at establishing long term and multidisciplinary R&D efforts between Qatari and US research centers and universities, with the objective of designing, deploying and evaluating an Adaptive ITS Framework for the dynamic adaptation of the security and performance features based on changes in the ITS applications needs and context. The proposed framework and security models will be integrated in a standard compliant ITS platform, and a set of active road safety applications will be demonstrated in Doha city through small scale deployments.

Dr. Bade Shrestha Named ASME Fellow

Dr. Bade Shrestha, professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, has been named a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Bade Shrestha started his professional career more than 29 years ago as a lecturer at Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Nepal and then as a faculty at the University of Calgary, Canada. Since, he has worked as a chief scientist and technology officer for energy and environmental companies before joining Western Michigan University in 2003. ASME cited Bade Shrestha for his contribution in advancing mechanical engineering particularly on the area of alternative fuel combustion, internal combustion engine knocking modeling, and flammability limits as noteworthy and exemplary, and for many years of his contribution in engineering education and training of hundreds of engineers. He has over sixty technical fundamental scientific papers published in various international refereed journals and conferences, and four patent applications. He has received the prestigious Mitsui Babcock Energy Award, and has earned an outstanding reputation in his area of expertise. He is currently also severing as an associate editor for ASME journal of Energy Resources Technology. He is a director of the Alternative Fuel Research Laboratory and Fuel Cell Research and Evaluation Center at the college. His research focuses on alternative fuel combustion, alternative energy and hydrogen, energy economics and policy, advanced internal combustion engines, fuel cells and lithium ion battery, flammability limits, reacting flow and hypersonic combustion in scramjets. Bade Shrestha received his M. Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering from Riga Civil Aviation Engineers Institute, Latvia; M.Sc and Ph. D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Calgary, Canada.

~Bade Shrestha, contributor

Generac “Experience the Power” Demo Trailer Visits WMU

Dr. Johnson Asumadu took his ECE class to experience the tour of the Generac large portable generator demo trailer recently. The generators have the necessary switch gear for automatic power transfer. Plans are to make this an annual class tour. The students thought it was very informative. For more information on the power demo visit: Generac.