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Chemical and Paper Engineering Department Chair Steps Down

We honor Dr. Said AbuBakr, as he steps down from Chair of the Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering to faculty in the New Year. He has driven a time of extraordinary strength and growth during his 13 years as chair, with the department growing from an enrollment of 142 students in 2001 to 358 students today. Dr. AbuBakr has been very supportive of faculty, students and alumni, nominating several ChP members for CEAS awards. His dedication has also led to expansion of the department in several important areas, including a new Master’s program in Chemical Engineering and the hiring of several new faculty with research concentrated in biomolecular engineering and medicine, strengthening ties with industry and WMed. Dr. AbuBakr is widely recognized on a national and international level and has been elected an AIChE Fellow in 2012, Ben Franklin Educator of the Year in 2013, and an ABET Engineering Commissioner in 2014. He looks forward to several new challenges and opportunities, as he will be heavily involved in fundraising for WMU Chemical Engineering scholarship funds, establishing and developing a new undergraduate program in Medical Engineering, working with HIGE to recruit international students and helping with continued ABET accreditation of CEAS programs. We thank Dr. AbuBakr for several wonderful years of his service and look forward to his continued contributions to sustained success here at WMU.

~ James Springstead, contributor

WMU Hosting 36th Engineers Week Dinner in February

The Engineers Week dinner will be held at the Fetzer Center on the campus of Western Michigan University at 6:30 p.m., with a social hour at 5:30. Dr. Joe Stufflebeam, engineering manager for TRAX International, LLC at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, is the featured speaker. Originally from Kalamazoo, Dr. Stufflebeam is a graduate of Otsego High School. He has worked in research and development at White Sands for 24 years, focusing on the development of digital motion imagery and weapons testing. Dr. Stufflebeam has collaborated on numerous engineering and R & D projects with the Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, Jet Propulsion Lab, Maui Space Surveillance Site, and the Department of Defense Motion Imagery Standards Board. He has also participated in a technology briefing to Congress on Capitol Hill. His lecture, entitled Achieving Excellence in Engineering through Testing and Evaluation, will explore the process of evaluation to increase efficiency and effectiveness. A case study using the Space Shuttle and the challenges of long range imaging will show the utility of timely, integrated assessment and feedback. For more information visit: Engineers Week.