Alumni Excellence Academy 2015
Dr. Edmund Tsang Recognized

Developing a New Project From the Idea Stage Through Rapid Prototyping
Armstrong Scholarship Recipients 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS
Alumni Excellence Academy 2015

The Alumni Excellence Academy event was held at the Bernhard Center during homecoming weekend. The inductees, their family members and engineering faculty took part in several activities held in conjunction with homecoming and the University’s Distinguished Alumni Reception. Alumni Excellence Academy inductees have embraced the expectations of our graduates to change the world. Each of these distinguished alumni has achieved a high level of authority within their chosen profession, have benefited significantly the mission of their organization, and have demonstrated personal integrity of the highest caliber. Read more about each recipient.

Dr. Edmund Tsang Recognized

L-R: Dr. Edmund Tsang and Provost Tim Greene

Dr. Edmund Tsang was recently recognized for his two years of serving as interim dean at the College of Engineering and Applies Sciences. Tsang is associate dean for undergraduate programs and assessment at the college. While serving as interim dean Tsang was described as being tireless and not just wearing many hats, but wearing all the hats.
Provost Tim Greene presented him with an award during the college all-hands meeting where the entire faculty and staff at the college are invited. Tsang’s two children were also in attendance and were able to share in congratulating him.

Developing a New Project From the Idea Stage Through Rapid Prototyping

Conner Knepley is currently a junior mechanical engineering student here at Western Michigan University. Knepley is described by one of his instructors as being one of the top students in class, having great potential and a bright future. As an active member of the WMU Formula FSAE team he aspires to develop a career in automotive performance or research and development. Conner has spent the last two summers as an advanced engineering intern for Maxion Wheels which is a tier one automotive supplier and the world’s largest global manufacturer of steel and aluminum wheels for both the light vehicle and commercial vehicle markets. Knepley has been fortunate enough to gain experience in the advanced engineering department which is responsible for research and development. This department takes innovative concepts from the early idea stage through validation of production scale products. The advanced engineering department of Maxion displayed many concept (and current production) wheels at the 2015 Frankfurt International Auto Show (IAA). The IAA show is often used as a forum to display innovative solutions to current and future customers. The Maxion Wheels booth was located alongside other OEM suppliers during the Industry Days of the show, when the show is open to automotive media, suppliers and OE manufacturers.

Knepley explained that the objective of the project was to reduce the weight of steel wheels. "I utilized lightweight composite materials in key areas to reduce weight while maintaining the required strength characteristics. This lightweight steel wheel also utilizes 3D printing..."
technology to improve the aesthetic appearance of the wheel. An “overmold” is adhered to the face of the wheel to improve the bare appearance. I was responsible for designing both the fiber reinforcement and the 3D printed style ring. After final approval was received from upper management, I utilized rapid prototyping to ensure that the concept wheel would be available for display by the fall. This wheel, alongside many other concept projects, was displayed at the 2015 Frankfurt international Auto show in September and drew significant interest from both current and future customers." Knepley shared that he felt very fortunate to have been thoroughly involved in developing a new project from the idea stage through rapid prototyping.

Armstrong Scholarship Recipients 2015

L-R: Dean Toutanji, Adam Fritz, Tom Green, Tom Hiatt, Nolan Speer, Tom Henry, Said Abubakr, Edwina Dennis and Bill Rantz.

Congratulations to Edwina Dennis, Adam Fritz, Tom Green and Nolan Speer the 2015 Armstrong Energy Management scholarship recipients.

The Armstrong scholarships were awarded to students who are pursuing the energy management option within the chemical engineering program here at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The awards are typically given to juniors and seniors on an annual basis by Armstrong International which is a multi-national and family-owned company that develops intelligent system solutions for steam, air, and hot water. Adam Fritz one of the recipients, shared that the Armstrong scholarship award meant that he would not have to work during the school year, which allows him to concentrate on classes more.

Patrick Armstrong (86’) is the President and CEO of Armstrong International and was also a 2011 CEAS Alumni Excellence Academy Inductee. Tom Henry, and Tom Hiatt are Armstrong International executives who attended and presented the awards to the students. Dean Houssam Toutanji, professor Said Abubakr and Bill Rantz department chair, also attended the award presentations.