Ferris State University

Explore Your Future

Discover Unexpected Opportunities

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Outstanding Students & Faculty

Backrow pictured from left: Dean Larry Schult, Mr. Dan Wanink, Mr. Larry Langell, Ms. Angie Mishler, Dr. David Pilgrim, Ms. Debbie Dawson, Dr. Roberta Teahen, Ms. Leigha Compson, Ms. Suzanne Miller | Front row pictured from left: Megan Cramer, Stacie Larson, Quincee Denault, Kaylie Bohn

In late April, the College of Engineering Technology (CET) hosted its first annual Recognition Dinner to celebrate the women within the college. Given that this was the first time an event like this was planned, the organizing committee was unsure of what to expect in terms of attendance. The response rate far exceeded expectations so much so that the maximum capacity of the room reserved was nearly reached. The catered food even had to be moved to a separate room to allow space for additional seating! Students, faculty, and staff from across CET were invited to submit nominations for awards, and the high number of responses received was exciting. With so many outstanding nominations submitted, the review committee had a challenging task to identify the winners for each category. After a careful review, the following exceptional individuals received awards:

Outstanding Nontraditional Student Award: Quincee Denault
Nontraditional Student Rising Star Award: Megan Cramer
Nontraditional Student Community Service Award: Stacie Larson
Nontraditional Exceptional Support: Mr. Larry Langell
Outstanding Nontraditional Advocate: Ms. Suzanne Miller

In addition, Kaylie Bohn, a student from the Industrial Electronics Technology program was selected by the State of Michigan to receive a Breaking Traditions Merit Award. Congratulations, everyone!

Networking Activity

To continue the energy from the Fall 2015 Mixer Event with alum Erin Lavender, the third annual spring Networking Event was held in February. Successful College of Engineering Technology alums Dacey Beard-Wells and Toni King shared their experiences with students, faculty, and staff. Although both women graduated from the heavy equipment program, they have chosen two different career paths as Dacey works in the heavy equipment industry in Grand Rapids and Toni is a Diesel Technology Instructor for high school students. The event was well attended and it was clear in the event evaluations that the tips and information shared were appreciated and motivated students to continue pursuing their career goals. Thank you, alums!

Dacey Beard-Wells and Toni King pose on the job

"The benefit of learning skills in a nontraditional career field is that it adds diversity, provides a new way of thinking, and it sends a message. Not only do you learn new skills but you break barriers that were once set about that career. I see how to solve problems differently than my peers. This new way of thinking affects society as well."

- Kaylie Bohn,

Industrial Electronics Technology Student & Breaking Traditions 2016 Merit Award Winner

Debra Kimberling Visits Ferris

On April 22, 2016 Debra Kimberling visited Ferris to offer workshops for students, faculty, and staff. Debra is a mechanical engineer with Solar Turbines, a subsidiary of Caterpillar in California. Previously she was an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Purdue University. A fellow of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), she is passionate about encouraging women to pursue and persist in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers. Her workshop for faculty and staff, Best Practices for Recruiting and Retaining Women in STEM, focused on identifying the impacts of outdated stereotypes, unconscious biases, cultural conditioning, and tools to help students gain confidence and gain awareness of the growth mindset. Students were invited to have lunch with Debra as she shared her Unwritten Rules for Career Success that highlighted female role models, tools to develop a sense of confidence in fields dominated by males, and tips to maintain the energy required to persist despite obstacles. It's no wonder that Debra has received such outstanding presentation reviews as she has spoken on related topics to over 3,000 people drawing on social research and her 30 years of engineering experience . To access resources and learn more about Debra's work, visit https://debra kimberling.wordpress.com.

Robotics Competition

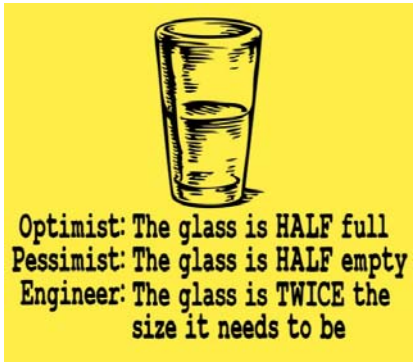
Thanks to a grant awarded by the Michigan STEM Partnership and coordination by the local Math/Science/Technology Center at the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, several area schools were able to learn coding and robotics through clubs at their schools. They were invited to participate in a competition at Ferris in February and were challenged to code their robots to complete various tasks. Over 40% of the participants were females, and the first place team included many young women as well. We need more young women to consider careers in STEM and persist in these jobs so that the workforce in these industries can be reflective of society. Many student volunteers made the event possible too from the programs of Construction Management and HVACR and student organizations including the Mechanical Service Contractors of America and the Women in Technology. Pictured to the left is a photo of the award winning teams from Chippewa Hills. Way to go!

Watch a video of the event by scanning the code or visiting www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qwGeOR6F94

Resources

Ferris students have access to a multitude of resources to support success. For a list of some of the resources available, visit http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/center/resources/general/StudentSupport.htm. Students also are encouraged to check out additional resources and opportunities to get involved through the Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services at www.ferris.edu/careerservices

Laughable



TEA Events Continue to Grow

In the Fall of 2014, five Ferris faculty/staff members participated in professional development to become certified Technology Engineering Aptitude (TEA) Trainers. Since then, TEA events have been scheduled around the community as well as at Ferris to host groups of young women interested in exploring career opportunities in engineering and related fields through hands-on activities. *This past semester we nearly doubled the participants involved in TEA events compared to the prior spring semester!* TEA events encourage students to problem solve and gain confidence to accept challenges. It also educates them about the incredible diversity of career opportunities associated with engineering fields. Engineers design, engineers create, engineers help others, and engineers make the world a better place. Did you know that women in science, technology, engineering, and math related fields earn on average 33 percent more than women in other fields? Students and their parents are excited to learn more about this field, especially given the high demand for women in the fields, job security, and high wages associated with engineering related careers. Graduates from the College of Engineering Technology are accepting job offers in a variety of fields and many are focused on helping others. Thank you to the amazing group of student volunteers who have helped make these TEA events possible through serving as *role models* throughout the day, sharing your experiences, and fielding questions through student panels. Thank you to the area schools and community partners as well for your interest and support of these events. We look forward to continued growth to offer these programs to even more students in the upcoming academic year! If you are interested in scheduling a TEA event or volunteering at one, please contact Leigha Compson at leighacompson@ferris.edu or 231-591-3549.

Breaking the Mold

On May 2, 2016, Professor Suzanne Miller and University Career Programs Specialist Leigha Compson were invited to a television interview at the WOOD TV 8 studio in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They met with Maranda to discuss opportunities for women in nontraditional fields. An article about the interview along with the video is available at http://wotv4women.com/2016/05/02/women-break-the-mold/

STEM News

Wanted: More female role models in STEM fields! A recent study from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Duke University found a link between female math and science high school teachers and their white female students pursuing STEM related programs in college. In other words, if a white female student graduated from a high school comprised of more female math and science teachers than male, she is more likely to declare a STEM major in college. Furthermore, no relationship between the demographics of teachers and the pursuit of STEM programs in college with male students was found. The study also evaluated African American females but the correlation between female math and science teachers and STEM majors in college was not observed. The researchers believe this may be because the STEM climate is so "chilly" for this group they need more than the presence of a female teacher to help them overcome barriers. Regardless, the research provides further support of the significant impact role models in STEM fields can have upon students. For more information, visit http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spv027 .

Program Feature

The College of Engineering Technology's Heating, Ventilation, Air Condition, and Refrigeration (HVACR) program encourages females to experience key aspects of this high job placement rate industry through a summer academy. In the past year, several students have been awarded scholarships to participate in the hands-on HVACR career exploration program including Sara Hillabrand and Cecilla Croschere of Grant, Michigan. Newaygo Career Technical Center also honored these top students with awards to support their attendance. When asked about the experience, Sara Hillabrand stated, "The HVACR program grabbed my attention when I went through the Granger Center for a tour...This camp allowed me to experience the 'hands-on' curriculum and laboratories and meet faculty. Pursuing this degree will enable me to have a better future." To learn more about this academy and others offered by the College of Engineering Technology, visit http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/visitors/summercamps/.

Volunteer Thank You

Thank you a million times over to our incredibly talented, caring, and organized volunteers who supported many events and served as role models for younger female students. Thank you to the Women in Technology (WIT) student organization for your time and efforts as well. *You're here for a reason*, and we are grateful for you all!

Ferris Grads At Work

Your Name: Kristen Kuk

Job Title: Graduate Architect

Employer: Axis Architecture + Interiors

Degrees awarded: Ball State University - Master of Architecture (2013), Ferris State University – Bachelor of Science degree in Facility Management (2010), Ferris State University – Associate in Applied Science degree in Architectural Technology (2008)

How would you describe your current position? The firm I work for has a variety of project types and scales. I am currently working in the schematic design phase of an office renovation, construction administration for a downtown façade renovation and design develop of an apartment building. My tasks vary on the day from graphical representations, developing construction documents to reviewing project submittals.

How has your education supported you in your job thus far? Getting introduced to so many aspects of the profession in the classroom has given me a solid foundation that I rely on in the office. Design concepts, the technical aspects of a building, construction detailing and software that I was exposed to at Ferris State and Ball State I use on a daily basis

Kristen Kuk '10

How was the job search process? The job search process was competitive. It was important to develop a resume and portfolio that highlighted your best qualities and what you could bring to a firm. Attending job fairs and being involved in campus organizations helped create a network that was critical in finding a job.

What do you see as your biggest challenge? The biggest challenge is working through multiple concepts until you find the successful solution. The design process takes time, research and the development of multiple concepts until you develop a final solution that meets the needs of the project.

What do you do in your spare time? In my spare time I enjoy being active whether it is biking, running or traveling. The joy of exploring new cities and their architecture started with field trips at Ferris State and Ball State that I continue to enjoy to this day.

What advice would you give to current students? School is going to be what you make it. Study what interests you and keep learning about the topic even outside the classroom.

"Getting introduced to so many aspects of the profession in the classroom has given me a solid foundation that I rely on in the office."

— Kristen Kuk, Graduate Architect, Axis Architecture + Interiors and 2010 Ferris Graduate

In Closing

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter! If you have an idea or comment, we would love to hear from you! You may share your comments with Leigha Compson, University Career Programs Specialist at leighacompson@ferris.edu or by phone at 231-591-3549. I'm available this summer if students wish to schedule time to meet. Enjoy your summer!

CET Diversity Statement

The College of Engineering Technology provides a dynamic experiential learning environment that is inclusive, equitable and just for all individuals, regardless of human differences.

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Workforce Development Agency. Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, Visit ferris.edu/non-discrimination.