Ferris State University

Spring 2017

Explore Your Future

Discover Unexpected Opportunities

Recognizing Excellence

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

College of Engineering Technology students Maycee Robinson, Julia Tisdale, and Teanna VanHorn

President Eisler and industry partner Stephanie Leonardos, Amerikam President and CEO

The College of Engineering Technology hosted its second annual recognition Banquet to celebrate the accomplishments and dedication of outstanding female students, advocates, and industry partnerships. Approximately 75 people attended the evening dinner that was followed by an awards presentation. President Eisler, Provost Blake, Dean Schult, Associate Dean McKean, and other administrators, faculty, and staff attended in support of the event. One of the award winners from the 2015-2016 academic year, heavy equipment technology student Megan Cramer, shared with the group that her academic goals and pursuit of a career that she loves fuel her determination to persist in a field that is male dominated. The planning committee met multiple times over the course of the year to plan the event and review the numerous award nominations received. Stephanie Leonardos, President and CEO of Grand Rapids based organization, Amerikam was honored with the first annual industry partnership award. Much gratitude is extended to Ms. Leonardos who was able to attend the event and share words of inspiration and encouragement with the students in attendance.

Assistant Professor Brent Williams was recognized as the Outstanding Student Advocate of the year as he received nominations from students for his outreach work and commitment to student success. In addition, Maycee Robinson, a senior in the Construction Management program received the Outstanding Nontraditional Student Award. Her nominator wrote, "This past fall Maycee was accepted to the Kiewit Women in Leadership conference, which is offered to rising female stars in construction management programs. At this event she learned about recruiting females into our industry and she has been practicing those skills throughout the school year. She has now accepted a position with one of the largest builders in the country and is expected to excel there." The event also recognized CET student Julia Tisdale who was honored by the Michigan Department of Education as a Breaking Traditions merit award winner. She attended a reception in Lansing along with her family, Ferris supporters, and other winners from across the state as well. To learn more about this prestigious award, visit http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_6526_6551-411566--,00.html.

Professor Williams pictured with Dean Schult

Critical to supporting young women in fields that are nontraditional to their gender is community outreach. During the 2016-2017 academic year alone, nearly 400 middle school and high school students participated in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) events facilitated by Ferris. This outreach would not have been possible without the support of student volunteers. Teanna VanHorn, College of Engineering student, and officer of the Women in Technology student organization received the Nontraditional Student Community Service Award as a result of her commitment to volunteering and service. Congratulations to all of the award winners!

2015-2016 award winner, Megan Cramer

"I wish I had opportunities like this when I was young. This really inspired me… great event!"

— 2017 TEA / STEM Workshop Attendee

Spring Networking Event

College of Engineering Technology (CET) alum Cindee Wilcox returned to Ferris this spring for an evening networking reception with students. She shared a presentation that highlighted her educational experiences, career progression, and professional development considerations for students. Emphasis was placed on recommendations for students to find success in career fields that are male dominated. Ms. Wilcox's presentation led to numerous student questions and many students opted to stay after the event for the opportunity to talk further with her. Students also engaged in a networking activity to build connections with their peer network across the CET. Many thanks to Ms. Wilcox for sharing her time and wisdom with students!

Women from the College of Engineering Technology gathered over dinner to hear from Ms. Cindee Wilcox

STEM Outreach Workshops

During the 2016-2017 academic year, STEM outreach expanded to include a more diverse audience, additional school districts, and adjusted the model to include a focus on careers that are nontraditional for males and females. The workshops, based on the national Technology Engineering Aptitude (TEA) curriculum, have been facilitated both on campus as well as in schools and community organizations. TEA Facilitators have traveled across multiple counties to work with students, expose them to role models, introduce STEM career topics, and most importantly have fun with hands-on STEM activities. One of the individuals who attended a workshop this spring worte, "We had fun! I had no idea so many fields of engineering existed!"

Whenever possible, student panels made up of outstanding students from the College of Engineering Technology are integrated into the workshop's agenda so that the younger students have the opportunity to hear from role models who are pursuing careers they love. Often these panels are noted in the event evaluations as the highlight. One attendee wrote, I particularly enjoyed the panel of young women who presented...very exciting to see their passion and hear their career plans!" Helping students to build connections with others and see career possibilities is the foundation of the STEM outreach. Without support from area schools , the partnerships with regional organizations, student volunteers, and the commitment of parents and student mentors who participate, the workshops would not be so successful. The more workshops that are hosted, the more the momentum builds, which has resulted in plans to expand the workshop offerings even more for the 2017-2018 academic year.

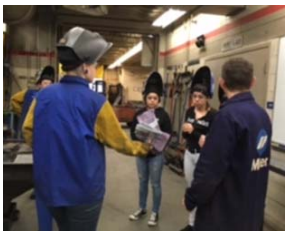
Resources

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

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.

Hands-on Campus Tour



This spring, the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technology Center (CTC) brought a group of interested students to Ferris to learn more about programs and career opportunities within the College of Engineering Technology (CET). Thanks to collaboration with the admissions department, faculty members, and fantastic student volunteers, they were able to explore the campus, enjoy lunch, and gain first hand experience with campus labs and opportunities. The students are part of Wexford-Missaukee CTC's nontraditional student organization that represents a cross section of females who are enrolled in programs considered nontraditional for their gender. Their visit to Ferris began with an overview of the Computer Network and Systems program and the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technology program in the Swan Building. Next they explored the Maker Space on campus as Professor Bill Koepf shared information about the center on campus and the opportunity it provides for all students. Last but not least, each student was given the chance to work with the equipment in the welding lab under the supervision of Professor Brent Williams. While the student excitement about the hands-on activity was evident, the impressive involvement of female welding student volunteers made the experience even more outstanding. The College of Engineering Technology welding students worked with the high school students in small groups to demonstrate various equipment in the lab and talk about their experiences. Sharing knowledge with students in this way allowed for a memorable hands-on activity as well as exposure to excellent role models representing females pursuing careers nontraditional for their gender. The extra time Professor Williams took to facilitate such an incredible outreach opportunity underscored his commitment to helping students, and the involvement of the current students was impressive and much appreciated, especially given that the tour was scheduled during a busy time in the semester. Thank you to all involved for welcoming this group to campus!

Train-the-Trainer

On March 17, 2017, Ferris excitedly welcomed Celeste Baine, author, engineer, and the director of the Engineering Education Center to offer an Advanced Train-the-Trainer workshop for faculty and staff to expand skills needed to host Technology Engineering Aptitude (TEA) events. Although Ms. Baine's travel to Michigan from Oregon involved navigating challenging wintry weather, her energy and enthusiasm persisted as she taught educators how to facilitate activities including designing hydraulic puppies, creating a tabletop rock band, and constructing marshmallow-launching catapults. About 15 attendees from Ferris and a local school district also learned about the importance of providing hands-on, fun activities that encourage exploration of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for younger students coupled with exposure to outstanding role models. Given the incredible demand Ferris has seen from schools and organizations who are eager to host TEA events, the group was grateful for the opportunity to expand the activities available so that the workshops can continue to evolve and offer variety to engage the students. Following the Friday training, Ferris hosted a STEM workshop the next day that was open to the community. The event reached capacity with approximately 50 attendees from Big Rapids and surrounding communities that included middle-school-aged students and family members. Ferris plans to expand its TEA workshop offerings for the 2017-2018 academic year, which will include the integration of the new activities learned at the workshop. Thank you to Ms. Baine, the attendees, and all involved to make the event possible!

Celeste Baine (right) watches one of the participants demonstrate her newly designed hydraulic puppy.

Thank You, Volunteers!

Over the past year, we have provided outreach events for area schools and hosted multiple events on campus. These events would not have been possible without the support of faculty, staff, and outstanding volunteers. To you, we say, "Thank you!"

STEM News

A relatively new organization is making a positive difference in Michigan by encouraging women to consider career opportunities in the welding field. Women Who Weld is a Michigan-based 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization specializing in training women to weld and launch a career. Founder Samantha Farr has hopes to expand her program across the nation. To learn more about her inspirational vision, scan the QR code below to watch a short video. Keep up the great work, Ms. Farr!

Ferris Grads At Work

Meet Stephanie Sikorski, Designer at General Motors (GM) who graduated from Ferris State University's Product Design Engineering Technology (PDET) program in 2017.

How would you describe your current position? My current position involves all of the design work that goes into developing the vehicles we drive on the road today or will drive in the future. I am a designer in the Upper Body Structures sub group of Vehicle Engineering-Design, meaning that I am responsible for designing and developing the structural components for the upper part of different GM's vehicles.

What do you see as your biggest challenge? My biggest challenge going forward is adjusting to the working "adult" life, and learning all the GM vehicle jargon.

How has your education supported you in your job thus far? My education has prepared me for my career by giving me the tools and knowledge to be successful. The PDET curriculum and professors, gave me a wide range of information and experiences that I could apply to my field of work now, and in the future. Being a member of the Ferris State Volleyball Team taught me hard work, time management, leadership and teamwork, as well as self awareness. All of which are necessary lessons and traits to take with me as I begin my career.

Your senior capstone project was especially unique. Tell us about it. Yes, my capstone project was a great combination between what I love — sports and engineering. I designed a device that could be used in training the sport of volleyball. The device was a blocking aid device that was to attach to the volleyball net, that would act as a volleyball player blocking. The hitters could use the device to simulate a game-like block in front of them, to train and learn how to hit around it in a game. Volleyball is a team sport, requiring other people to adequately play and train in the sport. This makes individual training frustrating and almost impossible. I created a device that incorporated adjustability and could be lone standing on the net, allowing an individual hitter to train and practice alone. I was using the 3D scanners and printers in the makers space to print my very own hands to be used on my product. The prototype came out pretty well, and was even tested by some of the Ferris State Volleyball players. It was an awesome learning experience.

How was the job search process? The job search process for me was quite easy. I started looking for internships during my sophomore year for that

summer, as I knew that I wanted some real life experience in the field. I went to the career fair on campus just looking for any and all the opportunities that I could. I was able to interview for a few positions and ended up accepting an internship with GM. After enjoying and completing that summer internship, I was offered another internship with them the following summer. At the conclusion of my final summer internship with GM, I happily accepted my full time position. I was able to go into my senior year at Ferris State, with a great career secured in my future.

What is your favorite Ferris memory? My greatest Ferris memories mostly relate to my time as student athlete and a member of the volleyball team as it was so special to me. Aside from the championships we won and the fun we had on the court, most of my fondest memories were off the court. Whether it was at hotels for away games, or going to other sporting events to cheer on the other athletes, my teammates became family and so many amazing memories were made.

"At the conclusion of my final summer internship with GM, I happily accepted my full time position. I was able to go into my senior year at Ferris State, with a great career secured in my future."

— Stephanie Sikorski, Designer at General Motors and Ferris College of Engineering Technology Graduate

In Closing

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter! You may share your comments with Leigha Compson, University Career Programs Specialist at leighacompson@ferris.edu or 231 -591-3549. Stay tuned for campus events for Fall 2017, and have a great summer!

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