TTU Department of MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

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The newsletter for alumni and friends of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Tennessee Tech | Spring 2017



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Message from the Chair

I am pleased to bring you this e-newsletter. We finished 2017 with a bang! The major highlight, of course, is the successful hosting of the ASME Engineering Festival on our campus during April 21-23, 2017. I am so proud of our ASME student officers, particularly Josh Watkins and Lindsey Grissom, who did such a fantastic job in the planning and execution of the festival. In addition to the student leaders, we owe a great deal of gratitude to Steve Canfield who worked tirelessly for over a year in planning, mentoring and executing the event. Thanks are also due to our administration, support staff, student volunteers and, of course, all of our alumni who came to help as judges, speakers, session moderators and other volunteers. I must also acknowledge the amazing support we received from our energetic External Advisory Board members. It should be noted that more than 800 students from more than 80 colleges and universities from around the world came to Cookeville for the engineering festival. We had participants from Canada, Columbia, Egypt, India, Mexico, Pakistan and Taiwan. According to ASME, this was the best E-Fest ever, and they were very pleased with our campus and all the arrangements. I believe hosting events like this is a step in the right direction to help enhance TTU's national visibility, which is one of our strategic goals.

In other news, John Peddieson, one of your beloved professors, is finally calling it quits; he is retiring by the end of this academic year having served as a faculty member for 40 plus years! As I mentioned in my previous communications, professors Sam Han, Glen Johnson and Jeff Marquis have all retired during the past two years. We continue to recruit high quality faculty from top universities in the country in order to provide high quality education to our student body. The departments character is changing, and I sincerely believe it is for the better. I want to thank all the alumni who came to our Knoxville alumni event that

ME Knoxville Alumni Networking Event

Alumni Spotlight: Samantha White, '15

Remembering one of our own

was organized by our EAB; we are planning to have additional events in Huntsville and Nashville in the future. Please watch for these announcements. Please enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter. I want to leave you with this thought, which is what I believe: "Education is not about molding students to be clones in the way we think they should be, but kindling the spark in them to be lifelong learners with a natural longing to seek and create new knowledge for the betterment of the human kind."

ASME E-Fest EAST inaugural event a success at Tennessee Tech!



Tennessee Tech students Adam Porches, Isaac Friedman and Shane Terry were awarded first place in the ASME IAM3D Competition!

(L-R: TTU students Adam Porches, Issac Friedman, Shane Terry with ASME representatives)

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Tennessee Tech College of Engineering honors its finest at E-Week

Mechanical engineering was honored to see many of their faculty, alumni and students recognized at Engineers Week.



(L-R: Jon Callies, Amy Elliott, Mohan Rao, Steve Canfield, Joe Rencis)

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Student Spotlight: Lindsey Grissom, '17

Lindsey Grissom, mechanical engineering '17, has found a way to use her passion for hiking to help the homeless.

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ME students recognized at ASHRAE Student Night

Congratulations to Tennessee Tech ASHRAE students Daniel Foote and Hayden Rhymer, 2017 ASHRAE scholarship recipients. Both Foote and Rhymer were recognized at the Nashville ASHRAE Chapter Student Night on Feb. 20, 2017. Glenn Cunningham, advisor for Tennessee Tech's ASHRAE student chapter, accompanied several students to the scholarship recognition banquet. Daniel Foote received the Nashville Branch Scholarship and Hayden Rhymer received the National ASHRAE Society's Donald E. Nichols Scholarship. The Donald E. Nichols Scholarship is a national scholarship awarded to a student enrolled full-time in an ABET accredited program leading to a bachelor's degree in engineering at Tennessee Tech University. Donald E. Nichols was a former ASHRAE vice president and graduate of Tennessee Tech University.







(L-R: Sean Gilbert, Hayden Rhymer)

Tennessee Tech Baja SAE: From the Mouse to the Mud Bogs

Tennessee Tech Baja was recently spotlighted in Engineering.com. Read how they go from the mouse to the mud bog!

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Professors Johnson, Han and Peddieson Retire

The Department of Mechanical Engineering would like to thank professors Glen Johnson, Sam Han and John Peddieson for their years of service. Our ME students have gained much from their extensive knowledge and experience in the courses taught throughout their careers. We would like to express our gratitude to each for their support of the mechanical engineering program at Tennessee Tech.







ME Knoxville Alumni Networking Event

Mechanical engineering alumni in the Knoxville area enjoyed an evening of networking with other alumni and ME faculty on April 8. The Knoxville location was chosen as the first of three ME Alumni Networking Events being planned throughout 2017. Members from the Mechanical Engineering External Advisory Board, Jon Callies and Arnold Lumsdaine assisted with the planning of the event

and provided updates and future goals they would like to see for the department. Watch your email for upcoming events planned in the Huntsville and Nashville areas.



Alumni Spotlight: Samantha White, '15

Congratulations to alumna Samantha White, '15, recipient of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. Samantha began graduate school in the mechanical engineering department of North Carolina State in the fall of 2015 and her research focus is Strategic Excess Placement for Engineered System Evolution under the advisement of Scott Ferguson of NC State.





Remembering one of our own

Passion for helping others continues through the Jon VanDoran Scholarship Fund.

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