



College of Technology and Computer Science

Monthly Newsletter - 2009

Leadership by Example

A Message from Interim Dean David White

Leadership, it's a word that is often thrown around in theoretical terms throughout higher education, but practically what does it mean and more importantly, is it being accomplished? At East Carolina University, leadership is a part of the strategic directions and is ingrained throughout the curriculum of many programs including many of our own. As a matter of fact, ECU recently named alum Tommy Spaulding the first Leader-in-Residence, with a goal of strengthening our learning community regarding leadership.



Within our College walls we continue to seek opportunities to create, enhance or develop leadership initiatives. For instance, I am proud to announce the College of Technology and Computer Science has been awarded \$15,000 from the BB&T Center for Leadership Development. This is the first time our College was awarded funds of this nature.

In addition, this spring we will be hosting the first annual Robert and Betty Hill Recognition of Excellence ceremony to honor the scholarship recipients in our College as well as the donors who have graciously contributed to all of our successes. This event will take place April 3, 2009 with the intention of celebrating the academic accomplishments of our students, alumni and friends and then follow that up with a special guest speaker to share their experiences and words of wisdom.

I want to encourage our faculty members to discover new opportunities to include leadership in our students' educational experiences. Our student organizations and groups are tremendous places to branch out into leadership. Lead by example and you'll be surprised who will follow you.

Dr. David White, Interim Dean
College of Technology and Computer Science

Making Headlines

Chancellor and Provost Special Visit to College of Technology and Computer Science

East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard and Provost Marilyn Sheerer made a special visit to the College of Technology and Computer Science on February 5, 2009. Dr. Ballard and Dr. Sheerer spent a couple hours with faculty, staff and students within the various programs and departments. They visited an Engineering robotics class, the Industrial Distribution and Logistics laboratory and the Computer Science Virtual Reality Lab as a part of their tour and interaction with students.



Engineering faculty member Richard Williams (left) demonstrates robotic instruction to Dr. Ballard (center) and Dr. Sheerer (right)



Mark Angolia leads Ballard and Sheerer on tour through the IDIS laboratory with students

Following the tour, the chancellor and provost joined about 15 faculty, staff and administrators for a luncheon held in the Science and Technology Building. During this time, Ballard and Sheerer heard about the numerous ways the College of TECS is already aligned with the UNC and ECU Tomorrow initiatives, particularly in the areas of economic engagement and outreach.

The visited ended with a 30 minute question and answer session with the chancellor and provost from the faculty.

Daily Reflector

ECU Partnership with HAN University in the Netherlands Promotes Global Sustainability

An East Carolina University Department of Construction Management assistant professor taught a Global Sustainability class to third year students from HAN University in the Netherlands on Tuesday, December 16, 2008.



Erich Connell teaching a class to students in the Netherlands

Dr. Erich Connell taught the interactive class from ECU's campus while the students participated from their classroom in the Netherlands. Connell, a Certified Green Professional, discussed the current status of Global Sustainability in the United States as well as the future plans for going green and becoming a more efficient society.

“Our students must aware of their responsibility to preserve the environment,” said Connell. “This goes far beyond ECU or North Carolina or the United States; there are impacts felt across on a global scale.”

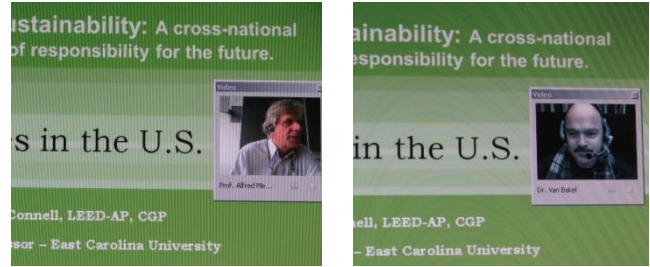
ECU and HAN University have been working together over the last couple years to create new opportunities for students in both countries. On December 2, 2008, Dutch professor Alfred Meyers taught ECU students from an Introduction to Construction Management course about the construction of systems that manage water in the development of land currently affecting the Netherlands and providing a unique view of sustainability to the ECU students.



“This is a great way to attract the attention of students in the Netherlands and the United States to the issue of global and green sustainability,” said Professor Alfred Meyers of HAN University. “In addition, we are January – February 2009

introducing our students to different cultures, exciting new opportunities and the chance to make an impact to the environment.”

ECU and HAN University will continue intercontinental lectures in the spring 2009 semester which will include participants from Brazil and China as well other ECU professors. Connell and Meyers have begun discussions for possible Summer Study Abroad student trips to and from East Carolina in 2010 with hopes of including semester and academic year student exchanges.



Professor Alfred Meyers (left) participated in Connell’s class with his students in the Netherlands, while Dr. Anton Von Bakel (right) logged in from Germany.

“Our construction management program is one of the best in the country,” Connell added. “Developing an international component provides our graduates with the chance to begin their careers globally as well as here in the United States.”

PCC and ECU Partner to Train Workers at Greenville Plant through CITE Program

GREENVILLE (1/14/2009) - Pitt Community College and East Carolina University recently combined efforts to train workers at Harper Brush Works, Inc., in practices that will help the Greenville manufacturing plant operate more efficiently.



“In some way, all 70 of our employees have been a part of PCC-provided instruction,” said Harper East General Manager Chuck Jones.

Over the past three years, PCC has provided Harper Brush with courses on safety, leadership training and general manufacturing. Hoping to increase productivity and efficiency, Harper officials requested Lean Six Sigma training not currently available through Pitt. That’s where ECU’s Center for Innovation in Technology and Engineering (CITE) was able to assist.

“Partnerships are going to be even more important during these challenging economic times,” said Mary Paramore, PCC’s Director of Business and Industry. “I’m so thankful that we have a strong partnership with ECU, which allows us to even better serve our local industry.”

David Harrawood, CITE Director agrees. “As educational institutions our objective is to strengthen the workforce locally, regionally and across the state. It makes perfect sense for Pitt and East Carolina to collaborate to accomplish the overarching goals.”



CITE Director
David Harrawood

Lean Six Sigma is a business improvement methodology combining tools from both Lean Manufacturing and Six Sigma. While Lean focuses on speed, Six Sigma centers on quality. The purpose in combining the two is to produce better quality products faster.

“In the current business environment, we have to continually improve our internal processes and drive waste out of the business,” Jones said. “And the coursework and simulation was relevant and drove home understanding of the lean concepts.”



Dr. Merwan Mehta – Dept.
of Technology Systems

Thus far, Jones said he has heard nothing but positive feedback from participants in the first two lean initiative training sessions at Harper in December. Dr. Merwan Mehta, the Lean Six Sigma instructor and faculty member at ECU's Department of Technology Systems commends Harper for taking the initiative.

“This is strong forward thinking by those leading Harper Brush,” said Mehta. “They want to find a way, in tough economic times, to increase efficiency and productivity without translating any extra cost to the customer. We're glad to be a part of the team.”

Harper Brush, an Iowa-based company, makes more than 600 cleaning supply products, including push brooms, mops and squeegees, that are sold by retailers, such as Lowe's and Home Depot. Jones, who has worked with Harper for four years, said the partnership between PCC and ECU to provide training to his employees is ideal.

“With this collaboration, we can get world-class training that fits Harper's needs as well as the rest of (Greenville's) Industrial Park,” he said. “It also provides recruiting opportunities for both the two-year and four-year technical programs.”

TECS Faculty Members Attend Chinese New Year Celebration

The Murphy Center at East Carolina University was decked out in shades of red, the traditional Chinese color of prosperity and good luck, as hundreds of Chinese-Americans joined Americans of many cultures Saturday evening to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

This was an early kickoff of the 15-day celebration which gave more families a chance to come together. About 500 people packed the facility for the performance, food, and games. Approximately 14 faculty members from the College of Technology and Computer Science were in attendance with their families.

Xiaoming Zeng, assistant professor of health information management at East Carolina and principal of the Greenville Chinese School, explained the importance of the event for Chinese-Americans.

“It doesn't matter how far apart family members are, they are supposed to get together during the New Year festival to give thanks and prepare together for the coming year,” Zeng said.



2009 is the year of the ox, which represents prosperity and a bright future.

The New Year holiday, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important in Chinese culture, said Zeng.

“China has always been predominantly an agricultural society, whose traditional calendar is based on the lunar cycle, so this celebration accommodates aspects of the western New Year and Thanksgiving themes,” Zeng said.

Celebration traditions include fireworks, banquets, honoring family elders and artistic performances, Zeng said.

Traditional Chinese performances by students and faculty of the Greenville Chinese School included several dances and dramatic readings in Chinese, choral songs, an aria from a Chinese opera and gymnastics by an 8-year-old Chinese-American girl.

We had a nice turnout last Saturday at the New Year Party. Around 600 people came to the party. But only 500 were allowed in because of the Murphy Center's security requirement. People enjoyed the performance, food, and games. The party started from 5:00PM and ended at 10. I saw at least 14 faculty members from the College of TECS there with their families.

Faculty News

- **Lakshmi Narasimhan (Computer Science)** was named the Technical Chair of a prestigious International Conference (ICETiC – International Conference on Emerging Trends in Computing), held in India, in January 2009. The conference attracted keynote speakers from leading Universities in the USA, Canada, Australia and UK and has so far received over 350 research papers from all over the world.
- **Ron Sessoms and Erich Connell (Construction Management)** went to a NAHB workshop in November 2008 in Myrtle Beach, SC and became a “Certified Green Professional” (CGP), this is the equivalent of LEED, only it is sponsored and governed by the National Association of Home Builders, for which we have become certified to evaluate and understand, that is “Green” or Sustainable Homes and Housing.



Erich Connell and Ron Sessoms



Qin Ding

- **Qin Ding (Computer Science)** had her paper - “PARM – An Efficient Algorithm to Mine Association Rules from Spatial Data” published in IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man and Cybernetics - Part B, Vol. 38, No. 6. Also, she had another paper “Parallel Hierarchical Clustering on Market Basket Data” accepted by IEEE International Workshop on High Performance Data Mining.

- **Robert Hochberg (Computer Science)** gave a presentation in November to a local 4-H club on "How Computers Work." The presentation was in two parts. First, he brought in a computer (donated by Joel Sweatte!) that was in about 20 pieces, and told the kids that they would have to put it back together. So one-by-one kids from age 3 to 15 came up and put pieces back into the computer. First the motherboard, then the RAM, some cables, hard drives, etc... When the last piece was put in, we booted it, and it worked! For the second part, they acted out a sorting algorithm on a giant tarp. The kids walked the algorithm from one end of the tarp to the other, and when they got to the other end, they were sorted!



Hochberg working with Emma, age 8, putting in the network card



Connecting the power supply to the motherboard



CD-ROM artwork

- **Michael Behm (Technology Systems)** visited the United Kingdom January 25-31, 2009 as part of a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) funded research project. While there he studied the impact and effectiveness of the UK's Construction Design and Management (CDM) regulations where, unlike the US, architects and design engineers are required to consider construction worker safety in the design of projects. He worked with Professor Alistair Gibb of Loughborough University in conducting focus groups with the European Construction Institute, architects in the group Designers Initiative for Occupational Health and Safety, The Institution of Structural Engineers, and the Quarry Products Association. The project is part of a larger 10-year NIOSH Prevention through Design (PtD) Initiative. Behm is a member of NIOSH's PtD Council helping to shape initiatives and goals.



Michael Behm (center) at the Quarry Products Association in London



Ron Sessoms

- **Ron Sessoms (Construction Management)** has been selected to join the National Leadership Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK). He was selected due to the leadership contributions he has made in ECU's community. He will be joining several other prominent campus faculty, staff, and students in membership. Courtney Elliott, President of this organization, said ODK is looking forward to his contributions in helping to build ODK's campus and community. He will also attend the Formal Spring Initiation Ceremony for new members on Sunday, April 26, 2008 at 3:00 pm.

- **David Batts (Technology Systems)** had this paper published: Comparison of Student and Instructor Perceptions of Best Practices in Online Technology Courses. MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching. Vol. 4, No. 4, December. [Click here](#) for more information.



David Batts



George Wang in China

- **George Wang (Construction Management)** attended a World Bank highway construction project training program, as an international training expert, in China, in the second half of December.

- **Robert A. Chin (Technology Systems)** was appointed as an at-large representative to the Journal of Industrial Technology Board. His period of service is from Nov 2008 to Nov 2011.



Robert Chin

Student / Alumni News

Bryan Derr, East Carolina Alum and CDS2 Program Manager, Recognized with 2008 Outstanding Early Achievement Award (December 22, 2008, Ann Arbor, Michigan)

Bryan Derr, a 2002 graduate of East Carolina University's Industrial Technology program, was awarded the 2008 Outstanding Early Achievement Award by the National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT). The announcement was made on Friday November 22, 2008 at NAIT's 2008 Conference Awards Banquet in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Outstanding Early Achievement award has been given annually since 2005 by NAIT in recognition of outstanding career achievements by a recent industrial technology graduate. Derr was the only recipient of this national award for 2008. Bryan Derr is currently employed at Command Decision Systems and Solutions, Inc. He was nominated for the award by faculty at ECU.



Pictured above: (from left to right)
Melinda Doty, Robert Chin, Bryan Derr
and Amy Frank

Graduating in 2002 from East Carolina University with a B.S. in Design and a minor in business administration, Bryan Derr started his career at Stanley and Associates as a CNC Programmer/Draftsman and later, a Technical Writer, where Derr worked on engineering and manufacturing specialty items for the United States Coast Guard. At the same time, he continued his education, and earned his Master Degree in Industrial Technology from ECU in 2005. In 2006, Derr transitioned to the role of Program Manager and Senior CNC Programmer at

Command Decision Systems and Solutions, where his technical expertise and skills continue to be an asset in the design, fabrication, and manufacture of highly-specialized goods for the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as performing project management duties.

Additionally, Derr teaches Advanced CADD and Mechanical Architecture Drafting courses for the College of the Albermarle and served as a consultant in the planning and development of its Mechanical Drafting AAS degree program. Mr. Derr resides in Hertford, North Carolina

The National Association of Industrial Technology is a membership association for faculty and administrators in technology and technology management programs in 2-year and 4-year degree programs throughout the US, students of those programs, and graduates working in business and industry. More information about NAIT can be found at www.nait.org.

Tech Systems Students Honored by SME Greenville Chapter



Pictured Above: Ralph Holiday on the right who will be the president and James Doty on the left who will be the President-Elect for 2009

The Annual Meeting of the Greenville Chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers was held on December 4th 2008 at the Rock Spring Club in Greenville. The President of the Chapter for 2008 Dr. Merwan Mehta gave the President's Award for outstanding service to Mr. Mike Watson for his several years of dedicated service to the Greenville local chapter. New Chapter officers for 2009 were elected and instituted. Two students from ECU from the Technology Systems Department who have moved into the SME senior chapter will be at the helm in running the SME 302 Local Chapter for 2009. The Greenville SME Chapter has

monthly meeting to inform and network, and additional information can be obtained from Mr. Joe Banks at agjbanks@nmhg.com

Engineering Students Receive Scholarships from East Carolina Engineering Club

Two years ago, Dr. Gerald Micklow (Engineering) gave a presentation to the East Carolina Engineers Club. Based on this presentation, they initiated a scholarship program with the Engineering program here at ECU. Last year our students did not receive any scholarships, however this year we received two.



Photo Gallery

Fall 2008 TECS Recognition Ceremony



January – February 2009



Just For Giggles

Jock or Nerd?

Is it better to be a jock or a nerd?

To all the hard working Americans.... The answer to the eternal question "Is it better to be a jock or a nerd?"

Michael Jordan was making over \$300,000 a game. That \$10,000 a minute, at an average 30 minutes per game. With \$40 million in endorsements, he makes \$178,100 a day, working or not.

If he sleeps 7 hours a night, he makes \$52,000 every night while visions Of sugarplums dance in his head. If he goes to see a movie, it'll cost him \$7.00, but he'll make \$18,550 while he's there. If he decides to have a 5 minute egg, he'll make \$618 while boiling it.

He makes \$7,415/hr more than minimum wage. He'll make \$3,710 while watching each episode of Friends. If he wanted to save up for a new Acura NSX(\$90,000) it would take him a whole 12 hours. If someone were to hand him his salary and endorsement money, they would have to do it at the rate of \$2.00 every second.

He'll probably pay around \$200 for a nice round of golf, but will be reimbursed \$33,390 for that round. Assuming he puts the federal maximum of 15% of his income into a tax deferred account (401k), he will hit the federal cap of \$9500 at 8:30 a.m. on January 1st.

If you were given a penny for every 10 dollars he made, you'd be living comfortably at \$65,000 a year. He'll make about \$19.60 while watching the 100 meter dash in the Olympics. He'll make about \$15,600 during the Boston Marathon.

While the common person is spending about \$20 for a meal in his trendy Chicago restaurant, he'll pull in about \$5600. This year, he'll make more than twice as much as all U.S. past presidents for all of their terms combined.

Amazing isn't it?

HOWEVER, if Jordan saves 100% of his income for the next 250 years, he'll still have less than Bill Gates has today.

Game over. Nerd wins.