

ECU Program Celebrates 10 years of Meeting Industry Needs

East Carolina University's engineering program launched at a perfect time for Kyle Barnes.

The 2004 Roanoke Rapids High School graduate planned to enroll at ECU for two years and then transfer to another university where he could complete an engineering degree.

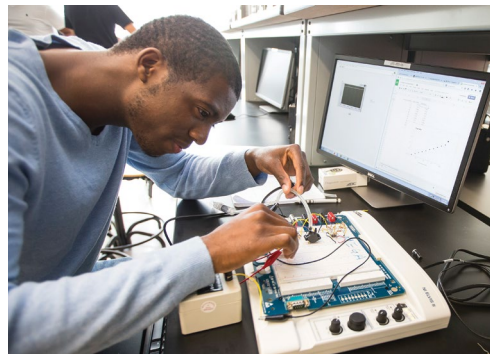
But Barnes didn't have to leave to earn his degree. He met Dr. Paul Kauffmann, one of the founders of ECU's engineering department, who encouraged Barnes to apply for the new program.

"Everything it offered appeared to be a perfect fit for my needs and interests," Barnes said.

As one of 35 close-knit engineering students in that first class, Barnes said he "was able to build relationships with students who were undergoing the exact same challenges."

Barnes and ECU is celebrating the 10-year anniversary of its engineering program during Homecoming weekend with an Oct. 3 lab tour, cake cutting, dinner and dance.

Kauffman, Dr. Tarek Abdel-Salam and Dr. Phil Lunsford started the Department



ECU senior Coriyon Arrington works in a biomedical instrumentation lab in the engineering department at ECU.

(Photo by Cliff Hollis)

of Engineering to meet a growing need for degreed engineers to help support a large manufacturing industry in eastern NC.

The program has been instrumental in advancing the economic prosperity of eastern NC, providing a steady pipeline of engineers to support workforce needs, said Dr. Hayden Griffin, department chair for engineering.

Barnes, 28, is an engineering manager

at Carver Machine Works, a high-tech fabrication and welding company in Washington, NC that serves customers in the aerospace, defense and power generation industries.

Lindsey Crisp, president and CEO of the company and an ECU graduate in accounting, said he's often asked how his company - given its rural location - finds quality employees.

"I say all the time to our customers that we are in rural eastern NC but we serve customers all across the United States. And then I talk about our relationship with ECU and the engineering school and how that pot of graduates is going to win our business."

Crisp said he's hired at least five ECU engineering grads in the last two or three years because they bring a problem-solving mindset to the job. Many, like Barnes, started as interns while in college.

The program graduated its first class of 26 in 2008. Now 550 engineering students are enrolled, and the department expects to grow to 1,000

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

ECU to Partner in Robust Education-To-Workforce Pipeline



Pictured above, ECU students Tyree Parker and Grace Baran perform engineering processes in a biomedical lab on campus.

(Photo by Jay Clark)

East Carolina University is partnering on a comprehensive, hands-on initiative

aimed at fueling a regional advanced manufacturing and innovation workforce beginning with middle school students.

The Golden LEAF Foundation has announced a \$1.25 million grant to support the plan.

The Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Academy and associated Master eSTEAM Instructor program are the result of a unique collaboration among middle school parents, students and teachers, East Carolina University, Pitt Community College, Pitt County Schools, North East Carolina Preparatory School (Edgecombe County), P.S. Jones Middle School (Beaufort County), STEM East, economic developers and regional advanced manufacturers.

Once implemented, the program will provide an effective education-to-workforce pipeline to address the growing shortage of eastern North Carolina advanced manufacturing workers and entrepreneurs, technically skilled in science, technology, engineering, art/design and mathematics (STEAM), as well as innovation and entrepreneurship (e) processes.

In addition to the schools in Edgecombe and Beaufort counties, all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Gregory Poole





Industrial Distribution and Logistics Issues SAP Student Recognition Award

The SAP University Alliances program will now recognize ECU students for satisfactory completion of a program of study supported by the SAP Product Portfolio as offered by the Industrial Distribution and Logistics (IDIS) degree program. The IDIS program is part of the Department of Technology Systems, housed within the College of Engineering and Technology.

The SAP University Alliance (UA) is a world-wide academic organization sponsored by SAP, the world's leading provider of enterprise application software that provides applications and services to more than 250,000 customers across the globe. They are the third largest independent software manufacturer in the world. SAP helps organizations work together more effectively and efficiently, through all parts of a manufacturing process, service organization, or multiple other industries.

Through the SAP UA, students work in a live, fully-functional software environment which allows our faculty to teach students about Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), technology-



Pictured above are Jose Escobar, Dexter Harvell, Raeshon Reid, Clark Godwin.

enabled integrated business processes, and strategic thinking. Through simulations, exercises, and case studies, students are able to put classroom knowledge and theory into practice. Specifically, IDIS utilizes SAP extensively in three core courses: Introduction to Enterprise Resource Planning, Distributor Sales and Branch Management, and Transportation Logistics. The emphasis is on information technology (IT) applications, moving toward data analytics in the future.

Providing this recognition award

will allow students to identify their SAP accomplishments on a resume and job application which can be a significant aid in landing an interview. Having extensive SAP experience helps increase the marketability of a student and graduate. SAP skills have become vital in many areas of the increasingly demanding job market. For many positions, these skills are mandatory. The award will certainly enhance their opportunity for hire.

Dr. Mark Angolia, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator states, "We've been engaged with the SAP UA for several years and have seen the benefits for our student in mastering critical business processes and getting interest from companies recruiting at the Career Fairs. SAP experience is a major industry player and we're excited to offer this opportunity to the students at ECU."

Upon completion of the three course sequence, students will be recognized with an "SAP Student Recognition Award" from the SAP University Alliance. The first official recognition for students will begin the fall semester of 2014.

Pitt County Girls Learn About STEM Careers at ECU

Eighth-grader Beyoncé Best portrayed a plant manager for a Goldfish cracker manufacturing facility in an exercise Oct. 10 at East Carolina University.

When there were too few red crackers to fill an order, it was up to Best to figure out what happened.

Best was one of about 100 middle school girls from Pitt County attending the fifth annual STEM Girls Conference, dedicated to promoting careers in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM.

Mixed with hands-on activities like taking a product from creation to market, girls learned about careers they could pursue with a STEM degree.

Best, a student at A.G. Cox Middle School, is already on board. "Women should be in the science field just as much as men," said Best. "We do just as well. We should try and get more women involved."

Students and faculty in the College of Engineering and Technology,

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, Brody School of Medicine and the College of Education collaborated to host the annual event.

Dr. Janet Sanders, assistant professor of technology systems who led the snack supply chain session, talked with Best and other students about the types of things technologists can do, from managing product lines to entire plants.

"People in STEM fields make good money. People in STEM fields are going to have a job (after college) and that's important after you invest all that into it," Sanders said.

STEM careers pay, on average, about 30 percent more than non-STEM jobs. Yet only 25 percent of STEM jobs are held by women.

Breanna Campbell, an ECU freshman engineering major from Weldon, helped with an activity where girls used a



Middle school girls visiting ECU for the STEM Girls Conference. (Photos by Cliff Hollis)

genetic code to create a "person" out of pipe cleaners and marshmallows. Some marshmallow sizes or colors were dominant, like genes.

Campbell said she hoped the event would encourage more girls to consider

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Message from the Dean

Beyond Tomorrow: Our Commitments to the Future Student Success, Public Service, and Regional Transformation

Greetings to all our alumni and friends from ECU's College of Engineering and Technology! Your College is having an extremely productive and notable Fall Semester.

The three commitments mentioned above represent the foundation for ECU's new Strategic Plan titled *Beyond Tomorrow: Our Commitments to the Future*. You may want to read more about this bold, authentic plan for 2014-2019 by visiting <http://www.ecu.edu/beyondtomorrow/>. I am very pleased that the College of Engineering and Technology is central to the new Strategic Plan. We have a strong history and commitment to student success and regional economic transformation. Our College's Strategic Plan is being developed now and it will align with these University commitments and actions.

We have had a busy, busy Fall! We admitted the largest group of new majors that I can recall and our College now has over 2100 undergraduate majors! In September, the Robert and Betty Hill Celebration of Excellence brought our scholarship donors together with the students who received the awards. I think this was our best Celebration of Excellence to date! In early October, we hosted over 100 middle school girls at our STEM Girls event. Later that month, we hosted site visits for two ABET accreditation efforts, one for Engineering and one for the MS in Occupational Safety. Site visits are the culmination of a great deal of work by our faculty and staff. The Visiting Teams were impressed with our programs. We will know the final outcomes sometime in August 2015. These are important accomplishments for our programs and reflect very positively on our focus on Student Success.

We celebrated Homecoming in a big way! The festivities began on Friday afternoon with an on-campus celebration of Engineering's 10-Year Anniversary. This was followed by an evening of food and fun as Engineering continued to celebrate with a nice dinner and dancing at the Hilton. The Construction Management Advisory Council hosted a well-attended alumni social on Friday evening at the Coffee Shack. On Saturday morning we held our College Annual Alumni Breakfast before attending the Homecoming Parade and later cheering the Pirates to another victory.



*David White, Dean
College of Engineering
and Technology*

As you can see, the College is positioned to continue great things in the future. We want to be a driving force for regional prosperity and economic development. To do this, I respectfully ask you to support our students and faculty. We want to offer more scholarships to our talented students and assure that they experience state-of-the-art technology to prepare them for great careers. We need your investment in our College! Please help us by telling others about the exciting programs in the College and talk to prospective students about the great education they can receive at ECU. Help us continue to deliver the programs that allow our students, our region, and our great state to prosper!

- David M. White, Dean

EDUCATION-TO-WORKFORCE PIPELINE, *CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE*

13 Pitt County middle and K-8 schools will be included in the program.

"ECU and the College of Engineering and Technology will help prepare these middle school students by exposing them to the tremendous career opportunities that lie before them and developing the academic and technical skills that are required for employment in this industry," said David White, dean of ECU's College of Engineering and Technology.

Recognizing the economic development possibilities to engage, equip and connect talented young people with regional advanced manufacturing careers and related entrepreneurial opportunities, the group of regional partners developed a comprehensive plan for enhancing students' creative, innovation and technical skills, knowledge and abilities. The plan includes career awareness strategies, eSTEAM-related in-

school and out-of-school curriculum and experiences, and professional development opportunities for 78 eastern North Carolina teachers.

Crucial to the success of the initiative is the inclusion of art and design to an otherwise technically-focused program. "I am thrilled that this project seeks to marry the creative energies of the arts with the STEM disciplines. It is truly a unique way of stimulating innovation that will create exciting opportunities for the students involved and significant long term benefits for our region," said Chris Buddo, dean of ECU's College of Fine Arts and Communication.

The academy is an innovative new approach piloted in this section of the state and was recommended by Pitt County Manager Scott Elliott. The successful cross-institutional collaboration is the first of its kind and may be replicated in other

projects, said Wanda Yuhas, executive director of Pitt County Development Commission.

The grant will be administered by ECU's Office of Innovation and Economic Development, as the program is aimed at supporting existing and future advanced manufacturing employers in eastern North Carolina with an innovative, skilled and capable workforce.

"This innovative approach is all about talent enhancement and retention and has the potential to be an economic development game changer," said Ted Morris, associate vice chancellor of ECU's Innovation and Economic Development office. "We are all excited to implement such a forward-thinking program and for this unique opportunity to stimulate true regional transformation."

*- Kelly Setzer
ECU News Services*



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Evelyn Brown, associate professor in the department of engineering, participated on a panel at the recent REACH symposium held at the East Carolina Heart Institute. REACH is an acronym for Redesigning Education to Accelerate Change in Healthcare. The symposium was sponsored by the Brody School of Medicine. Brown was one of six panelists from across ECU who spoke on applied health care projects and developing collaborative, multidisciplinary teams to address various health care concerns.

Dr. Gene Dixon, associate professor in engineering, is the new President of the American Society of Engineering Management (ASEM) for the 2015 term.

Dr. George Wang, associate professor in the department of construction management, recently presented his research on the utilization of slag in civil infrastructure construction at the National Slag Association's Annual Meeting in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Wang has also been approved for a technical book publication by Elsevier Science and Technology for a book titled, "The Utilization of Slag in Infrastructure Construction-Its Technology, Research, and Commercialization."

Mr. John Pickard, teaching instructor in the information and computer technology program in the department of Technology Systems recently won the Academic Innovations award at the North American IPv6 Summit in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Mike Behm, associate professor in the department of Technology Systems, recently presented in Melbourne, Australia, at the RMIT

Centre for Construction Work Health and Safety Research. Behm, who teaches in the graduate program of occupational safety, is also the assistant director of the Center for Sustainability. Behm presented a lecture on his recent research and work related to integrating safe design into green building plans to enhance the sustainability throughout the life cycle of the built environment. He was sponsored by an international visiting fellowship grant and was selected as a lecturer out of multiple awardees.

Dr. Joe Wilck, assistant professor in the department of engineering, was recently the colloquium speaker for the College of Charleston's physics and astronomy department and NC State's industrial and systems engineering department. He also presented a poster at the Healthcare Informatics Conference at ECU in October.

Dr. Carolyn Dunn, assistant professor in the department of technology systems, has been researching the effectiveness of audio-video technology to provide feedback to student writers. Dunn has presented her findings at a recent ATMAE conference and will present them again at ASEE in June 2015. She is teaching a workshop that provides training for this writing work to other ECU faculty members.

Dr. David Batts, Ms. Amy Frank, Ms. Christian Ragone, and Mr. Jason Denius presented "A Workforce Development Success Story: Degree Completion for your Technical/Industrial AAS Graduates" at the October 2014 North Carolina Community College conference in Raleigh, NC.

Dr. Paul Kauffman and Dr. Joe Wilck, professor and assistant professor in engineering, were awarded the Best Paper Award for the engineering economy division of ASEE at the annual conference in June. Kauffman and Wilck also completed a project recently for the NC DOT with an implementation strategy for interpreting traffic counts in high tourism areas.

Dr. Donna Hollar, assistant professor in the department of construction management received the Early Career Award from ELECTRI International at a conference in Toronto, Canada. Hollar will receive additional funding to further her project titled "Best Practices for Journeyman Transition to CW/CE Supervisor." Hollar was selected as one of two winners out of 13 proposals submitted. ELECTRI International is part of the Foundation for Electrical Construction and was established in 1989 to help electrical contractors be successful meeting the constant demands of industry by funding and transforming research results into educational and consulting programs.

Mr. Steve Baker, Dr. Te-Shun Chou, Dr. Charles Lesko, Dr. Peng Li, Dr. Phil Lunsford, Dr. Erol Ozan, Mr. John Pickard, Mr. Travis Powell, and Mr. Lee Toderick, all faculty in the information and computer technology program in the department of technology systems, were recently instrumental in the ECU program being awarded as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cybersecurity by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security through the academic year 2021.

MEETING INDUSTRY NEEDS, *CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE*

students in the next five to 10 years. However, class sizes average 20-25 students, allowing for individual attention and hands-on learning in state-of-the-art laboratories beginning with the first semester of classes.

The caliber of students enrolled in the program has evolved with tougher admissions criteria. More than 450 students applied to the program in 2013, and 159 are now enrolled as freshmen for the 2014-15 academic year. Students earn a bachelor of science degree in engineering and can choose from one of five concentrations: bioprocess, biomedical, electrical, industrial and systems, and mechanical. Classes

began in August for the program's first graduate degree, a master of science in biomedical engineering.

The rapid expansion of ECU's engineering program earned it a step up in academic standing this spring when the UNC Board of Governors approved renaming the College of Technology and Computer Science to the College of Engineering and Technology. The change had the unanimous support of other engineering programs in NC's public university system.

Dr. David White, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, said the move sends a clear message to companies considering locating here.

"Our economic development partners inform us that our new name ... is important for promoting economic prosperity in the east, which is consistent with our university mission," White said. "This name sends a message to prospective business and industry that we can provide the engineering-related talent they need."

About 95 percent of ECU's engineering graduates are offered jobs within 90 days of graduation. Approximately 65 percent of them stay in NC — and about half of those in eastern NC

— Crystal Baity,
ECU News Services



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Kevin Nicolle, engineering student, submitted a proposal to the NC Space Grant Higher Education/Team Competition Program in Raleigh, NC. His proposal was approved for funding in the amount of \$4, 725 which will support the travel of the human powered vehicle challenge (HPVC) team to attend the national competition. Nicolle is president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) student chapter for this year.

Dr. Zhen Zhu, assistant professor in the department of Engineering, recently took a group of undergraduate engineering students to compete in the Autonomous Aerial Vehicle Competition at the 2014 Ohio Unmanned Aircraft Systems Conference in Dayton, Ohio. The students competed against six other universities, and were awarded 2nd place. The competition was the first of its kind and was part of the Air Force Research Laboratory Sensors Directorate. Students **Logan Cole**, **Tyree Parker**, and **Alan Register** competed as part of the student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). They worked on the aircraft, which had to use autonomous navigation and target geo-location in a GPS-denied environment, under the direction of Zhu.

Derek Holmes, a graduate student in the lean six sigma black belt certification program recently completed a project for Vidant Medical Center. The project improved the admissions process at the hospital and administrators believe it will save the hospital \$4 million annually after its full implementation.

Melissa Wilson, engineering student, received the Undergraduate Research

and Creative Activity award for fall 2014.

Five students received the Spring 2015 ECU North Carolina Space Grant scholarship. From engineering, the students are **Alan Register**, **Amber Lyerly**, **Tyler Martin** and **Nicholas Garcia**. From technology systems, Steven Walton was awarded the scholarship. Each scholarship is \$1,000 for the spring semester.

Two students, **John Pope**, engineering and **Joshua Adams**, technology systems (BSIT), received the NCSU North Carolina Space Grant for the 2014-2015 academic year. Each scholarship is \$1,000.

Byron Anderson, engineering student, was awarded the Ronald C. Harrell engineering scholarship from the North Carolina Society of Engineers. The NCSE awards a \$2,000 scholarship to a student that is majoring in engineering or technology, displays good citizenship, strong academic merit, and financial need.

David Anderson, a computer science undergraduate student, presented his research results on software testing coverage criteria on October 26 - 27 at the Fourth Research Experiences for Undergraduates, in Arlington, VA. Anderson is a participant of this summer's ECU REU program (PI - Dr. J. Ding, Faculty Mentor - Dr. S. Vilkomir). David continues his research activities after the end of the REU program and participation at the very representative Symposium in Arlington is a great achievement.

A research presentation by another participant of this summer's ECU REU program, computer science undergraduate, **Katherine**

Marszalkowski, is accepted for the Sigma Xi 2014 International Research Conference. Marszalkowski will attend this conference in Glendale, Arizona during November 7-8 and present her new results on testing methods for mobile applications.

Kaysey Grantham, student in information and computer technology program in the department of technology systems, was recently invited to the Females in Technology event at Cisco in Research Triangle Park. The event gave female students from various universities the opportunity to learn more about career opportunities at Cisco.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Kimberly Lockhart, alumnus of the design program in the department of technology systems, recently accepted a position with HLW International in New York City as a benchmark analyst. HLW is a large design and architecture firm.

Austin Hester, alumnus from the industrial distribution and logistics program in the department of technology systems, works for QVC. Because of Hester's work, QVC will be expanding their recruitment process of college graduates.

Ms. Erin Green, Masters of Sustainable Tourism graduate, working now for McCabe World Travel in Washington DC, has been selected as a "Rising Star" and invited to give a presentation to the International Luxury Trade Market to be held in Cannes, France this December.

STEM CAREERS, *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2*

engineering as a major. "As long as you can stay motivated, you can do anything you want," Campbell said.

Engaging girls in opportunities at younger ages is vital to increasing interest in later years, said gene session leader Dr. Jamie DeWitt, assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology in the Brody School of Medicine.

"If I hadn't had the chance to learn about science in a hands-on fashion, I definitely wouldn't have pursued a degree in science," DeWitt said. "This held true for me from middle school all the way through graduate school. Classroom learning is great for

foundational knowledge, but 'doing' science is what gives us the passion to dig more deeply."

Other activities included making secret messages with prime numbers and crushing cans to understand material properties.

Angela Anderson, a student at Hope Middle School, said she wanted to attend the conference because she is considering a job in science or math, subjects in which she excels. "I'm seeing how you can use math, science and technology separately, or together, and how you can use them in life," Anderson said.

She said she enjoys science class at

school because of the variety of things involved, from learning about the water cycle to the human body. "It has different branches you can learn about," she said.

Teachers and counselors from all 13 public middle schools in Pitt County selected participants who showed an interest in math or science, are self-motivated or have the potential to be sparked by such an event.

Grady-White Boats and Mayne Pharma (formerly Metrics) sponsored the conference. Pitt County Schools provided transportation.

- Crystal Baity
ECU News Services



Department of Computer Science



*Dr. Karl Abrahamson
Interim Department Chair*

Welcome back to our fellow faculty, students, alumni and supporters. We have started this year with the largest freshman class we have ever seen. We are very excited about this opportunity to have more students experience the different areas of Computer Science.

We had the second REU this past summer. We were very pleased to have 10 students on campus for this event and our faculty worked hard to make sure it was successful. We are looking forward to many more as we progress.

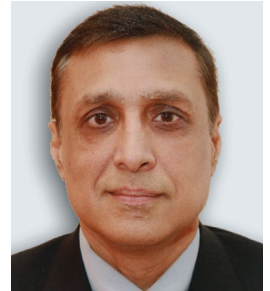
Dr. Jim Wirth, a long time faculty member in Computer Science, retired this past year. We would like to THANK Jim for his hard work and dedication to our department over the years. He will be missed.

Dr. Qin Ding has taken an active role in departmental outreach this past year. Her help will be needed as we continue to spread the word about Computer Science and Software Engineering.

The Department is still looking for a permanent Department Chair. We were not successful in hiring one this past academic year and look forward to opening the search again in the upcoming year in order to place a permanent Department Chair in place for Computer Science.

The field of Computer Science is on the rise and we are working diligently to ensure its success at ECU. We thank you for your continued support as we continue to grow.

Department of Construction Management



*Dr. Syed M. Ahmed
Department Chair*

This year has been filled with many exciting events. Our faculty came back to school ready to take on new training and curriculum development. They have also planned many events for the year and we are excited to see our program grow. Below are some events that have occurred this fall semester. We look forward to a great year and thank everyone for their support.

August 29th - The Construction Management program held its annual "CMGT Welcome Back Cookout"

September 19th - Professional Construction Estimators Association of America Inc. - Triangle Chapter invited the ECU Construction Management program to present.

October 3rd- Construction Management celebrates 30 years at ECU with an Alumni Social looking back at the history of our program and celebrating the progress we've made over the last 30 years.

October 8th- BlockFest 2014 - Presented by Adams/Oldcastle. ECU CMGT students participated in the first annual BlockFest. Students were challenged to build a 4ft. tall structure in a 6x6 space with the blocks of their choosing. The top 3 teams won cash prizes, up to \$250.

October 24th- The Fall Advisory Board Meeting was held at the City Hotel and Bistro from 10am-3pm. Mr. Mack Paul- a partner at Morning Star Law Group in Morrisville, NC- was the guest speaker at the event. The event was attended by 78 people (42 AB Members, 16 guests, 8 faculty, and 9 students).

October 25th- ECU Construction Management Program greeted students and parents at East Carolina University's Fall Open House.



The Construction Management's annual Welcome Back Cookout



Department of Engineering



*Dr. Hayden Griffin
Department Chair*

ECU Engineering continues to grow. Fall 2014 started with 553 undergraduates. We have now graduated a total of 246 students who are employed across the country in a wide range of industries. Graduate schools for the Class of 2014 include Cornell, Georgia Tech, Michigan, Tennessee, and Virginia Commonwealth. Our new MS in Biomedical Engineering program has six students, is strongly research-based, and a thesis is required. The students have chosen faculty mentor/advisors, and the first

two graduate courses are in progress. Their research will be in a wide range of topics under the category of biomedical engineering.

We have two new faculty this year. Also, one of our Instructors has become Assistant Professor, and one of our part-time faculty members has become full time. We have a number of part-time faculty who are critical to our program. We are currently searching for two additional mechanical engineering faculty members.

The department of Engineering has completed the on-site visit portion of the ABET re-accreditation process. The program submitted a comprehensive self study in July, and the visiting team was on campus Sunday, October 26th to Tuesday, October 28th. The team indicated that they were pleased with what they saw. The final results of our re-accreditation will come in August 2015.

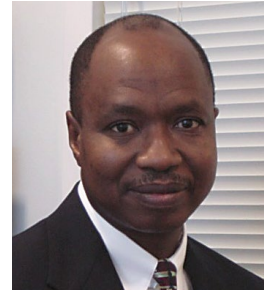
Our spiral curriculum in the areas of design and project management has continued to mature. The first students to come through the first three years of the four-year spiral are in Capstone now, and it appears that the preparation offered by the repeated emphasis on design and project management is doing well at preparing the students for Capstone. After graduation this preparation will also make them more ready to move directly into industry.

We continue to see signs of economic growth in Eastern North Carolina, including some companies who are bringing back work they had previously outsourced to other countries. It's always good to see more work going on in our region, and it's even better when we see ECU engineers involved in that work. Our broad engineering degree allows our graduates to work in a wide range of industries and in a wide range of jobs within any one company. Our engineers are regarded a solid performers who are capable of working in multiple areas and are eager to work in areas that are not exactly aligned with their educational background. That flexibility is the strength of the BS in Engineering program.

The new ECU strategic plan outlines the increase in size of ECU Engineering to 1,000 students. We are working very hard to grow the program, always making sure we have the resources to keep our classes small and allow our students to have many laboratory experiences and to learn to communicate about their projects and their results in a way that will make them successful engineers. Excellent communication skills are an absolute requirement for successful engineering practice.

To find out more about our Engineering program, please take the time to visit us at <http://www.engineering.ecu.edu>.

Department of Technology Systems



*Dr. Tijjani Mohammed
Department Chair*

A very warm hello from the Department of Technology Systems (TSYS)! Our department continues to provide undergraduate and graduate education in key technology areas that help drive the economic prosperity of Eastern North Carolina, as well as the entire state of North Carolina.

We are happy to report that our Master of Science program in Occupational Safety successfully completed their first accreditation review from the Applied Sciences Accreditation Commission (ASAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). The team was very impressed with the program and we will know the final results in August of 2015.

The department continues to offer master's degree programs in Occupational Safety (MSOS), Network Technology (MSNT), and Technology Systems (MSTS). These programs provide working professionals with opportunities to obtain graduate degrees completely online. For those looking for something shorter, our graduate certificate programs provide another alternative for obtaining an additional boost in credentials for that job upgrade, or other professional opportunities, such as adjunct teaching appointments at the undergraduate level at various colleges.

We are very excited to report that we have been redesignated by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security as one of the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cybersecurity through the year 2021. This designation continues to provide excellent scholarship and research opportunities for both students and faculty.

We are equally excited to report CISCO systems recently donated funds to help support our ICT students taking industry IT Certification exams. This funding is very significant because ECU has a large percentage of students with demonstrated financial needs. We are very thankful to Cisco and hope that other employers and/or individuals will consider similar type of support for certifications and/or scholarships.

Finally, we are very happy to report that students in our IDIS program can now receive SAP endorsement in addition to their university credentials. This endorsement helps to improve the marketability of our IDIS graduates.

Please connect with us to learn more about our students' successes and other pertinent news about the department. Best wishes for the upcoming Holiday Season! <http://www.cet.ecu.edu/tsys>.



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You Make a Difference!

As reported in our last newsletter we were able to award a total of \$55,770 in scholarships for the 2014/2015 school year. I am pleased to report that our total scholarships continue to increase because of generous gifts from our alumni and friends of the College. As a result we have new scholarships available to each department within the College of Engineering and Technology including two Endowments for Construction Management, an annually funded scholarship for Engineering, and two annually funded scholarships for Computer Science. We also have a new scholarship for the College of Engineering and Technology that will be available to students pursuing a degree within the college that meet certain criteria. Thank you to our donors that made these new scholarships possible!

With the announcement of new scholarships I want to be certain to thank those of you who continue to contribute to our existing endowed and non-endowed scholarships, our scholarship pool accounts, and our Dean and Departmental Priority Funds. We simply could not continue the advancement of our college without your support.

A great example of this is the funding of the Sgt. David Smith Memorial Leadership Award. It is my great pleasure to announce that through many generous donations that this Scholarship has now reached endowment status! This insures the perpetuity of a legacy that is very special to our College. Thank you to all of you who have helped make this endowment a reality!

In other great news, I am excited to announce that we now have the first Distinguished Professorship Endowment for the College of Engineering and Technology! On October 7, 2014, the State of NC approved a match of \$167,000 to be combined with \$333,000 in private funds **by Gregory Poole Equipment Company** to create an endowment of \$500,000 for the Gregory Poole Distinguished Professorship in Construction Management. This Professorship will allow the Department to recruit and/or retain an eminent scholar and teacher, at the Associate Professor or Professor level, who will serve as a role model for faculty and students at East Carolina University. Thank you to Gregory Poole for your most generous gift in support

of Construction Management at ECU! I want to thank Gregory Poole also for continuing to provide the financial support that makes this newsletter publication possible.

On behalf of the College of Engineering and Technology, I want to thank you all once again and encourage you to give me a call or send me an email to schedule a visit to discuss your philanthropic interests.



Scott Snead

All the best,

Scott Snead
Major Gifts Officer
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