

# PERSPECTIVES

*From the  
Department  
Chairperson*



I want to take this opportunity to comment on three important activities that have occurred in the Department of Technology since the last Alumni Newsletter. First, Mr. Curtis Thomas, a 1991 alumnus of the department, was one of 10 ISU alumni who received university level awards this spring. He was awarded the E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award. Additional information about this outstanding individual and his award is on page 2 of the newsletter.

The second important activity is the NAIT re-accreditation site visit that occurred at the end of March. The campus visit by the NAIT visitation team represents the culmination of many months of effort by the entire faculty. The self study report contains a comprehensive presentation of all aspects of our programs including information about the curriculum, faculty, facilities, students, and more. The team was quite positive in their review of our program and the final accreditation decision will be made at the fall NAIT conference in St. Louis. Stay tuned.

The third activity that we want to note is the Department's success with a major new NSF grant. In September, we learned that the National Center for Engineering and Technology Education (NCETE) would be funded for 5 years at a level of \$10 million. Our

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department is one of a nine university collaborative that will be working on this major Center. Other universities include the University of Illinois, the University of Georgia, Utah State University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin-Stout, California State University- Los Angeles, North Carolina A&T University, and Brigham Young University.

Specific activities of the Center will include:

- Providing funding for 20 doctoral students over the 5 years of the grant.
- Creating a body of research that improves our understanding of learning and teaching engineering and technology subjects,
- Conducting professional development in-service workshops for technology education teachers on a nationwide scale, and
- Reconfiguring our technology teacher education pre-service programs to align with the mission of the Center and to emphasize engineering concepts and activities.

NCETE is one of the 17 NSF-funded Centers for Learning and Teaching in the country, and the only center addressing engineering and technology education. The ultimate goal of NCETE is to infuse engineering design, problem solving and analytical skills into the K-12 schools through technology education in order to increase the quality, quantity, and diversity of

engineering and technology educators, and to significantly strengthen the pathways to engineering and technology professions for students. The Center is doing this by teaming engineering faculty and technology education faculty across the consortium.

The funding of this Center represents a major endorsement of the level and quality of the Department of Technology on a national scale. It also places ISU in a key leadership position to chart the future direction for technology teacher education on a national scale. Departmental participants in the Center are Drs. Chris Merrill, Michael Daugherty, and Rodney Custer.

As always, thank you for your ongoing interest in ISU and your Department of Technology. Please continue to stay in touch.

## 3RD ANNUAL CMSA GOLF OUTING

The 3rd Annual Construction Management Student Association Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2005 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the El Paso Golf Club. For additional information and registration forms please contact:

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Illinois State University - CMSA  
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Normal, IL 61790-5100  
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## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

At the annual holiday party, three members of the Technology faculty were honored by the department for the exemplary quality of their work. The three citations, awarded each year since 1989, recognize scholarly productivity, teaching, and service. The selection committee, comprised of faculty members who have received the awards during the previous year, made their choices based on the merit, value, worth, and significance of the projects or quality of performance in instructional settings. This year's winners were: Paul Brauchle - Research, Ron Meier - Teaching, and Dan Brown - Service.



**Paul Brauchle**  
Research



**Ronald Meier**  
Teaching



**Dan Brown**  
Service

### BILL LaBOUNTY NAMED 2004 DISTINGUISHED ALUM

William LaBounty was recognized as the Department of Technology's 2004 Distinguished Alum in October 22, 2004. Rodney Custer



presented a plaque and a department shirt to Bill LaBounty in honor of the event. Mr. LaBounty received his bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan University and his Master's Degree in Technology from Illinois State University. Bill began his ISU career in 1970. He served as Director of ISU's Printing Services Department from 1972 until 1993 when he retired. His wife, Loretta, retired from

Milner Library in 1991, and their son, Larry, received his Bachelor's Degree in Technology from Illinois State in 1978. Bill spoke about his family's book binding business and his various experiences in the printing industry. Family members present for the ceremony included his wife, Loretta, his son Larry and daughter-in-law Susan, his daughter Leslie Green and her husband, Lee, and his grandchildren, Sean and Angela. Employees from Printing Services were also in attendance, as well as, Don Johnson, 2002 Department of Technology Distinguished Alum.



### TECHNOLOGY ALUM RECEIVES 2005 E. BURTON MERCIER ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Curtis Thomas, Jr. a 1991 Technology graduate, is a 2005 recipient of the E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award. A special ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 4:00 pm in the Ballroom of the Bone Student Center. Curtis has been a strong supporter and advocate for the Department of Technology since his graduation. He led the initiative to have ABB Robotics consign a sophisticated, high-end industrial robot to the Integrated Manufacturing Systems lab, making a substantial impact on the curriculum. This arrangement would not have been possible without Thomas' effective advocacy. He is currently working with the department on the new automation lab project. During Science and Technology Week 2004, Thomas was a major presenter on the future of robotics. He was honored as the Outstanding Young Alumnus for the Department of Technology in 2003.



### 2005 OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS

Michael Surmac, 1992 alum has been named 2005 Outstanding Young Alum for the Department of Technology. Surmac will be the speaker at the Spring Awards Banquet on April 28, 2005. He is currently the Director of Engineering & Technology at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Illinois. The Engineering and Technology Division includes automated manufacturing, building construction, computer-aided mechanical design, electronic engineering, graphic arts and quality engineering technology. Prior to this, he was the chair of the graphic arts program. He has taught at Macomb and DeKalb High Schools and worked two years in the trade show industry. He received M.S. Ed from WIU in May 2004.



## FACULTY UPDATE

Career Day. He is completing his first year as a Assistant

**Richard Boser**, Coordinator and Assistant Chair of the Department. Under Program earned ACCE Accreditation. Dr. Boser and Chrissy Hepner presented “The Impact of the USGBC Indoor Environmental Quality Elements on Work Place Productivity and Associated Cost Benefits at the NAIT Annual Conference in Louisville, KY. Rick will serve on the ACCE Board beginning July 2005.

**Paul Brauchle** was awarded the NAITEE Teaching Award. He acts as the department’s IRB Representative for students and faculty. Paul presented “The Next Generation’s Attitude Toward Work: First, Second or Third Priority” at the annual conference of the Labor Arbitration Institute in Minneapolis, MN in October 2004.

**Dan Brown** continues to serve as the Graduate Coordinator. He is serving as President of the National Association of Industrial and Technical Teacher Educators. He is also a reviewer for the *Journal of Career and Technical Education* and the *Journal of Industrial Teacher Education* and has been delivering project leadership courses on a contract basis to business and industry professionals in the Central Illinois region.

**Ryan Brown** was a test author for the Illinois Drafting Association Drafting Competition and the design engineer for the Children’s Museum “Mega-Blok” Model. He was also the Test Production Team Coordinator and Author for the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Academic Challenge -Engineering Graphics Division.

**Mark Comerford** continues as a member of the Construction Management faculty.

**Rodney Custer**, Department Chair, is serving a term on the board of Directors of the International Technology Education Association. He continues to work on Project ProBase, a \$750,000 NSF-funded curriculum development project for upper level High School classes. Along with Drs. Merrill and Daugherty, he is working on the National Center for Engineering and Technology Education, a \$10 million dollar NSF project.

**Michael K. Daugherty**, Technology Education Sequence Coordinator. He gave the keynote address to the Technology Student Association Annual Conference in Carlinville, Illinois. He continues to work on Project ProBase, a 4750,000 NSF-funded curriculum development project for upper level high school classes. Along with Drs. Merrill and Custer, he is working on the National Center for Engineering and Technology Education, a \$10 million dollar NSF project. He also won the Outstanding Research Award by the Council in Technology Teacher Education.

**Kevin Devine** continues as Professional Practice Coordinator. He also coordinates the annual Technology

Professor. Kevin presented “More Than Buttons: CAD/CAM” at the 11th Annual Illinois Technology Education Conference in Peoria, IL.

**Terry Foster**, Industrial Computer Systems instructor, has been working on updating the Turner Hall 136 lab.

**Anu Gokhale** is currently working on the second edition of her book, *Introduction to Telecommunications*. She presented “An Integrated Approach to Change Attitudes toward Female Participation in STEM” at the 2005 Hawaii International Conference on Education in Honolulu, Hawaii in January 2005.

**David Kennell** continues as an instructor in the Integrated Manufacturing Sequence. He is introducing significant new and advanced simulation technologies into the process control and electronics courses in the department.

**Cathy McKay** continues as the Undergraduate Advisor. She participates in the Departmental Curriculum Committee, Family Weekend, and Transfer Days.

**Ron Meier** has been teaching two of the graduate level Project Management courses in the department and has been providing leadership to a group which delivers project management courses as part of the Department’s Technology Transfer initiative. He has also taught project management seminar courses through Extended University. Ron has been instrumental in promoting graduate student project management internships with local companies.

**Chris Merrill** received the 2004 Concidine “Big Thinker” Award, which is the highest-level award given by the Technology Education Association of Illinois at its 11th Annual Illinois Technology Education Conference in St. Charles, Illinois. Along with Drs. Custer and Daugherty, he is working on the National Center for Engineering and Technology Education, a \$10 million dollar NSF project.

**Bo Park** is completing his first year teaching in the Construction Management Sequence.

**Keith Rahn** is finishing his second year teaching in the construction sequence. He is the faculty advisor and team coach of the MCA student competition team.

**Lou Reifschneider** continues to conduct research in the design and fabrication of plastics processing technology. He attended the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermoforming Division Conference and serves as faculty advisor for the student chapter of SPE.

**Klaus Schmidt**, Industrial Computer Systems Sequence Coordinator, and is the editor of the Industrial Teacher

Education Directory. The directory is sponsored by the National Association of Industrial and Technical Teacher Educators and the Council on Technology Teacher Education. Klaus was presented ISU's New Faculty Initiative Award during the Founder's Day activities.

**Ken Stier**, Integrated Manufacturing Systems Sequence Coordinator, was awarded the NAIT Outstanding Industrial Technology Professor Award for Region II at the NAIT Annual Convention in Louisville, KY in November, 2004. He presented "Student Recruitment: A Constant Challenge in Manufacturing Programs Today" at the Annual NAIT Conference in Louisville, KY.

**Marty Westrick** continues as an Instructional Assistant Professor in the Graphic Communications sequence. He continues to be actively involved in the improvement of the sequence facilities and curriculum and is working toward his doctoral degree in Human Resource Education in the College of Education at the University of Illinois-Champaign.

**Dr. Dan Wilson**, Graphic Communications Sequence Coordinator, presented "Automation in Print Manufacturing: Implications for Educators" at the International Graphic Arts Education Association Region 5 Conference on November 20th in Chicago.

## **TECHNOLOGY STUDENT EVENTS**

### **CAST OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT**

Gary Kayser's Master's thesis entitled "Application of Tinto's Model to the Persistence of Freshmen Students Enrolled in the First-Year, Second-Semester Military Science Course Within 10th Brigade, Western Region Undergraduate Institutions" was selected as the College of Applied Science and Technology's Outstanding Graduate Student Research Project for the 2003-2004 academic year. It was selected as the runner-up in the university wide James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Award Competition. Dr. Paul Brauchle was his thesis advisor.

### **HOMECOMING FLOAT WINS TOP HONOR**

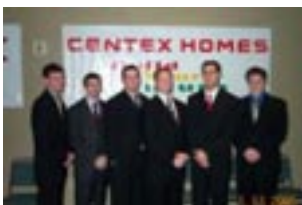


The Homecoming float built by members of the Construction Management Student Association and the Graduate Student Association was awarded first place in the Homecoming Float competition. Technology students involved in building the float included Joe Burmeister, Steve Cooke, Chris Bowie, Jonathen Ribskis, Andy Volle, April Lelea, Chris DePooter, Elizabeth Bolin, Sean VeZain, and Rory Nolan. Keith Rahn was the faculty advisor for the project. Donations were provided by: Avanti's Restaurant, P.J. Hoerr, and Alexander Lumber. After homecoming, the float was sold and the proceeds were donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

### **AGC REGIONAL CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION TEAM**

In November 2004, six students from the ISU Construction Management program participated in the commercial division of the Associated Schools of Construction and Associated General Contractors (ASC/AGC) regional competition. There were 20 teams from 11 construction schools in the Great Lakes region competing in the three divisions: commercial, design-build, and heavy-civil. The ISU student team included Michael Bjes, Josh Christ, Pete Hall, Tim Lumpp, Matt Fiorentini, and Mike Rosenberger. Students were asked to develop a business proposal for the Donnelly Library at Lake Forest College, a project previously completed by the competition host Turner Construction. The team was given 15 hours to develop a bid proposal addressing pre-construction activities including a Letter of Intent, Requests for Information and handle addendums, change orders, a detailed estimate, a full schedule, and address issues of site safety, logistics, quality control, pre-construction processes, cash flow analysis, and management organization.

### **CM TEAM PARTICIPATES IN NAHB COMPETITION**



The Construction Management program again fielded a team in the National Association of Home Builders Residential Construction Management Competition sponsored by Centex Homes and held in conjunction with the NAHB International Builders Show in Orlando, Florida January 12-15th, 2005. The team developed a business proposal for a real life 134 home community. The 129 page proposal included a management plan, risk assessment, market analysis, marketing plan, cost estimate, schedule, and financial analysis. The ISU team finished eleventh out of 28 teams from 4-year construction programs across the nation. The ISU team included John Ark, Scott McCloud, Colin Nolan, Scott Sanders, Jon Stapel, and Ryan Welborn. Students' travel expenses were sponsored by the Bloomington-Normal Area Home Builders Association, Pulte Homes of Chicago, and the Residential Construction Employers Council of the Chicago area.

### **TECA STUDENTS GIVE KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

In February 2005, twelve TECA members assisted in judging events for the middle and high school students at the

Illinois Technology Student Association State Conference in Carlinville, IL. Four TECA members kicked off the conference with the keynote presentation on technology education.

### **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE**

Members of the Technology Education Collegiate Association (TECA) won two first and two second place awards at the Midwest TECA competition in Peoria, Illinois November 4-6, 2004. ISU-TECA competed against seven other Midwestern universities in six different competitive events. Illinois State TECA members won four awards, with two being first place in Communications and Teaching Lessons.

### **INDUSTRIAL COMPUTER SYSTEMS STUDENTS OBTAINED CERTIFICATION**

During Fall 2004, 21 ICS students obtained certifications; 4 students earned A+ Hardware, 3 students earned A+ Operating Systems, 2 students earned Network+, and 12 students earned Cisco Certification.

### **ICS LAB IMPLEMENTS FULL DUPLEX GIGABIT FIBER BACKBONE**

In Fall 2004, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Ron Rapp and Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Michael Brodeur worked to implement a full duplex gigabit fiber backbone to Turner Room 136. This laboratory consists of a firewalled connection to ISUNet, six servers providing various student support, and 42 two student work stations. Lee Wright helped clear out a supply room in Turner 136A, built an elevated floor, relocated the servers and rerouted the uplink cables.

### **GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS STUDENTS ATTEND GRAPH EXPO IN CHICAGO**

Dr. Dan Wilson and 8 Graphic Communications students; Rachel Bergloff, Chester Gorecki, Aaron Luszczewski, Danny Cohen, Dave Thomas, Tracy Ryan, Adam Burke, and Alan Gyssler attended the Graph Expo 2004 Conference and Convention at McCormick Place in Chicago in October 2004. In addition to exhibits, Graph Expo 2004 offered a program of more than 60 educational seminars, which drew almost 1,500 registrants.

### **SME AND SPE STUDENT ORGANIZATION TOUR MANUFACTURING PLANTS**

Members of the SME Student Organization toured the plastics and stamping areas of the Mitsubishi Plant in Normal, Illinois on Monday, March 14th. The SPE Student Organization toured Illinois Valley Plastics Company on March 4th.

### **MESA MEMBERS ATTEND MECA CONFERENCE IN ARIZONA**

The Mechanical Contractors of Chicago sponsored 10 members of the Mechanical Electrical Student Association to attend the Mechanical Contractors Association of America Convention held in Arizona from February 26 to March 3, 2005. Keith Rahn and the following students attended the convention: Chris DePooter, Chris VonHolten, Chris Avildsen, Mike Bjes, Mike Kniesel, Katie Murphy, Scott Blons, Steve Cooke, Andy Volle, and Jim Koob.



### **CAREER DAY 2005**

The Annual Technology Career Day was held on February 18, 2005 with 18 companies participating in the event. If your company is interested in participating in the 2006 Technology Career Day on Friday, February 10, 2006, please send a note and business card with an e-mail address to:

Kevin Devine  
Professional Practice Coordinator  
Illinois State University  
Campus Box 5100  
Normal, IL 61790-5100  
or email him at [kldevin@ilstu.edu](mailto:kldevin@ilstu.edu)

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