

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY  
MARCH 2002**

**GOOD NEWS**

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Matlack, R.S., D.W. Kaufman, G.A. Kaufman, and *B.R. McMillan*. 2002. Long-term variation in abundance of Elliot's short-tailed shrew (*Blarina hylophaga*) in tallgrass prairie. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 83:280-289.

*Bentley MD*, Rodriguez-Porcel M, Lerman A, Sarafov MH, Romero JC, Pelaez LI, Grande JP, Ritman EL, Lerman LO: Enhanced renal cortical vascularization in experimental hypercholesterolemia. *Kidney Int* 61:1056-1063, 2002.

*Dr. John D. Madsen*, attended a workshop: Expert Panel Member, Lake Minnetonka/Jennings Bay Watershed Value Methodology Study, 25 February to 1 March 2002, Golden Valley, MN. Sponsored by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

**SCIENCE FAIR**

We had a very successful Junior/Senior High Science & Engineering Fair on Saturday, March 2. The activities were in the Centennial Student Union and Morris Hall buildings here on campus. From southern Minnesota there were 433 students participating with projects (82 more students than last year) and 50 students with research papers. We had 230 volunteer judges!

Ninety-seven students with projects and 18 students with research papers will advance and participate at the Minnesota Academy of Science State Science Fair in Minneapolis, April 12-14.

Eight students won the expense-paid trip to the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Louisville, Kentucky, May 12-18. One of these eight is Ryan Riebel, son of former CSET staff Mike Riebel.

Thin Film Technology Corp. has contributed \$5,000 this year, which includes one-half of the expense of all the ribbons, trophies, books and medallions we award and will sponsor Ryan for his trip to ISEF. NorAm/Minnegasco Foundation has contributed \$4,050 this year, which includes all the cash awards for the South Central region. With this increase we will be able to have larger dollar amounts for the grand awards at the Elementary Fair. Our third major sponsor is Hickory Tech who will be contributing \$1,000. These contributions and the additional ones from individuals and companies are particularly significant.

## **CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY**

Assistant Professor Laura Miller will be presenting at the Chem Demo Extravaganza on March 12 at the University of Minnesota. She will be presenting demos based on electrical conductivity of solutions and oxidation-reduction reactions.

## **COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES**

Dr. Mahbubur Rahman Syed has been invited to be a member of the international program committee of the 5th International Conference on Computer and Information Technology 2002 (ICCIT 2002) to be held during 27-28 December 2002 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Details for submission of papers may be seen at <http://www.ewubd.edu/iccit2002/>.

Dr. Syed is also the chair of the Multimedia Information Management Track of the 2002 IRMA (Information Resources Management Association) International Conference to be held in Seattle, Washington during May 19-22, 2002.

Professor Steve Case is the recipient of a \$2,000 grant from Guidance Interactive Technologies to support student-faculty research relating to the application of handheld computers and wireless networks to gather and transmit medical data.

Professor Case also received a grant of \$14,000 from JAJ Associates to support student-faculty research relating to the development of a usability prototype for automated aircraft weighing systems.

Professor Case had a paper accepted for presentation at the ISA Western Regional Conference in June. The paper is entitled "Supporting Real-Time Control with Bluetooth Ad Hoc Networks".

## **ECET**

Winland Electronics has donated motor controllers for Junior Design class activities. They are also looking at research opportunities and possibly graduate assistant help.

Students have been active in planning visits and tours to various companies. An E-Mentoring trip to LSI Logic in Bloomington, MN, was a success and a positive experience with 9 engineers at LSI interacting with the 18 students who went on the trip. Approximately 40 students and faculty visited Itron in Waseca on February 28. The company gave a good presentation, which was well received; they will be interviewing on campus soon.

The ECET Department has received a good accreditation report after the review of the engineering technology program by ABET. A response will be drafted and returned. Both Hibbing and Itasca CTCs will bring interested students on a visit to MSU this semester. The Solar Car was shown at Thin Film Technology on March 6.

### **IDCM**

The MSU Construction Management Program is co-hosting the 3rd Annual Seminar on Technology in Construction titled "Economic and Technology Forecast: Maintaining a Competitive Edge in an Uncertain Economy." The event is scheduled on March 26, 7:30 - noon at the IDS Center, 50th floor, Universe Room. For complete details on speakers and program check out website <http://cset.mnsu.edu/idcm/>

### **MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS**

A paper "A Note on Two Stage Shrinkage Testimation in Regression Function Estimation by *Mezbahur Rahman* and D.V. Gohkale (at University of California Riverside)" has been accepted for publication in the Journal of the Indian Statistical Association for the December 2001 issue.

### **NSF SCHOLARSHIP DINNER**

Mr. Glen Taylor, President of Taylor Corporation and owner of the Minnesota Timberwolves was the guest speaker at the recent National Science Foundation dinner. This dinner was held to honor the 32 students who qualified and received NSF scholarships in Computer Science, Mathematics and Engineering.

### **WHO'S WHO RECEPTION**

On March 5 our College hosted a reception for fifty-eight students who qualified for the Who's Who Award. Many faculty and staff were in attendance as Dean Frey congratulated these fine students for their achievement.

### **SOLAR CAR**

On Thursday March 7, Dr. Kuma Takamura and Mr. Chris Sturm of Thin Film Technology Inc. presented a check in the amount of \$15,000 to benefit the Northern Light Solar Rayce Team and the Southwest/Central Regional Science and Engineering Fairs. Of this gift, \$10,000 is earmarked for the solar team and \$5,000 for the science fairs. Dr. Hai Sheng Wu, the advisor to the solar team, and Dr. Marg, director of the science fairs, were on hand to receive the check in a ceremony held in the Engineering Projects Lab in Nelson Hall. The latest solar car, Northern Light VII, was on display sporting its new purple and gold paint job. Mr. Mark Neta, the solar team student leader, and a number of other team members were also on hand to receive the check and express their gratitude to Thin Film's representatives. The check was awarded by the Mankato Area Foundation in conjunction with Thin Film Technology, which is involved in selecting grant recipients. Thin Film joins Xcel Energy and a host of others as the primary supporters of MSU's Solar Car Program.