

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING
AND TECHNOLOGY
GOOD NEWS
MAY 2004**

AUTOMOTIVE & MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

The Formula SAE team took the car out for the first testing on Sunday and they were very pleased with the results. They identified a couple of areas that need improvement, but found no "show stoppers" or major concerns. The group will now continue preparation for the FSAE competition to be held on May 19-23 in Detroit , MI.

Professor Ann Goebel presented and facilitated a technical workshop entitled "Managing the Faces of Change", for The Minnesota River Valley Society of Manufacturing Engineers, at the Holiday Inn, Fairmont, MN, March 18, 2004. Her session addressed the toughest challenge to improvement initiatives – change resistance. Engineering improvements lead to change events for an organization. Even when desired, change is often resisted and defeats the best of intentions. Participants learned why people naturally fight change, how to structure buy-in, and manage expectations for competitive advantage.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Graduate student Hyon Joo and Dr. Penny Knoblich, Associate Professor, presented Ms. Joo's thesis research at the National Experimental Biology (FASEB) meeting in Washington, DC. on April 19.

CHEMISTRY & GEOLOGY

Dr. Trent Vorlicek, Assistant Professor and Chemistry Club Advisor, reports that the American Chemical Society Student Affiliates (i.e. Chemistry Club) recently volunteered to clean up a portion of the Minnesota River as part of the Minnesota Adopt-A-River Program. The Club has adopted both shorelines of the Minnesota River from its confluence with the Blue Earth River near Land of Memories Park and Judson Bottom Road south about 1.5 miles. For their efforts, the club gathered 940 lbs. of scrap metal, 760 lbs. of unrecyclable trash, and 10 bags of recyclables. Several odd items were found including: 10 tires, dehumidifier, microwave, stove, water heater, and 15 bags of raked leaves. Three major dumpsites were discovered. One was on Judson Bottom Road, the other two were located in Land of Memories park. All in all, nearly one ton of trash was collected. That's nearly 1,300 lbs. per mile! The club will return next year to the same stretch of river to pick up what was left and reclaim what is newly deposited. This summer, the DNR will post signs on both shores to indicate the Club's adoption of this portion of the river.

COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCES

Dr. Cesar Guerra-Salcedo, Assistant Professor, recently received a Faculty Research Grant for investigation on nonstationary problems using Genetic Algorithms.

ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Han-Way Huang has authored a fourth book "The PIC18 Microcontroller--An introduction", published by Delmar Learning and to be released in June. This book was written for college students who are taking their first course in microprocessor interfacing and programming. Both assembly and C language are used to illustrate the programming of the PIC18 microcontroller.

Dr. Huang received a donation of twelve sets of Zilog Z8 Encore demo boards and their development software, which includes an integrated development environment and a C compiler. These kits will be used by ECET students. Dr. Huang also received a donation of 10 sets of CPLD kit and 15 copies of HDLs (hardware description languages) development software package from Xilinx, a company located in San Jose, California.

The Student Branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) held a very successful, first-ever Job Fair on Thursday, April 8, for majors in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Technology. Ten regional companies attended, real and mock interviews were held, and offers were made to students for both permanent and internship positions. IEEE is planning to make this an annual event.

Dr. Bill Hudson, Associate Professor, has had a paper accepted for presentation at the ASEE Annual Conference in Salt Lake City. It is entitled "Lethal Force Encounters - Yet Another Opportunity for Engineering Education". The acceptance of this paper for Salt Lake City also represents acceptance for Dr. Hudson to present his work at the colloquium in Beijing, China, coming up in September, 2004.

INTERIOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Dr. Carl Egan, Associate Professor, attended the Total Facility Management Show in Chicago, IL held April 21 - 23, 2004.

MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

Dr. Namyong Lee, Assistant Professor, with H. Sunwoo, "Degree reduction of Bezier Curves and Its Matrix Interpretation" is published in the Journal of Computational Geometry, 2004, Vol. 21 (2), pp. 151-164.

Dr. Lee also received some travel grants, one from PIMS (Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences) and the University of British Columbia for the Industrial problem workshop, May 17-22, 2004, Vancouver, Canada, and the other one is from NSF and MSU for the Computational and Mathematical Biology workshop, July 11-17, 2004, Greensboro, NC.

MECHANICAL & CIVIL ENGINEERING

A team of civil engineering students competed in the annual Concrete Canoe Competition hosted by the Midwest Region of the American Society of Civil Engineers, at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, on April 24. This was MSU's first entry in the canoe competition, and the student team received many compliments on their excellent first attempt.