

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
GOOD NEWS
OCTOBER 2003

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Students in the Fall 2003 First Year Seminar class for the "Women in Science" Learning Community are contributing over 80 hours of science and math tutoring to area high school students enrolled in the after-school programs at the Lincoln Community Center. The after-school programs involve primarily immigrants from Somalia, who are also learning English as a second language. The "Women in Science" students participated in several hours of orientation training before they began their tutoring sessions. The project is going well, and has been met with enthusiasm from the students, as well as from the Lincoln Community Center coordinators. Marie Pomije and Angie Bomier are co-instructors in the class.

AUTOMOTIVE AND MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

E.F. Johnson Company presented Minnesota State University, Mankato students Joe Ahl and Jorge Morales with \$500 scholarship awards for their development of a "Value Stream Map" for E.F. Johnson Company as the basis for their MET Senior Design Project. They recently presented the map to E.F. Johnson's management and production staff. Value Stream Mapping is a world class engineering method used to understand the supply chain for a product. Their work points out opportunities for reducing non-value added production.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. John D. Krenz has accepted a five-year position on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Scientific and Natural Areas Program. This committee consists of members from academia, government, and the private sector, and advises MDNR Commissioner Gene Merriam.

Dr. Marilyn Hart and three undergraduate research assistants, Aja Bjerke, Ben Jilek and Ryan Peck, attended the Twelfth Annual University of Minnesota Symposium in Developmental Biology, September, 2003.

Dr. Hart has submitted an American Heart Association National Research Scientist Development Grant entitled, *Functions of Actin Capping Protein in the Heart*.

Dr. Robert Sorensen spent one week at FIOCRUZ Centro de Pesquisas René Rachou in Belo Horizonte, Brazil as a visiting scientist, from September 28–October 5, 2003. This Brazilian federal institute is controlled by their Minister of Health, which makes it analogous to our National Institute of Health. This was a very successful visit, where Dr. Sorensen spent time developing molecular techniques to study the genetics of the human parasite, *Schistosoma mansoni*. This parasite, and other members of its genus, infect over 200 million people in endemic regions in Central and South America, sub-Saharan Africa, the middle-east and Asia. This visit was funded by a \$5,000 grant he received

from Purdue University to collaborate in an NIH-funded \$750,000 research project studying the genetics of this parasite in endemic regions of Brazil.

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Ed Doering gave a presentation entitled "MIDI Essentials" to the IEEE Student Chapter. Approximately 60 students attended the presentation, which featured information about the MIDI standard, and included demonstrations of MIDI equipment and software. Vahid Ellig, senior computer engineering student doing independent study under Dr. Doering, successfully completed and demonstrated a project to interface an auto guiding camera to the telescope in the Andreas Observatory. Sponsored by Dr. Steve Kipp in Astronomy, the project resulted in new capability to perform spectroscopy with long-term exposures. Professors Bill Lewinski and Bill Hudson had published in the September/October issue of The Police Marksman the article "Reaction Times in Lethal Force Encounters – The Tempe Study".

INTERIOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

The Construction Management Program has a new marketing brochure thanks to the gifts of three Advisory Board members - Al Gerhardt of Kraus-Anderson Construction Company, Jim Neilson of Lennar Family of Homes, and Dan Stanley of Stellar Contractors. Their combined gift-in-kind contribution, valued at over \$15,000, paid for the brochure's development, financing, and distribution. Over 35,000 brochures have been mailed to licensed contractors, union leaders, guidance counselors and high school seniors.

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Dr. Francis T. Hannick presented a workshop entitled Hands-On Experience with Numerous Activities, for the Elementary School Math Curriculum at the Western Regional Conference of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Salt Lake City on October 3, 2003.

Dr. Namyong Lee received a new travel grant to cover the travel cost of "Mathematical and Computational Modeling of Biological System" symposium. The symposium will be held this November at Texas Tech University. The grant was funded by both NSF and the Whitaker Foundation.

A paper titled "A note on parameters in the two parameter Weibull distribution", by Drs. Mezbahur Rahman and Larry M. Pearson, has been accepted for publication in the Journal of the Korean Data & Information Sciences Society.