research center and provides cooperative green research and development programs of mutual interest to the industry. Last March he won first place in the “Best Student Paper / Presentation” competition at the Annual North Central Sectional Conference, sponsored by the ASEE North Central Section. In April, Derrick plans to attend the 115th Metal-casting Congress in Schaumburg, Illinois, to present “Comparing Casting Evaluation to Thermal Distortion Testing for Various Chemically Bonded Sand Systems Using Image Analysis,” which has been accepted for publication.

Assessment of Student Learning

Dr. Sam Ramrattan, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME) professor specializing in metal casting, and five CEAS students attended the 62nd Annual Foundry Educational Foundation College Industry Conference (CIC) held in Chicago late last fall. The two-day conference celebrated the metal-casting industry and provided networking opportunities for the students with about 30 company reps and the faculty members and 98 students from 24 metal-casting-accredited colleges. Only five students from each college were invited to the conference. The WMU student attendees were Joshua Veenstra, Andrew Oman, Jason Bolek, Sean Derrick, and Brian Guenther, all technology and mechanical engineering majors who are interested in metal casting. The conference offered information sessions and speakers on innovation, globalization, sustainability, and career opportunities.

Last October, a research team from the CEAS Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE) participated in a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technology Demonstration project in New Jersey to showcase Laser Tracker, laser-based equipment acquired in 2009 by Dr. Haluk Aktan, CCE chair, and Dr. Upul Attanayake, CCE assistant professor. The CCE team evaluated performance and capabilities of the equipment under indoor and outdoor conditions before taking to an actual bridge site. “At the 2010 January Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting we presented our findings to educate bridge owners and other highway officials on the potential use of this novel non-contact technology,” Attanayake said. Later, the team was invited by the Drexel Intelligent Infrastructure & Transportation Safety Institute to participate in a technology demonstration project sponsored by the FHWA under the Long-Term Bridge Performance Program (LTBPP). “It was very exciting,” Attanayake said. “We were working with many international groups of experts from the U.S., Japan, and the U.K. What we [WMU] brought to the field was far superior.” Attanayake explained that diagnostic tests are conducted to assure bridge safety and serviceability. Technologies currently used for bridge deflection measurement require significant resources for mounting, powering the units, and data acquisition. “They are costly and inconvenient to the public due to road and bridge closures for a considerably long period”. Aktan said that identifying potential non-contact deflection measurement technologies are vital. With the Laser Tracker, he said, the team could complete a project “in a couple hours that otherwise would require several days or weeks with the traditional technology.” Attanayake and three students - Alp Servi, Vinodkumar Vijayan, and Yazan Abubaker - participated in the demonstration. The research team acknowledged support from Nancy Landsberger, CCE department secretary; John Cernius, technician; and many others.

Extended University Programs

Faculty and Staff Accolades

Based upon 20+ years of work experience, a year of concentrated study, several professional development workshops, and the successful passing of a national exam, Robert McDonough, EUP’s Grand Rapids Downtown Facility Supervisor, has achieved Certified Facility Manager (CFM) status. Bob was notified in December 2010 that he passed the exam conducted by the International Facility Management Association (IFMA). According to IFMA, “the CFM Exam is competency-based, testing what a person can do compared to standards that define the practice of facility management. One cannot take a course or a simple knowledge-based exam to earn the credential. IFMA’s competency-based program is at a higher level than a knowledge-based program, reflecting the growing importance of facility management in the international business world.” The CFM designation is the only global facility management certification available, which attests to standards that define the practice of facility management.

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