more competitive,” he said. “The DENSO North America Foundation has supported multiple CEAS projects. This is one more significant contribution to WMU students and CEAS student teams.”

In February, the CEAS dedicated the student innovation center (SIC) in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Parkview Campus. Dr. Richard Hathaway, a Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering professor, spoke at the ceremony about dedicating an area where students can work on their senior engineering design projects (SEDPs) and where their work can be showcased for parents and other visitors. “It’s now officially open,” he said. The new SIC was a former industrial design (ID) room before the ID program was cancelled. About 18 months ago Hathaway proposed the idea of providing the room as a work area for SEDPs to then dean and now provost, Dr. Tim Greene. “When ID moved out, I told the dean I had a brilliant idea for this room,” Hathaway said. Others who participated in developing the SIC include Dr. Dan Litynski, who completed the project when Greene became provost, and Dr. Karlis Kaugars. Hathaway credited Steelcase, Custer Furniture, and Fabri-Kal for funding the project and the WMU physical plant for assembling the room into functional work areas. Sara Arendell, a mechanical engineering senior who graduates in April, was one of the first students to get a key to the new SIC, and she is pleased with the new workspace. Hathaway said Arendell helped design the SIC work areas, which contain computers, storage areas, work tables, white board, and copy camera to enable student to make digital photographs of large drawings. Arendell is a SEDP project leader whose team – which includes Benjamin Frudzinski, Chad Kroll, and Ryan Pringle - is working on the design of the frame and suspension of the Formula SAE car.

Student Employment Services (CSES) and CEAS career advisor, the EAS career fair focused on providing information about careers in the engineering field for “all engineering majors, all technical majors, math and science majors and students seeking information about engineering and careers in the engineering field.” EAS offered six presentations from the following employers: Kohler Company, Duncan Aviation, Post, Flowserv Corporation, Entergy Services Inc., and Naval Surface Warfare Center-Indian Head Division (NAVSEA). Following the formal presentations, these companies were also available to meet and greet students. Other companies that joined the meet and greet included Urban Science, Mavcon, CSM Group, and Aerotek. This event hosted by the Career Network, which includes Highhouse and several key students credited with organizing the event: Nicole Maggio, Alyssa Schafer, Joe Mydosh, and Joe Fajerski. Also several Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) were involved in the night’s activities. These RSOs were Tau Alpha Phi, Epsilon Mu Eta, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, Theta Tau, and the Society of Plastic Engineers. “This was the first time this event has been put on to provide CEAS students the opportunity to meet the companies that will be at the main campus career fair the following night,” Highhouse said. “It was a more intimate setting than the main campus career fair, and it provided networking opportunities for students to create relationships with employers.”

Faculty and Staff Accolades

The Department of Civil and Construction Engineering (CCE) is offering a Finite Element Basics & Refined Bridge Structural Analysis Workshop at the CEAS Parkview Campus from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tues., March 3, and Wed., March 4. Dr. Haluk Aktan, CCE chair and professor,
and Dr. Upul Attanayake, CCE assistant professor, are organizing and directing the workshop. The workshop content covers “fundamentals of finite element analysis (FEA) for structural/bridge engineers for modeling and analyzing complex bridges and explain analysis results.” This is the third workshop organized by Aktan and Attanayake on this topic. The target audience is bridge engineers and consultants at the state and county level. The first day covers finite element basics and an introduction to SAP2000 software. The second day focuses on skew and curved bridge structural analyses. Materials include a training manual with FEA basics and step-by-step guidelines for developing skew and curved bridge models. Workshop participants are eligible for 1.6 CEUs. “Our nation is facing a daunting task of replacing about 25% of its 600,000 bridge population due to structural deficiency or functional obsolescence. In the meantime engineers are required to design and construct bridge structural systems complicated with space and resource limitations,” Attanayake said. “This workshop provides necessary background for engineers to analyze complex bridge structural systems and to develop safe and durable bridges for the nation.” The workshop is co-sponsored by the Michigan’s Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), National Association of County Engineers (NACE), American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Michigan, and Western Michigan University (WMU).

Dr. David Lyth, a professor in the Dept. of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, will take a Fall 2009 sabbatical to work on two healthcare-related projects. First he will work with Palomar Pomerado Hospital (PPH), in Escondido, Calif., on the design of efficient healthcare delivery systems that can have a significant impact on healthcare economics. PPH relies on the Center for Healthcare Design, located in California, for evidence-based architectural design. For the last four years, Lyth has been working with seven others from across the United States to provide input on PPH’s plans and architectural design. “I’ve been working with them designing the hospital of the future,” he said. “The idea behind this is amazing. The fifth largest gross domestic product in the world is the U.S. expenditures on healthcare of which 17-20 percent is predicted to be waste, so the focus of my sabbatical is to develop Excel-based tools to help PPH design more efficient, leaner healthcare by focusing on their supply chains.” Lyth’s second project involves the Knight Cancer Research Institute at Oregon State University. He will be working with researchers to improve Phase II cancer research. Overall, the projects involve designing and testing a set of computer-based tools to apply the principles of lean healthcare in new and existing facilities. After development, the tools will be tested by practitioners in multiple locations. “The tools created here will have a significant impact on U.S. healthcare system waste estimated at $2.3 trillion and will bolster WMU’s reputation in healthcare research,” he said.

Dr. Richard Hathaway, a professor in the Dept. of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, found 600 birthday balloons in his work station in the Center for Advanced Vehicle Development and Simulation, G110. Unnamed students left the balloons to honor Hathaway and celebrate his January birthday. Hathaway is a popular professor, especially with students interested in working with vehicles. His educational and research specialties involve

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