

# CFT NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE DIVISION OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES AND COMPUTER SCIENCES AT ESSEX COUNTY

## Engineering Student Earns Top National Awards

### Second Engineering Student in Three Years to Receive the Prestigious Honor

Engineering major David Kariuki, in addition to being honored as the 2008 ECC valedictorian and winning the Division scholarship, has been named to the All-USA Community College Academic First Team. The scholarship is co-sponsored by *USA Today* and the Phi Theta Kappa two-year college honor society. In addition to the All-USA scholarship of \$2,500, Mr. Kariuki also received other awards including the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship of up to \$90,000 in three years of baccalaureate study, the \$5,000 Guistwhite Scholarship and the \$2000 New Century Scholarship.

Mr. Kariuki follows in the footsteps of Jose Medina, also an Engineering major, who accomplished the same feat in 2006.

Mr. Kariuki, who was also a Math major, graduated with a 4.0 GPA. He is now attending Stanford University where he is studying biomedical engineering.

While at ECC, he was the regional president of the PTK honor society, wrote for the student newspaper ECCO and even



David Kariuki

found time to tutor classmates in math, English, engineering and computer science. His research on biomedical resistance to antimicrobial drugs led to a NASA-funded internship at Stevens Institute of Technology.

His research inspired him to spearhead a campus service project that provides medication to children living with AIDS. His career goal is to become a bio-engineering research scientist.

## NEW GRANT TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HS STUDENTS

The National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME) recently awarded the college a three-year grant of \$42,000 to support a project called "Pipeline Partnership for the Advancement of Engineering Education." Grant funds will be used to award scholarships and textbooks to underrepresented minority high school students to take selected courses at ECC and earn college credits.

Qualified African American, Hispanic, and American Indian young men and women may take precalculus, calculus and engineering courses and transfer most of the credits to a four-year university engineering program. ECC has excellent engineer-

ing programs and some graduates have received national academic awards. See story this page.

Prof. Jianping Yue, Division Chair, said, "There are many benefits to earning an engineering degree at ECC. For example, with the honors program at ECC, the dual admission agreement with NJIT, and the State's NJ STARS program, students may earn both A.S. and B.S. degrees in engineering tuition free."

The four high school students in NACME Cohort 1 have already enrolled in Precalculus I and Computer Science II classes in the Fall 2008 semester.



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# CFT NEWS

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## News Brief

### Seminar Series

On March 27, 2008, a seminar titled “Ethics in Engineering” was held in the lower atrium of the CFT. The presentation was part of the ongoing seminar series presenting topics in engineering, architecture and computer science to the college community.

A panel of accomplished engineers discussed ethics issues related to the civil engineering field. The panel members were Alan Slaughter, P.E., senior associate



at Jenny Engineering Corp. and adjunct faculty member at NJIT, Kimberli Craft, P.E., Montclair Township Engineer and Thomas Lewis, P.E., senior vice president at the Louis Berger Group and member of the New Jersey Bar.

### Summer Construction Camp Completes Fourth Year

For two weeks this summer, forty middle school students from the Newark school system learned about the construction trades and civil engineering in the Center for Technology. This year, the labs and exercises were led by William Harris who is a Newark public school teacher. He was assisted by Matthew Nam who is an undergraduate student at Manhattan College in New York City. Class work was supplemented by visits to construction union centers including the Operating Engineers and the Laborers.

The program, directed by Betty Foster, is a joint venture of the Minority Science & Engineering Program funded by the U.S. De-



partment of Education and the Construction Industry Advancement Program (CIAP) of New Jersey. CIAP provides curricula, materials and coordination with the trade unions.

### Architecture Studio Upgraded Using Grant Funds

Using funding provided by a Carl D. Perkins Grant, Architecture Studio A (Room T206) has been upgraded with sixteen computers. One year ago, in 2007, Studio B was similarly upgraded using Perkins grant funds.

The new computers in Studio A will enable architecture majors to prepare electronic portfolios essential for transfer to the Architecture program at NJIT and other schools. Software loaded in the computers includes AutoCAD, Architectural Desktop, Inventor, Revit Building, Quark Express and Adobe Photoshop.

### New MESA Center Coordinator

The Division welcomes Geoffrey Wang as the new coordinator of the MESA Center. See photo on page 4. He replaces Jennifer Zhang who left the post at the end of the Spring 2008 semester.

Mr. Wang earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from Cornell University and an M.S. in electrical engineering from Binghamton University. He worked for IBM as a micro-processor designer and as an ASIC circuit designer.

He has also participated in community volunteer projects and has co-authored technical papers that have resulted in U.S. patents.

## 71 CFT Students Graduate in 2007-2008 Academic Year

When Essex County College held its thirtieth annual commencement on June 1, 2008, students in the Engineering Technologies & Computer Sciences Division proudly went to the podium to receive their degrees and certificates. Others received degrees and certificates in December 2007 and August 2008 for a total of 71 students. Following is a list of those students.

### Architectural Technology AAS:

Johanna Bonilla, Adrian Torres, Jeuz-Leopoldo Torrocha, Joed-Leopoldo Torrocha

### Civil Const. Engr. Tech. AAS:

Akrom Akhadov, Tom Ansa, Miguel Franqui, Ferdinand Hernandez, Mahlon Lawrence, Joseph Macchione, Kennedy Myers, Oswaldo Ochoa, Jaime Quito, Elvin Ruiz

### Computer Aided Design Tech. Cert:

Andres Ceron, Erardo Pieri, Aldo Rubio, Antonio Sampetro

### Computer Information Systems AS:

Edith Burbano, Sara Cubas, Miguel Dos Anjos, Eseosa Eriamiatoe, James Frasch, Natalie Kennedy, Sameka Martin, Okey Mgbemena, Nicole Nicholas, Peter Od-

eranti, Michael Perez, Ricardo Serrano

### Computer Science AS:

Adetokunbo Adesanya, Michael Barbosa, Carla Narvaez

### Electronic Engineering Technology AAS:

Silvestre Compres, Paterson Jean-Baptiste, Anthony Nunez, Kinjal Patel, Michael Pergolizzi, Javier Solis, Parfait Tamegnon

### Energy Utility Technology AAS:

Ronald Caines, Bilal Green, Anthony Oparah, Steven Rodriguez, Louvenia Spencer

### Engineering AS:

William Addo, Michael Ajayi, Dudley Denot, Shantae Ellison, Wilson Garzon, Fernando Idrovo, David Kariuki, Sanga Mutah, Gbandi Nikabou, Amaka Onyemekeihia, Jeane Oyola, Oscar Perez, Erardo Pieri, Aldo Rubio, Opeyemi Sulaiman, Juan Carlos Vargas

### Manufacturing Engr. Tech. AAS:

Erickson Badio, Teliah Close, Donovan Holtz, Mohamad Kamara, Abdulkarim Lamptey, Roly Medois, Carlos Moron, Duques Neas, Carlos Santos, Moses Tarawali

*These students persevered through several semesters of academics combined in many cases with the rigors of full time employment and other responsibilities and their hard work paid off. We extend our congratulations to them and wish them success in their further education and in their careers*

## CFT Students Earn Awards

David Kariuki (Engineering) was named valedictorian of the Class of 2008. He was also the winner of the Charles A. Jones Memorial Scholarship for Engineering Technologies & Computer Sciences and received \$500. (See story on page 1.)

The winners of the Eighth Annual CAD Contest were Erardo Pieri (Engineering) - First Place (\$200), Aldo Rubio (Engineering) - Second Place (\$100), Nnebuchu Weli (Engineering) - Third Place (\$50). The Construction Industry Advancement Program of New Jersey supported the CAD competition.

Three CET students received scholarships from the Construction Industry Advancement Program (CIAP) of New Jersey. They are Brandon Cordero, Randy McMaster and Jose Vargas. The awards, ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500, are intended to help the students further their education

in Civil Construction Engineering Technology.

Three students were selected to the Stevens-ECC summer research program for summer 2008. The students are:

Oscar Perez (Engineering)  
Martha Scola (Engineering/Math)  
Lorry Benoit (Computer Science)

Eight students were inducted into the ECC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges. The induction ceremony was held on March 6, 2008. The students are:

Gideon Adediyi (Engineering)  
Winifred Awa (Engineering)  
Diego Criollo (Computer Science)  
Luis Grados (Computer Science)  
Vishal Naik (Applied Computer Science)  
Kodjovi Quenum (Engineering)  
Guemila Sawadogo (Computer Science)  
Nnebuchu Weli (Engineering)

*Academic year 2007-2008 proved to be a typically good one for awards won by our students in the CFT. Several graduating students won awards of varying types.*



Prof. Alkis Dimopoulos

## CFT Welcomes New Faculty Member

Prof. Alkis Dimopoulos has joined the Division as the newest full-time faculty member as an assistant professor of Civil Engineering Technology. Prof. Dimopoulos will be teaching courses in the CET, MET and Engineering degree programs. He will also be serving as one of the faculty mentors in the MESA Center.

Prof. Dimopoulos brings to ECC many years experience not only as a college level teacher but also as a civil engineer working in the private and public sectors. He was a member of the faculty at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey. He also worked as a project engineer

at several consulting engineering firms, including Simoff Engineering Associates, EI Associates, STV Group and Langan Engineering. He is also principal at the consulting firm Tekton Group, LLC.

Prof. Dimopoulos earned a bachelor degree in civil engineering from NJIT and a master of civil engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. He holds a Professional Engineer's license in New Jersey and is a Certified Municipal Engineer.

He has attended many professional seminars on a variety of topics and is affiliated with several professional societies.



Geoffrey Wang

## Students Participate in NSF Summer Bridge Program

During Summer 2008, thirty-five students participated in the Summer Bridge Program at the CFT. The program, which is partially sponsored by an NSF STEP Grant, consists of two unique projects: 1. A set of developmental math and technology courses for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students to enable them to take college level courses in the Fall semester, and 2. A summer research program to provide an opportunity for talented STEM sophomore students.

In addition to classes, the students participated in seminars, workshops, and field trips. Five faculty (Profs. Jinsoo Park,

Ronald Bannon, Ines Figueiras, Ye Zhang, and Jianping Yue) and two learning associates provided intensive daily mentoring and tutoring services to the students in classrooms and laboratories.

The research program took place at Stevens Institute of Technology with one faculty mentor, Prof. Nadezhda Lvov, and three students from ECC. The program provides a rare opportunity for community college students to participate in high profile research projects. The ECC students joined the teams of professors, scientists, graduate and undergraduate students at Stevens' labs working on frontier research projects.

Students with certificates from the 2008 Summer Bridge Program

