Inside this issue:

Course Prerequisites Updated   2
Prof. Manimaran Becomes PI  2
SLOAT Poster is Winner  2
Soil Mechanics Equipment  2
TECS Club Activities  2

CFT NEWS

Jianping Yue, Ph.D.
1954-2011

Prof. Yue was Dedicated to Excellence

On November 15, 2011, while attending a National Science Foundation (NSF) conference in Arlington, Virginia, Prof. Jianping Yue passed away suddenly. JP, as he was affectionately called by faculty and staff, was a member of the ECC faculty since 1996, a period of 15 years. He attained full professor rank in 2005.

In addition to teaching a wide variety of engineering courses here, Prof. Yue was actively engaged in several other activities. In 2003, he led the robotics team from Central High School in regional competitions. Later that year, he was awarded a prestigious NASA Administrator’s Fellowship and spent a year at the NASA Research Center in Langley, Virginia. (See Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 CFT News articles.) During the years 2006-2011, he secured various grants from NSF and NASA worth in excess of $1 M. He also served as chair of the Division from 2006 to 2009.

Prof. Yue wrote many research papers on engineering education including one titled “Spatial Visualization by Isometric View” which was published in The Engineering Design Graphics Journal in 2007 and was awarded the Editor’s Award at the ASEE annual conference for most outstanding paper. He was also involved in many community service projects including GEAR UP Newark and Project GRAD.

Before coming to ECC, Prof. Yue taught at Passaic and Middlesex County Colleges. Prof. Assadipour had worked with him at PCC and hired him at ECC when a position opened up.

Prof. Yue was born in Hefei, China and received his bachelor’s and masters degrees from Wuhan University. His Ph.D. in Civil Engineering was earned at the University of Memphis.

Prof. Yue was highly respected by his colleagues and his students. Faculty who have worked with him have expressed the feeling that he was a totally dedicated professional and a truly loyal individual—a friend. Remembrances of Prof. Yue are summed up by Prof. Acquaye: “Through all our travels to conferences, workshops, seminars and training programs, JP had one thing in mind: improving ECC curriculum and helping the students as much as he could.”

Many members of the ECC community agree: “I still cannot believe that he has left us.”
News Brief

Course Prerequisites Updated
At the June 2011 meeting of the College Curriculum Advisory Council, proposals were made to update prerequisites in thirteen courses in the Division. The courses were major courses in the following programs:
Architectural Technology
Civil Construction Engineering Technology
Electronic Engineering Technology

Engineering

The updates, inspired by comments made by the ABET team in November 2010, were designed to remove unnecessary impediments to students trying to complete their programs in a timely manner. The new prerequisites will be more realistic and will eliminate confusion in some cases. Students will not need to delay a course for a semester or even two as has sometimes been the case in the past.

Prof. Manimaran Becomes PI
Prof. Ravi Manimaran, Division chair, was approved as the Principal Investigator (PI) of the $1 M NSF STEM grant following the passing of Prof. Yue. In Spring 2012, the grant continued to fund the MESA Coordinator, four faculty mentors and six student Learning Associates to provide tutoring support for ECC students in STEM disciplines.

In addition, five Recitation Assistant positions were funded by the grant to teach the MTH 100R classes. We will also have a summer bridge program during May-June 2012 that will be funded by the grant.

SLOAT Poster is Winner
At the Second Annual SLOAT Symposium held on February 28, 2012, assessment displays were prepared by two of the Division faculty members, Profs. Hossein Assadipour and Alkis Dimopoulos. The Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Team (SLOAT) consists of specially selected faculty members who have been charged by the college to develop and implement assessment plans for certain subject areas. SLOAT, which is directed by Prof. Susan Gaulden, was created in Fall 2010 in response to the Middle States accreditation process. The outcomes assessment process involves setting outcome goals for each course, designing methods to measure the outcomes, conducting the measurements and designing responses to any outcomes not fulfilling the goals and implementing the responses. Each SLOAT member chose one or two specific outcomes of one course to implement the process outlined above.

Prof. Assadipour presented the course ENR 103 Engineering Graphics and Prof. Dimopoulos presented the course ENR 100 Introduction to Engineering. At the symposium, Prof. Dimopoulos’ display earned the third place award out of a total of 35 displays.

Soil Mechanics Equipment
In February, new soils test equipment arrived in the CFT to be used in the Soils Lab. The equipment, which cost $8,500, was purchased by ECC using capital funds. Prof. Alkis Dimopoulos specified the various items in accordance with recommendations made by the ABET accreditation team in November 2010.

TECS Club Activities
In September 2011, the TECS Club elected Nesseline Belceus (Engineering) its third president replacing outgoing president Wadler Georges (Architecture). In the current semester, the club is working feverishly under the advisement of Prof. Dimopoulos to complete a concrete canoe to be presented on ECC Pride Day. The canoe will be eleven feet long and capable of carrying at least one student.

In addition to the canoe, they are working on the construction of a solar powered model car. (See Spring 2011 issue of CFT News for another story on the TECS Club.)