

CFT NEWS

Newsletter of the Division of Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences at Essex County College

MESA Center Opens



On November 12, 2004, the MESA Center officially opened in the Center For Technology. The new MESA Director, Prof. Mustapha Sandi, welcomed several special guests and a number of ECC students to the gala affair which was held in the new Center in Room T233. Prof. Sandi said that 38 students had already been signed up and most of the special equipment was in place. 35 of the 38 students who signed up for the program have been accepted as part of the Spring 2005 cohort.

MESA (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement) is a nationally known academic preparation program that helps students excel in math and science and graduate with degrees in math-based fields. Students eligible for membership in the MESA Center are Engineering, Engineering Technology, Computer Science, Computer Information Systems and Architecture majors who are at a MTH 100 level or higher and are categorized as disadvantaged students. Benefits include assistance in the development of a comprehensive academic plan, tutoring, counseling, workshops and a place to go to study with other students or to work in the mini computer lab provided.

The Division established the Center through a grant from HP which works in partnership with MESA to furnish computer equipment needed to run the program. MESA, which is based principally in California, is in the process of expanding throughout the United States. Essex County College has become the first county college outside California to open a MESA Center.

Special guests attending the opening included James Dorsey, the MESA Director of Undergraduate Programs. Mr. Dorsey, who is stationed in California, was instrumental in helping us establish the Center. Also visiting from California were Lucy Casale and Erik Jones, both of the MESA Statewide Office. Representing HP was Jenny Lim, HP Account Manager for New Jersey. Special guests attending from ECC included President Yamba, Vice President Foat and Deans White and Linfante.

The MESA Center is now functioning smoothly under the leadership of Prof. Sandi. Assisting Prof. Sandi in the Center are David James, Student Support Assistant and three learning associates responsible for tutoring and conducting the academic excellence workshops. The Learning Associates for the center are Christopher Earle, Olumide Talabi, and Richardson Fombrun. Interested students should contact Prof. Mustapha Sandi in Room T223.

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CFT NEWS

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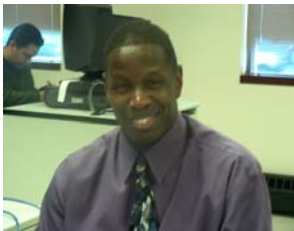
NEWS BRIEF

TWO NEW PROGRAMS ARE IN THE WORKS

The Division is hard at work putting the finishing touches on two new associate degree programs in an attempt to increase the diversity of offerings in the CFT. Technical Studies is an A.A.S. degree program designed to provide an accessible route to an associate degree for people working in technical fields who have completed training programs that do not usually qualify for college credit. For example, members of a construction union who completed training seminars in aspects of construction would be able to apply the training for credits in the Technical Studies program.

Information Technology is an Option to the Computer Information Systems A.S. degree program. This option, which includes several courses in Cisco and Microsoft networking, will allow students to gain a good foundation in networking without having to complete specific networking certificate programs. (However, students would be able to choose a Cisco or Microsoft certification in addition to the Option if they wish.) This option provides students with additional transfer opportunities into newly developed baccalaureate programs in Information Technology.

The proposal for Technical Studies was prepared by Prof. Jianping Yue while that for Information Technology Option was prepared by Prof. Alvin Williams. The proposals are due to be approved during Spring 2005.



Dr. Alvin Williams



Mrs. Kelly M. Coley

Employee Recognition

On Thursday, October 19, 2004 Essex County College held its 6th Annual Employee Recognition Reception.

Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, President of Essex County College (ECC) congratulated employees celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service to the college. This year's theme was called "A lifetime of Change". Employees of the Engineering Technologies and Computer Sciences Division who were recognized were Kelly M. Coley 10 years, Alvin Williams 20 years and Karen Scuorzo 20 years.

NEW ACCELERATED SCHEDULE FOR CISCO COURSES

In an effort to increase enrollment in the Cisco networking courses, the Division devised a new schedule for the core courses in Fall 2004 that would allow students to complete all four core courses in one semester. As a result of the schedule change and advertising, the courses filled and successfully ran in the Fall semester.

According to the new schedule, each course ran four nights per week for a duration of about four weeks. The courses ran sequentially throughout the semester. After completing the four courses, students were eligible to take the Cisco exam for CCNA certification. All courses were taught by Prof. Alvin Williams.

The four core courses consist of CSC 110 *Routing and Switching Fundamentals*, CSC 111 *Routing and Switching WAN*, CSC 211 *Internetworking* and CSC 212 *Advanced Internetworking*. When these courses are completed along with ENG 101 and MTH 100, students can earn a certificate from ECC called Internetworking Technology Certificate. This certificate is separate from the Cisco certificate.

CET STUDENTS EARN INTERNSHIPS

Two students in the Civil Construction Engineering Technology program earned internships in the Audrey F. & Edward O. Davis Memorial Student Summer Employment Scholarship Program sponsored by the Construction Industry Advancement Program of New Jersey (CIAP). The students, Paul DeRobertis and John Stewart, will work for a construction company for twelve weeks during summer 2005 and then will be awarded a stipend ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,500 to offset tuition as they complete their bachelors' degrees.

CIAP is a non-profit trusteeship established in 1977 to promote the New Jersey construction industry and construction careers and to provide support for construction-related educational activities. Candidates for the internship are students in both two-year and four-year institutions. This year, CIAP awarded 68 internships throughout New Jersey, mostly to students from four-year universities.

ABET Teams Visits Campus

A team of four engineering professionals arrived on campus on Saturday, November 7, 2004 to begin a review of three of the engineering technology programs in the CFT. The team represents the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) which is the sole agency in the United States responsible for accreditation of educational programs leading to associate and baccalaureate degrees in engineering technology.

On Saturday, the team listened to a presentation by ECC faculty describing the programs under review. The faculty involved are Profs. Theophilus Acquaye, Hossein Asadipour, John Gribbin, Mustapha Sandi, Jianping Yue and Bernard Zivotofsky. Next, the team revisited the campus on Monday, November 8, 2004 to interview key administration, faculty and students. A luncheon was provided for the team at which former ECC students had a chance to talk to team members. Finally, on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, the team completed their preliminary findings and conducted an exit interview.

After the Division responds to the preliminary findings of the ABET team, another report will be issued by the team. The Division will then work to correct any problems brought to light by the findings. After considering all such input from the Division, TAC of ABET will meet in July 2005 and issue the final report of accreditation.

Two of the programs under review by ABET, Civil Construction Engineering Technology and Manufacturing Engineering Technology, were accredited by ABET in 1998 while the third program, Electronic Engineering Technology is applying for accreditation for the first time.

The ABET team consisted of Steve Wendel of Sinclair Community College, Dayton, OH (Team Chair), Thomas Mobley of East Texas State University (Electronic), Scott Danielson of Arizona State University (Manufacturing) and Elliot Colchamiro of Polytechnic University, NYC (Civil Construction).

FALL 2004 EVENTS:

SEMINAR SERIES

On December 1, 2004 Professor Veronica Zhang hosted a computer seminar in the CFT. The guest speaker was Dr. Chengwen Wang from Rutgers University who entertained the audience by outlining anticipated developments in the field of information technology over the next ten years. The seminar was a great success. Prof. Zhang is already planning a similar event for next year. Feel free to contact her with any feedback on this year's seminar or with any ideas concerning topics for next year's event.

Dr. Wang, an Educator and IT professional, received his Ph.D. in Mathematical Science from Rutgers University. Currently, he is working as an application developer and adjunct professor in Rutgers – Newark. He has published dozen of papers in mathematics and its applications in leading journals such as Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications, Proceedings of American Mathematical Society. He held several seminars in Rutgers, NJIT, China Shandong University, and NACADA. Currently, his interests include Internet Security, Business Web Applications, Algorithms and Design, and Differential Equations and

ARCHITECTURE IN COLOMBIA EXHIBITION

During the Fall of 2004, Professor Rosa Otero in close collaboration with Professor Manuel Arevalo (an adjunct in our division), and with the support of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) and the Latino Heritage Board (LHB), our division was able to bring to all students, faculty and members of our college community, the exhibition entitled Architecture in Colombia. The event hosted at The Gallery, proved to be a very enriching experience which greatly inspired many of the attendees. It also helped establish a solid connection with a prestigious professional institution, the Society of Colombian Architects. In addition to the work exhibited, the event included an opening reception on December 2nd in which a member from this group, the architect Diego Aguilera, offered a very informative talk to a small audience. For this event we created a poster with the assistance of one of our alumnae.



Dr. Chengwen Wang



Diego Aguilera, architect



Prof. Jianping Yue

Prof. Yue Awarded NASA Research Grant

Prof. Jianping Yue recently received a \$25,000 NASA Administrator's Fellowship Program (NAFP) research grant. Mr. Gilbert Knowles, NAFP Program Manager, presented the check to Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, President of Essex County College (ECC), at the award ceremony held at the Center for Technology on November 6, 2004.

Mr. Knowles praises ECC for having received two NASA awards managed by the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation, the NAFP and the Curriculum Improvement Partnership Award (CIPA). He believes the awards will improve the education opportunities for minority students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs at ECC. Dr. Yamba is pleased that the NASA awards "put ECC on the map" and is looking forward to the partnership with NASA.

Prof. Yue received a NAFP award in 2003 and spent one year at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA, doing research on automated manufacturing of aerodynamic models. The NAFP Research Grant will not only allow him to continue this research, but also help improve the curriculum and involve students in research at ECC. Prof. Yue thanks NASA and ECC for giving him the opportunity and support. He is eager to see the impact of NASA programs on ECC and the community.

A Day to Remember

On Tuesday, October 19, 2004, a day to remember Dr. Charles A. Jones took place in the CFT. The memorial coordinated by Kelly M. Coley, Office Manager of ET&CS permitted all who attended to outwardly speak about the distinctive characteristics of a man who was loved mostly because of his firm and direct approach to life. Those who knew him well, told similar stories of how he branded us with his tough love; ironically, leading us whole-heartedly into his softer side. Some of his close friends, students and colleagues that spoke during the service were, Yulanda Philips, Ms. Isabel Bravo, Mr. Daryl Spencer, Ms. Stephanie Arrington, and Prof. Donald Yee. The department would like to thank everyone for making this memorial a joyful day to honor a man we proudly knew and loved. A scholarship fund had been established in his honor.

ECC Student participates in Research Project.

Olumide Talabi was one of 21 students who spent one week at Brookhaven National labs (BNL) during the winter break as part of the College Mini-Semester Program run by the labs Office of Educational Programs (OEP). BNL is one of ten national laboratories overseen and primarily funded by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

The mission of the OEP is to design, develop, implement, and facilitate workforce development and education initiatives that support the scientific mission at Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Department of Energy.

Students are encouraged to apply for 16-week academic semester programs and for 10-week summer programs. Students are expected to participate in a team research experience and present their results. Interested students should contact Prof. Mustapha Sandi in Room T223.

Internship Opportunity

The Engineering Department of Montclair Township is seeking interns for **Summer 2005**.

You should be a Civil Engineering major or a Civil Construction major in your second year and planning to go on for a bachelor's degree. The internship will be twelve weeks **starting mid May 2005** and will pay \$10 - \$12 per hour. Contact Prof. John Gribbin or Prof. Mustapha Sandi.

5th ANNUAL CAD CONTEST

ECC - Center for Technology
Deadline for submission:
Friday, April 5, 2005
Submit to Prof. Acquaye, Prof. Yue and/or Prof. Assadipour



Spring 2005—Calendar

President's Day College Closed:

February 11

Mid-Term Grades Due:

March 4

Last Day to Withdraw from full term courses:

March 18

Spring Holiday College Closed (No Classes):

March 25, 26

In Person Early Advisement & Registration for Summer I, II, & Fall 2005:

April 4, 5, 6, 7 (9AM-6 PM)

Last Day of Classes:

April 25

Web Registration for Summer I, II & Fall 2005—Returning, Readmit, Transfer, and Non-Matriculating Students:

March 28–September 6

Registration for Summer I full or Deferred—Payment is Due:

April 29

Registration for Summer II full or Deferred—Payment is Due:

July 6

Registration for Fall 2005 full or Deferred—Payment is Due:

August 4