Students, Faculty Collaborate on Local Industry Solutions

Advanced Manufacturing, seniors in the department of industrial and systems engineering at N.C. A&T, are acting as collaborators with company officials in devising strategies to improve their productivity.

“The relationship with PT CAM keeps us in touch with the needs of industry,” said Dr. Eui Park, professor and chair of the industrial engineering department and director of several student projects. “Companies come to PT CAM with their needs and concerns, and PT CAM works product start-ups, and process and quality problems. A&T industrial engineering students worked on a number of projects last spring through PT CAM, including:

• A layout analysis of a manufacturing facility that is planning expansion. In this project, students drew a layout of the existing facility using computer-aided drawing (CAD) software. They also observed the facility in use to analyze the workflow. Using this information, students devised alternative layouts that could make the operation more efficient by reducing the time needed to travel. A final report was delivered to the company upon completion of the project.

• A handling and production line analysis. The company studied in this project is experiencing tremendous growth in the volume of material it processes, and it is concerned about the safety and efficiency of its system under the increased volume. The students analyzed the current production line, noting all of the costs and processes entailed, and then recommended possible safety and efficiency improvements.

• An analysis of a company’s information system. The company studied in this project sought enhanced customer satisfaction through an improved communication system. Toward this goal, the students analyzed the order fulfillment, inventory and processing procedures, compared them to current industry benchmarks, and recommended possible improvements.

“The projects benefit our students by allowing them to apply theory to real-world situations,” said Park. “Even the best simulations cannot provide the real-world experience of dealing with unexpected snags in a project. Because the students participating in these projects are seniors, this experience should be fresh in their minds when they begin their careers or continue their education.”

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University founded PT CAM in 1993 to establish a “Teaching Factory” for the metalworking industry. PT CAM is part of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a nationwide network of not-for-profit centers in over 400 locations. These centers provide small and medium-sized manufacturers with technical assistance and training, and are linked together through the Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology.

For more information, contact Dr. Eui Park at (336) 334-7780.
Franklin County Extension Leads Meat Goat Effort

Franklin, N.C. – A burgeoning market for goat meat – driven in part by a rapidly expanding Hispanic population – has been met by an active meat goat industry, thanks to the efforts of the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Center.

With an innovative grant provided by the Cooperative Extension Program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Martha Mobley of Franklin County Cooperative Extension organized the county’s goat farmers into the Franklin County Goat Producers Cooperative.

“With the growing Hispanic population of Franklin County, the demand for goat meat has risen that,” said Mobley, an agricultural extension agent. “At the same time, a number of the county’s farmers were raising meat goats and shipping the animals out of the state for processing because no centralized processing and marketing tools were available to them locally.”

According to Mobley, the producers had to organize themselves and their efforts if they hoped to have better access to the local market. Part of this process was establishing a way that their product could be certified to earn the trust of grocery buyers.

Membership in the cooperative requires meat goat producers to purchase a membership, and to pass tests and USDA inspections. Once certified, a receptive market is waiting for them in the form of Fiesta International IGA, a company that has been invited to join the Central YMCA Board of Trustees.

A teleconference – “World Food System: Serving food security for all.”

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World Food Day Program Planned

North Carolina A&T State University will observe World Food Day 12- 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct 16, at Wylie Hall Auditorium.

Around the world, more than 800 million people in 83 countries are chronically hungry and suffering from malnutrition. In the United States, approximately 10% of the population (10 million households) does not always have access to enough food to meet basic needs.

World Food Day, now in its 18th year, addresses this problem and is observed worldwide. In the U.S., over 450 voluntary organizations work together with more than 20,000 community organizers to increase awareness, understanding and year-round action on the complex issue of food security for all.

In recognition of World Food Day, a variety of activities have been planned at N.C. A&T.

A teleconference – “World Food System: Serving All or Saving Some?” – will be held from noon until 1 p.m. Broadcasting live from George Washington University, the teleconference will feature Dr. Wenchang Eide, professor at the Institute for Nutrition Research, University of Oslo, Norway. Eide will address the shared responsibility of the state, civil society and private sector to improve access to food and nutrition and the dynamics of globalization and how it affects the ability of all countries to do so. From 2-3 p.m. Eide and other teleconference presenters will respond to questions from the audience.

For more information, contact Steve Garрас in the department of curriculum and instruction, (336) 334-7944.

Faculty and Staff Notes continued

Kosby Convention Center. Other faculty members that have been recognized include Dr. Lorna Harris, Sofia Hida, Linda Smith McIntosh and Patricia Shelton.

Dr. Godfrey A. Uchendu, professor and director of the Waste Management Institute, has been asked to join the Central YMCA Board of Management. Central YMCA of Greensboro is a nonprofit organization and a United Way Agency.

Dr. Lelia Vickers, dean of the school of education, participated in the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Training for Chairs of NCATE Teams. The session was held in Washington, D.C. Vickers will chair a NCATE Team at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Dec. 1-5.

A paper written by Dr. Shih-Liang "Sid" Wang, titled "Motion Simulation with Working Model 2D and MSC.visualNastran 4D,” has been published in the second issue of Journal of Computing and Information Science in Engineering, a new journal published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Wang, an associate professor of mechanical engineering, and his department’s graduate program coordinator, is an expert in motion simulation with Working Model 2D and MSC.visualNastran 4D. He has given tutorial workshops on these software packages in ASME Design Technical Conferences, and McGraw-Hill released his courseware based on these instructional packages last year.

Thanks to a campus-wide effort led by the Enrollment Management team, Fall 2001 enrollment at N.C. A&T reached record-breaking heights. The preliminary headcount is 8,800. Freshman/new student enrollment is up! Graduate enrollment is up! And retention is up! Final numbers will be posted on the university website in late October. (Go to the Book Fact icon, then click on Enrollment.)

The faculty and staff of the chemical engineering department and the department of industrial and systems engineering will sponsor their respective alumni homecoming breakfasts beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13. Both events will be held in M. Nick Hall. For more information about chemical engineering’s plans, call (336) 334-7654 or email Dr. Franklin G. King (kg2@ncat.edu) or Torn Jarett (jarettF@ncat.edu). For further details about industrial and system engineering, contact Gwen Fuller, (336) 334-7780 or gfuller@ncat.edu.

Following several months of fact-finding and discussion by its Committee on Business and Finance, the Board of Governors in September adopted a policy statement ensuring full access by Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) to the University’s construction program by facilitating the successful completion of the University’s bond program by promoting active participation by all segments of the construction community. The policy statement complements a University-wide plan for supplementing and expanding the state’s existing program for increasing the participation of minority contractors.

The political science department is planning a scholarship luncheon for Friday, Oct. 12. The event will be held in the Memorial Union Ballroom, 12-2-30 p.m. Former North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Henry E. Frye is keynote speaker. Frye serves on the faculty as Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice.

The fall job-recruiting season is underway and will run through Nov. 30. Please encourage A&T students to register online with the Office of Career Services - www.careerserv.ncat.edu - to take advantage of available opportunities. The deadline of company interview dates also comes at the end of November.