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First-year MAE students sweep awards in AutoCAD contest

Garrett Beulle, a mechanical engineering student from Vicksburg, won first place in the Fall 2006 AutoCAD Contest. Second and third respectively went to **Austin McGregor**, an aeronautical engineering major from Ada, and **Nicholas Killoran**, a mechanical engineering major from Macomb. All three are first-year students.

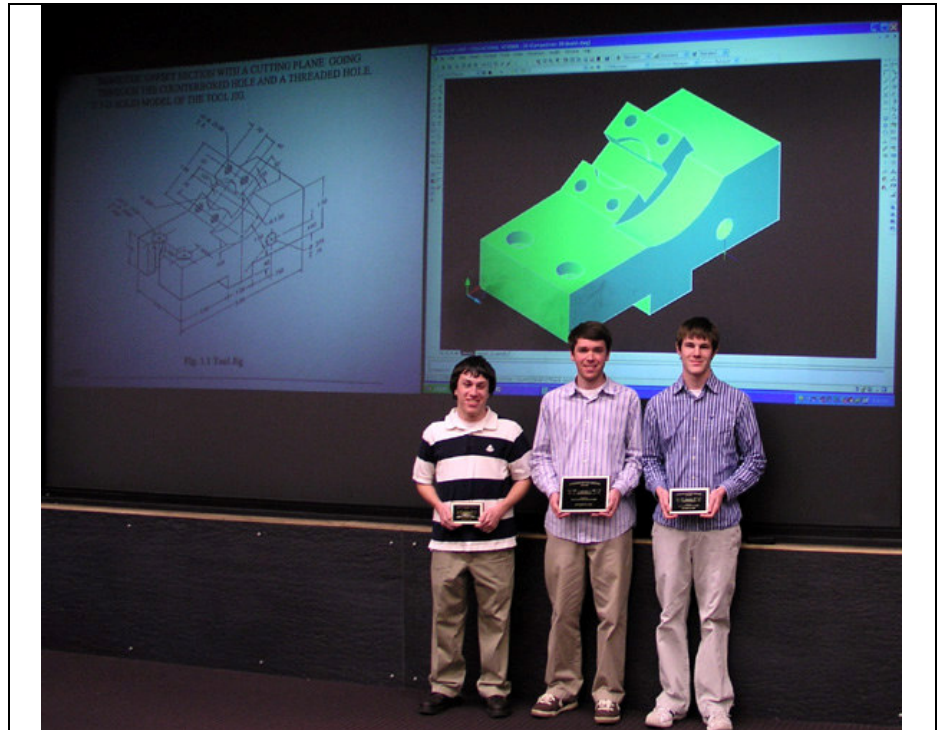
They were honored last month in a ceremony held at the CEAS Parkview Campus before an audience that included many students currently enrolled in IME 1420 – Engineering Graphics, the requirement for eligibility in the competition.

Slobodan Urdarevik, IME 1420 lead faculty member, described Beulle's entry as "an excellent drawing."

All three winners took computer drawing courses in high school and came to WMU specifically for its engineering programs. Both Beulle and McGregor have dean's scholarships.

Beulle had three years of high school CAD classes. Attending WMU is convenient for him in that it allows him to live at home. "WMU is a very good engineering school," he said. "It has really worked out for me."

McGregor, who had two years of high school CAD, chose WMU because of its "good engineering program" in aeronautical engineering. "Not many schools have an aeronautical program," he said. "WMU's is one of the best."



AutoCAD winners are (left to right) **Nicholas Killoran**, third place; **Garrett Beulle**, first place; and **Austin McGregor**, second place. Behind the winners, the challenge drawing is on the left. Beulle's entry is on the right.

Killoran had three years of high school CAD drawing classes. He is presently involved in the WMU solar car project, and he came to WMU for because it "has good engineering programs here," he said.

None of the winners has specific goals for a future career. "I really enjoy designing with the graphics program," Beulle said.

Killoran added, "At this point I'm not sure about my long-range goals, but I know I'd like to do something progressive."

Each winner received an engraved plaque donated by Dr. Hooks, Inc., a Kalamazoo-based business that specializes in awards. They also received copies of Inventor 11 by AutoDesk, which were provided by Edutronix LLC, based in Troy. Beulle and McGregor received unlimited licenses for Inventor 11 and Killoran received a one-year license. Beulle also received a gift certificate from Best Buy. "These are very nice prizes," Urdarevik said.

The three-hour competition is held each semester. Students are required to draw a 3D solid model of a complicated part with three orthographic views and an isometric offset section of it. They must show all dimensions, symbols, and manufacturing notes. "They must draw the piece so that it is suitable for manufacturing," Urdarevik said.