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EWD speaker offers NASCAR model for the workplace



Dr. Tim Greene (left), CEAS dean, with Engineers Week Dinner keynote speaker **Robert Williamson** - consultant, author, and educator from Strategic Work Systems, Inc. – who presented “NASCAR Racing: A Model for Equipment Reliability & Teamwork.”

At the 29th Annual Engineers Week Dinner (EWD), held in February at WMU’s Fetzer Center, an audience of about 200 engineers, professors, administrators, and college and high school students enjoyed dinner and keynote speaker **Robert Williamson** - consultant, author, and educator from Strategic Work Systems, Inc. In his presentation, “NASCAR Racing: A Model for Equipment Reliability & Teamwork,” he showed how the NASCAR model can be used to improve many companies.

EWD is sponsored by Southwestern Michigan engineering societies to celebrate National Engineers Week. The EWD Steering Committee included several CEAS faculty and administrators: **Dr. Jorge Rodriguez**, Dept. of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME); **Sharon Van Dyken** and **Scot Conant**, CEAS advising office; and **Johanna Wells** and **Tamara Bergman**, CEAS dean’s office.

Other members of the committee were representatives of several professional engineering organizations: Dan Lewis, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Dave Caldwell, Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), John Lobo, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Michael Schwartz, Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE), and Cliff Muller, Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE).

Contributors to the event include Denso (DMMI), Haworth, Society of Automotive Engineers, CEAS, Consumers Energy, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Association for Facilities Engineering MSPE – Southwestern Chapter, Eaton Corp., Prein & Newhof,

American Society of Civil Engineers, and American Society of Plumbing Engineers.



Engineers Week Scholarship winners (left to right): **Ben Smith**, **Krisana Gutierrez**, **Neal Sheldon** and **Josh Wiese**

Four CEAS students won scholarships, which included one each from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Society of Plumbing Engineers, and two from Eaton Corp.:

Krisana Gutierrez, an industrial engineering senior with a 3.69 GPA, is from North Branch, Michigan. Her future plans include working in production planning and scheduling, international employment, and teaching.

Neal Sheldon, a mechanical engineering major with a math minor from Blissfield, Michigan, maintains a 3.62 GPA. For the future, the WMU Student Employee of the Year nominee is “extremely open to any and all areas of engineering including HVAC, steam power, consulting, and thermal design.”

Ben Smith, a senior industrial engineering student from Athens, Michigan, maintains a 3.95 GPA. Upon graduation, he will join Whirlpool’s Global Supply Chain Leadership Development Program for logistics.

Joshua Wiese, an engineering management technology senior with a marketing minor from Belleville, Michigan, maintains a 3.97 GPA. He has interned for the past 3 summers at General Motors, where he plans future employment in product development.

Opinions and ideas, please! Send your thoughts on this article or suggestions for future articles to the editor at jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu. Thank you.