

Thursday, July 02, 2009

Volume 04, Issue 21

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Engineering students win ISCSC paper awards

Steven Srivastava, an engineering management senior with a supply-chain management minor, and **Benjamin Roush**, a second-year civil engineering major, won first and second place respectively in the undergraduate CEAS category of the 2009 WMU Student Competition for the Best Award/Art on Civilization at the 39th International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations (ISCSC), which was held at WMU.

The ISCSC competition was part of the conference that was organized by **Dr. Andrew Targowski**, a WMU business professor and the ISCSC president. ISCSC provides a forum for those interested in advancement of the study of civilizations. Participants from 12 countries came to WMU for the five-day event. It included 70 presentations, two of those by Srivastava and Roush at a special session where they also received their awards.

Srivastava, from East Lansing, earned \$350 for his winning paper “Carbon Credits and the Global Trading Market.” He presented the paper, which identifies the role of governmental policies in the success of sustainability and analyzes reasons the US does not have a cap-and-trade system,

A member of multiple professional and honor societies, Srivastava advocates for sustainability, which has been the focus of many course projects and papers. He is presently involved in a summer internship for the Michigan State University Anaerobic Digestion Research and Education Center.

Srivastava is a member of *Tau Alpha Pi*, the National Honor Society for Engineering Technology, and *Epsilon Mu Eta*, the Engineering Manager’s Honor Society. He is also the current president of the WMU chapter for the American Society of Engineering Managers (ASEM), and he is the undergraduate representative for the Department of Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering (IME) on the Academic Integrity Committee.

Future plans for Srivastava include graduate school and a career that helps businesses make environmentally responsible, socially acceptable, and economically profitable decisions.

Roush, from Dearborn, earned \$250 for “Viable Solutions for Sustainable Urban Water Systems,”



ISCSC winners **Steven Srivastava** (left), first place, and **Benjamin Roush** (right), second place, with **Tom Swartz**, IME faculty who coordinated the ISCSC competition in the CEAS

which deals with his concerns for the continued availability of clean, fresh water as the global population grows and water supplies shrink. He’s interested in the movement of water in rivers, fascinated by coastlines, and concerned about the continued sustainability of civilization. The paper was just kind of a natural extension of those two interests.

A Medallion scholar, Roush plans for the future include graduate school either for sustainable civil engineering materials or for water resource engineering. His career goal is to work for either a civil engineering firm that constructs environmentally friendly buildings or one that maintains waterways.

Tom Swartz, a master faculty specialist in the IME department and the technical communication coordinator for the CEAS, served as the ISCSC facilitator from the CEAS. He presented Srivastava and Roush with their ISCSC awards, and both students credited him for his support and encouragement.

ISCSC was founded in 1961. Next year’s annual June conference will be at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

Send your thoughts or suggestions for future topics to the editor at jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu Thank you.