

A.E.S.

INTEGRATIONS

APPLIED ENGINEERING SCIENCES PROGRAM

Herzog Finds AES a Slam Dunk



Tom Herzog

Photo courtesy of MSU Athletic Communications

It's easy to spot Tom Herzog as he is walking the halls of the Engineering Building. He's seven feet tall. Tom is a senior working toward his BS in Applied Engineering Sciences. He is also on the MSU men's basketball team, playing at the center position; on the team, Tom is considered a red-shirt junior because he did not play his freshman year. The personable athlete is also a member of the Honors College and has received MSU's Scholar-Athlete Award three times as well as being named to the Academic All-Big Ten. He is a graduate of Flint Powers Catholic High School, where he served as the team captain and posted a near perfect 4.0 GPA. He is the son of Tom and Cheryl Herzog of Linden, Mich. Tom recently sat down with Jane DePriest, editor of *AES Integrations*, and talked about how he balances academics and his busy sports schedule.

Question – Why did you decide to major in engineering?

Answer – I always did well academically in high school, and I also had a talent for basketball. With my athletic scholarship I knew I would get a free education, so I wanted to do something

that would be useful in the future. I have always been interested in math and science, so engineering seemed like a good choice.

Q – What made you decide to major in AES?

A – I was an engineering no preference at first, and then I talked with Les Leone (former director of the AES program). In addition to science I also had an interest in business, so AES seemed like a perfect fit. I felt like I could do a lot of different things with an AES degree.

Q – So, how has the program worked for you?

A – I like the range of classes and exposure to different types of engineering. Also I'm impressed with how helpful the engineering professors are. Even in a 100-person lecture, the professors take the time to make a personal connection. The classes have challenged me to think outside the box more than in high school.

Q – How do you balance studies with all you have to do to participate in basketball?

A – You have to stay concentrated. You cannot get distracted. I look at what I have to do to learn the material for each class and how and when I can accomplish that. It's hard work.

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Going Global: New Course Expands Students' Horizons

MSU's College of Engineering wants to make sure it continues to produce successful engineering professionals and well-informed citizens who are able to meet new challenges. In response, the college is offering a new course — EGR 291, "Going Global." The course examines the intertwined roles of economics, engineering, and the environment. Ron Rosenberg, associate dean for special initiatives for the college and the instructor for the new course, which was piloted in fall 2008, tells his class, "Globalization is economically driven, engineering-enabled, and environmentally constrained."

For most engineering majors, this course is an elective. However, for Applied Engineering Sciences students it is now a required course. The course is targeted for sophomores in order for them to develop a passion for following up on some of the questions developed in the course and to start thinking about globalization ideas. However, there are a number of AES seniors taking the course this fall and they are very enthused. "This course approaches learning differently," says Donald Wu, an AES senior. "We are learning for the sake of learning and getting real-world experiences."

The goal is to enhance the characteristics that make a great global engi-

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from the Director

JON STICKLEN

A lot has happened for AES since my last message to you in the spring issue of this newsletter. I want to share with you one of the important projects AES is now engaged in.

With full college support, the AES curriculum is being reviewed and a proposal for a program update is under development. There has not been a full review of our curriculum for almost a decade. Over that decade, tremendous strides were achieved for AES, particularly in increasing awareness in the employer community for what an AES grad can do for a company. Grads of our telecommunication cognate and our supply chain cognate continue to find strong job offers in the face of one of the worst economies most of us have ever seen. However, as with all good programs, the continuing goal is to make them better by updating an already strong program.

The blueprint for our program update is shown

in the graphic below. Its core is the gray ellipse at the center and consists of core courses in mathematics, basic sciences, and business. This is the "engineering commons" that also consists of a broad cross section of courses in our sister engineering majors. Also part of the AES core will be a sequence of three courses, each for three credit hours, which will be AES specific and what we refer to as the "AES spine." In addition to streamlining the AES core, our central update is to theme the AES core around the concept of "systems thinking." With that central concept as the driver, and with the greatly strengthened AES spine, the revised AES program will have more coherence as an identifiable area in the College of Engineering and a program that will even better prepare students for the 21st-century workplace.

Surrounding the AES core in the graphic are the cognates. Our two existing cognates, Supply Chain and Telecommunications, are shown in shaded green. We expect other cognates to come online that will offer incoming students new opportunities and will attract new students to the program. The first cognate we expect to add is the Technical Sales & Marketing cognate, which we anticipate having in place by May 2010. Once the

proposal is approved, we expect this new cognate to propel growth in AES enrollment as new students come into the program.

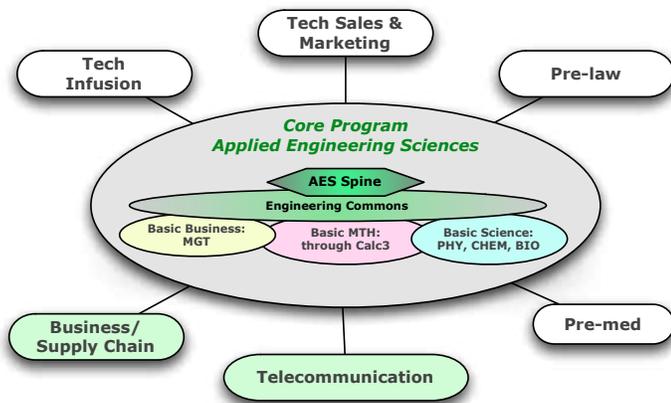
As part of our process, we are gathering input from AES stakeholder groups about our proposed changes: alumni, faculty both in the College

of Engineering and in the Eli Broad College of Business, current students, and employers. So far, we have taken the proposal to the AES Alumni Advisory Board. Members gave us solid feedback at the board meeting in October. An ad hoc faculty committee continues to meet this fall to give feedback as part of the process. The program update proposal will be taken to an open student meeting on December 1. Feedback from all these groups is invaluable in helping to ensure that the revised AES program will be responsive and effective in meeting needs.

One last point about the program: As programs evolve, care must always be exercised to ensure that no current student is disadvantaged by any change that is made. At MSU the standing rule is that when a curriculum changes, current students can elect to complete their degree under the old curriculum or under the revised curriculum. I will take special pains to be sure that no student is hurt as we transition to our new curriculum.

Our timeline is to have our new curriculum approved and in place by the end of the spring 2010 semester. Once approval is in place, we will publish all details on a new AES Web site, now under construction.

It's an exciting time for AES. Concepts for our curriculum revision have been developed with significant help from Ron Rosenberg, College of Engineering associate dean for special initiatives. Feedback from all of our stakeholder groups is pivotal in making the detail-level decisions that will lead to an optimal program. The collaboration of many individuals is molding a revised AES program that all of us will be proud of. 🌟



Going Global (continued from page 1)

neer. That's a person who enjoys and is good at problem solving, and seeks continuous improvement; comes to understand the major components of globalization; brings a global perspective to his or her work; and expects to be a lifelong learner who welcomes new career challenges.

During this fall's classes, more than a dozen guest speakers discussed key globalization issues. "I have been surprised at what I am learning in this course. I really like the guest speakers," says Greg Swears, an AES senior. "They add to my perspective of what an AES engineer does in industry."

The course also helps the students develop useful working knowledge,

or literacy, in a professional learning environment. Students build two critical skill sets: systems thinking — a framework for understanding complex issues; and communication — active listening, presenting, teaming, and networking. These are lifelong tools for global professionals and citizens. "I love the course," says Christine Varley, an AES sophomore. "I am learning how to be a learner and not just memorizing material." Students, generally in teams of two, make presentations on a variety of international topics. Greg Fuhs, an AES senior, says the presentations are helping him improve how he presents information, "just like a real-life business setting." 🌟

Herzog Finds AES a Slam Dunk (continued from page 1)

Especially when we get into basketball season, I have to be focused about getting the class work done. I can't just say I'll do it some other time.

Q – Beyond practice sessions and the actual games, what are some of your other time commitments for basketball?

A – We spend a lot of time studying film – the film of other teams and films of us on the court. I practice shooting, and there are workouts after practice. That's why I really have to be focused on the studies and homework when I have time. Putting it off is not an option.

Q – What about when you travel for games during the week or when you get involved in the NCAA tournament?

A – When we made that deep run in the NCAA tournament last year, the basketball team was gone four days out of the week. I talk to the professors in advance and find out what I have to do to make up homework and tests. Sometimes, I can e-mail homework to the professor. Student Athletics Support Services has tutors, which were a big help in my first years here, but now I don't

need the tutors so much.

Q – Your need to gain weight or add bulk has been the subject of several news articles. What are you doing to gain weight?

A – I used to be so skinny. I look back at my high school photos and realize how skinny I was. I have gained weight for several years and have gained weight this summer. For me, gaining weight is a lot like losing weight. I eat more meals with less food, generally five meals a day. If I eat a huge meal at dinner, for example, then I am not hungry for the next meal. I do try to stay away from high-fat foods and eat a well-balanced diet.

Q – What do you do for fun?

A – I took several classes this summer, but I had some free time so I played volleyball and golf. I also like to play Texas Hold 'em. I really cannot have winter hobbies because of the basketball schedule and studies. I used to like to go snowmobiling, but I haven't done that for four or five years.

Q – What do you plan to do after you get your BS degree in the spring?

A – I will have one more year of eligibility on the basketball team, so I am trying to decide about my fifth-year studies. I am thinking about a grad program in engineering or business.

Q – And after your college career?

A – I hope to play pro basketball as long as I can. However, a career in pro basketball lasts only 10 to 15 years at most, so the AES degree will give me a lot of options for a career after basketball. 🌟



Tom Herzog with AES program director Jon Sticklen.

New Center Inspires Engineering Education Research

The College of Engineering at Michigan State University has established the Center for Engineering Education Research (CEER). The focus of this center is to expand engineering education research in the college, engage more faculty in engineering education research, and work collaboratively with colleagues in other colleges across campus who are researching issues in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education areas. The ultimate goal for CEER is to become an internationally recognized resource for STEM research.

"Nationally, there is a growing realization that there has to be support for engineering education research at the undergrad level, due to challenges like outsourcing and globalization," says Jon Sticklen, director of CEER and the director of the Applied Engineering Sciences program. "There must be fundamental changes in the

way engineering education is conducted, and changes should have a basis in fact. Innovation in instruction and educational research go hand in glove. Without systematic evaluation and research, classroom and curricular innovation is rudderless." In addition to doing more undergraduate research, the initiative will promote research methods as part of classroom lectures.

According to Leo Kempel, associate dean for research in the College of Engineering, "Recent national initiatives, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal agencies, indicate a strong potential for sponsored research related to how we can better educate engineers of the future."

A dedicated core of faculty in engineering, composed of a growing team of people, are taking the CEER mission seriously. "Our faculty, in concert with partners across the campus and

at Lansing Community College, have secured more than \$3 million in extramural funding for engineering education research with an emphasis on retention of students beyond the first and second years of post-secondary education," Kempel says. An institutionalized structure is important in tapping nationally available financial resources, especially large funding sources.

Changes stemming from CEER will not be visible right away. "Real change is not something that is a done deal, but the goal for change is to introduce into the culture of our engineering college an attitude toward innovation," says Sticklen. "We expect to become an internationally relevant center and that, in turn, will enhance engineering education here in MSU's College of Engineering." 🌟

AES Seniors Gain International Expertise



Jon Wiita (right) with his Japanese counterpart Hiroataka Kawgoe, a sophomore at Tokyo University majoring in bio-business.

Jon Wiita represented MSU and the USA at the International Student Summit (ISS) on Food, Agriculture and Environment in Tokyo, Japan, in October. The AES senior from Kalamazoo, Mich., was one of 34 students selected to represent 21 different countries. In addition, more than 6,000 people from Tokyo University, other universities, high schools, and the general public participated in the two-day summit.

"My mentor and adviser, Glenn Sterner, director of the Bailey

Scholars Program in which I am a scholar, encouraged me to think about how I could fit into a summit such as this one," says Wiita. He originally submitted a one-page abstract on what he would research and eventually had the work reviewed and selected for a presentation at the summit. His research was titled "Bridging the Gap to Creative Innovative Thinking and Solutions to Global Crisis." The audience not only listened to Wiita's presentation and others, but there were lively discussions with the participants. "It was an amazing opportunity to not only take a trip to visit another country and see another culture, but to learn while experiencing it."

At first Wiita did not see how his engineering background fit with the heavy emphasis on agriculture at this conference. However, words that he heard constantly in presentations and discussions were production, pro-

ductivity, resource planning, materials planning, and information technology. "All of these words represent areas of specialization where graduates of AES excel," says Wiita. "I took away a commitment to reflect on my experience and develop a strategy for myself to further the discoveries made at the summit."

More information on how and why Wiita selected the topic for his abstract is available at <http://careernetwork.msu.edu/news/start-work-before-the-interview-jon-wiita>.



In addition to his internship, Kevin Bowen attended the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain.

Kevin Bowen, an AES senior from Lake Orion, Mich., has just returned from an internship in Barcelona, Spain, where he worked for a company that specializes in industrial robotics, primarily for the automotive industry. "I got to see many different phases of the company's operation," says Bowen, whose internship was tied to an independent study (EGR 493). He worked with the engineering division at the company, helping to assemble a cell consisting of five robots doing tasks, such as spot welding, material handling, and laser cutting. "I also worked with customers and suppliers around the world helping to make documents and

work as transparently as possible and helping to establish future working terms between customers and suppliers," says Bowen. He also, of course, made time for fun and had an opportunity to do some traveling in Europe, including a trip to Pamplona, Spain, for the running of the bulls. 🌿

Alumni Advisory Board News

The AES Alumni Advisory board met this fall and discussed topics to help guide the AES program. Of major importance was input on proposed changes to the AES program, including increasing the number of cognates offered as well as core classes. The preliminary proposal, presented to the group by AES director Jon Sticklen, includes implementing a stronger "systems perspective" to the AES-specific engineering classes, developing a more identifiable engineering AES spine of classes, and trimming the total credit hours from 128 to 120 to coincide with most other MSU majors. Board members discussed numerous specifics in the proposal and gave uniformly positive feedback on the proposed strengthening of the AES spine. They also expressed strong support

for providing a cohesive, AES-specific set of courses. Greater AES alumni feedback on the proposed changes is planned as the proposal develops.

Kelsey Johnson, AES senior and vice president of the Society for Applied Engineering Sciences, and board vice chair Nathan Harrison, who heads up the Student Outreach Team of the board, went over various initiatives of the society, including trying to increase student involvement in a mentoring program as well as asking the Alumni Outreach Team to encourage greater AES alumni involvement with the program.

Steve Trecha, who heads up the Endowment and Research Funding Team, presented the proposed development and funding initiatives.

Funding objectives include AES student scholarships, Design Day awards and AES capstone project mentoring/sponsorship, a graduation breakfast, and a professorial endowed chair.

Maura McDonald, leader of the Alumni Outreach Team, needs two additional members for her team, which will assist Jon Sticklen in identifying and selecting future alumni award winners.

After the meeting, board chair Monte Falcoff and Nathan Harrison discussed AES alumni views with the EGR 300 class. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 2010. Anyone interested in joining the board or who would like to make comments about board activities should contact Falcoff at mlfalcoff@hdp.com. 🌿

Student Group Offers Fun and Learning Experiences

AES students are learning about community involvement opportunities by belonging to MSU's Society of Applied Engineering Sciences (SAES). Of course, there's also some fun worked into the meetings and activities. This year the activities have included presentations by companies interested in AES graduates, a factory tour of Paramount Coffee, and three volunteer events.

The 2009 executive board includes:

Jon Wiita, president

Kelsey Johnson, vice president

Brett Neumann, treasurer

Luke Kosnik, administrative assistant

Craig Maser, historian / webmaster

Kevin Bowen, community involvement

Jamie Clavette, fundraising

Behind the scenes, the officers this year are developing a handbook to assist in leadership transitions. "We are trying to organize the responsibilities of members of the board," says Kelsey Johnson. "It sounds simple, but we never had information written down. So each new set of officers pretty much had to feel their way through what needed to be done."

The group has been helped by the Student Outreach Team of the AES Alumni Advisory Board, headed up by Nate Harrison (BS '06) with IBM. "The outreach committee has shown great leadership," says SAES president Jon Wiita.

"They are an integral part of our mentoring projects and fundraising."

More information about the group and how to join is available at www.msusaes.org. AES alumni and industry representatives are also invited to get involved with the organization. 🌟



AES Advisory Board vice chair Nathan Harrison (left) and SAES vice president Kelsey Johnson.

Generosity of Many Helps AES Program

The Applied Engineering Sciences Discretionary Endowment Fund was created to encourage and establish a stronger base of financial support to be used for special AES programs, specifically:

- Program promotion and marketing to industry and potential employers
- Scholarships and recognition
- Activities and special projects

As with all endowments, the principal of the gift is continually preserved and a percentage of the interest income can be spent annually. All AES and Engineering Arts alumni, as well as others with an interest in the program, are encouraged to give as much as possible to this fund, including ongoing giving or monthly contributions. In some cases, an employer will match the gift of a contributor, which can significantly increase the contribution.

This fall the fund received its first planned gift from **Donnie Hays** (BS '81). She is vice president of global client enablement at IBM and works out of the Raleigh-Durham, NC, area. After leaving MSU, Hays went to Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and received an MBA in 1983. She has worked for IBM since receiving her MBA. In addition, Hays has been a regular contributor to the fund and IBM has matched her donation each year. Planned gifts are generally part of an estate plan. When making estate plans, alumni may want to consider including a contribution to the endowment fund.

Alumni interested in making contributions or wanting further information about the AES Discretionary Endowment Fund can visit www.givingtoamsu.edu or contact Engineering Development at 517-355-8339. 🌟

Students Appreciate Scholarships

The AES Discretionary Endowment Fund has been used to award scholarships to students. Here is what three students have to say about the scholarships they received:

From Christine Varley, AES sophomore: "The biggest help the scholarship has given me is the fact that I don't have to work. This scholarship allows me to concentrate on not only my school work, but also outside activities, such as the two engineering societies, Society of Woman Engineers and Society of Applied Engineering Sciences, along with Tower Guard. If I had to work on top of it, there is no way I could be as involved as I am while worrying about paying my bills. So really, this scholarship means quite a lot to me in the ability to become more active and involved."

From Kevin Bowen, AES senior: "The scholarships supplied by the AES Endowment Fund have given me that extra 'breathing room' in regard to my monetary situation as well as making me feel as if my hard work is paying off and being appreciated."

From Amy Gerstacker, AES senior: "I really appreciated being selected for a scholarship last spring. It meant a lot not only to be recognized for my achievements in Applied Engineering Sciences, but the scholarship also greatly reduced the debt resulting from my college education. I was able to use the money to purchase my books and to pay for a portion of my tuition. I am extremely grateful for the support this scholarship has provided me."

The MSU College of Engineering offers more than 300 scholarships to undergraduate students each year for a total of approximately \$600,000 in amounts ranging from \$100 to \$13,000. Applications are available online at <http://www.egr.msu.edu/undergraduate/resources/scholarships>. 🌟

Donors Help Expand AES Program

Thank you to the following donors for their contributions to the AES Discretionary Endowment Fund. Your kindness helps to build the AES program, support students, and enhance the quality of an AES education. Every effort has been made to include all donors through October 15, 2009.

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Mr. Rich Zizek and Mrs. Marcia L. Zizek

Other Alums Make Pledges

As of October 15, 2009, these AES alumni and friends have made pledges to the AES Discretionary Endowment Fund. We thank you for your pledge and hope you will be able to make a contribution to the fund soon.

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Mr. William D. Beuchat and Mrs. Michelle L. Beuchat
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Mr. Gautam Chalasani
Boon-Keat Chui, Ph.D.
Mr. Bryan J. Conrad
Ms. Deborah L. Conrad
Mr. Daniel t. Cowan
Mr. Thomas J. Craig and Mrs. Jenny Craig
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Ms. Shari K. Dobson
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