Hello ACET Members!

This is the first of what will be a quarterly ACET electronic newsletter to help keep us updated on the college as well as keep us connected to each other between our annual meetings. Our September meeting was great. You’ll hear more about it in the rest of this newsletter, but as we continue to grow and learn, each meeting seems to get better. Thanks to all of you who could join us and, for those that couldn’t, you were missed.

Just as in past meetings, the highlight of the conference was the direct interaction with the students—either through the presentations they gave or in the mentoring sessions. What an amazing group of young people we have at BYU! The involvement of Dean Parkinson and his staff has been invaluable to ACET as we continue to refine our committee efforts and focus our resources on areas that we can uniquely help with. Thanks to all of you for your participation in ACET and for your commitment to the Fulton College of Engineering and Technology.

Mary Peery, ACET Chair

Message from Dean Alan Parkinson

I wish to express my deep gratitude to all ACET members who were able to attend our meetings in September. It was great to be with you. I appreciate so much your desire to help make us better. During the meetings, about 300 students received mentoring. Our Women’s Leadership Forum was the best it has ever been. The committees are making an impact. Although we have a long way to go to reach our full potential, your help, in both time and treasure, is making a difference.

Last year about 100 students went on some sort of technical study abroad, and 30 more were involved in international capstone projects. Your donations helped to make these things possible. We started our college endowment 18 months ago, with a goal of $10 million. We now have nearly $4 million. ACET members have made the lion’s share of these contributions. Hiring the college’s new communications director, Krista Tripodi, is the first of many benefits from the endowment that will assist the Fulton College in moving forward. Thank you for being so willing to give back to BYU!
On Friday afternoon of the conference, ACET members in attendance had the option to participate in one of four committees. Below are summaries of the committee action items, as well as links to a PDF of the slides presented. If you would like to participate with a certain committee, please contact the committee chair.

**Mentoring/Leadership**

**Myron Jones**

College liaison: John Harb, john_harb@byu.edu

The mentoring/leadership committee will continue to improve the activities it has been providing, while adding several new ones.

- Mentoring of juniors and seniors at annual ACET meetings and adding a component of follow-up in order to have these activities evolve.
- Social networking opportunities.
- Leadership internships or shadowing opportunities.
- Metrics to measure results and progress.
- Align with and support the college initiatives on mentoring and leadership.
- Develop a structure to improve one-on-one mentoring.

[View PDF of slide presentation]

**Globalization**

**Doug Scribner**

College liaison: Spencer Magleby, magleby@byu.edu

The current main objective of the globalization committee is to help the college establish a presence in India. Representatives from the committee and the college will take an exploratory trip to India Feb. 21--Mar. 4, 2009, to set up partnerships with Indian companies and internships for Fulton College students. To facilitate this, they are also putting materials together to present the college and its students to potential partners.

If you would like to be involved with this committee, or if you have any contacts that could help open doors in India, please contact Doug Scribner as soon as possible.

[View PDF of slide presentation]

**Innovation/Entrepreneurship**

**Ron White**

College liaison: Dave Anthony, anthony@byu.edu

Now more than ever, students in engineering and technology need to be innovative and enterprising. This committee and the college are working together to implement a strategy by leveraging the extensive entrepreneurial work that has been done by the BYU Marriott School of Management.

[View PDF of slide presentation]

**Women’s Representation Initiative**

**Valerie Son & Stephanie Magleby**

College liaison: Spencer Magleby, magleby@byu.edu

ACET’s newest committee, the women’s representation initiative will work to help the college with its goal of recruiting and retaining more women students. In addition to planning the annual Women’s Leadership Forum, they are also compiling a database of all female alumni and creating promotional/recruitment materials with the college.

[View PDF of slide presentation]
Doug Welling: Honored Alumnus

On Oct. 9, ACET’s own Doug Welling presented a lecture to nearly 1,000 receptive Fulton College students. The president and COO of Jacobsen Construction, Doug was named the college’s 2008 Honored Alumnus. Based on lessons learned from the construction of the Salt Lake Tabernacle, his lecture encouraged students to not only build strong projects, but to build strong principles and strong partnerships as well.

Kotharis Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro

The only thing that could keep the Kotharis away from an ACET conference was the challenge of Mt. Kilimanjaro’s 19,341 feet! Pictured here at Uhuru Peak, Ketan and Manish’s next adventure will be to deliver the Fulton College lecture on Nov. 6.

Fultons Host ACET Members

Generous as always, Ira and Mary Lou Fulton were kind enough the open their Provo home for a BBQ during this year’s conference. ACET members got a chance to socialize and relax while enjoying delicious food and admiring the remarkable art collection of their hosts. After dinner, the crowd went next door to Ben Markham’s house to take a spin on an electricity-generating merry-go-round that Fulton College students helped design.

Mel and Sharon Nichols: India Mission Update

Mel and Sharon Nichols are still serving as mission presidents in India and are enjoying being part of the tremendous growth there.
Grant and Patrice Beckmann

In the last decade, Grant Beckmann has been on the ground floor of five Utah startups, and has helped lead each to international recognition and eventual acquisition by larger corporations.

Beckmann received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology from BYU, before going to work on the stealth program at Boeing.

He currently heads up Logitech’s Utah operations, a position he assumed after Logitech purchased WiLife, a video security startup in which Beckmann was the COO.

He and his wife, Patrice, met at BYU. She gave up a promising career in travel and tourism to be a full-time mother to their two sons. She served a mission in Texas and with delight has served in numerous Primary, Young Women, and Relief Society presidencies. Always ready to organize the next adventure, Patrice is an excellent chef and loves to travel. If a BYU football game is involved, it’s an added bonus. She learned to love BYU sports from her father, David Schulthess, who was the BYU Sports Information Director for 40 years. The Beckmanns have two sons and currently reside in Orem, Utah.

Mark and Kristi Vorwaller

Mark Vorwaller is the co-founder, president and CEO of VX Corporation, a specialized CAD/CAM design firm based in Florida. Under his guidance, VX has developed and marketed three generations of CAD/CAM products and grown from a small company with a handful of employees to become a leading developer of design-through-manufacturing solutions with offices and partners worldwide. His ongoing vision is to develop highly functional and extremely accurate software tools to meet the needs of design engineers and manufacturers.

Vorwaller received BYU’s Honored Alumnus Award in 1996 and served on the Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board for seven years before joining ACET. He and his wife, Kristi, live in sunny Florida where she is heavily involved in community service. Kristi received her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from BYU in 1984. She has always had a strong orientation towards helping people in need. Kristi has served in numerous church callings as well as spending time as a soccer league admin, elementary and middle school front office assistant, working in the public school system with learning-disabled children, and assisting in the long-term care of elderly/disabled people in the community.

The Vorwallers’ two children, Ryan (23) and Leslie (18) both currently reside in Provo where they are attending school.

Christopher Musso

Chris Musso earned his bachelor’s degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology from BYU, before moving on to MIT where he was a Leaders for Manufacturing Fellow. While at MIT, Musso earned master’s degrees in Materials Science; Business Administration; and Technology Policy; as well as a PhD in Technology, Management, and Policy.

Beyond his extensive experience in academe, Musso is an associate principal in McKinsey & Company’s Operations Practice. His research has helped shape the thinking of the world’s top innovation management thinkers and has significantly improved the commercialization strategies of several leading materials companies.

Musso has published several papers on materials engineering, manufacturing, and innovation, including one that was presented to the US House of Representatives and two that were recently featured in Modern Plastics magazine.

He and his wife, Emily, currently reside in Ohio.

We want your feedback on the ACET conference
Take our Online Survey!