With wit and wisdom, ACET member Grant Beckmann told students ‘how to enjoy a recession’ on Feb. 20 at the college’s annual awards banquet.

Addressing Fulton College students and their spouses, he discussed the current economic downturn, suggesting that challenging times are full of opportunities for recent college graduates.

Grant, the vice president of product development at Logitech, Inc., has been on the ground floor of five successful startup companies, weathering all types of economic conditions during his 20+ year career. Encouraging students not to default to graduate school or take any job at any price because of the economy, he gave practical advice on how to develop a great career.

1. Plan for the long term
2. Work smart and hard
3. Go global
4. Be a learner
5. Pick interesting jobs
6. Build your network

As students enter the workforce, they can take advantage of the recession by learning to follow product and economic trends, joining a company that is building great products and growing, and leading a balanced life filled with optimism, service and a love for learning. Thank you to Grant and his wife Patrice for giving their time to our students.
At the September conference Doug Scribner and the ACET globalization committee set the goal of helping the college establish a presence in India. In February, months of preparation paid off as a group of BYU representatives traveled to India for twelve days. Visiting 11 companies total, the group split its time between established multinationals like HP and Cisco and successful Indian powerhouses like Infosys and Tata Motors. We are proud to report that as a result of this trip the college not only has several new partnerships, but also internship opportunities for students starting as early as this summer.

The companies responded favorably to continuing their relationship with BYU and having our students intern with them when they have openings. HP in Bangalore and Tata Motors in Pune by summer 2010. The success of the trip would not have been possible without involvement from ACET. Countless hours were put in by Ketan and Manish Kothari and Doug Scribner to plan a very ambitious and productive schedule. Their preparation allowed the college to capitalize on the opportunities presented to them while in India. Our BYU representatives were able to meet with many top-level executives thanks to contacts from the Kothari family and several other ACET members.

The group also met up with ACET members Mel and Sharon Nichols in Banaglore, where Mel is currently serving as the president of the India Bangalore Mission. They attended church and toured potential student housing. The Nichols’ on-the-ground experience will be very useful in helping to coordinate lodging for in housing. The Nichols’ on-the-ground experience will be very useful in helping to coordinate lodging for interns.

The ACET members, deans explore opportunities in India

Leadership training for students

For the second consecutive year, the college’s leadership committee hosted training for graduate students and the officers in student clubs.

The final session culminated in a keynote address from ACET Mentoring and Leadership Committee Chair Myron Jones. He encouraged students to focus on leadership so they will be able to increase their influence and help good people become great.

Thank you to Myron for sharing his years of professional and personal leadership experience. He gave the audience advice we can all learn from:

Ten Tips to Developing Yourself as a Good Leader

1. Understand yourself—know your strengths & weaknesses
2. Develop personal mastery
3. Understand others around you
4. Find good role models
5. Never stop learning
6. Use good judgment
7. Never compromise your values
8. Prepare yourself spiritually, emotionally and physically
9. Be a great listener
10. Be prepared for anything

Women in Engineering & Technology

Since its creation last fall, the Women’s Representation Initiative, chaired by Valerie Son and Stephanie Magleby, has moved ahead with great enthusiasm. “WE@BYU: Women in Engineering & Technology” will help support the college’s efforts to recruit and retain more female students. The committee is creating a Web site (many thanks to Stacey Son), shooting a recruitment video and working on branding and logo ideas. The college is grateful for such passionate support for this essential effort.

Innovation/Entrepreneurship

There is much potential in regards to innovation and we hope to develop this effort further at this year’s ACET conference. The college is excited about the possibilities of a stronger relationship with the Marriott School’s newly merged Rollins Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology. Additionally, students have learned about innovation throughout the year in special classes and guest lectures.

• Author and humanitarian Paul Polak discussed entrepreneurial ideas aimed at lifting the world’s poor out of poverty. It requires true innovation, he said, to make and market a product to people who earn less than $1 per day.

• Several Saturdays each semester, the School of Technology holds “Innovation Boot Camps.” Pairing instruction and friendly competition, the boot camps offer students a chance to gain real-world innovation experience in a lighthearted and fast-paced environment.

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