Two years ago, mechanical engineering student David Williams had an idea. He wanted to help amputees in developing nations become self-sufficient by creating an affordable, below-the-knee prosthetic. He thought it should have a simple design that locals could reproduce.

After many hours of researching and prototyping, Williams and a team of his fellow BYU students will travel to Uganda this summer to implement the result of his idea. His group, 2ft. Prosthetics, recently won first place and $10,000 in the BYU Social Venture Competition for their innovative prosthetic. At a cost of less than $20 each, the one-piece, durable device made from PVC could revolutionize the field of customizable prosthetics. Currently, most prosthetic devices cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Read more inside...
The students will use the funding from the Social Venture Competition to set up clinics in Uganda and train locals to fit and manufacture the prosthetics.

The college is full of students like Williams wanting to use their ideas to make a positive impact on the world around them. One such group is the Engineering and Technology Startup (ETS) club. Students started ETS out of a desire to see more innovation in the college.

Working with the college, members of the ACET Innovation Committee and the Marriott School’s Collegiate Entrepreneur’s Organization, the group has successfully paired engineering and business students in order to get ideas developed.

This October, the students in ETS will run the college’s first Student Innovator of the Year competition. The competition’s last round will take place during the 2010 ACET Conference, with ACET members serving as the final judges.

“With entrepreneurship, mentoring is so important,” said Greg Rasmussen, senior in mechanical engineering and ETS president. “You learn things so much faster when you have mentors because they’ve had a lifetime of experience. It’s so much better to hear from someone who has already done it instead of just out of a textbook.”

For more information about the Student Innovator of the Year competition, visit etstartup.org.

SOURCE: BYU WEEKLY
THE BIGGER PICTURE

After losing her fingers from a blood infection, Jeane Taylor was struggling to do simple tasks for her young family.

A BYU professor was inspired by her story and set a team of Capstone students to work. Working closely with Taylor, they created a customized, functional prosthetic device.

“When they first told me, I cried because it’s been incredible to see the service that they want to render,” she said. “They don’t want anything back. All they want to do is help.”

The students were motivated by the impact their work could have on Taylor and her family.

“This is not your normal school project where you just have to do your best,” said Vance Murray, a senior on the team. “This has much bigger implications.”

SOURCE: BYU NEWS

BARRAGER TO HEAD UP WE@BYU EFFORTS FOR COLLEGE

The college welcomes Lisa Barrager as the new program coordinator for its WE@byu: Women in Engineering and Technology efforts. She is experienced in program management and marketing and business development for both large corporations and small engineering firms. Barrager has her BS and MS degrees in mechanical engineering as well as an MBA, all from BYU. She currently serves as the advisor to BYU’s Society of Women Engineers student chapter. She is a welcome addition to the college’s staff.

Barrager recently represented BYU at the 2010 Women in Engineering Program Advocates Network (WEPAN) Conference in Baltimore.

“The most valuable part of attending the WEPAN conference was the opportunity to learn what some of the most successful women in engineering programs in the country are doing to support and advance their women students.”

Barrager looks forward to collaborating with ACET in order to expand the WE@byu efforts.

“I am eager to work closely with ACET as we build the WE@byu program with an invaluable alumni and professional support network,” she said.

“I AM EAGER TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ACET AS WE BUILD THE WE@BYU PROGRAM WITH AN INVALUABLE ALUMNI AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT NETWORK.”

—LISA BARRAGER, WE@BYU PROGRAM COORDINATOR
One such group is the Engineering and Technology Startup (ETS) club. Students at Marriott School’s Collegiate Entrepreneurship Organization, the group has succeeded in starting ETS out of a desire to see more in their ideas to make a positive impact on the world around them. The college is full of students like Williams wanting to use their ideas to make a difference.

The students were motivated by the implications of their work, which has much bigger implications. Vance Murray, a senior on the team. "This is not your normal school project," said Williams. "This project has been a real hands-on experience for all of us." They have learned things so much faster when you have mentors because they’ve had a lifetime of experience. It’s much better to hear from someone who has already done it instead of just theories. "The final judge is very important," said Greg Rasmussen, serving as the final judges.

The students will use the funding from the Social Venture Competition to set up the ACET Innovation Committee and the clinics in Uganda and train locals to fit and manufacture the prosthetics. After losing her fingers from a blood infection, Jeane Taylor was struggling to do much of anything stopping her. "It’s been incredible to see the service they want to perform," said Taylor. "They don’t want anything back. All they want to do is help." They set a team of Capstone students to work. Working closely with Taylor, they created a customized, functional prosthetic device. "This project has been a real hands-on experience for all of us," said Williams. They have learned things so much faster when you have mentors because they’ve had a lifetime of experience. It’s much better to hear from someone who has already done it instead of just theories. "The final judge is very important," said Greg Rasmussen, serving as the final judges.

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With entrepreneurship, mentoring is invaluable. "I am eager to work closely with ACET in order to expand the WE@BYU efforts for college women," said Barrager. "I am eager to work closely with ACET in order to expand the WE@BYU efforts for college women," said Barrager. "The most valuable part of attending the Advocates Network (WEPAN) Conference was the opportunity to learn what some of the most successful women in engineering programs in the country are doing to support and advance their women students." Barrager looks forward to collaborating with ACET to expand the WE@BYU program with an invaluable alumni and professional support network.

One summer, more than 100 students will circle the globe on engineering and technology study abroad trips, internships, and humanitarian projects. These are just the students on official college sponsored international programs. Many students have arranged their own summer internships and technical projects abroad.

Whether they’re implementing a water heating system in Peru or studying global product development in Europe, these students are adding a depth to their technical education that will benefit them throughout their careers. Many of these defining experiences are possible because of ACET. Thank you for your support of our efforts to educate global leaders.
WO YEARS AGO, mechanical engineering student David Williams had an idea. He wanted to help amputees in developing nations become self-sufficient by creating an affordable, below-the-knee prosthetic. He thought it should have a simple design that locals could reproduce.

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—GREG RASMUSSEN, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT

Of all that we do as ACET members, there are few things as impactful as interacting with these BYU students in person. Listening to their plans, answering their questions, sharing our life experiences—it all makes a difference. In response to last year, the college has moved the senior mentoring dinner back to a larger venue and we hope to fill it. The more ACET members in attendance, the more students we can reach out to. I look forward to seeing you in October!

—Mary Peery, ACET chair
IMPACT SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Also in this issue:

- Read more inside...
- ACET CONFERENCE DATES
- COLLEGE UPDATE
- INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
- AskACET MENTORING PROGRAM
- KING HUSEIN ADDRESSES GRADS

Innovation with ACET members will have the opportunity to judge student inventions in the college’s Innovation Competition. Details inside.

AskACET: MENTORING PROGRAM

How do you balance work and family life? What is it like to work abroad? How do I start my own company? At each fall conference, ACET members give students advice on topics like these and more. Now the mentoring can continue all year long!

AskACET is the college’s new program that gives current engineering and technology students the opportunity to submit questions through a web interface. The student selects a category for the question (international engineering, leadership and mentoring, entrepreneurship and innovation, women in engineering and technology, ethics or other) and it is forwarded to the appropriate ACET committee. In a limited pilot of the program, we have had multiple questions asked and answered successfully. We look forward to opening this opportunity to more students soon.

KING HUSEIN TO GRADUATES: ‘NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE’

At the engineering and technology convocation ceremonies in April, ACET member King Husein encouraged students to dream big in spite of obstacles.

As a young boy, he was inspired by the success of the astronauts who landed on the moon in 1969. The future chairman and CEO of Span Construction dreamed of coming to the United States and starting his own business.

“My vision to come to America was fueled by the space program and an underlying feeling that nothing is impossible,” he said.

He encouraged the graduates to develop a vision of their success before they head out into the world. With the right vision and determination, anything is possible.