The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded $100,000 over the next three years to Kettering University to support a grant entitled “Development of a Course in Environmentally Conscious Design and Manufacturing for Undergraduates” (DUE #0511322). The grant was awarded through the Course, Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement Program at NSF. Of the 727 proposals submitted to the 2004 cycle, approximately 100 were awarded – a funding rate of 14%. The grant, which officially began on September 12, 2005, will support a collaborative effort between a multi-disciplinary group of Kettering University faculty and industrial leaders to bring issues of sustainable engineering and business practices to the curriculum. As an initial step toward this goal, the KIET members are developing an introductory course that provides undergraduate engineering, science and management students with the skills needed to critically examine environmental issues in product design and manufacturing, and to arrive at economically viable solutions to these problems.

Course Module Development

Andy Borchers has begun to develop a first draft of one of the topic modules for the IME540 course. Module 6 is titled “Environmentally Responsible Management” and consists of three sessions that serve to present current best practices in promoting design for the environment within the corporation. In addition, the module introduces students to current trends in environmental management systems, green supply chains, and total cost accounting. Students will read current articles, hear audio clips, view videos and participate actively in case study discussions modeled on those used by the Harvard Business School. The module will focus on the alignment of business and environmental initiatives.

KIET Receives National Science Foundation Grant Funding

Kettering University’s website published a story titled “Engineering a New Consciousness” that received over 4000 hits. The story was picked up by Great Lakes IT Report and other local news authorities interested in the topic. Watch for professional publications through ASEE, IIE and SME in the near future.

Upcoming Events

- Advisory Board Meeting will be held from 9:00am—4:30pm on December 14, 2005 at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn Michigan.
- Guest Speaker Schedule: Bruce Coventry ’75, VP of DCX and Pres. Of GEMA together with Jalonne White-Newsome, Environmental Engineer, GEMA will be speaking to students, faculty, staff and the local community. This session will be repeated for Spring 2006 term. Details to follow.

Publications
Franklin Pleasant is an undergraduate Mechanical Engineering student with a non-traditional thesis topic titled “Development and Implementation of a Process to Optimize Corporate, University, College Prep Partnership.” His first step was to develop a resource assessment for Potential Partners to the proposed outreach program. He determined the needs and resources of high school, colleges and industry necessary for a successful partnership program.

A new course, IME540, has been approved by the university for inclusion in the 2006-7 undergraduate and graduate catalog. Watch for the first course offering in Fall 2006 or Winter 2007. The course will be offered as an elective to all Kettering undergraduate and graduate students. The only prerequisites needed are senior standing and an interest in the topic.

Contact Trevor Harding (tharding@kettering.edu) or Terri Lynch-Caris (tlynch@kettering.edu) for further information.