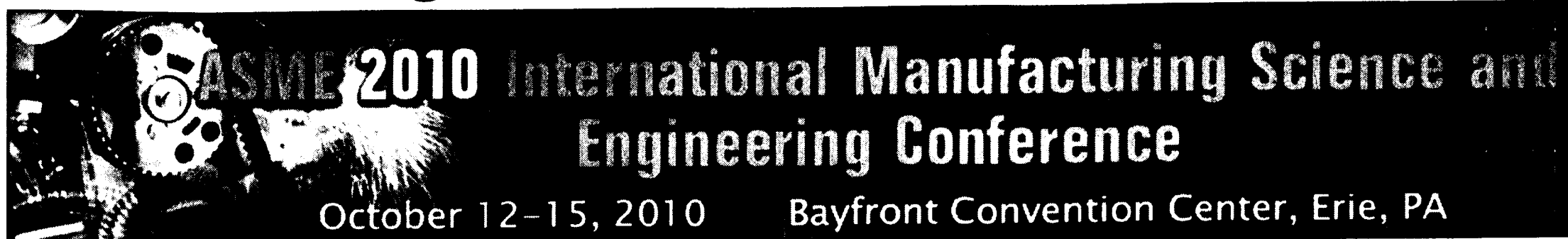


School of Engineering to host historic conference



ADAM FRACASSI
managing editor

400 business CEOs, representatives from the biggest companies around the world, and Penn State Behrend. Normally something that isn't gathered together, but will be soon.

The 2010 American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Manufacturing Science and Engineering Conference (ASME / MSEC), will take place on October 12 - 15 at the Bayfront Convention Center in downtown Erie.

The event is being hosted by Behrend's School of Engineering, leaving a mark in history.

Behrend has always been a research-oriented school, which made the school a prime candidate for hosting the conference.

"Members of our engineering faculty are actively engaged in research in the manufacturing field," said Dr. Ralph Ford, Director of the School of Engineering.

"The faculty explores topics such as energy reduction in manufacturing process, new techniques for laser and stiff-friction, welding, and electrically assisted manufacturing, which is an area of research that Penn State

Behrend pioneered."

The event will be spread out over the three days with a variety of activities.

One event will have panel discussions on the importance of manufacturing and the industry.

"Industry panels will focus on energy reduction in transportation, next-generation composites, the commercialization of innovation, and advances in the electrification of vehicles," says Ford.

In addition to the panels, there will be several other events, including symposia topics on nano-materials, material forming, green energy, and bio-manufacturing.

The conference also features three keynote speakers, all of whom have played a deep importance to the manufacturing industry.

Jack McDougle is one of the speakers. He will speak about the Council on Competitiveness' new flagship initiative to strengthen US Manufacturing in the 21st century.

McDougle will specifically touch upon the First Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index.

This index is a report from over 400 CEOs and senior manufacturing ex-

ecutives worldwide. It focuses on the areas of the work environment: assessment of competitiveness, countries that are most dominant across the world, and the role of government and policy in relation to further development.

"It is a unique opportunity for attendees of the conference and regional business leaders to find out about the state of manufacturing," said Dr. Ford.

McDougle himself is a Senior Vice President at the Council on Competitiveness working with the U.S. Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative.

He is a former deputy undersecretary for economic affairs, and led the analysis of U.S. manufacturing in the global marketplace. McDougle was also the first deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and Services.

The second keynote speaker is Representative Kathy Dahlkemper.

The congressional representative for the Erie area, Dahlkemper is a perfect compliment to McDougle's address. Dahlkemper will be discussing the most current resolutions being considered in the House of Represent-

tatives by the Committee on Science and Technology, a committee in which she serves.

Since 1997, Dahlkemper has worked with Dahlkemper Landscape Architects and Contractors, a major landscaping firm in the area that she part-owns. She has also served as Human resources manager and Special Projects Director at the firm.

Dahlkemper is also the co-founder and director of Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, along the bayfront. It is an area dedicated to over 225 varieties of trees.

The final speaker is Dave Grzelak, chairman and CEO of Komatsu America Corp. Grzelak will give the keynote address at the conference.

Grzelak manages responsibility for Komatsu's U.S. operations dealing mainly with construction.

tion, utility and mining truck products marketed worldwide.

Grzelak is an Erie native and Penn State Behrend alumnus. Before joining Komatsu, Grzelak worked with GE Transportation Systems holding marketing, manufacturing, sales, and management positions with the company.

Grzelak is also being honored as the 2010 Behrend Alumni Fellow, the highest honor the Alumni Association can give.

The event will provide tours of manufacturing firms like Eriez and HERO BX in Erie and

Cummins in Jamestown, NY.

The conference is open to anyone interested in learning more about the state of manufacturing.

Students can register online. Full registrations are \$675 for members and one-day registrations are \$425.

For more information, contact Dr. John Roth, the conference organizer and assistant director for research and technology transfer for the School of Engineering.



photo taken from bayfrontconventioncenter.com

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 6TH:
12:00PM - 4:00PM

Event: Behrend's Annual Career & Internship Fair
Location: Junker Center

Quote of the week:

"Scientists investigate that which already is; Engineers create that which has never been."

-Albert Einstein

Question of the Month:

How do you feel about the REDC name being change to the Burke Center?

send us your opinion!

Email the Engineering editor,

Ryan Frankowski:
rsf5054@psu.edu

Engineering program receives accreditation

LOUIS ROBINSON
engineering writer • chemical engineering

A department within the School of Engineering recently received national accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.

The Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology program was launched at Behrend in 2006 with an expanded curriculum.

The updated program now offers a bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering Technology or Computer Engineering Technology, it's a one of a kind program in the Penn State system.

"We are very pleased that the updated ECET program is now ABET accredited," said Dr. Ralph Ford, the Director the School of Engineering in a press release.

This recognition is assurance that a college or university program meets the quality standards established by the profession for which it prepares its students.

The accreditation is only given to a select group of schools that

have demonstrated a commitment to education in the field of Engineering Technology.

It has helped assure people that Behrend is one of the top engineering schools in the country by having every one of their degree programs accredited by ABET.

The process to receive this accreditation is not an easy one. It's a voluntary, process of peer review.

The school must first complete a self study that documents whether students, curriculum, faculty, administration, facilities and institutional support meet the established criteria.

While the school is performing the study, the

ABET commission forms an evaluation team to visit the campus.

The team consists of a team chair and a few evaluation members. The team then comes to the school in question and assess course

"These rankings reflect the growing recognition of the quality of our engineering programs, faculty, students, and graduates."

Dr. Ralph Ford
Director of the School of Engineering

materials, projects done by students, and assignments.

The investigation team also talks to students and faculty about the program.

After talking to as many in the program that they possibly can, the investigation team assess the crite-

ria, and make sure that it has been met.

After all that, the program gets their ABET accreditation.

This approval is very important for Penn State engineering in making the program more nationally recognized.

With this accreditation, Penn State Behrend, continues to show why they are one of the best engineering schools in the country.

The Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology program joins the other programs in the School of Engineering with additional accreditations.

In total the School of Engineering offers three asso-

ciate and seven bachelor's degree programs.

Each program is accredited by either the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) or the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC), both of ABET.

These accreditations are part of the reason why the School of Engineering was recently ranked in the Top 50 for "Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs" by U.S. News, which requires the ABET accreditation to even make the list.

"These rankings reflect the growing recognition of the quality of our engineering programs, faculty, students, and graduates," said Dr. Ford on the Engineering website.

The School of Engineering continues to make headway not only in the Penn State system, but also in schools around the nation as well as within the engineering community.



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photos taken from abet.org

Any student within the School of Engineering wants to be featured in a publication. The Beacon is currently recruiting writers for our new Humanities page, which covers all majors within the school.

What are you waiting for?
Computer MET Plastics
Electrical Software Mechanical

To write for the Engineering page, e-mail Engineering Editor Ryan Frankowski at rsf5054@psu.edu.