
Center for Promoting STEM
(Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
(CP-STEM)

Electronic Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1, February 22, 2008

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1. Friendly Reminders

- If you plan to transfer in fall 2008, you should apply now. Mr. Cliff Casey, Manager of Advising and Counseling at Oakton, gave a presentation, *The Ins and Outs of Transferring to a Four-Year School*, at the ALL STEM Students Gathering on January 31. Visit the Advising and Counseling Center for help.
- So far, you should have met your mentor at least two times. If not, please contact your mentor to arrange meetings. Let Gloria Liu know if you are experiencing difficulties communicating with your mentor.
- Ask your instructors to fill out the midterm academic progress report and share it with your mentor.
- Many STEM students have been in Facebook. Join the Center for Promoting STEM group in Facebook and get updated information about activities and reminders.
- Have you visited the CP-STEM website, recently? Here is the link:
<http://www.oakton.edu/cp-stem/>
You can obtain copies of the documents required to complete the STEM Enrichment Program or the STEM Mentoring Program. You can also get your mentor's contact information.

- CP-STEM is accepting application for APEX Scholarship for fall 2008. Qualifications for APEX Scholarship include: interest in STEM, GPA>2.8, financial need, and US citizenship or permanent residency. A recipient can receive up \$8000 per year to cover tuitions and fees, books, transportation, and child care. Application is available online at <http://www.oakton.edu/cp-stem/APEXscholapp.pdf>.

2. News from CP-STEM

- Joe Kotowski and Gloria Liu presented “How much we know” at the annual American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Conference at Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 1, 2007.
- Over 45 faculty members from Oakton, district area high schools, Harper College, and College of Lake County attended CP-STEM’s first Conference for Promoting STEM for faculty on December 14, 2007. The conference focused on problem-based learning (PBL) as an instructional approach to motivate students to study STEM.
- In spring, 2008, a group of STEM faculty led by Ruth Williams and Majid Ghadiri are meeting regularly to run a pilot of a PBL scenario, which Ruth and Majid designed.
- Dr. Joianne Smith and Gloria Liu attended a TEAM Kickoff meeting at U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, on January 31, 2008. UIUC received a grant to collaborate with select Illinois community colleges to recruit transfer students. At this meeting, Dr. Ruth Watkins, Vice Provost, stated that Dr. Richard Herman, Chancellor established an institutional objective to double the number of its enrolled transfer students by year 2013.
- Oakton signed an articulation agreement with the University of Wisconsin-Stout spring 2008. With this articulation, Oakton students who earn an associate degree in arts or science will be able to transfer to the University of Wisconsin-Stout to study biotechnology.
- In spring 2008, there are 74 students in the CP-STEM programs (9 students in the STEM Enrichment Program, and 65 in the STEM Mentoring Program). 17 faculty mentors are working with these students.
- The third Institutional Advisory Committee meeting was held on February 13, 2008. The second Council of Industry and Academic Advisors will be held on March 24, 2008.
- CP-STEM is conducting a mini grant project, “Collaborating with ETHS STEM Teachers and Students through a Focused Conversation.” Through focused conversations with teachers and students at Evanston Township High School, the project will find more effective strategies to recruit students to study STEM. The first conversation group met on February 7, 2008.
- Gloria Liu will present “Variations of SI at Oakton Community College” at the 5th annual International Conference on Supplemental Instruction in May 28-30, 2008, at Orlando, FL.

3. Profiles of Oakton STEM Alumni

Since finishing his ASE at OCC, *Mike Boguki* has worked for the Electronics Visual Lab at UIC (Virtual Reality), The Chicago Board of Trade, and most recently the United Board of Pensions and Health Benefits as the Unix Administrator.

Camilo Castano graduated OCC in '03, finished his Masters of Engineering at UIC in '05 and is now finishing up a MSME at UIC studying Energy Systems.

Sumaira Chowdhury studied at Oakton in 2002-2004 and transferred to Northwestern University to study mathematics.

After studying at Oakton for two years, **Sharon Crane** transferred England to study engineering. She obtained a master degree in mechanical engineering at Lancaster in 2003 and is now working toward a Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering.

Having studied ENG and MFG at Oakton 15 years ago, **Tim Hoehn** has since worked in plastics processing and now lives in the Seattle area working for Zeidman Consulting. While at Oakton, Tim was a technician in our robotics lab.

Kangsan Kim studied at Oakton in 2002-2004 and obtained a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 2006 from University of California at Berkley.

Robin Oh now works in the area of Intellectual Property doing Patent Prosecution after graduating with an Associates of Engineering at Oakton in 2002 and a bachelor's in electrical engineering from UIUC in 2005

Jayraj H Panchal received a bachelor's degree in Information and Decision Sciences at the University of Illinois, Chicago. After working for IBM for a year and four months, he came to Oakton to take engineering courses in 2002-2003. He transferred to University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign and received a civil engineering degree in May 2005. After working for the City of Los Angeles from July 2005 to December 2006, he is now employed as a civil engineer at Walgreens in Deerfield, IL.

Shilpa Singla studied at Oakton in 2002-2004. In 2004, transferred to University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign to major in computer engineering and minor in mathematics. After receiving a bachelor degree in December 2006, Shilpa now works as a System Z Software Technical Sales Specialist at IBM in Chicago.

4. Profiles of STEM Faculty mentors

For a biography of some of the mentors, please see
<http://www.oakton.edu/user/cp-stem/Mentors/Mentors.htm>

5. Mark your calendar for STEM Activities: Please consider join the following activities

- **AMATYC Math Competition**

Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Time: 1pm-3pm

Room: 1608 and 1610 (Des Plaines Campus)

P103 and P104 (Ray Hartstein Campus)

The actual competition takes 60 minutes to complete. Students may be admitted to the competition either at 1:00pm or 2:00pm.

- **Pizza Night with Engineers**, 6:30pm-9pm, Thursday, March 27, 2008 at the Des Plaines Campus.

In addition to pizza and drinks, representatives from the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers will talk about the many benefits of becoming a registered professional engineer. Please reserve a seat at the pizza night with Peggy Swedroe, pswedroe@oakton.edu, Division 2 Math and Technology office, Room 2181, Des Plaines.

- **Tech Watch**, Wednesday, April 2, 5 - 8 p.m., Room 2609

Presentations: “The Pythagorean Theorem: 4000 Years of History” and
“How to Securely Remove Data from Your Hard Drive”

Refreshments will be served.

- **iTECH**, 8:30am-2pm, Friday, April 11, 2008 at the Ray Hartstein Campus, Room P103/104.

200 high school students will participate in this whole day event to experience hands-on real world applications developed by Oakton faculty and industry professionals. Only 20 Oakton students may join in the hands-on activities. Sign up with Gloria Liu as soon as possible. In addition, the keynote speech will be at 8:45am-9:30am presented by Dan Kennedy, Mathematics Consultant to Numb3ers. Everyone is welcome for the keynote speech.

- **Video Series**, Room 2140, 2pm-3pm, Tuesdays in March-April, 2008.

March 18: Cosmic Alchemy (VT6892)

March 25: Genetic Engineering & Protein Synthesis (VT4412),
Genetic Transfer (VT7825)

April 1: Understanding Explosives (VT7553),
Actuaries Make a Difference

April 8: Human Consciousness & Computers (VT8850)
Chemistry & the Environment (VT7805)

- **All STEM Students Gathering** will be held on April 30, 2008 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm in Room 1608/1610 Des Plaines. This is a required meeting for students participating in STEM Enrichment Program and STEM Mentoring Program.
- **The 11th CEO, Scholar and Expert Forum and the 2007-2008 Math Competition Annual Award Ceremony**



Date: Thursday, May 1, 2008
Time: 2:30pm-4:00pm
Room: 1608 and 1610 (Des Plaines Campus)
Distinguished Speaker: Gordon Hunter, Chairman and CEO,
Littelfuse Inc.

Every one is welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

6. Contact CP-STEM

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