Learning By Doing: Engineering Student Internships

By Mary McCintock, ’92

Some lessons are best learned by doing, especially in field engineering. That’s why GCC’s Engineering Program encourages its students to intern with companies during their four-year engineering degree program. Last summer, four GCC Engineering students interned at a relatively new job at Pelican Products, Alarsoft, and GCC’s Information Technology Department. Internships benefit both students and employers – students get hands-on experience in the field, free-turning companies sponsoring internships have important work done and an able-to-learn and train potential employees. Andrew Franz, Kai Kellner, Justin Purcell, and Erik Risinger participated in an internship program sponsored through the Franklin-Hampshire Regional Employment Board (FHREB), which is part of federal grant, the Mid-Massachusetts STEM Pathways Initiative.

Lou Franco, Chair of the FHREB and VP of Product Strategy at the company Atalasoft, knows hiring interns is good business. He said, “With companies like Atalasoft, we know engineering student interns help increase productivity and profits...we would bother recruiting at GCC and the Program’s

interviews allow students to make connections with professionals in their field and tap into their professional network. For companies, hiring interns means students have already demonstrated a level of technical experience that would normally wouldn’t be accomplished.”

Eighteen year-old Kai Kellner from Williamsburg is studying mechanical engineering at GCC and will transfer to a four-year college this fall. After his internship at Mid-Hampshire Fire, the company hired him for a continuing internship. Reflections on his work at Alarsoft, Kai said, “Along with learning more about programming and the profession, it’s been great to work with other people on projects. In the bigger project I worked on, other people thought through what I developed.”

Ted Johnson, Co-Chair of the GCC’s Engineering Program said, “Along with learning more about programming, and the profession, it’s been great to work with other people on projects. In the bigger project I worked on, other people thought through what I developed.”

Join us for conversation, art, and appetizers.

April 10, 6:30 p.m., Library Solarium

Body & Soul: Art as Intellectualism

Main Campus – East Building, Rooms E124 and E155

Contact (413) 775-1802 or email: kessey@gcc.mass.edu

Coming up – HEALTH OCCUPATIONS INFORMATION SESSIONS

Practical Nursing Certificate Program Informational Meeting

Thursday, March 29
9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Main Campus – East Building Room E124 and E115
Contact (413) 775-1802 or email: kessey@gcc.mass.edu

Associate Degree Nursing Program Informational Meeting

Thursday, March 29
11 a.m.—12 Noon
Main Campus – East Building Room E124 and E115
Contact (413) 775-1802 or email: kessey@gcc.mass.edu

FREE Hot Stone Information Session & Demonstration

Friday, March 30, 2012, 5 p.m.—7 p.m.
Downtown Center, 270 Main Street
Prewed hot stone massage class, as well as two FREE CEs and full-size samples!

For more information: Contact (413) 775-1634 or email: wcszed@gcc.mass.edu

Pleas Join Us

Permaculture Charette
Monday, April 9, 2012, 12 Noon
Main Campus – Stinchfield Lecture Hall

Register now at http://web.gcc.mass.edu/alumni/?p=113

April is Autism Awareness Month

Schedule of Events All events are held at the Main Campus and are sponsored by the Autism Spectrum Club (A.S.K.) and Student Life with support from the Art Department, Library, Diversity Programing Committee, and Office of Disability Services.

• April 2, 5 p.m.—7 p.m., Core 4th Floor Balcony outside of Counseling & Disability Services Opening Reception in Celebration of World Autism Awareness Day Join us for conversation, art, and appetizers.

• April 2—3, Library Solarium Book Display honoring Autism Awareness Month

• April 2—4, 4th Floor Balcony outside of Counseling & Disability Services Engineering Identity as a Person with Autism Student Art Show

• April 10, 12:30 p.m., Library Solarium In Our Own Voices GCC Tells Its Story – Students with Asperger’s and High Functioning Autism talk about their experiences at school with students at GCC.

• April 13, 12:00 p.m., Sloan Theatre Asperger’s Are Us Comedy Troupe - A comedy troupe made up of four college men who openly talk about and poke fun at all their lives as people on the autism spectrum.

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