The 2013 Rochester Engineer of the Year: 
Associate Dean and Professor Maureen Valentine
By: The ROCHESTER ENGINEER | APRIL 2014

Maureen Valentine, the Director of the Women in Technology Program, was named 2013 Engineer of the Year by the Rochester Engineering Society (RES). This honor was presented to Ms. Valentine at the 112th annual Gala at the Rochester Convention Center April 26, 2014.

The award recognizes the outstanding achievements and contributions of engineers in the Rochester region and promotes the importance of engineering to society.

For more information about RES and Maureen Valentine go to:

Engineering Scholarships
Over $35,000 in scholarships were also recognized at this event. Scholarships are available through the RES and other professional organizations. To see if you qualify and to apply for engineering and engineering technology scholarships, go to this web site:
http://www.roceng.org/page-1702084

Betsy Dell
Director, CoMETS Scholarship
Assistant Professor, Manufacturing & Mechanical Engineering Technology
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The National Science Foundation awarded RIT a grant for the Critical Mass of Engineering Technology Scholar from its 2011 Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program to substantially increase the number of high-technology workers and to develop high-quality professionals in select fields. These scholarships are available to students accepted and starting a COMETS program beginning academic years 2012-2015.

In September 2013, WIT welcomed the 2nd cohort of NSF STEM COMETS scholars. In addition to financial support, the program included academic and social support through the WIT program. RIT plans to offer 18 new awards to students entering AY14. Scholars from the AY12 cohort will become mentors for the AY14 scholars.

For more scholarship information go to our website at:
http://www.rit.edu/cast/wit/scholarship

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Maureen Valentine
Director, Women in Technology
Associate Dean
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WIT Professional Development Workshops

Affinity Fair
This event was hosted by the coop office and took place the day before the RIT Career Fair. The Affinity Fair was a reverse job fair for co-op ready students. Potential employers talked with WIT students about Women in Technology and its mission. This was a great way to meet potential employers.

Company Visits; Fidelity Financial and Northrup Grumman
Fidelity Investments and Northrup Grumman came to campus this past academic year. At both events, WIT students had an opportunity to meet one-on-one with representatives from the hiring companies. Fidelity presented their LEAP program designed for new graduates, while Northrup discussed opportunities in their company.

JUNG Personality Event
Career counselor Janine Rowe presented at this event. Participants completed the JUNG Typology Assessment prior to the event so they could learn their own personality type. Knowing yourself, and about other individuals helps you to be a more effective communicator, reduces conflict in the work place and home, and can help you gain insight into career choices.

Study Abroad
CAST has developed a new exchange relationship with the Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland! Students were given an overview of how to apply for travel abroad, specifically the Ireland experience. There was a lot of interest in this program and it will surely be offered again next year.

Distinguished Alum Luncheon
This luncheon was supported in part by the alumni office. Stacey Rychlewski is CAST’s 2014 distinguished alum. Stacey graduated with a BS in Food Administration and has worked in the food service and packaging industry ever since. Her message to students was about ‘Developing the Brand: YOU’. How to market yourself in a positive manner, using social media to your advantage and networking were the take-aways from this event!

Dress for Success
Building a wardrobe and looking professional were the focus of this fashion show style event hosted by WE@RIT. Student models were given a variety of interview scenarios and were asked to dress appropriately with the help of a Dress Barn consultant. A MaryKay representative was also available to discuss looking polished without make-up being overdone.

Tours

Sustainability Building
The first tour of the year was held right on the RIT campus. A tour of the newly opened Golisano Institute for Sustainability with the professional section of SWE. Pictured is a walking tour of the roof, with solar panels, green space and a butterfly habitat.

Mt. Morris Dam
A ranger from the Army Corp of Engineers led the Mt. Morris Dam tour. WIT students were given a tour of the inside of the largest dam of its type in the eastern US. The students then visited the museum and pic-nicked outside, despite the rain. They also had the opportunity to view the railroad bridge that spans the gorges 820 feet.

Xerox Tour
Women in Technology toured one of Xerox’s manufacturing facilities in Webster, NY. The students saw first-hand the manufacturing process from piece parts to finished product. The assembly, integration, test, packaging, and distribution of high volume monochrome (Nuvera) and color (i-Gen) print production systems was highlighted. Remanufacturing and the reclaiming of parts was also discussed.

Corning Museum of Glass
Women in Technology and WE@RIT collaborated on this joint event to the Corning Museum of Glass.
This day trip included a guided tour of the museum, live demonstrations and a hands-on activity. Some lucky students came home with handmade door prizes!
Women’s Achievements

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

Through gifts from our sponsor Fidelity Investments, WIT was able to send two students to NCCWSL, the National Conference for College Student Women Leaders in June 2013 and again in June 2014. This leadership conference offers students the chance to learn and use professional skills through skill-building workshops, networking with other college women and hearing from inspiring keynote speakers, such as Chelsea Clinton (2014)! Students were selected based on their participation in the Women in Technology.

EMPOWER Certificate:

Program: EMPOWER

Purpose: To provide WIT students the opportunity to develop professional and leadership skills, then utilizing those skills through K-12 outreach.

Requirements:
- Attend TWO Professional Development workshops:
  - Company Tour
  - Dress for Success
  - Company Visit
  - Affinity Fair

- AND -
- ONE Volunteer K-12 Experience:
  - Girls’ Technology Workshop
  - E3 Fair
  - Other K-12 Outreach Programs

EMPOWER Certificate Recipients
- Aida Al Yaaqoubi
- Annette Eko Ngakam
- Yanica Garcia Riera
- Brittany Mieth
- Jocelyn Mogavero
- Meghan Ryan
- Marin Sammons
- Natasha Sundberg

K-12 Outreach

Girls Technology Workshop

This year the Girl’s Technology Workshop had multiple components to it. The first focused on civil engineering and sustainability. The middle school students created a bridge using coffee stirrers and hot glue. They then tested them for strength.

They also built water filters using rocks, sand and carbon filters. The filters were tested with dirty colored water to see how well they worked.

The second part of the GTW was building an electrical circuit to create a game similar to ‘operation’. The students ended the day with an opportunity to ride on the E-Bike, a battery powered scooter.

WIT hosts Rochester’s Young Women College Prep Charter School

Rochester’s YWCP spent the day at RIT with various women’s organizations across campus. WIT spoke with the students about the various engineering technology programs RIT has to offer. We then took the students on a tour to see the manufacturing engineering technology senior project, a s’more machine. Although it was operational, it still had a few kinks to work out, so the middle school students were able to offer ideas on how to improve the process while enjoying a s’more!

E3 Fair

WIT participated in the E3 fair in April by having a booth explaining the properties of polystyrene and making shrinky-dinks.

Women’s Achievement Dinner

This annual event recognizes the achievements of RIT women. The Women in Technology program take this opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of the students that participate in the WIT programs. Students were honored by WIT for their participation in both self-improvement and community outreach events through the EMPOWER program. In AY13, nine students earned an EMPOWER Certificate.

Erin and Tasha
NCCWSL 2013

Sara and Brittany
NCCWSL 2014

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