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FEF SANDBOX TIMES

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WHAT'S UP ON CAMPUS

This quarter's spotlight lands on Trine University located in Angola, Indiana. For those of you "older" alumni, you will be more familiar with the previous name – Tri-State University. Trine has been an FEF certified school since 1994. Darryl Webber is the current FEF Key Professor and a 2006 graduate of another FEF certified school – Missouri University of Science & Technology. Darryl has been the Key Professor since his graduation from MS&T, following in the footsteps of fellow FEF alum Von Richards (Univ. of Michigan-1982) & Luis Trueba (MS&T-2001)

The Wade Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering (where metalcasting education is housed) recently added 1500 square feet to the student design center with three roll-up garage doors. This area houses a large CNC router that works great for making

lost foam patterns. They have also recently acquired a 1 meter x 1 meter x 1 meter 3D polymer printer for making larger patterns, a 3D metal printer, and a Fanuc cobot. Although the cobot is still in the box, Darryl is hoping to incorporate it into handling castings.

This past year there were 24 students who were focused on foundry, but during the spring semester, 50 mechanical engineering students went through manufacturing processes and all completed casting projects.

In Darryl's opinion, "one of the really cool parts of being a Key Professor is seeing successful FEF graduates in the industry." He was able to meet up with three of his former students at the recent Casting Congress. Pictured are: Alex Croll (Waupaca), Keith Ripplinger (Lawrence

Livermore National Lab), Darryl, and Kramer Pursell (Metal Technologies). They all attended the 2011 CIC and were on the same senior design team.



WHAT'S COMING UP

It's time for the annual auction of FEF student casting projects submitted for the 2024 SFSA Cast in Steel competition. This year the project was a Halligan bar. The overall winner of the competition was a team from Pittsburg State. Their bar (pictured here) will not be available for auction, but we will auction off 12+ other bars, each with a starting bid of \$125. All of the funds raised will go to the schools that participated in the competition. The auction will begin on June 17 and go through July 1. If you would like to see the bars that will be auctioned off, pictures are available at <https://app.galabid.com/halliganbar>



WHAT YOU'VE MISSED

We had a great time at Mecca Sports Bar & Grill in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where we held our Student/Alumni Reception (during Casting Congress). Nearly 200 people enjoyed the food, the atmosphere, and the networking opportunity the venue provided. Additionally, at Casting Congress, during the Women in Metalcasting breakfast, the 4th annual Jean Bye-AFS Women in Metalcasting scholarship was presented to Katie Kiser from MS&T. As a celebration of this scholarship, donations were taken during the breakfast with additional matching donations coming in as well. If you would like to make a contribution to this scholarship fund, please go to fefinc.org/jean-bye-scholarship



WHY GET INVOLVED

During a recent FEF Alumni Ambassador Committee meeting, there was discussion about the "why" of being involved. Some of those answers were: because someone in your past may have influenced your chosen path, our involvement with FEF and the family of FEF schools encourages current students to move toward the industry, networking with students is an opportunity to be an advocate for the metalcasting industry as a whole, and meeting with professors and students may lead to the next talented employee for your company. There are many reasons and many outcomes, let us know if you're interested in specific ways you can be involved – pam@fefinc.org.



HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

There are many ways to be engaged and involved with FEF, but this quarter we wanted to highlight just one; an opportunity that will be coming up as a result of a proposed government grant focused on high school outreach. We're looking for a group of alumni that would be interested in helping in the following way:

- ✓ Making 1 or 2 visits to a high school STEM class (30-45 min from home/office) for 2-4 hrs per year
- ✓ Providing in-person assistance to the teacher; presenting curriculum and hands on activities
- ✓ Assisting in "deeper dive" information for interested students

If you would like more information, please let us know – pam@fefinc.org.



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NEW GRAD SPOTLIGHT



Ashley Jeffers graduated in 2023 from Trine University with a major in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Metallurgical Engineering. She is currently employed at Zimmer Biomet's investment casting foundry as a manufacturing engineer. Her primary responsibilities involve the shelling and pouring processes.

After being introduced to the casting process during her junior year at Trine, Ashley was constantly in the foundry for classes and activities like Foundry Night and Metal Casting Lab – not because she had to be but because she wanted to be. Her senior design project involved leading a team to create an African

spear point for the SFSA Cast in Steel competition. According to Ashley, she fell in love with metalcasting due to Trine and Dr. Darryl Webber's involvement. She said, "Once I graduated, I knew I needed to work in a foundry."

When she's not in her favorite place (the foundry), Ashley enjoys just hanging out with friends.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Meet Kramer Pursell, a graduate of both Trine University (2012) and Missouri University of Science & Technology (2014). He graduated from Trine with a BS in Mechanical Engineering (minor in Metallurgy) and from MS&T with an MS in Metallurgical Engineering.

After graduation, Kramer took a position with GM Defiance where he worked for four years. He then joined Dalton Foundry and was there for a little over two years. Since 2020, he has been employed as a metallurgist at Metal Technologies. When asked about his responsibilities at Metal Technologies, he said "The fun part about being a metallurgist is that I have a role



in the background in many areas of the plant, from working with suppliers to spec raw materials to testing and certification of finished castings, among many other things. I also get involved with scrap reduction and cost reduction projects, lead training, and steer research through the AFS and DIS at many FEF schools."

Additionally, Kramer is a member of Trine's Cast Metals and Mechanical Engineering Industry Advisory Board and a member of FEF's Alumni Ambassador Committee. He is very involved in activities at Trine. He attends open foundry nights, homecoming events, and engineering days not only representing Trine but FEF as well, making sure students are aware of the opportunities in metalcasting and FEF. When Kramer isn't "at work", he enjoys traveling, hiking, golf, and soccer. And if the weather is nice in northern Indiana, you might find him piloting a small plane for his own enjoyment.