



# American Society for Engineering Education Illinois/Indiana Section Newsletter

Issue # 7

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**2014 Conference Website:**

[www.ipfw.edu/asee/](http://www.ipfw.edu/asee/)

**Abstracts due December 12**

**2015 Conference Highlights:**

⇒ **ASEE IL/IN 2014 Outstanding Teacher, Mark Budnik, will speak**

⇒ **Undergraduate Student Poster Session**

## ASEE IL/IN 2015 To Help Celebrate IPFW's 50th

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Illinois-Indiana Section Conference will be held at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne on March 27-28, 2015. The IPFW College of Engineering, Technology and Computer Science looks forward to several annual events joining together with a variety of conference activities as part of IPFW's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

The 2015 Illinois-Indiana ASEE Section Conference is dedicated to all disciplines of engineering and engineering technology education. As usual, the conference will feature faculty and student papers, as well as a student poster session. Professor Mark Budnik, the ASEE IL/IN 2014 Outstanding Teacher, will speak at the luncheon.



The Venderly Bridge over the St. Joseph River on the IPFW campus.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to hear Dr. Eric Jolly, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota, one of the nation's largest and most esteemed science museums. His presentation, part of the Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecture Series, will be on the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education in contemporary societies. ASEE attendees will also have the chance to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Opportunity Banquet and Career Fair featuring retired NASA astronaut Robert Lee "Hoot" Gibson. Other events which coincide with the conference are the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium and the Department of Engineering Modeling & Simulation Conference.

## Important dates for the 2015 Conference

Faculty Papers*	Due Dates
Abstract Submission Due	December 19, 2014
Abstract Acceptance Notification	December 20, 2014
Full Manuscript Due	February 1, 2015
Reviews to the Author(s)	February 23, 2015
Final Manuscript Due	March 13, 2015
At least one author must complete a conference registration	March 13, 2015

\* Student paper and poster deadlines will be posted on the conference website at a later date

### Inside this issue:

2014 Awards & Photos 2

Section Chair's Column 2

ASEE National Teaching Award Winner 3

Zone Chair's Column 4

Contacts 4



ILLINOIS-INDIANA SECTION  
CONFERENCE  
MARCH 27-28, 2015



INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
FORT WAYNE

## 2014 ASEE IL/IN Conference Award Winners



Above, IL/IN Section Chair Carmine Polito, right, congratulates Taylor University students whose paper, "ELEO-Sat Instrument Suite," won the best student paper award.

Outstanding Paper: **Denny Davis**, Washington State University, "Rigorous Design Review for Capstone Design Projects."

Outstanding Campus Representative: **Tom Trusty**, Trine University

Outstanding Service: **Joanne Lax**, Purdue University



Purdue University student **Thor Smith**, left, discusses his "Augmented Reality Simulator" project; Smith won the prize for the best student poster.

## From the Section Chair, Carmine Polito

Friends,

Greetings from Valparaiso, Indiana. As our semesters wind down, I hope this note finds you all well. I have several exciting things to share with you, so without further ado:

The Illinois-Indiana Section's own **Professor Jeff Will** of Valparaiso University has been named by ASEE as the winner of the 2014 National Outstanding Teaching Award. This award is based on classroom performance, teaching scholarship and ASEE Participation. I have known Jeff since the day we both started at Valparaiso 14 years ago, and I can assure you that this award is well deserved.



Speaking of awards, **Gary Steffen** of IPFW was selected as the ASEE Zone 2 Outstanding Zone Campus Representative Award winner for 2014. Congratulations, Gary!

Gary's other recent claim to fame is that he is serving as Conference Chair for our 2015 Illinois-Indiana Section conference hosted by IPFW in Fort Wayne, IN on Saturday, March 28, 2015. For those of you arriving on Friday night, your conference registration will also get you a ticket to a special banquet featuring guest speaker Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson. Just make sure to check the box on your conference registration form.

Last, but certainly not least, I am very happy to announce that, after many years in Indiana, the Illinois-Indiana Sectional conference will be returning to Illinois in 2016! It will be held at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities' campus. It should be an outstanding conference and a great chance to check out their new facilities.

Happy holidays to all and I hope to see you in Fort Wayne,  
Carmine

## Valparaiso University Professor Jeff Will Earns 2014 ASEE National Outstanding Teaching Medal

For Valparaiso University computer and electrical engineering department chair and professor, Jeff Will, Ph.D., his dedication to being a mentor and teacher is now being acknowledged on a national level through a 2014 ASEE National Outstanding Teaching Medal.

The American Society of Engineering Education receives countless nominations each year for their regional and national awards, but only three national awards are presented. The National Outstanding Teaching Medal is chosen based upon knowledge of the subject area, accessibility, effectiveness in curriculum development, mentorship of students and other factors. Nominees must also teach a minimum of two semester classes and have a published original work that either enhances the education process or benefits literature in the

“I was certainly pleased, certainly grateful and honored to receive the award,” said Will, “I couldn’t thrive as a teacher without the supportive colleagues that I have around me and the environment which values education.”

Doug Tougaw, fellow computer and electrical engineering professor at Valparaiso University, nominated Will for the National Outstanding Teaching Medal. They were recognized previously by the regional ASEE for co-authoring a study and have worked



2013 ASEE IL/IN Section Teacher-of-the-Year award winner Jeff Will speaks at the 2014 ASEE IL/IN Conference.

and electrical engineering professor at Valpo for the National Outstanding Teaching Medal. They were recognized previously by the regional ASEE for co-closely for all of Will’s 13 years at Valpo.

“He embodies everything that is great about Valparaiso University and our College of Engineering,” said Tougaw, “he is brilliant, hard-working, passionate about helping others, and entirely dedicated to his students’ learning and success.”

This dedication to students’ learning is best exhibited in the extra time that Will sets aside to mentor students outside of the classroom, and is what distinguishes him as this year’s ASEE National Outstanding Teaching Medal recipient.

“The most rewarding part of my job is to work one-on-one with students,” said Will. “In recent years I’ve worked closely with a student to help him prepare for graduate school. We’ve done research together in nanotechnology and published the work that he’s done. He’s going to graduate school in nuclear engineering.”

Though Will’s work with students is impressive on its own, he also received the Best Paper Award for co-authoring a study, “Problem-based Learning to Promote Student Creativity” and an Outstanding Teacher of the Year award for the Indiana/Illinois section of the ASEE last spring.

Tougaw added, “I’m thrilled that he is being recognized for his contributions to Valpo and to the field of engineering education.”

(from [www.valpo.edu/news/2014/06/17/valpo-engineering-professor-receives-prestigious-national-award](http://www.valpo.edu/news/2014/06/17/valpo-engineering-professor-receives-prestigious-national-award))

Interested in participating in the ASEE IL/IN section?



- Be a campus representative for your institution
- Become a section officer



To learn how you can volunteer, contact

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## Meet the New Zone II Chair, Ruby Mawasha

Greetings to the ASEE Illinois/Indiana Section! Thank you for selecting me to serve as your Zone II Chair during next two years. The Zone II also includes The North Central and Southeastern (SE) Sections as well. I was unable to attend the Illinois-Indiana ASEE and the North Central Section Fall Board Meetings; instead, I attended the ASEE-Southeastern Section (SE) Mid-Year Fall 2014 Meeting in Atlanta, GA. It was a great opportunity for me to introduce myself to that section. At the ASEE-Southeastern Section Mid-Year Fall 2014 Meeting I reported on:

- (1) 2014 ASEE National Board meeting that was held in Indianapolis, IN in June 2014.
- (2) Plan for 2017 Zone II Conference in Puerto Rico.

2014 is ASEE's Year of Action on Diversity, I have attached the report ([http://www.asee.org/Surmounting\\_the\\_Barriers.pdf](http://www.asee.org/Surmounting_the_Barriers.pdf)). The document was prepared by ASEE in collaboration with the National Academy of Engineering. I discussed this document with ASEE-SE to see how Zone II can make efforts in promoting diversity in engineering. During my tenure as Zone II Chair, diversity is an agenda item that I would like for all of us to focus on, and to find ways to bring more diversity awareness to our member body and to promote diversity in engineering in academic and professional activities as well.



I plan on attending ASEE Illinois/Indiana Section Board meeting and conference to be held in March 27-28, 2015 at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN. At that time I will report to you on:

- (1) 2015 ASEE National Board meeting to be held in February in New Orleans, LA.
- (2) Plan for the 2017 Zone II Conference in Puerto Rico.

I hope to see you at Fort Wayne, IN in March!  
Sincerely,

Ruby Mawasha, Zone II Chair  
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### ASEE IL/IN Officers (2014-2015)

Name	Position	Institution	Email
Carmine Polito	Chair	Valparaiso University	Carmine.Polito@valpo.edu
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