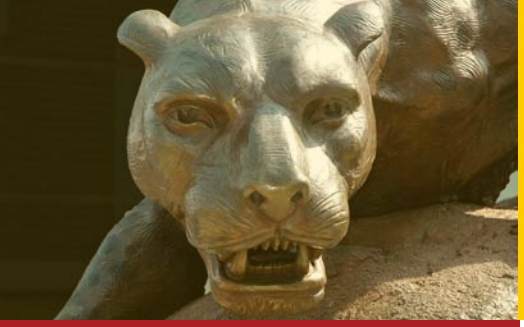

news@Wentworth

www.wit.edu/enews

September 2010

IN THIS ISSUE:

Melon Bombers
Students Participate in Unconventional Project

Sweet Shirts
Ryan Pimental Creates "Boston Cream"

Move-In Day
Students Return to Campus

Faculty Profile: Faith Litchock-Morellato, Assistant Professor of ESL
More Than Words

Scene Around

News and Newcomers

News@Wentworth is produced by the Department of Marketing and Communications at Wentworth. It provides interesting campus news to faculty, staff, students, and parents. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and story ideas; please contact editor@wit.edu

Melon Bombers

Students Participate in Unconventional Project

A team of industrial design sophomores run to launch a kite-inspired, cardboard aircraft on Sweeney Field.

Using only string, cardboard, and hot glue, ten teams of industrial design sophomores set out make honeydew melons fly over Sweeney Field. Ranging from cardboard airplanes to Nerf football-inspired vehicles, the various aircrafts competed for distance with the stipulation that no harm come to the produce passenger.

The annual industrial design competition had a new twist this year. Each team was assigned an electromechanical engineering student to assist in the design and production of their flying mechanisms. "Comprising the teams of students with two different majors introduces them to new ways of thinking," says Jeff Michael, associate professor, Department of Design and Facilities. "Engineers approach problems differently than designers do, and this teaches students how to successfully communicate their ideas."

One team's aircraft featured a design that was half glider, half jet, with a body that resembled a shark. To launch their device, the three teammates planned to run at full speed to allow the vehicle to become airborne. On the first try, the shoeless front man slipped before takeoff. The second try consisted of a shift of positions. Rather than gaining distance, however, the plane landed on top of the three-man launch pad. Luckily, the crash crushed only their hopes and not their melon. After careful consideration and a group meeting, the team wrapped their honeydew in leftover cardboard and string and tossed it like the hammer throw on their third and final launch, resulting in their best distance of the day. "It took us ten hours to build the plane and about ten minutes to wreck it," says Courte Voorhees, BIND '13, a member of the team.

While the students were undoubtedly motivated by prizes, grades, and bragging rights, the true objective of the competition was academic. "This project is meant to jump start the year," says Michael. "We want to get students excited about the sophomore industrial design studio in a friendly, competitive way."

Sweet Shirts

Ryan Pimental Creates "Boston Cream"

Ryan Pimental, BCET '11, makes t-shirts that cater to a particular market: Bostonians. His new clothing company, Boston Cream, appeals to Red Sox fans and history buffs alike by featuring significant New England landmarks in a retro style.

Ryan Pimental outside of Fenway Park.

Pimental moved to Boston after growing up in a small town, and immediately fell in love with the city. "When I moved to Boston, it just blew my mind how big the world was," says Pimental. "Being a photographer, I just started taking pictures of everything." It was Pimental's photos that ultimately served as inspiration for his initial designs.

Pimental's fresh designs combined with his sports and city themes have allowed his work to be well-received. "I wanted a product that locals could relate to," says Pimental.

He tributes his entrepreneurial spirit partly to the Wentworth co-op program. "Being in classes at Wentworth definitely gives you a feel for the real world," says Pimental. "With the laboratories and the co-op, you get to see what it's like once you graduate and that's definitely helped."

Move-In Day

Students Return to Campus

It was 94 degrees when the orange bins began piling up in the West Lot. Move-in is traditionally hot, and the humidity was palpable as hundreds of students and parents trudged to the residence halls on both sides of Huntington Avenue, dorm supplies in tow.

"Move-in is basically the same process every year," says Sarah Oakes, BSA '12, resident assistant and admissions representative. "But this year, we worked hard to make the system more streamlined." Stationed at the entrance of the lot, Oakes directed families to the appropriate unloading spot before they would continue to their respective dorms. "We literally plan for this day all year," she said.

Changes this year included setting aside a whole day to move in international and commuter students, an adjustment made to address the need for extra assistance and space. Also new this year, incoming freshmen students have the opportunity to choose special interest housing focused on four areas: wellness living, leadership and life, women in technology, and video games and the arts. The purpose of the new initiative is to more effectively connect students with Wentworth, create opportunities to learn and meet fellow classmates, confirm interest in a chosen major, and improve the student experience and academic performance.

A staff member helps incoming freshmen cross Huntington Avenue.

Faith Litchock-Morellato, Assistant Professor of ESL

More Than Words

Faith Litchock-Morellato was teaching English soon after she began speaking it. As a child, Litchock-Morellato wondered why her grandfather didn't sound like her. As an immigrant from Italy, he struggled with his pronunciation. So she started correcting him, working with her grandfather to improve his English.

She pursued her interest in language as soon as she could, taking up French as an adolescent. As an undergraduate at Emerson College, Litchock-Morellato served as a language tutor at the Boston Public Library and enjoyed it so much that she decided she wanted to make a career out of it.

Litchock-Morellato's role at Wentworth taps into her teaching and language strengths. With a Master of Arts focused on teaching English to speakers of other languages and eight years of experience under her belt, her role as an English as a Second Language (ESL) professor is the perfect fit for her and Wentworth. With a growing population of students that require language support, the Institute has noticed an increasing need for specialized English courses.

Faith Litchock-Morellato.

While ESL classes have existed at Wentworth with adjunct professors, Litchock-Morellato's expertise and permanence provides a strong resource for students who struggle with English. "There are a variety of different languages and levels at Wentworth," says Litchock-Morellato. "I've taught students from age five to about age 80, so I'm used to a range."

Her approach to ESL is heavy on engagement and activity, with a special focus on keeping exercises relevant to her students' lives. They engage in group projects and presentations, perform peer editing, and do grammar exercises along with music. "I try to play songs the students like to help with their grammar, but that doesn't always work out with rap songs," she says with a laugh. "Beyond progressing in English, my goal is for my students to have gained cultural awareness, celebrate their own cultural identity, and above all foster lifelong learning."

Even outside of work, Litchock-Morellato spends much of her time studying the process of learning and teaching language as she and her husband, Marcio Douglas—a native of Brazil—raise their nearly two-year-old daughter, Julia, to be bilingual. "I really enjoy studying her development," says Litchock-Morellato. "We want her to have an understanding of both languages and cultures."

She says she truly sees teaching as a vocation—a labor of love. "I enjoy working with different students every semester and watching not only their language skills blossom, but their overall development. It is both an honor and a privilege to play a small role in their educational journey."

A student receives his computer at laptop distribution.

Wentworth's annual Welcome Back BBQ included trivia for the second year. The winning team (pictured left to right): Paul Santoro, enrollment management; Mark Coen, registrar's office; Greg Jackson, student financial services; Rae Daniel, financial aid; and Joe Santacroce, career services.

Students participate in a team building exercise at New Student Orientation.

Co-op employers enjoyed breakfast and a presentation by Jim Lambrechts, at the Innaugural Co-op Employer Appreciation Breakfast. The 50 attendees networked and had the opportunity to volunteer for the upcoming Mock Interview Day.

Calendar of Events

October 7: *Meeting Minutes*, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. reception, lecture, and exhibit in the Casella Gallery by Larry Asaro, AET ’69. Exhibit will be on display from October 7-22.

October 13: President’s Distinguished Speaker Series, Wednesday, October 13, at 12:00 noon in Beatty 426. Dr. Richard Gran of Mathematical Analysis Co. will present a lecture titled, *Confessions of Columbus’s Shipbuilders.*

October 28: Mock Interview Day, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m., Watson Auditorium.

New Employees

Mallory Rice, admissions office assistant, Office of Admissions