Photonics News

Three Rivers Community College

Photonics Engineering Technology Program

SUMMER 2001

Eight Women Graduate from Innovative Fiber-Optic Training Program

The first students enrolled in an innovative fiber-optics/photonics college training program specifically targeted for underemployed and unemployed women graduated on Thursday, June 21. The ceremony took place at the Meriden Center of Middlesex Community College in Meriden, Connecticut.

The students were enrolled in a 12-week, 9.5 credit training program that involved a unique partnership of public education, government and private industry. The program was funded by the Connecticut Department of Labor and sponsored by Three Rivers Community College, which provided the curriculum and instructors for the optics and fiber optics courses. Classes were held at the Meriden Center of Middlesex Community College, with some laboratory activities held at CiDRA Corporation in Wallingford, a fiber-optic component manufacturer. A tour of Zygo Corporation in Middlefield, a manufacturer of precision optics, was included as part of the optics course, and students spent one day at the Three Rivers Photonics lab in Norwich creating holograms and working with fiber optic instrumentation.

Graduates pose in Women in Optics tee shirts, donated by the SPIE Women in Optics Working Group

In addition to free tuition, students enrolled in the program received all supplies needed for the course including textbooks, a scientific calculator and an optics experiment kit. Workshops in resume writing, employment interviews, and internet skills were also provided. Six of the graduates elected to take the Fiber Optic Association (FOA) Certified Fiber Optic Technician (CFOT) exam, with costs borne by the grant. Their names will be included in the FOA newsletter and will be posted on the FOA web site.

Student Chapter Receives SPIE Grant

SPIE, the International Society for Optical Engineering has awarded a $3000 grant to the Three Rivers SPIE Student Chapter. The money will be used by the chapter to promote careers in optics and photonics.

Chapter President David Woodhall and Vice President Norman Fortin applied for the grant in February, requesting funding to create an "optical suitcase" to carry to local high schools to promote the study of photonics. The demonstrations will also be used at the college for Tech Prep and open house events.

The Chapter will begin work on the project in September. Planned demonstrations include a fiber optic video link, as well as some "optical magic" with lasers and assorted components.

NEW ELECTRONICS COURSE CREATED FOR FALL 2001

PHO 230, Laser Electronics, will be offered for the first time in Fall 2001 as a required course in the Photonics Engineering Technology Program The course will look at the conversion between electromagnetic waves (light) and electric currents, and describe the devices that produce and detect light. The course will also cover conventional electronic circuits such as modulators, waveform generators, and power supplies because of their supporting role in the applications of photonic devices.

PHO 230 will be taught by Professor Randall Seebeck, and is open to all students who have completed EET 1110/1111, Electronics I.

Scholarship News

JDS Uniphase Electro Optic Products Division, Bloomfield, CT has awarded a Photonics Engineering Technology scholarship to Kristopher Kosma of Plainfield, CT. Kris was first in his class at H.H. Ellis Regional Vocational Technical School, where he was a member of VICA (Vocational Industrial Club of America) and a peer mediator. He is the fourth recipient of the JDSU/Three Rivers scholarship.

New SPIE Officers for 2001-2002

President	Nathaniel Caouette
Vice President	Rob Bernier
Secretary	(to be elected in September)
Treasurer	Matt Rutschky
Faculty Advisor	Judy Donnelly

SPIE is continuing to offer free membership to freshmen (first time college students). Membership is open to students in all majors.

Congratulations!

2001 Graduates

Photonics Engineering Technology

Kurt Bergeron	Albert Jaskot, Jr
Walter Dempsey	Charles McGaw
Henry Fones	Jason Patch
Norman Fortin	David Welch
Michael Jette	David Woodhall
Albert Jaskot	Diane Zinzavage

General Engineering Technology/Photonics

Jamie Gainey	Wallace Sisk
Ed Reynolds	Feng Wu

Three Rivers Community College offers a two year Photonics Engineering Technology A.S. degree and a one semester Certificate in Fiber Optics Technology. The certificate is offered both on site and online. For information, visit.....http://www.neca.com/~donnelly

PHOTONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
Three Rivers Community College
574 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360

photonics news