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## Mechanical engineering student is first female AutoCAD winner

**Jessica Hartl**, a first-year honors student from Wayland, MI, has won the Fall 2007 AutoCAD competition. A mechanical engineering major with minors in mathematics ( she likes calculus) and physics, she is the first female to win the award.

**Phillip Swanson**, a mechanical engineering freshman from Charlotte, MI, won second place, and third place went to **Ryan Rader**, an aeronautical engineering honors freshman from Marcellus, MI.

In a ceremony held this month in the main lecture hall in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, **Slobodan Urdarevik**, the lead faculty for first-year engineering graphics courses, described Hartl's entry as being "perfectly drawn."

The AutoCAD competition is held at the end of each semester for the students enrolled in the IME 1420 Engineering Graphics. This is the first-year computer-drawing course with an enrollment of 300 or more students.

For the competition, students create both a two-dimensional AutoCAD drawing and a 3D-solid model of a complicated part. They must show all dimensions and symbols needed for manufacturing. "This competition allows students to show that they have achieved the goals of the class," Urdarevik said. "This is proof that a student understands the concepts."

The award was presented before an audience of students currently enrolled in and eligible for the Spring 2008 competition. Addressing the audience, **Dr. Paul Engelmann**, chair of the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, praised the winners for accepting the challenge.

"These competitions are always good because they give you the opportunity to stretch and to differentiate yourselves from your peers," Engelmann said. "You prove that you can apply what you've learned to a real-world application."

Hartl credited a strong high school background in drafting for providing her with an edge over the competition. While attending Wayland High School, she completed one year of manual drafting and three years of computer drafting.

She is presently a member of both the national technical honor society and Alpha Lambda Delta, the honors society for first-year college students. She would like a future career in the auto industry.



Posing before the winning entry of the Fall 2007 AutoCAD competition awards ceremony are (left to right) **Dr. Paul Engelmann**, chair of the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering; **Ryan Rader**, third place; **Phillip Swanson**, second place; **Jessica Hartl**, first-place winner, and **Slobodan Urdarevik**, the lead faculty of IME 1420, the first-year engineering graphics course.

Swanson had a semester of drafting and two semesters of AutoCAD in high school. A music lover, he aspires to build airplanes at Boeing or Lockheed.

Rader, who had one year of CAD at Three Rivers High School before coming to WMU, hopes to design planes someday at Lockheed Martin. He is presently busy with many projects. "In my free time, I enjoy anything with a motor," he said. "That includes motorcycles, jet skis, dirt bikes, and trucks."

The winners received engraved plaques donated by Dr. Hooks, Inc., a Kalamazoo-based business that specializes in awards, and gift certificates from Best Buy. In addition, many of the winners are hired as teaching assistants for the course.

Urdarevik began offering the drawing competition to motivate students when he came to WMU in Fall 2004. His credentials include a League of Innovation award in teaching strategies.

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