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Jerrie Fiala, Editor: [jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu](mailto:jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu)**CEAS students and RoboBronco join the cast of feature-film *Cherry***

Numerous students – mostly from the CEAS – pulled all-nighters on a Saturday night to pretend they were engineering students in *Cherry*, a feature-length movie filmed in Kalamazoo. Actor Kyle Gallner has the leading role as an engineering student in his first year at an elite college engineering program. WMU's Parkview Campus, with its high-tech facilities, provided an excellent backdrop for the story line.



CEAS students in roles as students in an elite engineering college in the foreground as technicians work in the background

Between 3 p.m. on Sat., Nov. 15, and 8 a.m. on Sun., Nov. 16, CEAS students starred as extras for the film's classroom scenes. The long night included multiple takes of CEAS students sitting in a real Parkview lecture hall pretending to be students in a fictional classroom. Bright lights, huge camera setups, and an abundance of electronic gadgetry filled more of the lecture hall space than the students.

In between takes, the students waited in the Extras Holding area, the DENSO cafeteria.



CEAS students spent a lot of time waiting in the Extras Holding area for the next *Cherry* film take to showcase their acting talents

"Being in the movie was crazy and fun," said **Kendall Vasilnek**, a civil engineering senior and film extra who added that filming took longer and required



**Dr. Paul Engelmann** (left), IME chair, discusses the film *Cherry* with Sam Kitt (center), one of the producers, and Director Jeff Fine.

more people than she had initially thought it would.

Several faculty and staff members also stayed most of the night. **Dr. Paul Engelmann**, chair of the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, and **Courtney Rawlings**, a graduate assistant in manufacturing engineering, oversaw the filming that took place in the CEAS Plastics Lab.



In the robot's film debut, WMU's RoboBronco performs in a scene that was shot in the Parkview Campus CEAS Plastics Lab

**Dr. Tarun Gupta**, IME professor, and **Srinivas Ghattamaneni**, a graduate assistant in industrial engineering, supervised RoboBronco as the robot made its acting debut. Other participants included **Dr. Karlis Kaugars**, CEAS computer-aided engineering director (CAE); **Chuck Overberger**, CAE technician; and **Tammy Bergman**, CEAS office associate.

*Cherry's* screenwriter and director is Jeff Fine, who said that the movie is being shot in Michigan because of the state's new tax incentives for filmmakers.

Opinions and ideas, please! Send your thoughts to the editor at [jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu](mailto:jerrie.fiala@wmich.edu) Thank you.