

Giving Money Away

By FEF Trustee George R. Knecht, PE, F.NSPE



University of Florida College of Engineering. From left to right, Dean Cammy Abernathy, PhD, PE, and FEF Trustee George R. Knecht, PE, F.NSPE.



Florida Gulf Coast University U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering. From left to right: Chair of Civil Engineering and Environmental Dr. Robert O'Neil; Associate Professor Dr. Kristoph Kinzli; Founding Director Dr. Susan Blanchard (holding check); FEF Trustee Fermin A. Diaz, PE, FACEC; and President of ASCE Student Chapter Corey Smith.



Florida Atlantic University. From left to right: Adrian Desilva; Chris Nunes; Dr. Mohammad Ilyas, Interim Dean and Professor, College of Engineering; FEF Trustee Don Goddeau, PE, FNSPE; and Jennifer Frame.



FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Doug Barkley, PE (tie) presenting the check from FEF to Michelle Rambo-Roddenberry, PhD, PE (red) and students at the college of engineering.

Another year has passed, and I am still in charge of “giving money away.” It really is fun, and I am pleased that the Florida Engineering Foundation (FEF) allows me to continue to do this. Each year, FEF donates \$1,000 to eight colleges of engineering in the Florida State University System in support of student competitions. The competition can be almost anything that is done with other colleges of engineering where the events are judged, and awards are presented. Some examples are ASCE’s steel bridge and concrete canoes, IEEE’s robotic cars, and ASME’s human-powered submarines.

The FEF’s goal is to:

1. Develop well-rounded engineers,
2. Demonstrate that engineering can be fun,
3. Provide leadership training,
4. Show that doing something for non-credit can be rewarding, and
5. Improve the “Can Do” (*a U.S. Navy Seabee term*) attitude. Any student who participates in these kind of outside the classroom events is much better for it, and much more employable.

If you would like to make a donation, call Shawn Stewart at 850-224-7121. If you would like to get involved in this program or with a college of engineering competition, please call me at 904-268-3577.

Along with this article are the eight photographs of this year’s check presentations. This is what makes it so rewarding. We actually see firsthand what engineering students are doing. It is always impressive. They are not constrained by any box—and they show the results outside the box. They have fun, learn leadership, and develop into great future engineers.

As in last year, I would like to give a big “Thank You” to those who have helped this year. Without you, these competitions would not be as successful.



University of North Florida College of Computing, Engineering & Construction. Left to right: Dean Dr. Mark A. Tumeo, FEF Trustee Don Ditzenberger, PE and Director of Development Jill Jackson.



University of Central Florida. From left to right: FEF Trustee Glenn Forrest, PE; Amir H. Behzadan, PhD, A.M.ASCE, Wharton Smith Faculty Fellow and Assistant Professor, University of Central Florida; and student Drew W. Rossi.



University of South Florida College of Engineering. Justin Bowen; Luis Morraz; Herby Jean; Dean John Wienczek; FEF Trustee Kimberlee DeBosier, PE; Andrew Hoff; Victor Basantes and Vincent DePianta.



Florida International University. From left to right: FEF Trustee Rod Rodriguez, PE; Dean of Engineering Amir Mirmiran, PhD, PE; and Osama Mohammed, PhD.