▣ Team Effort Creates New Web Site Featuring Innovation at Rose-Hulman

A new Web site highlighting innovation at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is quite an innovation itself, through the use of cutting-edge technology and contributions from a partnership of students, alumni, faculty and staff members.

The Decade of Innovation Web site (www.decadeofinnovation.com) was unveiled on Tuesday, January 19, to highlight 10 years of innovation at Rose-Hulman Ventures and other recent campus achievements that have fueled the fire of innovation at the nation's best college for undergraduate engineering.

The Web site also draws attention to a Decade of Innovation Celebration, being planned by Rose-Hulman on February 27 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in downtown Indianapolis. The event will honor the contributions to innovation made by Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and former Rose-Hulman President Samuel F. Hulbert.

The Web site was completed in just three weeks through contributions by persons in several different locations and a collaborative project structure.

The project was led by William Kline and Sandor Pethes. Kline is associate dean of professional experiences and professor of engineering management. Pethes, senior project manager for Rose-Hulman Ventures and a 2002 Rose-Hulman computer science alumnus, organized a student development team that featured Michael Jones, senior software engineering

The Decade of Innovation Web site was created through a collaborative design process.

and mathematics major, and Bryan Correll, a freshman computer engineering student. Jeremy Clarke, 2009 Rose-Hulman software engineering graduate and president of Vortex Web Solutions, was selected to develop the Web site's infrastructure.

"This was a total team effort of a dedicated and dynamic group, which also included many Rose-Hulman offices," highlighted Kline, who leads Rose-Hulman Ventures operations. "The end result is a Web site that truly represents innovation and ingenuity at Rose-Hulman."

Clarke is no stranger to starting large-scale projects. Before graduating from Rose-Hulman he started three Web-based businesses, was recognized as one of the nation's top collegiate entrepreneurs in StartupNation.com's 2008 Dorm-Based 20 competition and featured in Entrepreneur magazine.

"I am glad I was chosen to be involved with the project. It has been refreshing to see the talent coming out of Rose-Hulman," he said. "As an alumnus, it is nice to stay involved with Rose-Hulman and collaborate with current students."

Clarke used his expertise in Web site development and worked through the holiday period to set up the

infrastructure for the Web site's functionality to allow persons to file celebration dinner registrations and submit innovation ideas. He also developed a content management system that allowed for easy management by the Rose-Hulman project partners.

Jones and Correll came into the project on January 4 as project interns for Pethes at Rose-Hulman Ventures. It was Correll's second day at Rose-Hulman Ventures as part of a freshman VIP internship program, and Jones quickly needed to learn about PHP hypertext processor, a widely used, general-purpose scripting language for development of dynamic Web pages. He also configured a source control system especially for the project, allowing multiple persons to contribute to the project from different locations at any time –- keeping the Web site development on track. Meanwhile, Correll helped modify the Web site's Innovation Gallery feature, and standardized fonts, headers and other items throughout the project.

"We had people working on this project at 2 a.m. and others examining changes from as far away as the East Coast. The attention to detail with this project was a key part in the learning process," Jones said. "I like accomplishing things. I feel really good about finishing this website. This project had a very, very fast development cycle. It required a team effort by so many people."

Correll added: "This was a good first project (in college) . . . I feel like innovation is encouraged everywhere, not just at the college's main campus but at Rose-Hulman Ventures (located at the college's South Campus). Students have a lot of resources available to us, like Rose-Hulman Ventures, which definitely makes it easier to experience new things and expand your thinking."

The innovation gallery features Rose-Hulman innovation success stories.

Jones has served as a Rose-Hulman Ventures intern since 2008, helping Pethes and other staff members complete a variety of computer-related projects. He also is the chief technology officer for his own company, JAM Customs.

"The (Rose-Hulman Ventures) experience has been invaluable to my educational career at Rose-Hulman," he assessed. "I have been given a lot of responsibility and have made valued contributions to many projects. I give Rose-Hulman Ventures credit for how well I have done in other aspects of my college experience. Nothing I have done in the classroom comes close to my experiences at Rose-Hulman Ventures.

http://www.rose-hulman.edu/news/articles/2010innovationweb.htm