Again, we are pleased to share an update as to the activities now in progress and recent accomplishments.

—Academic Programs—

**ABET Self Study** – Our Air Conditioning, Civil, Electrical & Mechanical Engineering Technology programs are being evaluated for reaccreditation. The Self-Studies are complete and we have hosted a “Team Visit.” We believe the visit went very well and ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) will announce their actions next summer.

**Automotive Certification** – The Automotive program has attained NATEF (National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation) certification, an industry standard for excellence. Their feedback was excellent and will lead to increased industrial support.

**Enrollment** – Applicant numbers continue to climb. With four baccalaureate programs in place and four more in preparation, our certificate and 2-year programs are central to our mission. Collectively, our lattice of 1-, 2-, and 4-year programs differentiates SUNY Canton from other four-year institutions; students can gain experience and adjust academic goals with considerable flexibility.

**Planned Programs** – We plan to introduce five new programs next year that build upon CSOET’s traditional strengths:

- **Four-year Engineering Technology programs:** Civil & Environmental, Electrical, and Mechanical will have 4-year counterparts to their current AAS programs. Our graduates want a four-year education, and this will bring grades one step closer to engineering licensure. Two-year options will remain, and Air Conditioning will provide an alternative pathway into the MET 4-year program. Civil ET will expand to include environmental technology content.
- **Architecture (4-yr BT)** – High demand for architectural programs coincides well with CSOET strengths in Civil Technology, Construction, HVAC and Energy.
- **General Technology (2-yr AAS)** – This flexible program will be fully compatible with all 4-year technology programs. Its students will identify and pursue specific interests.
- **Electrical Line Mechanic (1-yr Cert.)** – National Grid is assisting in the roll-out of a new program to prepare individuals to become electrical line mechanics; there is a remarkable need for qualified new hires.

—Activities & Events—

**ASCE and the Steel Bridge Design Competition** – The ASCE Student Chapter participated again in the 2008 ASCE Student Steel Bridge Competition and continued their streak of regional wins SUNY Canton took first at the 2008 regional competition at West Point, and placed fifth at the nationals in Florida. The team took first in speed and economy.

**Building Construction** – This is our first year with onsite building construction! Mr. Rob Boak’s leadership has transitioned us to onsite construction and is enhancing student experience and learning.

**Women-in-Construction** – A Women-in-Construction day was hosted March 22 to acquaint women with career opportunities in construction-related fields. It was a successful start and will be repeated in 2009.

**Women-in-Engineering** – On May 22 CSOET hosted our annual Women-in-Engineering day with almost three hundred participants. The event was well received and will be hosted again in 2009.

**Nevaldine Renovation** – Architectural design is complete for the south end of Nevaldine; construction work is scheduled to commence during the spring 2009 semester. This will be the first of a three-phase renovation project for Nevaldine and we are excited about the improvements.

**H.o.T. Experience** – CSOET faculty members offer a series of 30-minute Hands-on-Technology experiences for students to learn about engineering and technology. Topics include: Making Concrete Explode, CNC Machines, Match Wits with your Mechanic, and Get Electricity from the Sun.

**External Grant Funding** – CSOET houses a considerable array of talent and they are attracting new external funding to upgrade laboratories, support faculty development efforts, and engage students in research projects. Last year CSOET garnered approximately $350k of support, up from $220k the preceding year. These new sources of support are benefitting student education immensely.

—People—

**Faculty** – Three new faculty members have joined CSOET. Dr. Eric Cheng has a background in information systems and industrial engineering, and he is with our Information Technology program. Dr. Adrienne Rygel has a background in geology and environmental engineering; she is helping to build our 4-year program in Civil & Environmental Engineering Technology. Ms. Lin Tian has a background in mechanical engineering with emphasis on air conditioning and thermal systems. She is currently completing her PhD dissertation in mechanical engineering.

**Publications** – Congratulations to two CSOET Faculty members!

Dr. Daniel Gagliardi of the Mathematics Department, with SLU Professor Jim DeFranza, have recently authored the textbook *Introduction to Linear Algebra with Applications*, published by McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

Dr. Y. Eric Cheng has published a management information systems paper titled “Adoption of Knowledge Management Technologies and Organizational Culture: An Exploratory Study” in the *Journal of Information & Knowledge Management*. 
The current economic challenges are formidable and will certainly impact how we plan and operate our academic programs. It is fair to ask how we see our priorities; we see them as follows:

**CSOET programs will prepare graduates for employment, career growth, and eventual leadership responsibility.** Our technology graduates perform remarkably well in industry and are influential in bringing their employers back to campus for recruiting. This affirms the quality of our academic programs. We know that many of our graduates seek further education and cite Canton as their preferred institution. For this reason we are developing the additional baccalaureate programs mentioned earlier in this newsletter. We know that our graduates need outstanding technical skills, but they also benefit from being able to organize projects, manage money, and communicate well.

**CSOET will continue to increase external funding for laboratories, scholarship, and research.** In the past two years CSOET has made notable progress in attracting external financial support. With this funding we have started to make much needed progress in updating our labs. This is all the more critical given the current economic constraints on Albany.

**CSOET will maintain outstanding faculty quality.** The quality of our teaching and laboratory staff is outstanding; they maintain a great reputation among students and they work effectively and well with each other. New faculty members are recruited very carefully and each new member has proven to be a great complement to our existing strengths. So far as academic program quality, nothing is more important than populating faculty positions with individuals who have the knowledge, experience and passion to teach well. And they do.

**Effective mathematics education is a priority in CSOET.** Math skills among high school graduates are often insufficient for the demands of an engineering, technology, or science education. Meeting this challenge is a SUNY Canton priority; we are implementing a program in 2009 titled “One-Third Better.” This program will identify those students who will best benefit from supplemental instruction and/or remedial support. This program will improve student retention markedly, and that means a much higher on-time graduation rate.

**All CSOET students will have flexibility to expand upon or redirect their academic pursuits.** From a student perspective, there are two overarching reasons to complement our existing programs with additional baccalaureate programs. First, the student is provided more time to identify and refine their academic goals; they can change direction and still graduate on time. The second reason is that students will have more time to develop communications, organizational, and leadership skills. Simply put, every CSOET student, whether in a Certificate, Associate, or Baccalaureate program, will have at least four career path options upon graduation that include work and additional education. What other institutions can offer that?

In closing, let me share a personal perspective regarding the importance of CSOET and its technology programs. Our nation is undergoing a profound economic challenge that may well result in manufacturing and industry returning to the States. I see four key reasons for this:

- The US has the markets, resources, workforce, and intellectual property to fuel industry growth.
- The cost and delay of shipping materials and goods is increasingly prohibitive.
- Our infrastructure needs rebuilding, and that can only be done here.
- Our nation’s workforce needs productive employment opportunities.

The Canino School of Engineering Technology educates and graduates people who have technical strength and the requisite skills to help industries compete well. In a word, we graduate leaders. Our programs are well positioned for growth; CSOET intends to continue and expand its contribution to the well-being of our students, our region and the economic growth of our country. This is the role we celebrate.

Regards,
Dave Wells