

Motlow Mechatronics awarded \$545,000 grant

Motlow State Community College and Mechatronics Professor Khalid Tantawi have been awarded a \$545,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for a 36-month project to introduce the concepts and technologies of Smart Manufacturing to the educators of advanced manufacturing in the United States.

The project, titled “Smart Manufacturing for America’s Revolutionizing Technological Transformation” will feature Motlow as a national hub for training Smart Manufacturing for Mechatronics and Advanced Manufacturing educators across the nation.

Smart Manufacturing, defined in Congress in 2015 and also known as Industry 4.0, combines automated processes with networks of advanced sensors, data analytics, and information and communication technologies needed to support improved productivity. It has been widely recognized as a groundbreaking technological trend with the potential to transform manufacturing industries.

Current efforts in the United States have not resulted in the growth of a workforce trained to utilize Smart Manufacturing techniques. To overcome this knowledge gap, technical educators need to have opportunities to become well informed about such advances. These educators are then able to prepare technicians with the skills needed for rapidly changing industries.

“The Motlow Mechatronics educational program continues to set the standard for

providing highly trained technicians for industry,” said Dr. Michael Torrence, Motlow president, who also serves on the board of Online Learning Consortium, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of quality digital teaching and learning experiences. “Receiving this substantial grant underscores Motlow’s commitment to integrating technology into the classroom, and substantiates the college’s ability to contribute to the much-needed advancement of technological education for industry in our country. I am very proud of Dr. Tantawi and his team for their exhaustive work in obtaining the NSF grant.”

Dr. Tantawi is an assistant professor of Mechatronics at Motlow’s Smyrna Center, and was the winner of the 2017 Faculty Excellence Award. He obtained his PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 2012, and his master’s degree from the same university in 2011. He also holds a master’s degree in aerospace engineering from Institut Supérieur de l’Aéronautique et de l’Espace, France, and a bachelor of science in Mechatronic engineering from the University of Jordan.

GOALS OF THE PROJECT

- Create educational modules and work-force development tools on Smart Manufacturing
- Identify the skill sets and needs of Smart Manufacturing professionals
- Develop a repository that serves as a knowledge base for industry and STEM educators
- Increase awareness about Smart Manufacturing
- Develop a knowledge base of best practices for Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) site visits

Results from the project will be widely disseminated within technical communities and venues.



Dr. Khalid Tantawi, left, Motlow Mechatronics professor, and Dr. Michael Torrence, Motlow president, tour the Mechatronics classroom at Motlow’s McMinnville campus. Motlow, and Tantawi, were recently awarded a \$545,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for a project to introduce the concepts and technologies of Smart Manufacturing and Advanced Manufacturing. The project will feature Motlow as a national hub for training Mechatronics educators across the nation.

Jail

Continued from page 1A

Merit Construction submitted the low bid and was one of four bids received. The other three bids were for \$8.75 million, \$8.88 million and \$9.09 million.

Upland Design Group architect Allen Hill urged the committee to accept the low bid.

“Although the overall cost is disappointing in that it exceeds the bid target, we believe this is a reasonable cost for the work in the current bid market,” said Hill. “Our recommendation is Warren County accept the base bid plus alternate No. 2 if at all possible.”

Alternate No. 2 would add \$42,500 – bringing the bid up to \$8.36 million – for interconnection of detention controls between the two buildings.

“Sheriff’s Department personnel consider this to be very important to the operation of the building, so we are including this work in our recommendation,” said Hill.

The project is expected to be certified for approximately 145 beds, depending on how certain medical isolation cells are classified. Currently, the jail has a capacity of 251.

The county has been under the watchful eye of

the state due to long-standing overcrowding. On Monday, the jail had 312 inmates – 61 over capacity. If the jail’s population reaches 351, the state has warned it will step in and force change.

Hill says the state will not concern itself with how much the project costs.

“We did one project years ago,” he said. “The current Cumberland County Justice Center was done under a federal court order and there was a very strict timeline imposed by the federal judge and there was definitely an increase in the cost in paying for that facility, because they tell you went

it’s going to be done.”

Reducing the number of beds in the project may not reduce the cost.

“If we took out one-third of the beds, we don’t feel like the cost of the project will go down by one-third,” said Hill. “Things like generator, smoke evacuation system and the control room itself, things like that, are fixed costs. The cost for those is relatively the same no matter how many beds.”

Hill added, “We do feel like we could cut the cost to the \$6.5 million, but in doing so, we feel like the project would cease to be feasible. If we took off that many cells, then we are

talking about a drastic reduction in the bed count. Because the county needs those beds, to come back and add them at another time would be an extra cost in compared to doing it all in one shot.”

Upland Design provided the estimate which led commissioners to borrow \$6.5 million. Hill explained market prices are increasing daily and the bid reflects it.

“We believe this is a fair bid considering the construction market we are in right now,” said Hill. “Material prices are up. Labor prices are up, even more than material prices are. From the time the proj-

ect was originally scoped, we feel like we’ve seen that much inflation. We feel like this is a fair bid, given the scope of work.”

According to Hill, Pickett County’s jail expansion was estimated at \$8 million but the low bid was \$15 million.

In the past, the county has rebid projects in hopes of obtaining a lower bid. Hills says that probably will not work in this economy.

“If you rebid it, some people lose interest,” said Hill. “We may see some further escalation in cost. That’s a possibility, to try and rebid

OBITUARIES

Edward Knight Jr., 52

Edward Knight Jr., 52, of Smithville passed away Friday morning, Aug. 10, at his residence.

He was born Sept. 27, 1965 to his parents, Tina Norris Knight and the late Edward Knight Sr. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by an infant son, James Dalton Knight. He worked at Tenneco Automotive and was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He is survived by two children, Mica Knight of McMinnville and Sabastian Knight of Smithville; mother Tina Knight of Smithville; two sisters, Jennifer (Greg) Srabian of Boca Raton, Fla., and Angela (Timothy) Banks of Smithville; nieces and nephews, Jason Sturdivant, Anthony Hasseman, Autumn Banks, Richard, Mary and John Srabian and other extended family.

Funeral service will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15, at DeKalb Funeral Chapel with Bro. Michael Hale officiating and burial will follow at DeKalb Memorial Gardens. Visitation is Wednesday from 9 a.m. until the time of the service at 1 p.m. DeKalb Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) Aug. 15, 2018

Winona Faye Rhea, 80

Winona Faye Rhea, 80, a McMinnville resident and Richmond, Va., native was born Jan. 3, 1938 and died Aug. 11 at her residence following a sudden illness. She was a homemaker, member of the Baptist Church and daughter of the late Wallace R. and Lily Brock Carter. Mrs. Rhea was married August 21, 1954 to Lawson Lee Rhea who preceded her in death. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by sister, Wilma Poss.

Survivors include children and spouses, Garry Lee and Debra Rhea of McMinnville, Terry and Janet Rhea of McMinnville, Kimberly Rhea of Smithville, TN, Jeff Rhea and Debbie Young of Smithville; seven grandchildren, Rachel (Jake) Debuty, Jana (William) Whitaker, Ashley Rhea, Cameron Rhea, Kaitlyn Rhea, Rylan Rhea and Kylan Rhea; great-grandson, Asher Grey Casterina; special niece, Tanya Shockley Bess of McMinnville; special friends, Webb and Sandy Luna of McMinnville and Charles and Ann Buckner of McMinnville.

Funeral service was Tuesday, Aug. 14, at High’s Chapel with Jake Debuty officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. View Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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(McMinnville, Tenn.) Aug. 15, 2018

Robert Lee Boyd, 99

Mr. Robert Lee Boyd, 99, of Rock Island died Monday, Aug. 13, at the Webb House.

He was born Aug. 21, 1918, in Rock Island, served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II, was the recipient of both the Purple Heart and the Bronze star with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and retired as a superintendent with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. He was a member of Rock Island Cumberland Presbyterian Church where he served as an elder, a past Master of Rock Island Lodge No. 452 F&AM, a life member of VFW Post 10904, a member of American Legion Post 173, and author of the book entitled “The First 91 Years.” Mr. Boyd was preceded in death by parents I.E. and Lela Templeton Boyd, first wife Lorene Windham Boyd, second wife Juanita Hennessee Boyd, sisters Glendon Foster, Elizabeth Stuck, and Lucille Stiles, and brothers George Boyd and Huston Boyd.

Survivors include his children Robert Lee (Brenda) Boyd Jr. of Old Hickory, and Sharon Boyd of Brentwood, grandchildren Nicole Lee Lane, Krista Lee Welsh, and Niletta Lee Cramer, great-grandchildren Autumn, Tyler, Savanna, Alexis, and Alyssa, great-great grandchild Paityn, stepchildren Johnny Glenn (Christine) Hennessee, Janice Ann Hennessee (Bill K.) Osburn, Tom Ray (Sabra) Hennessee, and Cecil Edward (Cathy) Hennessee, 12 step-grandchildren, and 24 step-great-grandchildren, along with many other friends and family members.

Funeral service will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at McMinnville Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Douglas Dunlap will officiate. Military grave rites will immediately follow at McMinnville Funeral Home and will be conducted by American Legion Post 173 and VFW Post 5064. Interment will follow at 3 p.m. at Hendersonville Memory Gardens in Sumner County. The Boyd family will receive friends Friday from 5 to 8 p.m., and again Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the parlors of McMinnville Funeral Home. A masonic service will be conducted Friday evening at 7 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Rock Island Cumberland Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 146, Rock Island, TN 38581. Online condolences may be made at www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com.

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, 473-6606.

Southern Standard
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Revival
With Brother Bobby Brindle
There will be a Revival with Bro. Bobby Brindle at McMinnville Independent Baptist Church from Aug. 13-15 @ 7pm. There will also be a Homecoming on Aug. 12 @ 10am. Come hear the World’s Smallest Evangelist.

Gross Reunion
The Asa and Elizabeth Tate Gross Annual Reunion will be Sun. 8-16-18 at the Pearl of Christ Church on Hwy. 56 near Irving College. Pot luck lunch will be at 1pm. Everyone welcome.

Smartt Reunion
The Smartt Reunion will be Sat, Aug. 18 at 12:00 by the creek at Northcutt Cove Church of Christ. Please bring a covered dish.

Revival
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church on Harrison Ferry Mountain will have a Revival Thurs, Fri. & Sat. with Homecoming on Sunday. Herbert Marlow, Preacher.

Cope Family Reunion
The Cope Family Reunion will be Aug. 26 @ Wayside Community Center. Covered dish lunch will be served at 12:30pm. Everybody welcome.

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Judy Tigie

There will be a memorial service held at Grange Hall Church of Christ for Judy Tigie this Friday, Aug. 17, at 4 p.m.

Family and friends please come and remember the wonderful times you have had with Judy. We would like to ask everyone to bring pictures of them with Judy and to tell of the times they have shared. After the memorial service, there will be a dinner held in her memory.

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