Business Bytes: UW-Stout students earn awards

MENOMONIE — J. Makai Catudio and Ryan Barnes, industrial design students at UW-Stout, love digital cameras: Between them, they own five. They also love their old film-based 35-millimeter cameras.

This fall, Catudio and Barnes got to thinking about how they might be able to combine the ease and convenience of digital photography with a film-based camera.

They came up with an idea they call the Digitizer: a device that allows film-based cameras to take digital photos. Although it's still just a concept - the product doesn't exist yet - it already has garnered one rave review. It won the international E-Waste Design competition sponsored by the University of Illinois.

UW-Stout students took first and second place out of 10 entries in the "reuse" division, which focuses on reusing electronic products and materials that otherwise might end up in the trash. Second place went to the Wake-Up Project, a smart clock made from cell phone parts and recycled plastic from electronic products.

Catudio, of St. Paul, and Barnes, of Maple Lake, Minn., shared the $3,000 first prize. Wake-Up Project team members shared $2,000 for second. They are Danny Kopren, of Maple Grove, Minn.; Lennon TeRonde, of Hartland; and Sam Wellskopf, of Campbellsport. Both teams were from the senior-level class Systems, Environment and Context, taught by Whitney Nunnelley.

"Having two groups of students from UW-Stout's industrial design program place in this competition, which had submissions from across the world, shows that our students are receiving a high quality education that is preparing them for exciting and successful futures," Nunnelley said in a news release.

The competition was open to college students and recent college graduates. Contestants were required to submit a two-minute video that helped explain their project. The UW-Stout videos can be seen at tinyurl.com/df8shez.