

UW-Madison IIE Newsletter

Fall 2005

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Student - Professor Poker Night

Ashley Eggman

Playing poker with your professors, what more could you ask for on a school night? I would call the Student/Professor Social a success, because professors actually attended the event. We had a good turn out at the Stadium Bar, for about an hour students and professors enjoyed each others' company not discussing school, but for much of the time figuring

out how to play Texas' Hold'em poker.

Once we all got the rules down, the "strategy" began. Raises were called and bluffs made. It did get a little competitive, considering there were "experts" present. Beginners and experts played serious poker with real chips that were later turned in for cookies. You could not beat the

delicious combination of cookies and beer, yum.

Learning the new lingo such as blinds and antes was interesting. Some of the IE's taught the professors something they didn't know. So for an hour on a fall Monday night we dismissed the urge to study, and shared a "friendly game of poker". Hopefully with your participation we can continue the poker event with students and professors next fall.



About Our Organization...

IIE is the world's largest professional society dedicated solely to the support of the industrial engineering profession and individuals involved with improving quality and productivity. Founded in 1948, IIE is an international, non-profit association that provides leadership for the application, education, training, research, and development of industrial engineering.

With more than 15,000 members and 280 chapters worldwide, IIE's primary mission is to meet the ever changing needs of its membership, which includes undergraduate and graduate students, engineering practitioners and consultants in all industries, engineering managers, and engineers in education, research, and government.



IIE Outreach Adventures

2005 –2006 IIE Board

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Habitat for Humanity

Maria Brewer

Volunteering for Habitat for Humanity was an excellent experience. Eleven people from IIE participated and we helped build a house in McFarland. We laid out the walls for the outside of the house and cut the wood accordingly. There were some minor mishaps at the beginning since many of us did not have much experience building houses. However, as the day progressed everyone learned quickly and we were very productive.

This particular Habitat for Humanity program builds energy efficient homes so the insulation has to be put in a certain way. We took this into consideration when building the windows and frames of the walls.

As we were cleaning up to leave, some of our volunteers helped another volunteer group to raise a completed wall. Overall, it was a great experience and a lot of fun.



Trick or Treat for Cans

Dan Healy

On Halloween night 2005 a group of four IIE volunteers ventured out into the dark and stormy night to collect canned goods in Madison for the local food pantry. A large group of engineering student organizations participated in the event that helped to collect canned goods from all over the Madison area. IIE's group of volunteers consisted of Maria Brewer, Dan Healy, Jennafer Kappel, and Molly Snellman. IIE and other student organizations collected a total of 5800 pounds of canned goods for the local food pantry. It was an excellent opportunity for IIE and the University of Wisconsin to reach out to the community and show UW's students really do care for the community in which they live.

Sunday Demolition

Warren Long

Helping a community often starts one house at a time. On Sunday, October 23rd IIE volunteered to help with the remodeling of a local family's house. The project was sponsored by Caring Home Makeover, a volunteer organization set up to help less fortunate local families whose houses have fallen into disrepair. The family we were helping was a large family whose father has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. This greatly limited his mobility and forced him to use a walker which has kept him from easily reaching much of the house. Caring Home Makeover had a great idea: tear the inside down and start from scratch.

So where did IIE come in? We helped tear everything down of course! With the use of sledge hammers, sawsalls, pry bars, and some brute strength, IIE broke walls down, tore cabinets out, and removed floor coverings, wall tiles, and light fixtures, leaving little but the house's frame remaining. The house is scheduled to be complete in early December 2005 and a show highlighting the event will air on December 17th. All of the participants had a great time and hope Caring Home Makeover continues to recruit IIE volunteers for their future events.



Message from across the pond: IE experiences abroad

Jackie Endres



Well, as this first semester wraps up for you all, my European adventures come to a close. When I first arrived in Denmark, I didn't think that the four months could pass quickly enough. Everything was so new and scary, and I thought it'd never feel like home. Then ten minutes passed and I started to fall for this little smudge on the globe.

My stay in Denmark has really opened my eyes to new cultures, and has been a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was fortunate enough to be placed in a "kollegium", which is somewhat like a dorm. So, through my 11 Danish kitchen-mates, I get a glimpse into the true Danish culture on a daily basis.

Currently I attend Denmark Technical University (DTU), and in addition to taking classes that apply to my major (two engineering science classes and two IE classes), I'm also embracing the culture and taking a Danish language course. DTU is a very popular school for European students to attend to practice their English, so meeting international students is a huge benefit of being abroad. And on top of viewing the US from the eyes of the rest of the world (gulp...), I get to see

how engineering in other countries is done. For instance, an industrial engineering student in Spain would study chemical, mechanical, and civil engineering, and near the end of his studies choose one area to focus on. And students in Europe tend to spend three years on their undergraduate (which usually starts around age 19 or 20), then do their masters, and not start working until they are 25-30.

The style of learning here differs greatly from that at UW-Madison. Each class is held once a week, for four hours at a time. But these four hours are rarely, if ever, used for lecture. Two to three of these hours are set aside for time to work on group projects—there is a huge emphasis on group work. In all of my classes, group projects are worth at least 50% of the final grade (most of them upwards of 70%). And in my classes combined, I will have one exam and one multiple choice test. They are more interested in the student's application skills (large final projects are generally the mode of evaluation) than in the ability to memorize.

One of my favourite parts about being in Europe is the opportunity for cheap travel. By the time I come

home, I will have visited Sweden, Finland, Norway, Germany, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and England. And I think that adds up to about the price of my plane ticket from the States... (Ok, a little of an exaggeration, but really, close enough...)

These opportunities are reason enough for you all to be chomping at the bit to go abroad. So here are a few things you should know:

Whether you go to Denmark or any other country, you have to be prepared for the fact that it is not America. I've encountered so many students who have a hard time adjusting to the new lifestyle because they aren't used to living without American convenience. My recommendation is to defenestrate any preconceptions you have and keep an open mind. Pay attention to how the locals live, it's probably a good indication of what will work, since they've been doing it for a while. Take the chance to take part in some local traditions, even if they seem bizarre. You make your own experience, so the more you are willing to leave your comfort zone, the more stories you'll have to tell. I know I have my share...

If you are thinking about studying abroad and have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jaendres@wisc.edu.



FUNdraising with IIE

Course Packets

Allison Wittmer

Every college student dreads it: waiting in long lines to spend hundreds of dollars on course reading materials. But not to worry, IIE is working for you to ease this chore!

Not only do they sell course packets for several different ISyE courses in the classroom, but they also sell them at a discounted price. And better yet, money made from the sales helps fund events for *you!* Over half of the IIE yearly budget comes from these sales. This year, the IIE fundraising officer for course packets, Allison Wittmer, started printing off packets for ISyE 415, 515, and 575 in early August

along with the help of some other IIE members who spent the summer in Madison.

After a few long evenings at Kinko's, the packets were complete and ready to be sold. Thanks to everyone who helped to print off and sell the packets! Help us continue to ease the hassle of buying course materials: volunteer to help with packets in '06!



UW Hospital Pharmacy Visit

Allison Wittmer

On November 15th, several IIE members went on a tour of the pharmacy at the UW Hospital. Included on the tour were many of the different technologies utilized to help the hospital prevent medication errors, a hot topic in the health care industry.

One of these technologies on the tour was an automated barcode dispensing system called Robot-RX, which can accurately track and manage unit dose inventories of many different medications.

The UW Hospital also uses AdminRx, a bedside medication administration verification device. No larger

than a PDA, it helps hospital staff avoid errors by verifying that the correct medications are given to the correct patients in the right doses. To do this, AdminRx scans the patient, drug, and staff administering the drug to ensure a match. And of course, no IIE event could be complete without a bit of socializing!

The tour concluded with dinner and good conversation with our two tour guides from the pharmacy. This was a great event...something we should all try to do again next year!

Hockey Stands

Alex Bohl

IIE sells concessions at Badger hockey games to help fund our activities. On a few weekend nights, IEs leave their headaches at Wendt Library and journey to the Kohl Center to sell snacks at the Sweet Shop. Volunteering at the hockey stand only lasts about 3 hours on a weekend night, but the experiences last a life time.

Workers arrive an hour before game time to setup machines and confirm that enough food is on hand to meet nightly demands. Peak sales occur between periods. At the end of the night, container quantities are audited to approximate nightly profit. After the numbers are tallied and all the aprons and hats are returned, the volunteers are released around 9:30 p.m. with full bellies and a fruitful fragrance of Berry Alvarez (Ice Cream).

Selling concessions at the IIE hockey stand is not only a great way to raise money but also a great way to meet people, learn how to scoop ice cream, handle small amounts of money, and improve counting skills.

There will be more volunteer opportunities at Hockey games next semester. For more questions on this position, please contact Joy Rivera (ajrivera@wisc.edu).



Congrats to the Fall 2005 Distinguished Members

Tom Best • Julia Bickler • Alex Bohl • Maria Brewer • Sal Bucaro • Tim Buntrock • Matt Cameron • Courtney Cobb • Nick Dow • Ashley Eggman • Talia Esser • Duane Flier • Jessie Gertz • Erica Girard • Ross Glodowski • Dan Healy • Shuang Jiang • Jenna Kappel • Dan Kenron • Ryan Koller • Curtis Landry • Steve Leazer • Evonne Liu • Warren Long • Kelly Martinson • Mitch Nick • Gabe Norgaard • Jessica Palmer • Joy Rivera • Julian Salguero • Jaynie Sammons • Patrick Scanlan • William Schaumann • Sonya Schilcher • Heidi Severtson • Molly Snellman • Mike Snouffer • Jonathan Stephens • Marshall Stringfield • Kate Therrien • Rachel Weber • Allison Wittmer • Richard Yang

Keep up the Good Work!!!

WIPs and Chains; IIE Play-ers Recap

Gabe Norgaard and Tom Best

Going out for UW Intramural sports is a great way to meet members and get in some exercise for a study break during the week. This fall's IIE intramural force consisted of two teams, the "IIE Play-ers" for coed recreational volleyball at the SERF, and "WIPs and Chains" for the men's recreational dodge ball team at the NAT.

Whether it was Sunday afternoon or Sunday after the Pack played, these teams came out for some crazy times on the courts. This semester's roster consisted of a variety of new and old IIE members, thanks to everyone for coming out.

Although each team was unsuccessful this season in securing playoff positions, the records of each team bear no reflection to the amount of intensity that was brought to each match. We all came out ahead in the end this semester with some great spikes and throws.

Despite the demoralizing feeling of defeat, our team still has plenty of fight left in our old bones. With a few recruits to replace our losses, we will be completely prepared for the next dodge ball season. Tally hoe!

Night of Healthcare Magic

Kate Therrien

Dave Kopetsky, an UW alum, came to campus to speak with IE's and share his experiences working as in IE in the health care industry. Dave currently works for The Children's Hospital of Denver, Colorado as a process improvement analyst. It was great to hear about some real applications of industrial engineering tools and techniques to the health care industry.

Dave participated in the IE masters program here at Madison and gave us some insight into how that program works and how it helped him in his career. He mentioned that the program was great

because he was able to take a broad range of courses to gain a better understanding of the health care system and the different players involved.

Finally, Dave talked about searching for industrial engineering jobs in health care. This topic was particularly helpful since health care organizations do not generally recruit at Career Connections. He described his job search and how he monitored job boards on the websites for IIE, SHS, HIMSS, and Monster as well as individual hospital websites. Thanks for the great presentation, Dave!

IIE Advising Night

Dan Healy

The traditional eating of the pizza and giving of the advice continued this fall with another successful IIE advising night. Undergrads from freshmen to seniors gathered to eat pizza, socialize, and give advice on what to take, when to take it, and with whom. As usual the evening was graced by the "Zen Master" of the industrial engineering and systems engineering department, our own Lisa Zovar. Special thanks to the graduate students Alex Bredemus and Luke Krebs who were there to provide a

perspective on their own undergraduate careers, relaying what classes they took to make their days as an undergrad so successful.

As usual the evening was a complete success as students left more confident in their class selections and ready to tackle another semester in ISYE at UW. Thanks to all those who attended, we hope to see you all next semester for another advising adventure.

ESTEAM

Tom Best

The ESTEAM event is always a blast for IIE, and this fall on October 15th was no exception. It was truly an awesome feeling for Dan Healy, Jessica Gertz, and me, as we witnessed the enthusiasm of the future Badger Engineers as they worked through our K'NEX production simulation. To see an engineering idea formulate on a high school student's face is something that truly gives any IIE member a strong sense of accomplishment.

In addition to a good response from participants, the UW facilitator of this fall's ESTEAM continually praised our exhibit and active planning. Overall, I encourage everyone to get involved with something like ESTEAM in the future! The event really gives you a feeling of pride for the College of Engineering at Madison.

Purdue Officer Exchange

Tom Best

What an October weekend! Not only was it Homecoming, but Purdue's IIE President and Website Editor were able to make the trip up to Madison for the Purdue/ Wisconsin football game! What could we do but show them a great time, Madison style! After attending the Homecoming Parade on Friday night, we took them on a brief tour of campus. We then brought them to the Essen Haus for some great food and beverages.

On game day, they were invited to various pre-game festivities.

Above all, we established a chapter link that will hopefully turn in to an annual interaction. The officers provided our team with many suggestions to help UW-Madison mirror the success of the Purdue chapter. Improved member retention ideas, a date-auction for Valentine's Day, and how to use the National IIE chapter's resources were included. After meeting these two fine IIE individuals, I can hardly consider them just a couple Boilermakers!

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<http://homepages.cae.wisc.edu/~iie/>

Kollege Klub Sets the Tone for IIE Socials

Steven Leazer

The benefits of being involved with UW-Madison's IIE chapter are countless. To our great fortune, UW-Madison's IIE officers recognize that excellent intra-organization social opportunities exist and have provided a sound social platform through intermittent gatherings at local establishments.

The 2005-2006 academic year saw an excellent showing for IIE's first social. On Thursday, September 15, 2005, the friendly confines of the KK filled up with an Industrial

Engineering crowd comprised of both fresh and veteran faces. The atmosphere could not have been more conducive to socializing with current classmates and meeting new IIE members. With free food and beverage just an arm's reach away, current and prospective IIE members conversed over a number of topics, ranging from summer internships to research projects.

On a special note, for this particular social, the UW-Madison IIE chapter made

a pledge to not only collect donations for The Red Cross's Hurricane Katrina efforts, but additionally match up to the first \$500 collected. The collection of these donations reflects IIE's commitment to community service and raising awareness of current events among its members.

Overall, IIE's first social of the year can be deemed a massive success. The event set a tone of excitement and involvement which is sure to be sustained for the remainder of the academic year. Cheers!

ZS Associates visits IIE

Ashley Eggman

On September 21, in between bites of sub sandwiches, IIE attendees learned about the profession of consulting. ZS Associates, a consulting firm, hosted this meeting to inform the IIE group about the career possibilities in consulting.

Consulting firms give professional advice or services to companies to help them identify and analyze management problems or opportunities. Companies generally hire consultants, because they need help that is not

available internally. Hiring external help gives the company the advantages of a fresh new perspective, specialized knowledge, and a team to focus on a problem for a short-term, intensive work period.

There are several consulting categories to work in. ZS Associates focuses within the operations field where strategies are developed to streamline the purchasing process to make it more effective. IIE discovered that

consultants travel a lot in their career, which can be good or bad depending on the type of person. Also, once a graduate enters the consulting field he or she has a wide array of career path options, including going back to school for an MBA. Consulting businesses usually pay for the additional required schooling, something to ease your pocketbook. So if you enjoy traveling and working on new challenging projects in different fields, consulting may be the career for you.



IIE Members of the Month

September: **Molly Snellman**

October: **Tim Buntrock**

November: **Alex Bohl**

Your name could be next! This distinction is yours if you are the top point earning member of the month.

Congrats!!!