

The Lobby

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A Newsletter for the students, faculty, and staff of the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Defending our Title

Jessi Sanfilippo, Contests Chair

Our ASME chapter has been the Ingersoll Rand winner for the past several years. We have beaten all the schools in our region and plan to continue. To give you some background about the contest I will describe the factors each school is judged on. By being an active group in ASME the chapter earns points. These points are broken into the 10 following categories: repots, meetings, tours, socials, news, membership, service, student leadership conference, professional development and upgrade activities. By having more people do each activity the chapter gets more points. Reports are filed monthly and biannually. Meetings are conducted throughout the year by all of our officers for any interested member. Tours are taken of various factories. Some tours we have taken thus far include brewery tours, the Ach in St. Louis, AGA Gas, and the auto show in Chicago. Socials are conducted by our social chair and enjoyed by all members. We put out a newspaper titled "The Lobby" a few times each semester. We have lots of members, new and old, that add to our membership points. Our outreach chair offers a variety of service activities such as habitat for humanity, high school day

on campus, Girl Scout badge day, polar plunge, Relay for Life, and lots more. Several of our students travel to the Regional Student Conference and compete in design contests, oral presentations and poster presentations. Finally, we keep in contact with our outgoing members. These are just a few ways that UW – Madison's ASME stays on top. Every year the region holds a conference and the most active school in the region is chosen. This year the conference is being held in Champaign Illinois at the beginning of March. It is of course our plan to once again dominate the region with our outstanding members.

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Outstanding Outreach Opportunities

Dana Schwarz, Outreach Chair



As the seasons change, Madison residents are trying to get used to the rapidly changing weather. Similar to the conditions outside, there is a great deal of variety in ASME outreach this spring semester. It is time to say goodbye to last semester's activities such as HSDOC, Haunted Zoo and ESTEAM, however many new activities are coming soon. Anybody who wants to get involved can easily find a way to do something they enjoy while helping other people.

Science Olympiad is our most time-consuming activity. For about two hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, teams of ASME'ers travel to area middle schools and help them out with their Science Olympiad projects. The state-wide competition is on April 30th and the kids are looking quite promising with the help of our insightful engineers. There are currently 3 teams of regulars led by Shaun Kring, Eddie Thurow, and Jake Keleny. They travel to Sennett, Edgewood, and Wisconsin Heights middle schools on a biweekly basis. Those interested in helping out have the option of joining a team regularly, or just going for a visit or two, the schedule is extremely flexible. This activity is for you if you like designing bridges, airplanes and robots, or if you just want to hang out with some cool middle school-ers.

Meals on Wheels participants head off to deliver food to the elderly in Madison neighborhoods every other Friday. Both drivers and passengers are needed to commit about an hour of time after class. Mark Hopping has been ASME's key member in getting this activity up and running. Interested members can participate once or numerous times. To sign up, either email Dana, sign up on the sheet on the door of the ASME office in ECB. Past participants have had a wonderful time making friends out of their peer group and hearing some interesting stories. This is an awesome activity to do with some friends before you head off to FAC.

There are two campus charity fundraising activities that ASME is involved in this semester. We recently jumped in some freezing water for Polar Plunge raising hundreds of dollars for Special Olympics. On Friday April 22nd, we will send 15 people to spend the night doing laps in the Shell; this will benefit the American Cancer Society.

In the works right now are plans for numerous adopt-a-blocks. Participants break into teams of two and walk around engineering campus cleaning up litter. To spice it up we have prizes for most litter and most interesting object found. On April 9th 10 people will spend 5 hours working on the same UW Habitat for Humanity house that was started last semester. A large goal of ASME this semester is joint activities with other student organizations including SWE, AUA, and Polygon. We will be actively participating in all the charity events during E-Week and also helping SWE with their Girl Scout Badge Day.



There are still spots available in all activities however they are on a first come first serve basis. If interested, contact Dana Schwarz immediately at djschwarz@wisc.edu for more information.

Did you know??

You have 3 quarters, 4 dimes, and 4 pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.

President Kennedy was the fastest random speaker in the world with upwards of 350 words per minute.

In the average lifetime, a person will walk the equivalent of 5 times around the equator.

The surface area of an average-sized brick is 79 cm squared. .

The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.



FUSE Dinner

Teresa Nehm, Industrial Relations

Many people throughout the University of Wisconsin Engineering Campus were excited about the Forming an Understanding of Situations in Engineering (FUSE) Dinner. The dinner took place on February 24, 2005 from 6:30-9:30 at the Pyle Center. The main focus of the dinner was to discuss diversity issues faced by students on the engineering campus and once they enter the work force. Those who attend enjoyed a dinner and open small group discussions.

Due to many positive comments from last year, the idea of the FUSE dinner was revised to meet the current events. Similarly, dinner was served, the Action Dialogues group lead an activity, and then participants broke into eight to ten person small group discussions. Last year, many of the participants felt they began good conversations and then were switched to different topics before they were finished with their last conversation. This year, the topics were narrowed from five basic topics to two. The discussed were broken into the topics of industry and campus diversity.

The industry discussion starting topics will focus on “the value of a diversity aware employee”, employee initiatives, and professionalism in sexist, racist, or ageist situations. The industry representatives from General Electric and Alliant Energy shared the value of employees that have an understanding diversity issues in their companies. Both companies have a number of initiative programs that employees can get involved in. Industry representatives offered a great view point of these initiatives. Finally, these representatives offered their experiences with sexism, racism, and ageism in interviews, meetings, or just basic daily interactions.

Campus discussion focused around gender issues and stereotypes we hold of others around us. Recently the President of Harvard made some comments regarding women and their ability to compete in fields focused in science and math. This attitude is sometimes felt on campus, along with other stereotypes. The hope of the dinner was to bring these issues into the open and discuss how they affect those people in the stereotype.

We had around 55 people come to discuss these issues. The attendees ranged from engineering students in a variety of fields to faculty of the engineering campus to representatives from industry. I would especially like to take time to thank the UW Faculty in attendance, Kristyn Masters, Carmalyn Lubaway, Frank Pfefferkorn, Tim Osswald, Dean Don Woolston, and Dean Douglass Henderson.

I would also like to thank the industry representatives from Alliant Energy and General Electric for sharing their experiences with those attending the dinner. Thanks to all that attended for making the FUSE dinner a successful event.

Did you know...continued

Isaac Asimov is the only author to have a book in every Dewey-decimal category.

It would take 11 Empire State Buildings, stacked one on top of the other, to measure the Gulf of Mexico at its deepest point.

The Neanderthal’s brain was bigger than yours is.

The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight

Every year about 98% of the atoms in your body are replaced.

The human heart creates enough pressure to squirt blood 30 feet (9 m).

When snakes are born with two heads, they fight each other for food.

Flying from London to New York by Concord, due to the time zones crossed, you can arrive 2 hours before you leave.



ASME Rocks Chicago Auto Show

Dusty Brunner, Conferences

February 12th, ASME members attended the 2005 Chicago Auto Show. By 7:30 A.M thirteen members had triumphed the morning and the group was on their way. The drive gave attendants a chance to meet others and swap stories. The car ride went smoothly, and amazingly no one lost their way. The only complaints were forgetting cds and the recent doubling of toll costs.

This year's show was phenomenal. Interactive exhibit highlights were Jeep's trail course and Chrysler's half-mile indoor test track. Both exhibits gave visitors a chance to ride in an actual production vehicle thru a medley of terrain. It was a shame the lines were so long, as many of the ASME group wanted to experience the tracks. Stationary display favorites included: International's customized heavy trucks, Shell Exotics, a wide spectrum of Mustangs, GM's full size hybrid truck and the spectacular Lexus display.

After six hours at the show, it was time to return to Madison. As expected, traffic from the McCormick Place was moving less than ideally. Each of the three vehicles took a different route out of Chicago. The last car leaving the parking lot decided to take a shortcut and ended up in the lead by a half-hour. After trying to follow the lake and sitting in traffic, the second car took a detour through downtown. Using sophisticated orienteering techniques and a bit of luck, the downtown detour lead travelers straight to 90 and on their way home. The third car took yet another route and found its way out of Chicago about twenty minutes behind the second car. When stopping for dinner, the cars finally caught up with each other.

If road trips are your thing, our next will be the first weekend in March for the Regional Student Conference. Well be going to Champaign\Urbana and optionally to Chicago.



More Did you know Fun Facts!

Canadian researchers have found that Einstein's brain was 15% wider than normal.

The word "nerd" was first coined by Dr. Seuss in "If I Ran the Zoo."

A car that shifts manually gets 2 miles more per gallon of gas than a car with automatic shift.

Turtles can breathe through their butts.

A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brother's first flight.

In 10 minutes, a hurricane releases more energy than all of the worlds nuclear weapons combined.



Logic Puzzle

Courtesy of Albert Einstein

There are 5 houses in 5 different colors. In each house lives a person of a different nationality. The 5 owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar, and keep a certain pet. Using the clues below can you determine who owns the fish?

The Brit lives in a red house.

The Swede keeps dogs as pets.

The Dane drinks tea.

The green house is on the immediate left of the white house.

The green house owner drinks coffee.

The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds.

The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill.

The man living in the house right in the middle drinks milk.

The Norwegian lives in the first house.

The man who smokes Blend lives next door to the one who keeps cats.

The man who keeps horses lives next door to the man who smokes Dunhill.

The owner who smokes Blue Master drinks beer.

The German smokes Prince.

The Norwegian lives next to the blue house.

The man who smokes Blend has a neighbor who drinks water

Brain Teasers

Below is a very special grid, around each shaded number are 8 white squares. However, each white square should have a number from 1 to 7. Once filled in, these 8 numbers will sum to the shaded number. In addition, once completed correctly, no row nor column will contain a duplicate number within a white square. For example, the top row may be 5 6 4 2 3 1 7, etc.

	26		35		37	
	31		36		39	
	38		26		24	

Would you rather a crocodile attack you or an alligator?

You have a barrel, filled to the top with water, which weighs 150 pounds. What can you add to the barrel in order to make it lighter?

A customer at a 7-11 store selected four items to buy, and was told that the cost was \$7.11. He was curious that the cost was the same as the store name, so he enquired as to how the figure was derived. The clerk said that he had simply multiplied the prices of the four individual items. The customer protested that the four prices should have been ADDED, not MULTIPLIED. The clerk said that that was OK with him, but, the result was still the same: exactly \$7.11. What were the four prices?

Visit <http://brainbashers.com> for answers!



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