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

THE LOBBY at a glance

Pumpkin Propulsion

By Silas Bernardon
Trebuchet Team Chair

The UW Trebuchet team had its up's and down's at the 2005 Nekoosa Cata-Pumpkin Launch this year. Our best throw of the weekend was 640 feet, which would have gotten us sixth at last years' world championships in the gravity powered division. Overall, the weekend was an overwhelming success, which was made possible by the teamwork, ingenuity, and work ethic shown by our team throughout the weekend. After breaking our trebuchet in half we didn't lose focus and were able to bounce back by the next day and put some impressive numbers up on the board.

The project started out as a way to combat boredom and turned into us building one of the most powerful gravity powered pumpkin catapults in the world. This was completely unplanned and we didn't even know how powerful it was until our third throw on Saturday when it broke in half and still threw 640 feet. The competition didn't start until Sunday morning, so we had 16 hours to get our machine fixed and reinforced so that it would be able to withstand the forces acting on it. With careful planning and preparation on Saturday night, we were able to show up the next morning and have it back on its wheels and firing in about two hours. By the end of the day we were throwing over 500 feet with our water tank only a little over half full.

We were informed by the current world record holder and four time world champion, John Huber, that we were the first team to ever use water as a counterweight. There are three main advantages to using water as a counterweight (CW). First off, water is available everywhere you go. This makes it possible to unload the CW without taking the machine apart, making it more durable and transportable. Secondly, the ability to empty your tank and drop all of your CW in only a few minutes with only a wrench is invaluable when you have to fix the machine in a time crunch. Most trebuchets that compete at the national level have to have a crane standing to unload their CW in the event that something breaks. Thirdly, with a tank

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The UW Trebuchet team in action at the 2005 Nekoosa Cata-Pumpkin Launch

Capital Brewery Tour

By Nick Sales
Industrial Co-Chair

For those of you who missed the best event of the semester, do not feel bad, there are plenty more to come this year. On Friday, September 23rd, around 30 UW-Madison ASME Students toured Capital Brewery of Middleton.

A copper brewing kettle at Capital Brewery in Middleton, WI.

Upon arrival at the brewery slightly before 5 p.m., our group of ASME members was bursting with excitement and anticipation of what was to come. Shortly thereafter, we were greeted by our tour guide and welcomed to Capital Brewery. Right from the introduction our group knew there was something peculiar about our tour guide, but we could not quite put our finger on what it was.

As the tour progressed, one of our members realized this peculiarity. To fulfill her duties in the quality assurance department, our guide had worked long and hard over the course of the afternoon testing the very brews she would be offering her tour guests to ensure quality and satisfaction. Judging by her demeanor, we all agreed that the numerous Capital brews she had tested must have met her standards of quality.

Along the way, we saw the copper brewing kettles, a variety of grains used in the brewing process, the fermenting tanks, and also the storage room.

The completion of the tour lead to everyone's favorite part of the visit: tasting. Each member of the group received a minature "shot" glass to test the different brews Capital was currently producing. Most of them flowed like liquid gold once they hit our lips, but there were a couple brews that provoked distasteful reactions.

On the bus ride back to campus all in attendance agreed that the Capital Brewery tour was a culturally enriching experience necessary for all Madisonians of legal age.

A group of UW-ASME faithful enjoying the fruits of a Capital Brewery Tour.

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you have the ability to vary the amount of energy you are storing in the system. This gives you another variable to control when taking accuracy into account. The use of water as a counterweight is likely to change the way gravity catapults are designed and built in the future. We won't know the full impact of our idea on the sport until we watch the evolution of catapult design progress.

Our next trip is out to Delaware for the world championships on November 4-6. It is our goal to surpass 640 feet and hope to place in the top four or five. We are also looking forward to next year and have started working on designing a new machine with the intent of competing for the World Championship next year. Because of our structural mishaps in Nekoosa, fabrication and installation of the reinforcements is scheduled to begin shortly and we hope to represent UW-Madison Engineering well at the world championships this November.

Pre-Engineering Bash '05

By Jordan Spore
Membership Chair

ASME officers did their best to ensure another successful start to the school year through their work during the annual Pre-Engineering Bash on the College of Engineering campus. Section Chair Tyler Gabert, Social Chair Megan Sharrow, and I spoke to a couple hundred new and continuing students about the UW ASME organization.

During our presentation, the three of us conveyed our organization's purpose, the numerous events hosted by ASME througout the year, how beneficial of a resource ASME is for current students and alumni alike, and the way in which interested students could become involved in the UW chapter of ASME. After our brief introduction, we showed last year's ASME year-in-review DVD, compiled by last year's Historian Nicky Zabel, to highlight what our amazing organization is all about. In particular, we focused on the events of Homecoming Week, as this is the time of the year when ASME and all of its members are most active.

Dedicated ASME officers serve root beer floats to students outside Engineering Hall

As has become tradition, ASME served root beer floats outside Engineering Hall to all students who stuck around through the end of the presentations. A highly energetic and motivated corps of ASME officers was on hand to serve refreshing floats, entertain the students with anecdotes of personal experiences in college and in ASME, and proclaim to the students why ASME is one of the top organizations here on campus at the UW.

ASME officers take the Pre-Engineering Bash seriously as it is our first opportunity to interact with and reach out to new engineering students. Not only do these festivities offer the chance to gain new members, but we as ASME officers have the chance to have a positive impact early on in a new students' engineering career here at UW-Madison. The success of the Pre-Engineering Bash event was evident at the first ASME general meeting of the year, as attendance was approximately 150 students. Thanks to the officers who helped ASME get this year started in spectacular fashion.

Jake's Random Facts

By Jake Keleny
Industrial Co-Chair

- The speed of a typical raindrop is 17 miles per hour.
- Female canaries cannot sing.
- A rat can go without water longer than a camel can.

New students listen to Engineering Student Organization presentations in Engineering Hall

ASME at its finest moment. . .

ASME diehards battle for the much coveted pie eating championship belt during a general meeting

2005 Fall Initiation Banquet

By Dana Schwarz
Banquet Chair

On Thursday, September 29 almost 30 ASME members joined a few professors and faculty for the annual fall initiation banquet. The night began at Union South with a short period of time for mingling. New members met old members, and graduate students chatted with freshmen while the presentation was organized.

The evening was opened with a speech by Mark Mastalski, head of the student leadership center. Mark began his speech by suprising the audience with the fact that he had once been a member of UW-Madison ASME. He continued to share anecdotes of his time at Madison and the valuable lessons he had learned. Mark explained why staying active and learning about leadership in college is so important to one's future.

After Mark concluded his speech, NIcholas Sales, the Industrial Relations Co-Chair, came to the front of the room to lead the reading of the code of ethics of engineering.

This was followed by the presentation of certificates and pins to new members by Conference Chair Teresa Nehm. Sixteen students were initiated into ASME this semester.

Newly initiated members to the UW-Madison chapter of ASME

Chair Tyler Gabert and Vice Chair Dusty Brunner are willing to share the ASME love at the fall banquet

Some old and some young, all were proud to show that they were now official members of the UW-Madison chapter of ASME.

Tyler Gabert, Section Chair, then gave a speech listing all of the opportunities available in ASME this year. Some of these opportunities included the Human Powered Vehicle Team, the Trebuchet Team, conferences, socials, and outreach events.

The night concluded with a raffle drawing for prizes, in which each attending member was equally elligible. Later, attendees traveled to Dana Schwarz's house for a post banquet celebration social.

If you missed this banquet, do not fear. There will be another banquet in late spring to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements from throughout the year. The spring banquet will be held at The White Horse Inn. If you still need to be initiated as a member of UW-Madison ASME, contact Dana via *djschwarz@wisc.edu*. Thank you to all who attended the banquet and made it a huge success.

Tailgating '05

ASME *Style*

ASME District Operating Board

By Jessica Sanfilippo
Secretary

The ASME Student Operating Board met this past June at the annual district meeting. The Student Operating Board is comprised of student representatives from each reagion, and is designed to help the schools communicate more effectively amongst themselves. By voting to create a board, student representatives made it easier and more efficient to reach all the schools in their respective districts.

These boards were to be implemented at the Student Leadership Training Seminar. At the seminar the students were informed of the new changes ASME had undergone. One of these changes under review was the creation of new districts. Districts will now take the place of the previous regional divisions. As a result, the former Region VI and Region VII have been joined as the Central Can-Am District.

Since Region VI and Region VII were combined, one student operating board was created for the entire district. The primary means of communication will now be through a website maintained by the operating board. This website is currently in the construction phase. The board will post useful information to all student chapters, with a special emphasis on new chapters. All chapter contact information will also be available through the website.

The three students on the district board from the UW-Madison chapter of ASME are Dusty Brunner, Andrew Marconnet, and Jessica Sanfilippo. All students on the board are eager to open and maintain lines of communication within our district.

HOMECOMING '05

HAMMER 'EM BUCKY

Homecoming Week 2005

September 16th-22nd

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