



# 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*

## “Sip and Puff” Controlled Fishing Rod For Quadraplegics

by **Darin Bowe**  
*Trebuchet Team Chair*

For this years ASME's student design competition held at the 2006 Regional Student Conference in Rolla Missouri, the task is to design and build a remote control fishing rod and reel. Teams of four ASME members are to design and build a mechanical device that meets certain size and power constraints. The device objective is to cast a beanbag, as a simulated fishing lure, on a target ranging anywhere inside a 6-10 meter range. Specifically, the rules state that the device design must demonstrate a well-tested, cost-effective, and reliable prototype apparatus that would allow a quadriplegic to cast a fishing lure accurately, to retrieve the lure, to make additional casts without assistance, and to reel in and lift a heavier weight simulating a fish on at

least one cast. Furthermore, part of the contest score depends on a brief description of the device that is suitable for posting on the web. Group members that have worked on the description task include Weston Skye and Darin Bowe. The description should allow moderately skilled mechanic or technician to build the device.

This year's design team for UW Madison consist of, Amy Marconnet, Chris Dewall, Brett Grunwald, Tony Kriel, Jake Kruger, Andrew Scallon, Mat McEachern, Dusty Brunner, David Bateman, Dustin Breister, and team leader Darin Bowe. The design is built on top of a 0.3m x .4m metal plate. Sticking from the bottom of the plate includes a pipe and clamp that mounts the device to a 3/4" pipe sticking out of the ground. To get the

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The UW Design team in action at the 2006 Student Design Competition

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## Taking "The Plunge" for Special Olympics....Well, Almost...

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By Joe Farron  
*Outreach Chair*

Raring to go, ready to "take one for team", twelve of ASME's finest gathered on Saturday, February 18, at the residence of Dana Schwarz to gather their wits. These brave souls were preparing for an outrageously mind-numbing leap of faith-into the chilly waters of Lake Monona. The daring dozen were to participate in the Polar Plunge: an annual fundraiser in which participants raise pledges for a heroic dip in the ice-covered Madison lake to benefit the Special Olympics of Wisconsin.



Gathering to enjoy some snacks and a helping of "liquid courage" before the dive, the crew also organized in order to coordinate their efforts to compete for the crown of "Most Creative Plungewear" among Madison divers. Appropriately for such frigid foray, the costume theme for the ice-dippers was "Superheroes." From SuperJake to Captain Shart, this ASME assemblage would have Lex Luthor, the Joker, and Skeletor all shivering in their frost-fearing boots. But within three hours of submergence, the modern-day Super Team melted with news that the Polar Plunge had been cancelled. Unfortunately, paramedics had felt that

the combination of the -7°F air temperature and -22°F windchill posed too great of a health risk to those who wished to float with the icebergs.

All for not, you say? Not so! The aspiring arctic adventurers had raised \$555 in online pledges, along with \$145 in monetary pledges, to total \$700 in benefits for the Special Olympics! There was a little disappointment in the lack of lake-diving, but those creative ASME diehards would not take no for an answer. As an alternative, an icy slip-'n'-slide was formed in the snow in Dana's front yard, with leadership from the wily ASME alumnus Paul Nelson. While most of the group was satisfied by a dip into the slide-ending water pool, one made an even bolder statement. Upon visiting the intended



scene of the Siberian submersing to drop off cash pledges, ASME's own "Lone Ranger" took it upon himself to represent all deprived dunkers. With one hot tub still relatively warm for post-plunge recuperation, Dave Plautz broke through a thin sheet of ice covering the original plunge hole and completely submerged himself in the lake! After this awe-inspiring display, Dave's sprint to the hot tub was worthy of an Olympic gold!

When all was said and done, everyone involved benefited from ASME's semi-Polar Plunge. Special Olympics was treated to a well-deserved funds-booster, a fearless few still got their frigid fill, and the lucky cold-footed of the clan got to keep warm all day!

energy to cast the lure, the team uses a large electric motor that spins a heavy flywheel. Once the flywheel is up to the desired speed, the team uses a solenoid to engage the clutch to grab the spinning flywheel. Attached to the circular clutch is a shortened fishing rod that provides the casting motion to launch the lure. Other devices were in the machine perform other functions in the casting process. Another solenoid presses the release button on the reel to allow line out when the reel is in motion. The user has to press the switch, on the control box, a split second after the clutch is engaged to get the line to release at the proper time in the casting process. Lastly, a drill motor performs the retrieving of the line once the lure hits the target by cranking the reel in. The team spends many hours designing the device and many more building it. They especially devote a lot of time to finish the machine, sometimes at the expense of sleep and classes. Hopefully, the team can get the device completed and tested before for the event on March 4, 2006. Despite the long hours working the team has had a lot of fun building the device, and learning valuable metalworking, problem solving, and teamwork skills.

**Fishing, continued from 1**

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# All-Campus Leadership Conference

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By Tyler Gabert

**Chair** On Saturday, February 4th, four representatives of ASME attended the All-Campus Leadership Conference hosted by the SLC. The event, which was held in the Memorial Union, started off with a keynote speaker and went on to include two small-group break-out sessions where attendees focused on specific leadership topics.

The keynote speaker, Delatorro McNeal, was phenomenal. I've heard a number of keynote speeches in my day and this one topped my list. He was all about following your dream, but made it aware that your dream wasn't going to land in your lap. You had to "Identify what you want, put a price on the thing you want, and then pay that price." One minute I would be in awe over something he just said, and 30 seconds later I would be laughing hysterically over something else he did. If you ever get an opportunity to see Delatorro speak, do it!

The breakout sessions were geared more for a smaller crowd and

had the participants engaging in a lot of active learning. There were about twenty breakout sessions of which each person was able to attend two. Needless to say, there was something for everyone. In one session, which was based on effective communication, we engaged in a couple activities in which we had to communicate to each other in somewhat difficult ways. For instance, teams of two people were set back-to-back and one person was to tell the other how to draw a certain picture. Being that the drawer could not see the talker, it was difficult to interpret exactly what the talker was expressing. Also, since the talker could not see the drawer, he/she could not make adjustments to their directions along the way. These two problems that were encountered served as exaggerated examples of miscommunication that occurs in everyday life. By being able to see these problems at such an intense level, we were able to see how much of a problem they really were. Moreover, we were able to think about ways to avoid such problems. All in all, the sessions did a good job conveying material in an effective



manner while keeping things interesting.

The afternoon concluded with a couple closing remarks in the Memorial Union Theater and with some raffle prizes for the attendees. Overall, this was a great conference to attend, especially since we didn't have to do any traveling. The conference is an annual event so there will be another one next year and I highly suggest that you attend it.

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## Jake's Random Facts

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By Jake Keleny  
*Industrial Co-Chair*

- ◆ Catnip can affect lions and tigers as well as house cats. It excites them because it contains a chemical that resembles an excretion of the dominant female's urine.
- ◆ There are an average of 178 sesame seeds on a McDonald's Big Mac bun.
- ◆ The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds.
- ◆ Pound for pound, hamburgers cost more than new cars.



Officers of Spring 2006 enjoying a dinner on their officer retreat

# Engineering Week 2006

By Theran Frederick  
*Polygon Representative*

On a crisp Monday morning you rush to class, thermo questions grinding their way through your head. You plow through the doors of Engineering Hall expecting another boring lecture only to be greeted by your peers shoving their faces into pudding pies to liberate Gummy Worms. Thus is E-Week.

In case you don't know E-week or Engineering Week is a nation-wide celebration and competition amongst engineering students. On campus it's organized by Polygon, the engineer student council, but the events are run by student orgs for points in the contest. During the five day gala there are around twenty different events student orgs can compete in with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd receiving 3, 2, and 1 point respectively. In the end the org with the most points wins bragging rights for another year.

Events were varied and challenging, but always a blast, from a tug of war in the ECB lobby to seeing which organiza-

tion can eat the most Mickey Scramblers (omelets covered in gravy and cheese, delicious) in the week. Traditional events were continued like the Photo Scavenger Hunt, Find the Cheesehead, Kool-aid pong, Apple Juice Flip Cup, and, of course, a controversial game of E-Weekopoly. There were even a few new ones, like the Energy Games, a trivia tournament with scholarship money prizes, and the Orange roll, rolling an orange through an obstacle course using only another orange in pantyhose tied to one's belt.

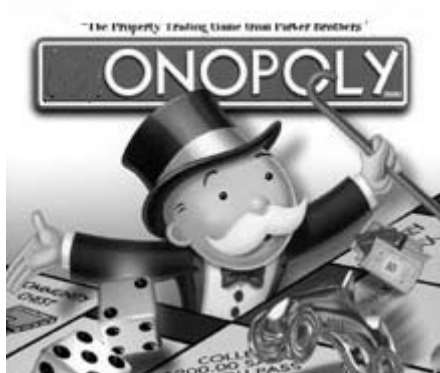
Though the stout and resolute members of ASME battled bravely there was a never before seen effort from a majority of organizations and we were only able to take 6th. Polygon carried the week with Theta Tau taking second and ANS achieving third. In the end whatever sting of defeat is forgotten next to the great times had. It was great to see so many people come out to compete and have fun. I can only hope this increased competitiveness continues in the future.

# Officer Retreat

'06  
**ASME** *Style*



## E-WEEK



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# The Future Revealed At The Chicago Auto Show

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By Josh Thornton  
ASME Member

I was stunned; either from the gleam of the lights, or from the magnificent body that was resting in front of me for anyone to witness. Wrestling with my camera, I snapped a photo, making absolutely sure not to move a millimeter and wind up with a blurry shot. A shout, "Hey, let's get our picture here!" lurched me back into reality: a crowded room filled with many more of these magnificent bodies, along with a buzz commonly generated by hundreds of people, all inspired and enthralled for the same reasons. I moved over to the one who had shouted, noting that he was part of the group I was with, and bent down lower so everyone could be in the picture. The camera flashed, capturing the Chicago Auto Show group from ASME in front of a 2007 Porsche Boxster.

ASME sent a group of 14 people to the 2006 Chicago Auto Show. Over 40 different automobile companies were represented, and the show encompassed two enormous rooms in the McCormick Center. A few concept cars were on display, such as the Honda Civic Si (planned to be released in Fall 2006) and the

Dodge Rampage, as well as a slew of new models, including the 2007 Dodge Caliber SRT4 and the 2007 Lincoln MKZ. Two other concept cars sparked a debate on the ride back: which car was more impressive, the Dodge Challenger or the new Chevrolet Camaro?

There was an obvious push this year at the Auto Show toward the idea of hybrid and fuel-efficient vehicles. Saab introduced the 2006 Saab 9-5 Aero Biopower Sporticombi Concept, which runs on E85, a mix of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. GM launched its "Live Green-Go Yellow" campaign, sporting the 2007 Chevrolet E85 Avalanche and the 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe Two-Mode Hybrid, as seen on commercials with Kermit the Frog singing "It's Not Easy Being Green."

The Chicago Auto Show was a huge success. Automobile companies had the chance to show off their ideas for their future car designs and fuel systems, as well as their redesigned models. When we were leaving, I snuck one last glance through an almost solid wall of people at the Maserati GranSport, and after wiping my mouth of drool, I cannot wait to go back next year.

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## Hot Wheels 2006

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*McCormick Center,  
Chicago*



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