

# 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*

## Career Connections Fall 2007

**By Katie Lehrer**

*Chair*

With almost 300 employers in attendance, the College of Engineering's 2007 Career Connection was the largest career fair in the university's history<sup>1</sup>. From September 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2,000 UW-Madison students took the opportunity to speak with some of the 288 employers present, some of whom had traveled from as far as Texas and California to scout the engineering talent at Wisconsin. In the end, 1,500 students were successful in landing interviews!

After Career Connection hours, student organizations and interested employers had an opportunity to come together at the Student Organization Fair. The purpose of the Student Organization Fair is to introduce employers to student organizations in which to further their recruiting efforts. The organizations benefit by finding possible speakers and sponsors for their general meetings, conferences, design competitions, etc.

The Career Connection is hosted together by the Engineering Career Services and the Polygon Engineering Council. Polygon enlists a workforce of Career Connections

volunteers from student organizations including ASME. Early that week, members of ASME volunteered their strength to set-up the booths on the basement, main, and mezzanine levels of the Engineering Centers Building. ASME volunteers could also be found all three days of Career Connection checking both employers and students into the event. The volunteer hours spent by ASME members are rewarded by Polygon in the out-of-meeting funding allotted to our organization. Out-of-meeting funding helps ASME pay for student conferences and design competitions, so thanks to all who volunteered!

*<sup>1</sup>Record-setting Career Connection builds relationships between students and employers", Knisely, Sandra, 2007*

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# Tailgates - ASME Outside The Office

By James Tracey  
Social Chair

This football season the weather has been hot, cold, and everything in between. Despite fighting off minor bouts of rain and potentially some snow for the Michigan game, a hearty group of ASME members and officers have been providing pre-game fun for everyone to enjoy. Before each game the members living at 618 Stockton Ct get up early to ensure a great game day. Activities include setting up pong tables, bean bags, and beverage areas, making hamburger patties, and of course, starting the grill for some early morning breakfast.

The festivities usually begin three to six hours before the game depending on when kick-off is. The tailgate starts out pretty mild as the first arrivals show up. A lot of pong and bean bags are played as everyone gears up for the large crowd on the horizon. When it gets to be within an hour of game time, not only is the party population up but so is the participation! The games get more intense with the higher amount of spectators, the grill is kicking off hotdogs and hamburgers by the dozens just trying to keep up with the demand, and the wait at the beverage areas is not much longer then it was earlier in the day. Thanks to a modern marvel of mechanical engineering known as the Ubertap no one goes long being thirsty at the ASME tailgate parties.

ASME is proud to announce the increase of participation of members attending the tailgate parties. The first game only drew a marginal amount of members but by the time the season rolled along ASME members were seen everywhere at the tailgates! Hats off to the members of 618 Stockton Ct and to all the tailgate attendees for being part of a fun-filled social atmosphere and making game days great.



*Some ASME pregame tailgaters*



## Professor Spotlight: Dr. Jay M. Samuel

By Darin Bowe  
Webmaster



**Who:** Dr. Jay M. Samuel -ASME advisor. Mechanical and Material Science and Engineering Senior Lecturer at UW-Madison since 1979

**Education:** Undergrad and PhD at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (St. Troy, NY)

**Campus Office:** 3150 Engineering Centers Building

**Class taught longest at UW-Madison:** MS&E 350

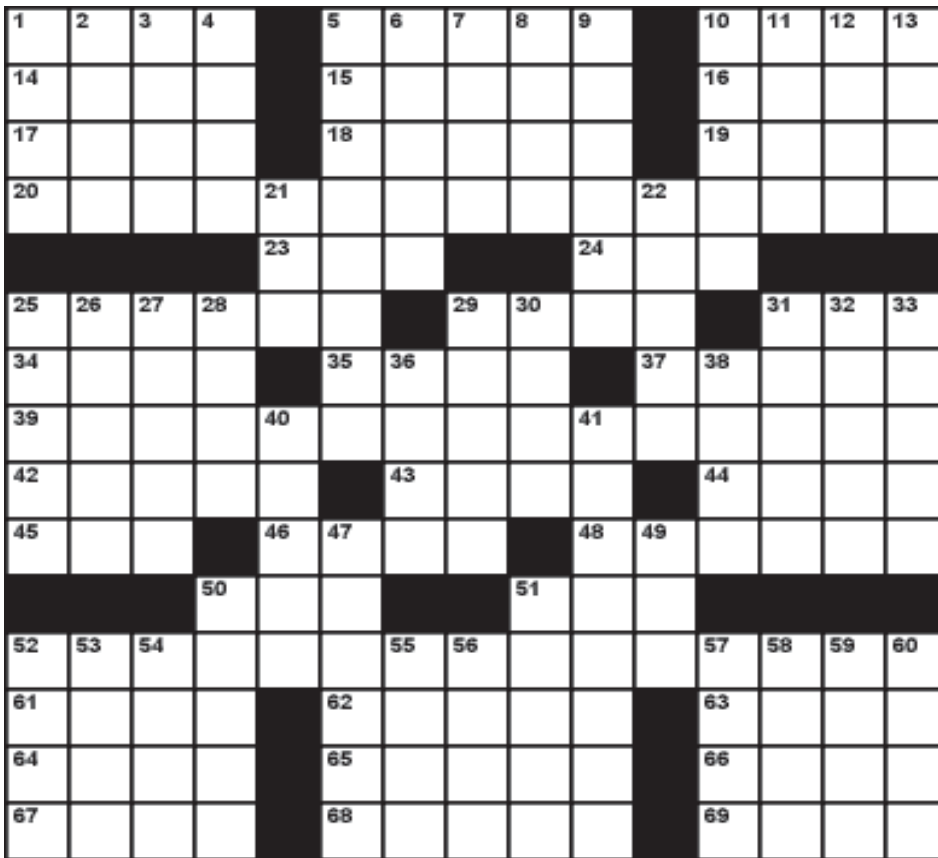
**Hobbies:** Racquetball, cooking, traveling, and sketching

**Favorite novel:** To Kill a Mocking Bird

**Future Plans:** Sees himself retiring in 5 years and moving to Arizona

**Advice to students:** Do not use solution manuals and get to know your instructors





**Across**

- 1. Dick's dog
- 5. Delineate
- 10. Store
- 14. VIP transport
- 15. Large bird
- 16. Unconscious state
- 17. \_\_\_ time (never)
- 18. Thomas Stearns \_\_\_
- 19. Candid
- 20. Hawaiian abduction
- 23. Global sports org.
- 24. Anger
- 25. Mend
- 29. Head light
- 31. Container
- 34. Organic compound
- 35. Nice summer month
- 37. Callow
- 39. Alabama homicide
- 42. Rendezvous
- 43. Daniel's music maker
- 44. Spock's distinguishing features
- 45. Drench
- 46. Sorrels
- 48. Reproductive cell
- 50. Mayo to mayo

- 62. Cherished
- 63. Olfactory sensation
- 64. Where the farmer is
- 65. Flat out
- 66. Sister and wife of Zeus
- 67. Put in a stake
- 68. Lets
- 69. Shish kebab option

**Down**

- 1. Chopped cabbage
- 2. Gyro
- 3. Present opener
- 4. Claimed
- 5. Islamic bible
- 6. Keepsake
- 7. Dry
- 8. Rocky was one
- 9. Require
- 10. Hunter's aid
- 11. Native of Arizona
- 12. Sign
- 13. Twinge
- 21. Davis Love letters

- 22. Tine
- 25. Musical notations
- 26. Chilly time in Chihuahua
- 27. Coral, e.g.
- 28. Handout
- 29. Polynesian rain dances
- 30. Rose oil
- 31. Curriculum \_\_\_
- 32. Head off
- 33. Laconic
- 36. Author Davidson ("The Best Of Enemies")
- 38. Attention getter
- 40. Expiate
- 41. Programmer's offerings
- 47. Arrest
- 49. Part of a circle
- 50. Confuse
- 51. Throw out
- 52. Nothing in Navarone
- 53. Tied
- 54. Sag
- 55. Bob
- 56. Famous dog watcher, Pavlov
- 57. Former chancellor of Germany
- 58. Thought
- 59. Standard
- 60. Kind od bag



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# 5 Tips For a Successful Interview

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A Taste of Ridiculousness

By **Jake Krueger**  
*Historian*

I'm sure many of you have been, are, or will be interviewing for an internship, co-op, or professional job this fall. Interviews can be scary, especially when you realize that you are an engineering and not a communications major, or if the person interviewing you smells like cabbage and cigarettes. Regardless, I'm about to reveal to you my secret tips on how to have a successful interview every single time. Why should you trust my tips? Well, this fall, I've amassed 459 interviews of which 358 have resulted in job offers with a starting salary sum of \$638 million. Now listen up and you'll be making the big bucks in no time:

**Confidence** – It's a known fact that you should be confident in an interview, but people fail to reach "the next level" of confidence. The very first words out of your mouth when you enter the interview room should be, "When do I start?". This will show them you mean business. Also, repeatedly tell the person that is interviewing you that you will be their boss in no more than six months and tell them you command respect RIGHT NOW! After that, tell them to go get you a coffee. And a cookie.

**Dress Code** – I find it's also important to set ground rules for the dress code at work. Once you've established dominance over your interviewer, ask about the work dress code.

Make sure to get a clear answer on what kind of pants can be worn to work, and if pants are, in fact, even required at work. Tell them you are allergic to pants, particularly on Wednesday's and Friday's, and they cannot discriminate against that.

**Work Time** – Next, find out what times you are expected to be at work. Regardless of the answer, tell them that because you tend to stay out partying until 4 A.M. most days, you will be showing up sometime between 10 and noon. Also, tell them that you will likely be hung over, and your productivity dwindles to zero after 4 PM, so that's when you will be leaving.

**Salary** – At this point, the interview should be going very well, and since you have them in a good mood it's time to talk money. Two words: six figures. Accept nothing less. In fact, tell them you demand 51% of company ownership. And if you think about it, you deserve it. You might as well own the company which you will be calling all the shots for. You are likely done with your coffee and cookie at this point, so instruct the interviewer to make you a sandwich, pronto. No pickles. And a couple more cookies, they were delicious.

**End of Interview** – The final impression can sometimes be more important than the first. Since you came into the interview with so much confidence, it will be hard to out do yourself, but you must. I recommend giving the interviewer a long hug, followed by a kiss on both cheeks, and if you sense they are "feeling it" go in for the mouth. No tongue, that's just inappropriate. Maybe even throw in a little variation like a secret hand shake you expect them to know. I usually end with the "pound it and explode". All business all the time.

Well, now you've landed yourself a job. You pretty much can completely stop doing all school related things after you sign that offer. Actually, when you sign an offer you automatically get a diploma. And you're welcome for the tips. My going rate is infinity billion dollars. Checks can be made out to Jake Krueger and placed in the ASME mailbox.

*As Editor of this newsletter, I suggest everyone simply enjoy the humor in this article and that not a single one of you actually listen to the advice.*



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# Fall Meetings

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**By Sam Schwaller**  
*Membership Chair*

The fall semester of 2007 started off with a kick-off meeting hosted by Lyondell Chemical Company. Lyondell was nice enough to pay for some Famous Dave's for all those in attendance. There was a lot of ASME business to take care of at this meeting. With all of the different committees getting started, there were a lot of areas for people to get involved. Our Polygon Representative, Tim Stevens, got everything started with some talk about Homecoming. Then our Outreach Chair, Rebecca Hager, took over and discussed all the different outreach opportunities for the first few months of the semester including: Huffin' for Habitat, Habitat for Humanity, and the Haunted house at Vilas Zoo. Our Chair, Katie Lehrer, then brought up the Fall Student Leadership Seminar, which we just recently hosted on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Then Sam Schwaller, the Academic Chair, discussed how to go online and register with ASME International to become an official ASME member.

The Undergrad Representative position, one of the best ways for freshman and sophomores to get immediately involved, was also discussed. At the spring conference every year, there is a design contest in which all the schools in our district are involved in designing some sort of contraption to improve the way that something is done.

This year the task is to design a robotic window washing machine and our Contest Chair, Mike Behling, is looking for anyone who is able to help out as much as they can. Then, Aaron Klemm from Human Powered Vehicle Competition (HPVC), a subset of ASME, talked a little about their project and got us interested in getting involved with them as well. After we finished all of our business Aaron Miner from Lyondell talked for a little while about what Lyondell was all about and gave us some great tips on how to interview for different types of jobs and different types of positions within Lyondell and also gave us some tips we can use with any company we interview with.

During the second general meeting of the semester, we had a little less of our own business to talk about, and a lot of what we talked about was elaborating on what we talked about the first meeting along with notifying people of the progress we are making. Tim set up the Homecoming schedule, Rebecca gave some times to get involved with Koats for Kids and the Science Olympiad. We talked some more about the Student Leadership Conference we hosted this fall and about the fall National Conference in Seattle this November. Mike set up a schedule to get involved and started on the design contest for the spring. We began to figure out what we wanted as a design for our t-shirts this year. Steve Schroeder and Ty Bode from General Electric then finished the meeting by speaking to us about resume writing.



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## Did You Know?

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**By Drew Satre**  
*Publicity Chair*

-American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first class.

-People spend about two weeks of their lives at traffic lights.

-Armadillos are able to contract leprosy.

-The ant, when intoxicated, will always fall over to its right side.

-Fewer than half of the 16,200 major league baseball players have hit homeruns.

-Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

# Fireside Fun at the ASME Officer Retreat

By **Matson Contardo**  
Vice Chair

Who can juggle glass bottles the longest? Or maybe someone can beat Nicky Zabel at reciting the alphabet *backwards*? These questions – and more – were answered at this fall’s ASME Officer Retreat.

For this semester’s officer retreat, 17 ASME officers found themselves driving north to a remote campsite just outside of Winneconne, Wisconsin. Upon arrival, camp was immediately set up late Friday evening, driven by hunger and, more importantly, the fear of getting caught in the dark with no tents.

Camp was a vast field tucked away among some farmland, a house with a rampant dog and an algae-filled pond. It had all the characteristics of a desired campsite such as a bonfire pit, log seats, an outhouse, no electricity and of course, no running water. Perfect.

Coming into town, the Fin-n-Feather Supper Club made room to seat the lively group of hungry, out-of-town college students. This home-style restaurant, located on the Wolf River, downtown Winneconne, served hearty meals and an all-you-can-eat buffet of fresh fish, pasta salads, frog legs, and much more, with a view overlooking the river and a docked riverboat.

Whether it was attempting to eat every type of salad (including the Jello kind), or the frequent, awkward – yet curious – stares the group received from the locals, or if it was just Sherry, the cashier, along with the other friendly wait-staff who laughed with the students’ jokes, the dining experience was the first of many memorable events.

Back at camp, the officers lit up a bonfire and prepared for the evenings many activities.

The night was a mix of business and pleasure, both of which were crucial aspects to the growth of this officer group. An icebreaker started the night’s activities, challenging one another to match and contend with unique talents that no one would have imagined these officers possessed. So, who *could* juggle glass bottles the longest? Alex Neuworth. Nicky Zabel at speaking the alphabet backwards? No one.

*Continued on next page.*

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4		6		2	7		3	
	8		9	1		6		4
		9	2	8	5			
	5	4						
8			4					

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# Officer Retreat Continued

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Another highlight of the evening was the social activity: a relay above all relays – the returning officers versus the new. Officers were wheel-barrowing through the grass, sidestepping face-to-face with their partner, and spinning themselves dizzy, all for the sake of the team. In the end, the NEW officers reigned victorious for the evening.

To calm things down a bit, Katie Lehrer, ASME Chair, gathered the group around to *kick back with Katie*, a tradition of thought-intensive questions passed on among chairs, meant to let the fellow officers get to know each other in a new light. Around the campfire, responses were thoughtful, funny, somber, yet all were insightful. For the rest of what remained of Friday, the mood around the campfire lingered pleasantly among friends.

Morning broke to a series of turkey calls by nearby hunters. As officers emerged from their tents, they were greeted with day-old bagels, cream cheese, and juice. Tired faces gathered around the smoldering fire pit once again in preparation for the morning discussion and leadership talks. Even with as little or as uncomfortable sleep as everyone got the night before, all seemed attentive and eager to participate in the morning discussion, giving their input of the upcoming conference, committees, leadership experiences, and goals for the semester.



*Alex taking on one of the many challenges of the night*



*The Campsite in Winnecone*



*Some officers enjoying the campfire*



As the discussion wrapped up, so did the tents. The group was packed and in their cars as quickly as they had arrived. As they made down the road back to Badgerland, many shared similar thoughts of yet another successful ASME Officer Retreat, only possible because of great officers. Winneconne: get ready for Part II.

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