



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 Spring 2008

By Katie Lehrer

Chair

Thanks to the determination of employers, the Spring 2008 Career Connection was a success! Despite record-breaking snowfall and horrible parking situations, around 150 of the scheduled 184 employers were able to attend the UW-Madison's College of Engineering career fair. Students who ventured over to Engineering Centers Building February 6th and 7th seeking an internship, co-op, or full-time career opportunity had the chance to speak with the employers who had traveled from all over the country to scout the engineering talent at Wisconsin.

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.

Thanks in part to industry representatives contacted during Career Connections and the Student Organization Fair, ASME has been able to book speakers for the remainder of the Spring semester, and into Fall semester of next academic year! ASME's student design competition, Winrobo, was able to secure funding as well!

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. 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 both 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!

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Being the ASME Undergrad Representative

By Nick Edwards
Undergrad Rep

At the end of spring semester last year I was not sure what I wanted my role in ASME to be. I had been to a few meetings and was thinking about getting more involved, but I was not sure if I wanted to put in the time that many of the officer positions require. I didn't end up running for any positions last spring, but when the first general meeting this fall rolled around I was starting to regret my decision. At the first meeting, the Vice Chair of ASME, Matson Contardo, was handing out applications for Undergraduate Representative and I decided to apply. After about a week I found out that I had been chosen to be the Sophomore Undergraduate Representative.

My responsibilities as an Undergraduate Representative are not excessive. One of the things that I do is to make members of my classes aware of ASME meeting times and events by speaking before class or writing on the chalkboards. However, my greatest responsibility is simply to get to know the other officers and help out where I can with events they are planning. Some of the things that I have been a part of over the last two semesters are: homecoming events, Girl Scout Badge Day, High School Day on Campus, Polar Plunge, the spring ASME officer retreat and the student design competition. I want to be a more involved member of ASME.

I am also currently planning an ASME poker tournament and membership social with membership chair Devin West that will be held in April. Participating in all of these activities has allowed me to meet many new people, get to know the other officers much better, and reinforce my feeling that I

Being an Undergraduate Representative for the past two semesters has been a great experience for me. Making connections with all of the officers and other general members has allowed me to greatly increase my network of contacts and friends within the engineering community and being a part of the business meetings and event planning processes has given me good insight into what it is like to hold one of the other officer positions. So if you are thinking about becoming more involved with ASME, but you are not sure if you can handle the workload of the other officer positions, by all means consider becoming an Undergraduate Representative for the 2008-2009 school year.

ASME Student Design Contest 2008: Update

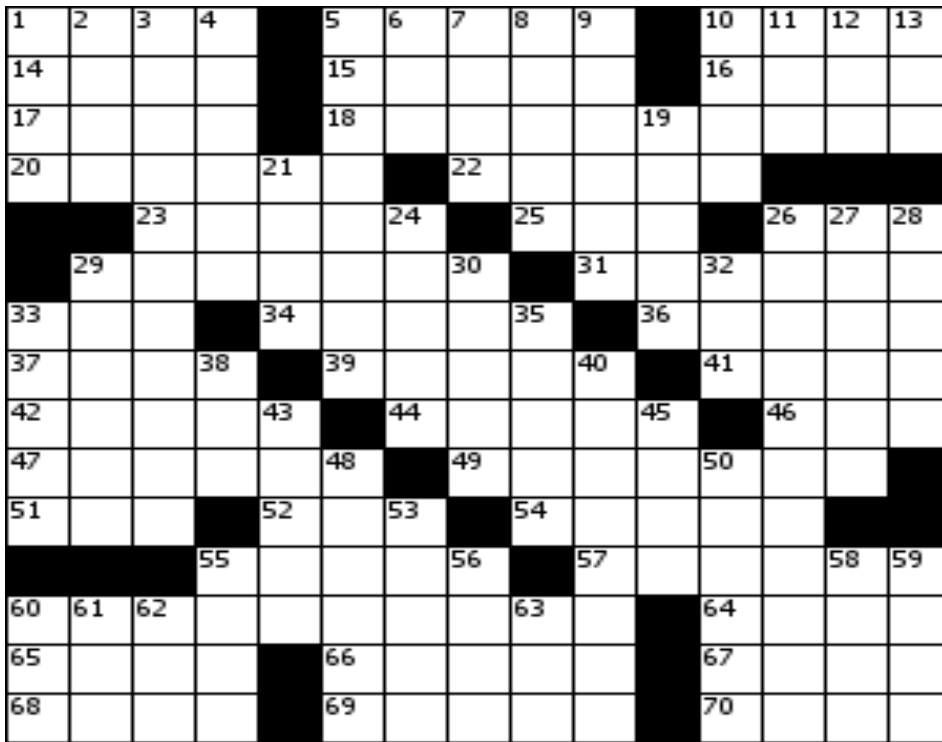
By Micheal Behling
Contests Chair

This year, ASME has given its members a chance to compete in real, hands-on, engineering events. We hosted a regional conference in the fall that gave members a chance to participate in an impromptu design contest with students from other campuses, we have hosted multiple design contests at our general meetings, and we are competing in ASME International's Student Design Contest.

We are building a window-washing robot this year for the contest. It has been a learning experience for everyone involved and we are all getting very excited for the competition coming up at the end of March. It is being held at the University of Missouri - Columbia, and many of our team members, and general members, plan on heading down to support the team.

If you would like to learn more, feel free to stop by one of our general meetings or check out the ASME website.





- 10. Touches affectionately
- 11. Exotic farmbird
- 12. Blood relative, briefly
- 13. Poetic form
- 19. Poet's
- 21. Marketing start
- 24. Fish hawks' cousins
- 26. A space case?
- 27. "Jagged Little Pill" singer
Morissette
- 28. Egyptian gateway
- 29. Lake Assal is its lowest point
- 30. First light
- 32. Daiquiri liquor
- 33. Fresh milk container?
- 35. Dostoevsky novel (with "The")
- 38. Dossier info
- 40. Wounded
- 43. Wiggle a carrot in front of
- 45. Luminary
- 48. Frappe relative
- 50. Rubbed out
- 53. ___-walsy
- 55. Wallet residents, perhaps
- 56. Boater and sailor
- 58. Moisturizer ingredient, perhaps
- 59. Copious amount
- 60. Former amateur
- 61. Gear for a galley
- 62. Suffix with social
- 63. Classic start

Across

- 1. Takes into a count?
- 5. Do a double-take, e.g.
- 10. Monterrey money
- 14. Father
- 15. Diamond flaw?
- 16. In the thick of
- 17. Novelist Haley
- 18. Transistor predecessor
- 20. Nebraska river
- 22. Surreptitious types
- 23. Farm equipment pioneer
- 25. S.C. time
- 26. Laser gun sound effect
- 29. Buck's pride
- 33. Amateur video subject, maybe
- 34. Listlessness
- 36. Pastoral
- 37. Trample
- 39. Serves beer after beer
- 41. Like old records
- 42. Finger or toe
- 44. Bathing, body and birthday
- 46. Declaration that ends a certain game
- 47. Imitates

- 49. Redcaps
- 51. Turn state's evidence
- 52. Head of thick, stringy hair
- 54. Pageant headgear
- 55. "The Color Purple" star
- 57. Ascot relative
- 60. Impossible to miss
- 64. Fodder structure
- 65. Word with birth or interest
- 66. First name in beauty products
- 67. School near Slough
- 68. Mine finds
- 69. Miss Jane Pittman portrayer
- 70. They provide highlights

Down

- 1. Order request, perhaps
- 2. Pickle flavoring
- 3. Type of battleship
- 4. Duet times three
- 5. Deeply respectful
- 6. Slice of history
- 7. Pendulum paths
- 8. Stylish auto
- 9. Platitude



Freezin' for a Reason: Polar Plunge '08

ASME Website: New Look, New Features

By **Dustin Gabert**
Industrial Relations

This February 16th, ASME had 10 people go to Olin Turville Park and jump in the lake. Some call it crazy, some call it stupid, but for the 10 ASME members that plunged that day; they call it fun! The jumpers participated in the 2008 Polar Plunge, with all proceeds and earned pledges benefiting the Special Olympics. Team "ASME" raised a grand total of \$1414.51 this year and was part of the \$1.1 million dollars raised state-wide for the event.

As tradition must not be broken, the plungers took part in a small social activity before the main event. This gives everyone a chance to relax, get the juices flowing, and for some people it meant squeezing into those Halloween costumes that we had freshman year.

Being at Olin Turville Park the day of "The Plunge" is an event in itself. The amount of people there during the peak hours is quite a sight to see. People are everywhere, whether they be plungers, innocent bystanders, TV and radio crews, or your occasional worried parent. The majority of the plungers have some sort of costume to plunge in, and in some cases a lack of a costume (men in thongs and Speedos...gross). Nonetheless all the daredevil swimmers are excited to dive into the lake.

One of the best parts is looking back at the photos to see everyone's jumping technique. Many go with the traditional pencil dive or cannon ball but there are those that go above and beyond the call of duty. Everyone knows that someone is taking pictures of them in midair, so why not try to look your best...or worst for that matter.

Front flips and back flips became popular, and the event coordinators didn't care that we were flipping off of the ice because we all signed the safety waivers saying that we are responsible for our own actions! Then there are those people who think they won the judges over with their belly flops, but they didn't fool me. Normally your properly executed belly flop hurts, it actually hurts a lot, but these sub-zero floppers couldn't even feel the pain because the water is so cold.

Looking back on yet another successful ASME plunge experience, all we can do is wait until next year...because next year is going to be unique...you won't want to miss it!



Both ASME groups mid-plunge



By **Jessica Nayas**
Webmaster

Log on at the CAE computer labs, and you expect to see a lovely screen with a COE-related announcement, but hopefully NOT the one with the kids covered in spaghetti sauce. Log in at your personal computer, and you should see, Tah-Dah! The newly redesigned ASME website!! (Now that you've all added it to your favorites list, that is). That's right my fellow asme-ites, while the old website had its glory days, it had not been given all the attention it deserved through the course of its existence, and so it was re-done to better suit your needs.

First and foremost, the homepage lists every thing that's going on that week in ASME! No more downloading a spreadsheet that may or may not be up to date, or sorting through the posters around EHall to find out what's for dinner every other Tuesday. Also, there used to be forms (Alumni and a Q&A Forum) that didn't work. Now those forms are working, and forwarding to the officers who will make the changes you submit! On the old site, certain committee pages didn't have very much information, but your dedicated webmaster has been getting on the officers' cases about getting her updates.

Remember the old photo gallery and list of ASME alumni? Yeah, they were a little outdated... ASME has taken advantage of Google's hosting to provide a much more professional looking Photo Gallery, an always-up-to-date Calendar, and even a better Alumni list!

In addition to the public side of the website looking good, I'm committed to creating good transition information to make life easy in the future for any member who has aspirations to be the next Webmaster.

Log on today, but go that extra step: set the ASME homepage as YOUR homepage. You know you want to. Well, at least make it a favorite!

High School Day on Campus

By James Tracey
Outreach Chair

Friday, February 15th proved to be a promising day for high school students excited about the college career that lay before them. Going to college is a large step in a young person's life and one that is full of unknowns. With that in mind, ASME was proud to once again host a High School Day on Campus where incoming college students visited and experienced what life on the UW-Madison's engineering campus is all about.

Students coming from school's all over the southern portion of the state attended this springs HSDOC, including many from DSHA, an all female campus from Milwaukee. All the students were either juniors or seniors in high school considering engineering for their future. ASME was proud to have such a diverse mix of students so interested in engineering at the UW.

In order to harness the enthusiasm of incoming college students ASME planned an exciting, yet informational day. It all started off with a welcoming speech by the Dean of Pre-Engineering, Don Woolston, followed by a short presentation about ASME. From there, it was time to get everyone up and moving. We split everyone into teams and had a design contest. Balloon Stacking was the competition. The winners built the biggest, baddest, tower of them all, taking home ASME shirts as their prize. After a morning of learning about engineering it was time for the students to see more of the campus.

From there, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Tim Shedd, delivered an exciting presentation to the students, furthering their understanding of the possibilities in

It was time for tours. ASME really wanted to show off some of the neat aspects that being a student at the UW entails. The tours consisted of an hour long trek exploring Camp Randall in all its glory, a half hour personalized tour of the Auto Shop, and another half hour seeing the wonders of the Traffic Lab. These tours were highly entertaining and a hit amongst the students, many saying it was the highlight of their day.

After everyone commenced to get some Ian's pizza for lunch and another round of tours, the group found itself, once again, assembled in Tong Auditorium. There they found nine members of ASME waiting for them. The goal of the ASME members was to help the students by answering any question. So we split everyone up into small groups of four or five and dispersed them around ECB with a college student. There they had an opportunity to hear the story of a college student, from a college student, and also ask any questions they still had. After all that, everyone met back in Tong so we could thank them for coming.

ASME dismissed an excellent crowd from this year's HSDOC. They were as excited to be here as we were to have them. The day was fun-filled and exciting for the students, and they even learned a little bit about what it means to be an engineer and a Badger.



Did You Know?

By Drew Satre
Publicity Chair

- Every human spent about half an hour as a single cell.
- The Baby Ruth candy bar was actually named after Grover Cleveland's baby daughter, Ruth.
- The word "nerd" was first coined by Dr. Seuss in "If I Ran the Zoo."
- If you had enough water to fill one million gold fish bowls, you could fill an entire stadium.
- When snakes are born with 2 heads, they fight each other for food.
- Elephants are the only mammals that can't jump.

Deep in the Dells: ASME Officer Retreat

By Matson Contardo
Vice Chair

For this semester's biannual ASME officer retreat, our 17 officers spent a chilly January weekend in a cozy cabin set in scenic Wisconsin Dells country. Like every retreat, our overnight was spent in close quarters, sharing and learning about ourselves as individuals and as a dependable officer core. Each member has an integral part to bring to the table; this was a time that we developed that aspect of each officer. The weekend's activities ran the gambit—from deep conversations and discussions to deep-snow football.

When we reached the cabin just southeast of downtown Wisconsin Dells, we quickly unpacked, put on whatever winter gear we had, and

Dustin and Chapin lead us outside to play a cold, exhausting, but unbelievably fun game of snow football! The snow was deep, yet forgiving after a hard tackle from someone like Dan. After working up an appetite, we headed inside the cabin to warm up. While we were thawing, Devin and Sam lead a hilarious icebreaker game of nonsensical stories as we all blindly contributed our piece of the story.

Before we left for dinner, Katie and I spent some time going over ways to improve the ASME meetings. The ideas and input that each officer brought up helped refocus our business meetings and gather further interest of our members at the general meetings.

Dinner was served at Side-tracked Bar and Char-grill. This quiet biker-bar was filled with locals, but the owners quickly and graciously accommodated to our large and hungry group of 20-somethings. The food was delicious and the atmosphere perfectly matched our Dells experience.

We returned and regrouped in the cabin living room, gathering chairs and coffee tables to circle around Katie who lead the officers in an active and effective brainstorming session. It was clearly evident that each officer had something they wanted to contribute to maintain and continue increasing our membership numbers.

Then the fun really got started, beginning with Bite the Bag. Bite the Bag is a continued ASME tradition; this retreat was no different. As some officers stretched, others pondered the strategy of the game. Each person has to bite a brown paper grocery bag without using their hands, only touching the floor with their feet while keeping both legs straight. After each round, the bag is ripped to a smaller and smaller height. The results are astonishing. If memory serves, we had a three-way tie. Dustin, Alli, and Dan were able to pick up a single piece of paper that was laid flat on the floor. Incredible.



Continued on next page.

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

Officer Retreat Continued

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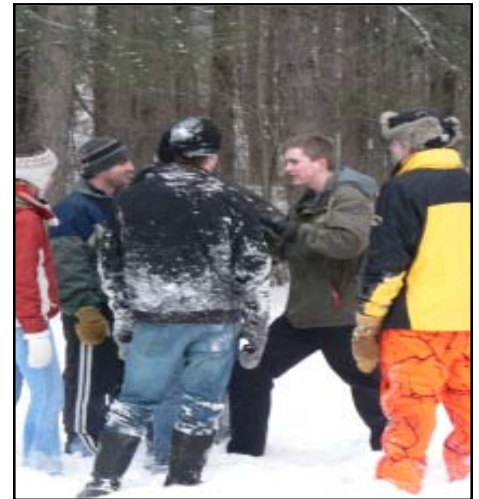
Dave kicked off the social events that evening with a great relay that got everyone involved and having a great time! The rest of the evening was time for officers to get to know each other and enjoy the warmth in the cabin while the cold stirred outside. As the night progressed, Katie took time to gather everyone around and slowed things down with *Kickin' Back with Katie*. This is another tradition in ASME where the Chair takes time to ask the other officers, seated in a large circle, question which spark insight and thoughtful answers from everyone.

The next morning, Colin and Adam woke up early to prepare pancakes and eggs for the entire group. Having a full kitchen at their disposal, the chefs flipped and cracked all morning. Breakfast was a hit and was enjoyed by everyone. Soon after, we packed our bags, cleaned up the cabin and headed out the door.

The cabin in the Dells was a perfect location for our retreat. The location was remote, quiet and accommodating for everything we needed. Looking forward to next fall, a new group of ASME officers will take the reins and continue the retreat traditions, even starting some new ones along the way.



A competitive game of bight the bag



In the huddle during snow football



Going for the endzone



An icebreaker in progress



At the line ready for the play



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