

A Note from the Chair

Welcome to the first issue of the UW-ASME's monthly newsletter. For the past several years, our section has grown increasingly larger, stronger, and more organized. This has happened through the hard work and dedication of many of our classmates. Both our student section and our department are ranked among the best in the country. Because there are so many exciting things happening on this campus we feel it is now time to come to you. We want to provide a forum for you to keep up with all the happenings in UW-ASME and the ME department. *The Lobby* is our answer.

FALL RECAP

The fall of 1996 was a smashing success for UW-ASME. Our membership grew as well as our activities. Here are just a few examples:

COPY MACHINE COMES TO THE LOBBY

In the past, ME students have worn a trail between the lobby and Wendt library in order to make copies. Study groups working late would be forced to send one lonely student into the night to find a copier... Some never came back.

However thanks to the initiative and work of students like Dustin Kaap and Kumar Jayanth, and the generosity of the ME department head, Professor Ken Ragland, life is easier. Working with Pi Tau Sigma and the department administration, UW-ASME brought the photocopier to the ME lobby. Installed early last September, the copier has already become an essential part of life making over 16,000 copies to date.

THE OTHER SIDE OF A FIELD TRIP...

On December 3, the section held its seventh semesterly High School Day on Campus. This is an outreach program which has been established to introduce high school juniors and seniors to mechanical engineering. This fall twenty-three students from three schools attended.

The Day on Campus has now become an all-day event. The students listened to talks from the Associate Dean of Engineering, Michael Corradini, the Assistant Dean of Engineering, Don Woolston, and the Assistant Director of Engineering Career Services, Julie Johns. The students also attended tutorials on the Netscape Web Browser and AutoCad. In addition, the students toured the engineering campus to see facilities such as the Formula and Baja vehicles, the nuclear reactor, the polymers lab, and the automated manufacturing lab. At lunch, several section members came to talk with the students about engineering and college life.

After lunch came the highlight of the day: the Design Competition. Students were asked to design a protector to keep an egg from breaking when dropped. The only materials made available were tape, paper, and toothpicks which were given cost values. The

winners were determined by the strongest design as well as the most economic design which met given criteria.

The next Day on Campus is scheduled for Monday, April 7th. Anyone interested in helping should contact the Outreach Chair, Heather Whitman at asme@caelab1.cae.wisc.edu or 262-2973.

PLANT TRIPS

Last fall UWASME sponsored two plant trips. Thirty five people went to the Trek plant in Waterloo in connection with RSLs (see page 3). Also UW-ASME and SWE sponsored a joint trip to Nicolet Instruments here in Madison. This spring there are plans for plant trips to Motorola, John Deere - Horicon, Ford Motor Company, and possibly Harley Davidson..

BI-WEEKLY MEETINGS

UWASME holds section meetings every other Tuesday in which members are updated on section news and upcoming events, and have the opportunity to listen to presentations from faculty and industry. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 6:00 159 ME.