

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

UW Sends a Record-Breaking 35 Members to the RSC in Kentucky

Elizabeth Zimmer
Conference Chair

Every year one school in our region of ASME is chosen to host the Regional Student Conference. This past March RSC was held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. The UW-Madison section of ASME is always known for having quite a large presence at conferences, but this year due to the huge demand, we took a record-breaking 35 students with us, including 2 ASME alumni.

About two-thirds of us departed campus Thursday evening and headed to Chicago for a small detour. There we met up with ASME alumni and headed out on the town for dinner and fun. Around bar time we jumped back into our mini-vans and continued on our trek to Kentucky. A few unexpected stops made for an interesting ride and taught us how multi-functional air freshener can be. Nonetheless, after driving through the night we rolled into the Holiday Inn Lexington North by mid-morning. While some toured the local Toyota Plant, others had a little time to check out the hotel pool, take some much-needed naps, and find lunch.

By afternoon, scheduled RSC events began, the first of which involved a visit to the Kentucky Horse Park. We got to go on a hayride through the rolling hills of the countryside, and walk through their museum of horses and horse racing. Before dinner we had some time to kill, so the idea to stage our own ASME race was an obvious decision. Jansen, Nimmer, TJ,



Kory, and Chandler lined up at the starting line and the rest of us picked our pony. Unfortunately, the excitement of a typical horse race was not present. We changed our bets from who would win to who would make it all the way around the track. Thankfully the dinner bell rang and we headed inside to enjoy a Kentucky barbeque. After dinner a local line-dancing group entertained us with their synchronized moves, then invited us to join in and learn a few dances. Our evening ended with a trip back to the hotel and a social by the pool.

Saturday morning presented us with various competitions and seminars to attend. Many of us watched the Oral

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Upcoming Events

As the semester winds to a close, the events calendar still is as full as ever...so help ASME remain the #1 Student Section in the Region.

Scheduled Events

- April 15 ASME Officer Elections
- April 16-17 Relay For Life
- April 17 ESTEAM
- April 20 Family Science Night I
- April 24-24 Basketball Tourney
- April 27 Family Science Night II
- May 6 Spring Harbor Middle School Science Night
- May 6 Spring Harbor
- May 9-15 Finals Week

...and...

May 16 *Graduation*
(not that we're Counting)

**Come and Join Us For
All the ASME FUN!**



The University of WI-Madison ASME Student Chapter took home several awards from the Kentucky RSC Conference. These included Dusty Brunner's Charles T. Main Award, Mike Casper's 1st Place in the Oral Guard Competition, UW winning Mileage Award and the UW Madison Student Chapter claiming the Ingersoll-Rand Award.

Mad-town Takes Over KY

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Guard competition where our own Mike Casper gave a technical presentation on his Ice Light invention. After lunch, the design competition began. One of our three design teams was able to enter their robot in this competition, but unfortunately it did not perform as well as expected. Later in the afternoon, a tour of the University of Kentucky engineering campus kept us occupied. Finally, the closing dinner and awards ceremony took place. UW-Madison ASME represented well in the awards ceremony. Mike Casper donned his authentic Kentucky cowboy hat as he accepted his first place award for the oral competition. Dusty Brunner was awarded the Charles T. Main award for being so incredibly involved in ASME. I had the honor of accepting our sections awards for participation and mileage because we brought so many people from such a long distance. Our section also won the Ingersoll-Rand award for being the most active section in our region. With all this excitement it was clearly time to celebrate!

By Saturday evening, some of us wanted to check out the Lexington nightlife, so we headed out to some local bars. The Cadillac Ranch had a live band and a huge dance floor where we could show off our dance moves learned the night before. I can't say we blended in with the locals, but we had a good time regardless. The only disappointment was that the mechanical bull was not working that evening. So after a while, we rounded up the crew and headed to the Two Keys, another bar downtown. Around this time things get a little fuzzy for this author, so I'll just say we had some fun.

Sunday morning presented us with the task of driving all the way back to Madison. It was sad to depart, but school life was awaiting us back on campus. Before we could leave, a few more of us decided it was absolutely necessary to buy cowboy hats, and had a good time wearing them for the eight-hour ride home. We finally arrived home to a rainy, cold Wisconsin and tried to recover from our long weekend.

I would like to thank all 35 people who attended RSC 2004 and everyone who helped me plan a successful trip. I can't wait for next year's installment!

AUTO SHOW / OMNI SHOW

A Great Engineering Combination

John Miles
Regional Liaison

Bentleys, Ferraris, Helicopters, need I say more. On February 7th, 2004, 45 ASME along with Pi Tau Sigma members took a trip down to the Annual Chicago Auto Show at the Beautiful McCormick Center on the lakefront in Chicago, IL. The day was later capped off by an OMNI showing of "Helicopters: Above and Beyond" at the Museum of Science and History OMNI theatre.

I have to admit, this was a fun trip. Now, I'm not saying that because I helped plan it, I'm saying that cause I saw some of the nicest pieces of engineering excellence in my life. Yes, being a mechanical engineering student I like cars, engines, etc., and I like watching the Speed Channel and seeing all of the nice cars I know I will never in a lifetime be able to afford. Little did I know that that day I'd be standing right next to a 2004 Rolls Royce Phantom. Let me tell you, this car is the size of my best friends' pontoon, but my god, was it impressive. Hand made, 453 hp, and not to mention a

V12. Did I also say it has a base price of \$320,000. Not too much for P. Diddy, but me...I don't think so.

The next little vehicle I tended to run into was the 2004 Mazda RX-8 MT. The 6-speed, Twin Rotor engine was a work of art. Although you could probably see one at a normal retailer, it was nice that it was right there in front of me so I could get into it. Who has time nowadays to go test-drive them anyway, we got school! They had the engine in a case so we could see the rotary magic at work.

My next little venture brought me to the Acura NSX. This car was probably one of the most popular one at the show. It had it's own little pedestal display and it was very hard to take a picture because of it's popularity. The second you get a chance; you have the back of somebody's head in your way. The 300 hp, 6-speed VTEC engine was very impressive. The car goes for \$89,000 but is definitely worth that as well as the money you'll be paying the police for all the tickets once you get it. Maybe when I invent a new form of water, I'll get one.

After walking around and seeing many different types of cars, I ventured

Little did I know that that I would be standing right next to a 2004 Rolls Royce Phantom.



ASME Members, Danny Do and Lonny Peet Enjoy a Little Car Action at the Auto Show.

to check out the Bentley display. They had 3 of their engineering marvels there. The one I was impressed with one of their Team Bentley Le Man's winning racecar from 2003. They came in 1,2 at the race. The green #8 car was very nice to look at in real life. You start to think of all the engineering that went in to designing, building, and then winning the Le Man's and you are in awe. I don't know too much about racing but I know that car was a site to see.

After we spent a good couple hours at the Auto Show, I ventured along with the group to The Museum of Science and History to see "Helicopters: Above and Beyond" on the OMNI screen. Almost getting lost and being late we found the theatre. The theatre was huge! It had a 72' diameter dome screen and could seat 342 people. The xenon bulb burns at the same intensity of the sun and the sound was awesome. The show was really impressive for we got to see how helicopters were used in different tasks. Some of these tasks were Coast Guard rescue missions and Recon Missions for the Marines. They even took shots from within an Apache Helicopter flying around. My stomach was up in my mouth but it was well worth it. They also showed a bunch of different helicopters I didn't even know existed. Again, lots of engineering genius at work.

Well I guess I have to say that this trip was a good time to spend a Saturday during the school year. Being a Mechanical Engineer, nice cars are always interesting but actually getting to see them in real life and sit in them is another benefit of going on ASME's annual trip to the show. I recommend you become a member and get ready for next year's show!

REMEMBER TO COME TO THE
ASME GENERAL MEETINGS
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY!

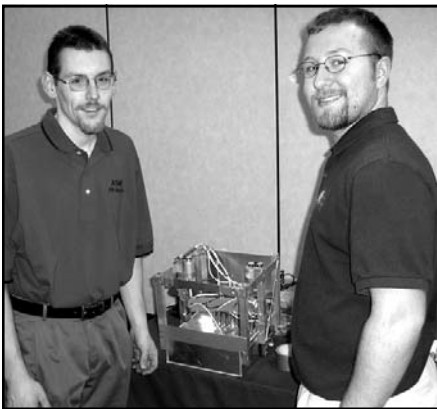
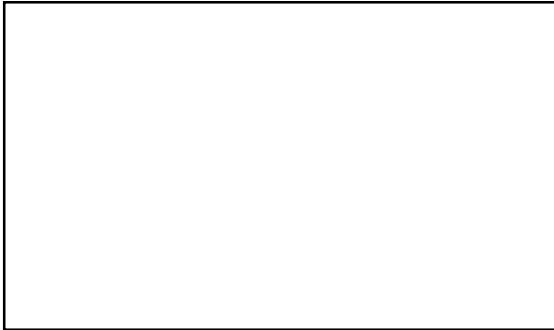


food, fun, and
entertainment are
always provided!!



RSC in Kentucky

Lets Take A Look Down Memory Lane...



~~F.U.S.E. Diversity Dinner A Success~~

The FUSE Has Been Lit

Chandler Nault
Industrial Relations

ASME had a dream... A dream where all engineers can work together without fear of experiencing prejudice or discrimination. Kara Byrne led a small task force of ASME's finest in a quest to research the diversity issues we all experience in our lives. The University of Wisconsin's ASME chapter was given a large grant by ASME International to fund an evening where diversity issues could be discussed in an open format. With the grant approved, Kara and her team set out to facilitate an entire evening where issues ranging from harassment in the work place to international students on campus could be debated without fear of resentment.

But wait, what is an engineering event without a ridiculous acronym? Thus, FUSE, Forming an Understanding of Situations in Engineering, was born. The team had a name, a goal, but no one to attend. Kara invited key members from every Engineering organization on Campus including SWE (Society of Women Engineers), NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers), AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) and many other associations to a meeting to organize the event. The turnout was phenomenal. All the organizations volunteered their time and finances to the cause. FUSE was beginning to come together.

After months of planning, the night of the big event finally arrived on February 26th. The evening started out with a social hour where attendees were encouraged to meet one another. Each person was assigned a random number when they entered. The numbers were designed to create a completely random group of people at each table and thus allowing different perspectives to be heard.

After a brief introduction explaining the goals of the evening, Professor Shedd led a discussion about discrimination in a job interview. Shedd had created three different scenarios where a man, Chandler Nault, for a job position, was interviewing a woman, Katie Orgish. First, the two

students acted out an ideal job interview where both people were very courteous to one another. A second skit, which had almost the same transcript but different body language, was enacted for the audience. Professor Shedd then asked the audience to identify and discuss the differences. Finally, a third scenario was played out where Chandler made rude advances toward Katie. Several of the audience members laughed at how blatantly inappropriate the skit was. However, Shedd was quick to point out that this had actually happened to a student of his in a real job interview. Professor Shedd's program had succeeded in getting all members of FUSE into the correct mindset for what was to come.

After the skit and dinner each table was given a topic to discuss and topics rotated every fifteen minutes. Subjects included from situations in Industry, Interviews, Student Organizations, and Classes. Each table had several professional members and professors who encouraged students to openly discuss the feelings they felt in a given circumstance. Many students expressed concerns that the University was not doing its job to promote diversity on the engineering campus. Several tables

FUSE

Forming an Understanding of Situations in Engineering

discussed whether they would take a job knowing it had been only offered because of their physical attributes. Everyone at the banquet was very courteous and encouraging and it is certain that everyone appreciated the opportunity to discuss these issues.

By the end of the evening every attendee garnered a better understanding of what those from different backgrounds experienced in their everyday life. This program was the very first FUSE ever held but ASME is looking to make it an annual event. The ultimate goal of FUSE was to create a forum to understand why discrimination occurs. It not only accomplished these goals but also succeeded them. The FUSE has been lit; will it burn all the way through and light a generation of engineers who never experience discrimination? I guess we will have to wait and see.

FUSE Participants Discuss Diversity Issues with Professor Shedd, Who Gave A Presentation Earlier in The Evening.



Looking at FUSE from a Latino Perspective

Constantino Giriat

Member of ASME, SHPE, & Pi Tau Sigma.

Hi there, my name is Constantino Giriat, and I am part of the Latino community here at UW-Madison. On February 26, 2004, I was able to attend a very interesting meeting organized by Kara Byrne, Publicity Chair of ASME. First of all, I will like to thank her, since this meeting confirmed again how industry is concern about diversity and how they are working towards it.

At the meeting, I was able to meet with my fellow SHPE friends Emir, Jose, Eric, and Paco. We all had a great time in the way the meeting was organized. In the beginning we were sitting at assigned seats, so in that way we could meet new people. I was sitting at a table with Professor Willis Tompkins. The discussion he brought up is how we perceived classes and what could be done to improve them. Is good to know that Professors are always trying to be aware of how the students feel and therefore do something about it. After our discussion and the great dinner that we had, it came the turn of the actors to perform. Chandler was performing as the interviewer, and



Katie was representing us students in the process of trying to get our dream jobs. They were three different scenes where it was show what can happen at an interview. Assistant Professor Tim Shedd did a good job as a mediator between what was presented in the acting and in encouraging students to participate so they can be aware of what could possibly be happening to them.

After the acting part, we were able to switch between tables and talk with industry representatives, who explained us what diversity really means, and how some industries transfigure its real meaning just so they can show a not realistic quota of diversity inside their company. From the meeting, I learn that what diversity really means is the acceptance and value of different perspective brought into a company form different cultures and backgrounds to accomplishing a better and more effective service to society.

Thank you for reading about my perspectives, and hope that the progress towards diversity will always exist.

ASME WORD SEARCH--have some fun while in between classes, procrastinating with your homework, or whatever else you may be doing--but not ever during our ASME meetings!

G E J V Y X N J Y E G R J E I W L L V I
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SHIP
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 CORACLE
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 CANOE
 KAYAK

SPEEDBOAT
 SEAPLANE
 SAILING BOAT
 ROWING BOAT
 SUBMARINE
 LILO
 DINGHY
 FERRY
 CATAMARAN
 TRIMARAN

ASME Takes a Trip to America's #1 Manufacturer of Ventilation

Teresa Nehm
Industrial Relations

On Friday, March 5th eight ASME members took a trip to Schofield, Wisconsin to tour the Greenheck plant. Greenheck is the number one company in ventilation manufacturing. Greenheck has a wide manufacturing focus. They create and sell fans, ventilators, centrifugal and vane axial units, make-up air units, damper, louvers, and kitchen ventilation systems. Many of the processes we got the opportunity to see were created and patented by Greenheck.

Our tour covered a wide variety of processes that occur at Greenheck. We began our tour by observing a demonstration of their new Integrated Blanking System. They recently purchased this system, which increased efficiency, by completing the work of seven individuals who can be relocated to new systems. The blanking system first takes a large piece of sheet metal and punches holes into it. The sheet is then moved to a laser cutter where the sheet is cut into appropriately shaped pieces. The metal can be cut into any predetermined pattern, while holes can be punched with

any of 21 patterns. The process altogether takes less than five minutes. This is a major increase in efficiency, considering changing a drill bit in the old system took twenty minutes.

We then walked through the floor plan of the kitchen ventilation systems and plant #2. In the kitchen ventilation system portion, we observed a new welding process that produced a nearly finished weld in about thirty seconds. A weld of similar magnitude would take a skilled welder approximately three hours to complete.

The final demonstration we saw was aluminum spinning. This is a technology created and patented by Greenheck, which takes a smaller cylindrical sample and expands its diameter. This process is



useful for making larger specimens often seen as exhaust systems on the tops of roofs.

Next we moved to the product development center testing facility, where we saw how the ventilation fans and hoods were tested. Half of the facility focuses on kitchen hood ventilation systems. The other half of the building houses a four room calibration testing system. This system calculates the air flow through the fan. The pure size of the testing facility shows Greenheck's focus on manufacturing a quality product.

Quality product and process are a major reason for Greenheck's popularity and success. Another reason is the importance of employee satisfaction and desire. Each employee owns a share of the company's stock, so as the company improves, so does the value of the stock. As seen through the new processes throughout the company, Greenheck focuses on improving efficiency and their product. One of these methods is holding "Pit Stops", a three-day seminar where employees work to improve an existing process. These "Pit Stops" promote teamwork and understanding between employees.

Our tour of Greenheck helped us gain a better understanding of quality control and a company looking to the future.

Polar Plunge Raises ~\$1500 For Special Olympics

Kyle Jansen
Outreach Chair

The end of February was nearing, so what better to do than throw your semi-clad body in a freezing body of water, right? That's just what a brave group of ASMEr's decided was the right thing to do on February 21st. In support of the Special Olympics, a group of twenty-two made the trip to Lake Monona to participate in the Polar Plunge at Olin/Turville Park. Special Olympics is an organization founded on the belief that all individuals with cognitive disabilities can benefit from sports. Events like the Polar Plunge help subsidize training, travel, and other costs needed to support these athletes.

The day's festivities kicked off with a pre-Plunge social where the mind, body, and souls were readied for the event.

After a couple of hours of preparation, the plungers donned their finest attire, ranging from Jimmy Buffet wear to Pooh, Tigger, and Elvis costumes, and headed out to take over Olin/Turville Park. Needless to say, when a group of twenty-two rokkin' ASMEr's show up, they're hard to miss. After shedding some and/or near all of their clothes, the group was chauffeured onto the ice by the Madison Fire Department for their plunge. In a chaos of arms and legs, the group hurled their bodies into the water in an attempt to wow the judges that included various city officials, Special Olympics representatives, and Badger quarterback Jim Sorgi. The plunge was impressive, but the sprint to the hot tubs after leaving the water was what left everyone speechless.

Yes, it is possible to fit twenty-two people in hot tubs with a capacity of twelve.

If the experience itself wasn't enough, awards were given out and the group went home with the honor of having the largest group plunge of the day. For our part, ASME raised nearly \$1500 to benefit the Special Olympics. The bar has been set, but there's no doubt that we can outdo it next year!



ASME Members enjoy a little dip into the Freezing Cold Waters of Lake Mendota.

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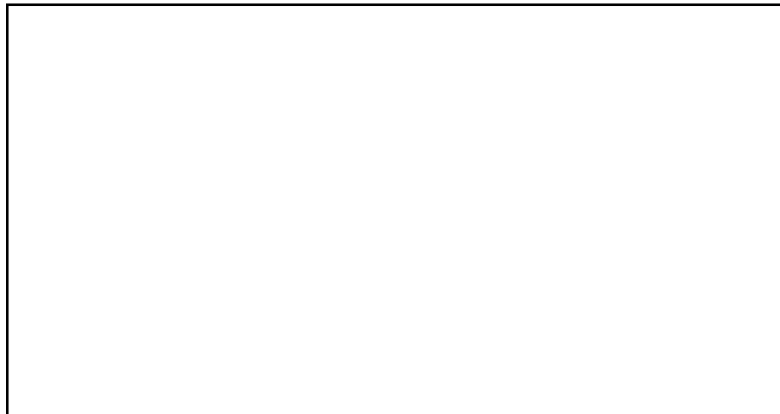
Address all correspondence to the editor, ASME Student Section, 1550 Engineering Dr., 1082 ECB, Madison, WI 53706.

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Chair Mike Casper
 Editor Kara Byrne
 Contributors Constantino Gariat
 Kyle Jansen
 John Miles
 Chandler Nault
 Teresa Nehm
 Elizabeth Zimmer



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Mike Casper

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Industrial Relations

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Conference

Elizabeth Zimmer

Contests

Dusty Brunner

Webmaster

John Stamos



The University of Wisconsin-Madison Chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers

1550 Engineering Dr.
 Madison, WI 53706

Phone: 608-262-2973
 Fax: 608-265-2316

e-mail: asme@cae.wisc.edu
 internet: ww.cae.wisc.edu/~asme