

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

ASME at UW-Madison Celebrates 100 Years!

By **Dustin Gabert**

Historian

This academic year commemorates the 100th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's ASME student section. On November 9th, 1909 the documents were signed to officially make UW-Madison an ASME student organization. ASME was established in 1880 and soon began setting technical standards and codes. Most famously, ASME is known for setting the standards for screw threads and codes for steam boilers. Since then, ASME has developed hundreds of other codes and standards.

When ASME began in 1880 there were 85 universities nationwide that provided a Mechanical Engineering curriculum. By 1930, the Society had grown to over 20,000 members with both professional and student organizations. When ASME began here on campus there were a few historical steps that happened along the way. In 1860, engineering instruction was discontinued by the university. In 1873, the university held its first class in (civil) engineering, and in 1875, Mechanical Engineering study was introduced. In 1889, "Mechanics and Engineering" became one of

the university's four colleges. In 1904, the name was changed to the "College of Engineering." In 1909, the student section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers became a part of the university. In 1931, a Mechanical Engineering building was dedicated.

The year 1909 was important for ASME and for our campus: Our fight song, "On Wisconsin," was written in 1909, and the professional society of ASME published its first technical copy of The Journal in 1909, which became the Mechanical Engineering magazine in 1919. I'm not too sure what type of activities ASME conducted here on campus in 1909, but I know now that ASME is one of the largest student organizations in the College of Engineering. As a student organization we travel all over the Midwest for competitions, both professional and leadership conferences, factory tours, and we have a large slate of activities that we do on a yearly basis both with the university and the general public. In the last 100 years, ASME has thrived here on campus as part of the university and as part of the community, and we hope to do so for many more.



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The Many Benefits of Being an ASME Member

By Adrienne Siu
Membership Chair

ASME has so many membership benefits that it's difficult to know where to start. Perhaps some would begin with the fact that it looks good to put on a resume that you were in one of the biggest engineering student organizations on campus. With 23 officer positions (meaning plenty of leadership positions for our members to run for), ASME always has something to hold your interest. We currently have three intramural sports teams: soccer, flag football, and co-ed volleyball. We also have a design competition to hone our skills. This year, the competition is about a recycling sorter. There are also numerous volunteering opportunities, including Girl Scouts Badge Day with SWE and High School Day on Campus, and other events on the way like volunteering at Villas Zoo for Halloween events. In addition, ASME recently sent members to the Student Leadership Seminar (SLS) conference in Mankato, MN. On top of all that, several tours to various places are lined up including Capitol Brewery, and new for this semester: the Wisconsin Institute of Discovery construction site.

But ASME isn't just about the social events. ASME is still an academic organization, no mat-

ter how fun it is. On the academic side we always hand out CDs of our members' resumes at the Career Fair. For people without resumes, fear not! There is plenty of help to be found with all the upperclassmen. There are tons of advisory sessions and other opportunities to network with them on which classes to take, which professors are better, and so much more. If that isn't enough, it doesn't hurt that you're part of the organization when you meet ASME alumni at Career Fairs!

With all of these great benefits, one would think that it'd be expensive to be part of the organization. Fortunately, it isn't! It's actually FREE for all freshmen to join, and it's only \$25 for all other grades! ASME membership has many benefits for its members- be sure to take advantage of them.



Above: Newly-initiated members at the Fall Initiation Banquet.

Below: This year's ASME T-shirt design celebrates our 100 years on campus!



The back of the T-shirt reads:



Fundraising Opportunities

By **Matt Quock**
Fundraising Chair

ASME kicked off its fundraising efforts this semester with its popular design notebook sales. The fundraiser helped save Inter-EGR 160 and Senior Design students a trip to the bookstore, while giving them a chance to help support our engineering student organization. If you will be in either of these courses next spring, or another class that requires a design notebook, keep an eye out for an ASME table set up in the lobby of Engineering Hall during the first week of class! The notebooks are also available for purchase at meetings and at the ASME office in the Engineering Centers Building.

This year's ASME t-shirts are in! They commemorate the 100th year anniversary of ASME at UW-Madison and are on sale for \$12. Get yours soon before they're gone!

Another on-going fundraising effort for ASME is the sales of the Bucky Book. If you haven't already heard of them, Bucky Books are Madison-area coupon and savings books. Filled with great deals and \$70 worth of free items, these books pay off their purchase price (\$35) very quickly. There are tons of coupons for entertainment venues, restaurants, shopping, 2-for-1 golf deals, and so much more. Stop by a meeting or the ASME office to get your own copy.



Above: Bucky Books, full of Madison coupons, are available for \$35 at the ASME office!



Sudoku vs. Kakuro!

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

				8	9	8	10	28	
	15	28	17						
28									15
9			5				5		
			4				3		
9						12			
13						8			
				12	11				
5			3				7		
			5				8		
	28								
	15								

SLS Conference in Mankato

By Arjun Dias
Conference Chair

This year's student leadership seminar (SLS) was held at the Minnesota State University in Mankato from October 9th-10th. A group of nine ASME members left ECB early on Friday afternoon, for what would be a brief but eventful conference. The 5-hour journey was replete with good music, arguing about who deserves the best seat, and a pit stop at Chipotle. We arrived in Mankato slightly behind schedule with our Conference Chair leading us to the wrong building on campus. After that slight mishap however, we met some of the remaining ASME members from other schools and headed back to the hotel. After a long week and long drive, we had a memorable Friday night.

The following day, we attended three sessions geared towards improving our student section. Topics included "Ethics and Teamwork for New Engineers", "How to Boost Participation in Your Section", and "Financing Your Student Section". The keynote speaker

was Dr. John Frey who spoke about the International Renewable Energy Technology Institute (IRETI). Dr. Frey is the interim director of the lab which will research technologies from Sweden and modify them to fit U.S. energy codes. We also heard from our district representatives; Tom Wendt (a UW-Madison alum) who is the Senior Program Manager and Mohammad Mahinfalah who is the District Leader. They expressed their eagerness to help our student sections and their commitment to our success. At 2 PM, we piled our belongings back into the vans, forgave our conference chair, and headed home. After a missed exit which resulted in a scenic detour through northern Iowa, our group reached Madison later that night.

The SLS was very well organized and we came away with tangible advice on how to improve our section. We were also able to network with other ASME members in our district and learn more about the opportunities available in the organization. Everyone had a great experience and we are all looking forward to another successful conference in the spring.



Above: ASME Chair, Mike Behling, recruiting at the freshman-oriented Engineering Bash before classes started in September.



Left: ASME-Madison representatives enjoying breakfast at the SLS conference in Mankato, MN.

Officer Retreat, Study Groups, Tailgates, and More!

By Nick Laham
Social Chair

This semester so far has been a blast for ASME members. It seems we are building quite the tight knit group especially amongst officers, as well as welcoming in many new members. We started things off this fall with our bian-
nual ASME officer retreat. This is a great time for the new officers to get a chance to meet the old guys (and gals) of the group and for everyone to learn a little bit about each other. Of course we handled the business matters first and then had some time to break the ice afterward. After a massive feast of Chinese carry-out we played games involving problem solving and team work, one of them involving everyone getting tangled up holding hands and trying to untangle before the other team. We set a pretty good tone for the rest of the semester at the retreat.

Officers and members have also been gathering on weeknights to do homework at the ASME office. It has become a pretty popular place to study because it is secluded, giving us peace and quiet when we need it, but we can also get a little loud and crazy when we want a study break. Not to mention having access to the great exam file ASME members can take advantage of. Getting to know each other this year has not only given us a chance to learn and study with our peers but also an opportunity to learn about each other and have a chance to laugh and enjoy going to a study session for more than just education.



Every home game, members have been gathering before kickoff to celebrate and meet some of their peers and fellow badger fans. The grill is usually going by 9 vAM, set up by a dedicated group of coffee drinkers. By 10 AM the whole back yard of this year's ASME Chair's house is packed with fans and ASME members mingling and enjoying the well-seasoned burgers. After enough games of bags and ping pong everybody shuffles out of the party and moves to the stadium to support the Badgers.

In November, ASME will be participating in the IIE laser tag tournament once again to take on the reigning champions. Last year

our team took 2nd in the championship, so we will be assembling an all-star team again this year to take home the gold. We can't forget last year's team who wore all black and had the ambition to paint their faces too. I think we can expect similar enthusiasm from our participants this year.



Top: Trying to get untangled at the Fall Officer Retreat.

Above: Preparing to compete in the "strongest bridge" competition at the officer retreat.

Left: Tailgating leads to some interesting "projects."



Homecoming 2009: A Party In The USA



By Tom Pocrnich
Polygon Representative

In accordance with past years, ASME again joined forces with SWE to undertake yet another homecoming. We made it our duty to bring some logical reasoning to the field of Greeks and Orgs. Late nights, ridiculous relays, and one long parade all contributed to a fun and memorable week. This year's theme, Bucky's Game Night, lent itself to one of the messiest float designs in years. The overall event list followed past conventions. Through a mix of shining moments and dismal failures, this year's homecoming produced happy memories and bolstered friendships.

The week started with a bang as the cardboard barge race was named the first event. The Sawzall made its first appearance in the cutting of the boat components. We went in confident that some of the densest cardboard around would float its way straight to a first place finish. These visions were quick

to fade as the canoe rolled before a single stroke of the paddle: we should have realized then that such thick cardboard would put the paddlers center of gravity above the water line; not a good quality in a canoe.

There was no time for lament as Bucky's Cross Campus Quest took place on the following morning. An engineer's resourcefulness was our greatest weapon here. Women's Soccer ticket stubs are in short supply, but we located one amongst a mish-mash of other obscure items. Were it not for this event, we may never have known how many stairs lead to the capitol, or what the 1910 class chose as its motto. With a heavy credit to the ladies from SWE (most of the ASME officers were at conference), we were able to surprise even the point tabulators with the amount of useless knowledge/items we collected.

As per usual, Badger Games involved a series of games demanding unique skill sets. Behind tactful hip thrusts and running in

dizzy states, ASME/SWE enjoyed a strong showing. Our first place finish in the Softball Spin event helped to ease the sting of an early elimination from tug-of-war. All in all, relays and public humiliation were a great way for us to enjoy a Monday night while developing and strengthening inter-org friendships.

The culmination of the week came with the float build and Homecoming Parade. Nickelodeon's Double Dare tv show served as a good fit with this year's theme. It also gave us a chance to revisit our simpler childhood times by mode of giant noses, tunnels, and gak. Armed with Red Bull and an excellent playlist (thank you Miley), we tackled the float build into the small morning hours. The Sawzall was voted the most exciting tool, and Duct tape lived up to its reputation as the most useful resource on the build. On parade day, we made a slow but steady progression toward the start point. Other than an impromptu sliming of Park Street, things went off without a hitch. Hats with moving parts, Katy Perry, and rollerblades added an element of fun unique to the ASME/SWE float.

Despite an unfortunate loss to Iowa, the week of homecoming remains a triumph. It was a great chance for ASME to develop a relationship with SWE, as well as an opportunity for the officers to get to know one another better. As it turns out, the main function of homecoming week was not to win at every event, but rather rallying together in friendly competition. Oh yeah, it was a ton of fun too.



THE LOBBY is published twice a semester by the Student Section of ASME in the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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