

# 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

## Benefits of Involvement

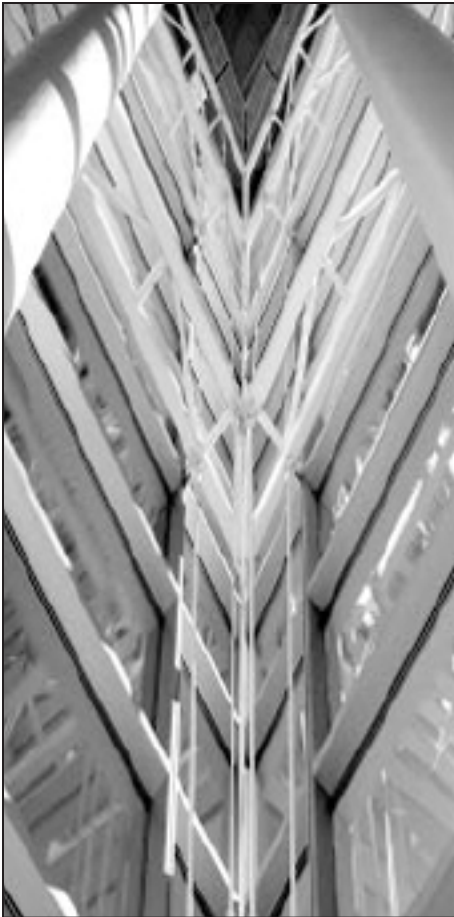
By Nick Edwards  
Chair

During my five years as an ASME officer, I have been asked countless times what ASME UW-Madison does. The most common response is that we have meetings every other week, we take students on plant tours, we help out our community and we get to know other engineering students. Thinking about this question led me to developing a mission statement of sorts for our ASME student section: ASME helps engineering students to be successful academically, socially and professionally before, during and after graduation from UW-Madison. The three main elements of this statement are the keys to the benefits of being an involved member of ASME.

ASME provides many opportunities for their members to succeed in a very competitive academic environment. The first academic advantage that ASME has is that its members range in age from freshmen to graduate students, so, during any one semester, there are more than likely ASME members in any class that a Mechanical Engineer would be taking. This makes it very easy and con-

venient to form study groups with your classmates to prepare for exams, lab reports and the like. Another advantage of the age variation in ASME is that older members can advise younger members on course selection. Every semester ASME organizes an advising session shortly before registration for the next semester begins. At these sessions members can ask questions about what classes to take together, good technical and liberal electives, what professors to choose for a given class and many more. These are only two of the many ways that ASME can help students succeed in their academic work.

One only needs to watch the interaction between members at meetings to notice that we aren't only about school work. The work load of an engineering student at UW can get overwhelming at times and it is important to realize that you have to take time for yourself to relax and have some fun! ASME does all that we can to help provide members with opportunities to do just that. Starting in the fall we host tailgates before each home football game for students to have a burger and a brat and get ready to cheer on the (continued on page 2)



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# Benefits of Involvement (continued)

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(from page 1) Badgers at Camp Randall. After the games, many of our members get the itch to imitate the players in their own football games. To satisfy this need we participate in intramural sports such as flag football, soccer, volleyball, broomball and basketball. Other social events that we hold include house parties, laser tag, community service events, brewery tours and Brewers games.

The final element of the ASME mission statement is professionalism. Everything we do as students at UW is involved with preparing ourselves to

get a job after graduation. The most important way that ASME helps with this is providing students valuable experiences in the academic and social fields talked about above. Employers are looking for candidates that have good grades, interact well with other employees and customers and have the skills to be leaders in their corporation. ASME provides all of these experiences in many different ways. I can safely say that I have talked about my involvement with ASME in every interview I have ever had. Along with providing students the skills to be

an attractive candidate, we allow students to make informed decisions about what kind of engineer they want to be with industry plant tours and industry speakers at our meetings.

There are many things that students hope to accomplish during their years at UW. Whether it be helping out with homework or studying, taking some time to have fun, or working to develop one's self into a well-rounded job candidate, ASME UW-Madison has the tools to help students take advantage of their time as Badgers.

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## H2Go Contest Update

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By Eric Mueller  
Contest Chair

The UW-Madison ASME Chapter has had a long history of competing in the ASME Spring Conference Design Contest. In the recent past we have built a machine that imitated a Mars land rover that needed to pick up rocks of various shapes and sizes. A few years before, a bicycle that purified water as you pedaled it, and just last year to build an autonomous recycling machine.

This year we have been tasked with building a device that simulates harvesting energy from falling raining water to propel a car at the ASME Spring Conference in Kansas. A team of four ASME members has

been working on this project since last summer and the project has proved to be a great independent learning experience and a way to use concepts we have learned in the classroom from engineering courses.

The team members would usually meet after general ASME meetings and walk through the engineering design process with brainstorming, designing, reiterating designs, and fabricating together at small group meetings. The design contest is a great way for members to be more involved with ASME and get to know other ASME members in a more personal way outside of the general meetings. Funding for this year's project was provided by GE in Madison and has allowed the team mem-

bers to start purchasing items for fabricating the designs they had created during the year as they prepare for the upcoming Spring Conference in Kansas.



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# Buy An ASME T-Shirt in the ASME Office Today!

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## A Variety of Speakers, from Hospital Software to Barbeque Convenience

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By Mark Trader & Michael Szewczyk  
Industrial Relations Co-Chairs

ASME has enjoyed another great semester highlighted by the success of our general meetings. The Industrial Relation Co-Chairs were able to find a variety of engineering professionals to join us at general meetings and share their insights from industry.

We were able hear from two Wisconsin companies including Rexnord, a Milwaukee-based process and motion control company, and Epic, a Madison-based electronic medical records company. We were also able to hear from global companies including Kimberly-Clark, a personal paper product manufacturer, Bechtel, an engineering and construction company,



and Flint Hills, a refining and chemicals company. Engineers from these companies provided valuable information about what it is like to

apply the problem-solving skills learned in college to real world problems.

In addition to hearing from traditional engineering groups, we had the privilege to hear from local entrepreneur, Chad Sorenson. Mr. Sorenson is a graduate from the University of Wisconsin's College of Engineering and has found success as an inventor. His entrepreneurial success started at UW-Madison in 2000 when he participated in Innovation Days and won the top Schoofs Prize for Creativity with his "Tankmate", a microcontroller-based device to aid farmers in applying anhydrous-ammonia to fields. The following year, he won additional Innovation Days awards and started Fluent Systems to develop his product and make it a reality. Two years later, he sold his company to a large agricultural company for \$1.5 million. Today, He has started another company called Sologear and has released the FlameDisk to market which replaces charcoal in grills as a cleaner heatsource that provides instant heat for

45 minutes, cools quickly and has no messy clean-up. Mr. Sorenson's story is an inspiring example of how someone can turn their ideas and savvy business skills into a profitable venture.

For the second semester in a row, the ASME student organization teamed up with AIChE, the chemical engineering student organization for a joint general meeting. By planning a joint meeting, we are able to provide a forum where engineering students from different programs can get to know each other and learn more about how each type of engineering discipline contributes to a company's mission.

**ASME General Meeting  
Last of the Year**

**May 3  
5:30-6:30**

**1610 Engineering Hall  
Guest Speaker Flint Hills**

**Free Dinner, Soda, Fun!**

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# Engineers DO Have Souls

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By Adam Ringstad  
Social Chair

Midway through each semester, we (as students) encounter many challenges including, but not limited to, cramming for exams, finding a summer internship, working a job, doing endless hours of homework, attending student organization meetings, trying to be physically active, etc. We do all of this while still trying to uphold or even have a social life. At times, this can seem rather impossible for your average engineering student. Well, it is a good thing then that ASME members are not average engineering students because there are numerous ways to avoid the lack of a social life in ASME. One of many examples of this social overload occurred on March 5th when ASME held a joint social with SWE (Society of Women Engineers).

We decided this semester to hold a social at a house near engineering so that we could get a high turnout of ASME and SWE members. The social officially started at 9 pm; however, most of the people didn't arrive until 10 pm or later. The night started out like any other engineering party, people talking about classes, exams, and other related engineering topics because that is what engineers revert to in social settings. Then, around 11 pm, people started pouring into the

party like a low viscous fluid filling an already full tank (weird engineering analogy, I know). The party became very crowded, and as a result, naturally people began playing various games. In addition to playing various games, people also started dancing to the music that was being played. We found out rather quickly that trying to dance while a strobe light was on proved to be difficult. As a result, it was immediately turned off to avoid further collisions. Finally, between 12:30 am and 1:30 am, people that were of age started to further pursue levels of socializing by heading to the local watering holes. By that point, the party started to really die down but it still proved to be another successful night courtesy of ASME once again.

Since the semester is still over a month away from being completed for most people, ASME, in the next month, will be hosting a laser tag event at Ultrazone. The event will be held on a Thursday night and will be another great way for prospective ASME or regular ASME members to get involved and meet all of the great students that are in ASME while having a blast at the same time. The cost will be only \$15 and will include dinner in the cost so there will be no excuses not to come. Further details will be discussed at the general ASME meetings.

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## ASME Word Search

Find: France, Spain, Italy, Peru, Poland, Togo, Japan, and Holland  
Answers on page 6



F	Y	Y	H	N	R	D
R	L	J	C	I	N	U
A	A	W	A	A	H	R
N	T	K	L	P	N	E
C	I	L	F	S	A	P
E	O	G	O	T	P	N
H	P	O	L	A	N	D



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# An Adventure to Hatfield, WI

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By Mark Gavin  
Sophomore Rep

Twice a year the officers of ASME go on a weekend retreat; first in the fall, followed by one in the spring. Starting Friday sometime in the late afternoon we began our two and a half hour drive to Hatfield, Wisconsin. And after enjoying a meal together at the town's local bar & grill, "The Mug", we had our business meeting. This meeting was different than all the others, mostly due to our isolation from "society". All of

our daily distractions were left behind, leaving our minds clear and ready to focus on the Future of ASME. We discussed areas that needed improvement, events that were being planned, and overall how things were going from each officer's perspective.

Not only was this officer retreat a great opportunity to improve aspects of ASME, but also a chance for the officers to get to know one another. This retreat helped all of the officers grow together on a more personal level. There were team-

building activities/games, which allowed for the newer officers to connect with the more seasoned officers, bringing us all closer as a whole. Summing up all of the great memories and new friendships into words does not do this retreat the justice it deserves, for it was a night to remember.



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Logic Puzzle Courtesy of Biddy Martin:

There are three switches downstairs. Each corresponds to one of the three light bulbs in the attic. You can turn the switches on and off three times each, and leave them in any position. How would you identify which switch corresponds to which light bulb if you are only allowed one trip upstairs? (solution on page 6)

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## College of Engineering Certificates

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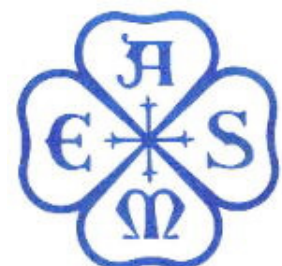
By Jack Lund  
Academic Chair

Getting an education is something I take very seriously because I know that it is not something every person has the chance to do. That being said, I want to make my time here at UW-Madison well spent and leave prepared to enter the workforce in a promising engineering position.



I have a general idea of what I want to do when I graduate so, for me, getting a certificate that increased my knowledge in that chosen field was a worthwhile idea. Madison mechanical engineering students are required to take at least 15 humanities credits and most of the certificates offered do not take more than that to complete. I chose a certificate that focuses in art, design, and social studies classes that will hopefully make me more attractive to future employers. This is a good option for me and would be for other students in my position as well

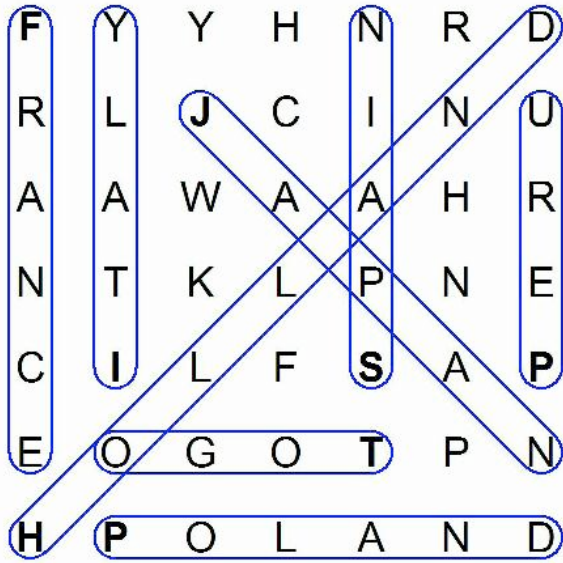
who know what field they eventually want to work in. There are certificates available in the College of Engineering ranging from Technical Communications to Engineering for Energy Sustainability. Certificates give engineering students a chance to help their resume stand out while hopefully learning additional material for their job.



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# Solutions Manual

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## Logic Puzzle Solution

Keep the first bulb switched on for a few minutes. It gets warm, right? So all you have to do then is switch it off, switch another one on, walk into the room with bulbs, touch them and tell which one was switched on as the first one (the warm one) and the others can be easily identified.



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