MECHANICAL ENGINEERING NEWS

February 19, 2007

A newsletter for the UML Mechanical Engineering community (also available online at http://mechanical.uml.edu)

Contact john_mckelliget@uml.edu with any items you would like to see included in the newsletter

Calendar

Feb 19 National Engineers Week Starts
Feb 20 Movie Night (E-Council)
Feb 21 Guest Speaker Luncheon, Raytheon
Feb 21 Free Hot Cocoa (AIChE)
Feb 21 Order of the Engineer Ceremony
Feb 22 Bake Sale (SWE)
Feb 22 Professor Jeopardy (SPE)
Feb 22 Movie Night (SAE)
Feb 23 Tour Sam Adams Brewery (ASME)
Feb 23 Ice skating, Tsongas Arena
Feb 28 Dress for Success, 5.30 pm
Mar 1 Deadline to sign up for Spring FE Exam
Apr 21 Spring FE Exam

Order of the Engineer

Seniors and graduate students are urged to go to the Dean's office and sign up for the Order of the Engineer Induction Ceremony. The induction ceremony will be held on February 21, during Engineer's Week. Participation in the ceremony, and taking of the engineer's oath, is recognition of the ethical responsibility of engineers. You will receive an iron "engineer's ring". You can bring your loved ones, and we will feed you. There is a $10 fee for the ring.

Combined BSE/MSE Program

If you are a junior or a senior with >3.0 cumulative GPA you are encouraged to apply for the combined BSE/MSE program. In this program you typically take 6 credits of graduate courses in your senior year and (with grades of B or better) you can count these 6 credits toward *both* the BSE (as tech electives) and the MSE degree. You *can* take more graduate courses in your senior year, but only 6 credits can count toward both degrees.

The MSE degree in mechanical engineering at UML has both thesis and non-thesis options. If you are on the thesis option you stand a good chance of being awarded a ½ Teaching Assistantship (TA). The stipend for a ½ TA is typically $6000 - $7000 per year + full tuition and fee remission (in-state students). ½ TAs are committed to 9 hours/week teaching during the semesters. The professor who is directing your research might also be able to add a ½ Research Assistantship (RA) to this stipend. The stipend for RAs is the same as for TAs, but RAs have no teaching responsibilities.

If you are looking for a ½ TA in the Fall please email Prof. McKelliget.

If you apply to the BSE/MSE program you do not have to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), and you do not have to pay the application fee. Note that you do not have to complete the MSE degree in order to get the BSE degree. We strongly urge all eligible students to apply. You commit yourself to nothing by applying and being accepted into the program, but it will widen your options upon graduation. Once you graduate it will be too late to apply. Application is made through the graduate school Website.

New Machinist

Welcome to Keith Flynn – who started this semester as department machinist. Keith has many years of experience as a machinist in industry. He was also employed in the physics department at Northeastern University. Keith will support 22.202, 22.321, 22.322, and 22.423. He will also be involved with research machining for the College of Engineering.

Tips For Success

Chris Chipman (BSE ME '06) who is currently a TA for 25.107 /108 Intro. to Engineering I&II and a Resident Assistant wrote the following "tips for success" based upon his experiences as an undergraduate student. Contributions were also provided by Aaron Williams and Dana Nicgorski.

"The most important thing to remember is that, at the beginning of the curriculum, all engineering students are taking basically the same classes. This means that there are more people to choose from for study groups. There is no need to let yourself get stressed over your initial choice of majors, because early on in your career it is easy to switch between engineering majors. There is a 100% chance that if you go more than a semester before deciding your major, you may end up with a stressful schedule until the day you graduate.

The Internet is the best place to buy your books. Just make sure you order the correct ones.

If you are going to have a job while you are going to school, attempt to work during the week as little as possible. Remember, you are going to college to pursue your future; trivial things such as expensive cars and the like are not worth the cost of failing out.

By choosing to pursue an Engineering degree you are taking on a course-load of larger proportion and difficultly than many other majors. Choose your friends wisely. I know many people who have failed engineering due to partying too much during the school week. College is a time to have fun, but it must be stressed that your education still has to be taken very seriously. To quote Professor Vedula "Only Party on the Weekends".

Visit the tutoring center, it can be your best friend.

Find other engineers on campus. You will be seeing these people in class whether you like it or not so you might as well find them early so you know who to study with.

On-line video games can become very hurtful to your education if you are not careful. There is nothing more addictive than playing games with your friends, but I can tell you from personal experience that nearly 1/3 of my floor Freshmen year were either still Freshmen the following year or had dropped out completely.

You will get caught drinking, especially if you live in a dry dorm. Binge drinking with your friends may seem cool but being sick in class the next day is not cool. Don't do drugs on campus. The consequences for being caught are not worth whatever buzz you thought you wanted to get. Believe me.

Believe it or not the rules are in place to ensure your safety as well as your peer's, and also to reduce damage to the schools property. You may choose not to follow the rules but this almost guarantees that you will suffer the consequences of your actions. U really do have to pay for what gets broken. There really are cameras on the roofs of the dorm buildings. Don't sneak things/people in through your windows because chances are you will get caught and punished.

Although it is sometimes very difficult to get housing, I cannot stress the importance of living on or close to campus while in school. If there is any way you can get a room on campus or find a friend with an apartment that you can stay at a few nights a week.

If you have to commute, it is extremely important to utilize your time at school accordingly. Don't be upset if you have a large gap between classes, this can be a blessing in disguise because if you can get your homework/studying done within this time then you are not stuck doing it at home.

Try to get a job close to or on campus, that way you can always work in between classes without having a long commute ahead of you. Be happy if you have early classes, that is the only time you are going to be able to find a spot. Carpool if you can.

If you ever have any questions, many of the TAs currently working in the Engineering department went through the same curriculum as you. RAs are excellent resources and although they may seem as though they are "out to get you" or are coming down too hard for certain things, they are there for you and should be treated respectfully. You never know, you may end up as an RA some day, I did."

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