



# MECHANICAL ENGINEERING NEWS

November 12, 2003

A newsletter for the UML Mechanical Engineering community (also available online at <http://m-5.eng.uml.edu>)

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Any items you would like to see included in the newsletter or any suggestions/comments?

Please email them to: [peter\\_avitabile@uml.edu](mailto:peter_avitabile@uml.edu) or leave them with Jackie Paradise in the Mech Eng office.

## Mechanical Engineering Seminar Series - Speakers for Fall 2003

**Nov 5** Joe Whitney, Sycamore Net

**Nov 12** Jason Allaire, Lawrence Pump

**Nov 19** Ray Champagne, Venture Technologies

**Dec 3** Ken Woodard, Kollsman Industries

## Mechanical Engineering Students Participate in Mock Interview

Several Mechanical Engineering students participated in a Mock Interview held while the Advisory Board met at UMASS Lowell at the end of October. The writeup below summarizes some of the students experiences as written by Linda Barrington.

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Recently, workshops were conducted for the Mechanical Engineering students to assist students in resume writing and interviewing skills. The resume writing sessions demonstrated how an engineering resume is different than a standard (Career Center) resume with emphasis on the practical hands-on projects that are commonly included in the Mechanical Engineering curriculum. It was also emphasized that hiring managers are already short-handed due to the expansion or loss of a worker that created the opening. Reading resumes and interviewing are rarely a top priority - time is short.

A resume must project "Hire me! I'm the answer to your problems!" Students found the specific examples in the handouts especially

helpful. Of note, the purpose of a resume is not to get you a job; it is to get you an interview.

Obtaining an interview means that you are considered, at least minimally, qualified for that position. The next step is determining the fit between you and the tasks, co-workers and company culture. To practice interviewing, students were each matched up with a corporate adviser for a mock interview, then rotated to a new interviewer after about 10 mins. Following each interview the student and interviewer discussed how it went. Why would the advisor hire this student? How could the student improve? Students said they benefited from experience with a formal interview setting and practice talking about themselves. They liked having the mock interviews on the day of the career fair when they were already dressed up with resumes in hand. Constructive advice included specifics on how to handle technical questions, ways to mention experiences that make you interesting and unique, and responding to the ever-enduring, "So, tell me about yourself."

Additional hint for after an interview: if you are not contacted within the promised timeframe, recall the short-handed manager's priorities. Your phone call of polite inquiry as to where the hiring process stands establishes your interest in the position ahead of all those who do not call. It may remind the manager to move the process along. The follow up phone call is a valuable tool that few engineering students use.

Students who attended these workshops strongly encourage their peers to take advantage of these opportunities in the future.



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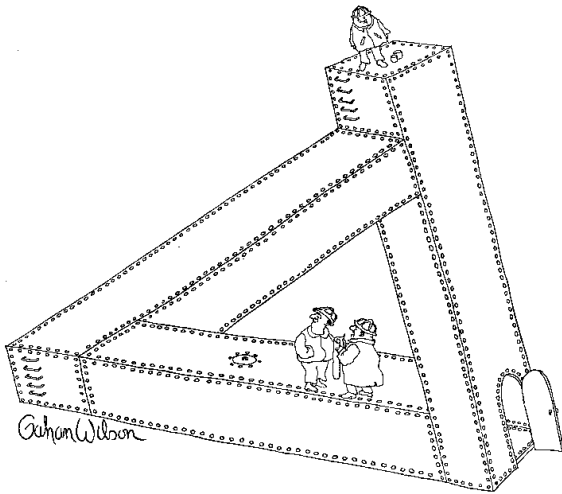
## Some Web Tags of Interest

John McKelliget has done a lot of work to keep the Mechanical Engineering Department Web Page up to date. He has been constantly adding new material all the time. Why not take a second a review some of the material that is available online for your use.

Main Page - <http://m-5.eng.uml.edu/>

If you have any tags of interest please pass them along and they can be shared on the web page

## On the lighter side



"Let's have another look at the blueprint."



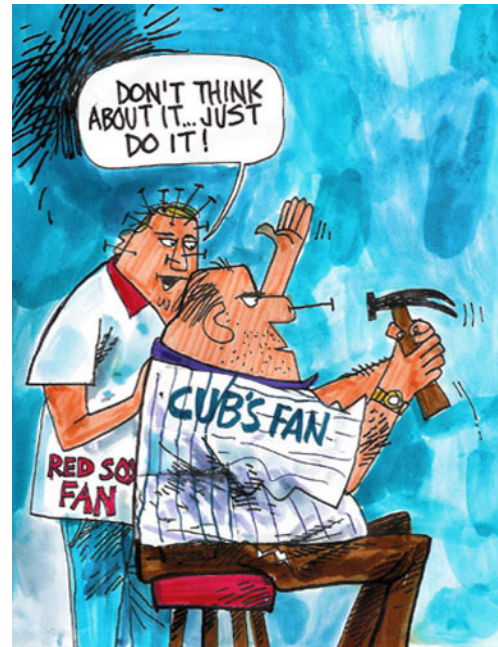
DEPARTMENT OF  
MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING

University of Massachusetts at Lowell

## And on a serious note ...

For all those Red Sox fans --- keep the faith.  
Maybe next year will be better !!!

But in the meantime just reflect on the cartoon below.



## Open House a Success

At the end of October, the university had its annual Open House. The Mechanical Engineering Laboratories were open to all the attendees of the event. Many parents and students visited the laboratories and were extremely interested in the overall Mechanical Engineering program.