



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING NEWS

November 13, 2006

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

Nov 14 Last day to withdraw from courses
Nov 22 Friday schedule
Nov 23 Thanksgiving
Nov 24 No classes
Dec 15 Ice skating, Tsongas Arena
Feb 19 National Engineers Week
Feb 21 Order of the Engineer Ceremony
Feb 22 Ice skating, Tsongas Arena
Mar 1 Deadline to sign up for Spring FE Exam
Apr 21 Spring FE Exam

December Graduation

The following students are on the provisional graduation list for December 2006. See Prof. McKelliget if your name is missing and you think that you should be graduating in December.

Matthew Cunniff
Zachary Egan
Craig Marchionda
Samuel Meressa
Dan Muldoon
Joseph Wangia
Ravy Phoun

James Harder

We were extremely saddened to learn of the accidental death of mechanical engineering freshman student, James Harder, 18, of Lafayette, NJ. James was driving an SUV on Sherburne Avenue in Tyngsboro when he reportedly lost control of the vehicle and it flipped over. There were four other passengers, three of whom were UMass Lowell students; all were treated for minor injuries and released from the hospital. Flowers from the faculty, staff, and students of the ME department were sent to James' family.

James was one of four UML students that have passed away this semester.

TEAMS Academy

Students from local high schools were on campus as part of the TEAMS (Technology Engineering And Math-Science) Academy. The academy seeks to give promising students increased exposure to science, math, and engineering. A total of about 125 high school sophomores went through a 1.5 hour session in the Department of Mechanical Engineering Baseball Research Lab. Other workshops included alternative energy, crime scene investigation, robotics, and statistics.



Sarah Tremblay of the Baseball Lab and TEAMS students determine the center of gravity of a baseball bat.

The pilot program includes students from 15 area cities and towns, including Andover, Bedford, Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Haverhill, Lawrence, Littleton, Lowell, Methuen, North Reading, Reading, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Westford.

The following website describes the program <http://gse.uml.edu/academy/expl.htm>
The TEAMS Academy was featured in Sunday's (11/12/06) Boston Globe.

Fulbright Scholars

We are pleased to welcome two Fulbright scholars to the Department.

Carolina Barreto is starting the MS program in Solar Engineering. She has an agricultural engineering degree from the National Engineering University (UNI) in Nicaragua. She has worked in rural development in Nicaragua with drip irrigation and solar systems with an NGO called Grupo Fenix. She will be participating in the next field trip to Peru with our Village Empowerment Project.

Chigbo Mgbemene is on the faculty of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He is pursuing a Ph.D in mechanical engineering in the same university. He is spending the academic year at UML doing research under the direction of Hongwei Sun and John Duffy on efficiency improvements in solar hydrogen generation with electrolyzers and photovoltaic modules.



President Harry S. Truman signs the Fulbright Act into law, 1946.

Named for Senator J. William Fulbright, the Fulbright program is funded by the federal government and aims to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries, through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills. Further information can be found at

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about.html>

President's Award for Public Service.

Professor John Duffy of the Mechanical Engineering Department has been selected as a recipient of the UMASS President's Award for Public Service. He is among six faculty (including Dean John Ting) selected from across the University of Massachusetts system, and is recognized for his global outreach and advocacy in the fields of solar power and sustainable energy use and design.

The presentation of his award will be held on Friday, December 8, from noon to 2 p.m. in The University of Massachusetts Club located at 225 Franklin Street, Boston MA.

ABET Accreditation Visit

Prof. McKelliget would like to thank all faculty, staff, and students who participated in the ABET site visit on October 15 to 17. Although the preliminary report from ABET is not due until January, all indications are that the Department will get a very positive review.

AIAA Student Chapter.

Prof. Niemi is initiating a joint student chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). Students from UMASS Lowell and Daniel Webster College (NH) are invited to participate. If you are interested in joining please contact eugene_niemi@uml.edu.