



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING NEWS

February 18, 2002

A newsletter for the UML Mechanical Engineering community

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

Please email them to: medept@uml.edu or leave them with Jackie Paradise in the Mech Eng office.

Upcoming Seminars (Free Pizza!)

Friday, Feb 22 (11:30-12:20pm, BL 120)

"*Evolution of the Engineer*", Dr. David Kazmer,
Department of Plastics Engineering

Important Dates:

Mon Feb 18 Univ closed -pres day

Wed Feb 20 Incompletes for fall must be completed

Thur Feb 21 Monday schedule

Fri Feb 22 (3:30-4:30pm, BL 326)

Public Speaking Club

E-WEEK Activities

Feb 22-Mar 1 National Engineers Week

Fri Feb 22 Start of E week - latino dance

Sat Feb 23 (10am-2pm, KI 309) TauBetaPi
Engineering Futures Workshop (*see below*)

Mon Feb 25 Senior executive forum - Joe
Gandolfo

Tue Feb 26 Design competition and research
poster competition

Wed Feb 27 Guest engineers in class, E council
awards, Deans list awards

Fri Mar 1 Engineering Hockey night

TBP Engineering Futures Workshops

The Engineering Futures workshop is an interactive training course in personal and leadership skills development, problem solving, and teamwork developed specifically to help engineering students be successful in their careers. The session being held during E-Week is specifically oriented towards analytical problem solving in a team setting, a skill that is definitely required of engineers, both as students and in the working world. The sessions are both fun and exceedingly useful for any future engineer. **LUNCH PROVIDED!**

Interested students can sign up by email to:

kevin_ledoux@uml.edu.

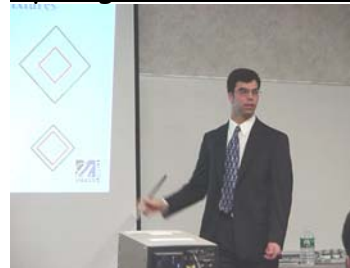
Spotlight on...UNDERGRADS



Greg Sandford
Manchester, NH
Senior

Greg transferred to UML last year from North Park University in Chicago. He is the UML ASME student section president and is currently working in the UML Baseball Research Center. Greg tests baseball bats and balls for the NCAA and MLB, as well as conducts research on the effects of work hardening on aluminum bat performance. For his senior capstone project, Greg is designing and constructing a portable solar powered vaccine refrigerator in support of the UML Peru Project. His interests definitely lie in Heat Transfer and he would love to get a job in that area after he graduates this spring.

Spotlight on...GRAD STUDENTS



Darin Lussier
Dracut, MA
Graduate
student (M.S.)

Darin Lussier (B.S., UML Mechanical Engineering, 1999) started working in the Advanced Composite Materials and Textile Research Lab as a junior and recently defended his M.S. thesis on Shear Characterization of Textile Composite Formability. His research was funded by Ford Motor Company and the National Science Foundation. The "lab expert" when it comes to experimentation, Darin has presented his research at meetings in Boston, Dearborn(MI), College Station(TX), Chicago(IL), and Blacksburg(VA). Happiest while trapezing solo off his Hobie Catamaran, Darin also enjoys putting the best of racquetball players to shame, tennis, mountain biking, rollerblading, skiing, and golf.



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Spotlight on...FACULTY/STAFF



Peter Avitabile
*Assistant Professor &
Director of the Modal Analysis
and Controls Laboratory*

Prof. Avitabile has been very active in the field of structural dynamics with a strong emphasis on experimental techniques, including experimental modal analysis approaches for solving noise and vibration problems. He worked in industry for many years in R&D groups at Westinghouse, ITT and General Electric. Prof Avitabile is recognized internationally as one of the leaders in the field of Modal Analysis. He is Contributing Editor of Sound and Vibration magazine and author of the popular "Modal Analysis - Back to Basics" published in the Experimental Techniques magazine by the Society of Experimental Mechanics.

Born and raised in New York City, Pete has been living in New England for the past 25 years. He has been actively involved in youth associations while his boys were growing up, being an Assistant Scoutmaster in Scouts for over 10 years and Soccer Coach for over 15 years. Some of his hobbies and activities over the past years have been furniture finishing, gardening, clock building, photography, cooking and, of course, making beer.

Pete will talk about Experimental Modal Analysis and the main areas of research in the Modal Analysis and Controls Laboratory at an upcoming ME seminar (March 1).

Useful Websites:

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

-- learn about cell phones, modems, car engines, and chocolate! All kinds of answers to questions about objects in our daily lives.

Tips and Tools:

Fitting a curve to data in MS Excel

You can fit a curve (linear, polynomial, logarithmic) to data by right-clicking on the data and selecting *Add Trendline*. The options tab will allow you to display the equation formula to obtain the slope and intercept values. An alternate way is to use the Regression function on the Data Analysis under Tools (you may have to add the Analysis Toolpak under Tools and Add-Ins for this function to be available)

Spotlight on ALUMNI/COMPANIES



Ling Dynamic Systems
(international,
including CT)
www.lds-group.com
and www.lds-usa.com

For over 35 years Ling Dynamic Systems has been at the forefront of the vibration test and analysis technology, achieving an impressive record of innovation. LDS was the first company worldwide to produce large diameter, lightweight armatures, and integrate them successfully with thermal chambers. They pioneered the design and development of digital switching amplifiers for vibration testing, and were the first to incorporate microprocessor based user interfaces. Their commitment to technological progress is demonstrated by ongoing investment in R&D, sophisticated CAD and finite modeling systems, and the latest production processes. Consumer electronics, avionics, automotive component suppliers and government bodies are typical of the users who rely on LDS products and services.