Graduation Awards

Dean’s Graduate Gold Medal (ME)
  Kari White

Dean’s Graduate Gold Medal (Energy)
  Walter Duane Thomas

Dean’s Undergraduate Gold Medal
  Christopher George Nonis

Dean’s Service Award
  Adam Kutrich

ME Award for Academic Achievement
  Elias George Brassitos
  Jennifer Nora Carr
  Matthew John Ertos
  Joanna Langworthy
  Joseph William Romano

ME Outstanding Graduate Student Award
  Bruce Leblanc
  Joe Sargent

ME Service Award
  William Abrams
  Kevin Christopher Duncan
  David M. Leo
  Joanna Langworthy
  Ricky Kee

Craig Douglas Undergraduate Research Award
  Joanna Langworthy
  Eric Ruggiero
  Dimitri Soteropoulos

ME Team Leadership Award
  Samuel J. Dyas
  Lee Jay Mantha

Graduate School Outstanding Graduate Student
  Sai Liu

Graduating Student Banquet
  Friday May 6th. 5.00 – 9.00 pm at the ICC. The Banquet is free for graduating students

UML AIAA Design-Build-Fly Team Takes to the Air.

The weekend of April 15-17 marked the 15th Annual Cessna/Raytheon Missile Systems Student Design-Build-Fly competition, and the first time that the UML team has entered as a single-university team. They spent the past year designing, building, and testing a suitcase-portable unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) system for soldier-based reconnaissance.

Six students, Brad Olson, Bobby Barger, Abdelwahed Nabat, Cory Miniter, Dan Desjardin, and Gabriel Abreu, along with their faculty advisor (David Willis) traveled to Tuscon, AZ with dreams of taking to the sky. The UML team was sponsored by the Student Activities Board, the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the College of Engineering and the Provost’s Office.

Saturday, the team passed safety inspection with flying colors. Sunday morning the team was up early and off to the competition site – with the intent to fly. They were ready for their first flight attempt and the conditions were perfect. They assembled the aircraft in 4 minutes, a minute faster than the 5-minute time limit. A great start. They walked out to the runway and were ready to launch – just as the wind started to pick up from the south. A terrible break as this created a crosswind on the launch runway. The team
ran the plane down the runway for a launch, but this first flight attempt ended in a relatively quick crash, due to the crosswinds.

Undefeated, the students picked up the plane and went back to the hangar (a white canvas tent in the middle of the desert) to repair the damage from the crash. Within a couple of hours they were ready to fly again. By this point the winds out the west had picked up substantially, with gusts reaching 20mph. After a perfect launch by Dan Desjardin, the plane started to lose altitude in a short lull of wind, but, to our skilled pilot, Bobby Barger, this was a challenge he could overcome. The crowd went wild as the plane started to rise and slowly take to the air. The team had averted another crash. With the support of the crowd, and some excellent piloting, the plane fought against the wind to the first turn of the endurance course. Battling the wind, the plane turned and dashed downwind, where the team was to perform a 360 degree turn. To the supporting roars from the crowd the plane lost altitude, but Bobby fought onward and the plane circled and moved on to the downwind turn. Unfortunately, the plane was caught in a gust, and the flight came to a catastrophic end. The crowd was ecstatic and applauded the great team effort showed by the students! What a great performance! After an epic crash the team recovered and rebuilt the plane, but decided to wait for the winds to calm before flying again. The winds never calmed so the students saved the plane to fly it another day. These students should be proud of their first entry into the AIAA-DBF competition as an individual team.

Prof. Duffy Honored
Professor John Duffy of the ME department was voted Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year by the Graduate Student Association (GSA). Prof. Duffy teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in the department, and is coordinator of the alternative energy graduate program. He also coordinates the Peru Project.

This unique energy recycling project began when Karen Bell, the club business owner, contacted Professor Sammy Shina last fall to speak to his senior ME Class about a unique idea to recycle the mechanical energy provided by the fitness club customers into electrical energy to power the exercise machines, or even to sell back to the grid. This project idea was met with an enthusiastic response and more than 20 students were interested. It was decided to select a small team to focus on one exercise machine, in order to properly manage and trailblaze the project, and to have more students in the future to continue their work. The student team, comprising of Lee Mantha, Michael Harrington, and Eric Ruggiero (shown below) have been meeting with Karen and Sammy throughout the spring semester that began in late January 2011. They transported a stationary bike from the Club to the University Mechanical Engineering Laboratory in order to make engineering measurements, observe all interconnections and components, and model the bike on a computer.

They expect to deliver the prototype to the Club at the conclusion of the semester in early May 2011.

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The Graduate Student Association Awards banquet will be held on Saturday, May 7 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. at the Inn and Conference Center.