

# the ME Pipeline

Department of Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

## FROM THE CHAIR

Most of you are well aware of the budget cuts that FAU the college and the ME department must absorb this year and the next academic year. You may be asking yourself how these budget cuts will affect course offerings, schedules and most importantly your graduation plans. Currently only the summer semester is impacted with reduced course offerings campus-wide.

The fall and spring courses for academic year 2008-2009 should not be affected. However, my advice to each of you is to maintain an open channel of communication with the department via e-mail, personal meetings with your advisor, KC and by reading the ME Pipeline. We will do our best to keep you informed of any changes to the schedules, and try to accommodate the needs of each of you within reason.

On a happier note: I wish you a nice Spring Break. Enjoy this vacation and take the opportunity to visit family and friends, and get ahead of your studies, projects, papers, etc.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

SHOUT-OUT and CONGRATULATIONS to the Mechanical Engineering Team – CHAMPIONS in the Deal or No Deal Brain Bowl competition during E-Week. It was a close race with Ocean Engineering's Team; but who knew Dean Karl Steven's career assessment while attending undergraduate school was to be a mortician vs. the mechanical engineer he is!



From left: Kyle Moran, Josh Kahn (Captain), Bryan Vancheri, Kate Lurie, KC Coyle (Cheerleader Extraordinaire),

and Danny Bonanno.

## SECURITY FIRST!

**Do you know where your jump drive is?** We are experiencing an alarming increase in jump drives left in computer labs and not turned in to the office. Prior semesters, students would turn in one or two drives/week. This semester, year-to-date, no drives were 'found' yet there are at least 10 missing/lost. If you find a drive, please turn them into the ME office – who knows the next 'lost' drive may be yours?

**Watch your books too!** In the past two weeks, textbooks are mysteriously missing from classrooms and/or the library. This is not just in engineering, it is happening in other colleges too. This is a crime and BookSmart is reporting anyone who attempts to sell a book without proper identification to the Boca Raton Police Department.

## SUGGESTION BOX

Yes, we have a suggestion box for you to submit constructive ideas, suggestions, to the chair. We received three (3) this month and all were good ideas. Thank you – keep those ideas coming!

## CALCULUS TUTORING

Are you struggling with MAC 2253 Calculus I for Engineers? Do you feel "lost" at times? HELP IS HERE – besides the outstanding tutors in Engineering Student Services – a peer tutor (yes a student who survived Calc I and II) is available every day! Check your e-mails or with the DESS office for available times.

## KC's CAREER LINE

Is your resume posted with E-TechJobs, at the Engineering Career Development (ECD) web site? If not, what's the delay? Get your resume posted for summer co-op positions, part-time and post graduation jobs. [www.myinterfase.com/fau\\_ecd/student/](http://www.myinterfase.com/fau_ecd/student/). It takes about 15-20 minutes – employment opportunities do not historically fall from the sky – you must pursue them, especially if current economic trends continue. Don't have a resume? Make an appointment at the ECD office, S&E building 43, room 103.

**Engineering Career Day:** mark your calendars for **Thursday March 13, 3:00 PM at the Live Oak Pavilion.** *Proper business dress attire required or no admittance! No exceptions!*

## MORE EWEK ACTION

Did you go enjoy the brunch? How about the carnival? Did you dunk a professor? Fun and laughter were had by all, well almost all. Ben did you really want to take Dr. Salivar's technical elective this summer? Do you really expect a good grade? ☺ And Nate – laughing in the background?



*"Ben, you don't want to dunk me?"*



*"Dr. Salivar, you're an easy target."*



*"Lucky for you, you're not in my class now."*

## AND THE WINNER IS



More congratulations to Kate Lurie who won an iPod touch from the Tyco/Sensormatic contest – she thought outside the box for Tyco's theft prevention device. Utilizing their technology, she suggested clipping the theft sensor to a wheel chair and a sensor on an automated door; when wheelchair approaches the door, it automatically opens. Here's Kate getting her award from Hap Patterson, VP at Tyco.

## PUZZLE for January 2008

No solutions were submitted. Oh so sad! Would you believe me if I said the prize was a new car? Let's see how well you do with next month's puzzle. No car but there is a prize for the solution!

## THE JANUARY PUZZLE SOLUTION

In old England at road intersections there were news boards announcing events that take place to the North, East, West and South of the intersection. The word news is an acronym for North, East, West and South.

## THE FEBRUARY PUZZLE



The vehicle in the photo has rear wheel drive and its rear wheels are fixed to the ground. Is it possible for the engine to lift the front of the car? If yes, what is the required horsepower? The weight of the car is 750 lbs. and its center of gravity is 30" in front of the rear axle. The engine stalls at 70 mph when the drag factor is 0.36.

## ED-I MINI-PROJECT

On Tuesday, February 19, multidisciplinary teams of students in the College of Engineering and Computer Science Engineering Design I course, presented their mini-projects. The object of the project was to design a musical instrument that can be played manually or can be programmed to play a tune automatically. The following are photos of a couple of the projects.

