

September 2008

the ME Pipeline

Department of Mechanical Engineering Newsletter


FROM THE CHAIR - Welcome Back!

I hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready for a productive academic year. Let's make this an exciting year for everyone in Mechanical Engineering.

Many of you learned fall courses, both technical electives and core requirements – graduate and undergraduate, were cancelled due to low enrollment. A significant contributor to low enrollment is late registration. KC e-mailed at least four reminders over the summer in an attempt to boost enrollment; and yet several students came in the week before the term to register; too little, too late. Decisions to cancel a class are not made lightly. Budget constraints over the last couple of years have had a significant impact on course enrollment minimums to ensure effective use of all resources. The United Faculty of Florida (UFF) faculty teaching assignments must be made a few weeks before each semester starts. With that said, my recommendation is REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. This way we'll be able to better accommodate your needs. Spring 2009 registration will begin November 12th.

Florida's financial troubles are not over and you may wonder how this affects you. In short, fall and spring semester will not be impacted. However, if there is a summer 2009 term, the course offerings will be reduced compared to prior summers. The go/no-go decision will be made early-mid spring and is dependent on budget availability. As I wrote in the summer 2008 ME Pipeline, we will offer core courses every spring/fall term. Those courses include: Machine Design I, Machine Design II, Engineering Materials, System Dynamics and Electromechanical Devices. Enrollment is limited to 25 students per semester. I hope these additional offerings will keep you on track to graduate as planned, in spite of the lack of a summer semester.

Again, welcome back and on behalf of myself, the ME faculty and staff, we wish you success.



RECOGNITION, SHOUT OUTS and KUDOs



As many of you many have heard, Tamsyn Carey, Director of Engineering Student Services is leaving us. She has accepted a position at Chadron State University in Nebraska! Yes she's leaving Florida and sunshine for an opportunity to create something new at CSU. Tamsyn's last day is Friday, September 26th, be sure to stop by and wish her well. All of us in Mechanical Engineering wish her all the best life has to offer and great success!

Dr. Amir Abtahi's summer Solar Energy Engineering class designed and installed a solar power system off the patio. The class designed and built the brackets, ordered and installed solar panels, batteries, and a control system. The system will control Solar Energy lab's computers. As funding becomes available, additions will be made with hopes of running all the mechanical engineering labs via solar energy.



Pictured: Dr. Abtahi and Vincent Grilli-Meunier in the bucket; on roof is Aquiles Perez, Sean Haynes and a visitor.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Abtahi and his class!

HANGING WITH MS. NICOLE

Well, everyone Labor Day is over and the fall semester is officially in session. We all know what that means—the mad dash to come up with the cash for books. However, if you are an ME student, your sleepless nights spent worrying about hefty price tags for books might just be over. Stop by the Mechanical Engineering office to sign out a book, if we have the book it's yours—free of charge. Simply sign it out and return by the end of the semester but hurry—a deal like this won't last long!

The month of September is full of changes and if you have strolled past the ME hallway, you may have realized a familiar face is missing. While you may see a glimpse of Dr. Abtahi, he is currently on sabbatical acquiring a new set of skills to help better educate students.

As the fall semester heats up, I am sure stashes of energy drinks are already being purchased in preparation for the long nights of study. However, balance is the key to a successful semester. The Owls Racing team is still looking for new members to help with fundraising efforts and development of the new car. Participation in the team will catch the eye of prospective employers and add a nice touch to your resume—proving that you are much more than a bookworm and can work well with others. Weekly meetings have been tentatively scheduled for every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Ackhurst room. While you may be unable to attend every meeting, it is important to attend at least a few, as these meetings serve as focus groups and keep the club running smoothly. For more details, e-mail owlsracing@fau.edu.

Lastly, as the semester shifts into high gear, remember the importance of a good start and avoid the procrastination bug by following the words of the famous Roman lyric poet and satirist Horace, "He who has begun has half done. Dare to be wise; begin!"

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

with Nicole Carr, Senior Secretary



Where did you attend college? After transferring from NSU, I came to FAU and have been an Owl fan ever since. My bachelor's is in English and I am currently pursuing a master's degree in English with a concentration on Multicultural Literacies

at FAU.

What course did you struggle with and how did you get through it? Liberal Arts I and II. Perfect practice helped me pass the class.

What type of music do you like and who is your favorite musician? Music is like the Thanksgiving dinner table to me—I have to try everything! I like country, sprinkles of rap, R&B, a teeny bit of rock, jazz, classical, and don't be alarmed if you catch me humming a trendy pop song. I am a soul junkie at

heart, so Maxwell is my favorite artist.

What are the best and worst jobs you've had? My best working experience was tutoring elementary-age children. Seeing them read an entire book on their own and the smiles that spread across their faces was enough for me. I have not had a truly horrible working experience yet and I hope to keep it that way!

Your favorite non-academic book is: Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *After the Rain* by Norma Fox Mazer. I read both of these books as a young girl and after each reading, I felt a range of various emotions.

What are some favorite movies? *Forrest Gump*, *Hurricane*, *Malcolm X*, *Philadelphia*. I can't forget the classics, like the original 1939 *The Women*, *Notorious*, *Vertigo*, and *The Philadelphia Story*.

What makes you laugh? Whenever my nephew takes the karaoke microphone in his tiny hands, belts out a tune at the top of his lungs, and sways his hips to the beat.

Favorite actor(s): Don Cheadle, Tom Hanks, Angela Basset and Denzel Washington.

What profession would you like to most attempt? Authoress.

What profession do you not want to attempt? Math teacher—the students would probably teach me more than I could teach them.

If you won the lottery, what three things would you do with it? Build a mansion for my family, create a school for minorities from preschool through high-school, and develop an organization to reverse the abuse, rape, and psychological torment women suffer by re-imagining the role of women.

JOIN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Many organizations offer low-cost student membership and scholarships. Join one or more today. Your active participation looks good on your resume!

ASHRAE - American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air Conditioning Engineers
www.ashrae.org (\$16 annually)

ASME - American Society of Mechanical Engineering
www.asme.org (\$25 annually)

NSBE - National Society of Black Engineers
www.nsbe.org (\$10 annually)

SAE - Society of Automotive Engineers www.sae.org (\$10 annually)

SHPE - Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
www.shpe.org (\$5 annually)

SWE - Society of Women Engineers www.swe.org (\$20 annually)

ALUMNI NEWS

Nick Craven, class of spring 08, is in the Leadership Development Program at Lockheed Martin's Aeronautics headquarters. Home of the F-16 Fighting Falcon and Joint Strike Fighter, is located seven miles west of downtown Fort Worth, Texas. The production facility was established in 1942 in response to the U.S. War Department's need to produce additional B-24 Liberator bombers for World War II. More than 3,034 bombers rolled off the nearly mile-long production line by the end of the war.

ALUMNI – please send us your news. Be the hope for freshman and sophomores that there is life after college!

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Mechanical Engineering instituted a class attendance policy in the Spring 2007 term. Allowable per term absences are: MWF classes four (4) and TR classes three (3); exceed allowable absences equals **ONE LETTER GRADE REDUCTION**. Allowed absences are approved at discretion of instructor.

NEED HELP WITH WRITING PROJECT?

Check out the UCEW (University Center for Excellence in Writing) at www.fau.edu/UCEW/

TUTORING REMINDER – It's FREE

Engineering Student Services Room # 170/Bldg 36

Programming

Mondays 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Fridays 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Engineering

Mondays (OE, ME, CE) 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesdays (OE, ME, CE) 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

@ Heritage Park Towers

Monday/Wednesday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

LOST and FOUND

Seeking owners of lost objects! Sunglasses, keys, earrings, flash drives, and items left in classrooms, lobby, etc. in the engineering building. Stop by the ME office (room 120), ask for Nicole.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR REMINDERS

- 09/11 College of Engineering Career Fair
- 09/16 Last day to submit application for degree
- 10/17 Last day to withdraw without an 'F'
- 11/10 Last day to submit Doctoral Dissertation
- 11/11 Veteran's Day, no classes
- 11/17 Last day to submit Master's thesis
- 11/12 Spring Registration Begins
- 11/27 – 11/30 Closed Thanksgiving
- 12/05 – 12/11 Final Exams
- 12/12 Semester Ends!
- 12/12 Commencement
- 01/05 Spring Semester begins, start all over again

Do you have photographs of an engineering project? Want to recognize someone special? Send an e-mail to ncarr3@fau.edu or kcoyle1@fau.edu with your ideas!

ME FACULTY OFFICE HOURS

Professor	Day	Office Hours	E-mail
Amir Abtahi	Sabbatical	----	abtahi@fau.edu
William Bober	MF TR	2:00-4:00PM 2:00-3:00PM	boberw@fau.edu
George Cai	TR	9:00-2:00PM	caig@fau.edu
Leif Carlsson	MWF	1:00-3:00PM	carlsson@fau.edu
Isaac Elishakoff	MW TR	10:00-11:30AM 3:30- 5:00PM	elishako@fau.edu
Gopal Gaonkar	MW F	4:00-5:30PM 4:00-7:00PM	gaonkar@fau.edu
Chaouki Ghenai	MWF TR	1:00-3:00PM 12:30-3:30PM	cghenai@fau.edu
Kader Mazouz	MWF	9:00 – 11:00AM	mazouz@fau.edu
Oren Masory	TR	9:00-11:00AM	masoryo@fau.edu
Davood Moslemian	MWF MW	11:00 - 12:00 12:30-2:00	moslemian@fau.edu
Gary Salivar	MW TR	2:00 - 3:00PM 10:00-11:00AM	salivar@fau.edu
Joe Su	MTWRF	8:00-9:10AM	su@fau.edu
C.T. Tsai	MWF MW	10:00-11:00AM 2:20 - 3:50PM	tsaict@fau.edu