

the ME Pipeline

November 2008

Department of Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR –

We crossed the 2/3 mark of the semester and final exams are only four weeks away! Here are some ideas to help you prepare for success and survival of exam week. **First**, plan your study and review time according to your current standing in the class; i.e. if grades are weak in a certain course, devote more time to study the material in this course. **Second**, complete all homework assignments, particularly since earlier homework was covered in prior exams or quizzes (still a good idea to review); **Third**, if you have problems with a certain topic or concept, FREE tutoring is available or set an appointment with the instructor. Chances are that this particular topic will be on the exam. **Fourth**, use another textbook, sometimes a topic is explained differently in another textbook which make it easier for you to understand. Check with the library or with KC or Nicole for 'loaners.' In any case **GOOD LUCK!** on your exams.

I like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and friends **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



RECOGNITION, SHOUT OUTs and KUDOs CONGRATULATIONS Stranahan High School "Beans and Rice" team were gold medal winners at the 1st Annual Engineering Olympics sponsored by ASME @ FAU. SHOUT OUT to **Katharine Lurie**, organizer extraordinaire. And KUDOs to Plantation High School "Rocketeers" the silver medal winners, and Stranahan's "Platinum Electronics" the bronze medal winners. A SHOUT OUT to all the high school teams who participated: Boca Raton, Flanagan, Forest Hill and Jupiter.



(From left: Dean Haddox, Philip Anglade, Arfanul Hoque, Justin DePaul, Camilo Perez, Kate Lurie, and Juan Formoso.)

Ms. Virginie Soutry, a French scholar who spent an internship in the ME department, participated in the World University Water Skiing Championships in Tianjin, China in early October. Competing in the slalom, open water, and tricks events, as an individual and on the French team, Virginie finished in an impressive ninth place overall and contributed to the team winning the bronze medal. From the entire Mechanical Engineering department and our chairman Dr. Oren Masory congratulations Virginie! We are proud of you! (Virginie and her brother Marc, also a member of the team).



Dr. Kader Mazouz' Fundamentals of Engineering class was challenged to create a bridge that could hold at least six times its own weight. Using only newspaper and wide tape, students had to prove the strength of their bridge by placing textbooks on the bridges and the ratio of the bridge weight and the book weight decided which team had the best design.



(Displaying their paper bridge project: Christian Agredo, Brentley Harstad, Sean Mullin, and Corey Rossman)

FREE TEXTBOOK: Dr. Jim Pohl, who retired from the ME department a few years ago, published an "Engineering Thermodynamics" book on the internet. The book is FREE at www.thermomentor.com Besides theory, the book includes very interesting examples that are not found in a traditional thermodynamics textbook. It is worth your time to review this book and check-out the examples.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The machine shop will be closed November 24, 25, 26th, of Thanksgiving week. **Get your student projects in today.**

FAU campuses will be closed from Wednesday December 24th thru Thursday January 1, 2009; reopen on Friday January 2, 2009.

ALUMNI NEWS:

On September 2, 2008, the world welcomed a second generation mechanical engineering student – **Caleb Roman Sahlberg** class of 2028! He is the son of Bryce Sahlberg '07. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Sahlberg!



Alumni – please send us your exciting new or job promotions, news. Show the current undergraduate population there is hope and life after calculus, dynamics, statics, fluids, etc.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR REMINDERS

- 11/10 Last day to submit Doctoral Dissertation
- 11/11 Veteran's Day, no classes
- 11/12 Spring Registration Begins
- 11/17 Last day submit Master's thesis/Graduate Portfolio
- 11/27 11/30: Closed Thanksgiving
- 12/05 12/11: Final Exams
- 12/12 College of Engineering Graduation
- 12/15 Grades posted
- 01/05 Monday start all over again

HANGING WITH MS. NICOLE

While Thanksgiving is just a month away, final exams are also right around the corner and will be held on December 5th through December 11th. So after carving into the turkey or preparing that slice of sweet potato pie, put aside some time to study for your final exam. As we near the final stretch of the semester, things can get a bit rough and it may be worthwhile to rely on friends and family for successful results. A little teamwork goes a long way and Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court, said it best, "We don't accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something".

NEED HELP WITH A WRITING PROJECT?

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

NOVEMBER PICTURE

Money is hard to come by!



PUZZLE

Assemble the 5 by 5 board from the given pieces. Give your dated solution to Nicole (no later than 12/01/2008) The winner will receive a copy of SolidWorks (if there is more than one correct submission the winner will be chosen by a random drawing!)

