October Events

Oct 3 – STUCO Free Day
Oct 8 – ASME Meeting, Impromptu Design Competition
Oct 10 – AMAE Luncheon
Oct 15 – St Louis Section, Tour of SIUE National Corn-to-Ethanol Facility
Oct 22 – ASME Meeting, Student / Faculty Forum

Oct 8 – ASME Meeting, (ME 104, 5:30 pm) Impromptu Design Competition
Come one, come all to the wildly exciting, absolutely fantastic ASME Impromptu Design Competition. Stretch your engineering skills to the limit! Past contests utilized such high-tech materials as paper clips, straws, balloons, paper plates, rubber bands, and plastic cups. You will have about 20 minutes to grab some materials and some teammates, and then design and build whatever bizarre contraption we come up with. No design experience? No problem! This contest was scientifically designed to handicap the people who think too much. Still not sure? Well, come on out anyway, have some refreshments, and watch the action unfold. Something is bound to fall over, bend, break, or just collapse completely. See you there!

Oct 15 – Plant Tour (Sponsored by Parent Section)
The St. Louis Section of ASME is sponsoring a tour of the National Corn-to Ethanol Research Pilot Plant. This facility, located on the campus of SIUE, is the only facility in the world that fully emulates both a corn-wet mill and corn-dry mill commercial fuel ethanol production facility. The plant is capable of operating 100 days per year and producing 500 gallons of ethanol per day. In addition to the production area, the 23,000 square foot houses a full support lab, operational facilities, and offices for administration, research, and operations.

The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Rodney J. Bothast. Dr. Bothast is a Research Professor in the SIUE Department of Biological Sciences and is Director of the NCERC. He has held research and leadership positions at the USDA Laboratory in Peoria, IL, and recently received the “Award of Excellence” at the 18th International Ethanol Workshop.

This is a great opportunity to meet members of our parent section and see a cutting-edge research facility. We will be meeting at 3:00 pm at 203 ME Annex so we can make it to Edwardsville by 5:30 pm. If you want to participate in this exciting opportunity, contact Alan Pilch (acpgcb@umr.edu) by Friday, Oct 10.

Oct 22 – ASME Meeting, (ME 104, 5:30 pm) Student / Faculty Forum
Do you have a suggestion that could improve the UMR Mechanical Engineering Department? This is your chance to share your ideas with the faculty and students. The last forum addressed the adviser/student relationship and ways to improve communication. Both advisers and students expressed their ideas about how this interaction should be approached to maximize everyone’s benefit. Key suggestions were:

- Students – come to your advisement week appointment prepared with a completed schedule of classes. If you have questions about classes, make an appointment BEFORE advisement week to sort them out. You should have an idea of what classes you need by then, and this will give you and your advisor time to discuss any concerns.
- Advisors – make time available to your students to discuss questions about classes. Post office hours so your students know when they can find you.
- Both – treat each other with respect. Most problems can be ironed out if you
approach them in a professional manner. And if all else fails, ask Dr. Nisbett. He is always willing to help, provided he can squeeze you into his schedule with all the other students that need help.

Message from the Student Section Chair, Alan Pilch
This year of ASME has begun with a roaring start! There is a lot of activity planned this year. The semester started with two guest speaker, Mike Carlson, from Cargill Inc., and Tom Wendt, the Director of the Midwest Office for ASME International. The high attendance at both meetings is quite encouraging! The MAEEM Department Picnic was held on September 12, and was a fantastic success despite the rain that day. Four students attended the Regional Student Leadership Seminar in DesMoines, IA, and they had a fun time and met many Student and Professional ASME members from throughout the region.

You will notice a few new additions to ASME this year. First, we have distributed business cards detailing the activities for the semester and information to help you contact the officers. About 1500 of these cards have been circulated, but if you have not gotten one, contact any officer and we will get some for you. Second, the web site has been revamped, with a new look and more content. You will find the semester calendar, newsletters from our Section and from our Parent Section in Saint Louis, and other useful information at web.umr.edu/~asme. Third, we have started a newsletter, the first issue of which you are reading now. We extend many thanks to Angela Berring for drafting this first copy.

Call for Committee Membership
Some of the goals of the ASME are to foster leadership, professionalism, and technical competence. We try to provide these to you by providing guest speakers, plant tours, impromptu design competitions, and social gatherings. In order to give everyone a chance to develop leadership skills, Misty is working hard to recruit students to work on and lead several committees.

This gives you more to talk about on your resume and shows that you are able to handle leadership responsibilities. This is an attribute that employers look for in hiring criteria. Points will be awarded for every item you help with in ASME. At the end of the semester all points are tallied and a CASH SCHOLARSHIP is awarded. Make the most of ASME and bring YOUR ideas to the tables!!

Did we forget something important? Send articles, ideas, or other suggestions to Angela Berring (acbn7d@umr.edu).

2003-2004 UMR Student Section Officers

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<th>Position</th>
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