

# The ME Connection

## UE Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

February 2024

*"Enthusiasm is the steam that drives the engine."*

*- Napoleon Hill*

### Full Steam Ahead (literally!)



After enjoying the winter break, students returned to campus for an action-packed Spring semester. Integrated Design teams are pushing forward on project work, and students are exploring concepts like power production in the Thermo-Fluids lab. We'd love to hear more about projects that are keeping our alumni busy. Let us know what's new for you in 2024!

### Hands on Learning

First year mechanical engineering students are gaining experience in the machine shop this semester. With the guidance of Lab Manager, Ray Shelton, students are learning fabrication techniques on the manual mill and lathe, as well as locating, drilling, and tapping.



The sophomore class will be gaining more experience with the CNC machines as part of ME 297 this semester. While these skills will help the student project teams build and test their designs, we also believe some familiarity with machining will lead to more informed designs. The hands-on approach is deeply embedded in our curriculum, and we've heard from alumni and employers that the practical experience makes our graduates stand out.



### ME Student Projects

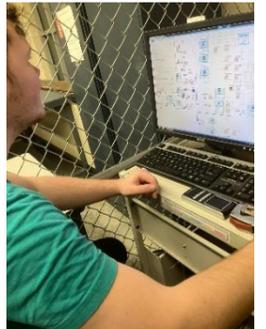


**SAE Baja Team** Fabrication has begun for the 2023-2024 vehicle. Over the past few weeks, the team has been working meticulously to cut, cope, and bend all tubular members for both the space frame chassis and front suspension members. March 25<sup>th</sup> is the target date for a completed vehicle. The team gives a big thanks to sponsors Wright Steel, NIX Companies, EBN, and Schmitt Metalworks.



### Thermosiphon Team

The team has completed two very promising sets of data investigating different hot leg heights at a constant angle. The team is finishing up base case tests before starting research for this semester. After system testing is completed in March, modifications will be made to the data collection system. The team is planning to present at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research.



We want to celebrate our alumni!  
Please submit a photo and short blurb to:

[mechanicalengineering@evansville.edu](mailto:mechanicalengineering@evansville.edu)



### Student Spotlight: Allen Hungate Class of 2024

I first became interested in mechanical engineering when I attended a tour of the Toyota plant near Princeton, Indiana, with my Boy Scout troop during middle school. It was an eye-opening experience that showed me the world of machines and design and immediately drew my attention. Subjects such as physics and other scientific disciplines were also intriguing, allowing me better to understand the diverse and vast world around me. Ultimately, these combined interests culminated in my attending the University of Evansville to pursue an engineering degree.



As a mechanical engineering major at UE, I joined various senior design projects, aiding and assisting them in any way, looking to learn all I could from them along the way. I primarily worked with the UE NASA Rover team for my freshman and sophomore years and the SAE Baja team for my junior and senior years. I am currently the senior lead for the rear suspension of the SAE Baja team. I have also been heavily involved in Greek life on campus, becoming a member of the Zeta Beta chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. I immediately became a chapter leader, serving as the chapter's secretary, treasurer, and then vice president. Alongside this, I stepped forward to represent my chapter in the Interfraternity Council, serving as the VP of operations, VP of recruitment, vice president of standards, and eventually president. The numerous leadership opportunities and project experiences have molded me into a person ready to face challenges, stepping up as a leader and guide when necessary.

My time at UE has taught me a great many things, from organization, time management, and communication skills to CAD modeling, Finite Element Analysis, LabView, MATLAB, and LT Spice. I am currently looking for career opportunities in the industrial, construction, or project-based mechanical engineering sectors in the Evansville area, or beyond. Looking toward the future, I plan to utilize my degree to make an impact and to one day proudly continue the legacy of UE mechanical engineering alums.

*My greatest lesson gained from my time at the University of Evansville has been determination and perseverance, as with these great drivers behind me and the skills to support my ambitions, nothing is truly outside the scope of possibility in this world.*

National Engineer's Week is Feb 18-24

### Congratulations Corner



**Class of 2025**  
Congratulations to Daniel Santos Lopez on winning multiple first place titles for the Men's Swimming and Diving team in the past few weeks! Dani also set a new pool record at a meet hosted by Eastern Illinois University.



Congratulations to Mrs. Tonya Albright, Administrative Assistant for the School of Engineering and Computer Science, for being awarded Employee of the Month by UE's Staff and Administrators Assembly. Keep up the great work!

Q: Why did the engineer like taking photos of themselves next to boiling water?

A: They had selfie-steam issues