

# The ME Connection

## UE Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

April 2024

*"A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."*

*- Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr*

### A Shared Experience

After returning from Easter Break, campus eagerly anticipated the total solar eclipse. Campus organizations hosted several events in conjunction with the eclipse, and the UE community gathered to experience the unique event of totality. The sky got dark, the temperature dropped, and we heard cheers across campus as we witnessed the total eclipse... then it was back to business! Research and design projects are nearing completion, and final exams are just around the corner. Our seniors may be counting down the 22 days until Commencement, while some of our students are preparing for PurplePalooza or training for UE's Bike Race – good luck this weekend, Owen!

### ME Faculty Present at Conference

Dr. Jared Fulcher and Dr. Jessie Lofton recently co-authored a paper that was selected for the 2024 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) IL-IN Section Conference held at the University of Chicago in April. The paper is titled, "Impact of Formal FE Review Course on Student Pass Rates in a Mechanical Engineering Program."



### Call for ME Alumni Memories

UE's Reunion Weekend starts today and has us feeling nostalgic. Help us take a trip down memory lane! Send in your favorite photo or story from your time at UE. Do you have a memorable anecdote from a class, project team, study abroad, student activity, or Koch Center?

### Senior Spotlight – Bradan Bruce

Bradán Bruce, Class of 2024, is the Thermosiphon Team Leader. He attended the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Long Beach, California, to present results from the team project. NCUR is the largest conference of its kind and brings together undergraduate students from all disciplines to celebrate their research experience. The Thermosiphon research project has helped Bradán prepare for graduate school, where he plans to explore the field of vibrations and acoustics.



During his time at UE, Bradán has also been actively involved in the university bands and Music Conservatory. He will be graduating with minors in both Music Studies and Mathematics. As part of his Music Studies minor, Bradán performed his senior recital in Wheeler Concert Hall this March.

His performance included four percussion pieces, of which was a multi-percussion piece with several instruments. His recital can be viewed on UE's Music Conservatory YouTube channel. Most recently, Bradán performed with the UE Pep Band for the UEclipse celebrations.



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

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

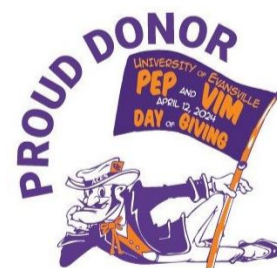


### Alumni Spotlight: Andrew Rister, P.E. (Class of 2010)



Andrew Rister was recently elected to the ASME Power Conference Organizing Committee, with the role of Technical Program Co-Chair, for the 2024 ASME Power Conference being held September 15-18 in Washington, D.C. His duties include helping oversee the review process for the technical papers submitted to the conference, as well as planning and organizing panel discussions on important power industry trends and topics. He will assume the role of Technical Program Chair for the 2025 conference, which will be held in conjunction with the International Conference of Power Engineering (ICOPE-2025), a joint conference between the ASME Power Division, the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the Chinese Society of Power Engineering. He has previously been responsible for the Power Plant Heat Exchangers and Cooling Technologies track of the conference since 2018.

Andrew was also recently named a Subject Matter Expert on steam condensers for Duke Energy's fossil power generation fleet, where he will work as part of a team tasked with assisting on issues related to the operation and maintenance of coal and combined cycle power plant condensers. He has worked extensively with monitoring and improving condenser performance by developing and implementing effective tube cleaning methods and designing chemical injection systems to prevent fouling of heat exchanger tubes. Much of this experience comes from his work as a Project Manager at Duke's Gibson Generating Station in Owensville, Indiana, where he manages capital projects related to balance-of-plant systems (pumps, valves, pressure vessels, heat exchangers, etc.) that support the plant's boiler and turbine systems. Andrew is also a registered Professional Engineer in Indiana.

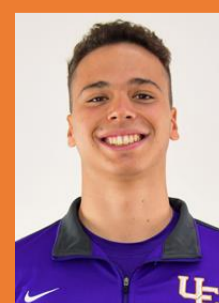


### UE's Pep & Vim is Today!

If you plan to make a gift as part of Pep and Vim, please consider using one of the engineering designations: *Gerhart Legacy Fund*, *SECS Student Project Fund*, or *Mechanical Engineering*.

### Congratulations Corner

Congratulations to juniors Daniel Santos Lopez and Jakob Grundbacher on their performance at the 2024 Mid-American Conference Swimming and Diving Championships last month. Both swimmers competed in individual and relay team events. Dani broke a school record on each of the three days of the meet!



ACES



Q: What do you call a paper airplane that can't fly?

A: Stationary!