

# The ME Connection

## UE Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

December 2023

*"Tinkering is a way of understanding difficult problems, of wrapping our heads around them and quantifying the unknowns."*

- Gever Tulley

### Wrapping Up the Fall Semester

As the Fall 2023 semester comes to an end, we look back on the many accomplishments, both big and small, from our students, alumni, and faculty this year – we can't help but be amazed! We look forward to celebrating future successes with you and wish you the best in the new year. In the meantime, we hope you are able to celebrate the holidays with friends and family. The ME Connection will return in February 2024.



### Alumna Named to Top Women in Business



Tamara (Esche) Carr, *Class of 2008*, was recognized as one of Junior League of Evansville's 2023 Top Women in Business this fall and honored for her contributions as a civic leader. For the past 11 years, she held various roles at Reckitt, formerly Mead Johnson Nutrition, where she is currently a Project Manager. With her engineering background and PMP certification, Tamara leads teams in large-scale projects to meet the demand for infant formula.



Tamara has been a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the German Township Fire Department since high school. Having served at every officer rank over her 20+ years of service to GTFD, she made headlines in 2021 when she became the first female Fire Chief for the department. Tamara is also involved in other community organizations.

### ME Student Projects



**Freshmen** in ME 101: *Introduction to Mechanical Engineering* concluded the semester with demonstrations of their tennis ball launchers. After performing design calculations and building a working prototype, the teams tested launcher performance against theoretical results. The teams are shown with their launchers in the photo above.

**Sophomores** in EE 210: *Circuits I* practiced their soldering skills while building electronic cars that rely on photoresistors to automatically follow a black line designating a path.

**Juniors** in ME 344: *Design of Machine Elements* completed a gear box design project that required iterative calculations to determine appropriate component specifications.

**Seniors** in ME 495: *Professional Practice I* submitted and presented Interim Design Reports for the Thermosiphon Research Team and Aces Racing – SAE Baja Team.



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

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



### Alumni Spotlight: Jon Richardson

While attending UE, Jon Richardson (*Class of 2011*) was passionate about building community through involvement in Phi Kappa Tau, NASA Student Launch Initiative, and DJing for the campus radio station, WUEV. Jon has built a career in manufacturing specializing in quality and reliability with Berry Global, Daramic, Asahi Kasei, and Markforged. Having a unique working experience which took him from Indiana, to Kentucky, and finally Massachusetts, he is currently Plant Manager for the manufacturing facility of well-known 3D printing innovator Markforged.



*"Working in additive manufacturing is an engineering dream. I have access to the best technology in the world and work for a company where creativity and technical application are encouraged. I truly believe that in 20 years when the next phase of manufacturing is embedded, the Markforged manufacturing facility will be looked back on as an industry innovator. I get to literally build the mold for what tomorrow's manufacturing is going to look like. I think that's pretty incredible."*

In his spare time, Jon really takes the time to appreciate the little things, typically alongside his wife, Sunny, and his two wonderful sons. He loves cooking, as well as hiking, fishing, and gardening. Jon and his family are all passionate about sustainability, environmental activism, inclusion, and equitable community access. They spend their time volunteering at their local food pantries, library, social justice alliance, and sustainability groups. Overall, thankful doesn't begin to describe his feelings about the opportunities he's had as a person, husband, father, and professional to grow on this elaborate life journey.



### Congratulations Corner

**Class of 2018** Congratulations to Mohammed AlSebaa on receiving the Emerson Flow Controls – MEA Customer Focus Award for 2023. Mohammed credits the unwavering commitment and hard work of the entire Materials Team in Jubail for making this recognition possible. Keep up the great work!



Q: How does Santa know he is at an engineer's house on Christmas Eve?

A: There is WD-40 on the chimney and duct-taped gift wrapping!