

The ME Connection

UE Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

June 2024

"Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't."

- Bill Nye



Hello, Summer!

While campus may be relatively quiet in the summer, we know our alumni and students are staying busy. If you have recently taken on a new position, worked on an exciting project, or earned a new credential – let us know! We are always looking for ways to celebrate our ME community. We are also exploring new ways to increase engagement between our alumni and current students to strengthen the UE ME community. Keep reading for a quick introduction to a new initiative, **"Meet ME @ ..."**

Alumnus Takes Flight

Dr. Eugene Hoffman (*Class of 2016*) recently made headlines for his latest research that may help realize future extended space missions.

"Performing reduced gravity research has been one of the coolest experiences in my career thus far. I am forever grateful to my company, SwRI, various colleagues and partners at Texas A&M for making this a reality. I look forward to sharing our results from the flight and to future research we perform in this space."

Credit: Courtesy of SwRI

Southwest Research Institute is studying the process of boiling liquids under partial gravity conditions during two parabolic flights. The project aims to better understand how liquids boil on a series of different surfaces in partial gravity. In this image, SwRI Research Engineer Dr. Eugene Hoffman floats in partial gravity while conducting the fluids engineering experiment during a parabolic flight.



Local Opportunity for Alumni & Employers

Would you, or an organization you belong to, like more opportunities to interact specifically with ME majors? If so, we'd like to introduce a pilot program for the 2024-25 academic year called **"Meet ME @ ..."**

Getting Involved

In this program, we would help coordinate an informal meet-up open to all current ME majors. The purpose and location of the meet-up could vary depending on the sponsor – this would be your time to interact with students in a way that has meaning to you. To "sponsor" a meet-up, we would encourage you to provide refreshments at the event, which could be held on campus or at a local establishment (Ex: *Meet ME @ The Slice*). Meet-ups could also be co-sponsored.

Themes for meet-ups could be educational, professional, or social. Some examples are: *tips for internships/co-ops, employer recruitment or info session, my experiences & advice, what's next for my industry, helpful skills they don't teach you, interview tips, future challenges, exciting projects, non-traditional opportunities, tours, bowling, etc.*

For more details, send us an email with the subject line 'Meet ME @'



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

mechanicalengineering@evansville.edu



Alumni Spotlight: Isaac Sullender, P.E.

My engineering journey began as a mechanical engineering student at the University of Evansville. During my time at UE, I had a summer internship with the U.S. Navy between my junior and senior year. In this internship I gained a lot of valuable experience that ended up helping me as I advanced in my career. After graduating from UE in 2016, I moved to Orlando to pursue a master's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Central Florida.

When I came to UCF, I started doing research specific in fracture mechanics on jet turbine engine blades. After a few months of research, I felt that this was not the right path for me, so I switched gears away from the thesis option to participate in a co-op program with UCF, where I was hired at Lockheed Martin. This was a much better fit for me and led to a full-time position when I graduated UCF with my master's degree in 2018.



As a Structural Analyst at Lockheed, I have supported various sensors on several different aircraft platforms such as the Apache attack helicopter, F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning as an engineer focusing on stress and dynamic analysis. Going forward I hope to branch out and help people through my engineering expertise.

Recently I felt led to get my PE license which I never thought I would do when I was in school. Luckily, I had passed the FE as a senior at UE. My advice for those students questioning whether they should prepare for the FE exam as a senior— *I would encourage you to take it seriously, you never know what you'll do in the future.*



*Isaac, Class of 2016
Senior Structural Analyst*

Congratulations Corner

Class of 2025 Congratulations to Swarup Bhatta, recipient of the 2024 James M. Hall, Jr. Outstanding Engineering Student Award! The annual award is presented to a junior engineering major based on responsibility, attitude, character, scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and potential for professional growth. Swarup is continuing his education while employed full-time at Berry Global. Keep up the great work!



Class of 2027 Congratulations to Kaleb Wilkey and the Aces Baseball team on their post-season success! For the first time, the Purple Aces are NCAA Regional Tournament champions, which advances them to the Super Regionals in their path to the NCAA College World Series. You can watch UE's first game against top-seeded Tennessee, today at 2:00pm on ESPN2 or listen at 107.1FM-WJPS.

The ME Connection will be on Summer Break in July – see you again in August!