The ME Connection

UE Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

February 2026

"Allow for many paths to your goal. Do not fixate on one path, because then you are likely to give up when that path is blocked."
- Po Bronson

Transforming Lives

Happy New Year! The Spring semester is off to a cold and snowy start, but that doesn't mean we're slowing down. In less than 100 days, the Class of 2026 will be welcomed to the UE Alumni Association. Before that can happen, there are design projects to be built and tested, FE exams to be taken, and National Engineer's Week to be celebrated! Engineers Week is February 22nd-28th, which includes Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day on Feb. 26th. While celebrating, we encourage you to transform the future by introducing young people to the world of engineering. Find out more at discovere.org

Career Day 2026

UE's Center for Career Development hosted their annual Career Day event recently to connect students with employers and support the search for internships, co-ops, and full-time positions. We love to see alumni back on campus helping current students navigate the process and explore the many career paths that are available to someone with an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering.

"I'm glad I chose a career in construction because of how well rounded it is, and it gives you an opportunity to travel the country; you get to see everything. You'll not just be a mechanical engineer. Mechanical was just a building block for me."
– Andrew Weis (Class of 2022) pictured with Mylz Johnson (Class of 2029)

"Attending the career day was a great experience for me. It helped me network with companies and allowed me to strengthen my public speaking." – Quincy Carter (Class of 2029)

A Celebration of Teaching

UE's Office of Academic Affairs is accepting nominations for the **2026 Lee and Ann S. Cooper Outstanding Teacher Award**. The University bestows this award annually to a faculty member for exemplary teaching and student service. The goal of the award is to encourage both outstanding teaching and the inclusion of students in as many facets of academic life as possible. Any full-time faculty member who is a classroom teacher, has taught at least two years at UE and holds the rank of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, professor, clinical assistant, or clinical associate, is eligible. Students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni may make nominations. Additional criteria can be found at www.evansville.edu/offices/academicaffairs.

Nominations can be submitted by Friday, March 6, 2026, using the following link https://www.evansville.edu/offices/academicaffairs/outstanding-teacher-form.cfm

Where has your career taken you?

We never know where the road after UE will take our alumni because the possibilities are endless. The expected job growth in Mechanical Engineering is expected to be 9-11% over the next decade, and that does not even include every job title, industry, or sector where a background in mechanical engineering could lead to future success. If your career path has included a unique role or unconventional direction, please tell us more about it. Your story may inspire others to explore an unexpected path!

We want to celebrate our alumni!
Please submit a photo and short blurb to: mechanicalengineering@evansville.edu

Student Spotlight: Travis Kewley, Class of 2028

My name is Travis Kewley; I am a sophomore mechanical engineering student here at UE. Along with studying engineering, I am preparing to apply for graduate school in cardiovascular perfusion to pursue a career as a perfusionist. I developed a passion for engineering through a physics class I took in high school, where we completed projects such as building a boat from cardboard to race across our high school pool. I wanted to learn more about the design process engineers use to develop products and solve problems. I decided to pursue my degree in mechanical engineering because of this, along with the value of building critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will prepare me for graduate school.

During my time in college so far, I have had the opportunity to be a part of two senior design project teams. As a freshman, I was a member of the Thermosiphon Project team where I learned a lot about how an effective team works together to achieve a goal. This year, I am a part of the NASA Rover team, where I am learning how to design products in a team environment with oversight from senior engineering students. Outside of engineering, I spent last summer earning my certification as an Emergency Medical Technician. Studying to become an EMT has helped me improve my decision-making and problem-solving skills in stressful situations. Spending time in the healthcare field has taught me the importance of communication, teamwork, and ethical responsibility in the workforce, which I feel will carry over well into my studies in engineering.

I am also very involved in the campus community at UE. During my time here, I have participated in activities such as College Mentors for Kids, Student Christian Fellowship, and the fraternity Phi Gamma Delta. I believe that the most valuable thing I have learned during my time in the engineering program at UE is not a technical skill but rather how to effectively work in a team setting and communicate with others. I am very grateful for the education I have received through this program.

Q: Why are engineers good at navigating winter storms?

A: They're used to assuming frictionless surfaces!