

The ME Connection

UE Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

April 2026

"There is no finish line. When you reach one goal, find a new one." - Chuck Norris

Race to the Finish

The final weeks of a semester are always packed with excitement, anxiety, celebrations, and maybe a few late nights. Spring brings excitement for the promise of summer and graduation, and anxiety for final exams and the start of new careers. There are celebrations of securing internships and co-ops, and a final push to complete Integrated Design Projects.

There are still many opportunities for students to enjoy their time on campus together, including PurplePalooza, Bike Race, and Pancake Study Break.

As we count down the days to graduation, do you have any wisdom to share with our senior class? Send us your best advice, and stay tuned for updates from our project teams in next month's newsletter!



We Have a Winner

After a weeks-long stand-off in the SECS Spikeball Elimination game, ME major Alyssa Petersen (*Class of 2028*) claimed the 2026 Spikeball Champion title. Congrats on your stealth and strategy, Alyssa!

Award-Worthy Alumni

We know our alumni are deserving of recognition in many ways, but do other people know? Are you, or one of your fellow alumni, eligible for an award? Help us celebrate more ME alumni achievements by identifying nominees for the next round of awards:

- UE Alumni Association Award nominations are generally due at the beginning of March.
- Nomination deadlines vary for the numerous ASME awards and honors.
- The Indiana Society of Professional Engineers award nominations are due on April 15th
- ASHRAE award nomination deadlines occur in May and December.



Don't limit your nominations to technical awards or the professional societies. Take note of local organizations and recognition events, like Evansville's Celebration of Leadership. And let us know when you receive your next award!

- Made Possible Monday (April 13)
- Take Action Tuesday (April 14)
- What's Our Why Wednesday (April 15)
- Thankful Thursday (April 16)
- Pep & Vim and Purple Friday (April 17)



UE's Philanthropy Week 2026

Pep & Vim is just around the corner. UE will celebrate Philanthropy Week from April 13–17, with a different theme each day. The week is a time to recognize the generosity that strengthens our campus and creates opportunities for our students each day. If you are in a position to give back this year, please consider supporting the School of Engineering and Computer Science. [SECS gift designations](#) include the Gerhart Legacy Fund & the SECS Student Projects Fund.



We love to share what our alumni are doing!
Please submit a photo and short blurb to:

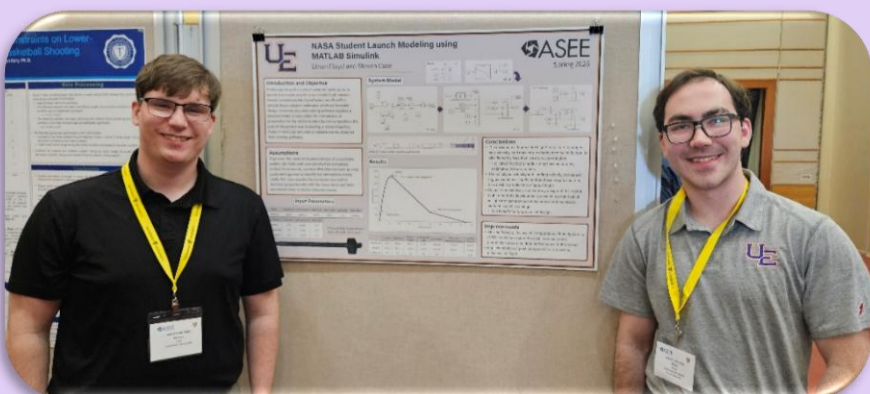
mechanicalengineering@evansville.edu



SECS Spotlight: ASEE Conference

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Illinois-Indiana Section Conference was held at Valparaiso University in March. The conference is an opportunity for engineering educators and professionals to share research and innovative practices, and students can present work to a wider audience. Three UE mechanical engineering students participated in the conference, as well as faculty from Computer Science, Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering.

Christopher Martin, *Class of 2027*, presented his work with Dr. Fulcher, "Initial Development and Testing of 3D Printed Specimen for Use in an Undergraduate Materials Laboratory Course." Steven Case and Ethan Floyd, both *Class of 2027* (pictured below), shared their work, "NASA Student Launch Modeling using MATLAB Simulink," as a poster presentation. All papers and posters underwent a peer-review process prior to being accepted for the conference.



Left to right: Dr. Will, Dr. Lofton, Ethan Floyd, Steven Case, Christopher Martin, Dr. Voss-Warner, Dr. Fulcher, Dr. Seah

Dr. Megan Voss-Warner presented her paper with Dr. Jesus Osorio, "Hints for Points: An Experimental Take on Partial Credit." Dr. Ying Ying Seah presented her paper with Dr. Hector Will, "Work in Progress: Practicing Empathy in Software Engineering Education through Large Language Model (LLM)." Dr. Hector Will led a workshop on "Utilizing Google's Antigravity AI Agent in Engineering Curricula." UE faculty were recognized in the Section Awards with Dr. Voss-Warner and Dr. Osorio's paper receiving Honorable Mention for the IL/IN Section Best Paper Award. Dr. Jessie Lofton received the IL/IN Section Outstanding Campus Representative Award.

Q: What award is given to astronauts who board the space shuttle fastest?

A: the starship enter-prize!