Alumni Profile:

“Don’t let the French food ruin your race team.”

By Raka Bandyo

Steve Wesoloski, seen recently at an ASME sponsored event, graduated from the ME undergraduate program in 1987. In the short years that have passed since then, Steve has managed to land the racing engineer’s dream job, Corvette Racing Team lead chassis engineer.

The Corvette Racing Team competes in ten races in North America (American Le Mans) and the 24 hours of Le Mans race in France. The team has won 22 of the 30 events in which it has participated. Steve says that this level of quality and reliability is due to “90% preparation, 10% execution.” During his favorite race, the 24 hours of Le Mans in France, the British fans go wild over the sound of the Corvettes mean V8 Thunder.

As the lead chassis engineer on the Corvette racing team, Steve is the only full time GM employee on the team. His major responsibility is to act as the liaison between production and racing for GM. His position operates in a three-year rotation between production engineers and racing engineers. This enables GM to make the affordable commercial Corvette more similar to its 1/2 million dollar racing model than any other affordable racecar on the market. The job utilizes all of his engineering knowledge from vehicle dynamics, aerodynamics to body structural analysis. His non-racing weeks include rigorous testing and analysis equaling 50-hour weeks, while on race weekends 12-14 hour days are expected.

How did Steve land this instant gratification job? After completing a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the most top quality of engineering schools, Steve spent approximately 16 years working on automotive projects with diesel trucks, minivans, Cadillac, and Corvette. Connections with a fellow Tech graduate got him into GM Cadillac and Corvette work, from where he met the engineer that held his current position previously. Once this exciting job was discovered, Steve never gave up an opportunity to job shadow or correspond with his predecessor. When the position was next available Steve made sure he was the right engineer for the job.

Steve’s most valuable skills retained from MTU have been setting fundamental working groups, creating working relationships, and establishing excellent learning habits. He says that he really appreciates the professors’ understanding of success in industry and how well prepared our department oriented him for hands-on projects. His message to the current hard working students, “continue working hard, the reputation of MTU Mechanical Engineering is incredible. If you work hard and succeed here, you’ll be an excellent employee.”

ADVISING ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that the spring advising meeting for our first-year ME students will be held in small groups at the request of FAB. Some of the topics to be covered are listed below, but there will also be a question and answer period.

- Curriculum – General Education, free electives, co-curricular activities.
- Registration – Priority schedule, academic calendar, summer classes at MTU or other university.
- Educational options – minors, certificates, co-ops, internships, study abroad and National Student Exchange.

Sign up sheets for the meetings are located in the First Year Office in Wads and in the Engineering Learning Center on the second floor of the ME-EM. All meetings will take place in 208 ME-EM. The meeting times and dates are as follows:

March 24, Wednesday at 11:00 or 12:00
March 25, Thursday at 2:00, 3:00 or 4:00
March 26, Friday at 9:00, 10:00 or 11:00

Sign up for your meeting today!

FAB CORNER

FAB has achieved a great deal this semester. A series of meetings with the Chair of MEEM Department and the Dean of Student Affairs has produced positive results. The implementation of small advising group meetings (see above announcement) is one such result. In addition, a FAB member now sits on the Student Advisory Council of MEEM Department, which meets every other Wednesday with the Department Chairperson to discuss ways to improve the department.

A recent email from Bonnie, the Associate Dean for Students, shows that the university is heeding to what

FAB is saying on behalf of first year students:

“Below is the orientation staff response to the recommendations from the FAB group—I think they’ll be pleased that we will be making some changes. Thank the students again—it was a pleasure to meet them.”

Bonnie

The email continues with a list of action items for Fall orientation that she and her colleagues will implement based on FAB’s comments and suggestions.

Dominick Cianfarani is a senior ME student from Hermansville, MI. When Dominick isn’t working on class work and senior design, he enjoys golfing, playing basketball, and spending time in the outdoors. Dominick also works part time as a chef at Gemignani’s in Hancock.

Out of all the classes that Dom has taken here at Tech, Mechanical Vibrations (MEEM 3700) was the class he liked the most. For those unfamiliar with the course, Vibes mainly deals with the dynamic behavior of single and multiple degree of freedom systems.

MY FAVORITE CLASS:

“A full size dryer”

By Drew Even

Dominick Cianfarani

My Favorite Class

Asst. Editor, Raka Bandyo

Publisher: Director of Student Success Center

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Hwa Kim, Pi Tau Sigma

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John McLeitan, FAB

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Eric Losiewicz, ASME

Danise Jarvey, Adv. Center

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487-2891 peckcho@mtu.edu
Mike LaCourt

“Variety is the spice of teaching... I can go from a manufacturing setting, to material testing to manufacturing experience. It is not easy to achieve high precision for such small components. Accordingly, members of PrISM first designed the components, then fabricated first-generation parts, and are now working to shorten manufacturing times and improve manufacturing tolerances. "You get to choose what project you want to work on," said Scott Vissers, ME student. "You conceive an idea, design and you also manufacture it into products." Brad Plummer, also a ME major, added. PrISM offers intensive hands-on manufacturing experience. The enterprise writes technical reports and conduct regular videoconferences with their sponsor, Daimler-Chrysler. "It gives you a head-up on what to expect in the real world," David Blondheim noted.

PrISM is participating in the upcoming Undergraduate Expo to present who they are, what they have accomplished and what their goal is for the future.

Alpha Society

Alpha Society is a group of freshmen and sophomore engineering majors who want to improve campus and community life by volunteering their time and talents to help the community, build leadership skills, and have a great time.

One of the major service activities is mentoring, in which Alpha members will

- Educational advice (from student’s perspective)
- First-hand information on specific courses
- Information about leisure activities

If you need their service, please contact any one of the following students:

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Melissa Ullstedt
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