ADVISIGN 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 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 (above) announcements 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.

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

MY FAVORITE CLASS:

“A full size dryer”

By Drew Even

Dominick Ciaradini

Dominick Ciaradini is a senior ME student from Hermansville, MI. When Dominick isn’t working on class work or senior design, he enjoys golfing, playing basketball, and spending time in the outdoors. Dominick also enjoys his part-time job 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 degrees of freedom systems.

In a final note, Dominick added that the introduction of Laplace transforms at the end of Vibes helped immensely later on in Controls (MEEM 4700)."
Mike LaCourt

He is the head of the Integrated Design and Manufacturing Labs and very active with material design groups and grad research going on here in the MEEM. If you're curious just invite him to lunch and search on the MEEM website for "Mike LaCourt 2004." You'll find almost 10 hits on all labeled Senior Design.

Mike LaCourt is a true U-per. He grew up in Baraga and graduated from Michigan Tech in 1975. After working for two years at Algoma Steel, he returned to Michigan Tech to teach. He jokes that he came back because the hockey team was good at the time and that when he heard his offer he said, "Oh boy we can get hockey tickets!" Being close to his family and having a good place to raise his children was also a big reason for his return to the U.P.

Initially working in the Mining Engineering department for about 10 years before he switched to the MEEM department, where he has worked for almost 30 years. When asked what he likes most about teaching he replied, "Variety is the spice of teaching... I can go from a manufacturing setting, to automating in the lab, to new material acquisition, to senior design projects all in one day, which is really great." He mentioned his classes with a smile and said, "I am always joking about who's bike is better..." Dr. Anderson is a Harley owner. Mike has been all over Northern America, from Ontario and Quebec, to Wisconsin as well as the Northwest United States. "I am looking forward to touring Kentucky and North Carolina soon."

Although Mike has traveled a lot in North America he has seen much more of the world than just the U.S and Canada. Before coming to Michigan Tech he served in the Marine Corp working on aviation electronics. His main task was coding software for the F-14 Tomcat. This model was in the service during the Vietnam era and during his four years of service was stationed in Colorado, North Carolina, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam as well as other places on the east and west coast of the U.S.

ADVISING CENTER:
By Jim Mattson

Working in an engineering gives students the opportunity to experience real-world engineering while still on campus. I like to characterize participation in an engineering student as the ultimate hands-on approach to engineering education. We get a lot of questions at the Mechanical Engineering Advising Center about the details of participating in the Enterprise Program. Students frequently ask us what courses they need to take in an enterprise, how many credits are required to complete the BSME Minor, and how they can count toward their Mechanical Engineering degree, and can any of these credits substitute for required courses in their degree program.

The enterprise courses fall into two categories, project work, and modules. The project work courses, ENG 2900(1 credit), 2900(1), 3900(1), 3900(1), 4950(2), and 4950(2), are your hours working on the enterprise project. The modules are one or two credit courses that deal with a specific topic associated with the enterprise project. A number of credits can count toward both the minor and the BSME, so in essence, the enterprise program usually only require the completion of 5 additional credits.

The recommended approach for full participation is to complete the Enterprise Program begins during the sophomore year. A student generally schedules ENG 2900(1), Enterprise Orientation, and ENG 2900(1), Teaming in the Enterprise, for the fall semester. This schedule gives you the opportunity to see exactly what the enterprise is all about. If, after the first year you decide that involvement in the Enterprise Program isn't for you, you can easily revert to the basic BSME course work. The credits you complete during the sophomore year can be used toward the BSME as distribution and free electives courses.

You can run into difficulties including the enterprise credits in your schedule. Your advisors can help you avoid situations where your schedule becomes overloaded. A student who starts the model schedule can include the Enterprise Minor and still complete their program in four years. There are many opportunities to cut down the course loads by taking some earlier summer courses or staying for an extra semester. We can help you look at some of those scheduling options, as well as the rest of the details associated with participation in the Enterprise Program.

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 main activities is mentoring, in which Alpha members will help any first-year student with:
- Educational advice (from student's perspective)
- Familiarization and information on specific courses
- Information about leisure activities

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

Amanda Marks akmarks@mtu.edu
Melissa Ustilid mawaid@mtu.edu
Brad Plummer bplummer@mtu.edu
Holly Couch mspuch@mtu.edu
Kathleen Bendzic kbendzic@mtu.edu

The Alpha Society members