Eric Nielsen is the man

Most CEOs let the site right after the photo-op, but Eric Nielsen of Volo CE stayed on for the entire two days building the house. reports Honolulu Daily, a major Korean newspaper.

Unlike other high profile people who dropped by the building site for the ribbon-cutting ceremony project just for publicity, Eric Nielsen was being a regular guy, sweating in the sun with a hammer in his hand. No surprises here. This is the kind of guy Eric really is.

Eric Nielsen, an MEEM grad of 1985, is the CEO of Volvo Construction and Equipment of Korea. In mere three years at the helm, Eric turned the all-European multinational company into a very profitable one, sweeping the major awards given to top companies in Korea last year. He received the Presidential Award for Technological Innovation, the Best Award from the Ministry of Labor, Golden Pagoda Award for excellence in international market, and more!

Eric is extremely busy, jetting around the globe to be at his office in Seoul, his headquarters in Gothenburg of Sweden, and his home in Wisconsin. But he has not forgotten his roots in MTU. He is visiting Tech next week with his three V.P.’s for Research & Development, for Global Manufacturing, and for Human Resources to explore the opportunity for joint research with Tech and for recruitment.

Did you know...

... that ME-EM student and Tech defensive lineman Joe Berger was named an All-American? The Junior tight end is the first MTU All-American in 10 years!

... that ME-EM student Tenasia Hatch was MTU's Homecoming Queen?

... that ME-EM will co-host the SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge on March 15-16th?

My favorite class:

“The Meat and Potatoes of Our Major”

Andrew Even

Josh VanDeHeuvel is a very active senior ME transfer student. He serves as a second semester executive board member of the SAE and also is a weekly writer for the Lode. He enjoys Copper Country Cruising, playing guitar and the annual Lake Superior Pro Rally here in the Keweenaw.

Josh had a hard time picking a favorite class, but he decided that he liked Product Realization 1 and 2 the most.

For those who are unfamiliar with the class, both Product Realization classes deal with applying mechanical synthesis, analysis, and manufacturing processes to the design of products. Josh took both classes last year under the instruction of Thomas Grimm.

Josh enjoyed Dr. Grimm’s teaching mainly because he brought in a lot of gadgets that we analyzed in class such as gears, springs, shafts, and clutches. These are the kinds of things I wanted to learn about when I chose Mechanical Engineering as my major.”

Josh also noted that being able to see the objects that they were discussing made certain aspects a whole lot easier to visualize. His most memorable experience in the class was when Dr. Grimm brought in a bicycle and discussed design considerations for the combined systems that the bike offered including wheels, bearings, shafts, and the rider chain.

Dr. Grimm also brought in gears, bearings, and even a razor scooter. “The material was easily applied to your surroundings. Look around the classroom or your home and you could find systems that were studied in this class. Product Engineering is the meat and potatoes of our major.”

As for the quality of the book used in class, Josh said that it was for the most part easy to understand, the figures and tables were tidy well organized and the easy to follow. Josh said that he really enjoyed the design projects that were assigned in the course, 2-3 in each separate course.

Josh used to enjoy the most was designing an industrial floor jack that was required to lift 8 tons. I had never imagined all of the engineering that went into simply lifting something up off the ground. We designed a hydraulic lift that was sited for a fatigue limit and a bending limit.”

Josh said that the class required quite a bit of work, but was very interesting for anyone who enjoys learning more about the ways things work. Josh’s final note was “I felt like I gained a lot more appreciation for the specific analysis involved in designing Mechanical Systems after taking both classes.”
“Wally” Predebon

This place was different and unique. I did not expect to be here this long. Last November marked 28 years. As for the personal side of Wally, the MEEM department and its advancement is his personal side. His goal is to affect and retain the best faculty, staff, and students, have well-attended seminars and attract the facilities that our department is least dependent on the state’s budgeting fluctuate.

After advancement and managing the department, Wally, a true mechanical engineer at heart, likes working with his hands, building and fixing things in his house. Things in which he may see immediate results. Time permitting Dr. Predebon has really enjoyed teaching. Wally was an excellent baseball player. However, most days he is here. He likes to work with the music playing and his office is filled with works of art mostly made by his wife. His message to us all is: “This is a state of the art facility. We earn degrees, with great faculty here to deliver the education that is active in research and excited about the material, and excellent staff. This is an excellent place to be.”

Faculty Office Hours @ ELC

A number of faculty have graciously offered to spend an hour of their office hours at the ELC so that they can help any student (not just the students in their classes) with their coursework. In addition, students are welcome to talk with them about research opportunities and career advising. Of course, students can stop by just for a friendly chat, too. It is great to have so many faculty participating in this program for student success.