WINTER CARNIVAL: What we love the most

The theme of this year’s Winter Carnival was “What we love the most from Coast to Coast.” The snow statues adorning the campus depicted a McDonald’s restaurant, a Harley motorcycle, a zoo, a circus, and many more. But it seems what we love the most was, after all, the winter carnival itself. It brought out the best in the MEEM department.

(Photos captions, clockwise from the top)
- Jim Mattson, Academic Advisor, and Margaret Lanspeger, Manager of Computer User Support, as classical “Houghton Gothic”
- The fabulous members of FAB (MEEM first year advisory board) at their first ever snow statue building
- Andy Panik, secretary of FAB, mixing up a red slush for colorful lettering
- Jerry Dion, Lab Supervisor, with his ultra secret acetylene torch ice sculpturing tool (first ever at Tech, we believe)
- The 1957 Chevy pickup truck which was built by the FAB and which won 4th place in class 2
- The MEEM faculty, staff and families with their snow statue of the UP, which won 4th place in its class.

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FAB Corner

By Nicholas Link

The First-Year Advisory Board had a great time last week with many fun filled events. As shown in the above photo, we kicked the week off with a meeting with Les Cook, Vice-Provost & Dean of Student Affairs, and Bonnie Gorman, Associate Dean & Director of First Year Programs.

We discussed many issues that first-year students are concerned with and the deans were glad to hear our feedback. Thanks to all of you who placed comments in our suggestion boxes. Your comments helped us direct our efforts.

For winter carnival FAB constructed a snow sculpture of a 1957 Chevy pick-up truck. We won fourth place in class 2 all-righters – an excellent achievement considering it was our first try ever! We enjoyed pizza and pop and had a great time. Thank you to all who helped and helped us with supplies.

If you are missing anything, see James Zimmerman
jzimmer@mtu.edu

MY FAVORITE CLASS:
“The Foundation” - Statics

By Drew Even

My interviewee this week was Laura Koning, a junior ME student from Capac, Michigan. When Laura isn’t studying for her classes, you can find her involved on the dyo-team for this year’s Future Truck Competition, and preparing an informational booth as the world congress chairperson for SAE. In her free time, Laura enjoys snowboarding, broomball, and other intramural sports.

I asked Laura what her favorite class was throughout her time here at Tech. Laura really enjoys the Future Truck Enterprise program, but Statics is the foundation for almost all Mechanical Engineers, and I am proud to say that I’ve enjoyed the class.

Laura Koning

“It was easy to fall behind copying down the solution, but I quickly realized how essential they were in understanding the analysis techniques.” Laura pointed out that the majority of the material in the class was straightforward; the workload was reasonable and consistent with the material covered in lecture.

She also noted that all of the concepts from Statics are built heavily upon in her current classes. “Probably the most significant concept in the class is the addition of friction to the sometimes oversimplified free body diagrams.

From that point on, I always find myself wondering whether friction is truly “negligible”, and how much I am sacrificing in assuming such things.”

Laura noted that besides developing equations for moments of inertia, there really weren’t any equations to memorize. “All of the analysis came down to whether or not you had practiced drawing free body diagrams.

Statics is a class that relies on understanding the big picture, not the minute details.” Laura had quite a few good remarks regarding the outside of class help that Dr. Vilmann offered to students. She added that he was very helpful providing help to confused students and was willing to take a few minutes out of his schedule to help on a homework problem.

The final note that Laura left me with was that Statics had changed her perspective on certain things. “When I look at the world around me, I can’t help but think of the concepts that I’ve learned so far. I think that Statics is the foundation for almost all Mechanical Engineers, and I am proud to say that I’ve enjoyed the class.”
You could join one of our many organizations like: American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), or Society of Women Engineers (SWE) to name a few, or become a part of an Enterprise team. More and more of our students are deciding to study abroad in places such as Australia or Denmark, while others go to work as co-op or intern. We have a growing number of minors and certificates available for you to enhance your BSME. Come in and visit with an advisor so that we can talk about what might be the best fit for you.

Academic and Professional Organizations

Academic/Professional Org. Faculty Advisor Student Contact
Primary organizations for ME students: (all email addresses end with @mtu.edu)
Dr. Peck Cho D. Misson (dmillson)
Dr. Helene Hiner (hiner)
Dr. R. D’Souza M. Carlson (mmcarlso)
Dr. M. Chapman B. Erickson (brericks)
Dr. K. Thompson B. Erickson (brericks)
Dr. B. Hargrave (bhargrave)
Dr. D. Vable (dvlable)
Dr. D. Schenk (dschenk)

Aero Team
Society of Automotive Engineers
Dr. Peck Cho D. Misson (dmillson)
Dr. Carl Anderson Jeff Schut (jdschut)
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Mini Baja
Society of Experimental Mechanics
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Society of Manufacturing Engineers
Dr. J. Hargrave (jlhargrave)

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Dr. J. Hargrave (jlhargrave)

Tau Beta Pi
Society of Engineering Honor Societies

Secondary organizations for ME students:
American Society for Engineering Management
American Society for Materials
American Society for Metals
Association of Information Technology Professionals
Biomedical Engineering Society
National Society of Professional Engineers
Society for Biomaterials
Society of Environmental Engineering

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER
By Danise Jarvey

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ENTERPRISE UPDATE:

Want to learn how to work with students of other disciplines? Want to learn how automated systems robots work? Well, then the Robotics Systems Enterprise (RSE) is the place! The primary goal of RSE is to learn to work as a team of different disciplines and take active roles. In fact, RSE is comprised of fair number of ME, EE, General ENG, BME students and more!

RSE has 2 divisions – Competition and I&P (Industry and Project). Major events in the competition division are participation in FIRST Lego League and the FIRST Robotics Competition. The purpose of these competitions is to promote the interest of elementary and high school students in math, science and technology.

The teams have been doing great. They made it to the championship last year. The competition division focuses on the education of the upcoming generation and I&P works on projects that have potential use in industry. So far, I&P successfully built and ran the Grilled Cheese Machine that makes grilled cheese sandwiches by simply pushing a button. It was up and running for Spring Fling last year.

The following Pi Tau Sigma members are volunteering as Student Success Center coaches. They assist other students with understanding core courses in engineering, such as statics, dynamics, strength of materials, and thermodynamics.

DID YOU KNOW...

... that ME student Chris Conner is one of the top scorers in NCAA Division I hockey? Fan voting to select the Top 10 finalists for the Hobey Baker Award runs from Jan 20 – Mar. 7 at www.hobeybaker.com

... that Dr. L. Brad King just received a prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER Award? The title of the research is "Electron Fluid Dynamics in a Hall-effect Accelerator", with a total project value of $802,000.

You all have the ability to be successful here, or you would not have been accepted. But, having the ability is only a part of what it takes. The following quote from Lou Holtz tells us the rest of the story:

Abilities are what you can do.
Motivation determines what you do.
Attitude determines how well you do it.

I hope that you all embrace this philosophy and make the most of your career at MTU.