

The ME Connection

UE Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

November 2024

"We do not learn from experience; we learn from reflecting on experience." - John Dewey

Meet ME @ Lunch with Toyota

Students returned to campus from Fall Break to our first **Meet ME @ ...** event with Toyota. TMMI Toyota hosted a lunch on campus to discuss career opportunities and answer questions from students. A group of six panelists, including four UE alumni from the School of Engineering & Computer Science. The engineers shared firsthand experiences and highlighted the different roles and career paths within Toyota. Students learned more about Toyota's co-op program and preparing for success. A big thank you to our alumni, the TMMI team, and our students for making this great event possible!



ASME Student Leadership

ASME Chair, Nate Bingham (Class of 2027), and Vice-Chair, Chris Martin (Class of 2027), attended the ASME Student Leader Weekend in Indianapolis last month. They gained new leadership skills and ideas to bring back to the UE ASME section. They also got the chance to talk with other student sections all across the Midwest. The event was a great way to network and learn more about ASME.

If you are interested in being a guest speaker for the UE ASME student section, in the Spring 2025 semester, let us know! The group is always looking for new perspectives, career paths, and skillsets to share with their members.

Alumni Spotlight: Jessa Ward (Class of 2016)

While at UE, Jessa was a Mechanical Engineering student who also pursued the Biomedical Option and a Mathematics Minor. She was involved in many campus activities which helped her be connected to people all across campus. After graduation, Jessa has held various engineering positions and completed her MSBE at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 2019. Her engineering roles included conducting physiological research with patients suffering from spinal cord injuries, testing the effectiveness of kinesiology tape, and aiding in the development of plant-based biologics, for the rapid and scalable production of safe and effective vaccines.



After taking a career path detour to pursue work with the federal government, Jessa began looking for opportunities to get back into science. Around that time, she received an unexpected LinkedIn message from Andrew Stewart, a former classmate and team member on the bike project that Jessa led for her senior design course. Andrew shared his love for his work at Process Alliance, which piqued Jessa's interest and she's now been working with the Process Alliance team for a few months! She has seen the Process Alliance team become her work family as she travels around to various locations working on contracts that include FAT, SAT, and generally just trying to make a positive impact on each of the projects that come across her desk.

Outside of work, Jessa is enjoying wedding planning and spending time with her fiancé, John Salogga. They enjoy hiking, playing board games, and doing DIY projects together, as well as traveling and spending time with friends and family!



We'd love to share what our alumni are doing!

Please submit a photo and short blurb to:

mechanicalengineering@evansville.edu



Student Spotlight: Essa Ahmed (Class of 2025)



Essa Ahmed, a senior from Pakistan, is currently serving as the team lead for the Thermosiphon Project. He also engages more deeply with the UE community working as a UE Resident Assistant.

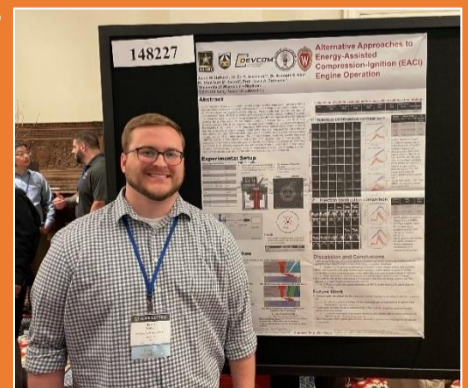
"Participating in projects at UE, such as the tennis ball launcher during my freshman year, has equipped me with valuable real-life experiences. For the past year and a half, I have been interning at Berry Global, where I have been able to apply what I've learned in my studies. Skills such as project management, Excel proficiency, and presentation techniques that I developed in school have significantly enhanced my performance at work. This summer, I had the opportunity to present my work at Berry, which helped boost my confidence.

Taking on a leadership role in my senior design project has allowed me to further develop project management skills that will be beneficial for my future endeavors. We also plan to present our findings at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, and I am looking forward to that experience. Looking ahead, I aspire to continue my work with Berry while pursuing a master's degree to further expand my knowledge and skills."



Congratulations Corner

Congratulations to Jacob Stafford (Class of 2019) for recently receiving the Best Student Poster Award at the 2024 ASME Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) Forward Conference for his poster on "Alternative Approaches to Energy-Assisted Compression-Ignition (EACI) Engine Operation."



This poster was part of his graduate school research focused on studying the impacts of advanced ignition approaches on the combustion of low reactivity sustainable fuels for aviation applications. Jacob is currently a graduate Research Assistant in Dr. Rothamer's research group as part of the Engine Research Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Q: Did you hear about the guy that got cooled to absolute zero?

A: He's OK now!