

# The ME Connection

## UE Mechanical Engineering Newsletter

February 2025

"There is virtue in work and there is virtue in rest. Use both and overlook neither."

- Alan Cohen



### Recharging Our Batteries

During the pandemic, UE introduced a Wellness Day into the academic calendar, creating a new campus tradition. On Wellness Day, offices are closed, classes are not in session, and all members of the UE community are encouraged to take the opportunity to focus on their mental and physical health. It's an opportunity to rest, repair, and recharge. Whatever goals you have set for 2025, we encourage you to take time to prioritize your wellness.

#### National Engineers Week kicks off on February 16<sup>th</sup>!

Is your organization celebrating EWeek 2025? Send us a photo! Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is February 20<sup>th</sup>. Check out the NSPE website for more info & EWeek resources.



### ASME Gears Up for 2025

The ASME student organization would like to thank Kyle Ramey for being their first guest speaker for 2025. Kyle is the Body Weld Engineering Manager at Toyota TMMI. He is pictured here with Class of 2028's Jace Hanley, Austin Deschamp, and Ally Schipp.

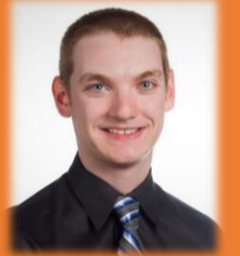


### Dr. Unger Publishes Research

Professor Emeritus of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, David J. Unger, has published the following article in a technical journal: D.J. Unger, "Point Loads on a Straight Slot with Rounded Ends for a Plane Elasticity Problem," *Journal of Mechanics of Materials and Structures*, 19 (5) 907-918, 2024. This paper presents the first analytical solution for a stress field for a pair of opposed point loads applied at the center of a slot in a plate. Congratulations, Dr. Unger!

### Congratulations Corner

Congratulations to Dylan Helmer (Class of 2019) on earning his Masters of Science in Defense and Security – Expeditionary Warfare from Purdue University! Dylan is a Systems Engineer for NSWC Crane.



Congratulations to Tyler Coppens (Class of 2021) on his career move to Project Engineer at Inframark! He will be designing controls for wastewater management systems. Tyler's outlook is, "To some, the glass is half full, and to others, half empty. To the engineer, there's space for future additions."

Congratulations to Autry Gaynor (Class of 2022) on his new role at Modernfold, Inc as a Design Engineer! A dormakaba company, Modernfold specializes in space division solutions and is the leading manufacturer of movable walls in North America.



We'd love to share what our alumni are doing!  
Please submit a photo and short blurb to:

[mechanicalengineering@evansville.edu](mailto:mechanicalengineering@evansville.edu)



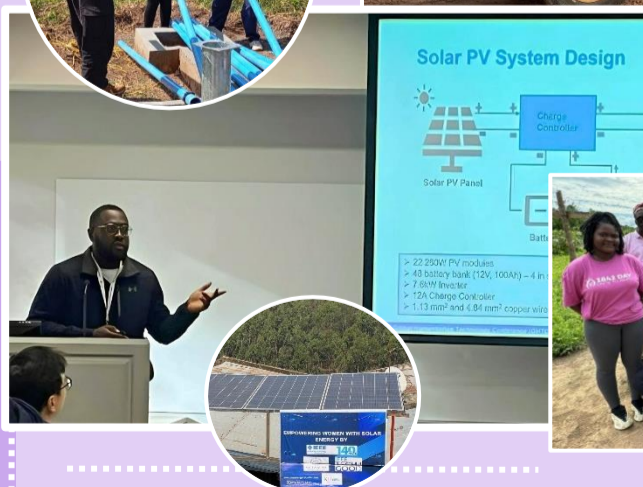
## Alumni Spotlight: AniekanAbasi Ekanem (Class of 2020)



AniekanAbasi delivered the Keynote Address for UE's 2020 Commencement virtual celebration during the pandemic. In his speech, he shared Shirley Chisholm's quote, "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." He has continued to live these words while pursuing his Master of Science in Sustainable Engineering at Villanova University. He credits God, his mentors, professors, teammates, friends, and family for his experiences, opportunities, and successes.

"For the past three semesters, I've had the privilege of leading a transformative project with the Villanova Service Learning (VESL) Program in partnership with Lifetime Wells International in Ghana. This experience has been life-changing, expanding my technical skills and allowing me to see firsthand the immense impact and urgent need for accessible clean water. Clean water access isn't just essential—it's vital for the health, sustainability, and resilience of these communities.

Our primary goal on this trip was to implement a new workflow on ArcGIS Field Maps to support Lifetime Wells mechanics in the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of over 2,000 handpumps across Ghana. We also expanded this workflow to include monitoring for the pump drillers and installation team, enabling Lifetime Wells to sustainably manage all their assets from installation through ongoing maintenance. Additionally, my team of Villanova students had the incredible opportunity to install multiple handpumps in Nkwanta South and assist the drilling team in digging a 160-foot well to serve as a reliable source of clean water for a local community."



AniekanAbasi has also worked with his professor, Dr. Singh, to enhance livelihoods and provide access to sustainable energy solutions. He presented their paper titled, "Design, Economic, and Environmental Analysis of a Stand-alone Solar Photovoltaic System for a Tailoring Business in Burundi," at the 2024 IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC): Technology for the Benefit of Humanity.

When handed a half glass of water and asked if they were an optimist or pessimist, the engineer drank the water and responded, "I'm a problem solver!"