

Purdue MET Department - Making an Exciting Tomorrow

Dear MET/CIMT Graduates and Current Students,

Welcome to the beginning of a new tradition! This is the first edition of a new MET/CIMT newsletter to showcase what's new with the students, alumni, and faculty of the Mechanical Engineering Technology department. We hope to create a forum for students and graduates to share their successes with their classmates and colleagues.

Anniversary Celebration

This year marks the 40th anniversary for the College of Technology and two anniversaries in the department. The MET program is celebrating its 40th anniversary and the CIMT program is celebrating its 20th anniversary. To help us commemorate these anniversaries, we are planning a party. Mark your calendars! On April 15, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM at Knoy, we will be having a celebration with refreshments and a few surprise guests. We'll have a T-shirt design contest and sell the winning shirts at a discount. More information will follow soon on the day's activities. We hope to see you there! This is a great way to kick off the Springfest weekend and renew friendships.

What's New in the Department?

Twenty students were enrolled in the inaugural MET 490F – Fundamentals of Motorsports course. The senior-level elective, established by the College of Technology with assistance from IndyCar Series personnel, is the only one in the nation to offer an introduction to technical, mechanical and managerial aspects of the IndyCar Series as well as career opportunities in motorsports. "Topics in this course are extensions of subjects that are taught elsewhere (in undergraduate MET courses) – components, fluid mechanics, dynamics and materials," said Joseph Kmec, Associate Professor and the course's lead instructor. "We take them to a higher applications level." More information can be found from the IRL website article on the course at www.indyracing.com/indycar/news/story.php?story_id=3860



As part of the continuing process of updating equipment and software, the summer of 2004 saw the CIMT laboratory acquire more controls equipment from Rockwell Automation. Equipment includes new touch screen HMI devices, industrial control sensors and switches, and safety equipment. The HMI devices and safety equipment will be used in the capstone course while the other devices are planned for use in CIMT 243. Through direction from our Industrial Advisory Committee, the CIMT program's capstone course was converted to two separate courses. The first course focuses on project planning and management,

while the second course focuses on the implementation of the project. Professor Brad Harriger, lead professor of the CIMT program, states that "The course still has a few kinks to work out; however, it should greatly improve the students' integration experience and will likely broaden the scope and sophistication of the project." This semester, the course's product line will be increased to include a magnetic floating pen holder and a key chain job in addition to existing products.

New faculty/New agenda

We added five new faculty members this year, one of the biggest changes to the department ever. With our increased emphasis of bringing applied research into the undergraduate and graduate classroom, we are hiring faculty to fit our new profile. Not only must they have industrial experience and a love of teaching, but they must also be people who can energize our research agenda and engage industry. As an example of this, in the first semester of the 2004-2005 academic year alone, MET department faculty have generated over \$1.7M in grant proposals submitted to research foundations and industry. To strengthen our traditional practice-focused education, we are involving more students in solving real industrial problems. This research emphasis will help us keep our classes current with the leading edge of technology.

Employment Outlook

Placement is up, and several new employers have come to us looking for our graduates. This fall, a few of the new companies looking for MET and CIMT students are Exxon Mobil, Butler International, and the Bobcat Division of Ingersoll Rand. Exxon Mobil is targeting MET grads from a few select universities to become drilling rig supervisors, Butler International is opening a new design center in West Lafayette and needs mechanical design engineers with CATIA experience, and Bobcat came looking for graduates with automation backgrounds. The economy seems to be improving and our grads are getting good jobs. We still haven't hit 100% placement, and would be delighted to help meet your company's mechanical or manufacturing employment needs. Contact Susanne Kelley, skelley1@purdue.edu for placement assistance.

Accreditation

Some of our grads have been through this before, but about every six years, a team from ABET, the Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology, comes to evaluate our programs. Preparation for the visit is extensive, including collecting and analyzing student work. We have to prove to the

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ABET team that our students are meeting prescribed outcomes and that the program has the quality measures in place that permit us to remain accredited. Current students, recent alumni, and industrial advisors join our faculty in this year-long process. Many of you will gain first hand knowledge of the process that culminates next fall.

It is an exciting time now at Purdue, in the College of Technology, and in the Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology, and we hope to share it with you. We want this newsletter to be a success. Please tell us what you want to hear and what you don't want to hear. We hope in each issue to highlight a current student and a graduate, but we will need your help. We are soliciting news stories involving you or other MET/CIMT current students or graduates to share with your classmates. We will be planning at least one yearly MET event for our alumni, current students, and faculty. Please join us in April for our anniversary celebration and let me know what you think about our newsletter.

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