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A newsletter published eight times per year by the Southeastern Michigan Section of IEEE.

The Institute

A report on news around the IEEE.

IEEE Spectrum Online

The member publication of the IEEE.

What's New @ IEEE For Students

Check out this publication that is written monthly for students.

SPAC at MSU

By: Michael Dow

This year the MSU chapter of IEEE put together the Student Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC). This event is one of the biggest and most important events that IEEE puts together. SPAC is an event that puts together three speakers from different backgrounds to talk about professionalism in the workplace. The goal of the event is to give students an idea of what to expect in their future line of work. This information is non-technical and helpful for all majors. This year we held the conference in the engineering building and it had a great turnout.

The first speaker, David Kryskowski from Ann Arbor Sensor Systems Inc., gave a great speech about the experience of starting your own business. This speech gave a good starting point for maintaining our own company, what to look out for, and how to start the process. The next speaker was Benjamin Baker from General Motors Corp.; he talked about maintaining and achieving our technical excellence. His information explained to us the different ways of getting ahead and the best was to understand technical information. The last speaker was our IEEE national speaker Marlin Ristenbatt, who provided an overview of engineering careers. His information showed us the difference in engineering jobs and other jobs, and how important we are to the community of jobs out there.

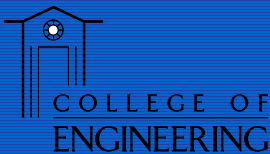
I would like to, once again, thank the speakers for coming out and doing this for us. I would also like to thank my SPAC committee and Dr Hogan for helping me put this together. Lets all help SPAC get bigger and better for the following years to come. For more information, please visit <http://www.egr.msu.edu/ieee> or <http://ieeusa.org>.



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Junkyard Wars

By: Nick Vogtmann

The annual Engineers Week, or E-Week for short, took place this year from February 17th to the 23rd. E-Week on the campus of Michigan State University is a time where all Engineers can partake in presentations and events to further their knowledge or just to have fun. Junkyard Wars is one of those fun events that took place on Friday February 22nd when all classes were finished for the week and students could let go of the theory learned in class and just build something with their hands. This year was the 1st Annual Junkyard Wars presented by ASME, which invited all of the engineering student groups to form a team with students from their respective major(s). This event was held inside the IM West athletic center. There were 6 student groups that participated in this event, including IEEE.

This year's task was to design a contraption to launch a golf ball in the air as far as possible. There was only one constraint: the device had to fit in an eight cubic feet box. With the provided wood, PVC tube, nails, screws, and duck tape, some groups built catapults, while others, including the MSU IEEE team, created slingshots. One of the most unique contraptions was a bow and arrow setup, with a tail attached to a golf ball for to guide it through the air. MSU IEEE had the best undergraduate design, but took second place overall as a group of graduate students built a better-performing device. After the competition, the MSU IEEE team found that a slight modification to their technique increased the distance the golf ball flew, but it was unfortunately too late to claim the title of Junk Yard champion.

Overall, Junkyard Wars was a success for all involved. It brought together different engineering groups that ordinarily have no contact with each other to partake in a friendly competition.



IEEE 07-08

By: Jeremy Konz

IEEE at Michigan State University is a prominent student group that has always been active, and this past year was no exception. In addition to at least one large general member/recruiting meeting each semester, many companies—such as General Motors, Motorola, Whirlpool, Marathon, IBM, and many more—came to MSU to give presentations and interact with students and potential employees. Tony Koenigsknecht, a MSU alumnus who is starting his own company called SmartKart, came to give a presentation about implementing an interactive driving video game experience on go-karts, which his company is focusing on. SmartKart is looking for a talented electrical or computer engineer to help with product development.

The largest job fair of the year, the Career Gallery, was in October of 2007. Prior to this event, IEEE compiled a CD full of resumes from students for potential employers. We have found that employers respond favorably to this gesture. In January of 2008 another large job fair, the Diversity Career Fair, came to the Kellogg center. IEEE distributed a CD containing over 50 different electrical engineering and computer engineering students.

The IEEE executive board members for the coming year have been chosen already and will be lead by Ali Aqel. And this years president, Craig Zofchak, will be vice president for the coming fall. Ben Kershner will be corporate relations chair for fall 08, Mike Bekkala will be the secretary, Mike Carpenter will be the treasurer and blimp chair, Marvell MuKongolo will be the SEC and publicity chair, Nicholas Vogtmann will be the technical documents chair, Steve Zajac will be the project manager, and Mike Blair will be the Lego league representative. We wish them the best of luck for next year!

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