



An update on graduate student activities in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

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RECENT MAE STUDENTS COMPLETING THEIR A OR B EXAM

Congratulations to students recently passing their B-Exam

David Schneider
Viktor Zykov
Paul Otanez
Todd Humphreys
Adam Wickenheiser
Liuyan Lu

Congratulations to students recently passing their A-Exam

Dan Brown
Dan Cohen
Juan Salazar
Tim Reissman
Paolo Luzzatto Fegiz
John Dietl
Xin Zheng

MAE GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Chung wins Silver Medal

Aram Chung won a Silver Medal in the "2008 Samsung Human-Tech Thesis Prize". The Prize is awarded to creative and driven young scientists who will lead the field of science into the future and increase the awareness of the importance of technology in society.

Krishnan receives best presentation award ASME-IMECE Symposium

Mekala Krishnan received a “Best Presentation” at the ASME-IMECE Microfluidics 2007 Fluids Engineering in Micro- and Nanosystems Symposium last fall for her talk titled “Directed Hierarchical Self Assembly – Active Fluid Mechanics at the Micro and Nanoscales”. Co-authors of the paper were Michael Tolley, Prof. Hod Lipson, and Prof. David Erickson.

Hawkins gives invited talk at Electrochemical Society Meeting

Ben Hawkins gave an invited talk at the 212 Meeting of the Electrochemical Society October 7, 2007. His talk was titled “Electrokinetic Tools for Cellular Screening in Plastic Microdevices: Interfacial Characterization and Engineering Design”. Co-authors were V Tandon and Prof. Brian Kirby.

SIGMA STUDENT SEMINAR SERIES

The SiGMA Student Seminar Series was a great success this semester. Once a month, around 40 graduate students gathered to hear two of their peers speak on their research, with lunch provided. The talks are general 15 minute presentations designed to keep MAE grads up to date on the various research topics being pursued in the department. The seminars also give speakers practice before presenting at A or B Exams, conferences, or job talks.

The seminar series will continue this spring. Upcoming talks are scheduled for Thursday, February 21, Wednesday, March 5 and Thursday, April 3. All SiGMA members are invited to attend. If you are interested in speaking at a seminar please contact Shan Mohiuddin (sm386).

A special thanks to the fall semester speakers:

Allen Hurst – “Sensor configurations for morphing aircraft”

Joseph Shoer – “Flux pinning modular spacecraft”

Maureen Lynch – “In vivo skeletal loading”

Paolo Luzzatto Fegiz – “Stability and evolution of vortex configurations”

Isaac Miller and Prof. Dan Huttenlocher – “Pitfalls and strategies in software development”

SIGMA WEBSITE UPDATED

New for 2008, the SiGMA website has a new look. The new look features streamlined pages for events and announcements. An alumni listing page will help record available contact information of recent graduates. The website will be updated regularly with current events, news, and information. Please let us know if there are sections or features you would like to see or other improvements.

Visit online at rso.cornell.edu/sigma

SIGMA INTRAMURAL SPORTS UPDATE

The Fighting Reuleaux continue to roll in the wide world of Cornell intramural sports:

In the fall, we fielded a competitive soccer team. We were strong during the regular season, but stopped short of the championship in our playoff run.

Currently, SiGMA has both Men's and Coed ice hockey teams. The Coed team (named the "Fighting Reuleaux") finished the regular season undefeated and is ready take on all challengers in the playoffs. The Men's team (the "Upson Eulers") hoping to equal the accomplishments of the Reuleaux and march towards a championship.

In a new-to-SiGMA sport this semester, a number of height-challenged engineers have banded together to form an IM basketball team. We may not look like your typical basketball team (or win like your typical basketball team), but we definitely try hard and have fun playing.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in a team and everyone who helped organize.

Spring softball is just around the corner, so dust off your cleats and oil up your gloves!

HAPPY HOURS

August marked the beginning of SiGMA's social events with the New Students Mixer at Korova's bar downtown on the Commons and with the Department Barbeque at Stewart Park. Much fun was had at both events with plenty of both familiar and new faces getting to know each other better.

September commenced the start of the Happy Hours once again. A new twist to the events was added with the inclusion of VIP bartenders for each event selected from our faculty and staff. Director Lance Collins was the inaugural bartender for the year with a theme of the Caribbean blended in to celebrate his heritage and our longing for the summer to continue.

October's Happy Hour was celebrated on Halloween, and we were honored to have Building Coordinator John Orak provide us with some "frightful drinks." Much fun was also had with pumpkin carving, costume wearing, and the lot of prizes given out to the participants. A special thank you goes out to the Campus Store, Cornell Bowling Center, Cornell Orchards, and Cornell Cinema for donating such great gifts.

November's Happy Hour was the return of the Open Mic Night with Professor David Caughey providing the music setup, and Professor Stephen Pope displaying his bartending prowess. A special thank you as well goes to our musical entertainers, Jonathan Hiller, Professors Ruina and Rand, Jayme Burkett, Professor Caughey, and Shashank Rawat, who without a doubt entertained all present.

February meant the celebration of "Jeudi Gras", our nod to the festival Mardi Gras season.

Make sure to check with the SiGMA website for the date of our upcoming Happy Hours, including other guest bartenders.

RECENT GRADUATE STUDENT BIRTHS

Congratulations to graduate students recently having children

Daniel & Eliza Brown had a baby girl in September

Aram & Ahra Chung are expecting a baby girl at the end of February

"SiGMA, an independent student organization located at Cornell University, produced and is responsible for the content of this publication. This publication was not reviewed or approved by, nor does it necessarily express or reflect the policies or opinions of, Cornell University or its designated representatives."

If you have information to be distributed in the next newsletter, or if you are interested in SiGMA activities, please contact one of the SiGMA officers:

President - Justin Atchison (jaa73)

Vice President - Natalie Galley (nkg8)

Treasurer - Allen Hurst (ach43)

Professional Development Director - Shan Mohiuddin (sm386)

Social Director - Timothy Reissman (tr34)

Faculty Adviser - Professor Brian Kirby (bk88)