ALL ABOUT THE MEMPDC
A look at the workings and purpose of the MEM Program Development Committee

WHAT THEY DO
The members of the MEMPDC work to enhance the MEM program on numerous levels and through various venues. Key areas of focus have been increasing the student voice within the program, student recruitment in the U.S. and India, more effective informational brochures, better connections with industry, more effective placement of students with their target employers, and working with prospective students to attract them to the program.

WHO IS INVOLVED
The MEMPDC was conceived of and is led by MEM students, including president Sai Sarath, vice chairmen Nishanth Lingamneni, Bansi Kotecha, Reena Khinvasara, Patrick Chen, and Todd Stevens, and Career Center representative Naveen Anne. New members from the class of Spring 2006 include Batul Tambawalla, Julia Dickey, Jon Reifsneider, and Kalyan Lanka Venkata Naga. Faculty and staff members include Brad Fox, Jeff Glass, Susan Brown, and Vivek Wadhwa.

WHY THEY DO IT
As Dr. Jeff Glass said at the Fall 2005 Convocation, “The value of the MEM degree in five years will depend on the effort that you put forth this year.” The goal of the MEMPDC is to promote the success of both current and future students by striving for continuous improvement to become the strongest Engineering Management program in the world.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
If you are interested in volunteering to help with the MEMPDC projects, please contact Nishanth Lingamneni at nishanth.lingamneni@duke.edu.

A NIGHT WITH INDUSTRY SPRING 2006
BY ADITYA VAI DY A

On February 24, students from the MEM program hosted A Night with Industry, a networking event held in the Fitzpatrick Center to enhance relationships with industry, educate employers about the program, and inform students about career development and industry trends.

The guest list included representatives from large and small corporations all over the country. The companies were selected to represent the major industry segments that MEM graduates typically enter: Healthcare, Consulting, Financial Services, Technology and Construction.

During the event, companies, students, professors and members of the Duke community interacted and discussed a range of topics through a series of round table discussions, panel discussions and dinner. The panel discussions were organized by industry with selected MEM students moderating conversations between students on a variety of career and MEM—related topics. The director of the MEM program, Dr. Jeffrey Glass, informed employers about the program with a dynamic presentation. For many of the employers, it was the first time they were exposed to the MEM program. They commended the program and expressed strong interest in establishing and maintaining future relationships.

“ A great opportunity to learn about the MEM program and meet such an enthusiastic, energetic group of people!”
- Hee-Sook Song,
BASF Plant Science
OUTSOURCING THE ENGINEER  
BY BEN RISSING

Today you can hardly read a newspaper, magazine or web article without seeing a reference to engineering outsourcing. Having grown in popularity over the past decade, international corporations are experimenting with moving domestic engineering jobs overseas. The risks and rewards that surround the engineering outsourcing issue are significant, yet the foundations that define this debate are often anecdotal. Media coverage of outsourcing consistently misquotes alarmists’ statistics regarding America’s technological competitiveness. However, people are still listening. Right now, Congress is considering substantial legislation aimed at combating engineering outsourcing. Here at Duke University, MEM students are actively contributing to this global debate.

In the past three months, Duke’s MEM outsourcing research, led by faculty members Vivek Wadhwa and Gary Gereffi and MEM student Ben Rissing, has garnered the attention of Business Week, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The New York Times, US News and World Report, USA Today, ABC News, and numerous other domestic and international publications. We’ve also fielded inquiries from presidential advisors, senior leaders of Congress, and a team of global business executives. In doing so, we have established the Pratt School of Engineering and its Engineering Management Program as sources of unbiased, credible, and novel outsourcing data and perspectives. The full report is available at http://memp.pratt.duke.edu/outsourcing/.

Over the next few months, the MEM outsourcing team will be surveying industry leaders to identify future trends in outsourcing and make recommendations on engineering educational practices. The team will also be comparing the engineering graduation profiles of China, India and the U.S. over the last five years.

CAREER CONNECTION  
BY NAVEEN ANNE

With the success of the first Night with Industry, more employers have expressed interest in the MEM program and are considering its students for potential employment. The reviews of the event and responses toward the program from the participating companies have been very good. The resume book has been sent to additional interested companies which could not attend. Several of these companies have pledged to attend next semester’s event.

February marked the unofficial start of the internship season. MEM students received interviews with UBS, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, Carmax, Microsoft, Appian Corp, Medtronic, and Blue Cross for various internship positions. Six MEM students were invited to a site interview with Alltel in Little Rock, AK. With the aggressive job searching efforts of many MEMers, we expect to see strong placement results in the second half of the semester.

March:
“Entrepreneurship at Duke”
Monday March 6
7:00 until concluded
Schiciano Auditorium

Spring Break
Friday March 11—Sunday March 19

MEMP Seminar Series: Greg Stevens, WinOvations Inc.
Friday March 24
Schiciano Auditorium

April:
MEMP Seminar Series: David Babson, Entrepreneur
Friday March 30
Schiciano Auditorium

MEMP Seminar Series: Gene Bedell, Entrepreneur and Author
Thursday April 6
Schiciano Auditorium

Without Talent, an MBA, or Committing a Felony
Friday April 14
Schiciano Auditorium

MEMP Seminar Series: Daniel Egger, Financial Engineer, Venture Capitalist, and Entrepreneur
Friday April 7
Schiciano Auditorium

MEMP Seminar Series: Graeme Waitzkin
“Creative Engineering for Post 9/11 Security”
Friday April 21
Schiciano Auditorium

Additional information about these events may be found at http://memp.pratt.duke.edu/events/index.php