

The car passed the detailed safety inspection – a step that eliminates many vehicles – and had a best run of 452 mpg. This was good enough to place 10th in the division out of 16 entries, and ahead of several large, well-known universities - a satisfying result for a first-time competitor. Afterwards, EMU’s team was already planning the next steps to eliminate weight and improve results for next year!

Program News

EMU-Hesston Collaboration

Last winter, the engineering programs at EMU and Hesston College received a joint grant from the Marpeck Fund, which fosters collaboration between these two Mennonite institutions of higher education. In the spring of 2023, three students and three faculty from Hesston traveled to Harrisonburg to observe classes, see the facilities, and enjoy social activities. Then in the fall of 2023, four students and one faculty from EMU reciprocated the trip to Kansas. The visits were a great chance to strengthen ties between the two institutions.

The primary collaborative activity was a project started in the Design II class in the spring; EMU students proposed ideas, received feedback from Hesston visitors, and built initial prototypes of two devices: a prismatic flipboard and a pancake printer. Hesston then put their own ‘spin’ on the flipboard project, using the plans but re-implementing it with alternate technologies and sensors in their Digital Electronics class in the fall. In addition to working together on the engineering design process, participants enjoyed socializing over meals, soccer, museum visits, and hiking.

Data Analytics Minor

Responding to growing trends in the job market, EMU has now added a Minor in Data Analytics. This minor combines core coursework in computer programming, statistics, and data analysis with additional courses in the student's area of interest. A couple of current EMU students have already added the minor as soon as it was available, and several prospective students have expressed interest in it as well.

Faculty News

Congratulations, Dr. Showalter!

Professor Daniel Showalter is the recipient of this year’s Robert V. Hogg Award for Excellence in Teaching Introductory Statistics. The national award is presented yearly by the Special Interest Group of the Mathematical Association of America on Statistics Education to someone who’s been teaching introductory statistics at the college level between three and 15 years and has “shown both excellence and growth in teaching during that time.” Daniel will receive the award at the 2024 MathFest in Indianapolis.

Thank you, Dr. Tian!

In summer 2023, Professor Esther Tian made the decision to transition to a new job closer to home, accepting a teaching position at UVA. Her impact during her 10 years at EMU can hardly be overstated, as she is the founder of our engineering program, and shepherded the program through achieving ABET accreditation – not to mention the inspiration to so many of our students in her classes. She is missed by students and faculty alike, and we sent her with many expressions of gratitude and well wishes.

New Arrivals

Welcome Shравan Kumar Akula



Shравan Kumar Akula, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of North Dakota, joined us in fall 2023 as an Instructor of Engineering. Armed with a Master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from University of South Alabama, Mr. Akula has honed their expertise in Microgrids and Renewable Energy Sources. Prior to this, they earned their Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University.

Welcome Lacey Johnson

Lacey Johnson joined us in fall 2023 for a two year assignment as Instructor of Mathematics. Lacey has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from Bridgewater College and James Madison University. This past summer, she completed a



Master's of Education in Mathematics from JMU. The first decade of her career was devoted to teaching music, mostly at the collegiate level. She has served as the music director of Bridgewater Presbyterian Church since 2004. Before coming to EMU, Lacey taught math at Wilson Memorial High School in Augusta County.

Problem Corner

Correction: David George ('98) correctly answered the Fall 2021 "Mennonite" word problem (the question was worded too ambiguously)!

Congratulations to Andrew Troyer ('19), Tim Martin ('17) and the team of Mana Acosta ('25), Iris Anderson ('25) and Theo Andreas ('28) for correctly solving the problem of the matches in our summer 2023 issue. Andrew Troyer gets a bonus for solving the extension, as well!

New Problem:

Your pet turtle Ed has fallen into the sewer! The only access is through one of 10 manholes, arranged in a straight line. Each day, Ed will be under one of the 10 manhole covers, and each day you may lift one cover. If he's there, yay! If not, you replace the cover and Ed moves exactly one manhole to the left or to the right. What is the fewest number of days needed to definitely find Ed?

Send your solution to daniel.showalter@emu.edu with the words "Problem Corner" in the subject line.

Do you know a prospective student who is interested in studying math at EMU?

Contact daniel.showalter@emu.edu for information about applying for the Brenneman-Longacher Endowed Math Scholarship.

Recipients receive \$1,250 per year for four academic years, as long as they continue in the math major.



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The Supermileage Car's Debut



After two iterations and four long years of preparation – interrupted, of course, by the pandemic – EMU's Supermileage Car finally made its official competition debut in April 2023 at the Shell Eco-Marathon. Ten students and two advisors drove to Indianapolis Motor Speedway for six intense days of assembly, problem-solving, tuning, and practice as they tried to coax the vehicle into using as little fuel as possible while covering a nine mile course in 36 minutes.

For many participants, the trip was a highlight of their collegiate experience. In the infield garages where nearly 100 teams from across North and South America worked, there was great camaraderie! Students met engineers from around the world, shared tools, and passed along knowledge.