Dear Alumni,

Our first year students have arrived on campus! The Department is bursting at the seams. We now almost 800 undergraduates.

The first year students could greatly benefit from your wisdom and experience after graduation. In order to do this, we will be forming 45 groups of four students in our freshmen class, ENGIN113 – Introduction to Mechanical & Industrial Engineering. We are hoping that we can find one MIE alum and one IE alum to speak with each group (Skype or on campus) for 30-45 minutes. Thus we will need a total of 45 ME and 45 IE alums.

ENGIN113 introduces the variety of traditional ME and IE topics to the students while also emphasizing the value of related fields (e.g., engineering economics). This we can do largely on our own. But, we also want the first year students to understand the importance of interpersonal and communication skills (e.g., group work and presentation) to their careers after graduating. And, we want them to have some sense of the types of things they may be doing in the future, both those which depend on what they study here and those which depend on continuing self-development and learning. We could greatly benefit from your help here.

After the interview, the students will discuss their newly gained first-hand insights, document it and share it with other groups. We will present and discuss the overall results of all groups during the lecture at the end of the semester. We are convinced that they will be energized by their much broader understanding of what ME and IE alums do after they graduated. And they will be energized by the enthusiasm that you bring to the interview. I realize that your time is incredibly valuable. I would not be asking for your participation if I did not think it important to the future success of our students. In order to participate please follow the link: http://goo.gl/uWQx1K.

Please email me or Michael Prokle (mprokle@ecs.umass.edu) if you have any additional questions. Thank you for your consideration!

Don

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