



news

A A M E

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President Hugh Amos Pack

I am greatly appreciative to serve as president of AAME. Since being inducted into this organization I have felt a strong obligation to serve the organization in any capacity as required. I am looking forward to the upcoming year.

My first duty as president is to schedule the Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting for 2006. These activities will be held Friday April 7 and Saturday April 8 to coincide with the College of Engineering Alumni Awards Dinner.

To support the future of AAME it is critical to maintain an active membership. The nomination of new members is a vital step in continuing the path of commitments of the organization. It is the responsibility of all members to help out in this task. Please send any nominations to the chairman of the nominations committee, Mike Stewart.

I found the 2005 College of Engineering Alumni Awards Dinner to be an exciting event which allowed the College of Engineering to recognize outstanding achievements. I would like to congratulate Edward M. Harvey and Charles D. Morgan for their selection to the College of Engineering Hall of Fame. Congratulations are also in order for R. Terral Wheatstone for receiving a Distinguished Alumni Award.

I am pleased to welcome Mike Dacus and J.R. Jones as members of the Board. The spring board meeting is scheduled for June 17 and will be held at the Holiday Inn located in Russellville.

News from Joe Rencis

I wanted to first thank you all for making my first academic year at University of Arkansas a wonderful experience. I enjoyed meeting many of you at the AAME Annual Meeting in April and look forward in getting to know you better and working with you in years to come.

The first AAME Project Presentation Day was held on May 9th. A banner hanging outside the ME Building on May 9th announced the 'Arkansas Academy of Mechanical Engineering Project Presentation Day.' Project Presentation Day could not have been a success without the help of Charles Batson AAME coordinator, James Davis the department organizer, Susan Ray for doing the brochure, breakfast and lunch and Nancy Hodgson for doing the award certificates. Charles, along with AAME members Don Johnston, Jim McKimzey, Orville Hall and Ing-Chang Jong served as judges. There were three Creative Design Project I groups and nine Creative Design Project II groups for the spring semester who participated in the competition. The awards in each category were as follows:

Creative Design Projects I:

- 1st Place. Tim Smith and Robin Clements for “Mini-Baja: Rear Suspension” advised by Leon West.

Creative Design Projects II:

- 1st Place. Jay Keazer, Nathan Russell and Thomas Wolfe for “Design of Lower Gap Closure Device on the Boeing F/A-18 E/F Trailing Edge Flap” advised by Matt Gordon and Joe Rencis.
- 2nd Place. Bradley Carter, Nathan Porbeck and William West for “Optimization of the Sprint and Endurance Configuration” advised by Bill Springer.
- 3rd Place. William J. Ginger for “The Process of Friction Stir Welding” advised by Bill Schmidt, Ajay Malshe and graduate student Dongok Kim.

The posters from the competition will be displayed in the ME Building this summer. The posters will be printed by Charles Batson. A plaque denoting the winners will be displayed in the ME Building. I want to thank the AAME for supporting this event! The next AAME Project Presentation Day will be held at the end of the fall semester in early December. Any AAME member who is interested in being a judge in the future should contact Charles Batson at cbatson@batson.com.

This year there are 45 B.S., 12 M.S. and 2 Ph.D. candidates who graduated in Mechanical Engineering. The department is currently in the process of hiring two faculty and there were over 300 applications. I have made offers to two faculty and it is very likely that both will be coming this fall.

If you are ever in town, please be sure and stop by the ME Building. Have a nice summer!

Annual Banquet

If you attended the Annual Banquet you know that it was an experience that made you think about the Theme for this special evening – “*Look to the Heavens*”. We were very fortunate to have Astronaut Joan Higginbotham as our invited speaker from NASA! She began the speaking engagement on campus with the *Graduate Women Group* and then in the *Bell Engineering Center* with another session presented to a group of student ranging in age from 11 years old and UA students. She had a gift of handling questions which earned the respect from the audience. I’m sure that the younger students have a greater awareness of the potential for focusing their futures in the technical areas to possibly earn their spot on a team for the future with NASA. If a student wants to continue their educational base (with continuous learning), thrive on excitement, physical challenges on survival with a team as their only resource, then the NASA programs and various roles that are available is the “right” career choice.

For our AAME Banquet she made a presentation on the future shuttle missions associated with International Space Station with slides to help explain the intricate details to accommodate and meet the numerous challenges in space exploration. Her primary training responsibility is in the Robotic Branch. Beside the informational data she explained she also answered questions from the members that we have all wondered about. For a basic function she said that it did require a rocket scientist to have the training necessary to figure it out. Those in attendance know of what I am talking about. It was indeed a unique and an extraordinary evening to remember! For those attending this evening we now have a person we can support as the future space missions proceeds in knowing Astronaut Higginbotham as she follows her dreams to the Heavens!

Inductees

Another special thing about the evening was that Mike Hays, with his unique style and demeanor, inducted 6 new members into the Academy, which are: Walter Allbright, James R Norwood, Robert A. Porbeck, Chris Raybon, Garry C. Young, and Larry D. Young. Welcome *aboard!*

Business Meeting

The business meeting was filled with information with a summary review of the Department by Dr. Joseph Rencis. He had several unique opportunities that he will be initiating to gain the interest of the students and will ask for volunteers from the membership to act as judges of a competition. Special business, that was discussed, included an approval of \$15,000 for Dr. Rencis to make various department improvements. The personal involvement from the members during this session is always appreciated and it helps in receiving input that can continue our improvement focus! Please refer to <http://comp.uark.edu/~jrencis/aame/> for the presentation by Dr. Rencis.

While our members participated in the business meeting Ms. Mary Lou Retton spoke on campus to a large group of interested Americans who wanted to be encouraged and motivated. And they were!

Also, during this meeting the reigns were turned over to our new President Amos Pack with 2 new Board Members, Mike Dacus and J.R. Jones. *Welcome!!*

Mechanical Engineering Research Center

Another inclusion that the board wanted to extend was to inform the membership with a visit to the ME Research Center where projects were presented and questions answered on the future on award winning topics. The projects were thought provoking and utilized nano-technology that made you realize that the future of the world can now be reduced to a size of a small capsule to promote various ideas of innovations of advanced materials, combustion and propulsion, physical vapor deposition, mechanical testing on structural materials, artificial devices using biomaterials for bioengineering. This trek through the labs (with terms none of us have probable used in years) brought back fond memories of days gone by and was an expanding exercise to see the enthusiasm and focused attention to detail of the students and professors that generously provided to the membership!

Distinguished Engineers Banquet

Saturday evening provided a unique first event which was organized by the Dean of Engineering and his staff to Distinguished Engineers. This Banquet was held at the newly built Fayetteville Town Center and will be a yearly event. The date for next year’s event will be scheduled and then the AAME banquet date will be scheduled. The event honored engineering candidates from the various Academies on campus that has made the University the special place that it is today! It was indeed a special celebration for honored candidates that have excelled in their various fields!

Special Thanks

An anonymous AAME Member donated \$200,000 as a gift annuity for the ME Doctoral Fellowship. This donation shows the love and appreciation for the organization from a person who is greatly appreciated for ALL of his contribution!

Bye to Linda Pate

Linda Pate has moved over to the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering into a non-classified position. You can still contact her at lpate@engr.uark.edu. Priscilla Griffin (griffin@uark.edu) is the new Administrative Assistant II and she joined us on June 1st. She comes to the department from Entomology/Horticulture accounting office where she served for two years as an Accountant Tech II and previously a Secretary II.