



Mechanics Division

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2008

Chair: Benson Tongue
Secretary: Phillip Cornwell

Visit the Mechanics Division Website: <http://comp.uark.edu/~jjrencis/aseemechanics/>

Message from the Chair

Hi Folks:

Well, we're starting in on another year of mechanics education, one in which our students will be attentive, our departments supportive and our colleagues collegial. And if the first two fall through, at least you know you've got the Mechanics Division to fulfill that third item!

The 2008 ASEE Annual Conference, which took place this year in sunny Pittsburgh, supplied both fun and excitement (especially when the sudden winds started to suck everything off the roof during the picnic). A big thank you to all of you who presented papers, listened to the papers, reviewed the papers and moderated the sessions. Without all your help this would have all ground to a halt. So, once again, thanks for the hard work and here's hoping you'll want to keep it up this year.

We appreciate all our current members but are also always on the hunt for new members as well. So please do try and mention the Mechanics Division to your colleagues and students. The \$2.00 membership dues will be waived for the first year of membership - that's 0.0006% of the cost of a nicely equipped Ferrari 460 - what a deal!

If you haven't yet attended one of our Mechanics business meetings, please drop by in '09 and say hi. It's an excellent venue at which to meet the movers and shakers of the Mechanics Division (a dynamics reference), a good place to sit quietly and absorb the witty repartee (statics there), or even decide to shoulder the stress and strain (ooo - strength of materials, that's three for three!) of being a part of the executive committee.

The Awards Banquet this year was truly a moving experience - a two hour cruise down the mighty and majestic Whatchamacallit River via riverboat. Fun stuff. Check further down this newsletter for details of the awardees honored during the event.

Gary Gray is our 2009 Program Chair and is, even as I type, planning to make sure Austin stands out as a high water mark in our conference experiences and I hope all of you are planning to join us there. If you have any questions about the sessions, he's the guy to contact.

Do take a moment to think of who among your colleagues stands out in your mind as deserving of recognition and then submit a nomination for the Mechanics Divisions awards. A call for awards can be found in this newsletter. Note that you can also visit our division website, maintained by the faithful and hard-working Joe Rencis, at <http://comp.uark.edu/~jjrencis/aseemechanics> for this and other information related to the ASEE Mechanics group.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Philpot for his work last year as the division chair and Gary Gray for his efforts in coordinating the banquet. Special thanks as well to Brian Self for organizing a special session that focused on hands-on experiences for the classroom. This session was extremely well attended and positively commented on - we'll definitely be working to make it a permanent addition to our Mechanics sessions.

A final "good job" you to all of you who contributed to the '08 Annual Conference and a thank you in advance for the work y'all will be doing for the '09 version. With your help it'll be the best yet!

Best,

Benson Tongue, 2008-2009 Mechanics Division Chair

Message from the 2009 Mechanics Division Program Chair

Hi everyone.

With the fall semester upon us all, the clock is ticking down to October 10, which is the deadline for submitting an abstract to the 2009 Annual Conference & Exposition in Austin, TX. Please don't wait until the last minute -- we (me and the reviewers) are on pins and needles waiting for this year's amazing papers. To submit an abstract, please go to the ASEE web site at:

<http://asee.org/conferences/annual/2009/Call-for-Papers.cfm>

to obtain detailed information regarding the abstract and paper submission process. Complete information on how to access and submit via SmoothPaper is provided in the Author's Kit. See you all in Austin!

Gary L. Gray, Program Chairman
gray@engr.psu.edu

Call for Award Nominations (Due by January 31, 2009)

Archie Higdon Distinguished Educator Award

The Archie Higdon Distinguished Educator Award is given annually by the Mechanics Division for distinguished and outstanding contributions to engineering mechanics education. The nomination package should include the following:

1. A letter of nomination and no more than four accompanying letters of support which delineate the nominee's contribution to mechanics education,
2. Nominee's curriculum vitae.

The award consists of a plaque to be given at the annual Mechanics Division Banquet and registration for the ASEE Annual Conference along with registration for the Mechanics Division Banquet.

Ferdinand P. Beer and E. Russell Johnston, Jr., Outstanding New Mechanics Educator Award

The Ferdinand P. Beer and E. Russell Johnston, Jr., Outstanding New Mechanics Educator Award is given annually to up to three individuals who have shown a strong commitment to mechanics education. The winners are selected on the basis of their exceptional contributions to mechanics education. Individuals who have no more than five years of academic experience past their first regular academic appointment are eligible. The nomination package should include the following:

1. A letter of nomination which delineates the nominee's contribution to mechanics education and no more than two additional letters of support,
2. A one-page letter from the nominee describing his or her personal philosophy regarding mechanics education,
3. Nominee's curriculum vitae.

The award consists of a \$200 cash prize, a plaque to be awarded at the Mechanics Division Banquet, and registration for the ASEE Annual Conference along with registration for the Mechanics Division Banquet and Business Meeting Luncheon.

Mechanics Division James L. Meriam Service Award

The Mechanics Division James L. Meriam Service Award may be given annually to recognize significant service to the Mechanics Division as characterized by notable leadership, significant contributions, and prolonged and dedicated service. Candidates for the award must be members of the Mechanics Division and must have served the Division for a minimum of ten years. No individual may receive the award more than once, and members of the Division's Awards Committee are not eligible for the award until two years after completing their service on that committee. Nominations may be made by all members of the Mechanics Division except for those members serving on the Division's Awards Committee. Each nomination package must include the following:

1. A chronological listing of the candidate's service to the Division,
2. A narrative statement detailing the significant elements of the service.

The award consists of a plaque to be given at the annual Mechanics Division Banquet and registration for the ASEE Annual Conference along with registration for the Mechanics Division Banquet.

Attendance at the ASEE Annual Conference is required for the awardees. Nominations are due (in triplicate) by **January 31, 2008**.

Point of contact for submission of nominations or for additional information is Professor Nancy Denton, Purdue University, Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology, Knoy Hall, Room 137, 401 N. Grant Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2021; telephone: 765-494-7517; fax: 765-494-6219. Electronic submissions will also be accepted by sending the nomination materials to dentonnl@purdue.edu.

Post Conference Notes

Mechanics Division - 2008 ASEE Annual Conference in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Best Paper Award

Rani Sullivan and Masoud Rais-Rohani, "Design and Application of a Beam Testing System for Experimental Learning in Mechanics of Materials"

Best Paper Presentation Awards

Session 1468 – Anything New in Dynamics?

Brian Self, "A New Spin on Teaching 3D Kinematics and Gyroscopic Motion"

Session 1568 – Mechanics Education Programs and Projects

Michael Hennessey, "Statics and Dynamics Projects Emphasizing Introductory Design and Manufacturing"

Session 2268 –Mechanics and the Internet

Calvin Ashmore, "INTEL: Interactive Toolkit for Engineering Education"

Session 2468 – Useful Teaching Techniques in Mechanics

Benson Tongue, "Enhancing Lecture Pedagogy through Targeted Breaks"

Session 3168 – Enhancing Mechanics Instruction

Gary Gray, "Problem-Centered Approach to Dynamics"

Session 3668 – Anything New in the Mechanics of Materials?

Rani Sullivan, "Design and Application of a Beam Testing System for Experiential Learning in Mechanics of Materials"

Overall Best Paper Presentations in the Mechanics Division (we had a tie this year!)

Benson Tongue, "Enhancing Lecture Pedagogy through Targeted Breaks"

and

Gary Gray, "Problem-Centered Approach to Dynamics"

Congratulations to everyone!!

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes – ASEE Mechanics Division
Business meeting minutes
Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 12:30 PM
Pittsburgh Convention Center

Attendees: Phil Cornwell, Tim Philpot, Benson Tongue, Chris Masters, Jon-Michael Hardin, Scott Danielson, Jen Kadlowec, Lia Brillhart, Eric Bell, Laura Ruhala, Rich Ruhala, Renata Engel, Ing-Chang Jong, Greg Odegard, Francesco Costanzo, Gary Gray, Anna Dollar, Julie Linsey, Andrea Surovek, Shahnam Navaee, Brian Self, Rungun Nathan, Tom Nordenholz, Chris Papadopoulos, Matt Smith

1. Welcome/Introductions (Philpot)
2. Approval of 2007 Business Meeting Minutes (Philpot)
3. Report from Divisions Officers
 - a. Program Chair (Tongue)
 - i. A new session titled “Useful Teaching Techniques” was very well received. There was very good attendance and discussions. A suggestion was made to have it every year alternating between a focus on statics/dynamics and mechanics of materials. One option was to call the session a panel. A suggestion was made to call it a “demo session”. A question was asked, but not answered about whether or not it was worth coordinating with ME and CE?
 - b. Program chair-elect (Gray)
 - i. Will coordinate with CE and ME this year so we don’t have overlapping sessions. He asked for clarification on what we are proposing as far as having a publication associated with a panel discussion.
 - c. Secretary (Cornwell)
 - i. None
 - d. Treasurer (Self)
 - i. Looking for a replacement.
 - ii. Awards banquet for this conference will run a deficit of about \$2,000.
 - iii. He will have final numbers at the end of July, and we still need money from publishers who contribute to the awards.
 - e. Awards Committee (Brillhart)
 - i. People who are nominated for an award are typically carried over to the following year except for the New Educators Award. For this award people need to be renominated.
 - ii. There was a suggestion that we should nominate some people in the area of fluids.
 - f. Membership committee (Nathan)
 - i. We currently have 230 members which is slightly up from the previous year.
 - ii. This year we did not have a bookmark telling when all the sessions were, but we should try to have one for next year.
 - iii. Have we tried to target department heads/chairs? Rungun suggested putting together a flyer/information that showcases the benefits of joining mechanics division that would go to the deans and department chairs.
 - iv. We need to invite people who submit papers to the division to join the mechanics division. It was asked whether or not publishers could send information out with mechanics related books about the Mechanics Division.
 - g. Webmaster (Rencis)
 - i. None

4. Announcements and Appointments
 - a. Program Chair-Elect (Philpot)
 - i. Program Chair-Elect for 2008-2009 is Anna Dollar.
 - b. Executive Committee Elections (Masters)
 - i. Nominees for two positions on the Executive Committee are Tom Nordenholz and Francesco Costanzo. Motion to accept these nominations by acclamation was passed.
 - c. Standing Committees (Philpot)
 - i. A sign-up sheet for standing committees was passed around.
5. PIC Report (Philpot)
 - a. Tim did not have a lot of news to relate. ASEE has gone to a publish to present for all divisions. The Emerging Trends poster session has been terminated. Each division will have the option of having poster sessions. There will be a fewer number of sessions next year because of fewer rooms. Poster sessions still need a full paper submitted. The number of registrants this year was down from Hawaii. There were 3400 registrants, 1414 papers, 114 abstract only.
6. PIC Chair Report (Kadlowec)
 - a. Jennifer asked for feedback for the board. 1) There was a discussion of the deadlines for program chairs. 2) It was mentioned that 7:00 sessions are not that great. 3) After papers are selected there was a suggestion for the program chair to send a gentle reminder of payment deadlines and to remind authors to re-upload their papers.
7. Old Business
8. New Business
 - a. Operating manual. There was a request to update the various sections of the operating manual. Jon-Michael Harden was willing to do this and to send gentle reminders to officers about deadlines, serving as an "Operations Coordinator"
 - b. There was a request for volunteers for being secretary or treasurer. Laura Ruhala volunteered to be the treasurer.
 - c. The chairman asked if there was interested in reviving the monograph. There is a already a committee that is supposed to be working on this.
9. Other Business
 - a. None
10. Passing of the Banner (Philpot)
11. Adjournment 2:00 PM (Tongue)

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Add
Postage

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