



# Mechanics Division

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## ***NEWSLETTER***

October 1999

Chair: Joe Rencis

Secretary: John J. Lesko

### **The New School Year 1999-2000**

I trust the start of your school year is going well and that the information and perspectives gained from the ASEE meeting in Charlotte have been a help to you. The meeting went well and all of the Mechanics Division sessions were well attended. Many thanks go to Joe Rencis and Ted Conway for their work to ensure that the meeting and events went off without a hitch.

As I am sure there are many activities that you must attend to this fall I hope you will take a minute to read through this edition of the ASEE Mechanics Division Newsletter and consider participating in the activities discussed.

I would like to direct your attention to the following particular features of this edition.

- The Best Paper Award of the 1999 Annual Meeting went to Sudhir Mehta and Scott Danielson for their paper titled, "Dynamically."
- The ASEE Mechanics Division issues a request for nominations for the Archie Higdon Distinguished Educator Award and the Outstanding New Mechanics Educator Award.
- The Mechanics Division of ASEE 2000 Annual Conference and Expo to be held in St. Louis June 18-21, 2000.

### **Printed vs. E-Mail Versions of the Newsletter:**

As has been discussed in the past there is both a printed and an e-mail version of this newsletter. Generally, I send one or the other to members, and both to officers. If you are currently receiving the printed version and are willing to receive an e-mail version instead, please send me ([jlesko@vt.edu](mailto:jlesko@vt.edu)) your e-mail address. **Sending e-mail versions is less work and less expensive than producing a printed copy. The money saved on printing and postage can then be used by the division for other purposes.**

Jack Lesko

Mechanics Division Secretary, [jlesko@vt.edu](mailto:jlesko@vt.edu)

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### **In this newsletter:**

- 1) Message from the Chair
- 2) Call for Papers
- 3) Call for Nominations
- 4) Best Paper Award
- 5) Minutes of the Mechanics Division Business Meeting
- 6) 1999/2000 Mechanics Division Officers/Executive Committee Members

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I feel honored to serve as the Chair of the Mechanics Division of ASEE. I hope that you had an enjoyable and productive summer. I would like to thank the past chair Ted Conway for the fine job he did last year. I would also like to thank everyone on the Executive and Ad-hoc Committees for their help and support since I joined the Executive Committee three years ago. In particular Elliot Eisenberg, Renta Engel, and Ing-Chang Jong have been extremely helpful.

The ASEE Conference was held in Charlotte, North Carolina this past June. We hosted two workshops, three technical sessions, two joint panel sessions, a reception and a banquet. The first workshop was on Virtual Reality Modeling Language (VRL) and the second on Strain Gauges. Both workshops were a great success and each attracted at least fifteen participants. Two of technical sessions and one of the joint panel sessions were standing room only! Many thanks to Marti Spalding and Measurements Group Inc. who sponsors our reception each year.

The ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition will be held in St. Louis from June 18-21, 2000. ASEE has made significant changes in the submission of all abstracts. All Divisions have a common deadline of October 1st. You must submit your abstract/paper electronically at <http://www.asee.org/conferences/annual2000/CAPS/>. Full-length papers will be due December 15th. I would like to encourage you to respond to the Mechanics Division call for papers and emphasize that the deadline this year is firm. The Annual Conference is a great place to share your ideas or results of your studies with other mechanics educators. If you have any questions, please contact your Program Chair Bob Hastie at [Robert.Hastie@dtra.mil](mailto:Robert.Hastie@dtra.mil).

As some of you might remember, the Mechanics Division in the past has carried out national surveys on undergraduate mechanics education. The survey was last completed in 1985. This year Don Morris (Virginia Tech), Lia Brillhart (Triton College), Elliot Eisenberg (Penn State) and myself will be looking at the current status of undergraduate mechanics education in the year 2000. We plan to have the survey questions completed by the end of the year and mail it early next year. I strongly encourage all of you to participate.

I look forward to serving you this coming year. Please be sure to contact me if you have any comments/suggestions about your Division. Have a nice fall!

Joseph J. Rencis

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

### 2000 Conference and Expo St. Louis, Missouri

The ASEE 2000 Annual Conference and Expo will be held in St. Louis, Missouri from June 18-21. The website is <http://www.asee.org/conferences/annual2000><<http://www.asee.org/conferences/annual2000>>. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Dingman, Conference Program Coordinator, via email at [m.dingman@asee.org](mailto:m.dingman@asee.org) <<mailto:m.dingman@asee.org>>.

Michael H. Dingman  
Conference Program Coordinator

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The ASEE Mechanics Division issues a request for nominations for the Archie Higdon Distinguished Educator Award and the Outstanding New Mechanics Educator Award.

The Archie Higdon Distinguished Educator Award is granted annually by the Mechanics Division for distinguished and outstanding contributions to engineering mechanics education. The nomination package should include: **1)** a letter of nomination and two accompanying letters of support which delineates the nominee's contribution to mechanics education; **2)** nominee's curriculum vita. The award consists of a plaque to be given at the annual Mechanics Division Banquet and registration to the Mechanics Division Banquet.

The 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: **1)** a letter of support which delineates the nominee's contribution to mechanics education; **2)** a one-page letter from the nominee describing his/her personal philosophy regarding mechanics education; **3)** nominee's resume. The award consists of a \$200 cash prize, a plaque to be awarded at the Mechanics Division Banquet, registration for the ASEE Annual Conference along with registration to the Mechanics Division Banquet and Business Meeting Luncheon.

Attendance at the ASEE Annual Conference is required for the awardees. Nominations are due (in triplicate) by **January 31, 2000**. Point of contact for submission of nominations or for additional information is ***Prof. Nancy L. Denton, Purdue University, 1417 Knoy Hall, Room 137, West Lafayette, IN, 47907-1417; tel: (765) 494-7517; fax: (765) 494-6219; email: nldenton@tech.purdue.edu.***

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## BEST PAPER AWARD

### 1999 Annual Meeting

The ASEE Best Paper Award for the 1999 meeting went to **Sudhir Mehta** and **Scott Danielson**, North Dakota State University, for their paper titled, "**Dynamically.**"

Congratulations to these authors for their fine work! Thanks to all of the authors and presenters of papers in the 1999 Mechanics Division sessions.

Jack Lesko  
ASEE Mechanics Division Secretary

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## MINUTES OF MECHANICS DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING

*Charlotte, North Carolina*

*June 23, 1999, 12:30 - 2:00 pm*

The meeting was opened by Ted Conway at 1:03 pm.

1. Approval of minutes of last meeting (Flori).

No minutes were available for the business meeting that was held last year.

2. Executive Committee Meeting Report

a) Officer and Committee Assignment Update (Conway)

Chair - Joe Rencis (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)

Program Chair - Bob Hastie (United States Air Force Academy)

Program Chair-Elect - To be done via e-mail after Charlotte

Membership - Kurt Gramoll (University of Oklahoma) & Ing-Chang Jong  
(University of Arkansas)

Treasurer - Gary Gray (Penn State)

Secretary - Jack Lesko (Virginia Tech)

Awards - Elliot Eisenberg (Penn State University)

b) Treasurer's Report (Solti)

Estimated End of Year Balances (6/23/99):

BASS Account - \$2268.42

Operating Account - \$990.88

c) Membership Report (Ing-Chang Jong)

- The Division will send a letter to presenters who are not Mechanics Division members. The purpose of this letter is to encourage them to become a member of the Mechanics Division.

- Elliot contacted the people who attended the Engineering Mechanics Education at Penn State last year regarding membership in the Division and some people joined the Division.

- The committee looked at the distribution of Mechanics Division members throughout the country and found that the only concentration of members is at Penn State and Virginia Tech.

3. Election of New Officers (Conway)

Jim Solti (United States Air Force Academy) and Karim Nohra (University of Southern Florida) have been elected as new officers to the Executive Committee. Jim and Karim might have a commitment, which might stop them from serving on the committee. If this is the case, Martin Pike (Purdue University) has agreed to serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

4. PIC Report (Rencis)

a) There will be two Program Chair orientations on Wednesday (7:30 am and 2:00 pm) this year.

b) 2000 Conference Papers - Common deadlines will be used for the first time this year for all Divisions. Submission will be via the Web using CAPS. An individual may submit to a particular Division or be placed in an at-large society pool.

c) ASEE Best Paper Award

- Reviewers for each Division will use common award guidelines this year.

- When abstract is accepted, criteria for award will be stated in the letter this year.

- Reviews will be acknowledged on Web and/or Proceedings this year.

5. 1999 Program Chair Report (Rencis)

- a) The two workshops held on Sunday had 15 and 17 people in attendance.
- b) The technical sessions were very successful this year since there was standing room only at each one. Additional chairs had to be added to each session room.

6. 2000 Program Chair Report (Rencis)

- a) Report given by Rencis for Hastie.
  - b) A call for papers has appeared in Prism since February. Rencis believes that this is one reason why we had an increase in paper submission this year (22 in all) and only 15 slots. Also, there was a significant increase in session attendance this year.
- c) A call for papers for 2000 was handed out.
- d) This year ASEE will have a common deadline for submitting abstracts (September 15, 1999) and submitting papers (December 1, 1999). The paper submission process will be carried out electronically via <http://www.asee.org/conferences/annual2000/CAPS> <<http://www.asee.org/conferences/annual2000/CAPS>>. In the past each Division would decide on their own deadlines.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

- a) Merger with Engineering Acoustic and Vibrations Division (Conway)
  - This Division has 150 members.
  - The Division would like an opportunity to put together a session each year.
  - A vote was taken for absorbing the Division.
  - 100% of the attending individuals voted to absorb Division.
- b) Potential Sponsors for Division Awards (Conway)
  - Ted has talked to McGraw Hill and they are possibility interested in sponsoring an award.
  - The focus will be on the New Engineering Educator Award due to its cost to the Division each year.
- c) Awards Committee (Kraige) - Nominations are needed for the Archie Higdon Award for next year.
- d) SECTAM XX (Ing-Chang Jong)
  - Mechanics Division has been asked to organize 1-2 sessions on mechanics education at SECTAM XX.
  - Ing-Chang will coordinate this effort. Please submit abstract to him by August 1, 1999 at [ICJ@ENGR.UARK.EDU](mailto:ICJ@ENGR.UARK.EDU).
  - SECTAM XX Information - Twentieth Southeastern Conference on Theoretical and Applied Mechancis, April 16-18, 2000 at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia, <http://www.eng.auburn.edu/sectam> <<http://www.eng.auburn.edu/sectam>>
- e) Room Size - It was suggested that the Division try to get larger rooms for the technical sessions due to overcrowding.

9. Passing of the Banner (Conway)

The Mechanics Division Banner was given to incoming chair Joe Rencis.

10. Adjournment (Rencis)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 PM.

The following individuals attended the meeting:

Ted Conway (University of Akron)  
Joe Rencis (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)  
Kurt Gramoll (University of Oklahoma)  
Ing-Chang Jong (University of Arkansas)  
Gary Gray (Penn State University)  
Jim Solti (United States Air Force Academy)  
Andy Pytel (Penn State University)  
Don Morris (Virginia Tech)  
Glenn Kraige (Virginia Tech)  
Nancy Denton (Purdue University)  
Ralph Flori (University of Missouri-Rolla)

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1999/2000 MECHANICS DIVISION OFFICERS

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 (703) 325-1273, robert.hastie@dtra.mil

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 (765) 494-7514, mamagill@tech.purdue.edu

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*October 1999 Newsletter*



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