

UAB BEST Robotics Competition in Need of Volunteers

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is hosting its first-ever BEST Robotics Competition on October 11, 2008 at Bartow Arena. BEST is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization whose mission is to inspire students to pursue careers in engineering, science, and technology through participation in sports-like, science and engineering-based robotics competition. There are 23 area middle- and high-schools participating in this year's event.

The event is in need of volunteers to judge different segments of the competition and to assist students with any "troubleshooting" of their robots in the pit area during the competition. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Paul George (pgeorge@uab.edu).

Even if you cannot volunteer, come out and support local middle- and high-school students in the competition. For more information, visit the following websites:

Blazer BEST (<http://www.eng.uab.edu/BEST>)
BEST Robotics Inc. (<http://www.bestinc.org/MVC>)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Local Section News**
- 2 **Get Set for 2008 IMECE in Boston, Mass.**
- 2 **Amos Holt is ASME's President-Nominee**
- 3 **Nate Ball to Host 2008 I•Show at IMECE**
- 4 **A New Strategy: Help for Local Sections**
- 5 **Early Career Development Forum**

Industry Speakers Scheduled for 2008-2009

Work is underway to schedule speakers for the Birmingham ASME Section for 2008-2009. Two speakers have been confirmed so far and more are in progress.

Mark S. Duvall, Program Manager – Electric Transportation at EPRI is scheduled for February 4, 2009. Mr. Duvall's current work focuses on plug-in hybrid electric vehicle research, development, and demonstrations; advanced battery system development and testing; electric charging infrastructure; and environmental analysis of the air quality and greenhouse gas emissions characteristics of plug-in hybrids and other electric transportation technologies. More information about Mr. Duvall and EPRI's Electric Transportation program can be found at <http://et.epri.com>.

Jeff Anthony, Manager of Utility Programs at AWEA is scheduled for March 2009. Mr. Anthony's areas of focus include utility programs and policy development, monitoring and tracking issues related to utility interest in wind power, providing support to utility members in AWEA, facilitating the AWEA Utility Working Group, and maintaining working relationships with UWIG, EEI, NRECA, APPA, EPRI, and ACORE on wind issues. For more information about Mr. Anthony and AWEA, please visit www.awea.org.

More information regarding meeting locations, speaker topics and other details will follow in future newsletters and emails and will be posted on the Birmingham ASME Section website at sections.asme.org/birmingham.

Industry Tours for 2008-2009

A tour of Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC in Lincoln, AL will be held on January 15, 2009 at 1:00 PM. More details will follow as the tour date gets closer. Other industry tours are also being lined up for 2008-2009. Some potential industries include Barber Motorsports and Golden Flake. As these are confirmed, information will be shared via email, newsletters, and the website.



2008 ASME CONGRESS & EXPOSITION SET FOR BOSTON

Now is the time to register for the 2008 ASME Congress to be held Oct. 31 - Nov 6.

The Congress offers unparalleled opportunities to learn about research and applications that are shaping the future of engineering. In addition, you can build your professional network, expand your knowledge, and advance your career through various forums, workshops, industry tours, and a Career Expo. The 2008 ASME Congress will convene at the Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers and the John B. Hynes Memorial Convention Center in the heart of one of America's most historic cities. The Congress will adhere to a multidisciplinary program focused on diverse areas of engineering research and the developments in fields such as manufacturing and design engineering, thermodynamics, biomedical systems, nanotechnology and other emerging technologies. Visit the '08 Congress Web site to register and make your hotel reservation online. <http://www.asmeconferences.org/Congress08/index.cfm>

ASME NAMES AMOS E. HOLT PRESIDENT-NOMINEE



During the proceeding of the 2008 ASME Annual Meeting, held June 7-11, ASME announced Amos E. Holt, Ph.D., as president-nominee of the Society.

Dr. Holt has served in many leadership positions during his 26-year affiliation with ASME, most recently as secretary and treasurer. He also served as chair of the Committee on Finance and Investment, chair of the Continuing Education Institute, and vice president of the Pressure Technology Group. He has been a member of ASME since 1982. Holt is a technical expert in the areas of nondestructive evaluation (NDE) and advanced engineering materials. He currently serves as vice president of Environmental, Safety, and Quality Systems for Southwest Research Institute® in San Antonio, Texas. Holt was named a fellow of ASME in 1993 and honorary member in 2002. He also was a lecturer in the ASME Distinguished Lecturers' Program and in 2000, became a recipient of the Society's Dedicated Service Award.



Great Opportunities, Great Work, Great People Engineers without Borders – USA



Engineers Without Borders - USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. This partnership involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineers and engineering students.

ASME and EWB-USA have been collaborating for several years on a variety of projects. You can get involved too! EWB-USA offers several opportunities to become involved in building a better world one community at a time, whether you are an engineering student (undergraduate or graduate; a student in some other field of study; a professional engineer or university faculty member; or, not an engineer at all!

There are several EWB_USA workshops taking place this fall around the country. More details on these workshops are available at <http://www.ewb-usa.org/Fallworkshops.php>. To find out how your Student Section can get involved in EWB-USA, contact Marina Stenos at stenosm@asme.org or 212 591 8614.

ASME URGES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR NEW ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

ASME has asked the U.S. Congress to direct funds to programs that will enable the United States to grow the national energy infrastructure to meet the rising demand for transportation fuels and electricity. An ASME position statement urges members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees to increase funds for technology development and innovation as well as to train workers in "green collar" jobs. The Administration already has enacted the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; however several key provisions of the act, including the appropriation of funds, remain unresolved. Echoing the public sentiment to wean the United States from dependence on foreign energy supplies, the ASME position statement references the need to displace traditional sources of energy, while updating the national energy infrastructure. For a copy of the ASME position statement PS08-17 visit <http://www.asme.org/NewsPublicPolicy/GovRelations/PositionStatements/>

Call for Mentors! Ementoring Opportunities for Early Career Engineers.

Mentors are a great way to gain knowledge and learn from the experiences of experts in your field. ASME offers an e-mentoring service right at your fingers!

To learn more and sign up for mentors, or to register to become a mentor, log onto http://www.asme.org/jobs/mentoring/Ementoring_Early_Career.cfm or contact Noel Netel at neteln@asme.org

VOTE NOW !!

The Future of ASME is in your hands!!!

Information about nominees for Society Office for terms beginning in June 2009 is now available online. <http://www.asme.org/Governance/Nominating/>

Ballots are included in your September 2008 Issue of ME Magazine and are due on or before Oct. 17, 2008

***You have the power to shape the future
of ASME!!***

NATE BALL TO HOST 2008 ASME I•SHOW AT CONGRESS

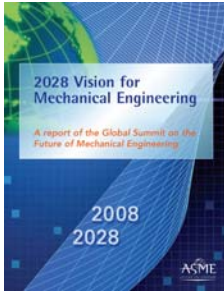


Popular television personality Nate Ball of the PBS program *Design Squad*, will host the 2008 ASME Innovation Showcase (ASME I•Show) to be held Oct. 31, in Boston.

Ball will join with ASME to celebrate technical ingenuity as reflected in the design innovations of the ten collegiate teams selected to participate in the ASME I•Show competition. Ball, a mechanical engineering graduate of the MIT and co-founder of Atlas Devices, LLC, has been the energetic and engaging host of the award-winning *Design Squad*, produced by PBS station WGBH- Boston. Now in its second year, ASME I•Show provides a forum for students to present their innovative product designs and demonstrate the product's potential to impact commercial markets. The ASME I•Show provides a platform for top collegiate student teams to compete for seed money to commercialize their idea. While demonstrating their technological creativity and business acumen, winners must provide the commercial feasibility of their products to a judging panel and audience of successful innovators, industry experts, venture capitalists, and intellectual property specialists for the ultimate reward: Industry recognition and access to over \$20K in seed funds.

For more information and a listing of this year's contestants, visit <http://www.asme.org/Communities/Entrepreneur/Inn>

ASME REPORTS ON THE FUTURE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



The *2028 Vision for Mechanical Engineering*, a report of the Global Summit on the Future of Mechanical Engineering, held April 16-18, 2008, in Washington, D.C., is now available on the ASME Web site. The report prepared by the ASME Strategic Issues Committee of the Strategic Management Sector by the Institute for Alternative Futures says that mechanical engineers, over the next two decades, will be called upon to develop technologies that foster a cleaner, healthier, safer and sustainable global environment. "Mechanical engineers can be at the forefront of developing new technology for environmental remediation, farming and food production, housing, transportation, safety, security, healthcare and water resources," says the report. Charles M. Vest, president of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering and a speaker at the Global Summit predicted that the greatest opportunities for engineers would be in the areas of biotechnology, nanotechnology and information technology. The 2028 report features comments and perspectives from Global Summit speakers and panelists, strategic themes for mechanical engineers over the next 20 years, and a look at the grand challenges facing the profession. Download a copy of *2028 Vision for Mechanical Engineering* at <http://www.asmeconferences.org/asmeglobalsummit/index.cfm>. For more information contact Allian Pratt at 202-785-7382 or pratta@asme.org

Help for Local Sections: A New Strategy

ASME Santa Clara Valley Section (SCVS) has developed a webinar strategy so that any ASME Section can serve a larger audience across the ASME while meeting critical section needs. This effort is currently in the pilot phase as the technical aspects of webinar delivery, program structure, volunteer coordination, and best potential revenue sharing models are still in development.

"This webinar strategy is section led and funded," says Scott Burr, chair of Professional Development for SCVS & for District D and the Local Programs Committee Chair. We understand how to produce quality programs that produce surplus revenue to help fund our section. Now we want to roll out our webinar strategy so any District or Section can benefit as we have. We recently produced a webinar involving several time zones that had 70 attendees with revenue sharing across Districts."

Burr first envisioned using the web to distribute programs in 1998. Over the years, SCVS and District D leaders helped evolve the plan. Bill Robbins, District D leader says, "We helped Santa Clara Valley Section expand their program by providing risk support. Now we are supporting their effort to go international."

By leveraging the Professional Development program's success, current SCVS Chair, Dr. Mahantesh Hiremath, raised \$10,000 in sponsor funds for the section. "This [implementing webinars] has helped offset the loss of funding that all sections experienced. We have produced quality programs for ten years. Each successive chair discovers new ways to leverage the program for our member's benefits, to foster cooperation between sections and to contribute to the business model. We are not aware of any other Section within the ASME that has a created a program as integrated and as successful as this," says, Dr. Hiremath.

Scott Burr's enthusiasm is apparent. "We have created an effective and reproducible business model that delivers results. It addresses several major concerns facing local sections: reliable revenue generation, delivery of quality programs to members, cooperation across ASME entities, and the ability to raise sponsor funding. Now with support from the Local Programs committee, we feel we are leading in ASME's call for sections to be more entrepreneurial - and what better place to do it than from Silicon Valley, home of the Santa Clara Valley Section."

For more information or to participate in the pilot program - contact Scott Burr at burrs@asme.org.

- Dayna Hubenthal

ASME Early Career Development Forum

Join us in Boston on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, for a chance to turbocharge your career! The **Early Career Development Forum** provides an outstanding opportunity to learn the skills necessary to get your engineering career on the fast track. Industry experts offer key advice on how to advance in both technical and management areas.

In one information-packed day, learn how to:

Work with different groups of people to accomplish objectives and develop relationships; develop mentoring relationships with the experienced engineers around you; create a project roadmap; gain insight into how a design moves from concept to reality and how the internal and external customers drive improvements in order to make the best product available. And more!

Forum Topics:

Systems Thinking: Managing Expectations
Knowledge Transfer: Building Your Technical Expertise across Generations
Energy: Renewable and Alternative
Nanoscience & Engineering
Design: Concept to Reality

Get full details and get your career on the fast track! visit:

<http://www.asmeconferences.org/Congress08/ECF.cfm?campaign=ecf08&channel=email81308>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! ENGINEER YOUR LIFE

Help Inspire the Next Generation of Young Women to Become Engineering Leaders!

ASME, as part of our Engineers Week collaboration, actively supports Engineer Your Life (EYL), the national campaign to encourage college-bound girls to consider engineering enrollment.

A key element of EYL outreach is collaboration with the college counseling community through the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). We are asking for volunteers – engineering and engineering students – for high school fairs throughout the U.S. this fall.

Cities, dates and locations of fall fairs can be found at http://www.eweek.org/site/pdfs/college_fair.pdf For more information or to sign up, contact Marina Stenos at 212 591 8614 or stenosm@asme.org. For more information about Engineer Your Life, visit www.EngineerYourLife.org

2008-09 Diversity Action Grants now Available

Sponsored by ASME's Center for Leadership and Diversity, the Diversity Action Grants program provides awards ranging from \$500 to \$1500 to ASME Student Sections to sponsor events which:

- Promote the inclusion of women and under-represented minorities in ASME Student Sections and in mechanical engineering;
- Inspire K-12 students to excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education;
- Engage international participation in ASME Student Sections;
- Assist minority- and/or women-owned businesses solve engineering design problems

Projects that emphasize collaborative partnerships with other engineering societies on campus, as well as international in scope are strongly encouraged to apply. To be considered for the 2008-09 academic year, all applications should be submitted by November 10. For more information on the DAG program and an online application, contact Marina Stenos at stenosm@asme.org, or visit http://www.asme.org/Communities/Diversity/Diversity_Action_Grant.cfm

Volunteer with ASME Using the Volunteer Opportunities Bulletin Board

Have you thought about volunteering at ASME, but don't know where to start? Try the Volunteer Opportunities Bulletin Board (VOBB). Whether you are an experienced ASME volunteer or new member looking to make a difference, the VOBB is the place for you to start. As a tool designed to help volunteer leaders promote local Section and Society-wide positions, it opens the door to new opportunities. The opportunities for involvement include pre-college and educational activities, standards development, government relations, honors and awards selection, the development of new programs and more.

To learn more about the VOBB and the volunteer positions available, go to <http://volunteer.asme.org/vobb/>.

Are YOU the New Face of Mechanical Engineering?

The New Faces of Engineering strives to promote the accomplishments of young engineers by highlighting their engineering contributions and the resulting impact on society. The campaign is designed to enhance and improve the image of engineering by:

- Putting faces to what has often been referred to as “the stealth profession”
- Showing a group of young, diverse and talented engineers, thereby portraying engineering as an exciting profession open to everyone
- Providing both stimulation and incentive for college engineering students to explore the variety of career options available to them with their engineering degrees as well as encouraging high school students to study engineering in college
- Helping engineering students understand they are part of a global profession

Nominate someone today! For more information visit:

<http://www.eweek.org/Site/Engineers/newfaces2009/nomination.shtml>