

Upcoming Events

December – Open

January 24 – Austin Energy: Wind Power
(tentative)

February 21 – Annual Ethics presentation
CENTRAL TEXAS ASME MEMBERS ONLY

March 21 – Open

April - Open

May - Open

As you can see there are many opportunities for presentations! We need volunteers to help with hosting events and topics. If you have something that you think may be of interest to ASME or could host a group of about 20 people please let us know!

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Local Section News

ASME Central Texas Section Calendar

Check the following link

<http://sections.asme.org/centex/bboard.html>

Click on the "Year Planning Calendar" link to access the calendar.

Brain Teaser of the Month (by braingle.com)

Four words that begin and end with the same letter, H, have had all of their other letters removed and placed into a pool. Put those letters back in their proper places. The number of missing letters is given for each word. What are the words?

H(4)H, H(5)H, H(6)H, H(7)H

Pool: A, A, C, C, E, E, E, G, I, L, O, O, O, P, R, S, S, T, T, T, W, W

Answers appear at the end of the newsletter

Contact Us!

We really need volunteers to help with the the Central Texas Section activities. If you'd like to help, please contact us:

Chair/Treasurer: Mark Stefanov, P.E.

stefanovm@asme.org

Vice Chair: Theresa Jones (jonest2@asme.org)

Newsletter Editor: Anthony Gatica, P.E.

anthony.gatica@gmail.com

Membership Developemnt: Gary Sutorius

tomsdad@ccsi.com

ASME MEMBERS SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO THE CNN-YOUTUBE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

At an ASME Government Relations sponsored booth at the Early Career Fair during the International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition (IMECE) in Seattle, Washington, staff assisted ASME members with formulating questions for the CNN-YouTube Republican Presidential debate, which was held on Nov. 28.

ASME Past President Harry Armen and current ASME Board of Governor Marc Goldsmith were among several members who recorded videos during the Early Career Fair. Questions ranged from lawmakers' thoughts on increasing fuel efficiency standards, to maintaining American competitiveness and furthering innovation. This idea initially came to fruition after 2007 ASME WISE intern Chris Deal submitted a question regarding climate change for the debate this summer. The questions submitted will help foster a sustained dialogue on issues that are pertinent not only to our nation but to mechanical engineers and other engineering disciplines during the race to elect the next President of the United States.

To view these videos, please visit the ASME Government Relations web site at:
<http://www.asme.org/NewsPublicPolicy/GovRelations/>

The ASME Volunteer Opportunities Bulletin Board

(VOBB) is a tool designed to help volunteer leaders promote local Section and Society-wide volunteer positions. It is also used to help link volunteers with opportunities for involvement in all areas of the society. Opportunities for involvement include standards development, pre-college outreach and educational activities, government relations, and the development of new products, programs and more.

Volunteer leaders are encouraged to use the VOBB as a recruitment tool. If your ASME group is looking for a few good volunteers to share their passion and make meaningful contributions, contact Deidra Hackley at hackleyd@asme.org or visit http://volunteer.asme.org/vobb/Post_Volunteer_Opportunity.cfm. For more information on posting or applying for a position on the VOBB visit <http://volunteer.asme.org/> or e-mail bookert@asme.org.

Thomas M. Barlow Becomes ASME's President-Elect



During proceeding of the 2007 Congress in Seattle, Thomas M. Barlow was announced as president-elect of ASME. Mr. Barlow will become the 127th president of ASME when he begins his one-year term in June 2008.

A longtime member of ASME, Mr. Barlow has participated on numerous technical, regional and Society-wide committees and boards and has demonstrated a strong record of support and leadership in student outreach, membership development, technology and engineering diversity. He is a Fellow of ASME and former member of the ASME Board of Governors, serving from 2003 to 2006. Mr. Barlow enjoyed a 40-year career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, serving in a number of management and leadership positions before retiring in 2000. His professional interests include instrumentation, energy storage systems and machine tool technology, as well as project and program management. Mr. Barlow has been a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, American Society for Engineering Management, and has served on the Engineering and Computer Science Research Advisory Council at the California State University at Fresno. He is currently a member of the External Advisory Board of the Mechanical and Materials Engineering Department at Washington State University, a member of the Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Tau and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies, and is the recipient of the ASME Dedicated Service Award and the Society's Membership Development Award. Mr. Barlow attended Washington State University and received a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering. He received his M.B.A. degree from Golden Gate University.

ASME ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2008-09 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FELLOWSHIPS

ASME is currently accepting applications for the following Federal Government Fellowship positions:

Congressional Fellowships

ASME is accepting applications from qualified candidates interested in serving as a 2008-09 Congressional Fellow. The Federal Fellows program enables selected ASME members to spend one year in Washington, D.C. working with the staff of a congressional committee, U.S. senator or U.S. Representative. Federal Government Fellowships provide a valuable public service to the nation while providing engineers with a unique opportunity to participate directly in the policy making process. Congressional Fellows may serve from September 2008 through August 2009 - or January 2009 through December 2009 - at their option. The deadline to submit an application for the Congressional Fellowship is April 1, 2008.

Department of Commerce Fellowship

ASME is also accepting applications from qualified candidates interested in serving a year at the U.S. Department of Commerce in the Manufacturing and Services (MAS) Office of Standards Liaison (OSL). The Fellow will work with U.S. stakeholders involved in the standardization process, including individual companies, industry associations, standards developing organizations, and the American National Standards Institute on trade-related standards issues affecting U.S. competitiveness, innovation and growth. OSL works on issues involving all sectors and in all overseas markets, although there is a greater focus on emerging and technology-related sectors and critical markets such as Europe and China. Applicants for this position must have strong technical, interpersonal, organizational, and oral and written communication skills, as well as substantive knowledge or experience in an industry sector and the standardization process. The start date for the DOC fellowship is flexible.

A stipend of \$55,000 will be awarded to each Fellow for the year. All Fellowship applicants must be a U.S. citizen and an ASME member at the time of application. The following credentials are encouraged: At least five years of professional experience, an advanced engineering degree, professional engineer registration, and some public policy experience. An online application is available at <https://secure.asme.org/fedgovfellows/appform.cfm>

For additional information about the Federal Fellows program, visit http://www.asme.org/NewsPublicPolicy/GovRelations/Programs/Federal_Government.cfm or contact Kathryn Holmes, director, ASME Government Relations, at holmesk@asme.org or 202/785-7390.

Leadership Training Conference 2008: Call for Early Career Delegates

Early Career Engineers interested in volunteering for the engineering profession will be selected as a Delegate to attend the 2008 Leadership Training Conference in Atlanta Ga., March 6-8, 2008. Visit www.asme.org/Communities/EarlyCareer/Leadership_Training.cfm for complete details.

The Engineering Income & Salary Survey

For the first time, ASME will be offering a comprehensive online salary survey, updated daily, as a new feature of our career center. The survey will cover all compensation, including bonuses and benefits. It is administered by enetrix, in Madison, Wis. and is produced in partnership with ASME, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).

In order to get more data to launch this new benefit for mechanical engineers, we are asking you to participate by taking the survey. As a thank you for participating, you can download a brief complimentary salary report from the survey right away. And you may check back for free updates on that report as we get more data from other members.

Members will also receive special discounts on more detailed live custom reports when those are available. Custom reports are searchable by length of experience, level of education and professional responsibility, major branch of engineering, industry, zip and more. For more information and to take the survey, please go to https://asme.enetrix.com/pls/flexp/survey_frontend.homepage.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES IN WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR FACULTY, STUDENTS



An outstanding individual capable of teaching and mentoring engineering students on the interaction between engineering, technology, and public policy is sought to serve as the Faculty Member-in-Residence (FMR) for the 2008 Washington Internships for Students of Engineering (WISE) Program.

And where would the FMR be without students? The WISE program offers a unique opportunity to 3rd and 4th year engineering students to spend nine weeks during the summer of 2008 in Washington, D.C. Recent graduates, who are beginning their studies in an engineering policy-related Master's program, will also be considered. During their time in Washington, WISE interns will learn how government officials make decisions on complex technological issues and how engineers can contribute to legislative and regulatory public policy decisions.

The deadline for 2008 ASME WISE intern applications is **Dec. 31, 2007**, while the FMR applications will be accepted until **March 1, 2008**. The ASME WISE intern will receive a stipend and housing for the summer, while the FMR receives an ample stipend.

For more information on either of these opportunities, please visit the WISE Program web site at: <http://www.wise-intern.org/application/index.html>, or you may contact Melissa Carl, ASME Government Relations Representative, at carlm@asme.org.

Early Career Grant Funding Available

Submit an application **today** to receive additional funding for your district held Early Career Technical Conference and/or Early Career Forum for your units or sectors. Complete details for both grants can be found at

<http://www.asme.org/Communities/EarlyCareer/>.

The deadline for applications is **April 15, 2008**.

Contact: Cheryl Hasan hasanc@asme.org for more information.

Accepting Nominations for the 2008 Old Guard Early Career Engineer Award

Recognize an outstanding early career engineer who is actively involved in the engineering profession, their communities, and the work of ASME. Submit Nominations Today! Visit

<http://files.asme.org/asmeorg/Communities/EarlyCareer/8026.pdf> for more details. **Apply by the Feb. 1, 2008 deadline.**

Early Career Engineer Essay Competition

The Old Guard Committee of ASME invites you to participate in an Early Career Engineer Essay Competition. For more information, visit: http://www.asme.org/Communities/EarlyCareer/Old_Guard_Early_Career.cfm

ASME IGTI to hold 2007 Gas Turbine Users Symposium in New Orleans

The International Gas Turbine Institute of ASME will conduct the 2007 GTUS, Dec. 11-13, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The symposium provides a forum for end-users to exchange ideas and share best practices regarding the operation and maintenance of industrial gas turbines and aero-engines. GTUS will co-locate with the 2007 Power-Gen International conference at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. GTUS registrants will receive access to all sessions in the 3-day symposium, as well as admission to Power-Gen and a complimentary copy of the conference proceedings on compact disk. GTUS will deliver practical information and provide an opportunity for engineers and other technical professionals to learn about solutions to problems shared in the global gas turbine industry. For more information or to register visit the web site at <http://www.asmeconferences.org/gtus07/>



Made a Difference in Engineering Education?

Do you know an individual or entity (e.g. company, organization, institution, etc.) that has contributed to engineering education in a significant way? If so, consider nominating them for one of the following society awards:

The **Frank von Flue Award**, established in 2002, recognizes significant contributions by an individual or a group to the promotion of lifelong learning for mechanical engineers. Lifelong learning is defined as the continued process of education and/or professional development, following a post-secondary education degree, to maintain the competence and flexibility of mechanical engineers throughout their career. Contributions may include assessment, development, distribution or promotion of materials for lifelong learning via appropriate mechanisms, such as professional development or university extension courses and programmed or self-paced learning.

The **Ben C. Sparks Medal**, established in 1990, is presented annually to a mechanical engineer for recognition of eminent service to mechanical engineering technology education through contributions toward ASME; towards higher education professional service; and towards the teaching and/or research facility roles in mechanical engineering and mechanical engineering technology. Candidates must have a record of outstanding performance in all of three areas: a broad range of contributions to ASME; dedicated efforts and a record of achievements in the advancement of engineering education and engineering technology education; and contributions, over an extended period of time, to the positive support, recognition, or interaction of mechanical engineering technology and mechanical engineering programs, their faculties, or students.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Jan. 1, 2008. For more information and a nomination package, please visit: <http://www.asme.org/Governance/Honors/SocietyAwards/>

Editorial College is Not for Everyone

If you are reading this you are likely an engineer. I'll make an assumption that you also went to college. If both are true, you may also hold a bias toward college. This bias is that the best way to be successful in life and have a good career is to go to college. I would have to disagree with you. Although there is a strong slant toward getting a college degree these days, people tend to forget trade schools. The trades require training and hands-on skills to become an electrician, plumber, carpenter, or a machinist. These jobs are very critical to making our society function. Have you ever needed a plumber at 3AM?

Not everyone is "cut out" for college. That isn't to say that these people are not smart enough or dedicated enough. The biggest difference in my opinion is that they are more "hands-on" and learn better through those experiences rather than bookwork. How many books can an electrician read before he has to actually install a wire nut?

I've worked closely with machinists and tool makers during my career and am amazed at their skills. They can take a 2D drawing of a part, visualize it in 3D, and create the real thing. They can hold incredibly tight tolerances, and create the modern equivalent of a fine Swiss clock. All this from someone who "never went to college". Also consider that in most cases, the owner of the machine shop is also a machinist.

I believe that high schools can sometimes put too much emphasis on going to college, no matter what the student's interests are. I suppose it may be seen as failure to not go on to higher learning in the form of college, but the nation needs skills and careers at all levels. A good friend of mine took about two years of college and never enjoyed it. Instead he became a welder and enjoyed the hands on aspect of the job much better.

So we all may wish that our children would follow in our footsteps and become engineers or some other career path involving college. However, it is more important that they follow a path where they enjoy going to work everyday.

Tony Gatica - Editor

News from the Chair

My sincere thanks to those who have assisted me the past year with ASME' Central Texas Section. As we have just passed Thanksgiving, are approaching Christmas, and are looking forward to a New Year, I need to say thank you.

On page 5 of this newsletter is a short article about a member of ASME member whose passing was used to establish an award for mechanical engineers. **Frank von Flue** was instrumental in my engineering career as he was a personal friend during my early years as an engineer, an ASME mentor to me, and a firm believer in continuing education for engineers. My thank you also goes to him and the many like him who assist in the in continuing education endeavor for engineers on a constant basis with accomplishment being their ultimate reward and possibly the only reward.

Reflecting on our editor's comments, I am reminded that engineering is a formal trained as well as hands on profession. Engineers need to continue both types of training as they are the bridge between pure science and making the real world become a better place to live. ASME has, in my experience, tried to assist in this training effort. It depends on people like Frank von Flue and ALL who give of their time to support our volunteer organization. Thanks again.

Mark Stefanov - chair

Answer to This Month's Brain Teaser HEALTH, HOGWASH, HEREWITH, HOPSCOTCH

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