

Upcoming Events

February – Thursday, Feb 19, 2009, 7PM
Annual Ethics presentation – C. W. Clark,
Director of Compliance and Enforcement,
TSBE
“Professional Practice & Ethics Update”
at Travis County Sheriff’s Office
Open to all Central Texas Engineers

March – Saturday, March 28th
Tour of Mandola’s Winery in Driftwood

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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.

Contact Us!

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

- Chair: Theresa Jones (jonest2@asme.org)
- Vice Chair: Al Carson
- Secretary: Anjon Contractor (anjancontractor@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Mark Stefanov, P.E. (stefanovm@asme.org)
- Newsletter Editor: Anthony Gatica, P.E. (anthony.gatica@gmail.com)
- Education Committee Chair: Cecil Teller
- Membership Committee Chair: Gary Sutorius (tomsdad@att.net)
- Webmaster: Steve Embleton (embleton@gmail.com)

December Brain Teaser (by braingle.com)

"Welcome back to the show. Before the break, Mr Ixolite here made it to our grand finale! How do you feel Mr.Ix?"
"Nervous."

"Okay, now to win the star prize of one million pounds all you have to do is answer the following question in 90 seconds."

"Okay, I'm ready."

"Right. In 90 seconds name 100 words that do NOT contain the letter 'A'. Start the clock!"

Hint

I'm counting on your help.

Answer appears on page

Call for Nominations: Old Guard Early Career Engineer Award

Recognize outstanding early career engineers who actively involve themselves in their profession, their communities, and the work of ASME!

The Old Guard Committee honors ASME members that have made great strides in the engineering profession, community and the work of the Society by sponsoring this Award, established in 1994. Eligible applicants must be a current ASME member who has received a baccalaureate degree in mechanical engineering between Feb. 1, 2003 and Feb. 1, 2005.

A Grand Prize of **\$5,000 cash plus an ASME prepaid life membership** will be awarded to one successful candidate at the 2009 ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition. All contestants will be notified of the Committee's final decision by July 1. Two Runner-Up Prizes of prepaid life membership may also be awarded. All prize winners will receive a plaque as a commemorative gift.

Nominations **must** be received by **Feb. 1, 2009** to be considered for the award. All applications should be accompanied by supporting documentation, a copy of the nomination form, and forwarded to Cheryl Hasan at hasanc@asme.org c/o Old Guard Early Career Award.

For the nomination application and more information visit

<http://files.asme.org/asmeorg/Communities/EarlyCareer/8026.pdf>.

Volunteer with ASME / Find a Volunteer

Looking for a new adventure at ASME? Need a volunteer to help your group get on track? The Volunteer Opportunity Bulletin Board (VOBB) is the one-stop resource for those interested in finding open volunteer positions and groups needing enthusiastic volunteers for their ASME local, District and/or national level committees. Designed to help volunteer leaders promote and fill volunteer positions throughout ASME, the VOBB opens the door to new opportunities.

To learn more about the VOBB and the volunteer positions available, go to

<http://volunteer.asme.org/vobb/>.



ASME – ASME Auxiliary *FIRST* Clark Scholarship

Are you a *FIRST* Robotics volunteer? Did you know that the ASME Foundation and the ASME Auxiliary sponsor a scholarship specifically for HS seniors who are on a *FIRST* Robotics team? If so, this information is for you!

About the Award

The *FIRST* Clark Scholarship recognizes and rewards students whose *FIRST* experience has inspired the pursuit of an engineering career. In 2009, the ASME Foundation and the ASME Auxiliary will award eight \$5,000 scholarships to high school seniors active on *FIRST* teams, who are nominated by ASME members, ASME Auxiliary members, or student members who are also active with *FIRST*. These awards will be for the freshman year of study (non-renewable) in an accredited mechanical engineering or mechanical engineering technology program. The recipients will be announced at the *FIRST* National Championship.

Nomination and Student Eligibility

Members of ASME, including ASME Auxiliary and student members, may nominate no more than one student each. Students must be:

- Graduating high school seniors active on *FIRST* teams
- Planning to enroll full-time in an ABET-accredited or substantially equivalent mechanical engineering or mechanical engineering technology program, no later than the fall after their senior year in high school.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2009

For more information, on this or other ASME financial aid opportunities, visit our web site at:

http://www.asme.org/Education/College/FinancialAid/Auxiliary_FIRST_Clarke.cfm

Tomorrow's ASME Leaders: Are You Ready for the Challenge?

Do you feel strongly about the direction you would like ASME to take? Are you passionate about new ideas and initiatives? Are you ready to step up and lead? If so, why not become an ASME leader today!

Consider running in June 2009 for the following offices:

ASME president — one-year term

Board of Governors member — three-year term

In addition, the Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations for five ASME vice president positions, each carrying a three-year term:

Vice President of Professional Development, Practice & Ethics (Centers Sector)

Vice President of Public Awareness (Centers Sector)

Vice President of Standardization and Testing (Codes and Standards Sector)

Vice President of Affinity Communities (Knowledge and Communities Sector)

Vice President of Financial Operations (Knowledge and Communities Sector)

Please visit the Nominating Committee Website for information on "How to run for a Society Office"

http://www.asme.org/Governance/Nominating/Nominating_Committee.cfm

or contact RuthAnn Bigley at bigleyr@asme.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! ENGINEER YOUR LIFE

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

ASME (as part of its 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

ASME Salary Survey

Participate in ASME's Salary Survey get a **FREE** salary report based on your experience level and geographic area. Visit <https://asme.enetrix.com> and see how you compare! **ASME Member Exclusive!** Purchase comprehensive, custom reports at a discount price.

ASME E-Library

The ASME E-Library is a members-only benefit that allows you to access online collections of engineering reference books to help you answer questions and find practical solutions to daily on-the-job problems.

As an added bonus, the ASME E-Library is powered by Knovel, whose interactive and user-friendly technology gives you the ability to manipulate and search for content across the entire collection quickly and easily.

To learn more, go to

<http://www.asme.org/Membership/Benefits/Professional/eLibrary.cfm>"

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

Where Have All the History & Heritage Chairs Gone?

In 1997, Paula Cole had a top-20 hit entitled, "Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?" Though I wasn't a great fan of the song, I can't seem to stop the tune running through my mind as I lament ... where have all the History & Heritage Chairs gone?

Several years ago, I proudly served as the Regional H&H Chair for the old Region X, which encompassed Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mexico. We had a vibrant, active History & Heritage program, with designated H&H Chairs in most Sections. Over a 3-year span from 2002-2006, various Sections across Region X submitted 16 Landmark nominations, and achieved & designated seven new Landmarks; a regional pipeline that generated an average of two new Landmark designations per year. Yet, in 2007, there were none. In 2008, there was only one new Landmark designation. What happened?

"Ok..." I think, "maybe my old stomping grounds is an anomaly. I'll look at the Society in general." A short 15 minutes of research proved that Region X is not an exception, but rather the rule, as what I discovered was not encouraging.

From 1995-2005, the Society - as a whole - designated an average of five Landmarks per year. Furthermore, in this 10-year timeframe there were *never* two consecutive years in which fewer than five Landmarks were designated. However, in 2007 & 2008 only **two** new Landmarks have been designated, *in total*.

Only a few years ago, the majority of local Sections throughout the country had a History & Heritage Chair - a single history-minded individual who scanned his/her geographical area for bits of engineering that might rise to the significance of Landmark, who networked with other H&H Chairs throughout the country, and who championed the formidable yet satisfying task of identifying, nominating, and designating new Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmarks. Unfortunately, as I search Section websites today, I find to my dismay that the majority of such positions have been vacated or, worse...eliminated.

Is our Landmarking program dying?

The Landmarking program is an integral component of the Society's public awareness strategy. Landmarks serve as constant visible reminders of the rich heritage and contribution to society of our chosen profession, a profession that has shaped not only our own lives, but the lives of billions of individuals throughout the world in fields as diverse as agriculture, manufacturing, food processing, aviation, energy, transportation, recreation, and more.

It is by celebrating the past achievements of our profession that we most effectively educate the public as to the societal value of Mechanical Engineering, and inspire future generations of engineers to follow in our footsteps.

I write this article as an open call for the support of all members who have so much as a passing interest in the history of Mechanical Engineering. I know you are out there, and I ask you to join me in reviving our Society's History & Heritage Landmarking program.

Getting started is but a few mouse-clicks away. Navigate your browser over to the *ASME History & Heritage Community* on ASME Peerlink, the Society's online networking tool. Start a thread, post a question, or just join in & add your thoughts to a general discussion. Peerlink offers us the opportunity and capability to meet from half-way around the world, to learn from past experiences, share ideas & opportunities, and to create a support network to encourage and assist each other in identifying Landmark opportunities and turning them into official Landmarks.

Take the first step. Join me at <http://peerlink.asme.org/COP/HistoryandHeritage/> or email me directly at mwpowell_08@yahoo.com. I look forward to working with you!

Mark Powell

Answer to this month's brain teaser:

One, Two, Three, Four, Five.....One Hundred!

I just counted from 1 to 100 in ninety seconds (it is possible).

Editorial

Have a Good Laugh

Ahhhh... the economy. Although it's good fodder for late night TV personalities and opportunistic politicians, the majority of us feel pretty lost. What do we do – freak out, hide under the bed, throw a tantrum? No, I'd rather have a good laugh. When I was in college and had a bad day, I would sometimes put on a video of Steven Wright, one of my favorite comedians, and he would always cheer me up. He has a very monotone routine, and also makes quirky observations about everyday life.

The other evening I caught a recent act by George Carlin on HBO. I have liked his comedy for many years, mainly because he also pokes fun of the everyday stuff in life that we tend to take for granted.

No there's not much we can do about the economy, but you may feel a little better with some laughter in your life. If you want to check out either of the above comics, here are my favorite bits by them.

George Carlin – “Carlin on Campus” (1984)

Steven Wright – “A Steven Wright Special” (HBO Special, 1985)

Tony Gatica - Editor

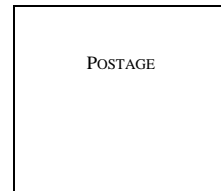
News from the Chair

Tony mentioned the importance of networking in December's editorial. Last month, we scheduled a little social time with snacks before the meeting. People did come early and visited. I enjoyed meeting people and I think everyone else enjoyed this opportunity as well. Please think about coming a little early, 6:30, for this month's meeting and visit. We are inviting other technical sections for this meeting so this might be a good opportunity to hand out cards, especially for anyone looking for a new job.

On the subject of socializing with your fellow ASME members, we're planning a field trip on Saturday, March 28th, to Mandola's Winery (www.mandolaswines.com) in Driftwood. This is a beautiful facility. I was in there the other day and it was fascinating seeing rooms full of barrels and a guy with a hose filling them up. The tour will cost \$5 a person but this will be a special tour, not the general public tour, or so they tell me. I warned them that you guys would want to know pressures and temperatures and materials. There's a very nice, not cheap, Italian restaurant there if you want visit it after the tour. Bring the spouse, take the tour, sample some wine and have a nice meal. Or, after the tour, you might prefer to go a few miles down the road for barbecue at The Salt Lick. If you are interested in rainwater collection, please contact me (jonest2@asme.org) about a possible tour earlier that day to Tank Town in Dripping Springs.

Theresa

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