

Upcoming Events

December – Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008, 7 PM
UT Biomedical Engineering presentation
by Kenneth Diller
UT – Bio Med Building -

January – Thursday, Jan 15, 2009, 7PM
Austin Energy presentation
Travis County Sherrif's Office

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)

November Brain Teaser (by braingle.com)

A farmer challenges an engineer, a physicist, and a mathematician to fence off the largest amount of area using the least amount of fence.

The engineer made his fence in a circle and said it was the most efficient.

The physicist made a long line and said that the length was infinite. Then he said that fencing half of the Earth was the best.

The mathematician laughed at the others and with his design, beat the others. What did he do?
Answer appears on page 4

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Tomorrow's Leaders ...
Are **YOU** ready for the Challenge?

Do you feel strongly about the direction of ASME? Are you passionate about new ideas and initiatives? Are you ready to step up and lead? Become an ASME Leader TODAY!

Consider running in June 2009 for the following offices:

President – one year term

Board of Governor – 3 year term

Vice President (Centers Sector) – 3 year term
Vice President of Professional Development,
Practice & Ethics
Vice President of Public Awareness

Codes and Standards Sector
Vice President of Standardization and Testing

Knowledge and Community Sector
Vice President of Affinity Communities
Vice President of Financial Operations

Visit the Nominating Committee Website at http://www.asme.org/Governance/Nominating/Nominating_Committee.cfm or email RuthAnn Bigley at bigleyr@asme.org for details.

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



The ASME Foundation Grants Program funds programs that support students and early career engineers and activities that help shape their careers. Planned gifts to the Foundation are the groundwork on which funding for scholarships and grants is based, helping in many ways to inform the future of engineering.

A capital campaign, "World Class by Design," was launched in 1996 to endow the Grants Program. The focus of the Foundation Grants Program is three-pronged: technical literacy, specifically early (K-12) math and science literacy and tuition and scholarships at the college level; career planning and skills development to nurture early career engineers; and technologically sound public policy stewardship.

For calendar year 2008, the Foundation Grants Program awarded support to six programs. Five of those specifically benefit students and early career engineers. Those projects are: Increasing ASME Impact at the Graduate Level, World-Class Engineering Student/Engineer Design, Students Engineering a Sustainable Planet, *Heroes of Engineering* Comic Education Series and ASME Faculty Development Workshops – Understanding Student Diversity; Increasing Learning.

The ASME Grants Program is trying to streamline the application and reporting processes moving forward. Currently, there is \$264,300 available in funding for approved ASME programming in calendar year 2009. Proposals selected for funding will be announced following the meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors at Congress in November in Boston, MA.

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.



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.

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

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

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/>.



Big Announcement

The ASME Foundation promised something big at Congress this month. Did we deliver? Were you front and center at the Keynote Address? If not, stay tuned for a recap in the December Section Newsletter!

ASME Salary Survey

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>"

Programs and Activities Training Committee

Seasoned members: Looking for a way to pass on your expertise to new members? New members: Looking for a way to increase your participation in ASME at your own pace?

The Knowledge and Community (K&C) Sector recently formed a Training Committee to work on the following:

1. Review and update existing skills and knowledge material. Volunteers use this material, called the body of knowledge (BOK), at each K&C leadership level.
2. Develop and implement an annual training plan for leaders in the K&C Sector. The training plan will include face-to-face conferences, webinars, online self-study material, and information that can be downloaded for local use.
3. Work closely with other ASME members to provide world-class leadership training and orientation for volunteer leaders, which will contribute to the quality of leadership at all levels.
4. Develop the knowledge and skills needed to lead ASME units in forming collaborative efforts, sharing best practices, providing forums for outreach, focusing programs on critical issues (students, early career engineers, industry, new technologies, etc.), encouraging more active volunteer participation, and developing new business opportunities.

Choose topics that most interest you. Contribute your special talents (speaking, teaching, editing, etc.) to enable learning at training events in your local, district or society events. We'd love to have you.

Answer to This Month's Brain Teaser

The mathematician made a small fence around himself and declared himself to be on the outside.

Editorial

One Idea to Boost the U.S.

The October ASME Central Texas meeting was a tour of the TECO/Westinghouse plant where turbine nacelle housings are assembled and large specialty motors are made. I found it refreshing to see U.S. manufacturing turning out a product that is of high value. The production rate of the turbines was very high (on the order of one per day) and the whole manufacturing process has been made very efficient in order to meet this. If you saw what went into assembling one of these you'd understand.

We've likely all heard about the new United States "knowledge economy" that's been touted over the last 5-10 years. Manufacturing is out, knowledge based jobs are in, etc. However, real revenue is made when one can sell a tangible product. It's no secret that manufacturing in this country has been declining for many years. The reasons are many but I'm not trying to explain why in this editorial. Maybe I'm oversimplifying my analysis but selling a product outside our borders brings in money. A similar analogy could be for my household. Unless I bring in more money than I spend each month eventually I will run out. We've seen that happening to our country and I fear the consequences. I believe that manufacturing is the best way to bring money into our country and combat the ongoing trade and budget deficits our government seems to keep running up.

Back to the knowledge economy. One could argue that financial services are knowledge based jobs that the U.S. has been selling with success. However that industry is not doing so well these days. One cause is the rapid run up in energy prices affecting the economy. However, in that there may be a silver lining. This has forced America to re-evaluate its energy needs and think of long term solutions. Within that there are two technologies gaining momentum: wind and solar. This brings me back to the TECO/Westinghouse tour. I see U.S. manufacturing being rejuvenated by this sudden need for alternative energy in each of the turbines produced. Another local company is HelioVolt, which just opened up a manufacturing facility in Austin to produce flexible solar panels. Both of these products are in demand these days and U.S. manufacturing can meet these needs. By producing quality products that the world wants, some of that money that's been flowing out of our country could start coming back.

Tony Gatica - Editor

News from the Chair

Our attendance at meetings has fluctuated so far this year from a handful to over 40. We have had two excellent speakers with disappointing attendance. Let us know what topics and speakers want to hear. A survey in the past indicated UT was the best place to meet. Is this no longer true? Send me your comments: jonest2@asme.org.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 11th, 7 PM, when our next speaker will be Dr. Kenneth Diller, Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. This meeting will be held in the new biomedical engineering building (look for map on our web site) and include a tour of their facilities. We are inviting other organizations to join us to hear this distinguished speaker. I hope you can all attend and represent ASME. Watch the website for more information about the location, including the room number and a map to the building. <http://sections.asme.org/centex/>

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