

Upcoming Events

January – Thursday, Jan 15, 2009, 7PM
Austin Energy presentation – Nuclear Energy in Texas
Travis County Sheriff’s Office

February – Thursday, Feb 19, 2009, 7PM
Annual Ethics presentation – C. W. Clark TBPE – Case Studies
Travis County Sheriff’s Office
Open to non-ASME members

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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 (Al_Carson@urscorp.com)
- 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)

What phrase is represented below?

YOUR LIONS
Gulp UR LIONS
GulpGulp LIONS
GulpGulpGulp NS
GulpGulpGulpGulp

Answer appears on page 5

MIT Is Winner of the 2008 ASME I•Show



A student team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was awarded first place in the 2008 ASME Innovation Showcase, held on Oct. 31 at the International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition in Boston.

MIT took top honors over a field of nine collegiate teams that entered designs and models, which recognized them for their innovative skill as well as potential for commercial viability.

Team Robopsy (Nevan Hanumara (2nd, L) and Conor Walsh (2nd, R) won for creating a remotely controlled robot which aids in medical biopsies. The lightweight device attaches directly to a patient and aims a tiny probe at a tumor or other health abnormality, allowing a radiologist to make assessments with accuracy.

The ASME I•Show was held in collaboration with the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance and Idea to Products competitions.

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>"



The ASME Foundation launched a new fund-raising campaign, 'Engineering the Greater Good' at the 2008 International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition in Boston.

The campaign will reach out to corporate and individual donors with the aim of generating funding to expand the Society's Federal Fellows program, one of ASME's most successful government relations programs.

ASME Federal Fellows provide engineering and technical expertise to policy makers in the U.S. Congress, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and key government agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"ASME federal fellows are engineering the greater good by contributing their experience on critical security issues, national competitiveness issues and on 21st century workforce preparedness," said Gov. John H. Sununu, the 85th governor of the state of New Hampshire, former White House chief of staff, and co-chair of the Engineering the Greater Good campaign.

The campaign is halfway to a \$5 million goal, and is particularly interested in engaging corporate investors. For more information on EGG, contact Judith Kearney, director of Development, ASME Foundation, at kearneyj@asme.org or 212 591 7445.



Bill Jones, EGG Campaign Co-chair addresses IMECE attendees at the Keynote address.

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/>.

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.

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.

To apply, please visit the Volunteer Opportunities Bulletin Board at <http://volunteer.asme.org/vobb/> and select our position posted on the "Looking to Volunteer?" page.

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.

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

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 / 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. As a tool designed to help volunteer leaders promote and fill volunteer positions throughout ASME, it opens the door to new opportunities.

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

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

Answer to This Month's Brain Teaser **Swallow Your Pride**

Collective noun for Lions = Pride

Editorial

Got a Job?

Every day it is scary to watch the news. The stock market is tanking, companies are shedding jobs, and people are losing their houses. We can't do much about the stock market and housing but we do have some control over our careers (note I did not say jobs). I heard a few years ago that there is no such thing as job security but there is career security. What this means is that we can't get too comfortable with our jobs and education "as-is". Technology evolves rapidly and we need to keep up with the latest trends, software, and tools. And while job cuts are out of our control, if we keep up with technology and keep our skills updated, we should be able to bounce if laid off.

If you participate in professional groups such as ASME, you may have an idea about what other engineers are working on. It is a good forum for networking with others. I've seen at many meetings folks chatting about potential job opportunities and business cards being traded. I suspect this trend will continue over the next year.

Recessions are tough for everyone and engineers are no exception. I hope that we all get through this intact.

Tony Gatica, Editor

News from the Chair

First, I would like to congratulate Dr. Kenneth Diller on his selection as the Central Texas Mechanical Engineer of the Year. He was chosen based upon member nominations. We will award him at the TSPE banquet in late February. Congratulations Dr. Diller and thank you for a very educational presentation and tour of your new biomedical engineering building.

I always look forward to reading Tony's editorials every month. Once again he has hit upon a very timely topic – taking control of our careers. I think most of us have experienced that we find new jobs through who we know. For mechanical engineers, ASME can be an important networking source. Did you know we post local job openings on our website <http://sections.asme.org/centex/jobs.html> . If your company has openings for mechanical engineers, send us the information and we will be glad to post it. There is also a career link at the ASME home page (<http://www.asme.org/>).

Next month we will have snacks before the meeting, starting around 630 PM. Please come early and visit. Feel free to exchange cards and hand out resumes. And you'll certainly want to attend this meeting to hear about the South Texas Nuclear Project and the future of nuclear energy in Texas.

Theresa Jones, Chair

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