



The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Central Oklahoma Section Newsletter Volume 4, Number 1, August 7, 2002

The Section is located at: Oklahoma Engineering Center, 201 Northeast 27th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

The Central Oklahoma Section Newsletter is nominally published nine times per year to convey monthly meeting dates, meeting topics, section activities, and/or other ASME information to its membership.

***** August Meeting Announcement *****

Tour of M-D Building Products, Inc. (formerly Macklanburg-Duncan Co.)

4041 N. Santa Fe Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK

Hosts, Speakers, and Guides: Loren Plotkin, President
Tom Stark, Plant Manager

Thursday, August 22

NO MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED

At M-D, innovative products and more than 80 years of manufacturing experience combine to provide customers with quality products that meet or exceed job requirements each and every time. M-D's product lines are designed and engineered using feedback from DIY'ers and professionals nationwide to meet the demanding requirements of each application. Please consider M-D products for your next tough job. Our tour will show how we manufacture our lines of Weatherproofing, Retail Floor Trim, Levels & Tools, Metal Shapes, and Thresholds.

For safety reasons, M-D officials ask that no children take part in this tour.

Schedule and Contact Information

Time: 6:30PM at the M-D Plant. Presentation followed by tour of the manufacturing facility.

Cost: Free! There is no meal, so eat ahead of time. Wear comfortable shoes.

FOR A HEAD COUNT, PLEASE PLACE RESERVATIONS BY 12:00PM (noon) TUESDAY, Aug. 20

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Edmond/Guthrie:	OC- Engineering Office	(405) 425-5400
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Additional August Meeting Information

M-D Building Products, formerly Macklanburg-Duncan Co., has a rich history of product development and manufacturing expertise covering a wide variety of superior quality building products. Whether you are working on a do-it-yourself project or you are a professional contractor, be assured that M-D products will provide excellent results each and every time. Our products are designed and engineered specifically for durability, ease of installation and fulfillment of your application requirements. For example, MDBP is the recognized national industry leader in home weatherproofing products. M-D is also a leading quality supplier to professional floor covering installers with carpet metals, ceramic shapes and vinyl profiles.

M-D has four manufacturing locations across the United States, located in: **Oklahoma City, OK**, Gainesville, GA, San Jose, CA, and Los Angeles, CA.



Special Thanks to the Halliburton Foundation!

The Halliburton Foundation sponsors a Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) to reward non-profit groups that Halliburton employees participate in. This year, Phillip Starr submitted nominations for himself, Curtis Vickery, and John Heaton on behalf of the Central Oklahoma ASME Section. Stressed in the nomination was ASME-COS' dedication to engineering education and outreach. Included as outreach projects were our Professional Development activities, encouragement of Professional Engineering registration, participation in the annual Engineering Fair for Jr. and Sr. High students, and members' efforts on behalf of 'Future City' and 'MATHCOUNTS' programs. **The Halliburton Foundation generously granted \$1500** for use by our Section to achieve these goals. **Thanks very much Halliburton!**

The PE Exam will Soon Be Here!!! Begin Your Study Now!!!

FE Products: FE to GO- Now you can study wherever you are- The FE to Go exam review goes where you go in your Palm TM PDA. This PDA-based training tests you on 198 multiple choice questions-with answers and explanations. When you have finished it you get a score so you can track your progress.

Revised PE Online Review: The PE Exam was revised for fall 2001. Our existing PE Exam Review Self-Study has been revised to conform to this new multiple-choice format. Now you can cover the necessary topics and become familiar with the new test format as you review.

PE Exam Review Online Self-Study is an online, instructor-assisted course, which you can access anytime from your PC- review at your own pace and ask the instructor questions as needed.

For information on these and other PE and FE exam prep products and courses, visit our website at: http://www.asme.org/pro_dev/exam_preparation_courses.htm. Or contact Thomas Kuehl, 212-591-8013, (kuehlt@asme.org)



You are invited to a Technology Open House at Tech, Inc., 511 E. Highway 33, Perkins, OK, on Thursday, August 22.

Tech Inc.'s services include Product Design & Development Services, Rapid Prototyping, Reverse Engineering, RTV Molding and Solid Modeling performed by highly skilled engineers. For more information contact Jace Dawson at Ph: (405) 547-8324 or check their website at <http://www.techok.com>.

Chair's Corner

Dear ASME-Central Oklahoma Section Members:

Welcome back from the summer break! I hope it has been a good one for all. Over the last couple of years our Central Oklahoma Section has featured some of the most interesting programs and speakers since I've been a member. Their success was due in large part from efforts of past officers and attending members of the Section.

Ironically, as interesting as these programs have been, they haven't kept our overall membership from declining slightly, nor improved our Section's participation rate in that time. This seems to be symptomatic of a general declining interest in technical matters plaguing our nation for the last couple of decades. Considering our increasing dependence on technology, it is important that professional societies like ours become more active and encourage an interest in engineering and technology in the general public.

With this in mind the Executive Committee is in the process of developing several outreach programs for both existing and future engineers. **A recent gift from the Halliburton Foundation of \$1,500** will go a long way to help us in this effort. The experimental Section web site, developed by Phillip Starr, has also piqued the interest of some young engineers who otherwise may have overlooked us. However, we need a little help from all of you to succeed and will welcome any offered. Even something as simple as bringing a co-worker to one of our Section Meetings would be of great help. **We will keep you informed of any new developments in this area through future newsletters, our web site at <http://www.asme.org/sections/CentralOK>, and short e-mail announcements.**

Topping our past success in bringing good programs for our members may be challenging. However, the Central Oklahoma region is full of engineering firms and manufacturer's producing a wide variety of goods and services for our nation and countries overseas. One of them, **M-D Building Products Inc.**, will be the subject of our next meeting this month, on the 22nd of August. They have generously offered to give us a tour of their Oklahoma City plant at 4041 North Santa Fe. **Please plan to attend and bring a co-worker or friend.**

Frank Parker -- Chair

RESULTS of NSPE's 2002 M. F. Lunch Ethics Contest: STUDENTS TAKE NOTE!

Our April 2002 Newsletter presented an ethics situation, reproduced below. The NW Chapter of the Iowa Engineering Society (IES) submitted the winning response. Their response, from NSPE's July 2002 *Engineering Times*, is provided below.

Fact Situation: Engineer A is a graduating senior with excellent credentials from State University. Engineer A has had a series of job interviews with engineering companies from around the U.S. Following interviews with several industrial companies, Engineer A decides to accept an offer with ABC Inc. located in his hometown of Townville and plans to notify ABC the following week. In the interim period, Engineer A receives a call from Engineer B, an executive with XYZ Inc., a potential employer with whom Engineer A interviewed. On behalf of XYZ, Engineer B offers Engineer A a position with XYZ and invites Engineer A, at XYZ's expense, to visit XYZ's headquarters in Mountainville (a city located near a resort area) following Engineer A's graduation.

Because of Engineer A's desire to live near Townville and be close to family and friends, Engineer A had earlier decided he would not accept a position with XYZ if offered a position. Engineer A also believed that ABC provided better long-term professional opportunities. However, after receiving the call from XYZ, Engineer A decides to accept the invitation to visit XYZ's headquarters and combine the trip with a post-graduation vacation, believing that the visit to XYZ will broaden Engineer A's knowledge of the employment market, as well as future professional opportunities with XYZ. A week after the trip, Engineer A calls ABC and informs the company that he will accept the position with ABC.

Question: Was it ethical for Engineer A to accept the invitation to visit XYZ headquarters?

What IES's Northwest Chapter Said: A majority of the difficulty that we had with Engineer A is that he was not up front with XYZ Inc. in that he had decided to accept an offer with ABC Inc.

Engineer A's acceptance of the interview trip to XYZ's mountain headquarters was deceptive in that he had already decided to commit to ABC, and did not offer that information to XYZ. He tries to justify the trip to himself reasoning that it will "broaden his knowledge of the employment market, as well as future professional opportunities." This is in direct conflict with the reasoning for his decision to go with ABC because "ABC offered better long-term professional opportunities." He had decided to go with ABC because of the long-term opportunities, so future opportunities with XYZ should not have been a factor. We felt that Engineer A was not being true to himself by trying to justify the trip this way.

Though Engineer A was opportunistic in combining the ski trip with the interview with XYZ Inc., XYZ may not have had a problem with his interest in skiing. Given that the trip was scheduled after graduation, XYZ may have even expected and encouraged a ski trip depending on how interested they were in Engineer A. Being near a resort in an amenity for XYZ Inc. and a positive factor in the decision making process to work for their company.

A company recruiting engineers has some degree of risk and sunk cost in bringing them to the headquarters without a commitment from the recruit. They do have an expectation though, that they have a reasonable (or better if this is a second interview) chance that the recruit will commit to their company. XYZ Inc. was not afforded this chance because Engineer A had made his decision to go with ABC Inc. If Engineer A would have communicated his decision to go with ABC Inc. to the XYZ executive after the offer of the trip, XYZ Inc. could have determined if it was worth it to still fly him out and try to sway his decision. Seeing that he had "excellent credentials", it may have been worth the risk to XYZ Inc. to bring in to their headquarters. Though he had decided on ABC Inc. he had not officially accepted the position with them and was "still on the table."

The Fact Situation does not discuss the size of XYZ Inc. If it is a small company, flying one recruit that has no interest in the company may use up the recruiting budget for the year, making the deception egregious. Where if it is a large company recruiting numerous individuals and flying them out to the headquarters, they know they are taking the chance and will not get all recruits they go after. This is a point that Engineer A should have considered prior to accepting the offer of a trip.

Ultimately, we felt that Engineer A was not honest and up front with the XYZ executive, he was deceptive and took advantage of XYZ Inc. It was unethical for Engineer A to accept the invitation to visit XYZ headquarters.

Future ASME-Central Oklahoma Section Events

Date	Location	Program Topic and Speaker
Aug 22, 2002 (Thursday)	4041 N Santa Fe Ave. Oklahoma City, OK	Tour Of M-D Building Product Plant Tom Stark and/or Loren Plotkin

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