



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS®

Central Oklahoma Section Newsletter

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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.

SPEAKER: Mr. Steven Rhines, Noble Foundation Vice-President, General Council & Director Public Affairs

TOPIC: The Noble Foundation's Contribution to Biofuels Development

DATE: Thursday, October 30, 2008

LOCATION: Boulevard Cafeteria, 525 NW 11th St., OKC

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation was founded in 1945 by Mr. Lloyd Noble of Ardmore, OK. In 1921 Mr. Noble began his career with the purchase of a drilling rig. This business later developed into the Noble Corporation, one of the largest, most successful, and respected onshore and offshore drilling contractors in the United States and around the world. In addition, Mr. Noble founded an oil and gas exploration and production company, Noble Energy, Inc., which continues to this day.

The Noble Foundation has a long history of philanthropy. Its operations are conducted through **three operating divisions** — *Agricultural, Plant Biology and Forage Improvement*. In 2007 a total of 72 grants were approved representing \$11.3 million. Thus far in 2008, 74 new grants have been approved totaling \$9.4 million.

One Noble Foundation focus area is Biofuels using Switchgrass as feedstock. As part of its *Forage Improvement* division, the Foundation supports research toward improved Switchgrass cultivars and studying agronomic and economic feasibility of Switchgrass cropping systems. Mr. Rhines will discuss these initiatives plus other topics of interest to the engineering profession. For more Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation information visit their website at <http://www.noble.org>. **Make plans to attend this informative program on October 30!**

Time: 5:30 - 6:00 PM: Gather at Boulevard Cafeteria

6:00 – 6:30PM: Meal on your own

6:30 – 6:45PM: Introductions & Section Business

6:45 – 7:40PM: Presentation by Steven Rhines

Cost: **NO CHARGE.** **PLEASE PLACE YOUR RESERVATION with Albert Janco** (Ph: 405-848-1991 (leave message) or e-mail jancoa@asme.org **by TUESDAY, October 28 at noon!**

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ADDITIONAL OCTOBER PROGRAM INFORMATION

Mr. Steven P. Rhines received a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1990, followed by a Law degree from Southern Methodist University. He has engineering work experience in the petroleum field as well as with Texas Instruments. As a lawyer Mr. Rhines has worked primarily in the areas of patents and intellectual property. He began his career with the Noble Foundation in 2001, serving on their Intellectual Property Counsel and as their Director of Legal Affairs. Steven now serves as the Noble Foundation's Vice President, General Counsel and Director of Public Affairs.

Mr. Rhines is registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and is a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA). He also serves as:

- Director for the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation's Committee for Technology Transfer,
- Director for the i2E, Inc. (Innovation into Enterprise) non-profit venture,
- Advisor to the Oklahoma EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) program,
- Advisor to OU's K20 Program that introduces science & technology education/careers to K-12 students.

Mr. Rhines also participated in Congressman Tom Cole's recent energy forum reported below. This should be a very informative program covering many topics of interest to engineers.

U.S. Rep. Tom Cole's Forum Stirs an Energy Debate

Courtesy *Daily Oklahoman* & NewsOK.com

By: Jack Money

Published: August 9, 2008

NORMAN — Friday's discussion at a town hall meeting convened by **U.S. Rep. Tom Cole** about alternative energy sources was *deja vu* to at least one person who was there.

John Sheppard, the city manager of Walters, said he attended a town hall meeting just like Friday's in 1976.

"We talked about the same kind of alternative energy resources at that time," he said. "We discussed, for example, the need of nuclear capacity in the electric energy markets. It was very similar."

Meeting unites community leaders:

On Friday, Cole, R-Moore, brought together Sheppard and other community officials from across the Oklahoma's Fourth Congressional District to hear from elected and industry officials about the nation's current energy crunch. About 100 people attended.

Michael Bergey, owner of Bergey Wind Power, talked about the capacity of wind generation and how Congress needs to consider extending tax credits for commercial wind turbines and consider re-instating tax credits for residential wind power development.

"Oklahoma will be a huge beneficiary" once wind power is fully developed, Bergey said. The U.S. Department of Energy, he added, estimates Oklahoma could be the fourth-largest producer of wind power by 2030.

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Jeff Cloud talked about the attractiveness of developing nuclear power as a new source of electricity for the state because of a negligible environmental impact, and a positive one, economically.

"It is a proven, clean, reliable supplier of electricity," Cloud said. "So, why not have it Oklahoma? It is a good question, and one we should be posing to ourselves."

Tom Price Jr., senior vice president of corporate development for **Chesapeake Energy Corp.**, talked about the potential of using natural gas as fuel for cars and trucks, and how Oklahoma's companies are poised to help deliver a large part of that product into the market.

"There is enough of this stuff, you can make decisions about where governmental policy goes and where support is needed, like helping to build the needed infrastructure to enable people who buy natural gas powered cars to fill up."

Developing all forms of energy urged:

Larry Nichols, chairman and chief executive officer of Devon Energy Corp., talked about what his company and others like it are doing to help meet the nation's energy needs and how the country and its leaders should address growing demand.

"The best policy for our country, I believe, is for Congress to support all forms of energy," Nichols said. "The rest of the world has become and will continue to become even more competitive for all forms of energy. And we need to develop all of them."

Steven P. Rhines, the vice president, general counsel and director of public affairs for the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, talked about the Oklahoma Bioenergy Center and its efforts to develop sorghum and switch grass as stocks for alternative fuels. Rhines said Congress, through its passage of the Energy Independence and Security Act in December, requires that 36 billion gallons of biofuels to be consumed in the country by 2022.

"So, the challenge is out there," Rhines said.

Rep. Cole, meanwhile, talked during the meeting about his efforts to reach across the political aisle and work with Democrats to help address the energy crunch.

"Knowing the right thing to do is really where we are at, right now, and a really important debate is happening, nationally," Cole said. "Our surpluses really are gone. We have avoided making hard choices for about 30 years, but those days are over now."

Sheppard said Friday he remembers the country was trying all the same types of alternative energy 30 years ago. He added, though, that he believes today's outcome will be different because technology, especially for nuclear power has improved greatly.

Highlights: our September Tour of the new USPS P&DC in OKC



A good group enjoyed our September tour of the new Postal Service Processing & Distribution Center on W. Reno Avenue in Oklahoma City. Unfortunately, photo opportunities were confined to our pre-tour gathering.

Pictured upper left is Ms. Julie Gosden and Albert Janco. Julie, an Industrial Engineer by trade, has become the USPS District Manager for our Oklahoma region. She offered a welcome along with opening remarks.

Mr. Jerry Calvert, pictured upper right, provided a comprehensive overview of services provided by the Postal Service available via <http://www.usps.com/>. USPS offers many helpful services that many may be unaware of. Visit [usps.com](http://www.usps.com/) to see for yourself!



Ms. Jennifer Haxton, pictured at right, presently serves as the facility's Industrial Engineer. She led our tour and described all the machinery and conveyors we saw. **It was a great tour!** Our ASME Central Oklahoma Section speciallly thanks Ms. Gosden, Mr. Calvert, and Ms. Haxton for their gracious hospitality!

Do You Have That Entrepreneurial Spirit?

Answer True or False to these 10 questions and find out!

- 1) I often need a push to get started in the morning.
- 2) I don't like taking directions from others.
- 3) At the end of the day, I like to put thoughts of work aside and concentrate on my hobbies.
- 4) I can make decisions quickly and without too much worry about the outcome.
- 5) I don't have much patience when things don't go my way.
- 6) I'm one of those people who enjoys keeping track of things, filing and record-keeping.
- 7) For some reason, people usually don't trust me until they know me better.
- 8) I would just as soon let others take charge.
- 9) I've been told that I am a good motivator.
- 10) I prefer not to work directly with people.



If you answered TRUE for questions 2, 4, 6, and 9, and FALSE for all the others, you can claim a healthy entrepreneurial spirit. Otherwise, maybe you should think again.

Self-employed people succeed most often if they are entrepreneurs. That means they like to take charge. They're decisive, diligent, good with people, talented at organizing and persuasive. The most successful are also persistent and incredibly hardworking. If you don't have all these qualities, you need to team up with someone who has the ones you're missing.

For more information visit ASME's Entrepreneurial Center at <http://www.asme.org/Jobs/Entrepreneurs/>.

The ASME Fellow Grade: Recognizes significant engineering achievement and contributions to the engineering profession

At the time of advancement from member grade, a Fellow shall be a corporate member of the Society, have been responsible for significant engineering achievements, and shall have had:

A Fellow, one who has attained a membership grade of distinction, at the time of advancement shall be a corporate member of the Society, shall have been responsible for significant engineering achievements, and shall have not less than 10 years of active practice and 10 years of continuous corporate membership in ASME.

NEW ENHANCEMENTS:

1. Nominations will be considered quarterly. New deadline dates: March 1, June 1, September 1 & December 1.
2. Total proposal package should not exceed 25 pages.
3. Incomplete proposals will be held pending for consideration at the subsequent review session.
4. No more than 10 significant publications will be acceptable.
5. Corporate membership needs to be continuous and active.
6. Clearly specify on the proposal form whether it is a surprise or not a surprise nomination. If not clearly specified, proposal will be considered not a surprise.
7. Read qualifications page: http://www.asme.org/Governance/Honors/Fellows/Qualification_Categories.cfm summary of qualifications should not be included in the initiators sponsor letter.

Questions regarding Fellow Grade qualifications or nominations may be directed to Carmen Franco at (212) 591-7732 or fellows@asme.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our Central Oklahoma Section is very much interested in nominating deserving members for the ASME Fellow Grade. **Do you have such a member in mind?** If so please contact Ed Reynolds or Curtis Vickery. Contact information is on page 1.

NEWS BRIEFS OF INTEREST

Petroleum Engineers Increasingly in Demand

From NSPE's *Daily Designs* publication, September 18, 2008

[CNN](#) (9/18, Birger) reports that "even with the recent drop in oil prices, newly minted" petroleum engineering graduates "are making a killing." For example, at Texas Tech University, "the starting pay for graduates with bachelor's degrees in petroleum engineering is around \$105,000 -- \$80,000 in salary plus a guaranteed bonus of \$20,000 to \$30,000, according to Lloyd Heinze, chairman of the school's petroleum engineering department." He said, "It's pure supply and demand." Oil companies are looking to hire, meanwhile, current engineers "are nearing retirement age." In addition, "the number of schools that offer this specialized degree has really dwindled," said Heinze. CNN points out that, "this year, the number of undergraduate degrees awarded" in petroleum engineering "will number fewer than 800, compared to more than 1,500 in 1984." Heinze said that one issue "capping enrollment" is "a lack of teachers." CNN asserts that "a lot of academics have been lured by rich offers from oil companies," while "others have accepted lucrative...postings overseas to help set up petroleum engineering programs."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The shortage of degreed Petroleum Engineers has resulted in many Mechanical Engineers being hired for these positions. Certainly, mechanical engineering dovetails nicely with many petroleum industry aspects. Oklahoma has two universities that offer Petroleum Engineering programs, the University of Oklahoma and Tulsa University.

Tulsa International Airport Seeks LEED Certification

From NSPE's *Daily Designs* publication, October 13, 2008

Oklahoma's [Tulsa World](#) (10/13) reports that Tulsa International Airport is "going green," as "architectural, engineering and design consultants...are tackling the last major reconstruction project in the decade-long \$70 million renovation of the passenger terminal." The "Bauhaus-inspired 47-year-old terminal's sleek and modern design" will see a "\$30 million renovation of the 500-foot-long east and west concourses," with the goal of becoming the U.S.' second LEED-certified terminal. The work will "include replacement of existing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, or HVAC; fire suppression systems; and installation of skylights, insulation and a new roof." The already-completed redesign on the center terminal security checkpoints has "improved passenger traffic patterns of the original terminal design."

EDITOR'S NOTE: "LEED" may be a new term to many. It stands for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system that encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council's website <http://www.usgbc.org> for more information on LEED and green building initiatives.

LOCAL ENGINEERING JOB OPENINGS / SITUATIONS WANTED

OPENING: An experienced and motivated product designer experienced in solid modeling with software such as ProE or SolidWorks. A Mechanical Engineering degree is preferred, and experience with sheet metal, stainless steel, and/or HVAC is desired. Compensation is dependent on experience, but ranges up to the high \$60s. The (local manufacturing) company offers a great range of employee benefits, options, and potential for advancement.

For more information contact Ashley Warne, Principal Technologies, OKC
Phone: 405-858-8800 X103, e-mail ashley@principaltechnologies.com

OPENING: Engineer for heavy equipment design and development. Mechanical Engineering (preferred) or Mechanical Engineering Technology degree required. Position requirements include use of SolidWorks modeling software and use of ASME pressure vessel codes. Compensation is dependent on experience.

For more information contact Anthony Chandler, Wilco Machine & Fab, Marlow, OK
Phone: 580-658-6993, e-mail anthony.chandler@wilcofab.com

Chair's Corner

Dear ASME-Central Oklahoma Section Members:

Hello everyone! Gosh what a late summer – early fall year we've had. So much to do and so little time! Hope you all are getting along well with work, family, and other obligations.

On October 4 Albert Janco and I had the privilege of attending **ASME's District E Management Training Seminar**, held in Dallas along with the *Student Leadership Conference*. I had not attended one of these events since they were called the IRAC (Interim Regional Administrative Conference). It was a really good event! We had opportunity to meet old acquaintances, meet new ASME leaders, learn what's new at ASME, offer suggestions to improve ASME operations, and learn what other Sections within our region are doing. It was truly helpful to me for getting "back up to speed" with regional counterparts and getting ideas for our Central Oklahoma Section.

If you missed it, our September tour of the new Postal Service Processing and Delivery Center was outstanding! We got to see the incredible array of high-speed sorters and conveyors required to sort roughly 60% of mail coming in and going out of Oklahoma. Their operation was impressive indeed. Most mail was handled automatically but they still had regular employees sorting odd-sized or poorly inscribed mail. They do a great job!

This coming Sunday through Tuesday I will be in upstate New York performing an ABET evaluation of a 2-year Mechanical Engineering Technology program there. **ABET** is the **A**ccreditation **B**oard for **E**ngineering and **T**echnology comprised of two commissions, TAC and EAC. **TAC** is the **T**echnology **A**ccreditation **C**ommission that oversees technology programs whereas **EAC** is the **E**ngineering **A**ccreditation **C**ommission that oversees engineering programs. Check <http://www.abet.org> for information on ABET's mission to serve engineering education.

Although it's work to properly assess an MET program, each evaluation is enjoyable and allows me to see what different schools are doing in their MET instruction. Also, as an Evaluator from industry, I offer a different perspective and can emphasize the needs of industry. Many disciplines are covered necessitating need for a broad array of Evaluators, especially those with industry experience! I'd be happy to discuss with you how to become an ABET-TAC or ABET-EAC Evaluator!

Please mark Thursday, October 30 on your calendar for our October Section meeting (the FIFTH Thursday in October). The program should be excellent, featuring Mr. Steven Rhines from the Noble Foundation. See you there!

Curtis M. Vickery, Chair

Future ASME-Central Oklahoma Section Events

Date	Location	Program Topic and Speaker
Thursday Oct. 30, 2008	Boulevard Cafeteria 525 NW 11 th St., OKC	October Section Meeting: Mr. Steven P. Rhines Topic: "The Noble Foundation's Contribution to Biofuels Development"
Thursday Nov. 23 or 30, 2008	Oklahoma State Univ. Stillwater, OK	November-December Section Meeting: Joint meeting with OSU-MAE and OSU-MET Student Sections (TENTATIVE) Topic/Speaker: TBD
Thursday Jan. 22, 2009	Oklahoma Engr. Center 201 NE 27 th St., OKC	January Section Meeting: Joint meeting with the Oklahoma AIAA Section. Speaker: Tom Betzen, Engr., Michelin North America Program: Michelin's new Green Tire Technology
Thursday Feb. 15 - 21, 2009	MULTIPLE LOCATIONS	National Engineers Week: Activities include Engineering Fair & Joint Engineering Societies Banquet (JESB). Our February Section meeting will coincide with the JESB.

**Please visit our Section website <http://sections.asme.org/CentralOK/>
for event updates and other useful information!**