



Honors and Awards: Perspectives from Orbit

Come celebrate as the Baltimore Section honors you, our ASME members! The 2003 Honors & Awards dinner is dedicated to thanking you for helping to make mechanical engineering a wonderful profession. This year's ceremony will include an ASME Fellow award, recognition of our 50-year and 25-year members, an award to our section from ASME Region III, and recognition of our local volunteer leaders. To make the evening truly memorable, keynote speaker Dr. John M. Grunsfeld will share with us his experiences as an astronaut on four Space Shuttle missions!

Few current or former astronauts can match the extensive spaceflight resume of Dr. Grunsfeld. He has flown on four missions in the last eight years, logging over 45 days in space, including 5 spacewalks! His missions were on four different Space Shuttles and featured experiments in the Astro ultra-violet observatory, a rendezvous with the Mir space station, and two trips to enhance the capabilities of the Hubble Space Telescope. On the ground, Dr. Grunsfeld has worked on development of crew displays for the International Space Station and the Mission Control Center, and conducted research in the area of x-ray and gamma-ray astronomy. You don't want to miss hearing firsthand about his adventures, which are a testament to the talent and dedication of engineers and scientists everywhere.

The meeting will be held at the elegant Garrett-Jacobs mansion in Mt. Vernon Square, home of the Engineering Society of Baltimore. You'll enjoy the charms of this lovely old building as you renew acquaintances and establish new contacts within our local technical community. No matter where you are in your career, the interaction with your fellow mechanical engineers will make this member celebration a worthwhile evening.

Date: April 15, 2003
Event: Honors and Awards Lecture and Banquet
Location: The Engineering Society of Baltimore
Time: 6:00PM Social
6:30PM Dinner
7:15PM Presentation

<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Dinner</u>	<u>Presentation Only</u>
Members & Family	\$25	\$5
Non-member	\$30	\$10
ASME Student Members	\$13	Free

RSVP: By April 10, to Greg Harris. Space is limited. The requested attire is jacket and tie. Send checks made out to ASME (along with name, day and evening phone and the number of guests attending) to Greg Harris, 10 Glencoe Manor Ct., Sparks, MD 21152. Phone: 410-215-9967 E-mail: gcharris@us.ibm.com

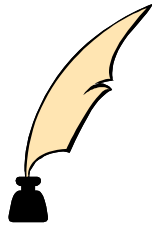
Directions

Directions to ESB:
Approaching from South on I-95:
Exit I-95 at I-395 North to the Downtown Exit. Follow I-395 into downtown and bear right as you go past Oriole Park at Camden Yards on your left and The Baltimore Convention Center on your right. Turn right onto Pratt Street, which is a one-way street going east. Proceed three blocks to Charles Street which is a one-way street going north. Turn left on Charles Street and proceed until you reach The Washington Monument. Centre Street is at the foot of the monument and you should take the left hand lane past the monument to the first street, which is Mt. Vernon Place. Turn left onto Mt. Vernon Place and proceed two-thirds down the block. We are at 11 West Mt. Vernon Place on your left.

Chairman's Corner

By

Michael D. White



Last month Vice-Chair Karen Campbell and I attended the ASME "MegaRAC". This Regional Administrative Conference meeting was much larger than the usual yearly RAC in that it brought together over 100 leaders from three regions, representing the entire northeastern seaboard from Washington DC to Maine. This size of this gathering also brought out a high number of ASME national leaders, including ASME President Susan Skemp and Executive Director Virgil Carter. The year's meeting also included a number of student leaders, whose presence was a constant reminder of the importance of reaching out to young engineers and involving them in ASME more effectively.

The purpose of the MegaRAC was to provide a forum for local sections to communicate with the larger ASME organization and with other section leaders. It is important that the leaders of ASME hear directly from local sections so that they can guide ASME to best serve the engineering community. Likewise, we can improve our section operations by learning from the experiences of other sections. The discussions at the meeting were frank and sobering, but at the same time hopeful. The top-level ASME leaders were open and upfront about the issues the society is facing, and the assembled section leadership corps was not shy about voicing their suggestions. To me, though, the most enjoyable part was the many discussions with other section leaders about the local activities that are successful in their section. Karen and I came back with a number of new ideas we hope our section can incorporate in the near future.

Like many other engineering & professional societies, ASME has been struggling in recent years with membership. The number of members is down, especially among engineers under the age of 50. Our section and region have seen a fairly small decrease of only a couple percentage points, but sections in the Midwest especially have seen much larger drops. Bringing in new members is an area where we need to put more efforts, and you can help by mentioning your ASME involvement to co-workers.

These troubles do have a bright spot, however, in that they are forcing ASME to take a serious look at what ASME's organizational structure should be in order to focus on our core mission of promoting mechanical engineering. One result is that we have turned over much of the logistical work of organizing large conferences to firms who specialize in that area, freeing up ASME staff and volunteers to concentrate on the technical portion of the expositions. The results have been encouraging, with conference attendance up significantly and the technical quality better than ever. Conveniently for us, the 2003 ASME Congress - our biggest event of the year - will be in Washington DC in November. I hope you'll take advantage of the proximity to attend, because it is almost guaranteed to be helpful to you and your area of mechanical engineering.

The financial picture is also disappointing, with revenues depressed by slumping sales of the Codes & Standards, and the poor performance of the stock market has reduced the ASME General Fund. You won't see much difference in your membership dues, which are tied to a cost-of-living index, and will only increase \$3 next year. Student dues will also increase from \$20 to \$25, the first increase in twelve years. The revenue downfall will be handed through a 10% reduction across the board in ASME's operating budgets, including the section allocation for next year. I'm not worried about the quality of our local section activities, as we've done a pretty good job in recent years of reducing our operating expenses, but it will mean that we need to continue to find new ways to reach out to our community that don't burden our finances.

All in all, the energy and commitment of the people I met at the MegaRAC was inspirational, and it left me feeling that after we get through some short-term struggles, ASME will emerge in better position than ever to promote engineering and aid the engineers that make our profession so special.

Mike White
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This Newsletter is published by the
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Support Your Profession and ME Students Recruit New Members

The 2002-2003 Member-Get-A-Member Campaign
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Jump on board and start recruiting today!
Recruit a new member and 50% of their first
year dues will fund scholarships for ASME
student members. It's easy to offer membership to
your colleagues!

Visit www.asme.org/membershipdrive/
to learn more about the campaign and resources
to get started.

Your Email Address – The Key to ASME International

Did you know that your email address is the key to
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events taking place in your local section, such as
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Updating your email address online only takes a
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logging on to Members Only, select the "Change
of Address and Information" link, located on the
upper right-hand side of your screen. From this
screen, you will be able to update your primary
contact information.

So don't miss out on all that ASME has to offer! If
you have any questions about your membership
information, contact InfoCentral at
infocentral@asme.org.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering

More than 100 engineers responded to ASME President
Susan H. Skemp's call for engineers to take part in
encouraging young girls to consider a career in
engineering.

In this ASME/GSUSA Engineers Week project, engineers
shared their personal experiences with Cadette and Senior
Girls Scouts in grades 6-12 during troop meetings.
Participating engineers received an "Introduce a Girl to
Engineering" Resource Kit that includes: a 10-minute
video, "Mothers of Invention," a plan for a hands-on
activity that will earn credit toward the GS Patch for
"Building a Better Future," some brochures and give-away
items that were left with the GS Leader and the girls in the
troop as reminders of ASME and Engineers Week.

Although this program was initially intended for use
during Engineers Week, it will continue to be available
throughout the year! Learn more about how you can help
make a difference in the lives of young girls:
www.asme.org/education/precollege/gsus

We Can Help You Make Your Classroom Visit a Success!

Make your visit to a classroom easy and download free lesson plans on line or order copies of the ASME-produced
videos aimed at K-12 students. The videos are accompanied by lesson plans, posters, handouts and other
presentation materials. Available videos include "Engineering is for Everyone," for elementary schools, "Mothers of
Invention" for middle schools, and "Career Encounters: Mechanical Engineering" for high schools. FREE brochures
are also available: What is Mechanical Engineering?, Mechanical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering
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Visit us on the Internet at

<http://www.asme.org/sections/baltimore/index.html>

2002-2003 ASME Baltimore Section Program Schedule

The program schedule for the year is still being firmed up and we don't yet have confirmations from all our hosts, but here are the scheduled meeting dates.

April 15, 2003	Honors and Awards, ESB Keynote Speaker: NASA Astronaut Dr. John Grunsfeld
May 15, 2003	Tour TBD

Executive Committee Meetings

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Executive Committee meetings, usually held on the first Monday of each month at UMBC.

- Thursday, **April 3rd** at 7:00 pm
- Monday, **May 5th** at 7:00pm

Meetings will be held in the Engineering & Computer Science Building, UMBC, in the 3rd Floor Engineering Conference Room. Call Section Secretary Tom Spangenberg at (410) 363-4400 x155 for details.

Directions To UMBC: *Note – Parking costs \$.50, quarters only*

Take I-95 to exit 47, which is I-195/MD Rt. 166. Follow the signs to UMBC, which will lead you to bear right. Once on the campus, turn left at the stop sign onto Hilltop Circle. Turn right at the stoplight, and continue going straight until you reach the faculty parking lot. Pay \$.50 and park anywhere in the lot. The Engineering & Computer Science building is the rightmost building bordering the parking lot. ❖