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April 2007 Newsletter

Comments from the Chairwoman,

I would like to start off by expressing my appreciation to the three section members who have accepted nomination to the Executive Council. These candidates have a broad range of experience from a diverse cross-section of industry. The current Executive Council is looking forward to working with these outstanding candidates.

Please show your support for the nominees by going to our on-line ballot and casting your vote. It is through the efforts of these volunteers that our Section mission will continue to be accomplished.

OPPD has two engineering positions open in the Nebraska City, Nebraska and the details are provided in this newsletter. Please help our good industrial supporters secure the right candidates for the vacancy.

The student sections in our area are garnering some design experience and recognition by attending Student Conference and Design Competitions. The ASME SDSM&T Student Section sent a team to the District D ASME Student Conference and landed First Place in the Human Powered Water Still competition.

UNL Student section competed in District C and Dort College of Engineering Department will be giving there annual Senior Design Project Presentation on April 25, 2007. I encourage you to read about the students' experiences and the invitation to Dort College Senior Design Presentation in this newsletter.

The following list of students have be granted scholarship by our Section (the order listed is random):

Andrew Shroll (UNL), Lisa Robinson (SDSM&T), David Lammers (Dordt), Lee Redden (UNL), Arron Boomsma (SDSU), Joseph Schaefer (UNL), Joshua Roiger (SDSU), Nicholas Fanning (SDSU), Travis Gottschalk (SDSU) , Aaron Kompelien (SDSU), David Schrunk (SDSU), Gayle Davis (SDSU)

Our PD course Structural Engineering for Non-Structural Engineers was well attended and appeared to be well received. To all of you who attended, thank you for making the PD course a success. Our April meeting is planned for the 19th of April and is truly a unique opportunity to tour the heating and cooling facilities for the downtown Omaha buildings. Energy Systems has opened their facilities to our Section to view there equipment and explain their strategies. Please see attached flyer for details and RSVP to Chad Ballain at (402) 636-3519 or by email at crballain@oppd.com. with your reservations.

A final note for members to look for engineering position advertisements in this newsletter. Our good industrial supporter OPPD is interested in hiring mechanical engineers for their Nebraska City facility and the North Omaha Station.

Susan Randall
ASME Nebraska Section Chair

Executive Committee Elections

The Nebraska Section Executive committee has four positions available and three candidates have graciously offered to serve our Section.

Robert Bowman, P.E
Matt Walker
Matt Dick

The attached ballot includes a biography for each the volunteers. The deadline for voting is, Friday May 4th, 2007. Please return ballots to: Susan Randall 1121 N. 102 Court Suite 301, Omaha, NE 68114 or use our on-line ballot to cast your vote <http://sections.asme.org/Nebraska>

Please respond for a show of enthusiastic support that the committee needs and deserves.

March Professional Development Course Recap

The March professional development course, "Introduction to Structural Engineering", was very well attended. Over sixty people came to the course presented by Mr. Brad Little, P.E., at Mahoney State Park Lodge. This course covered a broad spectrum of basic structural concepts. Some of the topics included building codes, materials, foundations, design methods, and typical construction documents.

Having a better understanding of the process that goes into structural engineering helps when coordination between disciplines is needed. Changes made to building layouts or equipment sizing can have unforeseen consequences without this understanding. Knowledge of other disciplines is also an advantage during the project planning stage. For instance, recognizing that a job site might need more extensive foundations leads to better cost estimates and no surprises down the road.

Mr. Little has been in the profession for 27 years. He did a great job of mixing the practical information with stories from his own career. We would like to thank him for traveling out here and presenting this very interesting course.

UNL Student Section

A group of UNL ASME members recently had the opportunity to travel to Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN to compete in the annual District C SPDC student design competition. The conference ran from Friday, March 30th through Sunday, April 1st and the students attending were Andy Nelson, Lee Redden, Andrew Shroll, Joey Schaefer, and James Lucas. The competition required students to design and build a human-powered water still—an idea spurred by hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. UNL joined 24 other teams in the design portion of the conference and members enjoyed experiencing the campus via tours and company workshops. An ASME member-only career fair provided more opportunities for students to make connections and discover employment options. The team left the conference eager to share the experience with the UNL chapter and student body. The human-powered water still will be on display during the Engineering College's E Week event which runs April 16-20.

SDSM&T TEAM PLACES 1ST AT DISTRICT D ASME STUDENT CONFERENCE

The ASME student section at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) attended the District D Spring Student Conference held in Moscow, ID on March 30-31st at the University of Idaho. Five students and their advisor, Jason Ash, attended the conference, which was closer than the District C conference in West Lafayette, IN at Purdue University. The majority of the conference was devoted to the regular competitions: Old Guard Oral Presentation, Old Guard Technical Poster, Technical Webpage, and Student Design Contest. Three SDSM&T students (Danny Duniphin, David Hoffman, and Seth Oliver) designed and built a device for the student design contest. The goal was to develop a human-powered water distiller for use in emergency situations. The idea came about as a result of Hurricane Katrina when there was water everywhere, but there was no water suitable for drinking. The SDSM&T senior design team named their device "Gatorade is Better" and placed 1st out of 6 teams competing. The team is now eligible to compete at the national competition next fall in Seattle, WA at the annual ASME meeting. Details about their device will be published next fall after the national competition. Teams from Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman, MT rounded out the competition in 2nd and 3rd place with their two entries. Mark Hofacker from SDSM&T competed in the Old Guard Oral Competition delivering a presentation on repetitive stress injuries. Mark is the first student in 5+ years from SDSM&T to compete in this competition. Although he did not place, he did a very good job presenting and we are proud of him.

There were some notable differences between the District D conference and what we were familiar with from District C (Old Region VII). District D has an annual remote control baja vehicle competition every year at the spring student conference. Teams are required to design and build their chassis and then compete in a technical obstacle course. It was interesting to watch and a team from MSU drove their way to the 1st place honors. In addition, there was a t-shirt design contest to see which student section could design the best ASME t-shirt. Although there were a lot of innovative t-shirts that were professionally made, a MSU university student who wrote words on a t-shirt with a permanent marker won the pile of shirts. That didn't hardly seem fair to the University of Idaho students who received about as much applause and had a well designed t-shirt, but we were informed we didn't know the history of the competition. Overall it was a good experience, a nice drive through amazing scenery, and the students were happy to have the opportunity to attend and compete. The SDSM&T ASME student section officers would like to thank the Nebraska section for partially funding expenses to attend the conference and student design expenses. The financial support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

SDSM&T ASME Student Section Officers

Brett Smoot – Chair

Mark Hofacker – Vice-Chair

Sean Hayes – Treasurer

Lisa Robinson – Secretary

Brandon Lingle – Program Coordinator

Executive Committee Election Ballot

The Nebraska Section of ASME is thrilled to offer the following candidates for election to the Executive Committee. **The deadline for the ballot to be returned is, Friday May 4th , 2007.** Please return ballots to: Susan Randall C/O UE 1121 N. 102 Court, Suite 301, Omaha, NE 68114 or you may vote on-line at the Neb Section website: <http://sections.asme.org/Nebraska>

Please vote for three candidates.

Robert L. Bowman, P.E

Robert L. Bowman is a native Nebraskan and was raised in the rural Cortland, Nebraska, area. Prior to entering college as a non-traditional student, Robert farmed for 10 years, worked for the Nebraska Public Service Commission for 3 ½ years, and then the U.S. Post Office for 3 ½ years. Robert graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1997, from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Robert is currently employed by Metropolitan Utilities District's Engineering Design Group, where he helps with the design of various Natural Gas Distribution Systems within Omaha, Nebraska. He has been a member of ASME for 9 years. Robert is a registered Mechanical Engineer in the State of Nebraska. Robert, his wife, and 3 children reside in Omaha, Nebraska.

Matt Walker

Matt Walker was born and raised in Grand Island, Nebraska. He graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in May of 2006. Mr. Walker is employed at AMG, Inc. in Omaha, Nebraska where he has been working as a new hire ME since June of 2006. He has successfully completed the Fundamentals of Engineering examination and looks to obtain his professional license in the next four years. His work has been focused primarily in the corn milling industry working with Cargill, Inc. to expand their Blair, Nebraska facility. Mr. Walker is a new member of ASME as of 2006.

Matthew G. Dick

Matthew was born and raised in Nebraska. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in 2003 and 2005, respectively. During college he managed student engineering projects including the Ethanol Vehicle Challenge Team and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Mini Baja Team. Currently, Matthew works at RSI Materials Engineering in Omaha, Nebraska where he works on projects concerning failure analysis, materials engineering, and finite element modeling. Matthew has been a member of ASME for 3 years.

OPPD Engineering Positions

Job Title: Senior Production Engineer

Positions Available - 2

Location: Nebraska City, Nebraska

Reference: 291650 and 291514

Provide technical support to department personnel to maintain and/or improve operating efficiency and reliability of power plants or provide design and technical review services in order to ensure economical and technically sound operation and practices at the Nebraska City Station. The incumbent must have a degree in engineering and extensive knowledge in engineering, power plant operation and maintenance, design engineering, and project management. Professional engineering registration is required. This individual must be able to perform highly creative and analytical thinking for extremely complex problems and must be able to communicate results to others who through their background may have widely different technical capabilities. A valid driver's license is required.

Job Title: Senior Production Engineer

Positions Available - 1

Location: North Omaha Station in Omaha, Nebraska

Reference: 291644

This position will provide support to the areas of operations, maintenance, technical, or design engineering and may include plant improvement, design review, plant systems analysis, testing programs, etc. All of the responsibilities assigned will contribute to the improvement of operations and maintenance at the North Omaha Station., The incumbent must have a degree in engineering and extensive knowledge in engineering, power plant operation and maintenance. Professional engineering registration is required. This individual must be able to perform highly creative and analytical thinking for extremely complex problems and must be able to communicate results to others who through their background may have widely different technical capabilities A valid driver's license is required.

To apply go to our website at www.oppd.com. If you have questions, please contact our Employment Office at 402-636-3059.



Meeting Announcement

Nebraska Section

sections.asme.org/nebraska

April Meeting

Energy Systems Company

2152 Howard Street
Omaha, NE

Thursday, April 19, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

Energy Systems Company has been downtown Omaha's best source for reliable heating and cooling services since 1968. The company's well-developed, underground pipeline system carries dependable, affordable, and efficient steam and chilled water energy from a central location to buildings throughout the business district.

Customers select Energy Systems for a variety of reasons, but perhaps the greatest advantage is a reliability rate that approaches 99.999%. In addition, Energy Systems has redundancy of equipment with 10 chillers, 7 boilers, and 3 fuel sources.

District heating and cooling systems serve many customers from one location. These systems enjoy economies of scale and employ technologies that would be cost-prohibitive in most individual buildings. For example, Energy Systems of Omaha utilizes a variety of conventional fuels, depending upon which is most cost competitive at a given time. It also has incorporated highly-efficient combined heat and power, or cogeneration, technology into its system to reduce the amount of energy lost up the smokestack.

When you arrive, please park in the gated west parking lot next to the building.

Dinner will follow the tour at:

Spaghetti Works Restaurant (Old Market)
1105 Howard Street
Omaha, NE
(402) 422-0770

The available menu will include:

- Pasta with your choice of sauce
- Manicotti
- Lasagna
- Chicken Parmesan
- Eggplant Parmesan

(All meals include salad, bread, and coffee/tea/soda)

Cost is \$20.00 per person (\$10.00 for students), payable at the door.

Please make your reservations by noon, Monday, April 16, 2007 by calling Chad Ballain at (402) 636-3519 or by email at crballain@oppd.com. Please specify tour only or tour with dinner.

SENIOR DESIGN PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

by Dordt College Engineering Seniors

A Joint Meeting of

ASME, Dordt College Student Section
ASHRAE, Dordt College Student Chapter
IEEE, Dordt College Branch

Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Time: 7:30 – 9:45 p.m.

Place: Room SB-101

Agenda:

7:35 p.m. Camera Dolly

Dan De Jong, Cody Ellens, Tom Hubers, Ryan Swanson

Project Sponsor: Prairie Grass Productions, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

7:55 p.m. It's About Time: Dordt College Clock Tower

Craig Bielema, Ashley Prins, Chris Wyenberg

Project Sponsor: Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

8:15 p.m. All Seasons Center Energy Audit

Jason De Stigter, Becky Mastbergen, Rick Scholtens

Project Sponsor: Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

8:35 p.m. Refreshment Break

8:45 p.m. Vermeer/Link Seat Suspension

Aaron De Bruin, Tim Jabaay

Project Sponsors: Link Manufacturing, Sioux Center, Iowa

Vermeer Manufacturing, Pella, Iowa

9:05 p.m. Personal Electric Commuter Vehicle

Calvin Doornbos, Jon Hjelle, Nathan Miller

Project Sponsor: Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

9:25 p.m. Hybrid Renewable Energy Project

Nick Draayer, Roy Duinick, Travis Hoekstra, Cody Lieuwen

Project Sponsor: Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

Contact Information: ddevries@dordt.edu or 712-722-6293