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## December 2008 Newsletter

### Message from the Chair

I sincerely hope all of you are enjoying the holiday season!

The November PD course was a great success with 42 members and 6 guests attending for a refresher on 'Metallurgy for Engineers.' Dr. John Makinson, Phd, PE did an excellent job of making this subject entertaining with presentations of previous failures to demonstrate material properties. Dr. Makinson has authored and co-authored many peer reviewed articles in the field of research metallurgy; however, his hands-on work in heavy industry provided down-to-earth examples of metallurgy in action.

The December Christmas play was also extremely successful as indicated in the re-cap attached. Please mark your calendars for the January 28th tour of the Speed Museum in Lincoln. I understand this is quite a fascinating venue if you have any interest in fast automobiles.

As you plan for the new year, please keep in mind the ASME Nebraska Section program as outlined below. Member involvement creates the success of our organization! Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Gary Ruhl  
ASME, Nebraska Section Chair.

### 2008 ASME Nebraska Section planned program is as follows:

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> to Oct 15<sup>th</sup> - PE Refresher Course COMPLETE  
October – OPPD North Omaha Power Station COMPLETE  
November – PD Course Metallurgy for Engineers COMPLETE  
December – Mahoney Christmas Play COMPLETE  
January – Speedway Museum, Lincoln, NE (tentative info attached)  
February – ASHRAE Joint Luncheon; E-Week Banquet  
March – PD Course Pumps or Weibull Analysis  
April – Becton Dickenson Tour, Columbus, NE  
May – Magnus Farley Tour, Fremont, NE  
June – NSPE Golf Outing; OPPD Power Drive Competition

## ASME Nebraska Section 2008 Christmas Party a Huge Success!

By Bill Redinger

This year's Christmas Party Dinner and Theater at Eugene Mahoney State Park was attended by 42 members, their guests and families. This year's event was above the expectations and could be classified as the best in all the years we have been doing this family event. The weather was 58 degrees with clear skies and the largest and brightest full moon and skies that has been seen in 15 years, with the darkness of the park you could see the skies better than ever and not being cold you could stop to enjoy them after the play. The food and conversation was excellent and most enjoyed, as it is always good to see old friends, meet new ones and see the young families and all their holiday excitement.

Then there was the play *Every Christmas Story Ever Told and Then Some*, which had three powerful and talented actors performing non-stop, high energy, constantly humorous skits on Christmas traditions that left you laughing all the time. We even had two talented newcomers from our group that showed their acting talents for the audience and their families. Kirk Estee proved that engineering is not the only talent he has (keep the day job!) and Teresa (aka Cindy) disclosed her new occupation as an exotic dancer to her husband Igor Cherko's surprise. When they asked what she wanted for Christmas she said a Barbie doll and Igor quickly changed his to the North Pole! Without a doubt this was the funniest and best done play of all time and it was done with only three actors, an outstanding accomplishment. You should join us next year!

### Save the Date - January Tour

Our next tour is currently being planned for Wednesday, January 28th, at the Museum of American Speed in Lincoln's Haymarket District ([www.museumofamericanspeed.com](http://www.museumofamericanspeed.com)). The Museum of American Speed is a non-profit corporation founded in 1992 by "Speedy" Bill and Joyce Smith. This 125,000 sqft museum was formed to present a continuous chronology of automotive Racing Engine and Speed Equipment development, and to preserve, interpret, and display items significant in racing and automotive history. The collection results from the Smith's personal involvement in racing and hot rodding, and their lifelong passion for collecting and preserving racing and automotive history. Dinner will follow at Lazlo's Brewery & Grill. Additional details will be sent out as soon as details are finalized.

## MIT Is Winner of the 2008 ASME



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 (2<sup>nd</sup>, L) and Conor Walsh (2<sup>nd</sup>, 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/Professiona>

## THE ASME FOUNDATION

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](mailto: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](http://www.asme.org/Governance/Nominating/Nominating_Committee.cfm) or email RuthAnn Bigley at [bigleyr@asm.org](mailto:bigleyr@asm.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](mailto: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](http://www.asme.org/jobs/mentoring/Ementoring_Early_Career.cfm) or contact Noel Netel at [neteln@asme.org](mailto:neteln@asme.org)

**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](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](mailto:stenosm@asme.org).

For more information about Engineer Your Life, visit [www.EngineerYourLife.org](http://www.EngineerYourLife.org)