



ASME Pittsburgh Section Monthly Newsletter

September 2008

Volume 16, Number 1

<http://sections.asme.org/pgh/>

Pittsburgh Section Calendar

Sept. 5 – Executive Council Meeting
(Monroeville, PA)

Sept. 10 – Joint ASME / ASM Tour of U S Steel
R&D (Homewood, PA)

October (Tentative) – Orpheus Acoustics
Program

October / November (Tentative) – Student /
Professional Mixer

November 12 – Student / Professional Dinner

February (Tentative) – Student / Professional
Mixer

April (Tentative) – Awards Banquet

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PLEASE PRINT AND POST

September 2008 Program

U. S. Steel R & D Center Tour

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Time: Tour: 1- 3 pm

Location: U. S. Steel R & D Center
800 East Waterfront Drive
Munhall, PA

(links to maps are provided at
<http://sections.asme.org/pgh/>)

Parking: Free

Cost: Tour is free

Contact: Tour is full – Next tour will be announced
when scheduled

Program Description

U.S. Steel has graciously agreed to open the doors for us to their new R&D center at the Waterfront in Munhall, PA. On our joint ASME/ASM tour, we will experience new cutting edge steel making research and production technologies including the hot-dip simulator and an advanced flow model and, of course, observe real world melting and rolling of steel plate. We'll also learn a bit about our region's key involvement in the Gilded Age of steel making.

For more information, please visit the website
(<http://sections.asme.org/pgh/>)

Message from the Chair

Dear Members,

If there is a silver lining to the end of summer I would say it is that it marks the beginning of what I expect will be another great year for the Pittsburgh Section of ASME. Last year we implemented a number of exciting and interesting programs. Notable amongst which was our hosting of the Student Professional Development Conference (SPDC) in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and the University of Pittsburgh. This year we plan to build on the momentum from last year's successes as we implement more programs that will provide benefit to all of us.

The EC has spent some time this summer brainstorming activities that will offer benefit to the membership body and are looking forward to participation from the membership community. On September 10th, we will be touring the US Steel R&D site and the details of this tour will be included in the September newsletter. This event is however just the tip of the iceberg because there are several other exciting programs in the pipeline. As in the past, ASME will continue to support traditional events such as the Rube Goldberg Competition, Future Cities Competition, and the National Engineers Week. Details of these and upcoming programs will be included in subsequent newsletters.

This year, the Section yet again embraces the challenge of sustaining the growth and relevance of the Organization by inviting new talent and ideas to the planning process. I would therefore like to extend an invitation to those who would like to get more involved with the Pittsburgh Section. Participation on the EC is a great opportunity to gain leadership experience, build soft skills, or expand your sphere of influence. All of these are critical items in today's professional environment. Our first EC Meeting will be held at 7:30am on Friday, September 5th in the Denny's Restaurant on William Penn Highway in Monroeville. To encourage participation from those who live closer to the city we will be switching our meeting venues to different locations around the city periodically. Please contact any of the Executive Committee members if you are interested in becoming more involved with the Section.

Finally, I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to our Past Chair Heather DeBiase and all of the Executive Committee for a job very well done even as I look forward to making new strides with this exceptional group.

In the coming months I will discuss the programs in more depth and I look forward to your participation and feedback. As we the Executive Committee plan and implement events over the course of the year, we hope that you find this to be another enjoyable and rewarding year with the Pittsburgh Section.

Sincerely,

Akaninyene Akan

ASME Pittsburgh Chair 2008-2009

aakan81@msn.com

Executive Committee Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Friday, September 5, 2008 at 7:30 AM at Denny's on Rt. 22 in Monroeville, PA.

If you wish to attend, please contact Akaninyene Akan at aakan81@msn.com or any member of the Executive Committee.



Program: United States Steel Research and Development Center

Date: September 10, 2008

Time: Tour: 1 - 3 PM

Location: 800 East Waterfront Drive
Munhall, PA

(links to maps are provided at <http://sections.asme.org/pgh/>)

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For more information, visit our website <http://sections.asme.org/PGH/>

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR ASME

If you sponsor ASME Pittsburgh, we will feature your company's products and services in our newsletter. For \$300 you can capture the attention of 1500+ fellow members and inform them of your company on a full page in one issue. For \$180 your company will be featured in ½ page; for \$95, ¼ page; for \$70, 1/8 page and for \$50 a business card sized space.



Upcoming Program...

Financial Journeys

- Date:** November 12, 2008
Speaker: Janet James, MBA
Financial Advisor and Accredited Asset Management Specialist,
Wachovia Securities
Time: TBA
Location: TBA
(links to maps will be provided at <http://sections.asme.org/pgh/>)
Cost: Dinner Cost TBA (Program Alone: Free)
Contact: Heather DeBiase (debiaseh2@asme.org)

Please join ASME Pittsburgh on November 12th for a “Financial Journeys” seminar by Janet James of Wachovia Securities. This seminar will mainly focus on financial planning for early career professionals, but will also touch base for those who are nearing retirement. Please contact Heather DeBiase (debiaseh2@asme.org) to sign up for this session or for more information. More information will be made available to members once details are finalized.

As a Wachovia Securities Financial Advisor in the Pittsburgh office, Ms. James offers a range of services from selecting individual investments to helping with estate planning. She works for a unique company that believes clients should always come first. That philosophy allows her the freedom to help investors, focusing solely on their financial goals.

Clients choose to work with her because of her integrity and professional approach to their investment management and estate plan needs. Her methods focus on helping clients develop and implement disciplined, structured strategies supported by a very high level of individualized service. Her financial consulting practice is not based on a single investment decision, but is a dynamic, productive process. It involves taking the time to reach an understanding of the client to create a personalized strategy. Once the strategy is framed and implemented, ongoing service is crucial to her clients' success and satisfaction.

Prior to joining A. G. Edwards, she worked as a business consultant with technology-based companies, manufacturing firms, service-oriented businesses, and non-profit organizations. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with an MBA and Case Western Reserve University with a Master's in clinical social work. She resides in Mt. Lebanon with her husband and two children. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, doing yoga and reading, and giving back to the community.

Engineering Beyond the BS?



Virtually all practicing engineers who look up from the trees of their work long enough to see the forest of their profession feel a variety of forces pulling them back to school.

Engineering licensing boards are adopting policies that encourage (or mandate) continuing education as a condition for maintaining professional registration. William Wulf, former president of the National Academy of Engineering, (and former Pittsburgher) notes that unlike most professionals (lawyers, doctors and even business managers), engineers consider a bachelor's degree a professional degree, which places employers in the position of investing heavily in new-hire training. Nearly seven years ago the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) adopted a policy that supports the need for a master's degree as a "prerequisite for licensure and the practice of civil engineering at a professional level". Clearly, there are institutional forces at work which make graduate education attractive.

At a personal level, many recently graduated engineers observe that their typical work day is focused less on *them* solving technical problems and more on the management of *other* people and resources to get the job done. They realize that the courses completed in undergraduate school did not really prepare them for the position they find themselves in today (or the position they wish they were in). That is not surprising, says Dr. Wulf, since "social and management sciences *needed* by the modern engineer" have been "squeezed out" of the contemporary engineering undergraduate curriculum. They may also see that co-workers with advanced degrees are compensated better and climb faster in the organization. Certainly, there are personal reasons to consider graduate education.

If you have entered the engineering workforce over the last 10 to 15 years, and have contemplated going back to school you probably have confronted two concerns. First, how do you obtain the graduate degree without significant changes to your professional and personal lifestyle? You are on a career path you don't want to leave and the job permits you to enjoy life beyond the work environment.

The second issue you face is what to study. Should you specialize in a technical area within your profession or should you focus on those management sciences that Wulf notes that you need, but did not learn about during your undergrad days? You are torn between improving technical depth or managerial breadth. Perhaps you have even thought about an MBA, but still get a great kick out of technical problem-solving, which attracted you to engineering in the first place. Engineers practicing in Pittsburgh have many options for pursuing advanced degrees thanks to the vibrant educational community that has existed here for many years. The region is blessed with a variety of graduate engineering programs offered in traditional and non-traditional formats.

Traditional programs at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, and West Virginia University have recently been joined by online or e-learning programs offered by universities with campuses many thousands of miles away.

It was against this backdrop of regional educational need and graduate school opportunity that Robert Morris University launched a program to grant master-of-science degrees in Engineering Management. The program began quietly seven years ago, but RMU has now conferred more than 100 M.S. in Engineering Management degrees to talented technical individuals employed here in Western Pennsylvania.

The program was designed to appeal to working engineers who want a curriculum that satisfies their personal learning objectives. Most classes are offered in eight-week sessions and meet one night per week, enabling students to finish the degree within two years by taking one course per session. Classes are led by faculty members who have significant engineering experience. They encourage you to bring your work into the classroom by adapting your specific problems for class discussion, class projects, or term papers. The project work needed for the degree can complement to your career demands. The classroom lecture topics are also directly applicable to your career. One graduate has said, "I've used many techniques that I've been able to put to use almost immediately at my place of work."

The degree requirements are flexible enough to allow students to tailor a program to fit their specific educational needs for technical depth and/or managerial breadth. Seven of the 10 required courses can be chosen from a menu of engineering, business, or information systems topics, enabling each individual to pursue a unique emphasis. Program participants can select from either a thesis or non-thesis option. This flexibility makes the program equally attractive both to students who wish to learn about robotics, lean manufacturing concepts, as well as discrete event simulation modeling and to those for those who want to learn about managerial accounting, group dynamics and developing strategies for technical organizations.

With more than 100 graduates currently employed in the Pittsburgh region, the RMU Engineering Management program is beginning to make a noticeable contribution to the educational needs of our community. You may be surprised to learn that the colleague you meet at the next association meeting may tell you that while working at FedEx, Bombardier, PPG, First Energy, Northrop Grumman, CTC, Siemens, Michael Baker, Bettis Labs, Eaton, or Bechtel, he earned his engineering graduate degree from Robert Morris University.

Contact Dr. John C. Hayward, P.E.,
Director of Graduate Engineering Programs at hayward@rmu.edu
or 412-397-2209 if you are interested in learning more about the program.

Nominate an Engineer for the 2009 Old Guard Early Career Engineer Award!

Recognize an outstanding early career engineer who actively involves themselves in the engineering profession, their communities, and the work of ASME. Application deadlines are February 1 annually. Submit your nominations today!

Visit <http://files.asme.org/asmeorg/Communities/EarlyCareer/8026.pdf> for more details.

The Carnegie Mellon logo consists of the words "Carnegie Mellon" in a white, serif font, centered within a solid red rectangular background.

Looking for Engineering Mentors at CMU

Only nine percent of American engineers are women. And only twenty percent of engineering degrees are earned by women. There are a number of reasons why the number of women in engineering is low. One of those reasons is a lack of role models and access to females who have earned and utilized engineering degrees.

You can make a difference in the education and career of female students in their first year of study at Carnegie Mellon. We are looking for ten women to mentor female engineering students. As a mentor you will help a student learn to develop supportive relationships, provide career guidance, build a professional network, build confidence, and gain valuable academic advice (this does not include tutoring or job prospecting).

To learn more about this new program and how you can participate, please contact JoAnn Truchan (412-578-7981; jtruchan@achd.net).

Early Career Engineer Essay Competition

The Old Guard Committee of ASME invites you to participate in an Early Career Engineer Essay Competition. The competition was developed to engage early career engineers in communicating advice and guidance based on your own personal/professional experiences and your relationship with ASME to new ME/MET graduates. The winning essay will be posted on the ASME Early Career website and the author will receive \$1,000 and a lifetime ASME membership.

For complete details visit: http://www.asme.org/Communities/EarlyCareer/Old_Guard_Early_Career.cfm

Executive Committee 2008-2009 – Pittsburgh Section

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Ron Kalnas, Heather DeBiase

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Marilyn Reeder

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Membership Development
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