



## Hudson Mohawk Section

Editor: (position open)

# Newsletter

## June 2008

### **2007-2008 Year in Review**

The 2007-2008 program year was my fifth year as section chairman, and by far the best year we've had during my tenure as chairman. This year, in addition to the four solid programs the section sponsored, we had invitations to join other technical societies at their meetings, enthusiastic new volunteers, and section participation at the regional and national levels of ASME. We also fared quite well in the merit-based funding derby. We have a new slate of officers for next year, and we have already begun program planning. We continued our support of local student sections, awarded student prizes and scholarships, and expanded our outreach to high school students. Finally, we have nominated an excellent slate of officers for next year.

*Fred Willett*

#### **2007-2008 Programs**

There were five section-sponsored programs this year. As part of our effort to secure merit-based funding, we will recognize the best program with an award. All members are eligible to vote for best program. Votes can be sent to Fred Willett at [willett1@asme.org](mailto:willett1@asme.org). Please put "ASME Best Program" in the message header and note, in the body of your message, the number of programs you attended this year. If you did not attend any programs, but still wish to vote, please vote for the program that most inspired you to attend a meeting.

The 2007-2008 programs were:

- 1) Bethlehem Energy Center Tour
- 2) USS Slater Tour
- 3) Global Warming and the Challenges Ahead
- 4) SR-71 Blackbird – An Engineering Marvel
- 5) Nano-Scale Electron Emitter Lifetime

Details on the programs can be found in back issues of the section newsletter via the section web page: <http://sections.asme.org/hudson-mohawk/newsletters.html>

Votes will be accepted through the end of June 2008. The winner will be announced in September. The section will try to recognize both the speaker (or tour host) and the section volunteer who led the program.

#### **2008 Student Awards**

Each year, the section presents or co-sponsors awards at three local colleges. The Mortimer Sayre Prize is presented to an outstanding student at Union College. The Clarence Davies Award goes to an outstanding student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The George Scheper scholarship is

awarded to a deserving student at Hudson Valley Community College who will transfer to a four-year ME program in the fall. Award winners are selected by the colleges' mechanical engineering departments. This year the awards were as follows:

Sayre Prize	Joseph Martel
Davies Award	Christina Laskowki
Scheper Scholarship	Christopher St. John

#### **College and K-12 Outreach**

New volunteer Yogesh Potdar was selected to participate in ASME's Student Liaison Pilot Program. The purpose of this program is to develop a group of enthusiastic members who are in the early stages of their careers who would be interested in working with student sections within that member's local geographic area. The student liaison will visit the student section(s) at least once a year and speak about ASME and their career. Relating how ASME helped prepare them for the transition to the workplace and has aided in their professional development, the student liaison will reinforce ASME as an important career resource following graduation. For this program ASME picks early career engineers working in industry, living in close proximity to a college or university (60 mile radius), and who are dynamic and exciting speakers.

Jian Mi and Yogesh Potdar also made a concerted effort to broaden our K-12 outreach by writing letters to several local high schools, inviting students to our April meeting featuring Col. Graham's lecture on the SR-71 Blackbird. The response was promising, as a group from the new Tech Valley High School attended the meeting.

Finally, leaders from the Union College student section now regularly attend our executive committee meetings. Union College ASME Chair Malysa Cheng helped organize our February meeting and Student Section Secretary Diana Polli helped publish most of our newsletters this year.

#### **Regional and National Leadership Meetings**

The section was well represented this year at several key regional and national gatherings. Fred Willett attended the District A Leadership Meeting in the fall, held at Lafayette College in Easton, PA. Art Coons and Jian Mi attended the Leadership Training Conference (LTC), held in Atlanta, in March. David Smith represented the section at the District A Spring Leadership Meeting, also at Lafayette College.

#### **Expanded Web Site**

Section Webmaster Larry Kelley enhanced our internet presence this year by adding a job opportunities page and a "Notables" page. The Notables page will be used to recognize section members who receive honors and/or awards from ASME. (Please note that the section leaders are not always aware of what members have been honored. If

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we've missed an honor bestowed on you or a colleague, let us know!)

**Merit-Based Funding**

As has been reported previously, ASME uses a merit basis to allocate section funding. Our section has been achieving about 75% of the maximum funding level. This puts us roughly in the middle of the sections in District A, though we've been improving. The Best Program Award and the increased attention to student outreach, for example, are ways we've identified to improve our merit ranking. The executive committee has been trying to reach the top level, 100% funding. Sections are rated in five areas. Our sections weak areas are 1) Providing Opportunities for Members' Professional Growth and 2) Aiding in the Development of the Engineering Profession. As the executive committee continues to improve the section's ranking, focus will be in these two areas.

ASME has given members the option, when renewing their memberships, of contributing additional funds for section operations. Some members of our section were very generous, as we received unexpected additional funding of \$644 this year. Your contributions are appreciated.

**2008-2009 Slate of Officers**

Here is the slate of officers for next year:

<b>2008-2009 Slate of Officers</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	David Smith
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Larry Kelley
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Art Coons
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Holger Lukas
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Brilliant
<b>Secretary</b>	O. Velagandula
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Jian Mi
<b>College Relations</b>	Paul Kehoe
<b>Tech. Chapters</b>	Lewis Stitt
<b>K-12 &amp; Young Members</b>	Yogesh Potdar

Additional nominations may be made by petition, signed by not less than two percent of the Section membership (or by not less than 15 qualified members of the Section), and received by June 23. If there are additional nominations, the names of such nominees will be added to the ballot as a special list. If there are no additional nominations, a single ballot will be cast for the proposed slate.

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**Distribution of Section Newsletter**

The Hudson Mohawk newsletter is posted at:

<http://sections.asme.org/hudson-mohawk/>

Once each newsletter is posted on the Section's web page, an e-mail notification and link to the above website is sent to members who have e-mail addresses in the ASME member database. If you are an active member of ASME and did not receive an e-mail notification, please go to the ASME web site and update your membership information.  
<http://members.asme.org/myasme/login/myasme.cfm>