

### ASME Meeting

**Topic: Experiences as an ASME Congressional Fellow**

**Speaker: Dr. Prabhat Hajela**

**Date:** Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 6 PM Social Hour  
7 PM Dinner  
8 PM Speaker

**Place:** La Caravelle Ristorante at the Italian-American Community Center, 257 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany

**To reserve your seat, contact Fred Willett** (willettf1@asme.org or (518) 347-0271) by 5 PM October 27<sup>th</sup>.



#### Abstract:

Every year, the section has one meeting dedicated to ASME beyond the local section. The section invites a local member who is active in ASME at the national level to speak on their particular topic of interest. This year we are pleased to have Dr. Prabhat Hajela, who has recently returned from a stint as an ASME congressional fellow. Dr Hajela will talk about his experiences as a congressional fellow and discuss the need for technical experts to advise our lawmakers. He'll give us some insights into what really happens when some engineering thinking is brought into the process of government. While a congressional fellow, Dr. Hajela assisted Senator Conrad Burns of Montana in analyzing aerospace and communications policy.

#### Speaker's Bio:

Dr. Prabhat Hajela is a Professor of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Previously he was a researcher at UCLA and a faculty member at the University of Florida. He has published over 250 papers and articles in the areas of structural and multidisciplinary optimization. He is a Fellow of ASME and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Aeronautical Society of India. He received his B.Tech from IIT Kanpur. He has a master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Iowa State and a second master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford. He received his Ph.D. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford.

#### Place:

La Caravelle Ristorante  
257 Washington Avenue Extension  
Albany

Menu Choices: Oven baked Scrod  
Chicken Sorrento  
Penne Siciliano (vegetarian)

#### Directions:

Directions: From the west: take I-90 to the Crossgates Mall Road exit, turn right at the end of the ramp and stay straight onto Crossgates Mall Road. After a slight right, merge onto Washington Avenue extension on the left. Follow Washington Avenue Extension for about 1.4 miles, then turn right into Pine West Plaza.

From the north: take I-87 to the Crossgates Mall Road exit, turn right at the end of the ramp and stay straight onto Crossgates Mall Road. After a slight right, merge onto Washington Avenue extension on the left. Follow Washington Avenue Extension for about 1.4 miles, then turn right into Pine West Plaza.

From the south and east: Take I-90 to the Fuller Road exit (exit 2 towards UAlbany), Turn left onto Fuller Road and follow to Washington Avenue Extension. Make a slight right onto Washington Avenue Extension and follow for about 2.2 miles, then turn right into Pine West Plaza.

To reserve your seat, contact Fred Willett at 347-0271 or willettf1@asme.org by 5 PM October 27<sup>th</sup>.

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## Message from the Chair

We had the good fortune to have as our September speaker Howard Berkof, a member of ASME's Young Engineer Committee. Our meeting was held with the RPI student section and attracted students from both RPI and HVCC. Howard spoke to an audience of young and not-so-young engineers about the benefits of being an ASME member and the many career resources available through ASME. As I listened, I found myself nodding in agreement with point after point. From codes and standards to technical divisions to ethics forums and beyond, ASME has something to offer each and every member. New initiatives and opportunities are being added every year. Of particular interest to some of our members may be ASME's Engineering Management Certification Program, a series of self-study or instructor-led courses leading to two levels of certification: Fundamentals (for aspiring managers) or Professional (for experienced managers).

A continuing goal of the executive committee is increased member participation and feedback. The committee wants to plan programs that are of most interest to the membership. I challenge everyone to attend a meeting and let us know what programs you'd like to see. Some ideas generated at our executive committee meetings are 1) offer more social activities, like an annual picnic or perhaps a dinner cruise, and 2) offer forums or programs focused on so-called "soft skills." I invite you to attend a meeting and share your thoughts.

This month we have an election year special program, as our featured speaker is a former ASME Congressional Fellow. Come and hear some non-partisan talk about how engineers, as congressional fellows, participate directly in the lawmaking process.

*Fred Willett*

leadership meeting in Washington DC. Thanks to Dave for taking time out of his busy schedule to represent our section.

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## Distribution of Section Newsletter

The Hudson Mohawk newsletter is posted at:  
[www.asme.org/sections/udson-mohawk](http://www.asme.org/sections/udson-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>

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## Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

Section Secretary Dave Smith will be attending the Interim Regional Administrative Conference (IRAC), a Region III