



The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Chairs' Letter

Greetings and I hope we are enjoying my favorite time of year in the Philadelphia/New Jersey area. The ASME Philadelphia section is winding down another successful year and I thank all of you who have made it so. We will be finishing off our year with one last event, a family event at the Pennsylvania Railroad Museum in Strasburg, Lancaster County and everyone is invited on June 30. For those of you who don't know, ASME and railroads go back a long time, in fact it is ASME who set the standards on the boiler so they wouldn't explode. There is a lot of great history and engineering in trains and ever since I played Monopoly as a child, I always wanted to see the "Reading Railroad".

This year we hosted events at Rowan, Widener, Temple, Swarthmore, and Drexel. We helped fund student projects, wrote newsletter (like this one), had a student night and general meeting talks on various topics with very good turnouts. I encourage all of you to try to attend or recommend a topic or speaker for next year. We are currently working on next years meetings and suggestions are welcomed.

This is my last newsletter as chair and we have elected a new group of volunteers and veterans to run the executive council for next year. I know they will welcome any help you, the general membership, can provide.

As always you can get in touch with us though the e-mail addresses listed in this newsletter if you have any comments, concerns, or if you want to just attend a meeting or two. I hope you will visit us at Strasburg and have an enjoyable summer.

Thank you

LeRoy Alaways

As we come to the close of another year for the Philadelphia Section of the ASME, I wanted to send a quick note looking forward. I will be assuming the role of Chair for this section this summer. I am very pleased to be working with the following outstanding group of officers:

Vice Chair - Fred Willis
Secretary - Gerry Sadowski

Philadelphia Section Newsletter

www.sections.asme.org/philadelphia June 2007

We all welcome the opportunity to serve you in the upcoming year. The officers will be meeting as a group in early June to discuss events and speakers for the upcoming year - please do not hesitate to contact one of us if you have an idea! For our first event of the Fall, we will be hosting a presentation by the Director of the Delaware County Keystone Innovation Zone during the first week of September. The Keystone Innovation Zone is part of a State Program to foster entrepreneurial activity in Pennsylvania by combining the resources of educational institutions, private businesses, business support organizations, lenders, and foundations in a unique partnership. Information can be found on the web at <http://www.delcokiz.org/>.

I am looking forward to working with all of you to make 2007-2008 a great year!

Mark Nicosia

Philadelphia Section Officers 2006/07

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Please send letters and comments to the Editor. Letters will be published unless otherwise requested depending on space limitations.

April Section Meeting (April 17)

The sections annual awards dinner was held on April 17 in Haddonfield, New Jersey. The speaker was scheduled to be Wilbur Wamsley, president of Wamsley Violins in Haddonfield. The company builds, restores and sells professional quality string instruments and bows.

Unfortunately the weekend before our meeting, Mr. Wamsley had an emergency due to the rain storm which reached hurricane levels in the Philadelphia. Because of the short time notice, we decided to proceed with the dinner without a speaker.

The dinner was very enjoyable and I thank the spouses for their attendance and participation in the event. We will try to reschedule Mr. Wamsley for a date in the future.

ASME Family Day – Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia Section of ASME is proud to announce that we will be hosting an ASME family day for members and their families at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg, Lancaster County, PA. The event will be all day from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday June 30, 2007. The Philadelphia Section will be offering discounted tickets and arranging special tours of the Museum at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. The tours will include a restoration project and a behind the scenes tour.

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania houses one of the most significant collections of historic railroad artifacts in the world. Devoted to preserving and interpreting the broad impact of railroad development on society, the Museum:

- Displays over 100 locomotives and cars from the mid-19th and 20th centuries, including the priceless Pennsylvania Railroad Historical Collection.
- Has restored many of these unique survivors to original appearance, and pursues a major restoration program.
- Conducts educational programs for all ages, provides tours and holds special events, many in cooperation with outside organizations. The innovative Railway Education Center provides a focus for exciting learning.
- And More.... see <http://www.rrmuseumpa.org/> for maps and other information.

ASME will have a table set up at the Museum from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm where section members and their family can check in prior to the entering the Museum for their discounted entrance and to sign up for tours. For more information contact LeRoy Alaways at lalaways@temple.edu. Note that an RSVP is not

required. Just come to the museum on June 30. Quets are welcome as well.



The GG1 diesel electric locomotive



The K4 steam locomotive at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

ASME Drexel University Early Career Forum

The third annual Early Career Forum (ECF) took place at Drexel University on April 28, 2007. The ECF is targeted to early career engineers and students with the goal of providing professional development and networking opportunities to the attendees. The ECF consisted of 2 guest speakers, the keynote address, a panel discussion, and the second "Apprentice" competition.

The ECF was organized by the Drexel student section led by President Dan Hanna, ECF Co-Chairs Steven Wilrigs and Andrew Moran, ECF Committee members, and the strong support of Department Head Dr. Mun Choi and faculty advisor Dr. Paul Oh.

Alma Martinez Fallon, the Director of Sourcing at Northrop Grumman, gave a very engaging speech on "Defining Your Career Path". Burt Dicht, the ASME Managing Director of Knowledge and Communities sector, energized the crowd with a very stimulating presentation on "Entrepreneurship and Innovation". Kevin Robles, the VP of Engineering Services at Sunoco, delivered a well rounded and hot topic on "Engineering and Economics: The Global Challenge of Change".

Conducted by Kathryn Barrett, the panel discussion was a great way to bring all the presentations together in an open discussion format that allowed the audience to voice their questions about the engineering industry. The panel possessed a wide range of experience in many different industries within engineering. Dean Cave from Lockheed Martin and Mike Pagnotta from Pagnotta Engineering both spoke from a senior engineering perspective. Amanda Annesi from Sunoco and Jill Anderson from ConEdison both spoke from an early career engineer perspective.

The highlight of the program was the second "Apprentice" design competition, which was jointly developed by Sunoco, the ASME Management Division, and Drexel University. The "Apprentice" Challenge was designed to parallel the TV show, where a business challenge was presented and included a technical engineering design problem as well. Revealed just before lunch, the competition challenged each group of four students to develop a concept for the next generation gas station. The objective of this purely conceptual challenge was to make teams be as innovative as possible and transform what might be an idealistic thought into a practical application.

The challenge, judged by Sunoco Manager Ben Arbizo, ASME President-Elect Sam Zamrik and ASME Board of Governor Bob Simmons, was scored on the creativity of the design (50%) and the effectiveness of the presentation (50%). This challenge was meant to test the engineers' ability to do research, develop a design, and come up with an effective way to sell their product all in three short hours. Not only was this challenge conceptual but it required feasible designs as actual cost accounting was a large part of the challenge. There were 11 teams totaling 44 students who competed in the challenge representing, Philadelphia University, Rutgers University, University of Delaware, and Drexel University.

During lunch the teams conducted market research by interviewing industry experts from Sunoco and "consumers". The teams delivered their presentations during dinner and very innovative ideas were generated and amazed the crowd. Some of the innovative ideas included an EZ-pass ready pumping station, "Gas-N-Go" technology that handles monetary transactions, a fully green operating station, and a device embedded in the ground that checks tired pressure by reading the strain on the tread when you drive over it.

The participants' feedback was phenomenal, as the team members learned valuable "real world" business and project skills and had the opportunity to use their creative geniuses. The whole event was video taped and

a highlight version will be available at the Summer Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada.



Attendees at the ASME Early Career Forum at Drexel University

The organizers extend a special thank you to the financial sponsors of the ECF, including Sunoco, the Drexel Mechanical Engineering Department, the Philadelphia Section, and the Management Division. The organizers also thank the many volunteers, both from ASME and industry, and the ASME staff members whose hard work and dedication made this event possible.



Panel Discussion from left to right: Kathryn Barrett (Moderator), Dean Cave (Lockheed Martin), Amanda Annesi (Sunoco), Jill Anderson (ConEdison), Mike Pagnotta (Pagnotta Engineering)

ASME Philadelphia Section Officers 2007-2008

Chair – Frank Nicosia
Vice Chair - Fred Willis
Secretary - Gerry Sadowski
Treasurer - Dean Cave

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**ASME Family Day June 30
Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania**

Time: 9 AM till 5 PM

Location: Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. See <http://www.rrmuseumpa.org/> for maps and other information.

The Philadelphia Section will be offering discounted tickets and arranging special tours of the Museum at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. The tours will include a restoration project and a behind the scenes tour. See article on page 2 for more information.

For more information, contact LeRoy Alaways at lalaways@temple.edu. Note that an RSVP or reservations are not required. Just come to the museum. Guests are welcome

ASME will have a table set up at the Museum from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm where section members and their family can check in prior to the entering the Museum for their discounted entrance and to sign up for tours.

**ASME MEETING September 2007
Date to be announced (First week of September)**

Speaker: Director of the Delaware County Keystone Innovation Zone

The Keystone Innovation Zone is part of a State Program to foster entrepreneurial activity in Pennsylvania by combining the resources of educational institutions, private businesses, business support organizations, lenders, and foundations in a unique partnership. Information can be found on the web at <http://www.delcokiz.org/>.

Watch for further information as we firm up the date and location.