

St. Louis Section News

December 2005

December 2005 Event

ASME St Louis section dinner HOLIDAY SOCIAL AND AWARDS BANQUET

Thursday, December 15, 2005
Bill Baker, Event Captain (314-353-2463)

Join your fellow members at the annual St. Louis Section Honors and Awards Banquet on Thursday evening, December 15, 2005. We will be presenting our service awards for the year. Please join the ASME St, Louis Section in congratulating the following members who will receive their well- deserved service awards:

25 Year Service Awards:

Leon Bender	Gary Blessing
Michael Bynum	James Chapman
Theodore Cocos	David Denison
Walter Eversman	Mark Ezra
Dennis Frauenhoffer	Drew Garland
David Gerstenkorn	David Glosecki
James Gowan	Davis Husman
Jerry Jackson	George Komora
Jeremiah Sheehan	Lawrence Sicking
Dale Slagley	George Stewart
Larry Taber	William Thompson

50 Years Service Awards:

Michael Conforti
Richard Cross
Arthur Howell
George Kuhlman
George Reed
Robert Voelling

Enjoy an evening of social discussion with fellows, students, and guests.

Date: Thursday evening, December 15, 2005.
Time: 5:30 pm cash bar, 6:30 pm dinner.

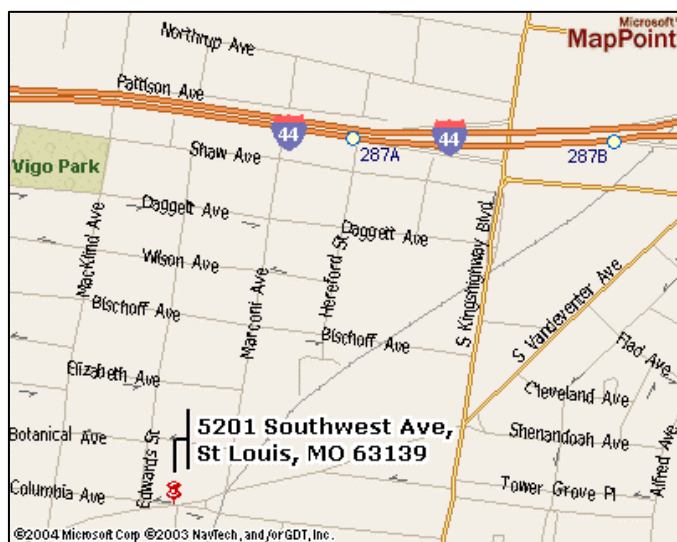


Location: Favazza's restaurant, 5201 Southwest Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63139, (314) 772-4454

Menu: Entree will be your choice of veal parmigiana, home style lasagna, penne pasta primavera. Dinner will also include salad and dessert.

Cost: \$30.00 members and guests, \$15.00 student section members.

Directions: From interstate 40/64 or 44, take Kingshighway Blvd south to Southwest Ave, then west on Southwest Ave. to Favazza's restaurant at intersection with Marconi Ave. Parking is north along Marconi.



Reservations: Reservations required by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, December 13, 2005. by calling Bill Baker at 314-353-2463 or email to rhodesbb@aol.com.

Information: For more details, contact this program's captain, Bill Baker at 314-353-2463.

Message from the Chair



I would like to thank Rick Eastman and Bruce Huhmann, from AmerenUE, for their presentation on the Callaway Nuclear Plant at our November program. The presentation was very informative and interesting. The in-depth information presented on the replacement of the steam generators, in world record time, generated excellent questions and discussion during the meeting. I would like to also thank past chair Walter Weber for attending and contributing to the discussions with details on the construction of the Callaway plant.

Attending your local St. Louis Section activities are an excellent way to stay connected to what is going on in ASME, network with other professionals in engineering, and learn about different professions and activities occurring in the field of engineering. There are several opportunities to get involved with the local section.

The Operating Board meetings are held monthly. All members are welcome. This is good place to stay connected to what is going on with ASME and voice your opinion on the St. Louis Section activities. The monthly programs are an excellent opportunity to network with other professionals in the field of engineering and learn something new. Student section visits are informal visits to the local student sections of ASME. These visits allow the students to get first hand information from you on what it is like after graduation.

Getting involved in the ASME St. Louis section can be good for your company and for your career. If you would like more information on how to get involved, please give me a call at (618) 283-4700 ext. 260 or send me an e-mail at jim.c@vansealcorp.com.

James Campbell
St. Louis Section Chair

**Please join us at the upcoming
ASME-STL Board Meetings**
6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 6th
6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 11th
6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 7th
at Laclede Street Bar and Grille
3818 Laclede Avenue
near Saint Louis University Campus

ASME-STL Section Programs for the year 2005-2006,

Sridhar Condoor – Vice Chairman

January 2006 date TBA: Technical Meeting,
Speaker/Topic: Laclede Gas - CNG vehicles
Captain: Tom Mull

Feb 16, 2006: Technical Dinner Meeting and Joint Meeting.
Speaker/Org: Solly Angel - author of The Tale of The Scale.
Captain: Sridhar Condoor, Location: Saint Louis University.

March 15, 2006: Technical Dinner Meeting.
Speaker/Org: Engineered Support Systems.
Captain: Jim Campbell.

April 19, 2006: Professional Tour
Captain: Angela Berring
Location: Six Flags

May 2006 date TBA: Professional Tour and Technical Meeting
Speaker: Brain Computer Interfaces, Dr. Daniel Moran [Tentat.]
Captain: Tom Bever

2006/2007 NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTION

MESSAGE TO ALL ASME ST. LOUIS SECTION MEMBERS

We need to plan for the next operating year (2006-07). A nominating Committee will be formed soon to nominate officers for next year. In the December holiday social meeting, we will seek nominations to serve on the nominating Committee. The Committee will be formed to submit nominations for next years officers. Nominations to serve on the nominating Committee can be voiced at our December event or by contacting:

Angela Berring
Secretary- ASME STL Section
c/o Engineers Club of St. Louis
4359 Lindell Blvd.
Saint Louis, Missouri 63108
Angela Berring at 618-258-2214
email to ACBerring@Olin.com.

ASME PRESIDENT INDICATES MORE CHANGE TO COME:

The ASME President discussed ASME's new business model during his State of Society Address in Orlando, Fla.

In his State of the Society speech, delivered to a crowded auditorium last month at the Walt Disney World Dolphin hotel, ASME President Richard E. (Gene) Feigel said the work of reorganizing the Society remains an ongoing process, but that ASME's finances have shown an early improvement.

He added that the difficult mission to begin "using a new business model" for the Society is not easy, but, "we have a vision, are committed, and we are making good progress."

Financially, ASME had strong investment returns and a favorable operating variance in fiscal year 2005, he said. "We met our preliminary reserve target of 60 percent, which, in accordance with established financial policies, provides us with funding for new initiatives. We have modified our reserve policy this year and we are exploring new-initiative funding models, so that we spend these funds wisely to support our future strategies."

Feigel said that using information taken from environmental scanning methods, the Society is better able to plan for the future, with an understanding of the challenges and opportunities that may lie ahead. "For FY06 our priorities are young engineers, globalization, government, industry, and new revenue-producing programs."

These areas are important, he said, "because they reflect recognition of the environment in which ASME must operate to be an effective professional society. We are learning that we must think more strategically, scan our environment regularly, act responsively and, most importantly, become more innovative and agile."

While saying that there is much left to be accomplished, Feigel pointed to several specific accomplishments so far:

"Effective July of this year, we have a new organizational structure for volunteers and staff, replacing the council structure with five Sectors, a new structure that centralizes support staffing, and includes a senior line management organization, The Sector Management Committee, to coordinate activities across the Society. We have a new financial model for a sustainable organization, which transparently aligns strategy, planning, and budgeting, and supports investments in our future.

"ASME Solutions launched September 2005, focusing on industry support on an industry sector basis rather than the artificial abstraction of industry in general. We have identified initial target industries and teams to concentrate on providing real, meaningful value.

For more information see website <http://www.asmenews.org>.

ASME STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORTS TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats Of the Current ASME Congresses:

Strengths

Serves academic/research community, Draws 1800-2200 paid registrants, Makes net above cost consistently, Track program well attended, Draws fair number of students.

Diversity of programming attracts a broad section of ASME divisions, Some non-technical units (BMW, CMA) have presented in the past, Provides opportunity for cross-divisional networking, Provides meeting forum for divisions that do not meet elsewhere.

Well-developed process for program organization, Dedicated program organizers within Divisions, Program is organized bottom-up not top-down

Provides forum for many other events

Sponsorship potential

Weaknesses

Market strategy and purpose of the event is not clear, is it a venue for divisions to present papers or is it the Society's "annual general meeting", we have not been able to clearly identify the customers we are trying to serve, appeal is limited to academic researchers, attempts to broaden industrial participation have failed, more than 85% of the paid attendees are authors, coauthors, chairs, or co-chairs of sessions, attendance of these is probably not influenced by marketing, attendance is growing with the number of papers presented/sessions provided, but only additional authors are added to the attendance, the average session attendance remains flat, program is organized bottom-up not top-down.

Current technical program reflects fragmentation of the mechanical engineering profession at a time when engineers are having to be generalists/collaborators, fragmented, niche topic presentations are not relevant to the practicing engineer, take home value of Congress for industry is perceived as low. Location not relevant to market served, large number of sessions and business meetings limits location alternatives, academic community sees recent locations as negatives because of the room cost.

Diversity of programming, is the mega event dead, most of the content comes from a few divisions, attendees stay with the sessions of their preferred technical division; not as multidisciplinary an event as we often imagine, do not coordinate session schedules between divisions.

Exhibit is anemic, technical program is not aligned with exhibit, attendees are not interested in the exhibitors; exhibitors are not interested in the attendees, data on our attendees makes it difficult for us to attract exhibitors.

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About 50% of the presentations at Congress are made by students, which weakens attraction to audience particularly of industrial members.

Session attendance is considered a measure of success, division rewards are tied to the number of sessions and the number of Congress registrants with a particular "primary division" in their member record, this seems indirect at best, there's no reward for, and no value attached to, large session attendance, there is no penalty for units who present sessions with poor attendance, participating units can't get enough sessions when they want them, but there are many sessions with few participants.

Student authors are often the presenters because they don't have to pay for registration

Threats

Increased competition from specialty conferences, both ASME's own and others. ASME is without an "annual general meeting" around which to focus/promote it's overall purpose, strategy and achievements. This is the best we've got for this purpose and it's weak. Attempts to turn the Congress into the AGM have not been successful – this is what we are discussing. If it grows into a better research/academic conference it will be even more unsuited to this AGM role; if it is replaced by a series of specialty conferences there will be no event that will serve as the AGM.

for more information see board of governors website
<http://bog.asme.org/pdf/committeefiles/636.pdf>

FIND YOUR FELLOW ASME MEMBERS

ASME enables you to find other members at ASME website: <https://members.asme.org/myasme/membershipsearch/searchmembership.cfm> - With this link, you can find members of any section, technical division, or membership grade, along with name, address, email and telephone contact information shared for use in ASME society and professional affairs.

ASME & AIChE Joint Membership

Now current ASME members can join AIChE and get the benefits of membership at a one-third discount through our special joint membership offer. In order to qualify, you must be a paid member of ASME. For more details on AIChE membership and benefits, visit www.aiche.org.

JANUARY 2006 MEETING/TOUR

The first ASME St. Louis meeting of 2006 will be a meeting/tour of the Lambert Airport "Super Park" The Super Park is a compressed natural gas (CNG) clean air shuttle facility at Lambert Airport. Members attending the meeting will tour the facility and have an opportunity to view all the detail components of a new CNG shuttle vehicle. CNG installers and technicians will be available to answer questions. Date TBA.

ASME STL SECTION NEW WEBSITE

ASME St. Louis Section has a new website
<http://section.asme.org/stlouis/>

Please visit the new website for current St. Louis section information and for archives of St. Louis section historical information. Major categories presented on the new website include Events, Newsletters, Local Schools, Links, Jobs, Officers, Constitutions, and Past Chairs.

Become Active in the St. Louis Science



Center Planetarium

Gregg Maryniak, Director of the James S. McDonnell Planetarium, continues to develop and incorporate new

technology displays at the Planetarium, part of the St. Louis Science Center. His goal is to create highly interactive and educational experiences for youth (and adults) bringing them closer to science and technology.

You can become part of this experience by spending a few hours each month connecting participants to the science behind the displays. This is a great way to advance technology in our community and directly influence tomorrow's engineers. If you have an interest in contributing some time towards this experience, please email **David Ritchey** at dritchey@slsc.org at the St. Louis Science Center.

ASME STL Mail / Return Address

ASME St. Louis Section.
 c/o The Engineers' Club of St. Louis
 4359 Lindell Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63108

ASME 2005/2006 St. Louis Section Board

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