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Sept/Oct 2011 ASEE Students Newsletter



A message from the Student Division Chair

Brian Schertz, Chair
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Mechanical Science and Engineering
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Dear Student Division Members:

The fall semester is again speeding by and the leaves are changing and falling here in Central Illinois—it's hard to believe that another cycle is working its way through campus (and even scarier for all of us graduate students—this year's freshman class was born in 1993!). In this season of change and reflection the new Student Division is excited about the developments, improvements, and enhancements to the ASEE student experience we've been working on. To kick this year off, we had a phenomenal conference in Vancouver back in June, with record attendance at our student events and tons of energy to propel the group forward as we gained Divisional status. To capitalize on this momentum and start the division off strong, our officer team is working to enhance our conference offerings for next year in San Antonio. This effort is being led by Alexandra Coso, our new Program Chair, who is leading our first-ever Program Committee to expand our conference offerings. We are excited to report that our themed paper session, *Tricks of the Trade*, received a record number of submissions during the abstract phase this month, and we are excited about the opportunity to greatly expand our paper sessions in San Antonio.

Beyond the paper sessions, we have had a good response for the *free* student poster session that has become an annual tradition and are working to expand and enhance our ever-popular student dinner. Please look for more details on this as we move towards the conference. Also new this year, in collaboration with the ASEE National Office, will be an official student hotel linked to conference registration. We are excited to facilitate student interactions at the conference through common, affordable accommodations. Beyond the conference, the Student Division is constantly looking for ways to market and brand itself to increase our visibility. We are also working diligently to continue and expand our collaboration with allied student groups, including the Graduate Engineering Education Consortium for Students (GEECS) and the Student Platform for Engineering Education Development (SPEED). This is just a small sampling of the initiatives and projects that the Student Division is working on—please send us further suggestions our way so that we can tailor the division around your needs.

Officer Updates



Alexandra Coso, Program Chair
Cognitive Engineering Center in the School of Aerospace Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology

First off, thank you to EVERYONE who submitted an abstract to the Student Division, who volunteered to serve as a reviewer, and who promoted our programming for the 2012 Annual Conference paper/poster sessions! I am already very excited about next year's conference and cannot wait to fill you in more over the coming months.

A few quick reminders, if you did volunteer to serve as a reviewer for the 2012 Annual Conference, your abstract reviews are due by November 9th! Please don't forget. Next, keep an eye out for conference funding opportunities over the next coming months. Within ASEE both the Women in Engineering Division and the Educational Research and Methods Division award Apprentice Faculty Grants, which cover conference expenses up to \$2000. Additionally, inquire with your Graduate and Undergraduate student organizations to see if they or any of the academic departments offer scholarships or travel grants for conferences as well.

Good luck with your fall semesters everyone! I look forward to telling you more about the 2012 Conference and all of our new programming soon!



Kelly J. Cross, Secretary/Treasurer
Engineering Education Graduate Student
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Secretary Notes

I hope your work this fall is going well. The plans for the 2012 Annual conference are coming along nicely. The Officers submitted a proposal for Professional Interest Council (PIC) funding in collaboration with GEECS and SPEED. Also, the officers met with advisory board to engage them and to get recommendations about how to move forward as a division. Please contact the officers if you have ideas to encourage involvement from the individual student chapters.

Treasurer Notes

The student division is in good financial standing with the national organization. Please make sure that your national and student fees are paid in full. Also, in regard to the 2012 Annual Conference the officers are in negotiation to reserve reduced rate student rooms. Feel free to contact me or the officers if you need additional information or would like be more involved with the division. Remember the "hard" is what makes it great!



Julie Little-Wiles, Zone Liaison
College of Technology
Purdue University

I am very excited about this opportunity to serve and look forward to being a part of the *new and growing* Student Division! To better assist your student chapters and to better document the activities of the student chapters, please be sure to send me (jlittlew@purdue.edu) the following information.

- Your chapter's current list of officers and the date of when your chapter was established.
- Information on what your student chapter is doing this year. We want to know what you are involved with: research you are working on, presentation, etc. Please send those newsworthy items to both myself and our Student Division Information Officer, Geoffrey Herman so he can incorporate them in the newsletter. We want to recognize and share what you are doing - so please let us know!
- Finally, starting this year, I would like a fall and spring end-of-semester report from each chapter. I will share these reports with the national officers and keep a record of student chapter activities.

For the ASEE National Conference in San Antonio in 2012, I am trying to plan the first Student Chapters Meeting. I will ask for one officer from each chapter to attend. More information to come!

I will be in touch every few months to keep you updated on anything important to know. Please do the same and feel free to contact me with questions!



Mary McCormick – Membership Chair
Mathematics, Science, Technology and Engineering Education Dept.
Tufts University

Thank you to everyone joined in our Student Division recruitment efforts. The number of members in the Student Division continues to rise! Before long, we'll be conquering ASEE Conferences!

As you all know, the most effective recruitment mode is word of mouth. Please continue to spread the word about the Student Division and the wonderful opportunities that accompany membership, including networking at national and local levels; invitations to conferences and student gatherings at conferences; and, most importantly, support, guidance, and mentoring from graduate and undergraduates in engineering and/or engineering education. Tell your interested friends and classmates to send an email to membership@asee.org to join!

Best wishes to all of you in finishing the Fall semester. Start counting down the days until ASEE 2012 in San Antonio!



Geoffrey Herman, Ph.D. Information Chair
Illinois Foundry for Innovation in Engineering Education
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

To provide more timely information about what is happening within the student division, I have decided to switch to bi-monthly newsletters. During these newsletters, I plan to continue our faculty spotlights and graduation celebrations. So please send nominations for faculty and graduate students who you believe can serve as sources of inspiration to your fellow students! We will also begin a new segment in which we will spotlight the various student chapters. We start with the Illinois student chapter, which has been one of the fastest growing and most active student chapters. Check out the next section to learn more about this chapter and to get ideas about how you can grow your student chapter! Contact me if you would like to highlight your student chapter in the next newsletter!

Finally, I am still looking for help from a graphic designer or artist to design a logo for the student division. Contact me (glherman@gmail.com) if you would like to help!

Student Chapter News



Spotlight on the University of Illinois Student Chapter President, Aaron Oaks – Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering aoaks2@illinois.edu

The ASEE student chapter at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was founded in 2009 by a small group of students interested in engineering education and has since grown to include over 200 members. The most popular chapter activity has been, and continues to be, the Inquiries into Engineering Education seminar series. These seminars are hosted by the ASEE student chapter, typically once a month, and are designed to facilitate and energize cross-campus conversations about engineering education. The seminars take place during lunch, with free lunch provided by the chapter. Speakers are chosen from a variety of departments on campus, and come to give talks on topics such as "What is Excellent Teaching?", "Finding Interesting Problems", and "How to Survive as a Professor", to name a few. Planned seminars for this semester include topics such as teaching to what your students know, and ethics in engineering and education.

While the chapter has largely been a graduate student organization, it has recently started reaching out to undergraduates. The number of undergraduate members in the society has been steadily increasing, and this year several undergrads have taken the plunge and joined the student chapter officer board. Undergraduate-focused activities are also being planned for this academic year. In the fall, there are plans to have a workshop on the graduate school application process, with representatives from the Illinois Graduate College and departmental admissions officers present to explain the process and what they are looking for in applicants. In the spring, there are plans to have a workshop/panel on deciding if graduate school and/or academia is the right path for you, with current graduate students and professors present to talk about their expectations and experiences.

The Illinois ASEE student chapter has also been very active with the ASEE national organization. Three former and present student chapter members have served as officers for the ASEE Student Division. Additionally, every year since it was founded, the chapter has sponsored travel for 3-4 chapter members to attend the ASEE Annual Conference. This has proven to be an excellent professional development opportunity for our members as they network with professionals, professors, and students as well as a chance to present their own work as posters or papers.



Austin Community College Douglas Smith, Advisor

The Austin Community College (ACC) Student Chapter's entry into the Barkitecture Austin design competition won one of only six awards handed out at the event held on October 1. Barkitecture is a dog house design competition that has a goal of raising funds for Austin-area animal rescue and shelter organizations. As the group's advisor, I am especially proud that our student team won an award given that some of Austin's top architects and designers compete in this event (and some obviously had large budgets for their projects).

Check out the ACC winning entry at <http://www.austinbarkitecture.com/> (it's the fourth photo)

ACC's dog house was designed and constructed entirely by students. The roof and body of the dog house is made of stucco concrete that had to be hand formed and molded. One of the design criteria for our team was to build a doghouse you could pass down to your

grandchildren's grandchildren. Seriously, the goal was to use as much recycled materials as possible to create the design. The cupola on top of the house is actually a recycled bird feeder, the ventilation system uses found louvers and the roof rafters visible in the photo are long leaf pine flooring materials found on the curb. Many of the architects in attendance that day asked about the design and construction and our students answered their questions admirably.



University of Central Florida
President, Matthew Harrison – Aerospace Engineering
Recording Secretary, Laura Cano - Computer Engineering

ASEE @ UCF was recently established as a student chapter during Summer 2011. ASEE @ UCF and has since become the 'umbrella organization' in the College of Engineering. One of our goals is to work with other Engineering clubs and organizations from the college and make sure that we all do events together. ASEE at UCF is also in charge of hosting E-Week in February. For E-week, we bring in speakers and host various events while helping all the other Engineering organizations from our college work together. If you would like to learn more about what ASEE @ UCF is doing, be sure to check out their newsletter at http://students.asee.org/wp-content/pdfs/UCF_newsletter.pdf.

Opportunities



National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

If you are a senior thinking about going to graduate school or a first year graduate student who wants to conduct research in engineering education, we want to encourage you to apply for a national science foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship under the STEM education and learning heading. The deadline for STEM education and learning proposals is **November 16, 2011**. For more information check-out the website at http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201.

The purpose of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is to help ensure the vitality and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce in the United States. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in fields within NSF's mission. The GRFP provides three years of support for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant achievements in science and engineering research. The ranks of NSF Fellows include numerous individuals who have made transformative breakthroughs in science and engineering research, many who have become leaders in their chosen careers, and some who have been honored as Nobel laureates.