



Engineering Libraries

Division Newsletter

March 2000

Chair's Message

Why go to ASEE 2000 in St. Louis?

As I prepare to register online (**by April 14, 2000**) I am struck by how eagerly I look forward to the ASEE annual conference and exposition each year. Over the years I've attended a gazillion conferences, but in terms of benefits to me as an engineering librarian, ASEE wins hands down.

Why is that? The cost of registration is certainly more than the library conferences I attend. And I am meeting with librarians, so what's the difference?

If invisible colleges exist, I think I belong to the College of Engineering Librarians. This is not a select group although it is self-selected. When I attend ASEE, I am meeting with 60 or 70 librarians that are most likely to be interested in the issues that concern my library, my users and me (and that number grows each year). I have 3 to 4 days to hobnob with fellow engineering librarians: discussing problems and their often innovative solutions in formal and informal settings.

I can go to other library conferences and attend interesting and relevant programs, sometimes in an audience that exceeds 300 attendees. Most of us would be uncomfortable asking a question in this environment. You might also find yourself sitting with a colleague that does

not share your interests. Not that I am suggesting that you should discontinue attending other conferences, but there are valuable experiences that I have only found in this setting.

The first year I attended ASEE, I chaffed at having to wear a 'new member' ribbon, but now, I look for the ribbons on others. This is a fantastic way to make sure new people don't get lost in the fray. Since, it's probably someone I've never met, I seek the new people out, introduce myself, find out about who they are, and what they are doing (this behavior is characteristic of ELD members). Because we are a smaller organization, your opportunity to serve on a national committee is greater (HINT to those seeking tenure).

If you haven't been to an ASEE conference in a while, come back, we have lots of new members you should get to know.

How many conferences do you go to that have all attendees introduce themselves? This icebreaker sets the tone for the remainder of the conference (assuming you weren't at the picnic the night before). Technical sessions often lead to spirited discussions and a discovery of shared issues.

Unlike other library conferences, you get the opportunity to run into engineering faculty and administrators from your institution. For me, this usually provides another level of

networking with my own faculty and they see me in a different light.

The draw of this conference isn't only the ELD members and program (though, that's a big part of it), additionally, each year attendees find interesting programs offered by other divisions of ASEE.

So, meet me in St. Louis. Linda Musser and her minions have put together an exciting and busy program for us. Don't forget to register for the Picnic, the ELD dinner and the tour of Cahokia Mounds. Make sure to set aside time to enjoy St. Louis as well, it would be a shame to miss the Arch, Union Station, the Riverboats, Cardinals baseball or Laclede's Landing. I know I'll be there.

Online Registration website
<http://www.expocard.com/asee/>

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News from the Program Chair

I hope everyone is beginning to think about going to St. Louis in June. The early registration deadline is April 14 so don't forget to register early! The outline of the ELD programs appearing in this newsletter should give you an idea of the range of topics you'll see at the conference. Details about registering for the conference can be found at www.asee.org/conferences/annual2000/.

Like to shop? The **St. Louis Centre** is an indoor mall covering several blocks of downtown, from the Convention Center to near Busch Stadium. A short walk west (or ride the shuttle) is shopping at the beautifully-renovated Union Station. Riverboat

gambling is available and the Cardinals will be in town for Tuesday+ series with San Francisco. A group is planning to attend the game Wednesday night so please plan on joining us!

Do you enjoy theater? Make time for the Muny! The **Opera Theater of St. Louis** offers outdoor opera in Forest Park. From June 17 to June 22 you could see any of the following shows - Scott Joplin's Treemonisha, La Traviata, Radamisto by G.F. Handel, or the Tale of Genji.

Some other popular attractions in St. Louis include:

Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour

<www.budweisertours.com>

These complimentary tours include a visit to the Budweiser Clydesdale Stable, lager cellar, Brew House and packaging plant. There is a hospitality room where visitors can sample the many brews of the plant. The Brewery Tours are offered Monday - Saturday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the headquarters at 12th and Lynch St. in St. Louis. (That's a longish walk south of the downtown area.)

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

< <http://www.nps.gov/jeff>>

Ride a tram to the top of the Arch or wander through the Museum of Western Expansion. View the film detailing the construction of this amazing monument. If you only visit ONE sight in St. Louis, make this the one. Open daily from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. The Arch is within easy walking distance of the convention center and the conference hotels.

Laclede's Landing

The Landing is a 9-block section of St. Louis waterfront featuring cobbled streets and many fun restaurants and eateries. From the

Convention Center head east towards the river and you'll find the Landing.

McDonald's Riverboat

If you are bringing small children along, be sure to take them for fries and a shake at the McDonald's on the river. The boat is permanently moored on the river near the Arch.

Missouri Botanical Gardens

<www.mobot.org>

Located at 4344 Shaw Blvd, this 79 acre gardens feature at the Climatron and plants from biomes from around the world. Take the Metro to the Central West End Station then catch the Garden Express bus. Open 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily.

Sachs Butterfly House

<www.butterflyhouse.org>

Located in Chesterfield, Missouri, the butterfly house offers visitors the opportunity to see thousands of butterflies in free flight.

St. Louis Science Center

<www.slsc.org>

Located in Forest Park, a short ride on the Metro from downtown, the Center offers a Planetarium, Omnimax theater, and many hands-on exhibits. For those planning to attend the picnic, the Science Center is located near the Zoo as is the St. Louis Art Museum. As with the other Forest Park cultural attractions, admission is free!

Outline of ELD sessions at the upcoming Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 18

10:30 - Noon Extended Executive
Committee meeting, part 1
12:30 - 4:30 Field trip to Cahokia Mounds

6:00 - ? ASEE picnic at the St. Louis Zoo

Monday, June 19

8:30 - 10:15 ASEE Opening Plenary session
10:30 - Noon ELD Get Acquainted Session
12:30 - 2:00 ELD Technical Papers session
2:30 - 4:15 ELD Poster Session; Focus on Exhibits
4:30 - 6:00 Innovations and Ideas Exchange

Tuesday, June 20

8:30 - 10:15 Issues in 21st Century Libraries
10:30 - Noon Libraries and the Engineering Curriculum
12:30 - 2:00 Engineering Data Resources
2:30 - 4:15 Collections Issues Forum
4:30 - 6:00 ELD Annual Business Meeting
6:30 - ?? ELD Banquet

Wednesday, June 21

8:30 - 10:15 Influences of the World Wide Web
Extended Executive Committee meeting, part 2
10:30 - Noon Conference-wide mini-plenaries
12:30 - 2:00 PIC IV Awards Lunch
2:30 - 4:15 Professional Issues Forum
4:30 - 6:00 Spotlight on E-Books
7:00 - ? Cardinals vs. San Francisco baseball game

Linda Musser
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Publishing Opportunity!

The Publications Subcommittee on Literature Guides is looking for compilers for Guides on several topics, including Automotive Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science. Or, please suggest other topics of interest to you. Guidelines and sample section introductions are available for those interested in taking on one of these projects. Contact Ann Ward or Andy Shimp.

Subcommittee Co-Chairs,
Ann Ward (aeward@csupomona.edu)
Andy Shimp (andy.shimp@yale.edu)

New Member Bio

Tracy Gabridge will join MIT's Barker Engineering Library staff in July as the Assistant Librarian for Civil and Environmental Engineering. She has a B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from MIT and Columbia University, respectively. Tracy will earn her MLS from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign this May after an 11 year career in product technical support and management for Lucent Technologies. She looks forward to active involvement in ELD.

People & Places

Nancy Schiller, Engineering Librarian in the Science & Engineering Library at the State University of New York at Buffalo, is Co-Principal Investigator on a three-year \$800,000 grant from The Pew Charitable

Trusts that will make possible the establishment of a National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science at SUNY Buffalo. The aim of the Center is to promote the use of cooperative and active learning techniques to teach undergraduate college science courses, with a particular emphasis on case studies and problem-based learning. The grant will fund a number of initiatives, including an annual summer workshop and fall conference, as well as the development of a collection of case studies written by science faculty from around the country. The case collection is accessible through the Center's Case Studies in Science website, which serves as a clearinghouse for cases and for information on the case method of teaching science. The URL for the website is <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/projects/cases>. The URL for the Center's science case studies collection is <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/projects/cases/ubcase.htm>.

Vladimir Borovansky is on sabbatical until June at the Czech Technical University, Prague.

Tom De Petro of Texas A&M University visited Italy over spring break. A&M has an undergraduate study abroad center there and Tom is working on a collection development project for the onsite library.

Library News

The Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology lost one of its greatest supporters recently with the death of its Chairman of the Board, The Hon. D. Brook Bartlett. Judge Bartlett served on the Board of Trustees from 1964 until his death, and was the Chairman of the Board since 1983.

During Judge Bartlett's tenure as chairman, the library made advancements in several areas, particularly in automation of all library departments. Major projects included extensive in-house retrospective conversion of library materials, development of an online catalog accessible through the Web, and provision of electronic reference and document services. The Document Services Department (document delivery and interlibrary loan) grew rapidly and in 1999 processed more than 86,000 requests. The collections of the library expanded, particularly with the acquisition of the Engineering Societies Library in 1995.

Beginning with the acquisition of the Engineering Societies Library in 1995, the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering, and Technology has received several collections from libraries that have resulted in the receipt of more than 300,000 volumes of material. After five years of cataloging and processing, most of this material has been integrated into the collections. Library staff are now involved in a major shift throughout the library that affects the monograph, serials, and federal documents collections. In addition to incorporating the processed materials into their respective collections, the collections themselves are being moved to facilitate access to the most heavily used material.

Over the past several years, compact shelving has been installed incrementally in anticipation of the growth of the collection. By summer 2000, compact shelving will cover the main area of the library's ground floor and will hold serials. The serials shift is expected to be completed by year end, but moving the monograph collection will continue into 2001. All library services will continue uninterrupted during the move.

Kathy Alshouse
Linda Hall Library

Publications

"Core information competencies redefined: a study of the information education of engineers" Popping Lin. Leading Ideas no.11 (December 1999) pp.2-7.