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# Engineering Division

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## Engineering Division

## Dee Magnoni, Chair



The objectives of the Engineering Division are to provide an association for those having an interest in library and information science as they apply to engineering and the physical sciences and to promote the use of materials and knowledge for the benefit of libraries and other educational organizations.

Welcome to a new association year!

I am honored to be serving as chair of the Engineering Division during SLA's Centennial Anniversary. We have a wonderful team that will be working together to bring news, networking, and educational opportunities to members all year long.

Within the division we all share the excitement and periodic unease of working in interesting times. Not only are the tools and platforms of librarians and information professionals changing with near blinding speed, the working environments of engineers are also shifting. The world has indeed become more flat for the people we support, with global perspectives, design, creativity & innovation, and policy awareness all crowding for attention along with traditional engineering skills. How can we maintain our own skills while continuing to support engineers in their emerging roles? Networking, continuing education, current awareness, and partnerships are critical. I invite each of you to join our conversations this year as we stay connected and support our collective development.

Before looking ahead, though, I'd like to thank our 2008 Board. Daureen Nesdill was an active chair throughout the year. Not only did she lead the planning efforts for a fabulous conference in Seattle, where the Engineering Division had its own anniversary celebration, she also organized timelines and roles to help keep the Board focused on key deliverables. Many volunteers are needed to plan a conference and run a division, and I want to thank everyone who helped make 2008 a successful year for the division.

Turning to 2009, I want to welcome new members to the Engineering Division Board and team. Laurie Allen of Teledyne Scientific & Imaging will be serving as the division's Chair-Elect, and Mary-Frances Panettiere of the Georgia Institute of Technology will serve as our new Secretary. Hema Ramachandran of California State University – Long Beach has been elected Chair-Elect of the Aerospace Section. Another new member of our team is Tina Gheen of the National Science Foundation, who will serve as the Division's new Web Page Editor. I will be announcing our new Professional Development

Chair shortly; hopefully a name will make our roster in this publication. Currently the ASEE Engineering Libraries Division Liaison Position is open. While this position is often filled from the ASEE side, I welcome volunteers whose names I can share with ASEE. The Government Relations Chair is also open. This is a wonderful opportunity for an Engineering Division member who either works in government, deals with government contracts, or who stays current with government policy impacting librarianship and engineering.

I have formed three committees this year to take on special projects or to coordinate similar functions. First, there is now a Communications Committee that is made up of the Discussion List Owner, LibGuides Team Lead, and the Web Page Editor. We'll also be exploring division business functions on our wiki site that is under construction. This committee is currently co-chaired by each of the communication channel chairs. Second, with the change in the Association calendar year, our governing documents have become out of date. I've formed a Governing Documents Committee that will audit the documents and suggest changes to the division board. Sara Davis of Jacobs Engineering Group Inc will be chairing this committee. Finally, to look ahead, I've formed a Strategic Planning Committee that will propose a 3–5 year plan for the Division. I will be chairing this committee. Each of these teams will need additional support for their work, and I welcome volunteers. Please let me know if you have a specific interest.

The LibGuides Team has recently been formed within the Communications Team. SpringShare is a new vendor partner who has donated the use of their software, LibGuides, to the division. Engineering Division members are volunteering to create subject guides and to sit on the team's editorial board. The web site for the LibGuides is: <http://sladeng.libguides.com/index.php>. These guides will serve as one of the key tools to keep members up to date within specific engineering areas. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to create a guide or to sit on the editorial board. I would also like to invite others to join our team. Topics currently under development are: Chemical Pricing, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Computer

Engineering, Energy Resources, Patents, Physical Property Information, and Water & Waste Water Information. We have room for many more authors, and this is a wonderful opportunity to share your expertise with the division.

A key conversation for 2009 is Corporate/NGO/ Government/Academic partnerships. I would like to discuss what academic engineering librarians can be doing to help prepare their students for a professional engineering role. What sort of relationships do corporate/NGO/ government librarians have with their clients? What do engineering librarians wish their clients knew about working with them? How can we all work together to create a continuous stream of engineering support? In addition to feeding the discussion list with news items, our division will be taking on this conversation at our Annual Business Meeting in Washington, DC. At our lunch tables will be sheets of talking points and writing tools. I am hoping that we can have a stimulating conversation and leave some great thoughts that will then be shared on the division list and on our web site.

One key tool in keeping creativity and innovation skills sharp is play. I think that many of us become so busy with our day-to-day job tasks that we neglect this tool. Many of us played with Legos and other building toys as children. What are our current toys? Have you ever dabbled in origami? Folded snowflakes? These are very mathematical pastimes. Do we have potters amongst us? Quilters? I love to dabble with my digital camera, and am always folding scraps of paper into shapes of some sort. I invite each


of you to share your play pastime. I also invite each of you to a session on play at the annual conference. Stephen Abram will lead us through our session, and each participant will receive a play kit filled with fun surprises. The session, on Wednesday morning, June 17, from 7 am to 10 am includes a full breakfast.

A full conference preview will be included in the next issue. For now, I'd like to highlight our events that begin before the actual conference and that fall on Thursday. We have two wonderful ½ day CE courses on Saturday, June 13th: It Can Be Easy to Be Green: An Overview of Green Engineering and Its Resources and Researching U.S. and International Standards Information: Methods, Sources, Secrets. On Thursday we are teaming up with three other divisions to offer a unique tour of the USPTO. Please see the announcement on page 24 for tour specifics.

Once again, I am excited about the upcoming year, and look forward to both serving the division and working with many of you. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Dee

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## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS**

### **Special Libraries Association Engineering Division \$1000 IEEE Continuing Education Stipend - Call for Applications**

#### **Stipend to attend the SLA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, 14-17 June 2009**

IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) is sponsoring for SLA Engineering Division members a travel stipend up to \$1000.00 toward payment of expenses incurred while attending any Continuing Education course offered at the annual Special Libraries Association conference in Washington, DC, June 14-17, 2009. The stipend may be applied to travel, food, and one night's accommodation.

The IEEE Stipend will be given to the qualified member who submits an essay, of three or fewer double-spaced typed pages, which is judged to be the best paper that addresses "How the member will benefit professionally from a continuing education course." The winner will also be required to submit an article to the Engineering Division newsletter (SciTech News) within twelve months of completion on how the course helped them in library applications.

#### **Qualifications for Entering Competition:**

Be a member of the SLA Engineering Division in good standing for at least one year as of January 1, 2009.

#### **Special Instructions:**

Type your full name (without any additional personal information) at the top of each essay page. Double space the typing on all pages.

**Deadline for Submission:** March 2, 2009.

The recipient of the IEEE Continuing Education Stipend will be notified by April 1, 2009.

**The winner must be present to accept the award at the annual Engineering Division Business Meeting. The winning paper will be submitted for publication in the Division newsletter (SciTech).**

Submit Entries for the award to:  
Bing Wang, SLA-ENG Awards Committee  
Georgia Tech Library & Information Center  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30332-0900  
Phone: (404) 894-0816  
E-mail: [bing.wang@library.gatech.edu](mailto:bing.wang@library.gatech.edu)

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

### Special Libraries Association Engineering Division US\$1200 Inspec Student Stipend Award -- Call for Applications

Inspec is sponsoring, for library school student members of the Engineering Division, the award of a US\$1200 travel stipend toward payment of expenses incurred while attending the annual Special Libraries Association conference in Washington, DC, June 14-17, 2009.

The Inspec Award will be given to the qualified student who submits an essay of three or less double spaced typed pages that is judged to be the best essay submitted describing the following scenario:

"You're a corporate librarian who was just told by management the company is considering doing away with the physical library and replacing it with a virtual library to save money. With a virtual library, your job will be eliminated. You've been asked to attend a meeting where you will have the opportunity to present convincing arguments to management on the benefits and importance of keeping a physical library on site."

#### Qualifications:

1. Be a student member of the Engineering Division of the Special Libraries Association.
2. Be attending his or her first SLA Conference.

#### Special Instructions:

1. Provide your full name, address, telephone number, email address, and a statement, on one page, of your qualifications, as given above, for entering the award competition. Include the name of your library school.
2. Type your full name (without any additional personal information) at the top of each essay page. Double space the typing on all pages.

#### Deadline for Submission: March 2, 2009.

The recipient of the Inspec Award will be notified by April 1, 2009.

Submit Entries for the award to:

Bette Finn, SLA Engineering Division Awards Committee  
Georgia Tech Library and Information Center  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, Georgia 30332 0900  
Phone: (404) 894 1790  
Fax: (404) 894 8190  
E-mail: [bette.finn@library.gatech.edu](mailto:bette.finn@library.gatech.edu)

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

### 2009 Elsevier /SLA Engineering Division Engineering Librarian of the Year Award

Please consider nominating a colleague or associate for our Engineering Librarian of the Year award. This US\$1500 gift is offered annually to honor a member of the SLA Engineering Division.

The award is sponsored by Elsevier and the Division to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of members to the engineering librarian profession. Recognition comes in the form of the stipend, a certificate, and a presentation at the Division's Annual Business Meeting held during the annual SLA conference.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to nominate themselves— or they may be nominated by a colleague or associate.

#### Criteria for entry:

1. Membership in good standing in the SLA Engineering Division, as of January 1 of the previous year in which the award is presented.
2. Distinguished achievement in the engineering library profession, through an exceptional contribution on the job, within the SLA Engineering Division, or within the industry at large. This accomplishment should have taken place within the calendar year immediately preceding the nomination (2008). **However**, in selected cases, based solely on the Awards Committee's judgment, recognition may be given for an ongoing, long-term contribution.

#### Deadline for submission: March 2, 2009

Provide full name, address, telephone numbers, e-mail address, and a maximum one-page statement of the nominee's qualifications to:

Jane Stephens  
Sterling C. Evans Library  
Texas A&M University Libraries  
5000 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-5000  
jstephens@tamu.edu / Subject line = SLA AWARD  
979-845-5382 (voice mail)

**The winner must be present to accept the award at the annual Engineering Division Business Meeting in June.**