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Aerospace Section

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Aerospace Section Hema Ramachandran, Chair

The Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division encourages communication and cooperation among information professionals concerned with aerospace, aeronautical and related technologies. In addition, it fosters dialog with entities such as NASA, the AIAA and other important sources of technical data and bibliographical services.

I hope everyone's summer is going well. SLA 2010 in New Orleans was a month ago but the memories will linger for a long time! It was my first time in New Orleans and the city lived up to its reputation as a very special place for music, food and wonderful people. I was very grateful that it was a little cooler than it had been the week before when temperatures hit 104 degrees! Having lived in California for a few years now, I don't do humidity very well. After SLA I gave a paper at a conference in San Francisco and then a short trip to India for a family celebration returning to California on July 13. Whew! Time for me to settle down and work on some urgent projects!

The Aerospace and Engineering Division programs went smoothly and we had excellent attendance except for a hitch with the Aerospace Breakfast. Even though we had sold almost all the tickets for the breakfast, there were many empty places. We suspect (and have anecdotal information) that many people went to the wrong hotel because of the way it was listed in the program and by the time they realized the problem they decided to skip breakfast.

Were you one of the people who went to the New Orleans Marriott, St. Charles Street when you should have been at the *New Orleans Marriott, St. Charles Room, 41st floor*? I am extremely sorry for the inconvenience; we didn't realize the problem until that very moment. Nevertheless, we had a good gathering for breakfast and it was a nice way to begin the morning by networking and catching up with old friends and making new ones.

We were well graced with the presence of our vendor sponsors. Our main sponsor AIAA (for breakfast and the Mandel award) was represented by Adrian Fair. We also had representation from SPIE, IEEE and Knovel. We are extremely grateful to all you.

The brief agenda for the meeting culminated in the presentation of the Mandel award. It was with great pleasure that I presented the plaque and check ($1000) to Diane Brenes of Boeing (Huntington Beach). As you will recall from the previous issue of this newsletter, Diane's accomplishments at Boeing are spectacular and it was a pleasure to meet her in person. As her nominator remarked she is a "librarian's librarian." Thank you to the members of the Mandel Award committee--Gale Harris, Adrianne Jones Washburn and Joan Dubis--for their work.

Diane Brenes, winner of the 2010 Mandel Award, and Adrian Fair, AIAA

The minutes from the 2009 meeting were approved. As of June 2010, the Aerospace Section had 80 members (a drop of 14 from last year). We are not sure of the reason for the drop in membership but would like to encourage everyone to urge your aerospace colleagues to join the section. You do not have to be a member of the Engineering Division to be a member of the Aerospace section. The Aerospace account has about $4800 after the award of the Mandel prize (this is $2000 more than we had last year at this time). Of course, it will be less after we pay the expenses for this year's conference. Thanks to the generous funding of our aforementioned vendors, including IHS Janes, ACM and Dr. David Mandel's ongoing support in memory of his father Dr. George Mandel, our account looks good.

Chair-Elect Adrianne Jones Washburn was introduced at the meeting. Adrianne will take over as Chair in January 2011 after the Leadership Summit in Washington DC. Adrianne, the 2011 Chair of Engineering, Kathryn Breininger and our conference planner, Cynthia Eastman, are planning some exciting programs for you next year in Philadelphia – stay tuned

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for more details!

As advertised, on Monday afternoon, we had two back-to-back Aerospace-sponsored sessions on the topic of "Workplace Information Literacy." Part 1 – sponsored by Education and co-sponsored by the Aerospace section - was a panel of national experts:

- Laura Leavitt, Michigan State University Libraries
- Sharon Weiner, Purdue University Libraries
- Tiffini Travis, California State University Libraries

We had excellent vendor support thanks to HW Wilson and ACM.

Immediately following in the same room we had Part 2 (sponsored by Aerospace and co-sponsored by Education and Academic Divisions) of the program. Ross Graber, representing Knovel (who was the sole vendor sponsor for Part 2), kicked off with an introduction on the importance of teaching information literacy in academe and the corporate world. The panel consisted of two academic and two corporate librarians addressing the challenges of teaching information literacy to their constituencies:

- Jay Bhatt, Drexel University
- Joan Dubis, The Boeing Company (paper was delivered by Diane Brenes)
- Joy McNally, FM Global
- Susan Smith, University of Kentucky

Some of the questions posed to this panel in preparation for this session were:

- Are academic librarians teaching appropriate skills and how do they know they are reaching their goal?
- What skills do new graduates have to have as they enter the workforce?
- Do corporate librarians find that new workers are lacking basic information seeking skills and how can academic librarians address these needs?
- What can we do to bridge the gap?
- Perhaps one of the ways is for academic librarians and corporate librarians to collaborate on teaching appropriate skills.

Both sessions had a full-house (the room seated 90). At the end of each session we had interesting questions and discussions. For instance: a corporate librarian reminded the academic librarians that they should discuss the cost of information to their graduating engineers. Students have become accustomed to the ease with which they can get journal articles and conference papers on their desktop (the IEEE Xplore would be a case-in-point) and when they enter the workplace they do not understand the costs involved in obtaining information. Another corporate librarian mentioned that we need to cover copyright better – in Academe most of what we do is covered by Fair Use but not so in the corporate world. All the panelists pointed out the need for academic librarians to collaborate with corporate librarians.

Several of the evaluations noted the fact that they liked the mix of academic and corporate librarians presenting and that we should have more such sessions (future programmers take note). I am hoping, if nothing else, that this session will lead to collaborations or at least discussions between academic and corporate librarians in engineering.

My year as Chair is on a downward slope but before I go, I will have one more important task – to find a Chair-Elect for 2012. Let me know if you are interested (hramacha@csulb.edu) or would like to suggest a colleague. I have thoroughly enjoyed holding this position and I urge you to consider throwing in your hat! These positions help you:

- Develop skills – opportunities for leadership, technical and interpersonal skills, and last but not least attending as many parties as possible in one night (an important skill) and wake up in time to attend an 8:00 am session!
- Contribute to the profession.
- Build your career – skills learned in SLA can translate to skills you can use in your career (delegation, motivation, desktop publishing, leadership, leading meetings, budgeting, conference planning).
- Networking – you get to work with some wonderful colleagues around the country and make friends with a common interest *and yes dance away the night with new and old friends AND persuade the DJ to play a Bollywood song*!

Also we will be looking for nominations soon for the Mandel Award – so please nominate your friends or yourself! Here are the eligibility requirements:

http://units.sla.org/division/deng/engdiv_mandel_award.html

The Mandel Nominating Committee for 2011 consists of Adrianne Jones Washburn (Chair), myself and Diane Brenes. Please send Adrianne any nominations and suggestions for the Mandel award (adrianne.j.washburn@lmco.com).

Laurie Allen, Chair of Engineering, reports on the other successful Engineering Division programs. I want to thank Laurie for her constant support especially over the past six months, during the conference and beyond.

Please note that the SLA Leadership Summit 2011 will be in Washington DC from January 19-22 and the SLA Annual Conference will be in Philadelphia from June 12-15.

On a humorous note – how many of you get annoyed when your spouse ignores you? (I see many hands including mine go up!). One of the lasting memories for me of the 2010 conference will be James Carville who was totally oblivious that his wife Mary Matalin was talking about him on the stage at the "Opening Session" EVEN THOUGH the spotlight focused on him! It's good to know that we all have the same problems even when we are one of the most famous political couples in Washington DC!

I leave you with an intriguing headline "Why The Next Big Pop-Culture Wave After Cupcakes Might Be Libraries" – click the link to find out why [http://tinyurl.com/2edhrmj]. Are you ready to be hip? And where was I when this happened on the floor RIGHT outside my office (at home asleep) – apparently it was in the middle of the night when we were open 24 hours for finals [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfO_3l-Pqio] (I believe they are theatre majors). The library is a happening place! ❖

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