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Aerospace Section

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News from the Aerospace Section

Aerospace Section

Adrienne Jones Washburn, 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.

"The purpose of all knowledge is sharing."
– James Comey, former Vice President & General Council for Lockheed Martin

As your Aerospace Section Chair for 2011, this is my personal mission statement. As information professionals, I believe it is incumbent upon us to leverage every tool in our toolbox to ensure that information is available, accessible, and shared. I challenge information professionals to carry this mission into their daily work by pushing the boundaries of existing practices. What changes are you effecting in your organization to make new and existing information shared and more accessible? What single step could you take today that could make an everlasting impact on your organization?

With that in mind, let's turn our focus to this year's current and future SLA events. As you know, SLA is currently experiencing change like never before. I just returned from the 2011 Leadership Summit held in Washington, D.C., which promoted the theme, "Future Ready: Building Community."

Our 2011 SLA President, Cindy Romaine, believes the foundation of being "future ready" is built on four pillars: collaboration, alignment, adaptable skills, and community. You may be asking, "So, what does this mean?" It means we need to act! We need to reevaluate our profession to better understand what is working and what isn't so we can create a strategic vision that will bring value to our profession as well as our organizations.

As Romaine discussed change and being future ready, she said we would experience more change in the next five years than we have in the last fifty! To help us become future ready, Romaine launched a new blog on January 1st called FutureReady365. If you haven't had time to check it out, I highly recommend you do. Visit <http://futureready365.sla.org/> to read and share knowledge and ideas about SLA and

our profession as a whole. If you would like to contribute to the FutureReady365 blog, send an email to FutureReady365@sla.org with the topic you would like to discuss.

I am really excited about the 2011 Annual Conference in Philadelphia—it is going to be amazing! The Aerospace Section will be holding its Annual Meeting and Breakfast on Monday, June 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., where we will present the winner of the George Mandel Award, as well introduce the new 2012 Aerospace Section Chair-Elect, Barbara Williams. Williams has worked as the Aeronautics and Astronautics Librarian and Instruction Coordinator for Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) since 2008. Be sure to introduce yourself to Barbara at the annual meeting!

The Aerospace Section is also sponsoring the session "Tweets from Space" on Tuesday, June 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., where Jaime Scibelli from the NASA Glenn Research Center will discuss how NASA is using the latest social media tools to connect with the public and broaden support for its programs. Definitely check out this session! Other exciting events to attend include the keynote address by Thomas Friedman at the opening session and the keynote address by James Kane at the closing session. These are must-see events!!

I would like to thank Hema Ramachandran, 2010 Aerospace Section Chair; Gale Harris, 2009 Aerospace Section Chair; Kathryn Breininger, 2011 Engineering Division Chair; Dee Magnoni, 2011 Leadership and Management Division Chair; Cynthia Eastman, 2011 Engineering Division Program Planner; as well as the SLA Engineering Division Board for all of their support and guidance. For anyone who is thinking of or considering running for a leadership position, I highly encourage you to do so—the support, the networking, and the opportunities to contribute

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to the future of SLA are numerous!

As you may have noticed, I am really jazzed about this year's conference and sessions. I encourage you to attend in person or virtually, and I sincerely hope you consider the questions I posed at the beginning of this article. Your actions today will impact the future of the information profession for years to come—don't wait for someone else to make the first move, act now! ❖

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