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Aerospace Section

Barbara A. Williams

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, barbaraw@mit.edu

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News from the Aerospace Section

Aerospace Section

Barbara Williams, 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.

Planning for the 2012 Aerospace annual breakfast, business meeting and section activities are progressing well, and we are now in the final stages of the planning process. This planning process has been a great opportunity to work with positive people like our current Engineering Division Chair Pam Enrici who always demonstrates a can-do attitude, Hema Ramachandran for her unwavering support and encouragement, and Sara Davis for securing American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) as the exclusive sponsor of this year's annual Aerospace Breakfast. I certainly hope that many of you will be able to join me at the annual breakfast where we will celebrate the 2012 recipient of the George Mandel Memorial Award (GMMA).

Mary Whittaker, current Treasurer of the Special Libraries Association's (SLA) Engineering Division is this year's winner of the GMMA. Mary is highly regarded and respected by her colleagues at The Boeing Company in Seattle, Washington, as well as by the internal customers she supports. She leads the Cataloging Team and helps manage the Boeing Thesaurus. For the past two years, she has been active on the editorial advisory board of the Boeing Technical Journal. In addition to being a member of SLA, Mary is also a member of the American Library Association. Mary has received training to teach the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services workshop on "Principles of Controlled Vocabularies."

At present, Mary is a member of SLA's *Information Outlook* Advisory Council. She previously served as a member of the SLA Cataloging Committee and as Lending Librarian for the SLA Pacific Northwest chapter. In addition, Mary is an inaugural member of the AIAA Library Advisory Council. Mary earned a bachelor's degree in French and a master's degree in Librarianship, both from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Please join me in presenting Mary Whittaker with the George Mandel Memorial Award in Chicago at the Aerospace Section Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast on Wednesday, July 18th from 8-9:30 am in a location to be announced at a later date. This is a ticketed event so if you haven't already done so, buy your ticket for \$35.00 now! Start the day with a hearty breakfast, networking with friends and colleagues, and help celebrate Mary Whittaker's achievement!

Mary Strife, the Aerospace Chair-Elect, is at work piecing together the history of the Aerospace Section, which she will present at the annual breakfast. As I mentioned in my previous article, Mary and I thought taking a quick look back at our history might help us better navigate our future. Mary has been a librarian for almost 30 years; she has an MLS from the University of Buffalo, and a BA in Biology from Potsdam State. She has worked as a Reference Librarian at Cornell University's Engineering Library, at Hamilton Standard and at the Science & Technology Library at Syracuse University. Mary was Head of Public and Access Services at SUNY College of Technology Utica/Rome, and is currently the director and Senior Engineering Librarian at West Virginia University.

Please plan to attend the session on Mobilizing the Message: It Takes a Village to Recruit Creative Problem Solvers, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

This session is in response to an Intel study, which revealed that a majority of teenagers do not understand the role of engineers in our society. The focus is on ways information professionals and practitioners can help publicize the various engineering disciplines and what engineers do. The goal of the session is to identify messages, which help define the broad role of engineers so that they are as easily identifiable as the roles of Physicians, Lawyers,

and Teachers are in our society. Gail Dundas, Communications Director for Intel Corporation will present the findings from the survey and Jeffrey A. Hoffman, former NASA astronaut and current Professor of the Practice in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT, will discuss skill sets common to all engineers. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. ❖

Barbara Williams, Chair
barbaraw@mit.edu