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## Engineering Division

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## News from the Engineering Division

### Engineering Division

### Pam Enrici, 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.



I was glad to see so many of you at the Annual Conference. We had almost 90 people at our annual business lunch! I think that may be a record -- at least for the last few years. If I didn't say hi, I'm saying it now. For those of you who couldn't join us this year, there are some reports in this issue that will give you a summary of what happened. I really want to take this opportunity to thank again the people who made our programs possible: Kathryn Breininger, Sabrina Tannenbaum, Bert Saul, and Susan Morley. I'd also like to say thank you for the incredible job that Barbara Williams is doing as Chair of the Aerospace Division. You've helped make my job much easier. You all did a fantastic job. Daureen Nesdill also did a contributed paper. I hope that you will start planning to attend the 2013 Annual Conference in San Diego next year. The dates are June 12-15, 2013. Penny Sympson, our Chair-Elect, will be writing about this in the next several is-

sues of *SciTech News*.

The Engineering Division election is coming up. Please watch your e-mail for the electronic ballot that will include a bio of each candidate. In addition, there have been a series of recorded webinars for the election of SLA's officers. If you haven't had a chance to look at them, please do so. SLA is also looking at restructuring dues again. Please watch for any announcements and read them carefully.

My column is short this time because I want you to read the summaries of some of our sessions. There were other sessions that we co-sponsored, so check out reports from the other divisions that contribute to *SciTech News*.❖

Pam Enrici, Chair  
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## 2012 Engineering Division Awards

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The Engineering Division was pleased to present the following awards during the Engineering Division Luncheon & Business Meeting, held Monday July 16 in Chicago, IL.

James Blank is the recipient the of the *2012 SLA Engineering Librarian of the Year Award*. This \$1500 award sponsored by I.H.S., highlights the accomplishments and contributions of SLA Engineering Division members to the engineering librarian profession



[photo taken by Kavita Rao]

James Blank is a Technical Knowledge Specialist in the engineering library at Caterpillar Inc. Since joining Caterpillar in 2000, James responsibilities have included many library functions, such cataloging, acquisitions, collection

development, and website administration. He currently has responsibility for performing in-depth research, administering access to industry standards, and serving as a knowledge management steward, among other duties.

Since earning his MS in 1997, James has been actively engaged with the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois, including mentoring students in the Alternative Spring Break program, partnering with faculty for research related to projects at Caterpillar, and being engaged with peers through the GSLIS Corporate Roundtable.

James has a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Political Science from Illinois Wesleyan University ('92) and Illinois State University ('96), respectively. After a brief detour into law school, James found his right path again and entered graduate school, with plans to become an academic librarian. Unexpectedly, and to his continued delight, he ended up in an engineering library at a corporation and has never looked back.

Active in his home community of Atlanta, Illinois (pop. 1635), James is Secretary/Treasurer of the Atlanta Historic Commission, a tour guide at the Hawes (Grain) Elevator National Historic Site, and a 'Keeper of the Clock' (1904 Clock Tower).

Li Zhang is the recipient the of the *2012 IEEE Continuing Education Stipend*. This \$1000 travel stipend sponsored by IEEE, is awarded to Engineering Division members attending any Continuing Education course offered at the annual SLA conference.



Li Zhang is currently working as a Reference Librarian/Science Subject Specialist at Mississippi State University Libraries. She graduated from the University

of South Florida with Master's degrees in Instructional Technology and Library and Information Science. At Mississippi State University Libraries, she participates in various activities of the Reference Department, providing research assistance to patrons, particularly for faculty and students in the science and engineering disciplines, teaching course-related library instruction classes, and many more. She is actively involved in professional organizations.

Melanie A. Sturgeon is the recipient the of the *SPIE Digital Library Student Travel Stipend Award*. SPIE Digital Library sponsors this \$1200 travel stipend award for Engineering Division library school student members attending the annual Special Libraries Association conference.



Melanie A. Sturgeon is finishing her MSLS at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. She has spent the previous 14 years as a mechanical engineer, with a BS and MSE. Currently, she works as an en-

gineer at IBM while balancing school and two part-time library graduate assistantships at the reference desk at UNC and in the learning commons at NCSU. Her goal is to combine her engineering education and experience with her new library science and information literacy skills as a librarian in an academic or corporate environment.

Melanie grew up in Michigan and received a BS in Engineering Graphics & Design at Western Michigan University and an MSE in Mechanical Engineering at Grand Valley State University. She has been working as a mechanical design engineer for almost 14 years in a variety of industries, including furniture, automotive and electronics.

After moving to North Carolina, Melanie decided to volunteer at a public library. She soon discovered that she loved working at a library, and that the top ranked school for library science was just down the road at the University of North Carolina.

It seemed like fate, and soon Melanie was taking classes part time while continuing her day job as a mechanical engineer at IBM. As she progressed through the program she realized that she really enjoyed helping people find information and started working part time in the research and instructional services department at UNC's Davis library and the research and informational services department at NCSU's DH Hill library.

All of this experience has Melanie excited about the future of libraries and the prospect of a career in an academic or corporate library where she could utilize her engineering background and information literacy skills.

Melanie is also very interested in art, travel and hiking. Her perfect vacations are divided between a city with a lot of museums and libraries to visit and a nearby national or state park to explore. ❖