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Aerospace Section

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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.

Where did the time go? It seems like only yesterday I was taking the reins of the Aerospace Section from Adrienne Washburn, and now its time to turn them over to Mary Strife, our 2013 Aerospace Chair who hails from West Virginia University. It was such an enjoyable experience planning the session: Mobilizing the Message: It takes a village to recruit creative problem solvers. I expect that the messages Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman, MIT Professor of the Practice of Aerospace Engineering, and Gail Dundas, Director of Education & Workplace at Intel delivered during the Aerospace Session, will continue to gather momentum as we set about spreading the word about what engineers do. At the end of the day we all have a vested interest in having what engineers do, and the contributions they make to society as universally understood and acknowledged as what doctors, lawyers, and teachers do. I look forward to our collective continued stride towards that endeavor.

I am excited about the activities for the 2013 annual conference in San Diego that Mary has been busy planning for. The SLA Annual Conference in June will be reduced by one day for 2013, therefore, sections can now only have one program during the conference. Mary Strife agreed to combine our annual breakfast with our annual program slot thus creating a breakfast with an attached program to it for the Aerospace Section conference activity. The Aerospace Breakfast will be on Tuesday, the last day of the conference at 8:00 a.m. The program is titled "Combined Information Impact from Student to Faculty and Beyond." Ending the conference one day early may mean that attendance for the Tuesday sessions are up or at least I hope that is a result of this change.

The annual SLA Leadership Summit will take place in Dallas, Texas from February 6-9, 2013. The Summit is composed of the SLA Board of Directors, headquarters staff, and current and future SLA leaders. Training, knowledge, and networking opportunities abound, which can assist one in becoming a successful SLA

leader or an informed Association participant. What I particularly found helpful throughout the Summit was engaging in the small informal group interactions which emerged from formal conversations, these interactions typically allow for follow up questions and an more in-depth discussion. I am told that some of the feedback from the 2012 Summit has been incorporated into the 2013 gathering and, from what I can glean from the 2013 schedule, I think participants are in for a productive session. Also, it is never too early to start contemplating names of colleagues and acquaintances deserving of being nominated for the 2013 George Mandel Memorial Award so put those thinking caps on.

Thanks to everyone who voted in the recent SLA Engineering Division Aerospace election. Congratulations to Edna Paulson, the 2013 Chair-Elect. Edna is employed by Chugach Federal Solutions, Inc., at the NASA Center for AeroSpace Information in Hanover, Maryland. As my term as Aerospace Chair draws nigh, I pause to reflect on the informative opportunities I have had over the past year to learn more about the structural organization of SLA. The more I learn about our Association the more inspired I am to stay involved as one form of service to our profession. I would encourage members of the Aerospace session to consider volunteering for either leadership positions or SLA committee work. There were so many people that gave me helpful tips, and provided me with useful information during my time as Aerospace Chair and Chair-Elect, and for that I am most appreciative.

I would like to again thank this year's contributors IEEE Xplore Digital Library and AIAA for their continued support of our programming. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 2013 SLA Conference, which will be held in San Diego, California from June 9th - 11th. Happy Holidays!❖

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