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Aerospace Section

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AEROSPACE SECTION OF THE ENGINEERING DIVISION

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.

FROM THE CHAIR

THOMAS DE PETRO

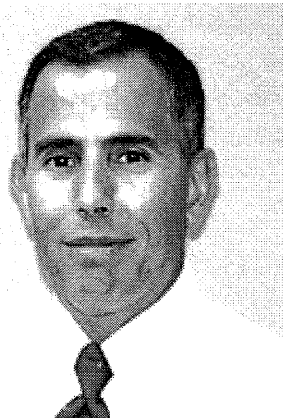
Transitions: New Leadership, the Section Listserv, and the George Mandel Award

Incoming section chair Eileen Dorschner (edorsch@mit.edu) of MIT assumed her duties April 1, earlier than usual.

This was due to my academic commitments, including attending the IATUL (International Association of Technological University Libraries) in June. Following Eileen as chair in June 2003 will be Mary Crompton (CROMPMA@mail.

northgrum.com) of Northrup Grumman, who volunteered for the position during the winter SLA leadership conference in Chicago. Eileen and Mary will continue to work on improving the section's listserv and administering the George Mandel Award. Please participate in the section and help chart its future with them at the Los Angeles Annual Conference June 8–13. Another conference tip: Each year the SLA archivists from the chapters, divisions, and sections meet to discuss issues. Like all SLA meetings, these are open to all interested members. This year I will need someone to represent our division at this meeting, as I will not be able to attend the Annual Conference. If anyone can help out our division by representing us, please contact me at tdp@tamu.edu.

There have been many questions about the section's listserv lately. Currently the section listserv is not moderated and anyone can sign up for it. To become a member of the Aerospace Section listserv, visit the



“Virtual SLA” Web site for Divisions/Sections at <http://www.sla.org/content/interactive/lists/divisionlists5979.cfm>. Click on the “Instructions” link and follow the rather complicated procedure to register. The goal now is to contact all section members and invite them to sign up and use the list. One problem is that our list and others are on non-SLA servers, placing them beyond our direct control. This is an issue that needs to be addressed by the SLA leadership in greater detail. It is very difficult to administer lists on non-SLA-controlled servers. Everyone is inundated with listservs now. It may be in the best interest of the Aerospace Section to combine with the Engineering Division to administer a joint, mediated listserv for the members, sparing them from inadvertent communications, etc.

The George Mandel Award Committee, chaired this year by Eileen Dorschner, has chosen a worthy recipient to be announced at the Annual Conference in June in Los Angeles. The award, a \$1,000 SLA travel stipend, is described at http://www.sla.org/division/deng/aerospace_board.html. Eileen will in turn need to appoint an Award Committee Chair and members, who will also need to define new ways to sustain the award financially in the future. An endowment would be the best choice, but that would also present the greatest challenge.

This is my last column as chair of the section. As I stated earlier, I must vacate the position early due to my academic commitments as a university faculty member, leaving things in the capable hands of Eileen Dorschner. It is also a chance for me to wrap things up, tying all my columns together, but first thanking Eileen for all her support and assistance.

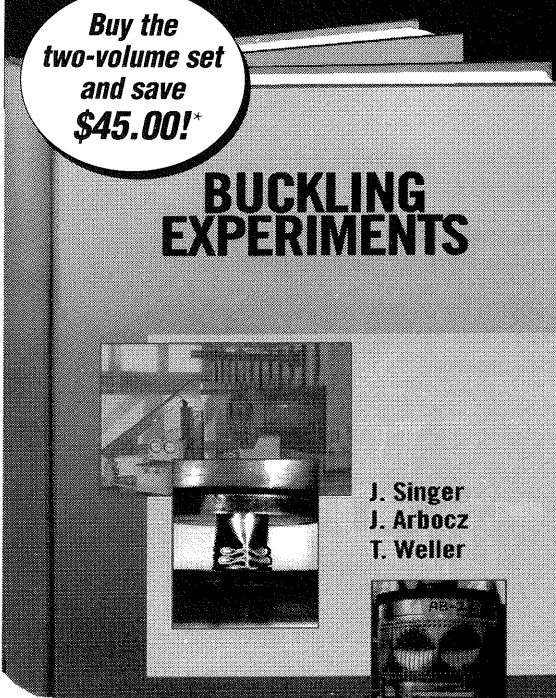
Recently another reference book came across my desk: the *Aviation & Aerospace Almanac 2002*. This latest

edition is “sponsored by First Equity” and published by them and Aviation Week Business Intelligence Services, a division of the McGraw-Hill Companies. The *Almanac* has eighteen sections, with printed tabs for each on every page. Both a thorough table of contents and an extensive index make the information in the *Almanac* very accessible. What really caught my attention, though, was the letter in the front of the book from the First Equity executives, referring to the events of September 11, 2001, and relating

them to aerospace information. (I had also noted the same connection in a previous column here.) With more than 900 pages of data, lists, charts, etc., the *Almanac* is extremely useful to us in our specialty—and to our clients, provided they are aware of it and have easy access to it. And with that thought—making our users aware of resources and providing them the best possible access to aerospace information—I sign off as chair.

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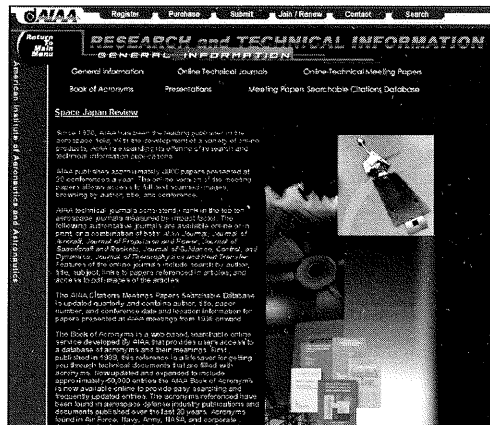
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Fernando B. Morinigo and
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