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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

I first want to thank Tom De Petro for his service as Section Chair last year. He worked with the Engineering Division's conference planner and fund-raiser to provide a free breakfast/annual meeting in Los Angeles in June. The thirty-eight members who attended enjoyed a delightful breakfast and the chance to catch up with colleagues. Tom's quarterly articles in *Science and Technology* provided scholarly information for our Section. His articles set a standard for those of us who follow to try to emulate. When job pressures and other professional responsibilities resulted in his having to step down as Chair in April, I finished the year as Acting Chair, and received much help and encouragement from members of both the Aerospace Section and the Engineering Division. Thanks to all of you for your support and your patience with all my questions.



Our annual business meeting this year was sponsored by AIAA and ISI. We want to thank them again for their generosity. Each organization was thanked at the meeting and given a framed certificate of thanks to hang in their booths in the Exhibition Hall. Another order of business was to announce the winner of the George Mandel Memorial Award for 2002. Susan Lamanna Winstanley was chosen for her many services to the Aerospace Section, especially for the wonderful program she put together in San Antonio when she was Section Chair, and the fund-raising she did for that conference. In addition, Susan serves as Webmaster for both the Engineering Division and Aerospace Section's Web sites. Susan was promoted last fall to her current position at Transport Canada as Senior Advisor, International Aviation. Prior to that she was Head of the Technical Reference Centre at Transport Canada. The Mandel Award was partially sponsored by Dr. David Mandel, son of George Mandel and divine/Faxon Corporation. Both contributions have been acknowledged and divine/Faxon was also given a certificate for its exhibition booth. Susan received both a check and a plaque, and our

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enthusiastic thanks for all her contributions to the Section and the Association.

The Chair-Elect of the Aerospace Section was also introduced at the business meeting. Mary Crompton is the Site Librarian for Northrop Grumman Corp., Electronics Sector, in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. She has been a member of SLA since 1993, and is a current member of both the Engineering and Solo Divisions as well as the Aerospace Section. In addition, she has served on the Board of the North Suburban Special Librarians group and the Friends of the Palatine Public Library in Palatine, Illinois. Mary received her M.A. in Library Science and her B.A. in English from the University of Wisconsin. When I took over as Acting Chair in April, Mary was there volunteering to help in any way she could. She never said "no," no matter how busy she was at work and at home. My special thanks to you, Mary.

Two committees have been formed that could use volunteers. As part of her duties as Chair Elect, Mary Crompton will head a committee to determine the next winner of the George Mandel award. Yolanda Maloney from University of Colorado, Boulder, and Janna Jantz of Lockheed Martin both volunteered to assist her. The committee's duties and more information about the award can be found on the SLA Web site at http://www.sla.org/division/deng/george_mandel_memorial_award.htm

The Committee will be sending out a call for nominations later this fall. Please think about a Section member who should be recognized. It is fine to nominate yourself.

The other committee to be formed is the Nominating Committee, chaired by Susan Winstanley. Susan could use a volunteer or two to help her and, at least as important, she will welcome nominations for Chair-Elect. Please consider nominating a colleague or volunteering yourself. The job is not onerous and we need to keep filling this position if we want to keep going as a Section. If you have any questions about the duties involved in being Chair or Chair-Elect, please contact me and I will be glad to talk to you: edorsch@mit.edu

One of the goals I have set for my official year as Chair of the Section is to re-establish the Aerospace section mail list. The List has been so quiet lately that several members told me they thought it defunct. Our mail list is an excellent way for me to keep you up to date on initiatives that are coming from SLA Headquarters, such as proposed changes to the Associations bylaws, or for a discussion of some topic of interest to many of us. In addition, it is a place to ask colleagues for help for particularly difficult questions. New members are not automatically added to the list, so my first order of business will be to try to contact all members of the Aerospace Section and provide them with the information they need to become members. This summer I will try to reach each person on the membership list sent to me by SLA, to let them know of the existence of the Aero list and encourage them to join. If you have not yet received this information, you will find instructions on how to join the list at the end of this article. Our list is an unmoderated one that resides on a server at NASA. Thanks to Joanne Rocker at NASA, we will ask NASA if we can put unsubscribe information at the end of each message that comes off the sla-aero list. That way, if anyone is on the list in error, they may remove themselves.

Another goal is to try to recognize new members and welcome them. I will receive a list from Headquarters that I hope will be complete. If you don't hear from me and you are new, drop me an e-mail and send me some information about yourself. One of our newest members is Edna Paulson, who is currently Principal Information Specialist for ASRC Aerospace Corporation, which operates the NASA Center for AeroSpace Information in Hanover, Maryland. She is in the User Services group. This group provides customer service and evaluates NASA products and services. A longtime member of SLA, she was formerly active in the Petroleum and Energy Resources Group. Edna received her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from New College, Sarasota, Florida, and her M.L.S. from University of Maryland. Edna attended our annual meeting in Los Angeles.

On an information note, I discovered several bits of good news at the conference while visiting our vendors. Cambridge Scientific reports that "very soon" they will provide the archives of their Aerospace and High Technology database back to 1962. In addition, they are close to being able to provide links to the electronic version of the AIAA conference papers for subscribers. Meanwhile AIAA is starting up a new journal, the *Journal of Aerospace Computing Information and Communication*. Due to begin in January 2004, this new publication will be available in electronic format only. The hope is to provide more timely publication of relevant articles. An editor-in-chief should be announced shortly. In addition, I note that the *AIAA Student Journal* will cease as a paper publication with V.40 no. 2, Spring 2002, and reappear as an interactive Web site. According to the information on pages 1 and 5 of the last issue, this new Web site will provide publication space for technical papers resulting from student projects, provide information about events occurring at colleges around the world, and note employment opportunities. You can get more information at: <http://www.aiaa.org/studentjournal>

We have begun planning programs for New York. We hope to sponsor an astronaut to speak, hopefully followed by a reception. Several Divisions have expressed interest in co-sponsoring this program and I think it could be very interesting. We are also working with the Engineering Division to sponsor a panel on working with international standards, especially now that the EU is a viable entity. More on this and other activities as we finalize plans. I hope many of you will be able to come to New York next June.

Before closing this message, I want to recognize an unsung hero in the Section, N. Scott Brackett of Smiths (Aerospace) Industries in Grand Rapids, for organizing and storing the Section's archives. I myself had lost track of where they were and was overjoyed to find that Scott had them safe and sound in Michigan. Thanks, Scott, for taking care of our history.