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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 bibliographic services.

## FROM THE CHAIR

JANNA JANTZ



How quickly time flies! The Minneapolis conference is over, and we are in the planning stages for the 2000 conference in Philadelphia. Each time I attend a conference I come home exhausted, but energized. This may sound like a contradiction, but anyone

who has attended a conference knows what it's like to try to absorb new ideas, remember new faces and learn new technologies, while also looking for old friends and trying to keep track of what is happening back home at the office, too. Each year I go to the conference with extra space in my suitcase, and each year I have to carefully chose what I will take home because there is so much good stuff from the conference (notes, program ideas, vendor goodies, business cards etc.).

This year the conference started on a high note with the Engineering Division reception welcoming the Aerospace Section. Our thanks to Kelly Yuille and Don Welch for hosting the event. It was a great way to relax and visit with old friends before the frenzy of the conference began. All of the Engineering and Aerospace functions that I attended were well attended, inspiring and informative. The most difficult thing was trying to decide which programs to attend.

I was disappointed that many of our regular Aerospace Section members were not in Minneapolis, only 24 to 26 members of the section attended the breakfast, though there were 30 people there in all. This is about half the number we have had in the past. Unfortunately, many of the members that I contacted before the conference said they could not come because of

budget issues. On a more encouraging note, we had several first timers at the Aerospace breakfast versus first timers who volunteered to help with division activities. Thank you, one and all. I will be contacting you soon. It is always refreshing to have new blood in the organization. My special thanks, too, to AIAA for sponsoring our breakfast. Please take the opportunity to thank them for their support.

Since we are now a section rather than a division, our business meetings are brief, but we did discuss a few items. One was membership. We want to increase our membership whenever and wherever we can, either by getting new members or by having members from other divisions join Engineering/Aerospace as a second affiliation. Eileen Dorschner volunteered to work on membership, too.

We also discussed the George Mandel Award. A winner was chosen this year, but unfortunately, had to decline ... so the award was not given. The following people volunteered to be on next year's George Mandel Award selection committee: Yolanda Malon, Julia Triplehorn, Mary Ellen McMurtrie and Karen Holloway. They will join the past chair, Don Welch, and the chair-elect, Susan Lamanna. Watch this column and the section listserv for criteria on the award and the schedule for nominating colleagues.

I would also like to thank Don Welch for chairing the section last year. Fortunately for us, Don has agreed to continue to write a column for *Sci-Tech News*. If you hadn't heard, he was contemplating "retirement" at the end of the year. He has now decided to continue for at least one more year. Don is also the new treasurer for the Engineering Division, so he will be busy.

Even though it feels as if we have just finished the conference in Minneapolis yet it is

time to begin thinking about Philadelphia. We are looking at potential programs in the areas of electronic journals, mentoring, adding value from the CEO's point of view, like teaching technical librarians how to become business/marketing librarians. Margie Pearson has volunteered to help with programming ideas, so you can contact either one of us with your ideas and suggestions. It may be too late to get them on the program for the Philadelphia conference, but there is always San Antonio in 2001!

Even though much of this column has focused on the annual conference, I would like to encourage communication among all Aerospace Section members throughout the entire year. These are difficult times for the aerospace industry, and most of us are experiencing budget cuts and staff shortages. Let's take the opportunity to support each other. One excellent way to do this is through the listserv. If you have not already subscribed, directions for signing up are available from the SLA home page. You can also notify me if you have division news or issues that you would like to discuss, or if you have news about members that you would like to share. I can be reached by phone at (303) 977-5512. My email address is [janna.jantz@lmco.com](mailto:janna.jantz@lmco.com). Please feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to hearing from you.

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## NOTES FROM MINNEAPOLIS

By Don Welch

Lots of stuff was available again from vendors at conference, both for free and by chance. Some were cool. Some were cooler than cool, and the AIAA had pens that were nice ...really, really nice.

A lot of gifts also were provided by vendors as doorprizes at the Engineering Division reception for the section. Kelly Yuille is the one we are to thank for that, too, as well as the vendors, of course. Some of the winners, from the section, were Ei Dorschner, P.L. Parker, and David Purdy. Another from Bombardier also won but due to a lapse in memory she will have to go nameless.

Speaking of the reception, which featured a singer and accompanist (as well as libations and food "on the house"), all the work on that (and all the planning) was done by Kelly Yuille. Stating early in 1998 that she felt Engineering never got

the chance to welcome Aerospace into the fold properly, she "coordinated" the reception with Don Welch ... who said recently that she deserves all the credit. "All I did," he said, "was tell her 'Yeah, that's a good idea' and 'Yeah, that's a good idea, too.' She organized a wonderful reception."

Tom DePetro, formerly of Wichita State University, is now teaching at Texas A&M University. (The archives he was keeping for the Engineering Division have been moved formally to A&M as well.)

Dottie Moon and Karen Hollaway also have been elected to the board of directors. Now there are four there who are or were members of the section. Cool!!!!!! (We rule!!!!)

Peter Moon, a member of Engineering and "an associate" of Dottie's, announced in Minneapolis that the directories of the Engineering Division and the Aerospace Section are now online through the web. Check it out!!!

Speaking of directories, a year ago the section was invited to join the Transportation Division in having entries of themselves included in a Transportation Division directory. Well, that directory is available now, and you can get to it on the web as well!

Some of the libraries from the section (but by far not all) are GE Aircraft Engines, the FAA in Oklahoma City, and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. The directory is available as a PDF file, and can be found at <http://ntl.bts.gov/tld>

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## MINNEAPOLIS MANIA

By Don Welch

I decided to entitle my contribution as Minneapolis Mania. Keeping to the schedule in Minneapolis was a challenge. Not only were there things that had to be done when they had to be done, but there were also things that beckoned and enticed one - namely me - to forget the reason and agenda for being there!!! --not talking anything illegal here, but there was - as promised - a lot to do in Minneapolis.

As always, I had to juggle the schedule a couple of times. Go now to the exhibits, I'd ask myself, or go later? Go to the program at the Hilton, I'd ponder, or go to the one at the Hyatt? I always seemed to have a decision to make. I felt that I was going to miss something somewhere that I would like to know at work. I gather that a lot of

folks feel that way about conferences, whether it is in Minneapolis this year or in Indianapolis in '98, Boston in '97, or wherever.

Take for example the program the section sponsored this year with Communications, Food Agriculture and Nutrition, and Petroleum and Energy Resources -- MERGER MANIA. I believe we had 60 maybe even 70 professionals come to the program, but there were at least that many seats that were empty, too. Why? Well, choices, I think.

For one, I noticed in something I was e-mailed before the conference that there was a walking tour of downtown scheduled for the same time as the program. The tour included visits to the Minneapolis Municipal Library and the BRW library - a library for engineering firm BRW. There was also a conflict for Engineering/Aerospace librarians who had to choose between the program and an event scheduled by Elsevier Science, which was having an afternoon tea on June 7 at 3:00 p.m.

The piece de resistance, however, would be a program sponsored by the Library Management Division, featuring Eugenie Prime of Hewlett Packard and Anne Mintz of Forbes -- speaking on "Leading Strategies for Aligning with the Business Core". This was a program that even a speaker for MERGER MANIA said she would have liked to attend, and I don't blame her -- the reputation of Ms. Prime as a speaker is large.

Still, 60 or 70 professionals did come to MERGER MANIA, as I said, and they were not cheated in what they heard - for a couple of reasons.. First, the program ran long (and there was not a program behind it) and they heard more. But, more important the speakers -- Kathy Romano of Lucent Technologies, Ferol Foos of Albemarle Corp. and Corinne Campbell of Boeing -- presented three prospectives on the topic that gave everyone, I think, something to consider, regardless of their situations. Asked about how they and their libraries had dealt either with assimilating other libraries acquired in company mergers or being assimilated in mergers with other companies, the speakers covered the topic from a diversity of viewpoints that covered not only our types of libraries but also industries. I was proud of what they were able to present.

I felt the topic was a good one for corporate librarians, and particularly in aerospace.

As early as June of 1998 (shortly after

coming back from Indianapolis), the idea was confirmed as timely by an article I saw in AIR & SPACE. Titled "The Wall Street Decade" the article detailed how the 1990s had witnessed a tremendous number of aerospace industry megamergers. In 1990, there were eight major airframe manufacturers - McDonnell Douglas, Boeing, Rockwell, Martin Marietta, Lockheed, General Dynamics, Northrup, and Grumman. By 1998, there was only Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Northrup Grumman. Another merger (an aerospace industry merger at that) even made the news while we were in Minneapolis. That's when it was announced that Allied Signal was going to acquire Honeywell.

During the past year, though, the issue also kept coming to the forefront while the program was being prepared for Minneapolis. Sometime in January 1999, I read an announcement in a newsletter at work -- at Bell Helicopter -- that the company was looking for a manager who would provide guidance on mergers and acquisitions. A couple of months after that, someone donated a couple of books to the library titled "The Mergers and Acquisitions Handbook" and "Mergers and Acquisitions From A to Z". Coincidence? I think not. So, I was pleased not only that we had the program in Minneapolis, but also at the information and insight "we" were able to provide those who came to the afternoon program, regardless of the conflicts. That's why I think it's timely that the SLA is going to emphasize quality in 2000 over quantity. That's what I've heard anyway. In Philadelphia, there will be fewer programs and such, and more quality in the programs, though I'd say there hasn't been any sign of current programs lacking in quality either. There always has been quality. Sometimes it may have been hard to find it, but there's been quality programs at conference. I think it's hoped that attendees have less to regret when they can't get to something they feel they missed, either because they were at a good program elsewhere or they were at a bad program that kept them from one that was possibly better. I know from what I've experienced, it's easy sometimes to feel that way. I'm ready to see the effects of the quality push.

See you in Philadelphia!