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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

MARY ELLEN McMURTRIE

Happy New Year!
After the flurry of SLA in Seattle, things have settled down, and I have been working on the program for the section in Indianapolis. If I have learned nothing else, I have learned to be patient. It takes time (I have learned) to contact prospective speakers, to wait for their return calls or e-mails, and to contact vendors and wait for their responses, too. But it is rewarding, making new friends, renewing old contacts, and enjoying the good wishes and support they offer.
In the preliminary list of programs there is something for everyone ...and not enough time to go to them all. So far, we have one program and our annual breakfast/business meeting. However, in just the last few days we received an offer from someone to sponsor a trip to the United Airline's Maintenance facilities, complete with transportation and continental breakfast.

The breakfast will be on Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:00. Our featured speaker will be Robert Marrah, VP and General Manager of Honeywell Defense Avionics Systems in Albuquerque, NM. Since he has experience in both commercial and military avionics, I have asked him to speak on where he sees the aerospace industry going. We will also have updates and announcements from AIAA, McGraw-Hill and others. AIAA and DRI/McGraw-Hill have agreed generously, again, to help underwrite the breakfast.

Monday morning right after the conference speaker, the section is sponsoring a program on competitive intelligence. A panel of three speakers - Ellen Naylor, Society for Competitive Intelligence Chapter Chair from Business Intelligence Source, Inc., Helene Kassler from Fuld & Company (who **MARY ELLEN McMURTRIE** is from United Technologies and will explain their role as a competitive intelligence librarian)--will compete intelligently for us.

I hope to see you in Indianapolis and at the breakfast on Tuesday morning.

Mary Ellen McMurtrie

FROM THE SIDECAR

By Don Welch

Drifting here and there I have discovered... An announcement that section member Tom DePetro of Wichita State University will be moderating a class for the Engineering Libraries Division of the ASEE in June and July. The class - on Aerospace Engineering Information: How is it helping keep the competitive edge?--is part of the ELD program for the ASEE annual conference in Seattle, Washington. Convening on July 1 actually, the class will feature "experts in the field of aerospace engineering information (who) will report on current practices...especially related to using information to keep engineers and engineering companies competitive." Sounds spy'n-tingling.

Sandy Spurlock and Sandy Moltz are running for Association office in SLA. Both are members of the section. Sandy Spurlock is contesting Roberta Brody for the position of Chapter Cabinet Chair-Elect, and Sandy Moltz is competing for a position as director.
Both Sandys gave the section/division a jolt of publicity by listing offices and achievements they attained in the Aerospace Division in their biographies. Let's vote for them if you will. Votes should be received by SLA by February 23.

Eileen Dorschner, Charles Lord, Gad Engler, Amy Packard, Carolyn Hagford, and I, Don Welch, all subscribe to the listservs of the Engineering Division and Aerospace Section both ... as of January 12. And these are the folks who

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were spotted easily in comparing the lists of subscribers. Hopefully, there are others who belong to both, but it's possible. After all, there are 77 subscribers to the Engineering listserv and 168 to the section listserv. Addresses also are not easy to match..for some. Others are easy.

The site for the Engineering Division on the WWW is (or was) seeking a master. That's right; you may have missed a chance to command and dominate something like you never have in the past. Or, at least, I have. According to a message over the division listserv either late in October or early in November, the homepage for the division was needing gatekeeper/major domo. Charles had gotten the page on the 'Net, but the division was looking for someone to assume caretakership for him as soon as possible. The board was taking applications immediately. Interested?

The 'Net also revealed something to me recently that was interesting. This was the site of a page listing links to aerospace industry sites that looked specifically at and into the 21st Century. It was created by the Defense Technical Information Center, and it was at http://www.dtic.mil/aerospace/. There must have been close to 70 links to a variety of "things" it seemed to me. Some were to agencies and some were to publications; others were to newsgroups or servers sponsored for groups or entities that had interest in the industry. It was industrious, to say the least.

The 'Net (undeservedly, I must say) drew the wrath of Don recently. I happened to see a flyer promoting a summit on "transitions" facing libraries and the profession, and I blew a fuse. I assumed from the focus of the summit (which had a subtitle talking about shaping the future of ourselves, our companies, and our profession) that it was going to tout the use of technology to multiply effectiveness and service...and this would include the Internet. I don't object to the Internet--don't get me wrong. It's helped me at least a dozen times either to locate someone who could help me or to located exactly what I needed to satisfy a patron. But, there's so much running a library that can't be done on the Internet (or by the Internet), particularly when you are doing it yourself, that I get mad at what I see is the gall to leave a lot of librarianship, no, make that service, in the wake of a 200 MHz signal. All needs cannot be met by hitting the download key...at least not for six, eight, or ten more years. The aerospace industry, or at least the part of it I serve at Bell helicopter Textron, regularly needs or reviews the work of engineers in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. It's just part of creating a solid foundation for going forward. Well, enough of that...

Finally, Kathy Harkness wrote recently that she still intends to contact the board members of the Engineering Division to test the waters on getting financing to pay, in part, at least, the travel expenses of division (and section) members ... who are chair-elects and chairs...who cannot attend annual conferences or midwinter meetings because the funding they originally expected for it (either corporate or personal) has evaporated. She hopes for cooperation and understanding of the request.

An addendum to the above is that Kathy also expects to keep the fires burning on publishing a new volume of the Criss-Cross Directory. She has heard from a number of people about some of what was involved in publishing the first volumes, but she expects there is more to be heard. So, if anyone has information, or opinions, on how to pursue a compilation of a new volume, she is welcoming the input. She is at (425) 234-4792 if you want to call her, or she is at katherine.r.harkness@boeing.com if you'd like to send her email. She also (she whispers) is looking for volunteers to help in the process. Give her a call..

Ten years of study into the diffusion of knowledge in the aerospace community has been capsulated and compiled in Knowledge Diffusion in the U.S. Aerospace Industry: Managing Knowledge for Competitive Advantage. Written by Thomas Pinelli, Rebecca Barclay, John Kennedy, and Ann Bishop, the book details the results of the NASA/DoD Aerospace Knowledge Diffusion Research Project, which examined the production, transfer, and use of knowledge in the large commercial aircraft (LCA) project. The book is published by Ablex Publishing and come bound in paper (ISSN 1-56750-226-1) or cloth (ISBN 1-56750-225-3). Thom, for those who are new to the section, was the winner of the section's first George Mandel Memorial Award.

NEED RESEARCH FUNDS?

Application materials for the **1998 Steven I. Goldspiel Memorial Research Grant**, a grant of approximately $20,000, are **NOW AVAILABLE!** According to SLA's Research Agenda, the following topics are of particular interest:

- Futures;
- Current/User Issues;
- Measures of Productivity and Value;
- Client/User Satisfaction Measures;
- Staffing.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **February 27, 1998**. International applications accepted.

For further information, visit our website at www.sla.org/research/index.html or contact Director, Research Ruth M. Arnold, Ph.D. at: 1-202-234-4700, ext. 615; fax: 1-202-265-9317; e-mail: ruth@sla.org.

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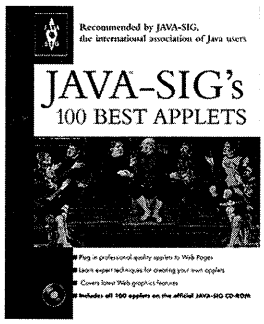

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