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Engineering Division

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ENGINEERING DIVISION

The objectives of the Engineering Division are to provide an association for those having an interest in library and information science as they apply to engineering and the physical sciences and to promote the use of materials and knowledge for the benefit of libraries and other educational organizations.

FROM THE CHAIR

CHARLES LORD



The theme for the Boston conference was "Information Revolution: Pathway to the 21st Century." While it is critical to understand the big picture and to plan for the

future, I usually come away from conferences feeling 'professionally-challenged'—in relatively more immediate arenas. There are business meetings, receptions, programs and program planning, vendors, friends, and lots of information. I think many of us could use a 'information decompression' chamber before heading back home. Conferences are energizing, exciting and exhausting. One only has to take a walk through the exhibits to be reminded of the multitude of information threads which are woven throughout our libraries, information centers and services. Each thread is being pulled, maybe pulled several times, and replaced by 'digital composites' which are also subject to constant change. The challenge for all of us in managing these threads is to provide our organizations and clientele with the best information services possible.

It is in meeting these challenges that we find support in professional groups like the SLA Engineering Division. But, the business of nurturing and maintaining 'divisional life' presents all us with other challenges. I have several goals this year which include: 1) to facilitate the merger of the Aerospace Division into the Engineering Division should that proposal be accepted by the membership of both divisions; 2) to strengthen the organization by reviewing the scope note and by-laws; 3) to begin assembling a procedures manual with position descriptions for the executive board and committees. I also want us to work on issues of guidelines for awards, fund-raising, diversity, strategic planning, membership survey, membership directory, a web presence and other public relation projects. From each of the committees there is a locus of purpose and activity which enhances the overall division. If you have concerns or would like to assist with any of these committees, please contact the committee chair or myself.

You should be proud of the Engineering Division members who have so willingly taken on this year's board and committee responsibilities. In a volunteer organization like ours, it is always a pleasure to be able to have so many enthusiastic and committed individuals step up to share the work.

Over the next several issues of *Sci-Tech News* we will introduce you to Board members as well as to each committee member. This is one way we can get to know each other a little better. We also want to extend our appreciation to last year's executive board and committees for a year of great accomplishments.

Conferences are wonderful times to acknowledge those among us who are deserving of special recognition. Pat Ricci was the winner of the Engineering Information, Inc's 'Engineering Librarian of the Year Award.' For Pat, it is recognition of many years of outstanding contributions to the division, association and profession. If we were to play a word association game and someone would say, 'standards', the answer would be 'Pat Ricci.' Pat has been a leader in standards management and education. She authored the book, *Standards: A Resource* and has taught the SLA CE course on standards for several years. Another one of our members was the winner of the Inspec Student Stipend, Douglas G. McGee (University of North Carolina). Douglas received a check to assist with conference travel expenses. Another member was recognized by the American Society for Engineering Education at their annual conference in June. Kelly Jordan (Pennsylvania State University) was the recipient of the Ford Motor Company New Engineering Librarian Award. Kelly is our *Sci-Tech News* Reporter. Congratulations, Pat, Douglas, and Kelly!!!

Conferences are also important times to recognize our vendors who support the Engineering Division for awards, programs, receptions, and tours. Thank

you, Engineering Information, Inc, IEE/Inspec, John Wiley & Sons, Bowker-Sauer, Information Handling Services/Global Engineering, LEXIS-NEXIS, Majors Scientific Books, American Society of Civil Engineers, Ameritech, IEEE Computer Society, Linda Hall Library, TelTech, ILI Info Disk, Elsevier, NERAC, Inc, Leatherhead and IFIS.

It promises to be a great year. And I look forward to welcoming you all to a very great city, Seattle, and to a beautiful part of the country, the Pacific Northwest. If you have any questions or need assistance in planning your trip next June, please feel free to contact me.

1997 Annual Conference - Seattle

Sometimes it feels as if we are rushing from conference to conference as we begin to talk about next year's conference. Of course, most of you know that conference program planning begins almost two years prior to the actual conference. And those are two very 'short years.' Division program planners work together to identify common themes and areas of interest which hold potential for interesting programs. Then there is a flurry of activity with divisions deciding which programs to sponsor. The theme for next year is "Information Professionals at the Crossroads: Change as Opportunity." The Engineering Division will be co-sponsoring a number of sessions. Some of the programs/topics will probably cover emerging technologies, sustainable environment, serials pricing, collection development, document delivery and a contributed paper session.

You can join the SLA97 Listserv by

sending a message to:
LISTSERV@sla.microsoft.com. Leave
the subject line blank and put the
following line in the body of the message:
JOIN <sla97> [<your
email-address>].. The sla97 conference
web site is: <http://sla.microsoft.com>.

Engineering Division Listserv

If you haven't subscribed to the
Engineering Division Listserv, please do.
This is an excellent way to stay in touch.
To subscribe to SLA-ENG, send a
message to: Majordomo@iee.org.uk.
Leave the subject line empty. In the body
of the message write only: subscribe
sla-eng. And while you are thinking about
getting connected, remember that the
Association also has a web site with new
resources appearing on a regular basis:
<http://www.sla.org>

1997-98 Board Nominations

If you are interested in running for
office or in recommending one of your
colleagues—we need to hear from you.
Next's year ballot will include the
following positions: chair-elect, secretary,
treasurer and director. The treasurer and
director are both two-year positions. So,
you can see we need lots of energetic,
engineering folks. For the chair-elect
position, it will be your last opportunity
in this century to plan conference
programming. The 1999 conference will
be in Minneapolis, MN. Please contact
Peter Moon, Chair, Nominations,
(psmoon@hsb.com).

Impressions from Boston

By Kelly Jordan

As a first time SLA conference
attendee and Engineering Division

reporter for *Sci-Tech News*, I'd like to
describe briefly my conference experience
in the hope that it may encourage others
to attend the 1997 annual conference in
Seattle, Washington. Overall I found the
conference in Boston valuable on both a
professional and personal level. The
Engineering Division sponsored very
informative sessions that ranged from
standards to the experiences of
professional women in engineering to ISO
9000. Not only were the session
presenters a valuable source of insight,
the audience of librarians who attended
the sessions were as well. Many were
eager to describe their own experiences in
relation to the session topics, while others
asked questions and sought help from the
other librarians. These sessions were
definitely a learning experience one
should not miss!

In addition to the sessions, the
Engineering Division sponsored a very
lively business luncheon, and other social
functions where I met other librarians
with interests similar to mine. I look
forward to seeing these friends at the next
SLA conference!

I came away from the conference
with new ideas, a renewed enthusiasm for
the library profession, and feeling very
excited for next year's conference in
Seattle. I really encourage one and all,
whether you work in a small engineering
related library or a large university
engineering facility to go to Seattle. You
will not be disappointed!

Engineering Division

Contributed Papers

Session--Call for Papers

"Integrating the Fragmented Store:
Delivering Information to Engineers"

Internet—Intranet—Commercial & in-house library systems.....How are you getting past the hype to get the necessary information into your engineers' hands? Engineers often use sophisticated computer systems are early adopters of new information technologies. A growing number of electronic information resources are targeted at these engineers. How have you evaluated, developed, or implemented new digital information services in your institution?

We're looking for a few case studies to highlight the work of Engineering Division members. Come share your successes and horror stories with your colleagues through a contributed paper at the 1997 SLA Annual Conference in Seattle.

Guidelines:

1) Abstract: By September 20, 1996, send a 200-500 word abstract of the proposed paper to:

Camille Wanat
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110 Bechtel Engineering Center
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-1796
e-mail: cwanat@library.Berkeley.edu
Phone: 510/642-0634;
Fax: 310/643-6771

E-mail is the preferred mode of submission.

2) Contributors must be members of the Engineering Division of SLA.

3) Acceptance: Abstracts will be judged on substance, relevance to the session theme, and potential member interest. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by Nov. 15, 1996. If chosen, acceptance of your paper reflects a commitment on your part to:

a: submit the complete text of the paper

by March 31, 1997, to the program convener

b: present the paper at the Seattle SLA Conference. Presentation should take no more than 15 minutes.

50th Year Celebrations

The Computer Museum in Boston was the scene of a celebration of two events, one being the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, Missouri, represented by Lee Jones, its Director. The other event was to honor the 50th anniversary of the founding of the IEEE Computer Society. It was represented by Matt Loeb, Assistant Publisher of the Society.

Peter Moon, Chair of the Engineering Division, served as Master of Ceremonies for the gala event. Attendees were able to examine the splendid displays of equipment owned by the Museum.

Travel Stipend Award

Bette Finn, chair of the Scholarship Committee, organized the process for the Travel Stipend Award activities. Applications required a short essay on "How can engineering and science librarians market their services to their clientele?" The Engineering Division, together with INSPEC, issued a travel stipend of \$500 to help a student attend the SLA Annual Conference in Boston.

The winner was Douglas G. McGee of the University of N.C. (Chapel Hill) Library program. In the photo (page 22) Mr. McGee is seen receiving the award from F. Phyllis Buchta (INSPEC/IEEE).



Ei/SLA Engineering Award

The Engineering Division of the Special Libraries Association and Engineering Information (Ei) joined recently to honor consultant information specialist Patricia Ricci of Woodbury, MN, with the 1996 Ei/SLA Engineering Librarian of the Year award. The occasion was the annual meeting of SLA held this year in Boston. Stephen Moss, Vice President, Sales, at Ei, presented a \$1,000 stipend and an honorary plaque to Ms. Ricci, who was recognized for her leadership in the standards area. Generously sharing her knowledge with her peers, Ms. Ricci has also provided opportunities for others to contribute their knowledge on the topic.

Pictured with her is Stephen Moss, who presented the award, and Peter Moon, Chair of the Engineering Division.



INSPEC/IEEE Student Stipend Award
Doug McGee congratulated by
F. Phyllis Buchta, INSPEC/IEE

1996/97 Engineering Division Board and Committees

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