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Aerospace Section

Kathryn Breininger

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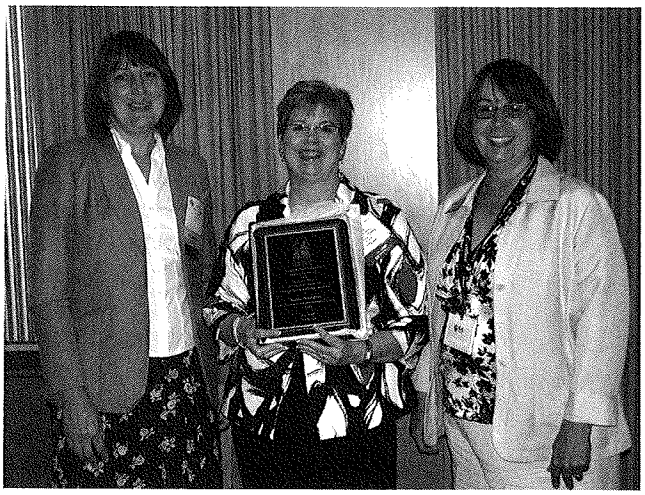
Kathryn Breininger, Chair

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.

The 2008 SLA conference is now a thing of the past – but carries on in what we have learned and shared during our time together in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Conference attendees were treated to some beautiful early summer weather, as well as a couple of our misty Northwest days. I hope all who attended had an opportunity to explore the area, and put it on their lists of places to visit again!

The Aerospace sessions were especially good, and were all well attended. Our Aerospace Breakfast Business meeting was attended by over 50 members and provided an opportunity to network, meet old friends and make new ones. The breakfast meeting was held in the top of the Sheraton Hotel with a beautiful view across the Sound, although a bit misty that morning. I would like once again to thank our sponsors, AIAA and Jane's for supporting us through their generosity to SLA, and the Aerospace Section in particular.



Aerospace Chair, Katherine Breininger, AIAA Mandel Award Winner Kathy Nordhaus, Janice Saylor, AIAA.

The minutes from the June 2007 business meeting were approved, and several announcements were made, including that membership in the Engineering Division is now about 400 members and Aerospace Section just over 100 members. SLA 2009 will take place in Washington D.C. and will be the 100th anniversary celebration of SLA. This year the Leadership Summit will be in Savannah, Georgia in January. All interested in leadership, and any in leadership positions in SLA are encouraged to attend if at all possible.

The nominating committee is still looking for volunteers for Aerospace Chair Elect. Volunteering in SLA provides opportunities for you to develop leadership skills, technical and interpersonal skills; to contribute to the profession, and to build your career through skills you can acquire volunteering for SLA. Plus it is an opportunity to increase your network! If you are interested please contact me, or the Engineering Chair, Daureen Nesdill.

The highlight of the Aerospace Breakfast meeting was the presentation of the George Mandel Memorial Award. It was my pleasure to be able to present this award to Kathy Nordhaus from Raytheon. Kathy is a member of a number of SLA divisions, including the Science-Technology Division, the Leadership Management Division, and the Engineering Division. She has contributed to the profession throughout her career and through her participation in SLA. We appreciate her continued involvement and assistance in moving the profession forward. I also would like to thank again the sponsors for this award; Dr. David Mandel and AIAA. Their continued support enables us to recognize exceptional leadership and contributions. Thank you also to the Mandel Award Committee; Mary Crompton, Amy Smith and Gale Harris. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and selection of our award winner.

Another focus for Aerospace was the speaker session. We were very fortunate in having Michael Garrett, Director of Airplane Performance, Boeing Commercial Airplanes, speak on "Aeronautics, Then, Now and in the Future." Michael is an airplane enthusiast, and his passion for and knowledge of aeronautics and airplanes provided for a stimulating and informative session. He took us from the beginning attempts at sustained flight and the issues that the Wright Brothers and other early innovators faced, to the present and future, where we still face the same issues as we continue to innovate in improving our flight technology. The future is focused on improving

fuel efficiency, and developing green alternatives to our current fuel mixtures. In addition to the talk, attendees had an opportunity to receive from AIAA a complimentary copy of *100 Years of Flight: A Chronicle of Aerospace History, 1903-2003* writing by Frank H. Winder and F. Robert van der Linden, National Air and Space Museum. This book nicely complemented Michael Garrett's talk. I would also like to thank Linda Hall Library, the sponsor for our Aerospace speaker session.

Another nice complement to the Aerospace speaker session was the tour of the Museum of Flight, Boeing factory and more. This tour included the Museum of Flight Restoration Center (see pictures on page 32), the Boeing Assembly Plant and the Future of Flight Aviation Center. Participants explored the past, present and future of aviation in a half day, taking a bus from the convention center with an enthusiastic tour guide providing entertaining and information dialogue along the way. Daureen was on the tour, and described some of what they saw and learned: "We got to climb into the Comet - the 1st passenger jet. We were told there are 700 volunteers working to restore the planes. One of the volunteers showed us how an early flight simulator worked. At The Boeing plant we watched workers still building the first Dreamliner - it was super large. The entire staff and their desks, computers, etc were relocated to the floor where the Dreamliner was being assembled so to speed up the process. I don't remember the size of the plant, but we were told the number of football fields it took up. We saw workmen getting around on bicycles." If you are in Seattle again, I highly recommend this tour – I have been on it four times!

I hope you all enjoyed your time in Seattle and at SLA. See you next year in Washington D.C. ❖

Kathryn Breininger
Chair, Aerospace Section

Chris Grady and Janice Saylor of AIAA

Jane's Sponsors Rich DiMezzo, Jane Bridgeman, Matt Donohue, Lewis Duncan at the Aerospace Breakfast