
December 2008

Engineering Division

Daureen Nesdill

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Engineering Division

Daureen Nesdill, Chair



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.

I hope all our Division members and colleagues affected by Hurricane Ike are well and have found shelter. My holiday gifts to (and from) friends and family this year will again be donations to assist those impacted by hurricanes. With the economic meltdown affecting all aspects of our lives, these folks are going to need more assistance than originally expected.

Did you catch the online poster session at the 2008 annual conference? Five Divisions participated in the All Science Reception and Poster Session. There were about 45 presenters, lots of drink and food and even more attendees. Eric Resnis of Miami University and Patricia Kirkwood from the University of Arkansas did a great job of coordinating the posters and presenters for the Engineering Division. I would like to thank them for all they did including assisting with the online poster session in October and early November. I hope you took (or will take) the time to visit the site <http://forum.lib.lsu.edu/slachem>.

Bill Armstrong, Louisiana State University, has been the person behind the Chemistry Division's online poster session for the past few years. With five Divisions contributing this year, the online poster session became a little daunting until I heard of a new service being offered through my university's technology transfer program. A University of Utah graduate student in bioinformatics developed Trapeze as a system for mounting posters online in perpetuity. The cost is \$10.00 a poster. Trapeze is still in beta, so the fee was waived for us. Being in beta has also provided us the opportunity to improve Trapeze. Bill has always provided a way for visitors to the online poster session to leave comments and ask questions for the presenters to answer. Trapeze heard this and is currently investigating how to make the poster entries in their system interactive. If Trapeze works out ok for this year's online poster session, we may be using it again in the future.

In what format do you want to be reading your *SciTech News*? Another change being discussed is the format of *SciTech News*. Should it be kept in print, change to electronic or both? I would like to see *SciTech News* in electronic format and propose that subscribers who want

print can pay for their copy and the cost of postage. We may have to upgrade our Website to include access to this publication – or should we start a blog? If you have any ideas, concerns, or opinions about the future of *SciTech News*, drop me a line at daureen.nesdill@utah.edu. We will be discussing the future of *SciTech News* at the SLA Leadership Summit in January.

The Awards Committee is busy. Bing Wang, Georgia Tech, is the new Chair of the Awards Committee and is responsible for posting the announcements you see in this edition of *SciTech News*. Committee members include Bette Finn, Georgia Tech; Jane Stephens, Texas A&M; Helen Josephine, Stanford University; and Hema Ramachandran, Cal State Univ-Long Beach. They cannot perform this important function alone. You folks need to help them out by nominating yourself and/or others for these awards. Look around and communicate with colleagues to find the next Elsevier Engineering Librarian of the Year Award. Who do you know who has made a contribution to the Division, SLA or the profession? Please do not wait until the deadline. Send in the names now so we can initiate the procedure.

Continuing education courses can be funded. Have you ever wanted to take a CE course while at the annual conference? Next year the Engineering Division will be offering CE courses on environmental engineering and industry standards. The full line-up of courses will be announced later. IEEE has partnered with the Division once again to offer a travel stipend to attend CE courses offered at SLA annual conference. Think about it, watch for the announcement of the CE courses and apply. All it takes for you to enter is to make the decision, write an essay and mail the application to the Awards Committee. Very simple. From what I hear traveling to Washington, DC is expensive.

Revamping the Engineering Division's Recommended Practices is going slowly. I developed a time line of committee activities and deadlines and presented it to the Board at the June Annual Conference. I wanted the Board to see some of the problems with the new SLA fiscal calendar conflicting with the conference calendar.

The Board voted to sever the elected Director position from the non-elected Awards Committee Chair. This allows the Awards Committee to start their work in August, when appropriate, instead of January when elected positions begin.

Additional work on the Recommended Practices has been going slowly. It is my fault. My library is undergoing construction and reorganization so I have found it difficult to find the time for SLA work. The Past Chair, Bob Tolliver and I, along with Kathryn Breininger, Aerospace Section Chair, will be able to update the section on elections and committee positions as we hold the Division's elections. I have been working on the duties of the Vendor Relations Chair and will be talking to our Treasurer, Andy Shimp, about his role.

In January, when the dust will finally settle here, I hope to have a wiki up and running. This way all Division members who want to contribute to the rewriting of the Recommended Practices will have the opportunity.

Speaking of wikis, have you worked your way through SLA's 23 Things? This is an opportunity to learn the new communication tools, RSS feeds, blogs, wikis, tagging, etc. SLA has extended the deadline to Dec 15th. Check it out at SLA Innovation Laboratory <http://www.sla.org/innovate/>. If you can't play at work because of security constraints set by your employer, please let me know.

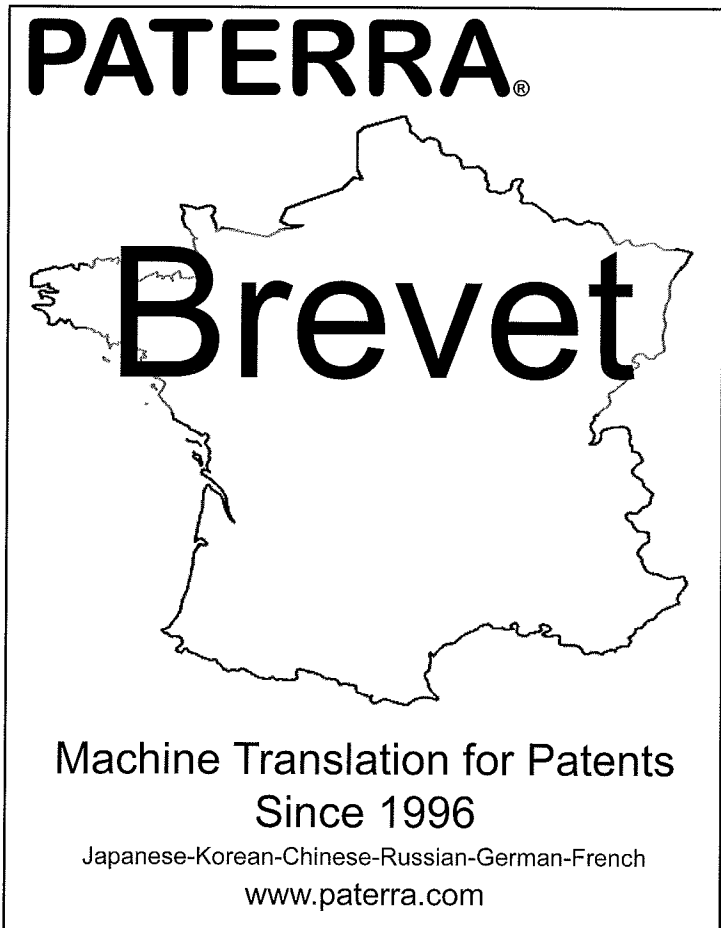
As Chair of the Engineering Division, I've had a great time learning. This position does involve a lot of work, but I did meet and work with so many great people. I sincerely thank my Board members for all their assistance in the planning and organizing of the program for June conference. I especially thank Lee Pharis for organizing the Standards Update and Sara Davis for organizing and promoting the DTIC CE courses. I would also like to thank Janice

Saylor, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics; Esther Miller, Transport Canada; Valeria Long, Grand Valley State University; Susan Morley, CSA International; Jennifer Hatfield, Lockheed Martin and Vani Inampudi, Qualcomm, Inc for taking care of the session evaluations for me. With all the unexpected running around to make sure the rooms were alright and speakers were taken care of, we would not have had any feedback without your work.

And of course I could not have done it without Kathryn Breininger. All the emails and telephone calls for assistance, second opinions, requests for ideas, need a speaker, what are "peas and carrots" anyway, have been addressed. I could not have had a better partner to work with in organizing the program for the 2008 SLA Annual Conference. Thank you Kathryn. ❖

See ya'll in Washington for SLA's 100th anniversary celebration,

Daureen Nesdill
SLA Engineering Division Chair



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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Special Libraries Association Engineering Division \$1000 IEEE Continuing Education Stipend

The IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) is sponsoring a travel stipend for SLA Engineering Division members of up to US\$1000 toward payment of expenses incurred while attending any Continuing Education course offered at the annual Special Libraries Association conference in Washington, DC, June 14-17, 2009. The stipend may be applied to travel, food, and one night's accommodation.

The IEEE Stipend will be given to the qualified Division member who submits an essay, of three or fewer double-spaced typed pages, which is judged to be the best paper that addresses "How the member will benefit professionally from a continuing education course." The winner will also be required to submit an article to the Engineering Division newsletter (*SciTech News*) on how the course helped them in library applications, within twelve months of completion of the course.

Criteria for entry:

Be a member of the SLA Engineering Division in good standing for at least one year as of January 1, 2009.

Special Instructions:

Type your full name (without any additional personal information) at the top of each essay page. Double space the typing on all pages.

Deadline for Submission: March 2, 2009.

The recipient of the IEEE Continuing Education Stipend will be notified by April 1, 2009.

The winner must be present to accept the award at the annual Engineering Division Business Meeting. The winning paper will be submitted for publication in the Division newsletter (*SciTech News*).

Submit Entries for the award to:

Bing Wang, SLA-ENG Awards Committee
Georgia Tech Library & Information Center
Atlanta, Georgia, 30332-0900
Phone: (404) 894-0816
E-mail: bing.wang@library.gatech.edu

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Special Libraries Association Engineering Division US\$1200 Inspec Student Stipend Award -- Call for Applications

Inspec is sponsoring, for library school student members of the Engineering Division, the award of a US\$1200 travel stipend toward payment of expenses incurred while attending the annual Special Libraries Association conference in Washington, DC, June 14-17, 2009.

The Inspec Award will be given to the qualified student who submits an essay of three or less double spaced typed pages that is judged to be the best essay submitted describing the following scenario:

"You're a corporate librarian who was just told by management the company is considering doing away with the physical library and replacing it with a virtual library to save money. With a virtual library, your job will be eliminated. You've been asked to attend a meeting where you will have the opportunity to present convincing arguments to management on the benefits and importance of keeping a physical library on site."

Qualifications:

1. Be a student member of the Engineering Division of the Special Libraries Association.
2. Be attending his or her first SLA Conference.

Special Instructions:

1. Provide your full name, address, telephone number, email address, and a statement, on one page, of your qualifications, as given above, for entering the award competition. Include the name of your library school.
2. Type your full name (without any additional personal information) at the top of each essay page. Double space the typing on all pages.

Deadline for Submission: March 2, 2009.

The recipient of the Inspec Award will be notified by April 1, 2009.

Submit Entries for the award to:

Bette Finn, SLA Engineering Division Awards Committee
Georgia Tech Library and Information Center
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia 30332 0900
Phone: (404) 894 1790 Fax: (404) 894 8190
E-mail: bette.finn@library.gatech.edu

Learning patents – A librarian’s experience taking the SLA continuing education course

By Bing Wang, winner of the IEEE Continuing Education Travel Stipend, June 2008

Early this year I submitted an essay to the Engineering Division’s Awards Committee to be considered for the Continuing Education Travel Stipend sponsored by IEEE. Winning this stipend allowed me to attend the continuing education course titled “Diving into Patents: A Primer for Librarians” at the annual SLA Conference this past June in Seattle. The full day CE course was co-sponsored by the Chemistry and Engineering Divisions.

I decided to apply for this stipend and attend the CE course for several reasons. As we all know, both scientists and engineers often need not only a technical literature search but also a patent search in order to get the most complete information about a technological field, especially when they start to do research in a new area. My duty as an engineering librarian requires me to educate them about patents and answer questions during their searches. In addition, the Georgia Tech Library is the only Patent and Trademark Depository Library in Georgia and houses all available patents issued in the U.S. since 1790. As a member of the information services department that provides patent assistance, I need to assist a large number of public users.

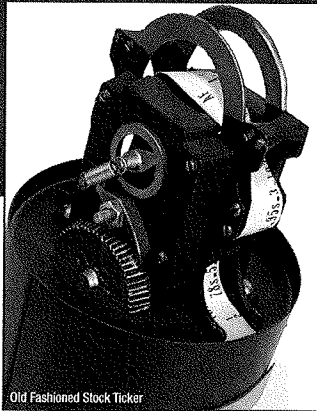
More specifically, I co-teach a 3 hour bibliographic session each semester for the School of Chemistry’s senior organic synthesis class, with the chemistry librarian. This session starts with a brief overview of chemical information resources, followed by hands-on training on how to search five major chemistry databases including NIST Chemistry WebBook, SciFinder Scholar, Web of Science, MDL CrossFire Beilstein and Gmelin. After the session, students are required to finish a literature problem set which has one question designated for patent searching. The performance on this question reveals that most students don’t know how to search for patents, how to read patent citations nor where to locate full-text patents. Emphasis on patent information and searching thus has become necessary and important for teaching future sessions.

By attending “Diving into Patents: A Primer for Librarians”, I’ve learned the basics of patent documentation, classification system, databases, and other tools. Instructors Michael White, Queen’s University, Denise Callihan, PPG Industries, Inc., and Leena Lalwani, University of Michigan, are very knowledgeable, responsive to questions, and detail oriented. The class has clear objectives and is well-organized.

The information I learned was applied to the redesign of the bibliographic session for the School of Chemistry’s senior organic synthesis class (CHEM 3380) early in this fall semester. Students learn the basic facts about patents, how to search for patents in SciFinder, and how to interpret patent literatures. They will use this information to answer the patent question in their assignments. Knowledge I gained from the CE course has also helped me tremendously during the development of an ongoing library instructional class called “Searching Patents for Scientists and Engineers”, which is open to the entire Georgia Tech Campus. My intention is to educate researchers about patents and teach them how to use various resources. In addition, I provide appointment-only patent assistance to both the GT community and the general public.

I appreciate the opportunity IEEE and the Engineering Division provided me to attend this CE course and learn more about the patent literature. It was a wonderful experience and I encourage any Engineering Division member who needs support to attend one of the SLA CE courses to apply for the Continuing Education Travel Stipend sponsored by IEEE.

Bing Wang
2008 IEEE Continuing Education Travel Stipend Winner
Library & Information Center
Georgia Institute of Technology
bing.wang@library.gatech.edu



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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

2009 Elsevier /SLA Engineering Division Engineering Librarian of the Year Award

Please consider nominating a colleague or associate for our Engineering Librarian of the Year award. This US\$1500 gift is offered annually to honor a member of the SLA Engineering Division.

The award is sponsored by Elsevier and the Division to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of members to the engineering librarian profession. Recognition comes in the form of the stipend, a certificate, and a presentation at the Division's Annual Business Meeting held during the annual SLA conference.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to nominate themselves— or they may be nominated by a colleague or associate.

Criteria for entry:

1. Membership in good standing in the SLA Engineering Division, as of January 1 of the previous year in which the award is presented.
2. Distinguished achievement in the engineering library profession, through an exceptional contribution on the job, within the SLA Engineering Division, or within the industry at large. This accomplishment should have taken place within the calendar year immediately preceding the nomination (2008). **However**, in selected cases, based solely on the Awards Committee's judgment, recognition may be given for an ongoing, long-term contribution.

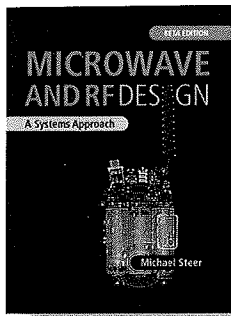
Deadline for submission: March 2, 2009

Provide full name, address, telephone numbers, e-mail address, and a maximum one-page statement of the nominee's qualifications to:

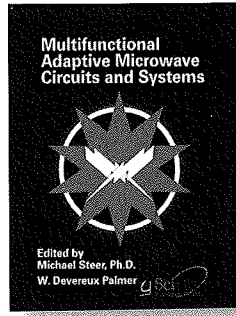
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Texas A&M University Libraries
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The winner must be present to accept the award at the annual Engineering Division Business Meeting in June.

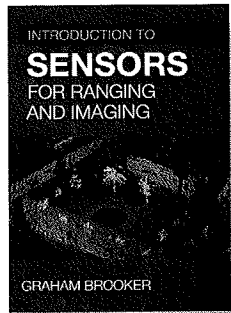
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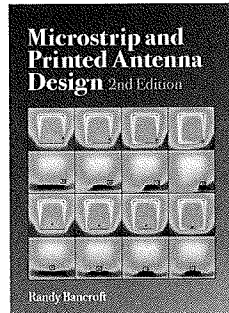
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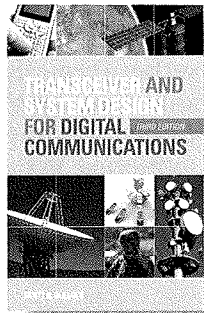
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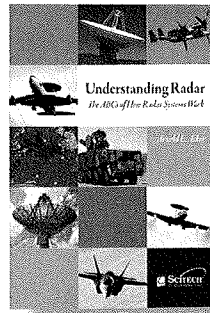
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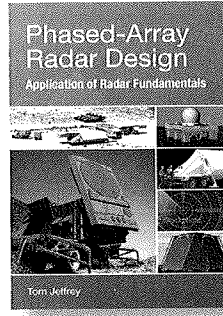


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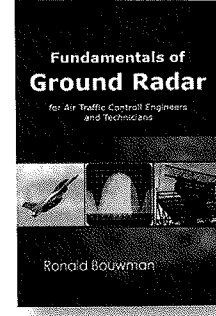


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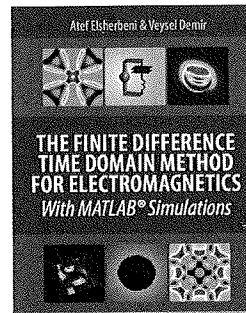
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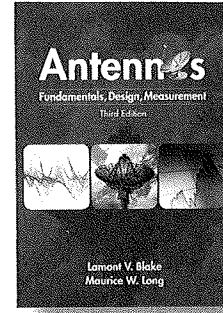
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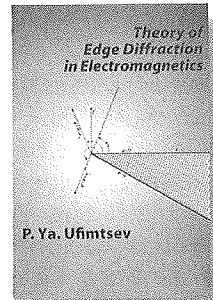
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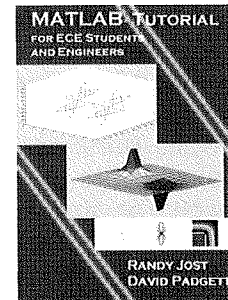
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