As with previous newsletters, I am happy to report that the Rail Transportation Division is continuing to do very well. We recently completed the ASME 2016 Joint Rail Conference.

On April 12-15, the RTD and fellow organizations hosted the Joint Rail Conference in Columbia, SC. This conference had two tours scheduled for JRC attendees. First, the HASRCO Technical Tour participants walked through the manufacturing of track construction equipment. We watched the step by step process from scrap metal melting and part forming, to equipment assembly, to on track equipment testing. The second was a tour of the SC Railroad Museum. Guests were given the opportunity to ride vintage trains along the line operated and maintained by the museum. Our day ended with a reception and tour of the Engineering Campus on the grounds of the University of South Carolina. The Keynote Speaker for the JRC banquet was Tod Echler, Assistant Vice President, Engineering for CSXT. His presentation introduced the technology advances in recent years, and identified the future R&D needs. Discussed were the issues, procedures, and current practices as they relate to automation of construction equipment, inspection technology, and remote monitoring of signal devices, among others. Also during the banquet, the RTD awarded 30 scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students with interests in rail. The Swamidas K. Charan (John) Punwani Memorial Undergraduate Student Scholarship Fund was named to honor and commemorate John, who passed away in December, 2015. John was dedicated and committed to the success of the RTD for many, many years. He will be truly missed.

In the end, the ASME 2016 Joint Rail Conference was very well attended having over 100 technical papers and presentations. Again, I want to thank everyone involved on the great work and successful conference.

Currently the RTD is working on the 2017 Joint Rail Conference with the other participating groups. The 2017 JRC is scheduled for April 4-7 in Philadelphia, PA and is planning participation from ASCE, IEEE, APTA, AREMA, INFORMS-RAS, TRB, and NURAIL. We're looking forward to another Joint Rail Conference that brings together the many facets of the industry and continue to push technology development and discussion.

As you can see, the RTD has a lot of exciting activities ahead of us. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming conferences.

Sincerely,

Robert “Bob” Irving
ASME-RTD Chairman, 2015-2016
Call for Papers and Presentations
Joint Rail Conference 2017

“Railway Engineering and Technology Solutions for Tomorrow's Transportation Needs”

Philadelphia, PA, USA - April 4-7, 2017

The Joint Rail Conference is the major, multidisciplinary North American railroad conference encompassing all aspects of rail transportation and engineering research. Papers and presentations are solicited internationally on all aspects of railroad civil, mechanical, electrical, and systems engineering, as well as rail safety, planning, design, financing, operations, and management. Papers on both freight and passenger rail subjects are sought. Conference organizers encourage submissions on the following topics as well as other relevant railroad industry research topics:

**Railroad Infrastructure Engineering**
- Design, engineering, and construction of track and bridge structures. Geotechnical engineering of track substructure and right-of-way. Best practices and advances in technology for the inspection and maintenance of the railroad infrastructure

**Rail Equipment Engineering**
- Motive power technology, vehicle/track interaction, wheels, couplers, components, rolling stock design, manufacturing, materials, and maintenance

**Planning and Development**
- Project management, planning & financing, new start and expansion development, service planning, environmental impact, and workforce development

**Urban Passenger Rail Transport**
- Investigations, insights, innovations, and implementations in all aspects of urban passenger rail transport

**Signal, Train Control and Communications**
- Systems integration, track and wayside components, equipment components, positive train control, interoperability, communications and microprocessor control

**Vehicle-Track Interaction**
- Wheel/rail contact, best practices in testing methods and modeling tools, passenger and freight applications

**Energy Efficiency and Sustainability**
- Energy conservation and efficiency, energy storage modeling, hybrid vehicles, emissions control and reduction and alternative energy sources

**Service Quality and Operations Research**
- Service availability and reliability, capacity models, impacts of aging equipment on service quality, transport mode integration, passenger information systems and passenger reservation systems, freight railroad network optimization, asset planning, and train scheduling

**Electrification**
- Catenary design, third rail design, materials, safety, efficiency, electrification approaches, design for high speeds, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), corrosion control, load flow simulation, energy savings, energy storage, regenerative braking, smart electrical supply

**Safety and Security**
- System safety approaches, safety data management, risk analysis approaches, accident avoidance, accident survivability, train and employee safety, human-factors-informed safety improvements, hazmat risk management, security assurance, emergency preparedness and response

Abstracts may be submitted at [https://www.asme.org/events/joint-rail-conference](https://www.asme.org/events/joint-rail-conference) Please provide abstracts in English and limit size to 400 words. Paper submittal is encouraged but not required. Interested authors will be notified of abstract acceptance.

Conference papers will be peer-reviewed and published in proceedings. **Abstracts due by September 7, 2016.**

The ASME Rail Transportation Division is offering a limited number of conference scholarships. For specific details and questions regarding the scholarship program, please contact Monique Stewart, [FRA-RSEC.PMO@dot.gov](mailto:FRA-RSEC.PMO@dot.gov)

Joint Rail Conference co-sponsoring organizations:
SAVE THESE DATES
JOINT RAIL CONFERENCES

- **2017 JRC:** CHAIR - JEFF GORDON - ASME LEAD YEAR
  *April 4-7, 2017 - Philadelphia. Doubletree Hotel.*

- **2018 JRC:** CHAIR - DAVE THURSTON - IEEE LEAD YEAR
  *April 10-13, 2018 - Pittsburgh, PA.*

- **2019 JRC:** ASCE LEAD YEAR
  *Venue TBD.*

- **2020 JRC:** ASME LEAD YEAR - 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RTD
  *Venue suggestions welcomed!*

ASME RAIL TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
JULY 1, 2015 -- JUNE 30, 2016

Bob Irving - Chair  irving@kelsotech.com
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Bryan Schlake - Asst. Chair Technical Program  bws14@psu.edu
Ralph Maldonado - Secretary  maldonado.rafael@ensco.com
Anand Prabhakaren - Chair Publicity  anand@sharma-associates.com
Sam Williams - Mgr. of Divisional Affairs  srwilliams@columbus.rr.com

ASME PROGRAM MANAGER
Mary Jakubowski  jakubowski@asme.org

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IN MEMORIAM:
NORMAN A. BERG
LIFE TIME MEMBER OF ASME

Copied from The Chicago Tribune, January 12, 2016. By Bob Goldsborough, a freelance reporter.

Norman Berg spent more than a decade as the president of Chicago-based American Steel Foundries, a steel casting company that manufactured rail car frames, couplings and other railcar parts.

"He was as good of a sales-type person as you'll find," said Edward Burkhardt, former head of the Wisconsin Central railroad and current chairman and CEO of Rail World. "He took care of his customers, got to know them all well personally and made sure products were up to snuff."

Berg, 78, died of complications from lung cancer Monday at his Wheaton home, said his son, Eric. Born and raised in Eau Claire, Wis., Berg spent two years in pre-engineering classes at Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire — now the University of Wisconsin — before enlisting in the Army. He served stateside with the Army Corps of Engineers, designing airports, and later returned to college, receiving a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1963 from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

After college, Berg entered the railroad supply industry, taking a job as a sales engineer at Griffin Wheel Co. in Chicago, which makes wheels for railroads. After winning several patents and working as manager of brake shoe sales from 1967 until 1972, Berg took over as central regional sales manager for six years.

In 1978, Berg joined a sister company, American Steel Foundries, as its assistant vice president of sales. Over the next several years, he was promoted to vice president of sales and then vice president of marketing before he was tapped in 1984 to be the firm's president.

"Norm epitomized what a company would want to be communicating to its customers, to its employees, to the press and to academia," said David Romoser, who was the firm's general counsel during Berg's tenure.

David Whitehurst, who shared an office with Berg for five years while both worked at Griffin Wheel, said Berg "was always known for taking an idea, developing it and furthering it. His creativity was very good."

After Berg retired from American Steel Foundries in 1995, he and his wife, Sheree, bought Railway Research, a firm that manufactures a mechanical timer that tests brakes on trains. They sold that firm in 2008.

Within the railcar supply industry, Berg chaired the Railway Supply Institute and was a lifetime member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Berg served on the board of Suomi College in Hancock, Mich. — now Finlandia University — from 1986 until 2006. He sat on the board of Illinois Masonic Hospital until the hospital's sale in 2000 to Advocate Health Care and served on Wheaton's Board of Zoning Appeals from 1995 until 1998. He also ran unsuccessfully for the Wheaton City Council in 1981.

In recent years, Berg and his wife divided their time between Wheaton and their winter home in the Fiddlesticks Country Club in Fort Myers, Fla., where he sailed a Regal 2660 twin-screw boat dubbed "Ice Berg."

Berg began playing piano at age 8 and in the early 1960s played at famed nightclub Mister Kelly's on Rush Street when the regular piano player would go on break. For the rest of his life, he played everything from Rachmaninoff and Chopin to show tunes and songs for his children and grandchildren, his family said.

Another major interest was buying and restoring vintage cars, including a 1928 Willys Overland Whippet painted Mercedes-Benz yellow and a 1939 Pontiac Model 25 coupe, which he painted red orange.

In addition to his wife and son, Berg is survived by a daughter, Susan Lyon, and five grandchildren.
The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Rail Transportation Division (RTD) continues to be a strong supporter of collegiate researchers, both professors and students, who play a vital role in the advancement of the rail industry. To this end, the ASME RTD offers the ASME RTD Graduate and Undergraduate Student Scholarships, which give students the opportunity to network with rail professionals, present rail research publications, and exchange ideas on rail technological innovations and solutions at the ASME Joint Rail Conference (JRC). Most importantly, the scholarships increase the awareness of the rail engineering discipline from both an academic and professional perspective.

Since 2011, the ASME RTD has received 146 graduate and undergraduate scholarship applications. Out of the 146 applications received, 123 scholarships totaling $115,150 have been awarded to deserving students with an interest in rail.

In support of the 2016 ASME Joint Rail Conference, the ASME RTD awarded 17 graduate scholarships and 14 undergraduate scholarships to students from the following colleges and universities.

### Graduate Scholarship Award Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Applicant Name</th>
<th>Academic Institution</th>
<th>Scholarship Award Amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Amir Momeni</td>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Aref Shafiei Dastgerdi</td>
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<td>Hanieh Deilamsalehy</td>
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<td>Priscilla Addison</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Steven Landry</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sumanth Kalluri</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Weina Meng</td>
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<td>Vasiliki (V.) Dimitra Pyrialakou</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Yanlei Wang</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Can Hu</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Shushu Liu</td>
<td>The Pennsylvania State University - Altoona</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Yin Gao</td>
<td>The Pennsylvania State University - Altoona</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Stephen Wilk</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Arkaprabha Ghosh</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Kaijun (Kevin) Zhu</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Hamed Faghihi Kashani</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Mohammad Mehdi Alemi</td>
<td>Virginia Tech</td>
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### Undergraduate Scholarship Award Recipients

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<th>Scholarship Award Amounts</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lauren Garoppo</td>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>Drexel University</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>John LaLonde</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Michigan Technological University</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Katherine Tigges</td>
<td>Junior</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Thomas Weston</td>
<td>Senior</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Carl Ingals</td>
<td>Senior</td>
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<td>$850.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jiabo He</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Tal Ben-Gera</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Alexander Ricci</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>The Pennsylvania State University - Altoona</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Ryan Smith</td>
<td>Junior</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Alexander Reinsmith</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Roel Gregorio</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>David Clapper</td>
<td>Senior</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Oscar Rodrigues</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Darkhan Mussanov</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Typically, the RTD Committee selects one undergraduate student to receive an additional award for “Best Essay” based on the quality of his or her essay. Alexander Reinsmith of The Pennsylvania University – Altoona was the 2016 recipient of the “Best Essay” award. This year, the RTD Committee also selected a ‘Best Student Technical Publication. The 2016 Best Student Technical Publication award was presented to Sumanth Kallura, Pasi Lautala, and Robert Handler of Michigan Technological University for their paper Toward Integrated Life Cycle assessment and Life Cycle Cost Analysis for Road and Multimodal Transportation Alternatives – A Case Study of the Highland Cooper Project.

We would like to thank those who applied for scholarships and encourage each of you to assist us in increasing the awareness of the Swamidas K. Charan (John) Punwani Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship for the 2017 ASME Joint Rail Conference Scholarship Fund going forward.

The Scholarship distribution per University is as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Scholarship Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Drexel University</td>
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<td>Kansas State University</td>
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<td>Michigan Technological University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missouri University of Science &amp; Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purdue University</td>
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<td>Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Pennsylvania State University - Altoona</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Massachusetts - Amherst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Tech</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$30,600.00</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

If you or anyone you know is interested in applying for the graduate or undergraduate scholarship in support of the 2017 ASME Joint Rail Conference, please visit the 2017 ASME JRC website for additional details and feel free to contact Ms. Monique Stewart, the ASME RTD Scholarship Program Chair, via email at rtdscholar@gmail.com should you have any questions.

COMPLETE YOUR PROFILE ON ASME.ORG

Have you filled out your profile in ASME.org? If not, you should make this a priority as it allows you access to the Rail Transportation Division Group Page as well as your Technical Committee Group page. If you have a LinkedIn account, you can quickly import information to complete your ASME.org profile.

Once you complete your profile, you can then participate in an existing online group or create your own group based on a specific engineering discipline, your interests, or even your university alumni. You manage group participation, content, tools, and activities. The rich suite of ASME.org functionalities makes it easy for you to lead and grow your own group. It's a great opportunity to network, collaborate, and showcase your leadership skills to like-minded engineers.