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Treasurer
Chris Myers P.E.

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Co-Chairs
Philip Jones P.E.
Abraham Syed

Professional Development
Committee Chair
Don McConnell P.E.

Industry Relations
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Membership
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Media Committee Chair
(Webmaster/Newsletter PR)

Quality Systems
Committee Chair
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Message from the Chairperson

1/21/2015

Out of all of the “Message from the Chairperson” articles I have written since becoming the Group Chair, this is one of the most difficult. While there are many changes going on within ASME with the introduction of “One ASME”, our local Group (with the changes we are no longer a Section but a Group) is struggling with our lack of interest in participation shown in Dinner Events attendance, those willing to become involved in a leadership role, industry support and involvement, Senior Members interest and involvement with the three Student Groups we charter. There seems to be a disconnect with the students. The types of speakers we have had are different and the hopes of the Programs Committee was that they would generate more interest. This has not happened. September and October featured young entrepreneurs who started up companies related to the power and alternative energy industries. November was a combination of a dinner and plant tour of a company related to metals manufacturing of a product used by a diverse industry. The tour was in Monroe and we felt it would draw attendance from surrounding counties where members find it difficult to deal with the Charlotte traffic.

We are conducting quality surveys at each event to gather info from those attending. Most of the audience is a diverse make up of generations and Engineering disciplines. Some had not attended an ASME Event in some time. That’s encouraging, it’s the numbers that’s concerning.

As a Group Chairperson I must confess it’s gets harder to grasp exactly what the membership desires in the benefits a local Section or Group brings. The Leadership Team (formerly Executive Committee) had a workshop in July and laid out the plans for September 2014 through June 2015 pertaining to dates and types of Events, Dinners vs. Tours. Budgets were allocated to each. We allocated funds to support the Student Groups and special promotions. While I accept the fact that we will not plan an Event which will appeal to the majority, the percentage of those who attend vs. the total membership of our Group has not improved over the past 18 months. This leaves one to wonder what are we doing wrong or better still what can we do right? This is in no way a reflection of a negative nor discouraged attitude. Rather, it’s a journey of seeking answers. ASME should be the leader in promoting the Engineering Profession in our area, After all, nothing happens until someone makes something and most of the time that something is mechanical or mechanically related to some electronic devise.

Any suggestions? Let me hear about them!

Bob Simril

Piedmont Carolina Senior Section Chairperson

ASMESectionChairperson@charlotte-asme.org





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SECTION NEWS

Bring a Potential Member Reward (Senior Section Members)

Purpose: To encourage Senior Section Members who have co-workers at their place of employment or know of a ME in the Engineering community of our Section to bring them to an Event.

The Guest is not charged for attending.

A Guest is defined as a person who is actively involved in the Engineering Profession and who is not a Member of ASME.

Reward: The Section Member who brings the most Guest at the end of the 2014 – 2015 calendar year will be awarded with a certificate allowing him/her to attend all Dinner Events for the calendar year of 2015 – 2016 at no charge.

End of year recognition: The Section Member who brings the most Guest during the current ASME Calendar year (Sept. –May) will receive special recognition in the form of a certificate and write up on the web sites (2) as well as in the Newsletter.

The Guest who attend will receive information on ASME membership and will be followed up with to encourage their joining ASME.

Process:

If you are a Senior Section Member make reservations, identify your Guest by name, employer, position and their email.

Both of you will be added to the reservation list for that Event.

Your Guest does not need to purchase a ticket for that Event. We do however need a head-count by the cut-off date for all Events.



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2015 ASME Piedmont-Carolina Section Family Member Scholarship

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 30, 2015

To recognize and reward students who have been inspired (intend) to pursue an engineering career, the ASME Piedmont-Carolina Section will award up to three (3) \$500 scholarships to current high school seniors for their first year of study (non-renewable) in an accredited Engineering or Engineering Technology program with an intended interest in mechanical engineering. The awarded recipients will be awarded in April 2015. Winners will be notified prior to the meeting.

Nomination Requirements

Applicants must be a current high school senior, and must be a son, daughter, or grandchild of a member of ASME, and planning to enroll full-time (minimum 12 credit hours) in an ABET-accredited or substantially equivalent mechanical engineering or mechanical engineering technology program no later than the fall after their senior year in high school.

Applicants need to submit:

The scholarship application form

Two (2) Letters of Recommendation confirming character and intended interest in the engineering field (may be from the ASME member, teacher, coach, etc.)

Personal Resume

Short paragraph statement (500 words or less) relating how he/she became interested in pursuing an engineering education.

Submission Requirement

The nomination package (application, resume and essay) should be e-mailed to:

ASMESectionChairperson@charlotteasme.org AND Membership Committee Chair

For more info go to: <http://charlotte-asme.org/>

About ASME

ASME is a 125,000 member professional organization, active for more than a century in supporting the profession of engineering through establishing codes and standards, publishing technical journals, participating in educational accreditation, and hosting seminars and conferences. ASME is committed to promoting technological literacy, and supports the means for outstanding future engineers.



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SECTION NEWS

Events Calendar for 2014 – 2015 Calendar Year

(Speakers, Topics, Plant Tours will be announced)

Kick-Off Event

**Senior Section Dinner Event
Thursday, September 18th**

CLT Joules

Lori Collins - Executive Director

Main Speaker: Mark Delgado - Chief Executive Officer of Koyr

**Senior Section Dinner Event
Thursday, October 16th**

Joel Olsen President – O2 Energies, Inc.

**Senior Section Plant Tour Event
Thursday, November 20th**

Stainless Valve Company – Monroe, N.C.

**Senior Section Dinner Event
Thursday, January 15th**

John Laurence Busch

STEAM COFFIN

**National Engineers Week
Senior Section Plant Tour Event
Thursday, February 19th**

Siemens Campus Tour

**Senior Section Dinner Event
Thursday, March 19th**

**Senior Section Plant Tour Event
Thursday, April 16th**

**Senior Section Dinner Event
Thursday, May 21st**

Awards Night

**Senior Section Dinner Event
Thursday, June 18th**

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Piedmont-Carolina ASME in promoting Professional Development is sponsoring PDH qualified courses for Engineers at the Extended Academic Program of UNCC.

**You will find more information at
<http://continuinged.uncc.edu/>**



**Carolina ASME supports Engineering Camp Charlotte
for second year in 2015**

The Piedmont-Carolina ASME Senior Group is dedicated to the development of the Engineering profession. To that end, we support The College of Engineering at North Carolina State University (NCSU) and their branch of their Youth Engineering Summer Program in Charlotte. They received over 180 applications in the first week of the application period in January, so apparently word is spreading that they are an effective program.

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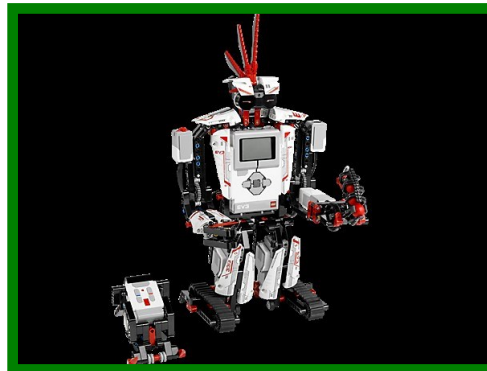
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ROBOTS COME TO DAVIDSON!



Through generous funding from ASME (Piedmont-Carolina section), Davidson Elementary is slated to begin its first Lego robotics team for the 2014-2015 school year. The team will be comprised of fourth and fifth grade students who have a strong interest in engineering and programming.

Amber Stokes and the school's Talent Development teachers, serve as coaches.

Community members and parents from related fields will serve as mentors for the program. Through the program, students will learn how to design and program the robots to navigate and complete sets of tasks. Davidson's team will compete in the STEMPalooza robotics competition that will take place in the spring of 2015 and will include teams from across the district.

So, do you live in Davidson, work in Davidson? Why not encourage your employer to support this S.T.E.M activity, why not volunteer to be a mentor?

Challenge to the Engineering Community of the Charlotte area.

In 2014 The College of Engineering at North Carolina State University (NCSU) accepted a proposal to open a branch of their Youth Engineering Summer Program in Charlotte. Queens University of Charlotte has agreed to house the program in the Rogers Hall building. The enrollment maxed out. Piedmont-Carolina ASME Senior Member Group donated financial support which enabled several kids from low income families who would otherwise not be able to attend. This was part of our National Engineer's Week effort to support STEM.

The Camp has begun enrollment for 2015. The potential of a maxed out enrollment is there. Here's the challenge. We all know there are three types of people in the world. Those who watch things happen, those who wonder what happened and those who make things happen. The Charlotte area is an abundant area of Engineering Professionals with an abundant number of Engineering Societies or Groups. Each of those societies or groups should be supporting the effort of Engineering Camp Charlotte financially as well as participation. Make something happen! You can find more information on this endeavor at <http://www.EngineeringCampCharlotte.com>



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OTHER NEWS

Test Finds College Graduates Lack Skills for White-Collar Jobs

By DOUGLAS BELKIN WSJ

Forty Percent of Students Seen Ill-Prepared to Enter Work Force; Critical Thinking Key

Four in 10 U.S. college students graduate without the complex reasoning skills to manage white-collar work, according to the results of a test of nearly 32,000 students. The test, which was administered at 169 colleges and universities in 2013 and 2014 and released Thursday, reveals broad variation in the intellectual development of the nation's students depending on the type and even location of the school they attend. On average, students make strides in their ability to reason, but because so many start at such a deficit, many still graduate without the ability to read a scatter-plot, construct a cohesive argument or identify a logical fallacy.

"Even if there is notable growth over four years, many students are starting at such a low point they may still not be proficient at the point of graduation," said Jessalynn K. James, a program manager at the Council for Aid to Education, which administered the test. The CAE is a New York-based nonprofit that once was part of Rand Corp.

The exam, known as the Collegiate Learning Assessment Plus, measures the intellectual gains made between freshman and senior year. The test doesn't cover subject-area knowledge; rather it assesses things like critical thinking, analytical reasoning, document literacy, writing and communication—essentially mimicking the baseline demands for professionals. "These are the skills that are important no matter what you are doing; if you're serving on a jury or looking for a good candidate to vote for, these are highly transferrable skills," Ms. James said. The test comes at a time of rising tuition and student debt and a broad rethinking of the value of a college degree in a changing job market. Last month, President Barack Obama spelled out plans for a college-rating system that aims to assess how well schools prepare students for the work world, among other criteria. The 40% of students tested who didn't meet a standard deemed "proficient" were unable to distinguish the quality of evidence in building an argument or express the appropriate level of conviction in their conclusion.

The results are "consistent with our work," said Richard Arum, co-author of "Academically Adrift" and "Aspiring Adults Adrift," which chronicles the paucity of studying and intellectual development on college campuses and the consequences after graduation. "Colleges are increasing their attention to the social aspects on campus to keep students happy; there is not enough rigorous academic instruction," he said. A survey of business owners to be released next week by the American Association Colleges and Universities also found that nine out of 10 employers judge recent college graduates as poorly prepared for the work force in such areas as critical thinking, communication and problem solving. "Employers are saying I don't care about all the knowledge you learned because it's going to be out of date two minutes after you graduate ... I care about whether you can continue to learn over time and solve complex problems," said Debra Humphreys, vice president for policy and public engagement at AAC&U, which represents more than 1,300 schools.