

Rail Transportation Division Newsletter

Editor: Tom Guins

Winter 2013

Chair's Message



Engineering is a profession of numbers. We use numbers to understand stresses, costs, safety and probabilities. We use numbers to understand processes and to make products that last longer, break less often and make our industry more profitable. Here are some numbers for you to think about: 100, 120, 60,000, and 1156.

100 – We are fast approaching our first century of existence as a division of ASME. Along with seven other divisions, the Rail Transportation Division was established in 1920, making the RTD one of the oldest operating divisions remaining in ASME.

120 – Number of abstracts submitted for the upcoming Joint Rail Conference in Colorado Springs, April 2-4. JRC is a multidisciplinary conference so there should be high quality presentations for just about any field related to rail transportation.

60,000 – Or, rather over \$60,000 has already been, or is planned to be, given in scholarships since 2010 to students to promote interest in rail transportation as a career.

1156 – Number of current ASME members whose primary interest is the Rail Transportation Division. Another 1629 have indicated a secondary interest in our division.

The mission of the Rail Transportation Division of the ASME is to manage the effective dissemination of technical information by providing technical forums to discuss advances in the industry and to advance the art, science and practice of mechanical engineering and related disciplines aimed at improvements in safety and productivity of railroad systems.

So, have we fulfilled our mission? Come to our next Joint Rail Conference and you can see for yourself!

We had a successful Fall Technical Conference in Altoona despite several obstacles (schedule conflicts and government shutdown). Attendance, as expected, was down a bit. We had about 70 attendees, who enjoyed the conference in the city of Altoona, which has been so important to the development of our rail industry. Thank you to NS Corporation for a very interesting tour of their Locomotive Shop.

Steve

Registration is now open for the 2014 Joint Rail Conference (JRC).

See complete details on our website:

<http://www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2014/>

FUTURE MEETINGS

2014 – Joint Rail Conference: Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs, CO, April 2-4, 2014

INFORMATION: <http://www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2014/>

2015 – Joint Rail Conference: San Jose State University, San Jose, CA, March 23-26-2015

Watch for the Call for Papers and announcements

Note that all dates and locations are subject to change as planning progresses.

New RTD Appointments

RTD welcomes the following new committee members:

TO RTD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Ralph Maldonado, ENSCO, Inc. - Chair Publicity Committee

TO RTD GENERAL COMMITTEE, MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Lincoln Scott Keegan, Norfolk Southern Corp.

Xinggao Shu, Transportation Technology Center, Inc.

**RTD thanks the following companies for their generous support.
These supporters make success of our technical conferences possible.
RTD 2013 Fall Technical Conference, Altoona, PA**

- **RailAdvisor.com**
- **TUV Rheinland Rail Sciences Inc.**
- **Amsted Rail Group**
- **ENSCO, Inc.**
- **Engineering Systems, Inc.**
- **KLD Labs**
- **LTK Engineering Services**
- **MRail**
- **Sharma & Associates**
- **Sim Pack USA**
- **Standard Steel, LLC**
- **Strato, Inc.**
- **Transportation Technologies Center Inc.**
- **TUV Rheinland Rail Safety Consulting**

SCHEDULE

2014 Joint Rail Conference (JRC)

April 2-4, 2014 – Colorado Springs, Colorado

Railroad Engineering Technology - Learning from the Past, Building for the Future

TUESDAY – APRIL 1, 2014:

AAR RECEPTION & BANQUET – REGISTER WITH AAR, SEPARATE FROM JRC.

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1336681>

2014 JRC SCHEDULE - ALL FUNCTIONS AT HOTEL:

Note: Check the printed program to confirm times and room numbers.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014:

AAR TTCI TOUR & TRACK WALK- REGISTER WITH AAR SEPARATE FROM JRC.

6:30 am JRC BREAKFAST AT HOTEL.

7:00 am - 11:30 am TOUR DENVER TRANSIT LIGHT RAIL AND UNION STATION
((\$20 fee at registration)

1:00 am - 1:45 pm CONFERENCE LUNCHEON
Wednesday Session Chairs meet with Authors for Orientation

2:00 pm - 3:45 pm PLENARY SESSION
WELCOME SPEAKER - Lisa Stabler, President TTCI

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm REFRESHMENT BREAK

4:00 pm - 5:45 pm (1) CONCURRENT SESSIONS (5 sessions)
FREE EVENING – NO JRC EVENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014:

7:00 am - 7:45 am CONFERENCE BREAKFAST
Thursday Session Chairs meet with Authors for Orientation

8:00 am - 9:45 am (2) CONCURRENT SESSIONS (5 sessions)

9:45 am - 10:00 am REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:00 am - 11:45 am (3) CONCURRENT SESSIONS (5 sessions)

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm CONFERENCE LUNCHEON (NO PROGRAM)

1:30 pm - 3:15 pm (4) CONCURRENT SESSIONS (5 sessions)

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm REFRESHMENT BREAK

3:30 pm - 5:15 pm (5) CONCURRENT SESSIONS (5 sessions)

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm CONFERENCE RECEPTION, BANQUET & PROGRAM
KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Philip Washington, Chief Executive,
Regional Transportation District - Denver

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014:

7:00 am - 7:45 am CONFERENCE BREAKFAST
Friday Session Chairs meet with Authors for Orientation

8:00 am - 9:45 am (6) CONCURRENT SESSIONS (5 sessions)

10:00 am - 11:45 am (7) CONCURRENT SESSIONS (5 sessions)

11:45 am - CONFERENCE CLOSING LUNCHEON – NO PROGRAM
END OF CONFERENCE

On-Site Registration at HOTEL:

Tuesday – 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm
Wednesday – 7:00 am – 3:30 pm
Thursday – 7:00 am – 1:30 pm
Friday – 7:00 am – 9:00 am

V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship Fund Activity Report

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 Conference 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 world's premier rail industry conference, 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 Rail Transportation Division has awarded approximately \$47,000 in student conference scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students with an interest in rail and enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities.

In support of the 2014 Joint Rail Conference, requests for Graduate and Undergraduate Student Conference Scholarship applications have been disseminated. The graduate student application deadline has expired and a total of twenty applications were received. The undergraduate student application deadline is January 8, 2014 and thus far, three applications have been received. Award notifications for the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Conference Scholarships will be provided in February, 2014.

Below are details on each student conference scholarship.

ASME RTD Graduate Student Conference Scholarship

Purpose:

Fund travel, lodging, and conference registration expenses for scholarship awardees selected to attend and present their research publication at the ASME Joint Rail Conference or, if scheduled, the ASME Rail Transportation Division Fall Technical Conference.

Award Amount:

\$1,100.00 USD

Requirements:

- The student must submit an abstract and written paper for an ASME conference. Both must be accepted through the submission and review process.
- The paper topic must be relevant to the rail industry.
- The student must be lead author of the accepted paper.
- The student must complete the application by the deadline indicated.
- The student must receive written notification from the ASME RTD indicating the award of the scholarship.
- The student must deliver an oral presentation of the paper in person at the conference.
- The student must be enrolled and attending a U.S. university, college, or technical college.

ASME RTD Undergraduate Student Conference Scholarship

Purpose:

Fund travel, lodging, and conference registration expenses for scholarship awardees selected to attend the ASME Joint Rail Conference or ASME Rail Transportation Division Fall Technical Conference.

Award Amount:

\$850.00 USD

Requirements:

- The student must be of Junior or Senior status.
- The student must be enrolled in an undergraduate engineering program at their university, college, or technical college.
- The student must complete the application and essay by the deadline indicated.
- The student must submit a minimum 250-word essay outlining why they should be selected to attend the conference and what they hope to gain through attendance (or what the student could contribute to the rail industry). Or, alternatively, a minimum 250-word essay can be submitted that suggests a solution to a real-world rail industry problem. *The essay requirement does not apply to students serving as lead authors of ASME conference technical publications.*
- The student must be enrolled and attending a U.S. university, college, or technical college.

In addition to the \$850 USD undergraduate scholarship award for reimbursement of travel-related expenses to attend the conference, one undergraduate student will be selected to receive an additional award for “Best Essay” based on the quality of his or her essay. Details of the award will be provided during the conference banquet where all awards will be presented.

Please note that additional scholarship details and requirements may apply.

If you, or anyone you may know, has an interest in the ASME RTD Graduate and/or Undergraduate Student Conference Scholarship, or you have questions regarding the V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship Fund, please contact:

Ms. Monique F. Stewart, ASME RTD Scholarship Program Chair, at FRA-RSEC.PMO@dot.gov.

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.

**ASME RAIL TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
JULY 1, 2013 -- JUNE 30, 2014**

**RTD CHAIR & CHAIR GENERAL &
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES**

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