



The American Society of
Mechanical Engineers

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ASME San Francisco Section

Newsletter

***** March 1994 *****

March Meeting: The Annual Crab Feed

Saturday, March 12, 1994



Location: Room 120 Bechtel Engineering Center
University of California, Berkeley
(North-East side of campus near Hearst and Euclid)

Parking is free after 6 pm on the street, or \$3
in Parking Structures A and H on Hearst Ave.

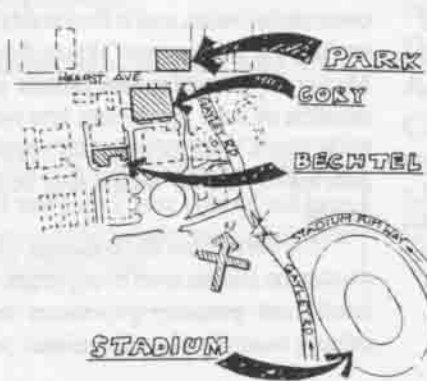
Menu: Dungeness Crab, all you can eat
Pasta Salad, French Baguette
Ice Cream

Time: 6:00 PM Social hour
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Program

Cost: \$20 ASME members
\$25 Non-members
\$10 Student Members

RSVP: S.F. ASME
(415)721-4478
RSVP before Wednesday, 9 March 1994

The crab feed has been an annual event since... (well, who can remember that far back). It is hosted by the UC Berkeley Student Section of ASME, whose member prepare and serve the dinner. It is one of the most popular ASME events of the year for both the local student and professional sections.



Direction: Use Berkeley
City map to get to vicinity
of UC Berkeley California
Memorial Stadium.
Follow map below.



Prof. Dennis Lieu

from U.C. Berkeley

Prof. Lieu will speak about the development of protective equipment for competition Taekwondo, a Korean martial art involving frequent and hard kicks to the body and head. He has performed extensive laboratory impact testing of chest protectors and headgear. Taekwondo was recently introduced as an Olympic sport and Prof. Lieu built protective gear for the US Olympic Team. He is currently developing an electronic chest protector to aid in more precise scoring. The overall goal of his research is to improve the safety of the sport.



Message From the Chair...

There has been some recent discussion about the role of ASME in encouraging the younger generation to seek an engineering education. Some feel that the discouraging job market makes it unrealistic to bring recruits into a profession without guarantee of a job. The argument also goes that it makes it difficult for the older members of the profession who must compete with the younger people working for half the salary.

Not surprisingly, I strongly disagree with that position. History is replete with times far worse than this. During the depression even a Ph.D. had difficulty finding work. The rationale to discourage education was much stronger then. However, to dismantle the system then would have certainly jeopardized our role in WWII and the subsequent industrial resurgence. Times are tight now, but world markets are expanding. If anything, we need to dramatically increase our role in education to maintain competitiveness.

Even if a person does not choose engineering, a reasonable level of technical competence is an asset to our profession. Look at the number of leaders without technical foundation or understanding making decisions affecting us. It would be far better to develop a positive attitude and some level of competence in technical issues at a young age. We would find more future leaders, consumers, co-workers, etc. who are partners to our interests and goals.

There has never been a time when everything is guaranteed or the envisioned job was even available for most professions. A student should consider career potential, not just job potential. That means looking at the long time, not momentary fluctuations.

The older engineer must continue expanding his or her education to ensure experience and knowledge justifies worth. It is not enough to say I've been on this planet longer therefore I deserve more money. ASME and other organizations have been providing those educational opportunities.

Our strength, as a nation and profession, has been our education -- in spite of all the recent criticism. We need to help support and develop the system -- not undermine it. I encourage all of you to become a mentor to a high school or college student. Work with local teachers in encouraging the younger generation to look at engineering and science. We will all benefit.

Thank you for listening. Bill Nott, Chair

The Effects of NAFTA on Intellectual Property

(from "Ideas on Intellectual Property Law", Haverstock, Medlen & Carroll, Patent, Trademark & Copyright Attorneys - 220 Montgomery St., Ste 2200, San Francisco, CA 94104, (415)705-8410)

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will benefit U.S. companies not only by increasing the scope of intellectual property protection available in those countries, but also by "locking in" existing levels of protection provided by Canada's and Mexico's intellectual property laws. In addition, most types of intellectual property, including patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets, will be uniformly protected in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

A. Patented Pharmaceuticals in Canada

Under NAFTA, particularly article 1709, the compulsory licensing in Canada of patented pharmaceuticals will effectively be eliminated and such patents will enjoy the same level of protection as other Canadian patents. Currently, pharmaceutical companies must license their patented drugs to generic drug makers seven to 10 years after entering the market.

B. Copyright Protection

NAFTA extends copyright protection to computer software as a "literary" work. Computer software and other copyrightable materials, including sound recordings and motion pictures, enjoy a minimum 50-year term of protection. In the case of works for hire, the term is usually 75 years from the first year of authorized publication or creation of the work, as measured from the end of that calendar year.

C. The Cultural Industry Exemption

Canada insists on exempting certain "cultural industries," such as film, music, publishing and cable broadcasting from the provisions of NAFTA. Under both current treaties and NAFTA, Canada reserves the right to protect these industries through any actions in its nation interest. Although the United States has vigorously objected to this provision, it means that Canada could deny intellectual property protection to certain products from the United States and Mexico. The United States currently relies on the threat of retaliatory sanctions to guarantee Canadian protection of foreign intellectual property. This threat continues to exist under NAFTA.

D. Enforcement in Mexico

Though Mexico has passed copyright laws that meet the requirements of NAFTA, there are still concerns over its enforcement of those laws against copyright piracy. Furthermore, Mexican penalties for copyright violations are weaker than in the United States, and Mexican enforcement efforts are considered lax and ineffective. To combat these problems, NAFTA requires Mexico to take significant steps to close its borders to pirated products.

E. Changes to U.S. and Mexican Patent Laws

Under article 1703, the United States must either amend its patents laws to recognize the "first to file" a patent application as the inventor (as is done in Mexico and Canada) or, alternately, to consider evidence of inventive activity done in other countries prior to the filing in that country in the same way as such evidence is treated with respect to domestic inventors.

Mexican patent laws will not be substantively changed by NAFTA, Mexico, in anticipation of NAFTA, overhauled its intellectual property laws in 1991. Under the new laws, a wide range of products and processes can be patented. In Mexico, patent protection lasts for 20 years from the grant of the patent and increased penalties for patent infringement have also been adopted.

F. Trademarks

Under NAFTA, each party to the agreement must provide for a system of registration of non-generic marks for an initial term of at least 10 years. In addition, NAFTA will abolish compulsory licensing of trademarks and allow the transfer of a trademark and its associated goodwill without the transfer of the business entry that uses the mark. Each of the three countries already has laws that meet these requirements, but NAFTA will lock in this level of protection.

G. Trade Secrets

Under NAFTA, trade secrets are defined to include any documented information that is secret or not readily known, is of commercial value, and is reasonably protected by the owner. This may exclude "undocumented" know-how. NAFTA requires Canada and Mexico to recognize and protect trade secrets without limiting the duration of such protection; however, the standard of culpability for trade secret misappropriation requires a showing of "grossly negligent appropriation," which may be higher standard than in the United States.

Even with the concerns over the Canadian cultural industry exemption and the level of copyright enforcement in Mexico, NAFTA's intellectual property provisions have been generally hailed as a shining example of multinational protection.

ASME to Hold Defense Conversion Meeting at the Presidio

A meeting with key California and federal officials, "Defense Conversions and Base Closures: A Morning with the Decisionmakers," will be held on Saturday, March 26, 1994, at the Presidio Army Base in San Francisco.

The purpose of the meeting, supported by the ASME Board on Government Relations' State Action Program, is to bring ASME members in contact with state and federal officials involved in planning base closings and conversion of defense facilities to civilian use. Invited speakers include members of the California legislature and the United States Congress, representatives of the Clinton Administration, and private sector experts on defense conversion.

The State Action Program provides an opportunity for ASME groups to actively participate in the Society's state government relations activities. The program supports local ASME groups such as Sections, Regions, and Student Sections in pursuing public policy initiatives with state government.

Hosted by the ASME San Francisco Section, the meeting will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Maraga Room of the Presidio Officer's Club. For more information call Lynden Davis at the ASME Western Regional Office:

1-800-624-9002.

YOUNG ENGINEER'S FORUM

March 27, 1994, 2-8pm
St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco

Attend and find out more about career planning, network with other engineers, and make valuable contacts, and learn more about mechanical engineering! This forum is geared toward the "young" engineer, generally zero to ten years out of college. College students are also welcome.

The Young Engineer's Forum will be part of the joint Industrial Power/Solar Conference being held Sunday, March 27 in San Francisco at the St. Francis Hotel. The Forum will be from 2-6 with a reception following the event. Admission to the Forum & Reception is FREE!

The program consists of a session of Career Planning, and a session on energy topics including a debate on "The role of alternate energy resources in America's energy future."

The Young Engineer's Forum has been very successful at the last two Winter Annual Meetings in Anaheim and New Orleans. This is a chance to extend the Forum to the Northern California area and let members and students attend locally. If you missed out on one of the past events, here's another chance.

If you'd like to attend please fill out the following:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Send to:
Diane O'Regan, IBM, 5600 Cottage Rd., N30/005, San Jose, CA 95193
or phone (408)256-1079.

Mark Your Calendar

The 1994 Bay Area Technical Conference is Arriving

May 14, 1994

This one day conference will be held Saturday, May 14, 1994 at the Berkeley Marina Marriott Hotel, which address the Biomedical Industry. Executives from local bay area biotech companies will be speaking. Break out session will allow for interactive audience participation and discussion of engineering design and manufacturing issues associated with these devices. For a registration name, please call the SF ASME Voicemail (415)721-4478 and leave your name, address and phone. Volunteers are still needed to manage this conference. Planning meetings alternate between an Oakland and a South bay location. For further information, call conference co-chairs Don Moseman (415)768-1234 or Laura Vavrunek (408)922-6833.

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Northern California Section

presents a One-Day Symposium on

Conversion of Military and Industrial Facilities:

Engineering Opportunities

During the next five years a number of military facilities in the San Francisco Bay region, including the Presidio of San Francisco, Hunters Point Naval Ship Yard, Treasure Island, Alameda Naval Air Station, Mare Island and Fort Ord will be converting to civilian use. The remedial activities required to treat the contaminated soil and water at these facilities are expected to provide an unprecedented growth stimulus for the local environmental industry and consulting employment in the Bay region. The symposium will focus on two critical steps of the conversion process: 1) remediation of contaminated soil and ground water at the facilities; and 2) commercialization of locally-developed innovative environmental technologies to serve a global market.

The symposium will be held at Hs Lordships at the Berkeley Marina on March 15, 1994. The keynote speaker is Carl Anthony, Executive Director of the East Bay Reinvestment and Reinvestment Commission. The other speakers include representatives from the California EPA, Chevron Corp., Bechtel Corp., Alameda Naval Air Station, and environmental engineering and consulting companies. Registration is \$75 in advance of \$75 at the door and includes lunch. For further information call Dr. Ravi Upadhye at (510)423-1299, or Dr. William Smith at (510)522-0390.

If you'd like to attend please fill out the following:

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

I prefer (circle one): Prime Rib/Shrimp/Pasta(vegi)

Send to:
AIChE Symposium, c/o Dr. Ravi Upadhye, 5424-10 Sunol Blvd #107,
Pleasanton, CA 94566

San Francisco State Human Powered Vehicle (HPV) Team needs your financial help. They would like to build and race a new vehicle and have raised \$2,500 of a \$5,000 goal. If you would like to help them reach their goal please call Prof. Ahmad Ganji at (415)338-7736.

ASME San Francisco Section

1993-94 Executive Council

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ASME Section Hotlines...

San Francisco Section 415-721-4478

Santa Clara Section 408-629-2592

Mount Diablo Section 510-275-4580

Western Regional Office 800-624-9002

These numbers provide meeting and technical activity information.

San Francisco Section Executive Council Meetings

First Thursday of the month

at 6:15

Offices of Bevilacqua-Knight (BKI)

501 14th Street, Suite 210

Oakland City Center Complex near 12th Street BART

Validated parking at City Center garage

All members are welcome and encouraged to become active and help plan this year's Section activities. For more information, call our voice mail message (415)721-4478 or Bill Nott at (408)743-2378.

Advertising Space Available:

\$100 full page

\$50 half page

\$10 business card

\$5 classified (25 word max.)

Contact Madeleine Moffitt (510)540-8551

*** JOB BULLETIN ***

MEMBERS

Looking for a job? Contact the ASME Western Regional Office to obtain a copy of the Job Bulletin. 1-800-624-9002

COMPANIES

Looking for mechanical engineers? Contact the ASME Western Regional Office to place a free listing in the Job Bulletin, or to obtain information regarding advertising in *Mechanical Engineering* magazine.