

**ASME San Francisco Section  
Report to the 2003 Regional Administrative Conference  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
May 2, 2003**

The San Francisco Section (with its small, thinly stretched, and extremely busy core group of volunteers) announces that we had another high quality set of program offerings and information sources during the 2002-2003 program year. For this, each volunteer played an important and significant role and many special thanks must be given to all of them!

**SECTION GOALS & HIGHLIGHTS**

San Francisco Section goals have been and continue to be to provide quality service in form of information, events, and networking to our membership. We feel we managed to meet our goals once again in this calendar year with a multitude of events. Of a program year where all presentations were good or excellent, highlights included:

- An interesting “debate” (we called it a Pro-&-Con discussion) about the planned LNG facility in Vallejo – this type of forum was a first for our group.
- An increased level of cooperation with and commitment to our Student Sections – demonstrated by three great joint activities with each of the schools in our Section and implementation of a funding and award program for Student Projects.
- Establishment of a betterment (“tune-up”) committee to develop and implement new ideas to improve, streamline, and/or optimize Section activities.
- Increased cooperation with other local ASME Sections.

We still have a number of excellent programs left for the year.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

This year, SF Section implemented some new programs while keeping to its core activities of providing forums for its members to gather together, network, exchange ideas, and learn in a fun environment. Amongst our accomplishments, the following deserve special recognition:

- 1) San Francisco Section implemented a new set of activities/programs with the three universities (San Francisco State University, University of California, Berkeley, and California Maritime Academy) in our Section. After noticing that Students spend significant time on and sometimes have to spend their own money to conduct their Senior Projects, we decided to provide a helping hand. A committee of senior Section members was formed and it was decided to implement a new program where students will present their projects to the committee and ask for support. We also requested and received funding (although only half the requested amount) from the Region to support Student. San Francisco State students were the 1<sup>st</sup> group receiving awards from our Section under this new program.
- 2) Early in this year, a new committee (we call it the “tune-up” committee), headed by our last year chair, was formed to study Section operations and develop recommendations to improve

our services to our members. The first challenge this committee tackled was the high cost of our newsletter mailing (probably similar to other Sections, our newsletter mailing budget was about 90% of our Section allocations leaving very small room for other programs.) We had seen that other organizations had moved to web-based notices (emails) to reduce their cost, but we also recognized that not all members are on the WWW yet! The committee came up with a great idea which included:

- Publishing and posting the newsletters on the web,
- Sending email notifications to members with email address, and
- Sending a postcard notification to all Section members.

This program is still being evaluated – but the early results show that we are **saving** a lot of resources without reducing our services to the members. This has allowed us to reduce the cost of events (especially for students), which is attracting more members to our dinner meetings. This committee is planning to tackle other issues and, if past records are an indication, we'll keep bettering our Section.

- 3) This year we increased cooperation with other ASME Sections close to us (Mt. Diablo and Silicon Valley). This cooperation manifested itself in form of more joint meetings and better advertisements of each Section activities in each other's newsletters. This led to having three ASME Distinguished Lecturer programs this year (joint with Mt. Diablo, two completed and the third scheduled on Gizmology on May 22, 2003 in San Francisco)
- 4) We managed, so far, to put together a very fine program this year. A list of our programs follows this report.
- 5) We have awarded Farber awards to UC Berkeley and California Maritime Academy students.

#### **MAJOR ISSUES FACING THE SECTION**

I think the main issue facing our section continues to be the lack of time by our volunteers and our members.

#### **MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR**

Some can say that we saved the best for the last! It may be true depending on one's point of view! Anyway, here are some of our major events for the remainder of the year:

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| May 22, 2003  | Dinner Meeting – Gizmology                           |
| June 21, 2003 | History and Heritage meeting – Year Close-Out party! |

#### **SAN FRANCISCO SECTION 2002-2003 PROGRAMS**

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| October 30, 2002: | San Francisco Section Dinner Meeting: The Mare Island Liquefied Natural Gas Plant: Friend or Foe?, Pro Speaker: Merv Stromberg, Director, LNG Projects for Shell US Gas & Power Company. Con |
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- Speakers: Mark Cederborg and Elena DuCharme, Co-Chairs of Vallejo for Community Planned Renewal (Vallejo CPR) and Myrna Hayes  
<http://sf.asme.org/newsletters/oct02/103002.html>
- December 3, 2002: San Francisco State University/San Francisco ASME Joint Dinner Meeting: Hear about SFSU's 2002-2003 Senior Projects and listen to a panel discussion on engineering in the "real world". Also present new Student Project Awards. <http://sf.asme.org/newsletters/dec02/120302.html>
- January 15, 2003: ASME Distinguished Lecturer Dinner Meeting: Challenges and Landmarks in Electronic Packaging, ASME Distinguished Lecturer John H. Lau, Agilent Technologies  
<http://sf.asme.org/newsletters/jan03/jan011503.html>
- February 19, 2003: Micro-sensors Developed at Sandia and Lawrence Livermore National Labs for Homeland Security, Ray Mariella, Ph.D., Director, Lawrence Livermore National Lab Center for Microtechnology, and Eric Cummings, Ph.D., Member of Technical Staff, Micro-Fluidics Department, Sandia National Lab  
<http://sf.asme.org/newsletters/feb03/feb021903.html>
- March 12, 2003: ASME Distinguished Lecturer Dinner Meeting and 20th Annual Crab Feed!: Indy Racing and the effect of Aerodynamics on the Car; ASME Distinguished Lecturer, Arthur W. Ebeling, ASME Midwest Director, Emeritus. Farber Awards were also presented.  
<http://sf.asme.org/newsletters/marapr03/mar031203.html>
- April 5, 2003: Picnic and Tour!; Saturday, April 5, 2003, Cal Maritime Academy, Vallejo. Farber Awards were also presented.  
<http://sf.asme.org/newsletters/marapr03/apr040503.html>