



Summer 2008

The International Division Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OFFICERS

CHAIR

Kurt Paterson
paterson@mtu.edu

VICE-CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

Gerry Johnson
gerry@ntuf.org

PROGRAM CHAIR

Nick Safai
Nick.Safai@slcc.edu

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Brian Koehler
koehler@ncsu.edu

NEWSLETTER

Gerry Johnson
gerry@ntuf.org

PAST CHAIR

Russel Jones
RCJonesPE@aol.com

WEB SITES

[http://www.asee.org/activities/
organizations/divisions/index.cfm](http://www.asee.org/activities/organizations/divisions/index.cfm)

[http://www.asee.org/
international/index.cfm](http://www.asee.org/international/index.cfm)

From the Division Chair

Why bother?

Another ASEE conference has come and gone. By the end of the last day, I am drained, the combination of being an interested attendee, speaker, division chair, session chair, and committee member. As the last day of the conference passed, and I could (mostly) set aside the administrative and enjoy being an attendee again, I began to reflect on our division, our organization, and our conference. Why do we bother with any of it?

There has never been a clearer message on the need for the International Division and the efforts of our members. Over the past several years, blue ribbon panel reports from academia, industry, and government identify international experience as a necessity in modern engineering education. ASEE's newest president, Sarah Rajala, has identified international engineering education as one of her priorities. Add contemporary global economic, social, and geopolitical dynamics, and it seems hard to believe that not every ASEE member belongs to the International Division. In reality, our Division is one of the smallest with just over 300 members (out of 13,000 ASEE members). There are many reasons for this disparity between reality and need, one clearly is the slowness of academics to respond to change, particularly when it comes to program-wide reform. So, in this regard, I view the members of the International Division as some of ASEE's visionaries. When you look for modern engineering programs with excellent international dimensions, you will find their leaders in our midst. A second interesting trait seems to be common among our Division members - a stronger identification with "international engineering" rather than traditional (ok, "antiquated" by some people's perspective) affiliations by discipline. It may be that many of our members are also leaders in a new paradigm for professional identification and scholarship. Time will tell. These reasons were influential when I added the International Division to my annual ASEE registration years ago. Within the massive organization, the International Division is, without question, where I feel at home. Moving forward we need to think of ways to continue to make that home welcoming, supportive, and energizing to all. How can we best keep our Division this way?

ASEE's size is both a blessing and a curse. It's great to know that so many engineering faculty are interested enough in engineering education to be a part, yet it's massive size can also create barriers to members feeling like

(continued on p.2)

they can make a meaningful contribution. I got involved in ASEE early on in my academic career, but mostly as a passive member. It was only more recently, when I attended a talk on the “Most Pressing Engineering Challenges” that I realized the answers in this talk were off mark. The biggest engineering challenge is not the solution of any technical problem, rather it is finding ways to create the number and type of engineers needed to solve those problems. Engineering education plays a huge role. ASEE is the engineering education organization. It became clear to me that active membership in ASEE was critical if I wanted to dedicate my scholarly energy to solving this engineering challenge. Having done so, I can’t imagine returning to my passive participation. Why are you a member of ASEE?

The ASEE conference is a huge undertaking. Thousands of dollars in travel costs, a sea of attendees to maneuver around, 1400 presentations to puzzle into a coherent plan, great distances to walk between sessions, impossible-to-find meals, and the mental drain of being “on” for three days straight. I have a love-hate relationship with big conferences. The participation of so many people is amazing, and encouraging. But due to the barriers just mentioned, and many other reasons, it’s evident that conferences must strive for something more these days. Bringing a few thousand people together to attend a series of lectures seems to fall woefully short. We know lecture works poorly in the classroom, so why does this model persist in our conferences? While we are unlikely to change ASEE’s practices, we can certainly influence our Division’s sessions. I want our Division members to feel like attending the ASEE conference was worth it because of what they got of our sessions. I attend to learn about great ideas from our members that I can then integrate into my international programs. I also attend to look for new partnerships to form. And, of course, to meet up with old friends at other universities that I see too rarely. So it’s probably not surprising that after the last session I attended on the last afternoon of the conference, a group of faculty friends and I chatted about the stimulating ideas just shared in that session’s talks. A spontaneous brainstorm ensued, followed by a wish to bring our energy together. A few weeks later, a proposal emerged from the group for a truly innovative collaboration. Maybe these giant conferences aren’t so bad. Why do you attend? Why do you not attend? How can our Division make your attendance even more worthwhile?

One of the brilliant moves made by some past International Division executive board was creating two year terms for the officers. The current board is mid-way through our service. The training wheels are off the bike now, and we will pedal hard this year to build on past excellence while positioning our Division to be visionary, vital, influential, and meaningful to you, ASEE, and our partners. Why bother? Become actively involved, and you won’t ask that again.

Kurt Paterson

Make a difference. Lead!

The International Division will be electing new officers this fall. The Program Chair and Newsletter Editor will serve from the Fall 2008 through the national conference in 2010. The Vice Chair/Chair Elect and the Secretary/Treasurer will serve from Summer 2009 to 2011, beginning and ending at the respective national conferences. The following positions are available

Vice Chair/Chair Elect)
Secretary/Treasurer
Program Chair
Newsletter Editor

Duties of the officers may be found online at:

<http://www.asee.org/activities/organizations/divisions/bylawsIntl.cfm>

Interested candidates (nominated or self-nominated) should send a short bio (up to one page) highlighting their interest in the position, experience in international engineering education and research, and past service to Kurt Paterson, International Division Chair, paterson@mtu.edu

All nominations must be received by October 1, 2008.

**ASEE Annual Conference
International Division Business Meeting
June 23, 2008
Pittsburgh, PA**

Attendees:

Kwame Adom	Bob Creese	Russel C. Jones	Kurt Paterson
Muthar Al-Ubaidi	Ivan Esparragoza	Bethany Jones	Jean Landa Pytel
Mary Anderson-Rowland	Zenaida Gephardt	Bill Jordan	Maria Larrondo Petrie
Shahzad Akbar	Hans Hoyer	Kamiro Jordan	Bob Reilly
Asad Azemi	Eric Johnson	Brian Koehler	Nick M. Safai
Amir Chegini	Gerry Johnson		

Agenda and Notes:**Call to order (12:30pm)**

The meeting was held at the Pittsburgh Convention Center with welcoming remarks from the Chair of the International Division, Kurt Paterson.

The Chair, Kurt Paterson, mentioned that there will be two parts to the business meeting: 1) Business, and 2) Discussion (through our collective wisdom).

Self-introductions of all members (involved or committed)

Reference to a joke the past-Chairman Russ Jones shared last year of the chicken and pig:

**PIC IV Chair (Mary Anderson-Rowland)**

PIC IV Chair Mary Anderson-Rowland visited the meeting. She stated that the bylaws are up to date and the Board met yesterday (Sunday) and will meet again on Wednesday (from 1-3pm) to collect feedback. She explained the long range plan of the Board which is: 1) ABET, 2) International, and 3) Diversity (also see Changing Conversation study).

Mary Anderson-Rowland addressed some issues including, papers disappearing (because of late or no payment), abstracts leading to papers and posters in ASEE sessions (exception are panels), and the copyright form (simply maintains rights if published).

- o Nick Safai (ASEE International Division, Program Chair) helped her describe the process of authorship and titles, stated Technical Session (3260) was being used

(continued on p. 4)

as a poster session, and felt out a proposition that speakers would have 3-5 minutes during poster sessions.

- o Mary Anderson-Rowland discussed Zone and Section meetings and SWEEP (to aid STEM educators). Lastly, she stated that this year there are 45 concurrent sessions whereas in Texas (2009) there will be 37 concurrent sessions due to limited space.

Mary Anderson-Rowland is happy to bring our message to the President of ASEE and believes the International Division can partner even closer with the ASEE International Office. Please submit any recommendations for a special / keynote speaker to PIC IV Chair, Mary Anderson-Rowland so that she may propose it to the ASEE leadership.

Program Chair (Nick Safai)

Program Chair Nick Safai reported that there are 18 total sessions including technical sessions, workshops, panel sessions, our business meeting, and one poster session.

- o Nick Safai put together a panel of reviewers made up of faculty from the various higher educational institutions. Six reviewers were assigned to each paper.
 - 129 papers were reviewed,
 - 92 ultimately accepted,
 - 34 papers were rerouted to other divisions.
- o ASEE had the highest drop rate due to missing the deadline for fees.

Nick Safai had indicated during the speakers breakfast session that the printed version of the program is more accurate online.

Secretary (Brian Koehler)

Secretary Brian Koehler shared a brief summary of minutes from last year (approved). For a copy see the "International Division Newsletter" (Fall 2007; Gerry Johnson, Editor)

Treasurer (Brian Koehler)

Treasurer Brian Koehler reported on the BASS and Operating Accounts. As of 3/31/2008 the BASS Account Balance is \$11,554.45 (↑ from \$10,973.60 in 2007) and the Operating Account Balance was \$270.

- o Acknowledged Masdar Institute of Science & Technology (MIST) support of International Division Reception. Also see awards below.
- o Reported that Dr. Sarah Rajala (President, ASEE) worked at NC State University for many years and is now at Mississippi State as Dean.
- o Made reference to past-Chairman Jones' truism that former officers never retire, they just take on new assignments.

Indicative of this is the Masdar Institute of Science & Technology (Russ Jones) sponsorship of the International Division reception, and that of Maria Petrie's work on the International Division website.

Webmaster (Maria Petrie)

<http://www.cse.fau.edu/~maria/asee/ASEEInternationalDivision.html>

Webmaster Maria Petrie listed the many topics included on the website containing links such as bylaws, awards, calendar of events, a blog, joining ASEE, resources and links to other associations. She is an officer of the Minority Division and co-created 650 links for that website.

- o This website will be linked to the ASEE International Division site:
<http://www.asee.org/activities/organizations/divisions/index.cfm>

Jean Pytel stated that it would be beneficial to publicize national endowments for international experience so that students may be directed toward that option.

Newsletter Editor (Gerry Johnson)

Newsletter Editor Gerry Johnson reported that he has done five editions over his tenure as editor, but that now, given his new capacity as Chair-Elect, the International Division needs to elect another Newsletter Editor. All membership input is welcome in the newsletter. Please send articles and other contributions to the Newsletter Editor to be included in upcoming editions. It is believed that electronic files (.pdf) lasts longer and is the superior mode of communication via a newsletter.

Membership Chair (Ivan Esparragoza)

Membership Chair Ivan Esparragoza is serving the Division since his appointment to the position in late 2006. Ivan Esparragoza stated that our membership is low given the status of the International Division within ASEE. He believes the International Division “should” be the biggest in ASEE, however, we currently comprise just over 2% of the total ASEE membership.

- o 290 members (↑ from 277 year before) with 675 (↑ from 668 year before) Global Online Memberships (GOM) who are not paying members.
- o 24.1% of the Division is female – slightly higher than overall ASEE female membership (18%).
- o Jean Pytel asked “is the International Advisory Board together with the International Division really needed?”

Hans Hoyer said the ASEE staff supports the International Division. We are all on “one team” said Hans. There is a task force to look at ASEE Global initiated by Dr. Melsa. The long range plan is the “come together”. Invitation to ASEE Global in Cape Town, South Africa was made.

- o Zenaida Gephardt asked how these initiatives are supporting the division?
 - Russ Jones stated that the International Division is more “inward focused” and the ASEE Global is more “outward focused”.
 - Hans Hoyer stated the ASEE Global Conference requires quite intensive planning and also requires a lot of attention.
 - Kurt Paterson said that we need to pass along information to members. Also, need to encourage and reward member scholarship.
- o Maria Petrie stated that we can dedicate an award for member activity though competition. It could literally be by ASEE Global Participation.
- o Russ Jones believes we need to present more than in just the International Division. We need to market opportunities, create “eye catching” pamphlets, perhaps a one-page handout, encourage membership advantages.
 - Presentation (Kurt Paterson, Chair)
Theme: Improving time not together
- o New directions
 - Better understand who we are? Administrators, faculty, etc.?
 - Exploit connections between International Division and ASEE Program Office.
 - More interactive sessions and more joint sessions.
 - Website to include institutions, programs, etc.
- o Money (questions facing the division membership)
 - Best Paper Award (\$500)
 - New faculty travel awards
 - Vote
- o Russ Jones proposed to drop dues of \$5 for members. The motion was seconded.

Discussion:

- It’s a service detractor; not due to fees.
- Examples were given (i.e. newsletter about global)

(continued on p. 6)

- o Benefits and advantages for members.
- o Branding and identity of International Division
- o The number of members not from special interest groups
- o Use newsletter for awareness.
- o Key for leadership to increase – Global Warming issues, Awareness, etc.
- o Inclusion of sessions for specific majors.

Vote:

Kurt Paterson will initiate division wide survey as he believes “who we are” is at the root of the question.

- o 10 yeahs
- o 2 neahs

- o Bob Creese asked “how to get a newsletter”? Should we have it sent throughout ASEE?
 - Russ Jones said ASEE listserves are highly guarded. It is also not a good practice through ASEE, but rather to only the interested parties.

- o Zenaida Gephardt asked can we develop a task force about the branding question raised early?
 - Kurt Paterson appointed Zenaida Gephardt to proceed.
 - Jean Pytel stated that whatever is done it must be sustainable.

- Invitation to International Division Reception
6:30-8:00 p.m., Westin Conference Center
Masdar Institute of Science & Technology (Russ Jones) is sponsor of the event.

- o Division Awards to be presented at the 2008 International Division Reception:
 - Service Award: Russ Jones (Masdar Institute of Science & Technology)



- Best Paper Award: “Extending our Reach: What we have learned in two years of engineering study abroad programs” by Alan Parkinson, John Harb, Spencer Magleby, and Chelita Pate (all from Brigham Young University).

Reminders:

- o Conference and panel session ideas are welcome for 2009 annual meeting
Please contact either Kurt Paterson or Nick Safai.

- o 2008 ASEE Global Colloquium – Cape Town, South Africa
Division presence at global conferences is encouraged!

- o Elections will be held this fall.

- Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Notes submitted respectfully by
Brian D. Koehler, Secretary/Treasurer
NC State University – College of Engineering

2009 ASEE Annual Conference Austin, Texas

First Preliminary Call for Papers

The International Division seeks papers for the 2009 ASEE Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, which is to be held during June 14 - 17, 2009. You and your colleagues are invited to participate in this event. Here is a great chance of having your engineering related work peer reviewed and published in an internationally known engineering conference. Abstract submission begins on September 8 and will end on October 10, 2009 (please check www.asee.org for updates and as ASEE provides exact dates). Papers are being solicited with a special emphasis on the international aspects of engineering and technology education. Abstracts should be between 300 and 350 words. Please note that the International Division sponsors a best paper award. All abstracts are to be submitted via the ASEE SmoothPaper program www.asee.org/SmoothPaper/, which is the ASEE Web-based submission system. The Author's Kit with deadlines and instructions will be available through SmoothPaper and on the 2009 conference Web site over this summer.

Please note that Division 60 requires submission of the full final version of the paper in order for a paper to be accepted for presentation at the conference, in either a technical or poster session, as well as for publication in the proceedings. A minimum of four papers in a topic area is needed to justify a session on that topic otherwise it may be put in potpourri. Also a poster session may be used to accommodate papers that do not fit into a session but are worthy of publication in the proceedings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Some Upcoming Events (for a more detailed list, please see the International Division Web Site)

Mark your calendar

October 19-23, 2008	7 th ASEE Global Colloquium on Engineering Education, Cape Town, South Africa
October 22-25, 2008	38 th Annual Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE), Saratoga Springs, New York
November 8, 2008	2 nd Annual D80 Conference on Engineering Development for Humanity, Houghton, Michigan
November 6-9, 2008	11 th Annual International Colloquium on International Engineering Education, Newport, Rhode Island
December 2-5, 2008	World Engineering Conference (WEC2008), Brasilia, Brazil
June 14-17, 2009	116 th ASEE Annual Conference, Austin, Texas