



The International Division Newsletter

Winter 2007/2008

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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

Dispelling The Grand Delusion

Recently riding across Nicaragua by bus, I was reminded of the music of my childhood during the 1970s as it blared out the bus's speakers. One song in particular that bridged the past and present was Styx's "The Grand Delusion." Yes I discovered, much later as an adult, that the title is "The Grand Illusion," but I will probably always remember it as the former (this is clearly a reflection of my learning style, if there ever was one). Upon my return from Nicaragua, two events sparked my revisiting "The Grand Delusion," this time in regards to engineering education.

The first was the news that the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) is planning to measure and report the educational effectiveness of academic programs at universities around the world. This is a most welcome development. Too long have rankings been devoid of metrics which assess how successfully universities teach. While no method will be perfect, the OECD's effort should help dismiss the grand delusion that current rankings are related to the quality of the education that students, parents, and taxpayers get for their money.

The second event was my participation in the 2007 Conference of the Australasian Association for Engineering Education. If you've never attended one, I highly recommend it. The organizers of this year's AaeE Conference had a special rule for all speakers – no more than 6 to 8 minutes of talking. This approach forced speakers to focus their message, sharing the most vital points with attendees, and better yet, provided abundant interaction time after the four back-to-back presentations in each session. Thirty minutes of presentations, sixty minutes of discussion per session. In the end, a simple change in conference approach shattered the grand delusion that conferences are all about what's coming from the lectern.

So, what's the connection in all this to our International Division? At future meetings we must strive to do better. Lecture less and discuss more during our sessions; support the presentation of our exciting educational initiatives with solid assessment data; leverage our collective presence; share abundantly. In these ways we can continue to be a leader among ASEE's divisions, enable the International Division to live up to its mission of promoting and sharing best practices in international engineering education, and along the way, dispel some grand delusions.

See you in Pittsburgh.

Kurt

ASEE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, the ASEE International Division presents three awards. These awards are the International Division Service Award, the Global Engineering & Engineering Technology Educator Award, and the ASEE Annual Conference International Division Best Paper Award. The first two awards are by nomination from the membership. Nominators should send a nomination letter of support (no more than one page) and a CV of the nominee by March 28, 2008 to Gerry Johnson, the chair-elect (gerry@ntuf.org). The recipients of the awards are selected by the International Division Officers. The Best Paper Award is selected by the Division reviewers when submitted papers are reviewed. The Best Paper will be announced in the next issue of the International Division Newsletter. The awards will be presented at the International Division Reception on Monday, June 22, 2008.

International Division Service Award

This award acknowledges and recognizes an individual who has made valuable contributions toward advancing the mission of the International Division. The award consists of a plaque, presented at the International Division's Annual Reception, which is held as an event at the ASEE Annual Conference.

Eligibility:

To be eligible, the nominee must be a member of the International Division, with a minimum of five years of service. Selection will be based primarily upon the quality of contributions, relevant support and promotion of the International Division's mission including, but not limited to:

- Visionary Leadership: Demonstrating excellence in leadership.
- Accomplishments: Demonstrating excellence and knowledge, creative practices that contribute to the advances and quality of engineering and engineering technology education.
- Service to the International Division: Demonstrating excellence in supporting and promoting international engineering and engineering technology education.

Global Engineering & Engineering Technology Educator Award

This award acknowledges engineering and engineering technology educators for their exceptional contribution to global engineering & engineering technology education. The award consists of a plaque, presented at the International Division's Annual Reception, which is held as an event at the ASEE Annual Conference.

Eligibility:

Although non-ASEE international service is important and will be considered, to be eligible, the nominated individual(s) must also be a member of the International Division for at least three years, and have any or all of the following:

- Demonstrated excellence in leadership.
- Demonstrated knowledge and creative practices that contribute to quality of and advances in engineering and engineering technology education.
- Demonstrated excellence in supporting and promoting global engineering and engineering technology education.
- Demonstrated excellence in teaching and learning.
- Personal and professional development in global arena by means of industry, consulting work, inventions, service, etc.

Selection will be primarily based upon the quality of work and its relevance to global engineering and engineering technology education.

ASEE Annual Conference and Exhibition Pittsburgh, PA June 22 – 25, 2008

This year, the International Division had over 150 abstracts submitted to the Annual Conference. Of these, 114 were accepted to fill 16 technical sessions that were allocated to the International Division by the ASEE Board. Of the abstracts submitted, a number were rejected, some withdrawn and some better fit other divisions and were sent to more appropriate reviewers. In addition to the 16 technical sessions, the Division will have three business sessions and one poster session. One business session will be devoted to the Division Business Meeting and one will be the traditional International Division Reception to be held Monday, June 22 from 6 to 8 pm.

The International Division Reception will be sponsored this year by the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi, UAE. MIST is a graduate research institute focused on alternative energy and sustainability. The founding president of MIST is the International Division Past Chair, Russel Jones.

Election of ASEE International Division Officers

As specified in the International Division By-Laws, two officers of the division are elected each year. This year the Division will elect the Newsletter Editor and the Program Chair. Nominations should be sent to the Division Chair, Kurt Paterson (paterson@mtu.edu), by March 28, 2008. Nominations should only include the nominee's name. The nominee will then be contacted for a brief bio to include with the ballot that will be sent to the Division's members. At this time there are no nominees for the office of Newsletter Editor. Nick Safai has been nominated and agreed to run for the position of Program Chair. His brief bio is shown below.

Nominee for Program Chair – Nick Safai



Dr. Nick Safai is the Head of the Engineering Department (which consists of nine engineering programs: Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, Material Science, Environmental, Manufacturing, Bioengineering and Computer Engineering) at the Salt Lake Community College. He is a tenured full professor. He received from Princeton University his Ph.D. in Engineering (Multidisciplinary), also MS in Aerospace, MS in Mechanical, MSE in Civil Engineering, and an MSE in Reservoir Engineering/Water Resources (all from Princeton University), as well as a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State. Prior to joining the academics, Nick worked in industry, where he served as Director of the Reservoir Engineering at Chevron Oil Corporation in California. He has taught both at the graduate and undergraduate

levels in engineering science. He has performed research projects for the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Defense (DOD), National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Oil Industry. He has authored over 85 technical publications in Technical Journals, Government & Industry project reports, DOE, DOD and NSF. His research areas of interest have been coupling of Solid Mechanics & Fluid Flow, 3-D Multiphase Flow in an Unsaturated / Saturated Deforming Porous Medium, Wave Propagation & Stress Concentration, and Filamentary Composite Materials.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

University Studies in Hamburg Program
Smith College

Our program now accepts students for the spring semester as well as for the entire year, most of them study at the university (www.uni-hamburg.de), but in recent years, a number of our students have also taken courses at the Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg, one of Germany's finest institutions in the engineering sciences.

During 2008-09, I will serve as faculty director for the seventh time, and I would welcome the opportunity to mentor and advise your students in Germany, or those from similar institutions.

We accept only 20 students, to ensure that the Associate Director and I will know each student and can advise and support them well.

March 1 is the application deadline for the year program, October 15 for the spring semester program. For the spring semester, we have rolling admissions and will review applications as we receive them, beginning on March 1.

Our program compares favorably with others in Germany. We are strong on:

Language acquisition— language courses offered by Smith College at the Smith center and a German speaking faculty director challenge students to achieve their highest level.

Assisted university course placement, in a wide range of fields—students take courses at Hamburg University or at the Technische Universität Harburg in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and engineering, with tutorial support for university courses.

Housing: Immersion with German peers and international students in single rooms in well equipped dorms located relatively close to the university and Smith Center.

Appreciation for the arts—the Smith programs introduce students to the many events Hamburg offers, and to the cultural and historical resources of Northern Germany through excursions, field trips and lectures.

For over 45 years, Smith College has collaborated with the University of Hamburg to offer an academically challenging German immersion program that serves students so well, many of them return to Germany as funded graduate students. I hope we can welcome your students in the next year.

Sincerely,

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ANNOUNCEMENTS – Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar

March 27-30, 2008	Engineers Without Borders - USA, International Conference, Seattle, Washington USA
May 20-23, 2008	IACEE 11th World Conference on Engineering Education, Atlanta, Georgia
June 4-6, 2008	LACCEI 2008 The sixth Latin American and Caribbean Conference for Engineering and Technology, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
June 22-25, 2008	115 th Annual ASEE Conference and Exhibition, Pittsburgh, PA, (www.asee.org)
July 2-5, 2008	SEFI 26th Annual Conference, Aalborg, Denmark
July 7–10, 2008	Research on Engineering Education Conference, Davos, Switzerland
October 19-23, 2008	7th ASEE Global Colloquium on Engineering Education, Cape Town, South Africa
November 8, 2008	2nd Annual D80 Conference on Engineering Development for Humanity, Houghton, Michigan
November 6-9, 2008	11th Annual International Colloquium on International Engineering Education, Newport, Rhode Island