

METROPOLITAN SECTION NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2015

THE METROPOLITAN SECTION'S ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S NIGHT

Written by Gerald Hillebrand



Continuing its annual tradition, the Metropolitan New York Section hosted its President's Night On Friday March 20, 2015 at the downtown Brooklyn headquarters of National Grid, One Metrotech Center, adjacent to the Jay Street site of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute of New York University. More than 60 ASME and student members registered for this meeting with large delegations from the City College Engineering School and from the nearby New York City Technical College.

The guests enthusiastically enjoyed a delightful and delicious dinner, along with the opportunity for mentoring and networking. The meeting was then called to order by the Met Section's Director of Meetings and Programs, Edward G. Ecock, P.E., who then introduced retiring professor Latif Jiji from the City College's Engineering School. Professor Jiji has taught Mechanical Engineering subjects for 63 years at City College, and during most of these years has served as Faculty Advisor to the College's ASME student section. Recognizing this record of exemplary service, Mr. E. Ecock presented Professor Jiji with a gift set designed to help the good professor in his extensive grape and wine-growing hobby. Professor Jiji then received a prolonged standing ovation followed by lengthy photo opportunities.

Mr. Ecock then called the meeting to order and introduced the ASME's 133rd president, J. Robert Sims, who has a record of 33 years of active society service including leadership positions on Codes & Standards and Certification committees, as well as serving on the society's Board of Governors.

Mr. Sims is an ASME fellow and is currently employed by the Becht Engineering Company, specializing in the design and failure analysis of high pressure oil and gas well equipment.

Prior to his service at Becht Engineering, Mr. Sims worked for more than 30 years at the Exxon Mobil organization, concentrating on the integrity of high pressure equipment, risk analysis, and the multidisciplinary development of flaw evaluation. Mr. Sims is a Mechanical Engineering graduate of Vanderbilt University and is a retired commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. He is the author of more than 30 publications and two patents, and is a recipient of ASME's dedicated service award.

President Sims began his presentation of "Jumpstart into the Future of Engineering" by summarizing worldwide technological trends of the 21st century. Most prominent among these were biotechnology, three-dimensional printing, green buildings and structures, "smart" electronics, portable electricity generation, nano-technology, driverless transit systems, and vertical farming. President Sims also discussed expanded scientific, technological, electronic and manufacturing training, emphasizing increased efficiency with zero waste, minimum wear, and robotics usage for curing the ills of the world. ASME is calling attention to these trends by scheduling a series of informational meetings and design competitions in the United States, India, and Kenya, as well as in outer space. This is being conducted in cooperation with NASA's programs for developing returnable and reusable space vehicles having manufacturing capability while orbiting the Earth.

President Sims went on to explain that one of the ASME's major objectives is to emphasize the importance of building sustainable cities throughout the world. The need for this emphasis is readily apparent to all who study global development. In 1990, 10% of the world's population lived in urban areas, but by 2014, that number had jumped to 28%. By 2030, urban populations are projected to increase to 41% and by 2050 to 66%. Typical among urban expansion is the development of the megapolis surrounding the city of Hong Kong, where eleven cities in China's Pearl River delta have merged into a living zone within one hour commuting time to the central business district.

Similar developments have taken place in Copenhagen, Denmark, San Francisco, Singapore, and the Curitiba area in Brazil. Other urban areas with the same tendencies include Barcelona, Bogota (Columbia), New Delhi, Shanghai, and Vancouver.

In this complex modern world, ASME will emphasize the following programs:

- Development of emerging markets and global engineering education
- Integration of sustainable design systems into global regulations
- Development of diverse energy sources consistent with existing ecosystems, and ethical solutions for local conditions
- Production of practice-ready engineers via active and engaged programs for mentoring and networking among various social groups, concentrating on promoting student and engineer licensing and aggressive use of social media such as Facebook, Wikipedia and Twitter, along with LinkedIn and Google
- Focus on strategies for energy development, advanced manufacturing techniques, and workforce development

Today, ASME consists of 140,000 members worldwide, organized into 500 sections in 150 countries. In 2015, the society will sponsor 35 international conferences and present 180 seminars and technical courses featuring newly formulated energy forums and nuclear system promotion, as well as detailed content on multiple ecosystems. In addition, ASME is initiating its "Pathways 2025" program emphasizing our society's core values and mission, along with network building among our ex-

panding committees and volunteers, expanding financial initiatives, and developing creative subject content promoting disciplined growth, all while concentrating on public safety and advancing the quality of modern life. In summary, we comprise "One ASME" striving to advance our society's programs all over our diverse, multi-faceted world in the 21st century.

Another ASME initiative to be developed this year is the creation of its Technical Events and Content sector, which will emphasize the efficient use of resources, international promotion of energy conversion and storage, progressive system design, proper consumption of materials, and use of various manufacturing sources, along with programs to optimize technical and engineering knowledge-sharing among its members. ASME has also established a Group Pathways & Support requisition tool through which society officers may participate in a series of web seminars for planning future activities and increasing communication and engagement with its vast cadre of activists and volunteers.

The question and answer period was quite lively and informative. President Sims urged student members to make themselves ready for workplace employment by participating in ASME programs for advanced study, internships, networking, and mentoring. Job opportunities are available through listings on the ASME website, along with suggestions for creating efficient and productive career resumes, and how to negotiate salary expectations during pre-job interviews, during which the applicant should stress interest and knowledge of the various aspects of exploding technology.

ASME's Metropolitan section also has numerous job opportunities in the NY City area listed on its section web page.

Newsletter Editors
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Group Photo of Attendees at the Metropolitan Section's Annual President's Night, 2015



ASME's 133rd President J. Robert Sims Delivers Presentation

Recognition of Professor Jiji (Center)



Members of the Executive Committee

