Chair’s Column: P. Ruby Mawasha, Wright State University

Welcome to the fall issue of the ASEE NCS (North Central Section) newsletter. I hope your fall is enjoyable and that the quarter/semester is moving on smoothly.

This is my first year of a 2-year term as your Chair of the North-Central Section. I want to thank Bob (Robert Ward), the past chair for his excellent leadership, patience and assistance in making this a smooth transition. During his tenure Bob guided us in revising our Section’s Constitution and By-laws and we were able to host the exciting Spring North Central Section Conferences in 2008 and in 2009, which were held in Dayton, Ohio and Grand Rapids, Michigan respectively.

At the last Spring North Central Section Conference a few changes were made on the 2009-2010 Executive Board by electing Craig Gunn, Michigan State University - Vice-Chair; Kumar Yelamarthi, Central Michigan University - Unit Director Instructional; Darrell Kleinke, University of Detroit, Mercy - Unit Director Research; and Dan Bundy, University of Pittsburgh - Program Chair for our 2010 spring conference. As chair, I have relieved Craig from ASEE/NCS Campus Representative Coordinator, and have asked Betsy Allier, Central Michigan University to take over. The entire Board works hard to provide you with a strong and active Section, as well as a quality annual conference. Thanks to all of the Executive Board members.

I would like to make you aware of the section’s upcoming spring conference hosted by The University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on March 26 – 27, 2010. More information regarding the conference including Call for papers is included in this newsletter. So mark your calendars as March will be here soon. Stay tuned for further information on the NCS list serve.

The spring 2009 conference, hosted by Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI, was a great success. I want to thank Pramod Chaphalkar, Hugh Jack, and their committees for a successful and rewarding conference. Awards were presented for outstanding papers, outstanding teaching, and outstanding campus representative. Congratulations to all the award winners! Unfortunately, Paul Lam, the winner of the 2009 outstanding campus representative passed away shortly after the conference. His obituary is available in this newsletter.

The NCS annually presents a number of awards to the section members at the spring conference. One of those awards is the Outstanding Teacher Award. Please take the time to consider nominating a deserving colleague, as the deadline is typically mid-January. Qualifications for the award can be found at the ASEE website (www.asee.org). All members
should be receiving more information about this via e-mail. Continue to have a good fall and I hope to see you at the 2010 spring conference in Pittsburgh.

P. Ruby Mawasha, Chair of the North-Central Section

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**Paul Lam, winner of the 2009 NCS/ASEE Outstanding Campus Representative**

Paul Chi-King Lam, Ph.D., 62, died May 24, 2009 after fighting a courageous battle with Kidney disease. Dr. Lam was born in Nanking, China and had resided in Cuyahoga Falls the past 34 years, moving here from West Lafayette, Ind. Dr. Lam was a true scholar and valued all aspects of the educational enterprise including research, teaching and service. His academic journey began at Purdue University, where he received a B.S. in Engineering Science in 1969. His graduate education next took him to the University of Illinois where he obtained a M.S. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in 1970. After Illinois, he attended The University of Akron, where he received the Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 1978.

After brief sojourns into the corporate world at Pratt Whitney, Babcock & Wilcox, and General Motors, Dr. Lam began his academic career as an Assistant Professor at The University of Akron in 1980. He was to serve Akron with all his amazing devotion to students and research for the 29 years. Most recently, he served with distinction as Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies and Diversity Programs, and as a Full Professor of Mechanical Engineering. As a faculty member and Dean, Dr. Lam worked with many students and he truly loved watching students grow into active professionals. There are far too many students whose lives he influenced to ever list them all. This included students at every level, from Ph.D. to grade school children in the workshops he delivered at local schools. Dr. Lam was an advisor for ASME and participated in over 57 Ph.D. or Master's level committees.

A phrase that could be used repeatedly to describe Dr. Lam "is too numerous to mention." This expression certainly describes his professional service and activities. Some of the technical societies in which he held membership include American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE), American Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), National Association of Minority Engineering Program Administrators (NAMEPA), and National Advancement Council of Minorities in Engineering (NACME). Honor society memberships included Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Eta Sigma, Sigma Gamma Tau, Tau Beta Pi, and Sigma Pi Sigma. He served on committees for many of these organizations, including the Ohio Space Grant Consortium K-12 Education and Pipeline Committee.

Dr. Lam set high standards for his students and for himself. He was a tireless worker, who also found time to pursue his passion for knowledge. His accomplishments included a patent and over 120 journal, conference, or book publications. There were of course many additional conference presentations and technical reports. As further recognition of the high quality of Dr. Lam's work, he received over 50 grants or donations of funds as a source of support for his research and his minority programs. His areas of research interest and publication included structural dynamics, rehabilitation and adaptive devices for cerebral palsy patients, finite element analysis of structures, fatigue and fracture evaluation of material behavior, minority engineering education, pre-college math-science-technology programs, and retention models of engineering education.
The 2010 ASEE North Central Section Conference will be held at the University of Pittsburgh, the Swanson School of Engineering. We will continue the ASEE tradition of exchanging and disseminating pedagogical research and networking among engineering educators. For more information, now and later, visit the conference website, http://www.asee-ncsection.org/ or contact the Conference Chair, Dan Budny at budny@pitt.edu; phone: 412-624-6474; FAX: 412-624-2827.

Not all areas of the conference website are complete. If you have questions visit the website at a later date or contact Dan Budny.
Several things to seriously consider

Register early! It will save you money and assure your attendance on the conference.

Make hotel reservations early. There are a limited number of rooms. A block of rooms have been reserved by the conference committee.

The Call for Papers: Abstracts and proposals must be submitted by December 25, 2009. For those that are accepted, preliminary documents are due by March 1, 2010. For details visit the conference website, http://www.asee-ncsection.org/. Under “Authors” in the left hand column you can find formatting templates using Microsoft Word 2003 and 2007, and PDF.

Nominations Needed for the Executive Board
Bob Ward, Ohio Northern University

I am now accepting nominations for the following three executive board members, which will be elected at the annual spring conference business meeting on March 27, 2010 at the University of Pittsburgh, Swanson School of Engineering, Pittsburgh, PA.

- VICE CHAIR - this is a one-year term.
- Unit Director Administration- this is a two-year term.
- Unit Director Industry- this is a two-year term.

For a description of the executive board member duties see the bylaws of the North Central Section that can be found at www.asee-nc.org.

Please forward nominations to Bob Ward at r-ward@onu.edu.

Conference Hotel - Holiday Inn Pittsburgh, University Center (Oakland)

Holiday Inn
100 Lytton Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Hotel front desk: 412-682-6200
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Parking: $18/night
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ASEE 2009 North Central Section Spring Conference
April 3 - 4, 2009, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI

After a day of presentations, meetings and networking we took time out for a little fun. Awards were given for winning presentations and so were student scholarships. This is also the time that the newly elected officers take office for the upcoming year. If you missed this conference and banquet, hope to see you in Pittsburgh in 2010.