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SEM Publications

On receiving an invitation to write an editorial for inclusion in 'Experimentally Speaking,' a number of topics relating to services now offered by the Society easily came to mind. SEM's progress in providing an increasing number of member benefits and in improving their quality has been impressive. I scanned through a number of previous issues of EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES to review what earlier contributors to 'Experimentally Speaking' had said on the subject of member benefits. While doing this, I noted a number of comments addressed to various forms of communication, both internal and external to the Society. This seems quite appropriate since I envision a major role of a service organization being the dissemination of timely and useful information accurately and in an interesting manner.

The Society is most fortunate to have two major publications which so aptly serve the communication role. Fortunate in this context is not intended to convey the impression that good fortune descended on SEM in a capricious, serendipitous stroke of good luck. Nothing could be further from the truth. In my role as chairman of the Editorial Council, I have had the opportunity to work with an amazingly dedicated group of 'amateurs' who voluntarily contribute great quantities of time and display considerable talent editing material for publication in EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS and EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES. I use the noun 'amateurs' deliberately—to use the term 'professionals' would suggest receipt of monetary rewards for their efforts. In fact, the only compensation they do receive is the satisfaction of contributing their efforts to two splendid publications. Complementing the efforts of the EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS technical editors and the EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES Editorial Committee is the truly professional editorial staff at SEM Headquarters who take the final steps toward the production of publications which meet the criteria of accuracy, timeliness, utility and attractiveness.

I recently received several pages of abstracts taken from recent issues of the SAMPE (Society of Aerospace Material and Process Engineers) Journal. Of 19 abstracts published in these issues, six were selected from EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS, an impressive recognition of the regard the technical community has for SEM publications.

We would have no publications without authors. Supplementing the efforts of the authors, however, are the contributions of our volunteer editors and the professional talents of the Headquarters' editorial staff. This combination of talents forms the heart of a most valuable asset and service of the Society, our publications.

Bob Rinn
Chairman, Editorial Council
SEM