

EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM ENDOWMENTS AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

Prof. George R. Irwin. University of Maryland, has had a long and distinguished career in experimental mechanics. He has been recognized by his SEM colleagues on several occasions as a Murray Lecturer (1973), Lazan Award for his "outstanding original contribution to the technology of experimental mechanics through the analysis and measurement of fracture phenomena" (1977), and as a Fellow in 1983. An endowment fund has been established at the University of Maryland to honor Prof. Irwin. The fund provides travel expenses for students at Maryland, specializing in experimental or

fracture mechanics, to attend national conferences and present papers on the results of their research efforts.

THE CHARLES E. TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP

at the University of Illinois is awarded on the basis of academic achievement to junior and senior students in the field of theoretical and applied mechanics who demonstrate an interest in attending graduate school. Prof. Taylor, currently at the University of Florida, has given generously to SEM/SESA over the last four decades in terms of leadership, enthusiasm and personal time devoted to Society activities. His peers have bestowed upon him numerous awards such as: Honorary Member, Fellow, Frocht,

Hetenyi, Tatnall, and was the Society's Murray Lecturer in 1974. Dr. Taylor remains active in SEM and serves as its Historian.

A SYMPOSIUM ON "ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS"

will be sponsored by SEM's alliance partner, the Materials and Mechanics Division of the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers on Nov. 9 & 10, 1995 at Aoyama Gakuin Univ., Tokyo, Japan. The Chairman is Prof. Masahisa Takashi. The 2-day affair will present 50 papers on traditional methodologies and new approaches with hybrid concepts and techniques. For information, contact the chairman on E-mail, takashi@myroc.me.aoyama.ac.jp, or Fax 81-3-5384-6311.

President's Corner

by T. Dixon Dudderar



As I promised in the last issue of E/T, this month's column is devoted to the very successful SEM 1994 Fall Conference on "Integration of FEA and Structural Testing with Rapid Prototyping," which I attended this past November 7-9. This topical conference was organized by the SEM Southern Michigan Section and held in Dearborn, Michigan. It was specifically designed to provide practicing engineers with the knowledge and technical skills required to exploit the many synergies between rapid prototyping, model testing and finite element analysis.

Unlike most SEM conferences, this engineering practice oriented conference required *no publishable papers* and drew, as both speakers and attendees, many engineering professionals from local industries who hadn't here-to-fore attended any SEM events, or in some cases even heard of our favorite engineering society. In addition, while quite a few practicing engineers from industry agreed to present talks and participate in the discussions, it appeared that many also came simply to listen to the presentations, talk with our vendors and network with their peers. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if the non-presenter attendees significantly outnumbered the presenter attendees! As a result, this event brought the SEM into contact with many new or potential new members from the

industrial community who can be served quite effectively by our Society. Indeed, I was repeatedly asked by "new-to-SEM" attendees to keep them informed of our plans for more such SEM events on both the same and other engineering practice oriented topics. Needless to say, we intend to do so.

It was also interesting to note that while everyone felt that part of the reason we were successful in attracting so many practicing engineer presenters from industry was omission of the requirement that they provide a released, publishable paper, *many still wanted to know if and when a Conference Proceedings would be available! Amazing!*

As for the Conference details, the various presentations were organized into two parallel tracks covering eight sessions in two full days. These sessions included both technical talks and vendor presentations, and was followed by a day of guided tours, which included visits to a rapid prototyping company, 3-Dimensional Services, and the state-of-the-art Chrysler Technology Center.

In addition to the above activities, Dr. Raj B. Thakker of A.O. Smith and Paul Dober of Chrysler Corporation presented a half-day short course on "Strain-life Prediction and Modal Frequency-mode Shape Analysis Using PVC Scale Models." There was also an interesting panel session on the subject "Numerical and Experimental Analysis - How Much is Enough?" with Raj Thakker, Gary Cassatt of Boeing, Sam Smith of Battelle, Glen Steyer of SDRC

and John Kilsdonk of Ford, and Neal Enke (also Ford) led a discussion session on "Rapid Testing with Rapid Prototyping" with contributions by practicing engineers from Chrysler and AC Engineering.

Other Conference highlights included the 1994 Fall Conference Reception, which officially opened the *sold-out* Manufacturers' Exhibition and featured good food and the latest in experimental mechanics, rapid prototyping and FEA products, services and supplies.

I also enjoyed the Conference Luncheon at which I had the privilege of introducing our Keynote Speaker, John Kilsdonk, Manager of the Reliability Laboratories of the Ford Motor Company. John gave an excellent talk on how to achieve the proper balance between experiment and theory in finding cost effective solutions to the engineering problems.

In closing, I must acknowledge the efforts of the SEM Fall Conference Organizing Committee headed by Brad Boyce and the hard working SEM Headquarters Staff under Ken Galione for putting on this very successful SEM Fall Topical Conference. I also want to thank the SEM Conference vendors for their generous support, our speakers for their excellent presentations and our many attendees for coming, listening attentively and for asking for more.

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at our Society's 1995 Spring Meeting and Manufacturers' Exhibit which will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the Amway Grand Hotel this coming June 12-14.