

The following are SEM members who have recently received recognition for their professional contributions:

**CHRISTOS C. CHAMIS** has been named a 1995 Award of Merit recipient by ASTM. The title of "Fellow" accompanies this award. Dr. Chamis was cited for his exceptional leadership and outstanding technical contributions in the area of mechanics of fiber reinforced composites. **HÅVARD VOLD**, President, Vold Solutions, Inc., was honored by the Institute of Environmental Sciences for excellence in the field of design, test and evaluation. He is the recipient of the Maurice Simpson Technical Editors Award from Institute of Environmental Sciences. **PAUL E. SENSENY**, a program manager at the Defense Nuclear Agency, has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. **NOBUYUKI OKUBO**, Chuo University in Tokyo, has been named as the recipient of SEM's 1996 D.J.

DeMichele Award. The award will be presented at IMAC-XIV and recognizes Okubo's technical and educational contributions to the field of Modal Analysis.

**THE SEM VIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS** is shaping up to be one of the best attended in recent memory. It is cosponsored by 16 additional international organizations. The Congress will be held June 10-13, 1996 in Nashville Tennessee, USA. **For those planning to attend, it is most important that you reserve your hotel room early (April 1st is suggested).** There is a city-wide music convention being held during the same week and any rooms not reserved will be utilized by the music group. If you need any further information, please contact the SEM staff. An advance program will be mailed in February, 1996.

**FOR QUICK ACCESS TO SEM UPCOMING EVENTS AND OTHER IN-**

**FORMATION**, consult SEM's Home Page at: <http://www.sem.bethel.ct.us/>.

Members who always wanted a copy of the second edition of the **HANDBOOK ON EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS**, **Albert Kobayashi, Editor**, but felt it was too expensive, will be pleased to know SEM has published a lower cost version. It is exactly the same as the original, but is in a soft cover version and sells for \$50 plus postage. This Handbook is an excellent reference volume and would be a welcome edition to anyone's technical library. Contact SEM's Publication Dept.

**NEED ASSISTANCE WITH A WORK RELATED MATTER?** Consult the "Professional Services" listings in the back of this issue. From Forensic to Finite Elements or Modulus Measurement to Mobile Data Acquisition, there are individuals and organizations available to share their expertise. See pages 36 - 38 for further information.

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## President's Corner

by Mark E. Tuttle

As most of you are already aware, we are in the process of modifying the way our annual spring conference is organized and managed. The primary objective of these modifications is to increase overall attendance at the annual spring conference, and in particular to increase attendance by practicing engineers from industry.

We have introduced the following three modifications in an effort to achieve this goal:

- Starting in 1996 the spring conference will be programmed along major thematic "tracks." As pointed out by SEM President Gary Cloud in 1993 (see President's Corner Column, *Experimental Techniques*, Vol 17, No. 4, 1993), our spring conference is often too fragmented, with too many parallel sessions on too many topics. Establishing major themes for the conference will lead to a greater technical focus. The thematic tracks for the 1996 spring conference in Nashville are: (1) Experimental/Numerical Mechanics in Electronic Packaging; (2) Aging

Aerospace and Civil Structures; and (3) General Experimental Mechanics: Research and Applications. As indicated by track (3), we do not wish to preclude presentations which are not strictly aligned with the major thematic tracks for a given year. Indeed, a highly-desirable synergistic effect often occurs when engineers and scientists working on very different problems intermingle.

It is of course crucial that the focused thematic tracks are chosen wisely. The thematic tracks for the 1997 spring meeting will be established during the upcoming spring meeting in Nashville, based on suggestions received from the Technical Divisions, the Future Technical Directions Committee, and from at-large SEM members. If you have an idea for a good thematic track, please forward your suggestion either to the chairperson of your Technical Division or directly to me; my e-mail address is [tuttle@u.washington.edu](mailto:tuttle@u.washington.edu).

- We have also modified our conference PROCEEDINGS require-

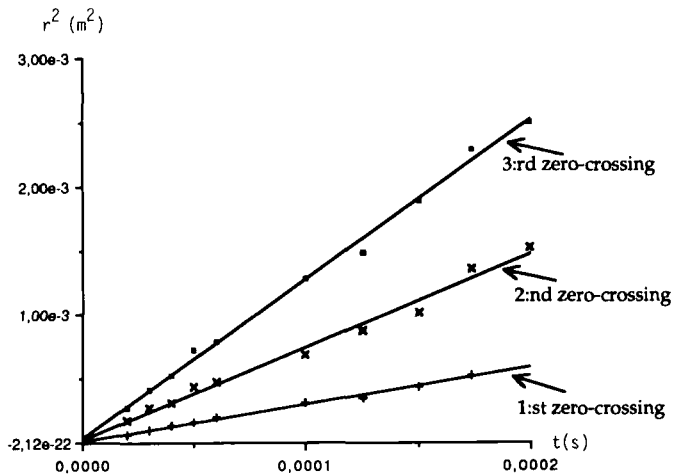
ments. Starting in 1996 we no longer require authors to submit full-length manuscripts for publication in the conference PROCEEDINGS. Instead, all authors are simply required to submit a 1-2 page abstract of their presentation. A bound copy of abstracts will be provided to all attendees at the spring meeting. We hope that this new policy will encourage participation by authors from industry, who often find it difficult to obtain the clearances necessary to submit a full-length paper.

On the other hand, those who wish can still submit a full-length manuscript to an editor representing a particular thematic track. These submittals will be peer-reviewed and, once accepted, will be published in a separate thematic post-conference series.

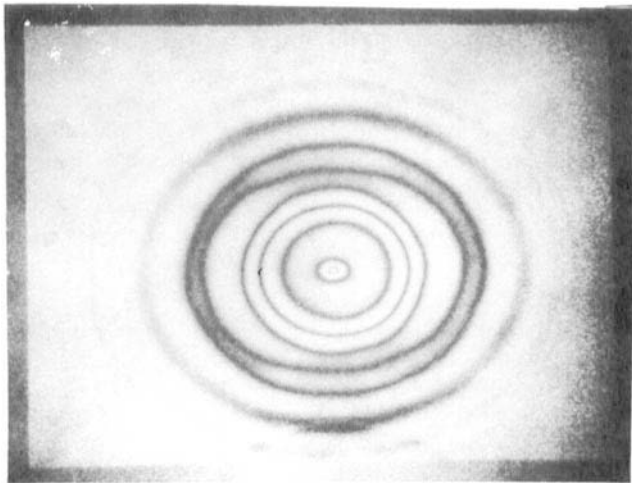
- We have established new committee meeting scheduling procedures to minimize time conflicts between committee meetings and the technical program as much as possible.

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**Fig. 6**— $r^2$  plotted versus  $t$ , compare eq. (11), for the first three zero crossings of the bending wave.  $r$  is the radial distance to a zero crossing and  $t$  is the time from the Nd:YAG laser pulse "impact" to the recording.



**Fig. 7**—Interferogram showing propagating bending waves 260  $\mu$ s after a YAG-laser pulse "impact" on a sheet of linearboard, 400 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

face. These waves are recorded by double pulsed hologram interferometry. Evaluation of the interferograms show that the bending wave pattern is very similar to what is predicted by the Kirchhoff plate equation assuming a point impact of infinitesimally short duration. This indicates that a short Nd:YAG-laser

pulse may be considered as a Dirac pulse in space and time. Future investigations will be performed with a more powerful and "cleaner" laser to get a higher energy and impulse transfer to the plate thus giving bending waves of larger amplitude. Promising preliminary experiments have also begun using a double pulsed ruby laser both for generating and recording of bending waves.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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by Mark E. Tuttle

For example, at the 1996 spring conference the Technical Division meetings will be scheduled at the end of appropriate technical paper sessions, so that members who wish to be active in TD business matters can still attend the paper sessions of their choice.

Organizing and scheduling of the annual SEM spring conference is a deceptively difficult and complex task, as it represents a focal point for a wide array of society activities.

The modifications described above represent our efforts to insure that the annual spring conference continues to serve the needs of our membership and the technical community as a whole. If you would like to suggest further modifications or have other comments, please feel free to contact me or SEM headquarters with your ideas.