

FALL VIBRATION TESTING COURSE EXPANDED

A date has been set and the course content expanded for this year's Vibration Testing: Theory and Application course. The course, covering the basic rules of vibration testing, will now be three full days of instruction. It will be held September 15, 16 & 17, 1997 at Iowa State University. The new location will allow participants to work in the state-of-the-art facilities available at the Sheman Center. In addition, the class will go to the Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics Vibrations Lab of Iowa State for hands-on demonstrations.

The course is presented by Drs. K.G. McConnell and P.J. Sherman of Iowa State. A course brochure will be available at the end of March. Contact SEM at 203-790-6373; Fax 203-790-4472; or E-mail meetings@sem1.com, for details. The course brochure can also be found on the SEM web site: www.sem.bethel.ct.us/.

IMAC-XVI ABSTRACTS MAY BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

A new and efficient benefit for IMAC contributors is now available. IMAC-XVI abstract submissions may be made electronically by sending complete submission information and the abstract to the following e-mail address:

abstract@sem1.com

Many IMAC authors correspond regularly through e-mail and this added benefit will save authors considerable time and expense. This information will be posted on IMAC's Home Page on SEM's web site. There will soon be a submission form on the IMAC Home Page. Electronic submission by e-mail must include (see the Call for Papers):

1. Requested abstract/author information
2. Category identification
3. Full abstract included within the body of the e-mail message. E-mail messages with attached files will NOT be accepted.

VIRGINIA TECH INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST U.S. BRIDGE MADE OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS

Blacksburg, Virginia will be the site of one of the first bridges in the United States constructed with composite materials to carry traffic.

The low-cost, low-maintenance bridge, scheduled for installation in June 1997, is the joint effort of Virginia Tech, the Town of Blacksburg; Virginia Department of Transportation; Virginia Transportation Research Council; Morrison Molded Fiberglass; and Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology.

Details of this new engineering design can be found on Virginia Tech's web site:

<http://www.vt.edu:10021/ur/news/Archives/Nov96/96348.html>

President's Corner

by Elizabeth A. Fuchs

Al Wicks, Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department at VPI&SU, and Chair of the IMAC Technical Program Committee, has taken a very active role in planning IMAC. The diversity seen in the IMAC Conference reflects the growth and changes in the Modal Community at large. He and the Modal Analysis Technical Division, headed by Mark French, Lear Seating Corp., have worked with headquarters staff to develop services useful to Modal Community such as the quarterly IMAC Newsletter and the IMAC Home Page on SEM's web site (www.sem.bethel.ct.us/). These have been developed with the idea of adapting them to any Technical Division. We welcome member input on programs and benefits that would be useful to individual members as well as Technical Divisions. I applaud the Modal Community for taking a pro-active role in working with the staff to develop services they find helpful. Al prepared the following update on current IMAC activities.

IMAC-XV, "New Horizon for Damage Detection," held February 3-6, 1997 in Orlando, Florida, has been placed in the

history books. It will be remembered as one of the best of the first 15 IMAC conferences. The Exhibit Hall was full, the technical program was packed and the attendance exceeded 800. We added a theme-related short course to the program, Structural Damage Detection, organized by George James and Dave Zimmerman of the University of Houston, and Scott Doebling and Chuck Farrar of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The technical program included developed sessions, theme related sessions and "The Basics of Modal Analysis," a tutorial for the new engineer.

Planning for IMAC-XVI in Santa Barbara, California is well under way. The theme for 1998 is "Model Updating and Correlation." We will have a short course prior to the conference related to the theme. We will also have a golf outing for those of us who enjoy the self-abuse common to the game. The exhibition area is almost completely sold out already. The Call for Papers came out in January, so prepare your abstracts for the June deadline and join

us in February 1998. The Call for Papers can be found on the IMAC Home Page on SEM's web site: www.sem.bethel.ct.us/. I encourage you to submit your abstract electronically this year. Instructions are on the IMAC Home Page.

IMAC has served our technical area well during the last 15 years. To move ahead, so that the Conference can respond to the needs of the structural dynamics and modal communities we need your input. Please feel free to contact any of the SEM staff at sem@sem1.com or contact me directly at awicks@vt.edu.

— A.L. Wicks
IMAC Technical
Program Chairman