

# OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Igor Emri, SEM President*



Igor Emri  
SEM President  
1999-2000

There is a saying, "There are times when a day is painfully long, when a minute seems as eternity, however, a year always passes as a blink of an eye." This is how I feel about my term as SEM President; this year has passed as a blink of an eye. This is my last President's Message. It is, therefore, appropriate to present a brief report on the status of the Society, and what has been achieved during the year of my presidency. In general I can report that the state of our society is good, which is probably the most important message.

As SEM President, my premier goal was to intensify the international character of SEM. I am happy to report that we have made significant progress in this direction. Three of the world's largest associations, The Asian Committee on Experimental Mechanics, The European Society of Experimental Mechanics and The Society for Experimental Mechanics, have met to plan an umbrella organization that will embrace, worldwide, all existing societies, groups, and individuals active in experimental mechanics, without interfering with the organizational scheme of existing societies. The International-Network Society of Experimental Mechanics (ISEM) will essentially be an internet society. A draft of the formal structure of ISEM is currently being prepared. More discussion will be held at the International Congress in Orlando. I hope that the final constituting act can come to fruition during the coming year.

The internationality of the Society can provide professional and financial benefits. These benefits, and further discussion of this association, will be presented at a meeting on Wednesday, June 7 in Orlando, Florida, during the SEM International Congress.

The idea that SEM is an interdisciplinary society, which develops knowledge and techniques for solving problems in different fields, has been widely accepted. This is mirrored in the organizational scheme of conferences being organized by the SEM. Now they are organized as clusters of topical symposia, each addressing problems in a particular area. This important move has been made with the introduction of "Tracks" a few years ago. During the SEM IX International Congress in Orlando, we will have three tracks, addressing Micromechanics and the Validation of Computational Models, in addition to a general track on Experimental and Applied Mechanics.

To foster these developments I have appointed liaison officers to sister societies to promote cooperation and strengthen the importance of experimental mechanics in new fast-growing fields. I was pleased that there were encouraging discussions among the SEM Executive Board regarding student registration fees and options for funding these fees. This will be addressed at the Society's Finance Board meeting in June.

I would like to use this occasion to thank all of you for your personal contributions to the technical excellence and vitality of our Society now, and in years to come.

I am very grateful to SEM staff for their help, understanding and support. Their professionalism made my presidency joyfully easy. Thank you all.

Igor Emri, SEM President