

## **2005 Chairmen/Vice Chairmen Elect Seminar**

By

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On June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>, SNAME held its annual Chairmen/Vice Chairmen-Elect Seminar, at Saddlebrook Resort in Florida. Each year, incoming Section Chairmen or incoming Vice Chairmen are invited to the Seminar in preparation for their upcoming term as Section officers, and are given the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow officers who will govern their Sections during the same fiscal year, as well as Regional Vice Presidents and SNAME's President who will be in office in the same timeframe.

The central focus of this year's seminar was on SNAME Membership with emphasis on the fact that SNAME needs to address modern day trends that are affecting membership, and that adjustments are necessary to properly attend to members needs.

The Planning Committee has already taken the first step by completing the Strategic Plan to be used as a guideline for the Society and the Sections, to tackle these issues. In a brief summary, the plan proposes closer connections on a global level to provide more meaningful benefits and services to our members, enhance fund raising capabilities to increase student funding, work with the Benefits Committee to establish benefits for international members and to provide more attention to the various divisions of the industry.

Presentations that were made to our attendees, included topics from membership and current trends, Section events and funding, student members and the scholarship program, outreach to high school students to bring awareness of the industry, professional engineering and continuing education, website features and publications. All of which led to profound and enthusiastic discussions, resulting in an energetic exchange of suggestions and beneficial ideas with the general interest of improving the "value" of membership and strengthening SNAME overall.

Some of the proposed actions items are as follow: further investigation and collaboration with the Benefits Committee to provide international members with benefits that would be of value to their specific region; provide an online index of Section papers (soon to be available); Allow the first 10 downloads of papers to be provided to members for free; reinstate the Top Recruiter award for each Section with controlled tracking of recruitment pursuits, provide an Electronic Survey that would be available to each Section for members to provide feedback on current developing demands in their region and SNAME membership.

Resume & interview guidelines are currently being prepared for student members to help guide them. Further, a list of employers with contact information will be collected and given to graduating student members at the beginning of the year. Sections will be notified of students who receive scholarships for a free invitation to attend one of the Section meetings. Increase in Student Section funding is being reconsidered along with continued efforts for corporate sponsorship, organized fund raising from Sections, and use of excess Section funds to assist with Student Section activities (possibly hosting a Section event on campus of a Student Section).

Paul Roden, Chairman of the Membership Committee, has created a plan for student members. This plan involves cooperation between Headquarters, the Student Steering Committee and Sections to maintain organized communication to keep everyone aware of student activities, SNAME program goals, scholarship and career guidance, and benefits of active participation.

Sections are encouraged to be involved in mentoring students by attending a campus of their choice/alma mater, and to solicit members who can assist in the effort of presenting students with direction on career development based upon their own knowledge and involvement with SNAME. In addition to mentoring, Sections will be looking into forming a Committee, in effort to promote Outreach to high school students about SNAME and careers in the industry. For more information on outreach, and how you can be involved, please contact Susan Giver ([sgiver@sname.org](mailto:sgiver@sname.org)).

Due to interest from incoming officers, the Planning Committee is making changes to the Society Bylaws allowing Section Vice Chairmen to vote at Council, in the absence of the Chairman under the position that it is most important that Sections be represented at Council. It was also suggested for the Chairmen-Elect to be invited to the Council meetings to learn and gain experience, as many have shown interest to attend. In addition to updating the Bylaws, the Planning Committee is considering the modification of region names.

Overall the Chairmen Elect Seminar was very productive and resulted long term goals and ideas that will be further considered and issued as action items for the benefit of SNAME and its members.

Although our weekend was spent at work, we did manage to find time for play, with a friendly pool volleyball game held at the end of the seminar.