

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by *Wei-Chung Wang, SEM President*



Wei-Chung Wang,
SEM President,
2009–2010

From February 1st to 4th, I attended the 2010 IMAC-XXVIII Conference and Exposition on Structural Dynamics held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida. We had about 400 conference attendees and 43 vendor companies joined the Exposition to introduce their most up-to-date application technology and products. Thanks to the sustaining efforts of our Conference Chair, Al Wicks, his fellow organizers and strong support of SEM Headquarters; we again had a carefully organized and comprehensive technical program this year. The Conference and Exposition were both very successful.

The IMAC-XXVIII was preceded by three short courses, including the subjects of: Operational Modal Analysis: Background, Theory & Practice; Model Updating for Validation: Theory & Practice; and Theoretical & Experimental Modal Analysis of Nonlinear Mechanical Systems.

The technical program consists of 56 sessions, with more than 24 organized sessions. In particular, 7 sessions are directly related to the main theme of this year, Structural Dynamics and Renewable Energy. Dr. Westergaard delivered the IMAC-XXVIII Plenary Lecture entitled “The Importance of Dynamics in Wind Turbine Technology” on Monday morning. The SEM Nonlinear Focus Group organized a number of sessions. Professor Shaw made his Nonlinear Keynote Lecture entitled “Exploiting Nonlinearity in Vibration Applications” on Monday afternoon.

The technical program was accompanied by SEM Technical Division and IMAC Focus Group meetings, a Parameter Estimation Round Robin, Tutorials on Basics of Modal Analysis for the New/Young Engineer, Sensors & Instrumentation, Damping, and Substructuring. Similar to the past two years, the semi-annual Executive Board meeting of SEM was again held during the IMAC conference. Therefore, it is my third time to attend the IMAC conference! For my first two times to attend IMAC conference, I had to leave earlier due to the Chinese New Year. This year’s Chinese New Year started on February 14th, I therefore could stay throughout the conference to perform my duty as the President. I personally have enjoyed very much the IMAC conference. It is partly because that I have been associated with some research on modal analysis. More importantly, IMAC conference has not only provided an excellent opportunity for me to interact with people in different areas of experimental mechanics but also it has opened my eyes to experience more knowledge on structural dynamics.

This column marks my sixth and last one as President of SEM. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for those who have contributed their precious time and valuable ideas to make this year a great success. In addition to the great success of the IMAC-XXVIII Conference and Exposition on Structural Dynamics, we had the first 4-day Annual Meeting last June with the historically record high participation and the wonderful 2009 Fall Symposium by implementing a new mode of collaboration among university, local government, federal funding agencies, companies and professional societies.

I would like to say a few words regarding the progress of my three goals for my presidency. The first is to make SEM more international. Last November, we signed the cooperative agreement with the Asian Society of Experimental Mechanics. In the future, it will be much easier for SEM to have more exposure in Asia. In addition, the preparation work to organize the first SEM Fall Conference outside the US has been diligently led by Eann Patterson and Margaret Lucas and well developed between SEM and BSSM. The second is to make the best use of SEM intellectual properties. The Executive Board has seriously discussed how to upload our past conference papers to the SEM website several times. By taking many factors into consideration, discussions are still going on. It is just a matter of time until our members will enjoy this significant new benefit. The third is to establish a funding mechanism for encouraging young people to attend SEM conferences. We have used our Education Fund to encourage our students to participate in International Student Paper Competition (ISPC). Fortunately, Correlated Solutions, Inc. has already promised to provide more funding for supporting students to attend ISPC. In addition, we had two new awards emerged in the past one year, i.e. (1) the Sia Nemat-Nassar Award for recognizing an individual for distinguished, innovative and outstanding work that has realized the impact of experimental mechanics on other scientific and engineering fields through an integrated multidisciplinary research; (2) the Professor Gary L. Cloud Scholarship for encouraging a student either wishing to pursue (recently accepted into an Experimental Mechanics graduate program) or already pursuing a graduate degree in Experimental Mechanics. I am very happy to see those exciting new

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opportunities in the past one year. Please actively get involved with our Society and make SEM your home for experimental mechanics.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wei-Chung Wang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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