

Greetings, T&S members;

Today is Wednesday, April 26th, 2006.

I'm writing this, as usual, from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, one of the formerly secret cities created by the U.S. Army's Manhattan Project in WWII. Somehow America, war from the air, and baseball dominate the anniversary news items on this date.

On this day in history 20 years ago, the world's worst nuclear disaster occurred at the Chernobyl power plant in the Soviet Union, as the result of both a fundamentally flawed reactor design and also extremely bad judgment in running a reckless experiment (the operators wanted to see how long they could run the plant using just the residual kinetic energy in the turbo machinery). The incident killed dozens of operators and rescue workers outright and sickened many thousands of people with radioactive fallout all over northeastern Europe. A comprehensive toll has yet to be written, but the disaster will surely cause many thousands of premature deaths. Many historians believe that Chernobyl was the geopolitical tipping point which led to the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union five years later.

Also, for perspective, on this day, April 26:

- 12 years ago (1994), a former political prisoner, Nelson Mandela, won the presidency in South Africa's first multiracial elections.
- 23 years ago (1983), the Dow Jones Industrial Average broke 1,200 for the first time.
- 38 years ago (1968), students seized the administration building at Ohio State University. (Students were rioting in Paris, too, just like today.
- 65 years ago (1941), the first organ was played at a baseball game in Chicago (host city of the ASME Congress this November).
- 69 years ago (1937), the ancient Basque town of Guernica in northern Spain was bombed by German planes.
- Also in baseball, 75 years ago (1931), New York Yankee Lou Gehrig hit a home run but was called out for passing a runner, a mistake which ultimately cost him the home run record.
- 77 years ago (1929), the first non-stop flight from England to India was completed.
- 91 years ago (1915), British officer 2LT Rhodes-Moorhouse became the first airman to win the Victoria Cross after conducting a successful bombing raid. (This was not too long after the first shots - via pistol - were exchanged between human beings in the air, thus ending the brief period of chivalry among aviators, and opening the age of air combat. Note that British author H.G.Wells predicted this event before the airplane was even invented in his seminal 1899 work, /When the Sleeper Wakes/.)
- 141 years ago (1865), Confederate GEN Joseph E. Johnston surrendered the Army of Tennessee to Union GEN William Tecumseh Sherman, after suffering

the worst hourly death rate in American military history at the ferocious Battle of Nashville.

- 399 years ago (1607), the British established their first permanent colony in America at Cape Henry, Virginia.

(Had I written this message yesterday April 25, I would have noted that 499 years ago (1507), German geographer and mapmaker Martin Waldseemuller published his book, "Cosmographiae Introductio," in which he named America "Amerige" in honor of Italian discoverer Amerigo Vespucci. So in a year, minus one day, my country's name will be half a millennium old. What will the next half-millennium be like?)

OK, enough history - on to the future. Though my messages to the division have been regrettably infrequent - not by intent - there has been a lot of good things going on behind the scenes with ASME and T&S. This has been a busy, productive spring!

Before I go on with the spring's activities, I must thank Mr Timo Marquez-Arreaza for organizing the single best-attended event, the hydrogen economy panel session, at last year's Congress in Orlando. This little division gets a lot of bang for the buck.

Dr Hitoshi Sakamoto, chair of our Energy & Economics (E&E) Program Committee, organized and executed a symposium "Decarbonization of the Energy Mix" on Sunday, February 22, for the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), at the Annual Meeting, in St. Louis, Missouri. You should all thank Hitoshi for his energy and volunteerism; he reflects great credit on the division. His report at the AAAS will be emailed separately.

Also representing the E&E Committee, T&S Executive Committee member Dr Thomas A Gardner PE (Capt., USN, Ret.) gave an invited lecture, "Methane Hydrates: Energy Source for the Hydrogen Economy?", at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

Hitoshi also represented the T&S Division at the ASME Leadership Training Conference in Houston, Texas, on March 3-5. That report will also be mailed separately, as this message is getting quite long already. The LTC is the successor conference to both the various Administrative Conferences held every year in all the different Regions, and the annual Technology Executive Conference.

Special kudos and thanks must go to our own amazingly well-connected Ms Loretta McHugh of our General Committee, who was instrumental in organizing and reengineering this important conference. Then, on March 20-23, the National Manufacturing Week Exposition and Conference was held at its new venue in the Rosemont Center near Chicago O'Hare airport. Participation in this conference was highly profitable to the Division, much more so than the Congress. The money we earned will empower us to do a lot more volunteer activity in the coming years. (That's important, because the Board of Governors chose to eliminate most of the funding for volunteers in all front-line units (local Sections and technical Divisions), a choice which I personally think is unwise.) Ms Noha El-Gobashy ASME staff informed me that the T&S division provided the most speakers and the best-attended sessions, resulting in the greatest impact on the conference. So, on behalf of the entire division, I thank the following T&S members for their contribution of time and energy presenting at NMW06:

- Dr. Rick Ciocci, PE, "Applied Sustainability: Cost-Effective, Energy-Efficient Manufacturing";
- Dr. Kathryn Jablokow, "Invention - What Do We Know About It?";
- Marshall Honeyman, Esq. and Jeff Williams, Esq., "Things People Do To Mess Up Their Patent Rights";
- Dr.-Ing. Claus Weyand, "Dry Cutting of Bevel Gears";
- Alan McGrath, Esq., "The Difficulties of Harmonizing USA Standards with the IEC/ISO Standards";
- Mark Proulx, PE, "Macro-Manufacturing: It's Sooooo 21st Century";
- Scott Stimpson, Esq., standing in for Frank Spanitz, PE, JD,
- "Effectively Managing the Risks of Being Sued for Patent Infringement";

and last, but certainly not least,

- ASME Past-President Sue Skemp, who most graciously agreed to give *two* presentations on the future of manufacturing on behalf of the T&S Division. These were among the best-attended presentations (JRO, or jostling room only, I heard) and were the headline events for the conference portion of NMW06. I regret they were unable to attend the lunch on-site, but let it be known that Ms Skemp, Mr McGrath, Mr Proulx and Mr Stimpson hereby have an open invitation to dinner, courtesy of the division, at any future ASME event.

Rick Ciocci's report, with my commentary, will also be emailed separately.

As you can see, there has been a lot of experimentation - all of it necessary - going on with programming, conferences and organizations. So far, it has all turned out well, so expect the trend to continue.

Our hardworking webmaster, Mr. Leonard Greer, is in transit from Switzerland to a new job in Korea, so there will be a roughly one-month hiatus in updating the division website. Until that happens, email messages from the Community of Practice and me will hopefully serve to keep you updated. Please join me in wishing Leonard safe travels and a speedy return to cyberspace.

Two final notes before I close this message for the day:

(1) For T&S members on the West Coast, particularly those in the San Francisco Bay Area, consider making plans to attend the Singularity talk at Stanford University on Saturday, May 13, from 9 to 5. The lecture is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. RSVP. Details can be found here: <http://news-service.stanford.edu/news/2006/april26/sin-042606.html> . After all, there's no point being in this division unless you're willing to entertain bold new ideas about technology, society, and the future.

(2) If you wear a Section hat, as I do, remember that you only have until April 30 to comment on the new new (yes, I meant it twice) merit-based guidelines for section

allocations. Log on to the Community of Practice to get more information. (You'll have to set up an account and userid if it's your first visit.)

Best regards to you all,

Robert G Kennedy III, PE

Chair, T&S Division