

## **Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science, and Technology Societies (MFESTS)**

### **2009 Annual Report**

This report describes the activities of MFESTS from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. The mission of MFESTS is to provide service to our member societies, to provide service to the citizens of the state of Minnesota, and to provide service to professionals in engineering related careers. This was accomplished through communication at meetings and through the MFESTS website, awards for professional achievement, and partnering with other organizations for education outreach.

### **Member Societies and Meetings**

#### *2009 Member Societies*

There are currently 17 professional societies that are members of MFESTS. They are listed below.

- Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE)
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
- American Society for Quality (ASQ)
- Chinese American Information Storage Society (CAISS)
- Engineers Club of Minneapolis (ECM)
- Engineers Society of St. Paul (ESSP)
- Honeywell Engineers Club (HEC)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
- Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE)
- INCOSE North Star Chapter
- Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society, Twin Cities Section (ISA-TC)
- Minnesota Geotechnical Society (MGS)
- Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE)
- Society of American Military Engineers, Minneapolis -St. Paul Post (SAME)
- Society of Manufacturing Engineers, St. Paul Chapter (SME-S)
- Society of Women Engineers, Minnesota Chapter (SWE)

#### *Meetings and Website*

Communication to member societies is conducted through the Board of Directors meetings, and each society's designated MFESTS representative is a director. The Board met on a quarterly basis, with meeting on March 19, June 24, September 10, and December 10. The Executive Committee met 4 other times during the year to discuss business and present items to the Board.

The other means of communication is the MFESTS website, [www.mfests.org](http://www.mfests.org). This website includes contact information for each member society and a calendar where member societies can post their upcoming events.

Several member societies used MFESTS to inform other societies of continuing education seminars and meetings that appeal to a broad range of engineering disciplines.

### **Professional Awards**

Each year, MFESTS awards the Young Engineer of the Year, Young Science and Technology Professional of the Year, the Charles Britzius Distinguished Engineer, and the Richard Alberg Distinguished Science and Technology Professional. Nominations for these awards were due on January 9, 2009, and they were presented at the Engineers Week Banquet on February 20, 2009.

There were 5 nominees for Young Engineer of the Year, and they are listed below along with their nominating societies

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Nominating Society</i>
Kaizhong Gao	CAISS and IEEE
Julian Marshall	ASCE
Erin Penne	SWE
Randy Riebel	MSPE
Benjamin Tusiton	SAME

Each nominee was recognized at the banquet, and the overall winner was announced. The overall winner was Kaizhong Gao.

There were no nominees for Young Science and Technology Professional of the Year.

The recipient of the Charles Britzius Distinguished Engineer Award was Mike Semmens, who was nominated by ASCE. The recipient of the Richard Alberg Distinguished Science and Technology Professional Award was Connie McLinn, who was nominated by ASQ.

### **Education Outreach Efforts**

#### *Tech Fest*

In 2009, MFESTS worked closely with The Works Museum in Edina to coordinate volunteers for Tech Fest. MFESTS supplied all of the volunteers for one of the activity rooms at Tech Fest. MFESTS volunteers worked with the kids on this activity. The Works is a hands-on museum of engineering and technology that is geared toward elementary school age children. Tech Fest is an event held at The Works on the Saturday after Engineers Week. In 2009, 1200 kids attended Tech Fest with their parents.

#### *Future Cities Competition*

In 2009, MFESTS again presented the Engineering Excellence special award for the Future Cities Competition that recognized the team with the most comprehensive use of all of the engineering disciplines. MFESTS supplied judges for this award, as well as prizes for the winning team. MFESTS also provided financial support of \$500.00.

*Mathcounts*

MFESTS continues sponsorship of Mathcounts by providing \$300.00 in financial support.

*Kids Science Saturday*

Kids Science Saturday is a program to teach minority and low-income children about math and science. These are children who would otherwise get very little exposure to these subjects. The program is sponsored by the College of St. Katherine, and it is unique in that it also provides tools and training for the parents of these children, so that the parents can work on science projects with their children at home. MFESTS provided \$300.00 in financial support to Kids Science Saturday.

*Excellence in Elementary Engineering Education*

This is a conference for elementary school teachers and administrators that provides them with ideas and tools to incorporate engineering concepts into the existing elementary school curriculum. The conference is sponsored by The Works Museum in Edina. The first annual conference was held in February 2009 at the College of St. Katherine. MFESTS provided one person on the planning committee, to provide input on how to get practicing engineers and scientists into the classroom on a volunteer basis. MFESTS also coordinated a conference session that showcased existing programs that bring engineers and scientists into the classroom (the 3M Visiting Wizards, for example).

The conference was extremely successful and popular with the teachers. The planning committee expected that attendance at this first conference would be 70. However, over 220 signed up for it, and some applicants had to be turned away because the conference facility could only accommodate 220 attendees.

*Other Education Outreach Programs*

In 2009, MFESTS provided volunteers for other education outreach programs not mentioned above. These included Best Mentorship and Lego League, along with existing programs run by the Society of Women Engineers such as Sparks, Slime, and Speed.

**Officer Elections for 2010-2011**

At the December 10 Board of Directors meeting, new officers were elected for 2010 and 2011. The new officers are listed below.

**MFESTS OFFICERS 2010-2011**

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Society</u>
President	Jim Mosner	SAME

1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Dan Peterson	MSPE
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Steve Merriman	IEEE
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Rick Heinecke	ASME
Treasurer	Scott Alle	ISA
Secretary	Kurt Nordstrom	INCOSE

Respectfully Submitted by

2008-2009 MFESTS President

AJ Schwidder, PE (ASCE)