

AMERICAS REGION YOUNG MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2, NOVEMBER 2015

Institution of
**MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**

IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE UPDATES FROM OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CANADA (ADVICE TO THE YOUNG), USA (TEXAS GROUP - HERE TO HELP), GUYANA (NETWORKING EVENT), AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (MANAGING A STUDENT CHAPTER).

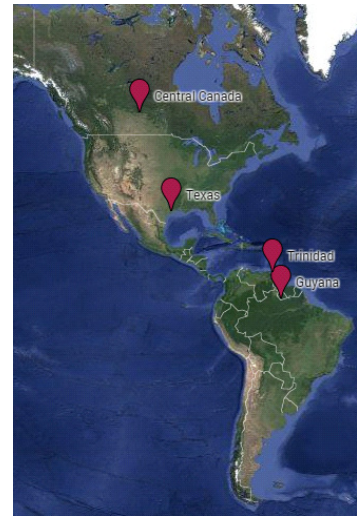


Image courtesy Google Maps



Central Canada Branch
Chair Mr. John White



John as a Marine
Engineering apprentice



John with Phil Apperly
(CCB Hon. Secretary)

ADVICE TO THE YOUNG FROM THE CENTRAL CANADA BRANCH (CCB) CHAIR

I started my working career at 16 years old, as a Marine Engineering Apprentice, during which I took the UK Ordinary National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. After a short period at sea, the company I was indentured to, offered me the opportunity to go to University to study for a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I graduated with first class honors and then attended a Graduate School at another UK university. I went on to work in the power generation manufacturing industry and the oil industry in the UK. I immigrated to Canada in 1976.

From this early experience I learnt a few things. When I had left home and my early school environment, I found I was on my own; I was accountable for my own success or failure. I enjoyed the subjects I took, I had to work hard but I also played hard. There is more to University than just academic learning, it is a total experience. There were good university professors and not so good university professors; that is also a lesson well learnt for future employment. There are good supervisors and bosses and not so good ones and you simply have to make the best of the situation you find yourself in. Life is full of up and downs.

There is another lesson my apprenticeship and early working career taught me, engineering is not a subject that can be totally learnt in university. I often think I have learnt nearly as much about engineering from the trades people like machinists, mechanics and

welders as I learnt at university.

A subject of great concern to university graduates these days is the opportunity to get employment. When I first graduated, sending six job applications would result in five interviews and four job offers. Now young graduates and engineers have to work hard to attract employers. My advice is first to decide what type of work and employment you are most interested in and what you have to offer; basically it is a sales job where you are selling yourself to the employer. Keep resumes very short and relevant to the job you are applying for. The process of searching for employment is very hard work but that hard work eventually pays off.

Networking is always a good thing; you cannot cast your networking 'net' too far though. I always feel the internet is somewhat limited as a source for obtaining employment, other than for identifying potential employers. Personal contact of some kind is always a good thing. In this regards becoming an affiliate, or member, of such organizations as The IMechE, or similar organizations, is helpful, particularly if you get involved. This is all relevant experience when looking for employment and is always a source of potential contacts.

I enjoyed my career as an engineer; there were great times but even times when I thought to myself, why am I doing this? But that is a lesson in itself; the great times far exceeded the not so great. I would not have changed it!

John W White, PEng, ARCST MSc, C.Eng
MIMechE

Improving the world through engineering



IMechE Texas Group



IMechE Texas Group Vice-Chair Mr. William Hesser

THE IMECHE TEXAS GROUP – HERE TO HELP

The Texas coast is home to some of the most culturally diverse communities and schools in the nation due almost entirely to the engineering opportunities in the area. Growing up in Houston I had many chances to observe this diverse culture for myself and eventually wanted to connect with a community that already knows how it works.

As a student, reading about the great international exhibitions of the mid to late 1800's sparked to my interest in the IMechE and how it's still around over 150 years later in a far more globally connected world. I soon found

out about the IMechE Texas Group. After meeting the group, I learned that they wanted to council young talent just like young talent would appreciate council from them. Based on the enthusiasm and support of the Texas Group, a few fellow University of Houston (UH) students and I helped in establishing the IMechE-UH Student Chapter.

A year after graduating I was elected to a position on the Texas Group committee where I continue to explore ways to help young engineers who have studied the industry on their own and are ready to ask someone who already knows how it works.



IMechE Americas Region Chair Dr. Green addressing the attendees



Student receiving a prize at the Event

UG/IMECHE NETWORKING EVENT

The IMechE University of Guyana (UG) Student Chapter hosted its first National Engineering Networking Event on June 27, 2015 at the University's Learning Resource Centre. The event aimed to bring together Mechanical Engineering students and professional engineers from across local industries.

Mrs. Niebert Blair-Jacobus, IMechE's local representative chaired the program. The keynote presentation was delivered by IMechE Americas Region Chair Dr. Anthony Green. Dr. Green engaged the students and professionals alike on the many benefits of being associated with IMechE. Presentations by the UG Mechanical Engineering Head of Department Mr. Isidro and Technical

Director of MACORP Mr. Oviedo followed. Mr. Isidro informed the gathering of the agreements signed by the University and local industries which aim to foster development among students of the Mechanical Engineering Department. He also spoke of the other plans and projects being undertaken by the department. Mr. Oviedo of MACORP presented his company's plan for graduate engineers and urged prospective graduates to enrol in the programme after successful completion of their degree.

Networking activities followed and from this three students were awarded prizes for the "name the most engineers" game. The event was deemed very successful and participants look forward to like events in the future.



UWI Student Chapter Chair Leanda Bidaisee



UWI Student Chapter committee members

MANAGING A STUDENT CHAPTER

Managing any group of persons, whether big or small comes with its own merits and challenges. As the person at the helm of the group, you have to deal with different issues while ensuring that everything runs smoothly. Sometimes it can be challenging but the lessons learnt are very valuable and help you grow as an individual.

Since becoming Chair of the University of the West Indies (UWI) IMechE Student Chapter, quite a few concerns have been raised by my team members. Finding solutions was not an easy task, especially since all different views needed to be taken into account. The concerns and issues could have caused delays in projects, and if left untreated, could have led to the fracture of the

committee. I used certain strategies to tackle these concerns and so far, they have been working well. As leader, all decisions should be unbiased and have the best interest of the committee and Chapter in mind. Having one-on-one discussions with members helps a lot in understanding how each person thinks and what their strengths are. Also, they can be more open to state any problems they are experiencing without having to be judged by other group members.

In all, the task of managing a committee such as this is a very rewarding venture as you learn managerial, communicational and mediating skills. Although the task is not easy at times, it is always good to remember that "A smooth sea never made a skilful sailor".

SNAPSHOTS OF SOME 2015 AMERICAS REGION EVENTS AND MEETINGS



Networking event participants in Guyana



Representatives on break after Americas Region meeting



Staff in attendance at the UWI Student Chapter hosted 2015 Student/Staff Appreciation Day



Cars on display at the launch of the UWI Student Chapter Automotive Club

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR Q1 2016

Event/meeting: Monthly Pub Social
Date: 1st Wednesday each month
Responsible Branch/Group/Chapter: Texas Group

Location: Houston, Texas, USA
Contact: William Hesser
TexasSec@imechenetwork.org

Event/Meeting: AGM
Date: January 14th, 2016
Responsible Group/Branch/Chapter: Pan-Caribbean Group
Location: St. Augustine, Trinidad
Contact: Deepak Lall
CaribbeanRep@imechenetwork.org

Event/Meeting: Student/Staff Appreciation Day
Date: February, 2016
Responsible Group/Branch/Chapter: UWI Student Chapter
Location: St. Augustine, Trinidad
Contact: Leanda Bidaisee
leanda.bidaisee@gmail.com

To find and contact your nearest Americas region representative, please visit:

<http://nearyou.imeche.org/near-you/The-Americas/contact-us>

CONTACT US

Chris Maharaj
YM Newsletter Editor and Americas Region Young Member Representative
americasymrep@imechenetwork.org

Anthony Green
Americas Region Chair
dragreen@sympatico.ca

John White
"Advice to the Young" author and Central Canada Branch Program Chair
john.w.white@sympatico.ca

William Hesser
"The IMechE Texas Group – Here to help" author and Texas Group Vice-Chair
williamhesser@hotmail.com

Neibert Blair
"UG/IMechE Networking Event" author and Guyana/Fr. Guiana/Venezuela/Suriname Representative
guyanarep@imechenetwork.org

Leanda Bidaisee
"Managing a Student Chapter" author and UWI Student Chapter Chair
leanda.bidaisee@gmail.com
