

# **AMERICAS REGION YOUNG MEMBERS NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 3, DECEMBER 2016**

**Institution of  
MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS**

**A WELCOME FROM AMERICAS YM  
REPRESENTATIVE AND EDITOR WILLIAM  
HESSER**

**ADVICE FOR ENGINEERS CONSIDERING  
THE MOVE ABROAD FROM THE 2015 YM  
VISIONARY NABEEL YOUNIS**

**AN INTRODUCTION AND WORDS OF  
WISDOM FROM AMERICAS CHAIR STUART  
HAMILTON**

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## **A Warm Welcome from Texas**

**- WILLIAM HESSER**

As you may know, Anthony Green passed away months after retiring from his role as Americas Chair. He will be remembered as the man who laid the ground work for our region and introduced many of us to our international friends and counterparts. His work lives on as we continue to gain perspective and understanding from our fellow engineers across the world.

I have been fortunate enough to meet a number of young engineers between North and South America this year and from their stories a theme has emerged - 2016 was a time of transition (to say the least). Whether you're currently in the dead of winter or heat of summer your industry, friends, and colleagues are likely facing some hard times. We all have our own ways of braving the storm, but if you're reading this you've already made the wise decision to look outwards with the help of the IMechE.

For instance, your opportunity might present itself somewhere new and unfamiliar. Our fellow young member and 2015 YM Visionary Nabeel Younis recently made the move from Pakistan to Canada for his career, and below his shares some of his lessons learned. If you've been on the fence about taking such a risk, hopefully his advice will bring some clarity.

Inversely, your way of ensuring your own future might be investing in your community at home. This is the route much of the Pan-Caribbean Group have taken this year by establishing a new student chapter at the University of Trinidad & Tobago, organizing playground refurbishments and other community-oriented activities, and by thrusting themselves onto the global stage by participating in international events like the Global Engineering Debate (GED) and Speak Out for Engineering (SOE) competition.

As our new Americas Chair Stuart Hamilton mentions below, becoming Chartered is key to differentiating yourself regardless of where your career takes you geographically. Finding mentors near you is the best way to insure your readiness for an interview, and is one of the main reasons our network exists at all. Don't hesitate to reach out to me, Stuart, or any of your local branch committee members. We are all here to help.

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## **Engineering your Relocation: Unique Challenges of Moving for Work**

**- NABEEL YOUNIS**

In an increasingly globalized world, curiosity and career are bound to take professionals around the world for brief or extended periods of time. For young engineers, there are always opportunities and challenges that accompany such career choices. Having completed both my engineering degrees in the UK and experience working in Pakistan, I considered relocating to North America. I took the leap and in October 2015 and landed in Toronto for the next stage in my career. The unique challenges I faced are common to engineers who are considering to relocate for work. The news letter is an effort to shed light on some of these.

The main challenge faced by young engineers is the recognition of academic credentials. Bachelors in Engineering takes four years to complete in North America, where as in UK it's a three-year program. Similarly, Masters in Engineering is a two-year program as compared to only a year in the UK. This may raise issues of

compatibility as topics studied in the degree may also vary. The way around this is the fact that almost all developed countries have third party organizations that assess academic credentials such as World Education Services (WES) and grant certificates of equivalence. The equivalence certificate I received proved very useful as it gave a significant boost to my employability.

The next challenge is the relevance of work experience gained in Pakistan and the UK. This is a rather difficult one to overcome. In most cases, engineers who chose to relocate, tend to lose out on the “total years of experience” count. They may also be required to reequip them selves with a different set of established engineering standards. This however is temporary as the trajectory of professional growth is much steeper for engineers with international experience.

Once the first two challenges are address, the next step is the job hunt. Finding work relevant to your career expectations in the first six months is quite rare. Most engineers, like my self, have taken up part time jobs to get to know the new environment while they apply for suitable positions.

As young engineers, we are generally inclined to believe that being technically sound is what plays the major role in securing an engineering position. The reality is to the contrary. Soft skills are what gets you past the first set of interviews and they are the skills that set a successful engineer apart in the long run. Extra curricular activities that offer opportunities to interact with diverse set of audience develops soft skills that are crucial to an engineer’s success any where in the world.



Nabeel Younis AMIMechE

These common challenges are by no means easy to overcome. A structured approach does ensure rapid integration into a new environment and brings with it the improved ability to achieve set career goals. IMechE offers a platform that focuses on some of these crucial skills that define a successful engineer. Competitions like the Global Engineering Debate (GED) and Speak of for Engineering (SOfe) that are held around the world are excellent examples. Aspiring and recent graduates are encouraged to peruse these opportunities that offer to complement their technical skills. This in turn would enable them to contribute to the society as successful engineers with globally transferable skills.

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## **Introduction from our New Americas Region Chair**

**- STUART HAMILTON**

Hello! To begin I’d like to introduce myself as the IMechE Americas Region Chair. 2017 will be my first full year in the role, but I’m already excited by the Young Member activity that is going on within the region and the plans we have for next year. I know that in your Young Member representative, William Hesser, you are in great hands and I look forward to the Young Member engagement growing over the next few years under his leadership. As a team we promise to support your needs as members and represent you within the wider IMechE community, so please don’t hesitate to reach out and contact us or your local representative if you have any ideas, comments, or concerns.

As Young Members I understand that one of your concerns right now relates to the economy and future career prospects. I work in the oil and gas sector, which is constantly in flux, so believe me when I say that I understand some of your fears and uncertainty. Now I can’t predict the future or offer you career advice, but I do think that whether you’re studying engineering or you’re choosing the engineering profession you’re setting yourself up for the best chance at success. I joke with my wife that I will support my children in whatever they want to do with their lives, after they’ve got their engineering degree. I am truly joking, but there’s more than a little bit of truth in that too. I believe that many of the world’s issues, whether they be related to energy, water, population, food, climate change etc. will only be solved with the help of engineers, and there are plenty of issues to solve.

With that being said, in the current economic climate it is increasingly important to differentiate yourself, and a great way to do this is by showing a commitment to your profession and your professional development by pursuing Chartered Engineer status. The difference between the CEng status and other professional



Stuart Hamilton FIMechE

qualifications is that the CEng doesn't just look at your technical proficiency. Not only do you have to demonstrate that you can apply your technical knowledge in a variety of increasingly complex and responsible roles, but you also have to demonstrate that you can effectively communicate, have both management and leadership skills, and that you're committed to professional standards. As a hiring manager I know that these are all things that I look for. CEng is also internationally recognized as a standard of these competencies, so it can help open up opportunities for you across the globe - this has certainly been my own experience anyway!

So again please don't hesitate to get in touch, and I look forward to a challenging but successful year in 2017.



SOFE Competitors: 1st Place winner Samantha Deoraj (left), 2nd Place Shreedevi Sahadeo (center), and 3rd Place Keval Rambaran (right).



The IMechE Texas Group at a talk from Paul Jukes in February 2016.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### Future events:

Texas Group Monthly Social  
(Every First Wednesday)  
Next month: The Kings Head pub  
04 January 2017 18:00 to 20:00

CPGCE 2017 AGM  
Fort Calgary - Calgary  
CPGCE 2017 Annual General Meeting  
28 January 2017 18:00 to 22:00

### Some past events from 2016:

Christmas Talk: John Leinhard  
Event Type: Annual dinner or luncheon  
15 December 2016 19:00 to 21:00  
HESS Club - Houston  
Industry: Cross-sector

Competition - Speak Out For Engineering  
Event Type: Talk or debate  
21 November 2016 16:30 to 17:30  
Main Auditorium  
Industry: Research & development

UTT Student Chapter Launch  
Event Type: Social event  
21 November 2016 16:00 to 17:30  
Main Auditorium  
Industry: Research & development

Recent Developments in Subsea Technology  
Event Type: Seminar  
16 November 2016 18:00 to 19:00  
Tutorial Room 1 (TR1) - St. Augustine  
Industry: Coal / Oil / Gas

2016 Formula North  
Event Type: Competition event  
02 June 2016 00:00 to 05 June 2016 00:00  
Barrie Molson Center - Barrie, Ontario  
Industry: Automobile

2016 April Annual Meeting and Lecture  
Event Type: Annual dinner or luncheon  
08 April 2016 18:00 to 21:00  
Novotel Toronto North York - North York,  
Ontario  
Industry: Cross-sector

## CONTACT US

### Future events:

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### General:

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