

# CommunityMatters™

A Monthly Newsletter for the ABET Community

March 2007

## Inside ABET

### ABET Signs MOU with Chilean Accreditor

On January 19, ABET signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Agencia Acreditadora Colegio de Ingenieros de Chile S.A., or ACREDITA CI, in Chile.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is an agreement signed in the interest of promoting cooperation between organizations with the commitment to enhancing the quality of technical education. It aims to provide a structure that guides collaboration of organizations with ABET to facilitate implementation of quality assurance organizations in other countries during their developmental period. The MOU does not extend to the recognition of Chilean programs or graduates.

The MOU with ACREDITA CI went into effect on February 1, 2007. In addition, ABET has MOUs with educational organizations in Argentina, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Korea, Peru, Portugal, Taiwan, and Ukraine. Furthermore, ABET has an MOU with UNESCO-Latin America and is a founding member of the Western Hemisphere Initiative, which currently includes accrediting organizations in Canada, Mexico, and Peru.

### March Board Meeting to Focus on Strategic Planning and Leadership

The ABET Board spring meeting has been expanded to two full days, March 16 and 17, to provide the Directors with an opportunity to consider issues beyond the administrative duties that often monopolize their semiannual meetings.

ABET President William S. Clark explained, "There are two primary functions of ABET's Board — management and leadership. Because the pressure of current events tends to drive

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## Volunteer Spotlight

### Daina Briedis

Daina M. Briedis, Ph.D., first became involved in ABET activities when she volunteered to be a program evaluator for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in 1987. Since then, she has chaired sessions of the ABET Annual Meeting, represented ABET on panels at the Best Assessment Practices Symposium, and completed a three-year term on the ABET Board of Directors. Nevertheless, Daina's most visible contributions — and arguably her most preeminent talents — relate to the area of training ABET's volunteers and many stakeholders.

After 10 years as a program evaluator, Daina became a member of the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) and eventually served three years on its Executive Committee. In addition, she became the first chair of the Training and Materials Development Committee of the EAC, taking on the responsibilities of developing the commission's training materials, restructuring the EAC's annual Institutional Representatives' Day to encourage more audience participation, and authoring many printed and web-based documents used to train EAC volunteers.

Furthermore, Daina has applied her expertise to ABET initiatives that extend beyond the scope of a single commission. She has been



a facilitator for ABET faculty workshops from Seattle to Singapore and a presenter at a faculty workshop that the Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education, one of ABET's fellow members in the Washington Accord, hosted in Tokyo. As a member of the Participation Project's Training Design Team, she helped to refine and standardize the processes by

which all ABET volunteers are readied and is helping to realize the new educational sequences that begin this month as part of the Partnership to Advance Volunteer Excellence (PAVE).

Daina's flair for training and teaching shouldn't come as a surprise, considering that she has served as a faculty member in

the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science at Michigan State University since 1982. However, her participation in ABET activities has given her much more than an opportunity to hone her pedagogical skills.

"It isn't often that one can see tangible results to one's efforts that so clearly benefit engineering, technology, computing, and applied science students in our institutions," Daina said. "Even more, it's a privilege to work together with dedicated colleagues who share in the anticipation of the positive outcomes that their volunteer efforts will bring about."

## Look Ahead

- March 9 — Registration deadline for March 31 Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes, Baltimore, MD
- March 16-17 — ABET Board of Directors Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- March 31 — Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes, Baltimore, MD
- April 12-14 — Best Assessment Processes IX, Terre Haute, IN

# InsideABET

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the Board's attention to management items, we need to be purposeful in setting aside time to address the leadership agenda. Consequently, we've expanded this meeting so the Board can work on plans for the future of the organization."

The agenda for the meeting will begin with general business on Friday morning, followed by a review and examination of the broad issues that are facing ABET and its constituents on Friday afternoon. On Saturday, the Board will hone in on specific issues that will define what ABET is and may need to become in the future and help identify how the organization may achieve its aims.

"It's been five years since the ABET Board of Directors last did a full-scale planning exercise," Clark said. "We have moved ahead on many of the issues identified then, but needless to say, the world has changed considerably since 2002. The goal during these discussions will be to identify the most important long-term areas for further deliberation and use that as a basis for updating our Strategic Plan and driving our decisions and actions in the future."

## New PAVE Materials Now Available Online

New materials that will be used to recruit, select, train, and appraise ABET volunteers are now available to the public from the Partnership to Advance Volunteer Excellence (PAVE) webpage, [www.abet.org/pave.shtml](http://www.abet.org/pave.shtml).

One of the latest additions to this webpage is the new Program Evaluator (PEV) Training Pre-Work that ABET program evaluator candidates must complete before they participate in Face-to-Face Training sessions. The PEV Training Pre-Work allows potential volunteers to learn about the fundamentals

of ABET accreditation by proceeding through six educational modules at their own pace, as well as a series of checks for understanding that ensure they have developed the foundational knowledge necessary to continue the training. The direct link to the online training is [www.abet.org/\\_TrainingCD/index.htm](http://www.abet.org/_TrainingCD/index.htm).

In addition, the welcome packet for those attending the first Train-the-Trainer (T3) session, which takes place this month, was sent out to the candidates who will prepare to serve as facilitators for this year's Face-to-Face Trainings. This packet includes information about becoming a facilitator, the PEV Training Facilitator Competency Model, learning objectives for the session, and assignments that the candidates must complete before attending the T3 session. View a PDF of this welcome packet at [www.abet.org/pave.shtml](http://www.abet.org/pave.shtml).

Many other new materials are available at this website, including the following:

- ▶ The new application to become an ABET program evaluator
- ▶ A roadmap illustrating how individuals are trained to become program evaluators
- ▶ Mentor roles and responsibilities
- ▶ The Training Facilitator Competency Model
- ▶ A graphic illustrating how individuals are selected and trained to become facilitators for the program evaluators' Face-to-Face Training sessions
- ▶ Appraisal forms that allow department heads, team chairs, and fellow program evaluators to provide feedback about each program evaluator's performance

## Best Assessment Processes IX Approaching

The Best Assessment Processes Symposium IX will be held at Rose-Hulman Institute of

Technology in Terre Haute, IN, from Thursday, April 12, through Saturday, April 14. Chaired by ABET's Associate Executive Director for Professional Services, Gloria Rogers, Ph.D., this event will feature more than 60 sessions and workshops for applied science, computing, engineering, and technology educators who are interested in learning more about assessment and its relationship to accreditation.

More information about this event and online registration is available at <http://dev.rose-hulman.edu/assessment2007/>.

## Nominations for 2007 President's Diversity Award Being Accepted

ABET is accepting nominations for the 2007 President's Award for Diversity. This honor is bestowed annually to recognize individuals, educational units, associations, or firms for extraordinary success in facilitating or achieving diversity and inclusivity in the technical segments of our society.

To be considered for this year's award, ABET headquarters must receive a detailed nomination in electronic format no later than September 1, 2007. The nomination must include a description of the program or achievement to be recognized and detail such factors as the program or achievement's longevity, its impact on the target group and society in general, and its transportability to other persons or entities. There are no restrictions on who may submit the application, and self-nominations are encouraged.

Further details about the award are available at [www.abet.org/diversity.shtml](http://www.abet.org/diversity.shtml). ABET President William S. Clark will bestow the President's Award for Diversity upon the 2007 winner(s) during this year's annual Commission Summit, which will take place in Lake Tahoe, NV, on Wednesday, October 24, 2007.

## ABETOnline

- ▶ See what's new with the Partnership to Advance Volunteer Excellence (PAVE): [www.abet.org/pave.shtml](http://www.abet.org/pave.shtml).
- ▶ Try the new PEV Training Pre-Work: [www.abet.org/\\_TrainingCD/index.htm](http://www.abet.org/_TrainingCD/index.htm).
- ▶ Apply for this summer's IDEAL at [www.abet.org/ideal.shtml](http://www.abet.org/ideal.shtml).

## CommunityMatters™

*CommunityMatters* is a monthly publication of ABET, Inc., produced for and distributed to more than 3,000 stakeholders, including ABET-accredited programs; ABET commission, Board, and council members; ABET member societies; and program evaluators.

**Editor:** Gloria Rogers, Associate Executive Director of Professional Services

**Writers:** Liz Glazer, Communications Manager

Keryl Cryer, Communications Specialist

**Questions or comments:** [eglazer@abet.org](mailto:eglazer@abet.org)

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# Assessment101

## Assessment Tips with Gloria Rogers, Ph.D.

### Test Your Program Assessment Knowledge!

If you would like to have a chance at **one free registration** for you or someone else from your institution/company to attend **an ABET Faculty**

**Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes**, take this quiz online at [www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB2266HUNMJWY](http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB2266HUNMJWY) by Friday, March 23. Those with perfect scores will be posted on the ABET website, and one person will be drawn at random from all those with perfect scores to receive the free registration.

### Are the following statements true?

- Yes No Program assessment focuses on student grades.
- Yes No Student surveys are a good example of indirect measures of student learning.
- Yes No ABET has only one acceptable method of doing program assessment.
- Yes No Sampling is a technique that is acceptable for program assessment.
- Yes No Student learning outcomes need to be defined in ways that are measurable before the data are collected.
- Yes No The quality of an assessment process is directly related to the amount of data that can be collected.
- Yes No Direct measures of student learning are almost impossible to get when doing program assessment.
- Yes No Data must be collected every year for each of the learning outcomes to have a meaningful program assessment plan.
- Yes No Rubrics need to be developed for every outcome to do adequate program assessment.
- Yes No ABET program evaluators must be experts in program assessment.

### Multiple Choice

- 1) Which of the following is/are a good example(s) of a direct measure of student learning?
- Course evaluations
  - Locally developed examination
  - Focus groups
  - Exit interviews

- 2) When choosing an assessment method, which of the following is true? (Choose all that apply.)
- No single assessment method is good for measuring a wide variety of different student abilities.
  - It is not necessary to pilot test a method if it has been carefully developed or if you are using a commercial product.
  - All assessment options have advantages and disadvantages.
  - There is generally an inverse relationship between the quality of measurement methods and their expediency.
- 3) Which of the following is/are true about scoring rubrics? (Choose any that apply.)
- Rubrics are best suited for lower level learning competencies.
  - A rubric is a set of categories which define and describe the important components of the work being assessed.
  - Each category in a rubric contains a gradation of levels of completion or competence with a score assigned to each level.
  - Rubrics should be developed in consultation with an assessment expert.
  - A holistic rubric combines several aspects of an outcome and provides for the overall examination of the status of the general performance of students on an outcome.
- 4) Which of the following is/are an example(s) of an indirect measure of student learning?
- Oral examination
  - Faculty anecdotes
  - Student survey
  - Portfolios
  - Standardized examination
- 5) Which of the following distinguish program assessment from classroom assessment? (Choose any that apply.)
- Level of complexity
  - Accountability for the assessment process
  - Level of faculty buy-in
  - Focus on student learning
  - Degree of specificity of the measure

Answers will appear in the April issue!

# YourCorner

## Board of Directors

By now, you should have received an e-mail message containing the link to the spring Board meeting's agenda. No password needed for access! If you haven't received that e-mail yet, contact Rachele Daucher at [rdaucher@abet.org](mailto:rdaucher@abet.org) for assistance. And make sure you look over the agenda before you load up your car or board your plane to BWI!

## Commissioners

If you are a new commissioner or have been reappointed for the 2007-2008 accreditation cycle, be on the lookout for a letter welcoming you to your respective commission for the upcoming year. This important communication will provide you with details about your responsibilities, the upcoming meeting in July, specifications about the portrait that will run in the *2008 Commission Directory*, and much more.

Also, check out the PEV Training Pre-Work that new program evaluator candidates must complete before they enter Face-to-Face Training at [www.abet.org/\\_TrainingCD/index.htm](http://www.abet.org/_TrainingCD/index.htm). It includes information about the accreditation process, assessment, the PEV appraisal process, and more.

## Institutions

If your program was visited in the fall of 2006 and you have not received your draft statement yet, hang on! The statements are still being processed and should be on their way shortly.

## Member Societies

Plans are underway for a Society Summit in Baltimore this September. The event will invite representatives from all of ABET's member societies to network and share best practices with their colleagues. Stay tuned for details!

## Program Evaluators

Have you seen the PEV Training Pre-Work that new volunteer candidates will complete as part of their training? Visit [www.abet.org/\\_TrainingCD/index.htm](http://www.abet.org/_TrainingCD/index.htm) to see what your future colleagues are learning about ABET and/or to refresh your own basic knowledge about the accreditation process.

# Member Societies

ABET is a federation of 28 professional and technical societies representing the fields of applied science, computing, engineering, and technology:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| American Academy of Environmental Engineers                                      | Health Physics Society                                      |
| American Congress on Surveying and Mapping                                       | IEEE, Inc.  |
| American Industrial Hygiene Association  | Institute of Industrial Engineers, Inc.                     |
| American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Inc.                         | ISA   |
| American Institute of Chemical Engineers   | Materials Research Society                                  |
| American Nuclear Society   | National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying |
| American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers                        | National Institute of Ceramic Engineers                     |
| American Society of Civil Engineers  | National Society of Professional Engineers                  |
| American Society for Engineering Education                                       | Society of Automotive Engineers                             |
| American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. | Society of Manufacturing Engineers                          |
| American Society of Safety Engineers   | Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration, Inc.       |
| ASME   | Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers            |
| Biomedical Engineering Society   | Society of Petroleum Engineers                              |
| CSAB, Inc.   | The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society                 |



111 Market Place, Suite 1050  
Baltimore, MD 21202-4012

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