

CommunityMatters™

A Monthly Newsletter for the ABET Community

April 2007

InsideABET

ABET Names Joseph L. Sussman Its 2007-2008 President-Elect



ABET selected **Joseph L. Sussman, Ph.D.**, as its 2007-2008 President-Elect at its spring Board of Directors meeting, held in Baltimore on March 16 and 17. Sussman will be installed at the conclusion of the 2007 ABET Annual Meeting in Lake Tahoe, NV, this November.

Sussman first became involved in ABET in 1987, when he began serving as a program evaluator for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He became a commissioner representing ASME on the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) in 1993 and served as its Chair for the 1999-2000 accreditation cycle. Sussman became an ASME representative on the Board of Directors in the fall of 2003 and is currently serving the first year of his second three-year term in this position. He was named a Fellow of ABET in 2002.

Sussman is Vice President of Core Business Systems for Bayer Corporate and Business Services, where he leads an IT team that supports Bayer's North American core business system applications development, maintenance, and support. His areas of responsibility include enterprise-wide applications in Human Resources, Payroll, Financial Systems, Sales Force Support, Customer Relationship Management, Manufacturing, Logistics, and Quality and Distribution Systems. In addition, he is responsible for Electronic Data Interchange and middleware development, along with an SAP-certified Customer Competence Center.

Sussman has been with Bayer and predecessor companies since 1982. In his most

recent position, he led an IT organization primarily focused on Bayer's SAP development and deployment activities in North America.

Sussman holds B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in mechanical engineering from the Columbia University School of Engineering in New York City.

ABET Announces 2007-2008 Leadership

In addition to Joseph L. Sussman, who will serve as President-Elect, the following individuals will serve on the ABET Board of Directors during the 2007-2008 term:



L.S. "Skip" Fletcher, Ph.D., P.E., will serve as 2007-2008 ABET President. At present, Fletcher is ABET's President-Elect. Previously, he served terms on the ABET

Board of Directors, first representing the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and later representing the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). Fletcher was selected as a Fellow of ABET in 1991 and received the Linton E. Grinter Distinguished Service Award, ABET's highest honor, in 2002. He is the

Thomas A. Dietz Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering and a Regents Professor Emeritus at Texas A&M University.



Janet B. Perper, MS, CIH (Ret.), was re-elected to a second one-year term as ABET Secretary. In recent years, Perper has represented the American Industrial Hygiene

Association (AIHA) on the ABET Board of Directors and served as a member of the ABET International Activities Council. In 2004, she retired from her position as Vice President of Carr and Perper, Inc., a Glenside, PA-based consulting firm focusing on chemical safety management, industrial hygiene, and hazard communication.



Daniel J. Bradley, Ph.D., will serve the second year of his two-year term as ABET Treasurer. Previously, Bradley chaired the ABET Finance Committee and represented

the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) on the ABET Board of Directors. Bradley is

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LookAhead

April 12-14 — Best Assessment Processes IX, Terre Haute, IN

April 21-22 — Commission Executive Committee and Accreditation Council Meetings, Baltimore, MD

April 28 — Program Evaluator Training, Baltimore, MD

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the current President of Fairmont State University in West Virginia.



Larry A. Kaye, Ph.D., P.E., will begin the second year of a two-year term as Board Representative to ABET's Executive Committee. He represents the American Institute of

Chemical Engineers (AIChE) on the ABET Board of Directors. Kaye is the Chair of the Steering Team for the Partnership to Advance Volunteer Excellence (PAVE) and was inducted as a Fellow of ABET in 2005. Currently, Kaye serves as a Planning Advisor for ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company in Fairfax, VA.



James R. Plasker, P.E., has been elected to a second two-year term as a Board Representative to ABET's Executive Committee. He represented the American Congress on Surveying

and Mapping (ACSM) on the ABET Board of Directors. Plasker is the Executive Director of ASPRS: The Imaging and Geospatial Information Society, headquartered in Bethesda, MD.



2006-2007 ABET President **William S. Clark, P.E.**, will become ABET Past President. A Fellow of ABET, Clark led the criteria committee that wrote the initial version of the outcomes-

based technology evaluation criteria, now referred to as TC2K. Previously, he has represented IEEE on the ABET Board of Directors and has served as a Board Representative to ABET's Executive Committee. Clark retired from his position as a finance director at BellSouth Corporation in Atlanta, GA, last year.

The 2007-2008 leadership will be installed during the fall 2007 ABET Board of Directors meeting, which will be held in Lake Tahoe, NV, on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

Public Member Re-Elected to Board of Directors

The ABET Board of Directors has re-elected **Peter J. Haas, Ph.D.**, to serve as one of five Public Members on the ABET Board of Directors. Haas is a Professor of Political Science and Transportation Management for the Department of Political Science/Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University.

Public Members are not affiliated with applied science, computing, engineering, or technology through either training or practice. They are voting members of the Board and may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. In addition to Haas, the following individuals will serve as Public Members for the 2007-2008 term:

- ▶ **Sylvia L. Alexander** will begin the third year of her first three-year term as a Public Member. Alexander is the Michigan Department of Transportation's Administrative Manager and Personnel Liaison in the agency's Bureau of Finance and Administration and Executive Offices.
- ▶ **George R. Boggs, Ph.D.**, will serve the third year of his second three-year term as a Public Member. Boggs is currently

the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

- ▶ **Barbara Martin** will begin the second year of her second three-year term as a Public Member. She is recently retired from the Montana Department of Transportation.
- ▶ **Amy O'Leary, Ph.D.**, will begin the second year of her second three-year term as a Public Director. O'Leary is an Associate Director at the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, VA, where she leads the Environment and Business Practices research group.

Viewpoints Report on Dual-Level Accreditation for Engineering Programs Available This Month

In 2006, ABET issued a call for comments on the current prohibition against dual-level accreditation of engineering programs. The feedback received as of March 2007 will appear in the fourth edition of *Viewpoints*, ABET's series of white papers.

The report reviews the history of the dual-level accreditation debate since the organization's inception. In addition, *Viewpoints IV* presents the current arguments for retaining and for removing the prohibition.

Currently, a PDF of this report is available at www.abet.org/dual.shtml, and a printed version of this report will be mailed to many of ABET's stakeholders in early April.

ABET Past President Richard C. Seagrave, who sent out the original call for comments last year, is still collecting input about dual-level accreditation. Please address any comments to him via seagrave@iastate.edu.

ABETOnline

- ▶ Learn more about dual-level accreditation of engineering programs at www.abet.org/dual.shtml.
- ▶ View ABET's position papers and reports at www.abet.org/papers.shtml.
- ▶ Prepare your nominations for this year's President's Award for Diversity: www.abet.org/diversity.shtml.

CommunityMatters™

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Assessment101

Assessment Tips with Gloria Rogers, Ph.D.

Got Portfolios?

A **portfolio** is a purposeful collection of student work that demonstrates student

achievement relative to specific competencies. Portfolios can provide for the direct measure of student learning for the purpose of program improvement.

However, portfolios have been severely criticized by those who initially had a vision for their potential and were later disappointed in the results. The failure of portfolios to deliver on the initial enthusiasm lies primarily in three things: the design of the portfolio, the implementation process, and the clarity of the outcomes being assessed. Some of the questions to be considered before embarking on the portfolio journey include the following:

▶ **What is the focus of the assessment?**

Are the assessment results going to be used to consider individual students or to provide information on student cohorts (e.g., graduating seniors, freshmen, all students in a particular major, etc.)? This decision will affect other aspects of the portfolio process.

▶ **What learning outcomes will be measured?**

The development of measurable learning outcomes is the most crucial aspect of any assessment process. This is particularly true in the implementation of portfolios. For program assessment, outcomes must be defined in terms of a few measurable performance criteria. Scoring rubrics that are consistent with the desired levels of achievement need to be developed.

▶ **What is the role of faculty and students?**

To enhance the likelihood of success during the implementation of portfolios, the role of faculty and students should be explicit. It is especially important to answer the question "What's in it for me?" Some of the decisions that need to be made include the following:

- ▶ Who will make the submissions to the portfolio — faculty or students?
- ▶ Who will score the portfolios? How often?
- ▶ Will the students get 'credit' for their portfolios?

- ▶ Will the submissions be required as part of a class or program?
- ▶ Will students be asked to reflect on the portfolio entries that they make? If so, will they get feedback on the quality of their reflections?
- ▶ If portfolios are being used to assess cohorts instead of individual students, will the students get feedback on their portfolios?

▶ **How are the portfolios going to be assessed?**

Because of the potential time commitment to evaluate portfolios for a number of outcomes, a clear plan needs to be developed about the nature of the rubrics to be used and the format of the scoring process. Issues such as training for faculty raters, maintaining interrater reliability, and providing incentives for faculty participation need to be considered.

▶ **How are the results going to inform the curriculum?**

Having a well-designed portfolio optimizes both efficiency and effectiveness when measuring student learning for the purpose of improving the educational program. However, without a mechanism to link the anticipated outcomes to curricular processes, it will be difficult to focus improvements in meaningful ways. This reemphasizes the need to have well-defined student learning outcomes and to use them to align classroom strategies.

To see references for this article and to find additional information on the use of portfolios, visit www.abet.org/assessment.shtml.

Answers to March's Test Your Assessment Knowledge quiz:

Are the following statements true?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1) No | 6) No |
| 2) Yes | 7) No |
| 3) No | 8) No |
| 4) Yes | 9) No |
| 5) Yes | 10) No |

Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1) b | 4) b, c |
| 2) a, c, d | 5) a, b, c, e |
| 3) b, c, e | |

YourCorner

Board of Directors

Don't wait to start communicating with your society about the important ABET activities in progress right now. While it's still fresh in your mind, for instance, you may want to write up a summary of your take-aways from the March Board meeting and e-mail it to your society liaison. Any efforts we make to communicate with our member societies are worthwhile.

Commissioners

During your fall visits, did you note any programs or individuals fostering diversity in the areas that ABET accredits? Then, why not encourage them to submit a nomination for the 2007 President's Award for Diversity? Eligibility criteria are available at www.abet.org/diversity.shtml.

Institutions

Are there any programs or individuals at your school who actively foster diversity in the areas that ABET accredits? Then, why not nominate them for the 2007 President's Award for Diversity? Eligibility criteria are available at www.abet.org/diversity.shtml, and self-nominations are encouraged.

Member Societies

Mark your calendar for the Society Summit! This event will take place in Baltimore on Monday, September 17, and will encourage the sharing of best practices among ABET societies. The preliminary agenda includes discussions about recruiting volunteers for ABET activities, using mentors, and recognizing and remediating volunteers. If you have suggestions for individuals who can speak to these or other helpful topics, send them to Stephanie Engelhardt at sengelhardt@abet.org.

Program Evaluators

During your fall visits, did you note any programs or individuals fostering diversity in the areas that ABET accredits? Then, why not encourage them to submit a nomination for the 2007 President's Award for Diversity? Eligibility criteria are available at www.abet.org/diversity.shtml.

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



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