



Wei-Chung Wang,
SEM President,
2009–2010

It is my great pleasure and honor to have the opportunity to serve as President of the Society for Experimental Mechanics (SEM) for 2009–2010. My first contact with SEM was as a SEM student member while a Ph. D. student at Iowa State University in 1982. On the day after the oral defense of my Ph. D. dissertation, I attended the 1985 SEM International Congress held in Las Vegas. I presented part of my Ph. D. work in front of several hundred people. Since this was my first international conference, you can imagine how nervous I was. At the end of my presentation, several questions that were to the point and encouraging were raised from the audience. After the session, whenever I chatted with people, they all congratulated me on my performance, gave me constructive suggestions, and urged me to participate in future SEM conferences. I was deeply moved by the warm hospitality offered by the SEM Headquarters staff and SEM members.

Since 1989, I have attended every SEM Annual Meeting. In my capacity as an SEM Executive Board member, I also attended IMAC twice, SEM Fall Conference once, and visited SEM Headquarters three times. The more I am associated with SEM business, the more I feel that what I contribute is worthwhile. Through close interaction and discussion with Board members and SEM members, we have worked out striking plans to help SEM grow. In the past few years, the financial condition of SEM has become much healthier, the participation at the Annual Meeting, IMAC and Fall Conference has been excellent, our two well recognized flagship publications, *Experimental Mechanics* and *Experimental Techniques*, have been upgraded not only in their quality but also in their generated revenues. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the efforts put forth to make all of this happen by the SEM Headquarters staff, Executive Board members, all Committee members, and especially all the SEM members!

As the incoming President, I would like to focus on three goals to help ensure the future prosperity and growth of SEM.

1. To make SEM more international

We should do our best to attract more new members and more conference participants from overseas. We should more actively participate in international conferences on experimental mechanics held overseas, including helping to organize sessions, workshops, or symposia with the help of the SEM Technical Divisions. To increase our influence in the related fields of experimental mechanics, we should form new alliances with other international societies.

2. To make the best use of SEM intellectual property

Once you become a SEM member, you can download articles in our two journals, *Experimental Mechanics* (after 1960) and *Experimental Techniques* (ever since the first issue published in 1972). As far as I know, Proceedings of SEM Annual Meetings are on CD-ROM with searchable capability since 2003. Proceedings from 1943 to 2002 are in paper form but not in digital format yet. A cumulative index of the proceedings papers between 1943 and 1978 was published by SESA (the former SEM). Several years ago, Proceedings of the first 20 years of IMAC were made available on a DVD with searchable capability. Under the current SEM healthy financial condition, it is time make all the past SEM Proceedings available in digital form on the SEM Website to widely disseminate knowledge of experimental mechanics. As before, it should be free for SEM members to get access to those SEM publications online. I personally think this is one of the value-added services for SEM members. An access fee can be reasonably charged for non-SEM members.

3. To establish a funding mechanism for encouraging young people to attend SEM conferences

Young people are the new blood to SEM. SEM Headquarters and SEM members have been working hard to attract young people to become SEM members. Many of our members were student members at the very beginning. SEM was introduced to us by our professors and colleagues. However, to convince the student members to become the regular members, the junior members to remain in SEM, and non-members to become SEM members, it is very important to have them to attend the SEM conferences. With our fantastic performance of SEM conferences in the past, I am very confident that once the young people have a chance to attend one of our conferences, they will join SEM. In June 2008, I made a proposal in the TAC meeting to raise a special fund to encourage young people to attend SEM conferences. I made a rather ambitious goal of inviting 100 graduate students within the next five years to attend the SEM conferences. Maybe students who also participate in the International Student Paper competition at the SEM Annual Conference should have higher priority to receive funding.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 1

I am looking forward to working with all of you during my presidency. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. ■

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wei-Chung Wang". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Wei-Chung Wang
Professor and Dean
Office of International Affairs
National Tsing Hua University
Hsinchu, Taiwan
Republic of China
wawang@pme.nthu.edu.tw